

Clearing out the nest boxes

After the last work party John Creasey and I visited the 4 nest boxes along the main ride, to empty out the old nests before the new inhabitants began to build. All four had been used. Two of them had a couple of unhatched eggs remaining, and although it is difficult to be certain, the slight size difference (about a millimetre!) suggests that one had been used by Blue Tits and the other by Great Tits. The photos show an amazingly bright lining – it isn't moss; it's tennis ball fluff! Dogs lose their playthings and the birds make use of this artificial insulation. The fourth nest puzzled us; instead of moss and small twigs and feathers, it had damp leaves and – a Hazelnut! The nut hadn't been gnawed so we couldn't check the tooth pattern but the occupant had probably been a Wood Mouse.



Pictures by John Creasey