

TWITTER

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Treswell Wood Ringing Group

Ringling: By permission of NWT

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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringer.

The 25th Anniversary Dinner and beyond ...

Our thanks go to Neil for arranging this enjoyable and productive gathering. Neil recorded the event with his camera and if you would like to see the photographs, or to order reprints, please ask him.

Jeremy Greenwood gave an inspiring talk which served to emphasise the value that the BTO place on our long-term and systematic efforts. Although the ringers have appreciated this for some time, CBC observers may not have done so to the same extent. Treswell Wood is unique in British ornithological monitoring operations in that we have 25 years worth of continuous ringing and CBC work. The whole ringing dataset is computerised as are CBC territory numbers. In addition there are Nest Record Cards for the past 19 years. The separate census and ringing operations began well before the time when the idea of integrated population monitoring (IPM) was first developed by the then BTO director, Raymond O'Connor in the early 1980's. He developed the approach in a paper on Great Tits and this was followed by work, largely by Stephen Baillie, on Song Thrush demography. The name of IPM was coined only in his paper in IBIS in 1990 and it involves the integrated use of ringing, CBC, nest record and other survey data on a national basis. At the 1997 R&M conference the idea of an IPM Site was proposed - this is a single site where all these monitoring operations take place in a systematic way over the long term. This year, the BTO has begun to encourage IPM sites with offers of financial grants to groups willing to commit themselves to such long-term operations. Treswell Wood is seen as the pioneer of these sites. A big pat on the back to us all - even if we did not realise what we were taking part in at the time!

We hope that in the near future we can cooperate with BTO staff to continue the process of analysis of our rich dataset. There are two objectives in this. One, obviously, is to find out what is really going on with our birds (the Wren and Treecreeper paper was a pleasing start). The second objective - and this is where we will need help from the professionals - is to develop methodological approaches to data handling that will enable the maximum value to be extracted from IPM site data. No doubt, in this process, we may discover that our fieldwork operations need modification.

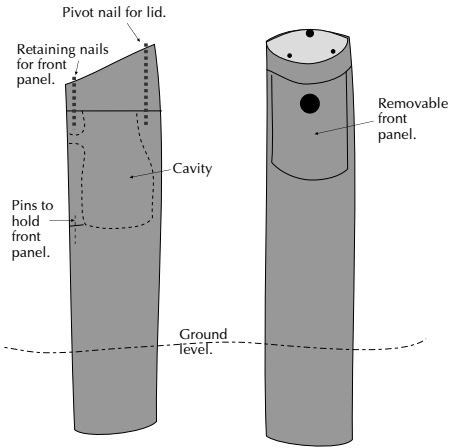
And where does this leave us? Clearly the important thing is for us all to continue with CBC, ringing and nest recording in the same systematic way. We need to encourage links with organisations such as Nottingham University that have proved so valuable over the last few years. (David Parkin has planned a project for some of his Genetics undergraduates for this spring - more news in the next Twitter.) Perhaps an important step would be to increase the communication between all of us who take part in ornithological operations in the wood. This could mean forming the country's first IPM group - with its rather appealing potential name Treswell Wood IPM Group or TWIG! How the group would work together is to be seen but here comes your opportunity to make suggestions. We would welcome your thoughts on the matter, whether you be a CBC observer, ringer, ex-ringer, ex-CBC observer, interested party or anyone else. Contributions to Twitter are, of course, always welcome whether they be from CBC workers or ringers. Our notes below have always been about interesting captures but interesting CBC, or other, observations are useful too.

Ulli Langemann C4731- congratulations

Ulli has been awarded her C permit. Sadly for us she will not be able to exercise it often with us here but we hope it will be of use in her future career. Ulli has now completed her time with Peter McGregor's project and has returned to her former laboratory in Munich. However, as you will see from the notes on Great Tits, she is in close contact with us via email and receives weekly updates of the Great Tit captures.

