

Report on Breeding Birds 23/2/13

Last year's wet Summer proved to be disastrous for most ground and scrub nesting species, particularly Summer visitors; but we had good numbers of Chiffchaff & Blackcap on site and hopefully a few pairs fledged chicks.

Our nest box breeders i.e. Blue and Great Tits fared better and ten of our fifteen boxes had good nests and successful fledgling.

When the nest boxes were checked and cleared in February it was noticed that the nests in wood crete boxes were very wet compared with the nests in traditional wooden boxes.

Interestingly we have had little damage to boxes by predators over the last two years. We need to buy in some new boxes, of a type to be decided, for use on the island when a chance arrives, and to replace other boxes as necessary.

Gareth Thomas

Report on Butterflies in Summer 2012

Last year was also a bad year for butterflies. Numbers were well down although we saw at least one representative of almost all the recorded species – no Painted Ladies. There were still reasonable numbers of the grassland species such as Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Ringlets – amazingly they appeared from the soggy grass whenever it stopped raining! Our Marbled Whites were seen in good numbers but only for a short period. Nationally this species bucked the trend and in the Big Butterfly Count reported numbers of Marbled Whites increased by 500% over the previous year.

Wendy Johnson
26/02/2013