

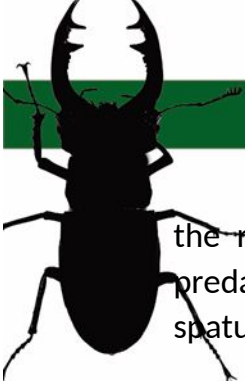


## 2021, ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR THE NESTING BOXES OF PARKEA BIZIRIK

We have completed the quantification in our nesting boxes of insectivorous and nocturnal rapacious birds. **Another good year.** The great lack in our environment of natural cavities in old-growth tree populations, due to the scarcity of these mature trees or simply because they have been cut down, has resulted in serious difficulties for many troglodyte species (that nest in cavities) to find an adequate and viable location for building their nests. Such is the scarcity that some birds nest in cracks in sloping banks of earth or in holes in the ground, leaving them highly vulnerable as they are exposed to predators or the runoff caused by rain. These are only a few examples of the “collateral damage caused by human activity.

**The boxes are there**, painted green and **swaying in the wind**. And there are the birds, singing, performing impossible acrobatics, ridding trees of harmful parasites and pests, and endlessly collaborating in maintaining both the health of our wooded areas and, consequently, our own health as well. In Donostia, Astigarraga, Errenteria, and Irun, there are 28 boxes where 145 inspections were carried out **in 2021**. Inspections revealed that **116 eggs** were laid, **96 chicks** hatched from these eggs, and **77** chicks left their nests; specifically, these 77 chicks include **62 great tits**, **13 Eurasian blue tits** and **2 tawny owls**. This was the fruit of 250 hours of volunteer work (involving travel, inspections, box maintenance, data collection, writing field notes, translating, composing newsletters and press releases, recording and filming, production of informative videos).

If we look at the overall calculations since we began collecting data (**1990 - 2021**), the results for these 30 years have been spectacular, and unique in our area; it is yet to be seen how they compare with the rest of the world. If we let the numbers explain, **7345** box inspections were carried out and **2448** birds hatched and left their nests for the outside world: **4 short-toed treecreepers**, **9 tawny owls**, **20 house sparrows**, **26 coal tits**, **86 Eurasian nuthatches**, **223 Eurasian blue tits** and **2080 great tits**.



If the nesting boxes clearly work well in spring, they are no less functional during the rest of the year. Birds use them to shelter from the cold, the rain, and from predators, proof of which is found in the amount of droppings that are removed with a spatula when the boxes are cleaned.

One of the outcomes of this great volunteering work is the **photography exhibition “30 years with nesting boxes”** which has encountered a very positive response wherever it has been. People’s energy, their motivation, effort, and dedication, their desire to come back again and again, and the bonds of friendship - these are only some of the gifts that are found when we choose to work together as decent human beings.

Watch and enjoy the video: **2021, another good year for the nesting boxes of Parkea Bizirik**

- YouTube (BASQUE): <https://youtu.be/Cl8CqVsDpVU>
- YouTube (SPANISH): <https://youtu.be/L1Ce7ZWvzfw>
- YouTube (FRENCH) <https://youtu.be/ciJS5hULfvc>
- **YouTube (ENGLISH): <https://youtu.be/HkX9NP3Xq0Q>**
- YouTube (FINNISH): <https://youtu.be/F5zdC-VALPI>

We continue working for the care and protection of Nature, which means the protection of us all.

Parkea Bizirik “Kukulunbera”

In Donostia / San Sebastián, May 7, 2022





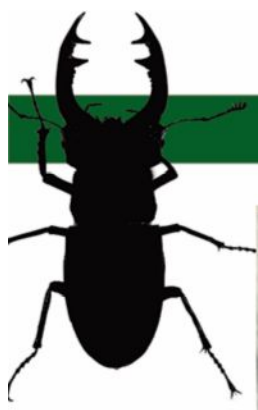


Photo: Joseba Gurutz de Vicente



*Female great tit incubating her eggs*



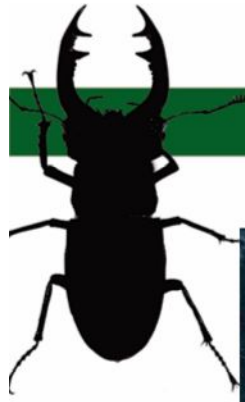
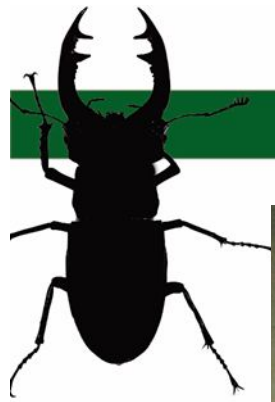


Photo: Joseba Gurutz de Vicente



*Tawny owl chicks*





Egiako lurpeko igarobidea



Donostiako Okendo Kultur Etxea



Egiako lurpeko igarobidea

Underground passageway in Egia and Okendo Cultural Center

*The exhibition "30 years with nesting boxes" shares knowledge and raises awareness*



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**BOOK (Basque and Spanish)**

**Kristina Enea Gladys Park: History - Flora - Fauna**

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