

HOLLOW LOGS

By Jack Marshall

Keeping mainly Neophemas I have always preferred medium sized logs hung vertically for nesting.

However for some time I have had several clutches of fully developed young die just as they should have been leaving the log and several adults have been found dead in a similar place.

Not only this but the vertical log allows very little space for a large clutch and on a very hot day young will die unless removed during the worst of the heat.

Recently, I noticed a pair of Blue-wings missing. Thinking they would be in the log I became alarmed when I heard fluttering in the log and on investigation found a dead cock bird and a rather thin hen that simply couldn't get out.

Realising at long last that something was radically wrong I really checked the log and found that the inside had been worn as smooth as glass and that it would have been impossible for a bird to obtain a toe hold.

Several other logs were almost as bad and not knowing how to roughen the interior they have now been hung horizontally. It also makes me think that perhaps nest boxes may be the solution.