

Why so many Blue Tits in the Park?

Hello everyone

You may recall that I recently mentioned that there were lots of Blue Tits in the park at the moment and speculated that they may have had a good breeding season or, are we are seeing increased numbers of birds from Northern Europe? Well, the latest studies by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) show that as far as they can tell, many of our small birds had poor breeding seasons, including Blue Tits, despite there being increased numbers of adult birds at the beginning of the year. See the report below for full details:

[Preliminary report on the 2020 breeding season | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

(Takes you to an external website)

It seems that there were more adult birds than usual at the beginning of the year as more of them had survived the winter – probably due to a mild winter. This may have meant more nesting pairs and more competition for food, thereby reducing breeding success. It's also possible that with the really warm early spring weather, the caterpillars hatched too early for the birds to benefit from this!

So, it's unlikely that the large number of Blue Tits in the park at the moment (and elsewhere) is due to a bumper breeding year and is possibly due to increased adult survival rates over winter and migration from Europe! We will never know for sure as locally breeding success will differ from the overall UK picture but I find it quite interesting to try and understand what we are looking at when we are out and about.

Regards

Martin

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