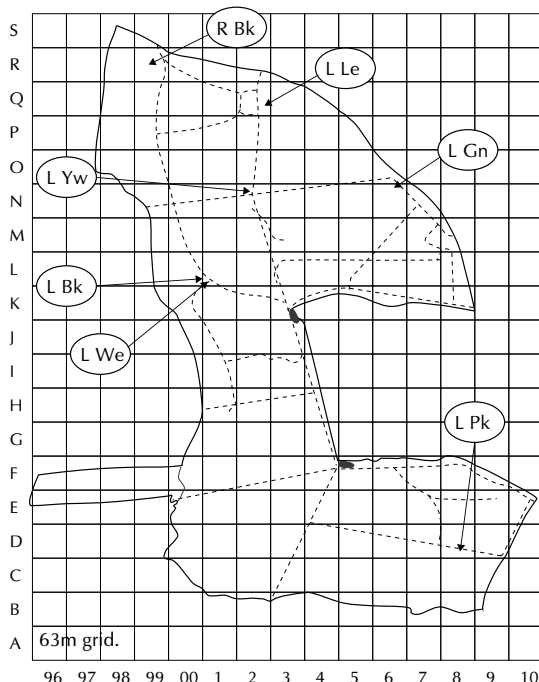
Nestboxes

Thanks are due to Andy Edwards who has manufactured nestboxes to replace those which have passed their sell-by-date (and also produced large numbers for other NWT operations). We still have a single original 1979 box in use and one of the 1980 batch. We hope some of Andy's will last as long! Last year we tried making 'stump' boxes. These are hazel logs with a nest cavity hollowed out at one end and then placed upright in the ground to appear like the stump of a tree. They have, for us, a second function of acting as markers to show where the runs of nestboxes begin - it is surprising how easy it is for tracks to become overgrown with brambles between one week and the next. The cunning part of the design is to make nesting cavity accessible for recording and ringing. One of last year's boxes had a brood of Coal Tits - the other two target species are Marsh and Willow Tits. Tim Goyles has produced two more of these boxes (of rather superior quality) and the intention is to make several more, all packed with rotten birch wood in the hope that Willow Tits will excavate nests in them. These extra boxes will also serve as markers to tell the ringers where to start their long runs of mist nets on the standard sites.



Robin Colour ringing

We have started the colour ringing. How different it is from Great Tit colour ringing! Each spring, we enjoyed a big influx of Great Tits. One problem was running out of suitable colour ring combinations. Many of the new birds were caught at the feeders - this was one place where we could be fairly sure of catching most of Treswell Wood's breeding population for the season. However, many of the individuals were colour ringed and not recaptured nor seen again. They were probably transients who 'wasted' a colour ring combination. Clairvoyants would have been able to tell which individuals to colour ring and which not to. We, however, were only ordinary ringers with no paranormal powers! Robins are not like this. We have caught one only at the feeders, this individual being caught several times. Robins may have selected their territories by late autumn and the only influx in spring will be of birds still searching for a territory. These birds will not stay long, being chased off by territory holders. However, this behaviour pattern should make it easier to have reliable sight records of our regulars. Below are details of the Robins colour-ringed so far. (Ask John McM or Tony Kennedy for recording forms.) Happy watching!



Colour ring **Ring** **Grid**
Black - Right **R Bk** **N305581** **R99**

A new bird to us in its first spring.

Light Blue - Left **L Le** **K463486** **Q02 Feeders**
 See Noteworthy Captures.

Yellow - Left **L Yw** **K463813** **N02**
 A juvenile of 1997 and by its second capture (20/7/97) it was already in Howard's Ride.

Green - Left **L Gn** **K463899** **N06**
 Another 1997 juvenile first captured in the same area the previous autumn.

Black - Left **L Bk** **K463656** **L00**
 A 1996 juvenile, frequently retrapped in the same area.

White - Left **L We** **J522691** **L00**
 See Noteworthy Captures.

Pink - Left **L Pk** **K463140** **D08**
 A regular in Nightingale Ride over the past 4 years and the only one of our colour ringed Robins of known sex - a male.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
Wren	0Y5902	15/2/98	E04

Wrens are not very long-lived birds so a retrap from 1996 is pleasing, though not exceptional. Better still, this was a 1996 nestling, not retrapped since ringing in a dormouse box in C09.

Robin J522691 25/1/98 L01

Where do they hide? (No. 1). Ringed as a 3J on 6/8/95, this Robin had not been captured again until now. Interestingly it was originally caught in the net adjacent to its recapture net. It seems as if its post-juvenile dispersal has been very limited, but the question remains 'Why have we not retrapped it before?' Perhaps its new colour ring, White - Left, may help provide the answer.

