

File, Culbin Investigation Notes,
Buff fields, 26 HIGHFIELD,
FORBESHILL.
FORRES,
MORAYSHIRE.
IV36 OFN
23RD January 85

Dear Sir,

please find enclosed my report on the
usage of nest boxes in Culbin Forest for 1984

In earlier years I have sent the reports to
Mr. Struan Stewart but I understand that he
has now retired, so I hope that you may find
the report of some interest.

I have included a spare copy for Mr. Bill
Forsyth if you could pass it on to him.

Yours faithfully,
Bill Taylor

Details being passed to W. Forsyth for info. ✓

~ ✱

1. Great Tit (*Parus major*)
10 boxes were used by this species laying an average of 6.5 eggs per nest but only hatching an average of 3.8 young per nest of which 81.5% survived to fledging. This was a 10% decrease from last year in the number of boxes used and a 33% decrease in the number of young raised.
2. Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
Only 11 boxes were used by this species laying an average of 7.2 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 6.6 young per nest of which 68% survived to fledging. This was a decrease of 53% in the number of boxes used and a 70% decrease in the number of young raised from last year.
3. Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)
A total of 6 boxes were used by this species laying an average of 8.8 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 8.3 young per nest 100% surviving to fledging. This was a 15% decrease in the number of boxes used from last year but the number of young raised remained static.
4. Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*)
This species used only 5 boxes laying an average of 5.4 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 4.6 young per nest of which 73% survived to fledging. These figures show a 45% decrease on last year in the number of boxes used and a 46% decrease in the number of young raised.
5. Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)
Only 3 boxes were used by this species. An average of 5.3 eggs per nest were laid and an average of 5.0 young per nest hatched, 100% surviving to fledging. On last years figures this was a 50% decrease in the number of boxes used and a 35% decrease in the number of young raised.

How many boxes are available, is set up?

Is there much evidence of breeding naturally,
i.e. other than using the nest boxes provided?

A.W.

(Also HLEO 59 ✓)

1. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

11 boxes were used by this species laying an average of 6.09 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 5.1 young per nest of which 89% survived to fledging. This was an 83% increase from last year in the number of boxes used and a 45% increase in the number of young raised.

2. Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)

This species proved extremely successful using 23 boxes and laying an average of 7.6 eggs per nest, hatching an average of 7.3 young per nest of which 95% survived to fledging. This was an increase of 475% on last years number of boxes used and a 419% increase in the number of young raised.

3. Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*)

This species used 9 boxes laying an average of 5.6 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 5.2 young per nest, of which only 68% survived to fledging. A probable cause of this low survival rate is that, this species being very early breeders compared with the others, were caught out by the sudden recession to very cold weather in late spring. These figures show a 10% decrease in the number of boxes used and a 28% decrease in the number of young raised.

4. Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)

A total of 7 boxes were used by this species, laying an average of 8.7 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 7.4 young per nest of which 98% survived to fledging. This was a 42% decrease in the number of boxes used from last year and a 31% decrease in the number of young raised.

5. Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Another successful species using 6 boxes with an average of 5.8 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 4.6 young per nest of which 85% survived to fledging. On last years figures this was a 100% increase in the number of boxes used and a 200% increase in the number of young raised.

These figures are based on comparison with figures for 1982 when numbers were down due to the severe winter of 1981/1982 so reflect more a return to normal breeding numbers rather than an increase as it appears.



Forestry Commission
Moray Forest District
Newton Nursery
Elgin
Morayshire
IV30 3XR
Telephone 0343 2832

Your ref:

My ref:

20 December 1985

File 518.1

Culbin Inv. Notes (black file)
binder

Mr B Taylor
22 Forbeshill
Forres
Morayshire
IV36 QJL

Dear Mr Taylor

CULBIN BIRD NESTING BOXES

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 1985, report, and in particular the map of the box sites, and your good wishes.

I am glad to hear that birds generally bred well in 1985, although the position on Coal Tits is disturbing, as you note: I hope your researches can throw some light on this.

