



Birdies of the Month 4

The **Blue Tit** – they are easily recognisable by their **blue and yellow** plumage and **small** size (12 cm long). They can be seen throughout the golf course, usually ascending tree trunks or hanging upside down on branches and twigs. They are very agile and acrobatic.

Look out for them occupying the nest boxes around the course. They breed from early Spring to late Summer and produce an average clutch of 8 – 10 eggs.

It is estimated that there are 3.6 million breeding pairs in the UK but this number increases to 15 million during the Winter as Blue Tits from Northern Europe migrate to the UK to spend Winter here.

Blue Tits feed on insects, caterpillars, seeds and nuts. They are frequent visitors to garden feeders with flocks reaching as many as 20 birds.

The **Great Tit** - it is slightly bigger than the Blue Tit with a body length of 14 cm. It has a distinctive **black head and neck**, prominent **white cheeks**, **olive** upperparts and **yellow** underparts.. They can be seen throughout the golf course in or around the various wooded copses. They have a very distinctive call of “**teacher, teacher**”.

Look out for them occupying the nest boxes around the course. They breed from early Spring to late Summer and produce a clutch of between 5 – 12 eggs.

Great Tits spend more time feeding lower down than other tits, due to the Great Tit’s larger size and less agile nature. They feed on insects, caterpillars, seeds, nuts and berries but, unlike Blue Tits, they do not forage in large flocks and are often seen as single birds or in pairs.

There are 2.4 million breeding pairs in the UK.



Blue Tit



Blue Tits are agile & acrobatic



Great Tit



A Great Tit at a Childwall Golf Club nest box