Robin K463486 25/1/98 Q02 Feeders

Where do they hide? (No. 2) This individual has a 9-capture history, all captures at the feeders in July to January. Its last capture there was in January 1997. As for J522691, its new colour ring may help to answer the question of its usual haunts.

Goldcrest 8Y3264 8/2/98 Q02 Feeders

Within-winter Goldcrest recaptures are not uncommon, this bird has now been trapped three times. What is unusual is that it has always been in the same place - at the feeders. Our other retrapped Goldcrests exhibit more mobility and few are captured at the feeders.

Blue Tit J118093 1/2/98 Q02 Feeders

A golden oldie - ringed as a nestling in 1993 in P04 and recaptured only 6 times since then. It has bred in our nestboxes at least twice (1994 and 1996), lives somewhere between the main cross roads and the pond and is only rarely caught at the feeders.

Blue Tit K720042 15/2/98 D07

A 1996 nestling ringed Blue Tit caught once only previously (March 1997 at the feeders). Where, if anywhere, has it been?

Blue Tit K720122 17/2/98 Q02 Feeders

A 1996 nestling from the south of the wood (C05) not retrapped at all until today. Another 'Where has it been'?

Blue Tit N305508 25/1/98 Q02 Feeders

A juvenile from 1997 which had been recaptured twice in the south of the wood. On the last recapture it was roosting in a box (in F02) so it seems it may have already found a breeding area. Today was its first capture at the feeders in the far north.

Blue Tit N305610 17/2/98 Q02 Feeders

Ringed only two days earlier in Nightingale Ride (D05). Did this bird arrive at the feeders then move to set up a territory in Nightingale Ride? Or does it visit the feeders regularly from an established base in the south of the wood? Or was it merely drifting north? Or what? We just do not know!

Great Tit VV34084 22/2/98 F04

If we did not know better, this bird could have appeared to be one of the spring influx of Great Tits. However, we do know better (perhaps). It was ringed in N05 as a nestling in 1997 and retrapped at the feeders in late June. Thereafter it was not caught again until 17/2/98 - at the feeders. Today it was with a young male (also a 1997 nestbox bird) in the south of the wood. The question is 'How many of our influx birds are really birds which know the wood from the previous summer or autumn and have just moved away for the winter? Is the influx really an influx rather than a return movement?

Treecreeper 5S9509 8/3/98 C03

This bird is from the only brood of Treecreepers which we have ever ringed. The nest was near the car park, Q02, in 1994. Of the two other siblings, one was caught later in 1994 but not seen since. This bird has now been caught 3 times, always in net 2 of Bower's Ride. The previous capture was as long ago as May 1996. This bird is now a respectable age for a Treecreeper but only half as old as our oldest recorded bird (8B5230 recapture history of 7½ years) which missed being a national age record holder by only 7 months.

Great Tits - notes on recent captures from Ulli.

A new young female (N305595, 8/2/98, Q02F) with wide stripe is interesting. How did you know it was a female? I wouldn't go for wing length alone. I am pleased to see more nestlings, especially because some of the early hatched ones are still around. R De/Yw K463583 (8/2/98, Q02F) lived and probably bred beyond the feeders P03/P04/O03. He has a very interesting song type, 'unfortunately' sharing it with a bird of similar colour (L Yw/De) which confused me a lot at the beginning of the 1997 field season, since both occurred in the same area for a while. R Le1Rd K463045 (8/2/98, Q02F) bred successfully in box U3 (F04) and was mate of one of my experimental males of last year. Her mate had similar colour to her: L Rd/Le. I remember ring number J522525 R Gn1Bk (8/2/98, Q02F) very well, just because it is so peculiar, however I never did see her. VV34084 (22/2/98, F04) is sibling of the Great Tit (VV34083) caught last Sunday in Nightingale Ride. VV34111 (15/3/98, Q02F) and VV34130 (15/3/98, Q02F) are out of the later 1997 nests. K463721, (8 & 22/3/98 Q02F) L De/Le is a bird that I saw only once at the feeder and have no idea where it lives. It was also only ever caught at the feeder.