It will be in order for you to take your car into the forest some weekend in January to repair and replace boxes. Please notify us of the date, and arrange to borrow a key from this office. You should also check with our harvesting map, to ensure you are not placing boxes in Compartments due for clear felling.

Yours sincerely

A.R. Cram

A R Cram
Forest District Manager

A.C.
L.MacG. <i>/</i>
A.McI <i>r</i>
D.E.
A.G. <i>any</i>
A.W. <i>Aw</i>
A.C. <i>A</i>
M.V.
L.H.
J.F.

ack by P.C. 19.12.85

22 FORBESHILL

FORRES

MORAYSHIRE

1V36 AJL

TEL FORRES 73099

11/12/85

Dear Mr Crum,

Please find enclosed a report on nest box usage in Culbin for 1985. As I mentioned last time we met, coverage for this year has been a bit patchy due to me being in South Wales for most of the year. Fortunately I am now reinstated in the north so next season will get full coverage.

Despite the bad year the birds did well with most species showing a marked increase from last year's figures. The continuing downward trend in Breeding Coal Tits is worrying, although the reason for this is not apparent. Closer scrutiny in the future may reveal possible causes.

As requested I have enclosed a map of Culbin showing the distribution of nest boxes within the forest. The boxes remaining as at the end of this year's breeding season are shown in blue. On the same subject, would it be possible to arrange taking a vehicle into the forest one weekend in the new year to allow repair/replacement of boxes?

May I again thank you for your help with this project and take this opportunity to wish you and your staff a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Yours aye.

Bill Saylor.

NEST BOX USAGE IN CULBIN STATE FOREST 1985 SEASON

1. Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Although Wren nests have been found in boxes in previous years this is the first time one has been used for breeding. One box was used with 7 eggs being laid and 5 young hatched. This nest could not be followed up so the number of surviving young is unknown.

2. Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*)

A total of 9 boxes were used by this species laying an average of 5.3 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 4.6 young per nest of which 88% survived. This was an 80% increase in the number of boxes used in 1984 and an increase of 37% in the number of young raised.

3. Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)

Only 3 boxes were used by this species, an average of 7 eggs per nest being laid and an average of 6.6 young being hatched of which 90% survived. This was a decrease of 50% in the number of boxes used last year and a 64% decrease in the number of young raised. These figures show a continuing downward trend in nest box usage by this species although the reason for this is not apparent.

4. Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)

An excellent year for this species with 24 boxes being used and an average of 7.2 eggs per nest being laid. Not all nests could be followed throughout the season so the total number of young hatching and of young surviving could not be determined. This was a 118% increase in the number of boxes used from last year.

5. Great Tit (*Parus major*)

11 boxes were used by this species, laying an average of 5 eggs per nest and hatching an average of 3 young per nest. This showed a 10% increase from the number of boxes used last year but a decrease of 1.5% in the number of eggs laid. Again the number of hatching and surviving young is unknown.

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

This species used 4 boxes and laid an average of 5.7 eggs per nest but hatched only an average of 3 young per nest. Unfortunately these nests could not all be followed through to conclusion so the number of young surviving was not determined. This showed a 33% increase on last year in nest boxes used, but the average number of eggs laid remained the same.

Boxes remaining at end of '85 = 199.

	'83	'84	'85
Great Tit	11	10	11
Blue Tit	23	11	24
Coal Tit	7	6	3
Crested Tit	9	5	9
Tree Creeper	6	3	4
Wren.			1

NEST BOX DISTRIBUTION IN CURLEW FOREST.

The map shows the Kinross area in Scotland, with a grid overlay. The vertical axis is labeled 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103. The horizontal axis is labeled 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103. The map includes the River Forth, the town of Kinross, and the Kinross House. Numerous blue handwritten numbers are scattered across the map, representing nest locations. Key geographical features include the River Forth, the town of Kinross, and the Kinross House. The map is titled 'NEST BOX DISTRIBUTION IN CURLEW FOREST.' in the top left corner.

