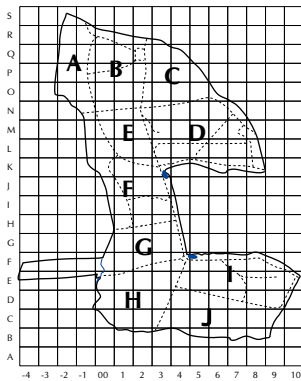


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

December 2007 Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

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Project leaders:

CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringing John McMeeking

2007/5

Number 65



Thirty five years

The 35th anniversary of John McMeeking and Ted Cowley's first ringing visit to Treswell Wood fell on December 17th, so we used the visit on 16th to mark the occasion. Neil brought the food and drink, John Clark the cake and we were delighted that some faces from the past appeared to join the festivities. We were also delighted that birds arrived, in both standard and extra nets, in greater numbers than they had done in recent weeks. Our thanks to all of you who have supported the work in any way over these years.

I have no idea why we humans seem to attach particular significance to anniversaries which are multiples of 5 - they have no particular biological significance (I expect some pedant out there will point out that some obscure life-form does indeed operate in 5-year cycles), nor does January 1st of one year seem very different from the last day of the year before. However, it is probably as good a time as any to look back, and to look forward. We may lament the loss of our Tree Sparrows and Redpolls, and the severe declines of other species including Dunnocks and Spotted Flycatchers. On the other hand we now have many more Coal Tits and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Nuthatch, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard are species seen regularly which were not present here 35 years ago. Although there is much to be concerned about in the natural world, it is not always doom and gloom. What we do know for certain is that change is the order of the day. We hope that our efforts - territory mapping, nest recording, ringing and other observations - are helping in the national efforts to document and understand this period of rapid environmental change.

Over the past year we have maintained all our usual programme of activities in the field - continuity of this effort is obviously our first priority. However, without adequate effort to document the fieldwork, it would be much less valuable. So, alongside the fieldwork, goes routine computerisation of information. Everything we record is now being computerised in one form or another and this computerisation is keeping almost up-to-date with the fieldwork. All archival CBC data, nest record data and ringing data are computerised. Much of our background information from the past remains on paper only. This is not a criticism of inadequate efforts in the early days - older members will recall that computer power was not available to ordinary mortals for the first decade of the Treswell Wood operation.

Progress has been made this year towards full computerisation of archival data. Ringing records from 1972 to 1979 have been transferred to a single IPMR database with additional information (such as fuller moult recording, or uncommonly recorded biometrics) added. This process has revealed a few missed recoveries, some of which have appeared rather belatedly in recent issues of Twitter, and has also allowed us to submit these archival data electronically to the Ringing Scheme. The background notes - which contain data related to all sorts of things including observations of species other than birds - are being entered slowly. Particular thanks are due to Steve Wain for his efforts in this work. Mike Archer has volunteered to add all our bird species observations to the BTO BirdTrack system. When this is done all group members should be able to access information from the wood, via the BirdTrack web site. More important it will enable our 35 years' worth of observations to be used as part of the national bird monitoring system.

We have always tried to ensure the security of our data. All the ringing records are held in duplicate. Backup copies of all the computer files are made every few weeks on CD-ROM and stored elsewhere. The BTO holds all the CBC maps in their new storage facility at Thetford. By chance, a Nottinghamshire county archivist visited me in November. Although she came on matters not related to the Treswell Wood operation (of which she was previously unaware) she immediately noticed the collection of field sheets on the bookshelf in my study. (It would be hard to miss the two metres of shelving with its systematically labelled A4 ring files.) She recognised the historic value of such a collection and immediately offered a place in the county archives for all our field sheets whenever we felt they were ready for such storage. Undoubtedly the British Standard Archive conditions would ensure the safety of the paperwork in perpetuity. The time is not yet right, however. Full computerisation must take place first.

It is also worth scanning the whole collection before archiving to ensure we always have immediate access to the original field paperwork. (Scanning of such a large collection is impractical on an ordinary domestic flat-bed scanner. A commercial, high-speed scanner with sheet feed is needed. If anyone has experience of such an operation, please let us know.) We did give a copy of our data on CD-ROM to the archivist and will give an updated version from time to time. We have, however, put a closure of 50 years on the data so that they will not be publicly accessible without our agreement for the time.

Apart from the background notes, what is the major computer archiving problem? Paradoxically, it results from developments in computer technology. With the advent of digital photography we now have a rapidly increasing collection of pictures. It is no problem to store any image that is taken in the wood. However, these images are of little use unless they are accessible. We need to develop a system of cataloguing our digital images and deleting any that are of no value. In addition we have a few old photographs which should be scanned and added to the digital collection. This operation will require expertise, thought and a good deal of time. Any volunteers?

Finally, what are we doing with all our data? We have always contributed to national schemes - CES, CBC, RAS, Nest Records and now the Atlas. We now have a fairly continuous stream of collaborators who are using our data in one way or another. At the time of writing we have three Nottingham students engaged in projects related to Robins and mites. There are possibilities of more such projects in the near future. One collaborative project on brood patch temperature has resulted in a paper in *Avian and Poultry Biology Reviews* and another, on the same subject, will appear shortly in *Bird Study*. We are acutely aware that we are curating a very valuable data set but not making full use of it. Perhaps this is where we are in most need of additional help - please!

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Tawny Owl	3	GK18355	31/12/2007	N02

This capture resulted from a playback call of a Tawny Owl played well after dark. A Tawny Owl responded by calling within seconds of us playing the recording. This is the first time we have attempted luring owls in this way. This was a new bird, rather small and most likely a male - possibly attempting to gain a territory within the wood.

Robin	3	V666578	14/10/2007	H01
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We only had one Robin nest in a box this year. It produced six fledged young. This is the first capture of any of these and, by the time of this capture, it had gained full adult plumage and is likely to be fairly settled in the area where it will breed (if it survives that long). Its natal dispersal is under 500 metres.

Blackbird	3M	CT84116	04/11/2007	K00
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We ringed nestling Blackbirds in just two nests this year. The return rate has been exceptionally high because all rings from the first nest were recovered in a Tawny Owl nest (Twitter 62). This is the first to be retrapped from the second nest and also the first nestling-ringed Blackbird to be recaptured from any cohort since that of 2004. Overall we have only ever ringed 127 nestling Blackbirds but, of these, 22 have been retrapped or recovered. That return rate of 17% is very high compared to national rates and is only possible here because of our long-term, multi-faceted programme of activity. (4 rings in Tawny Owl nests, 2 dead birds found during casual walks, 16 retrapped during mist-netting)

Blackbird	3F	CT84357	11/11/2007	N04
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There was what seemed like a brief influx of Blackbirds - this was one of nine caught on the day. This one was still obviously in post-juvenile moult (albeit much towards the end of the process). The other birds of the day had all completed moult.

Song Thrush	3	RX57832	30/12/2007	P00
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A rare winter capture of this species which has, traditionally, behaved as a summer migrant.

Long-tailed Tit	2	AJD400	17/11/2007	H02
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Long-tailed Tits often remain in fairly stable groups for long periods and we often catch parties of the species rather than just single individuals. This bird was ringed on March 2004 and has been recaptured on 6 subsequent occasions. On three of these we also caught AJD402 - today was one such occasion. Both these birds are over three years old now and still apparently remaining in the same group.

Blue Tit	4	R123764	04/11/2007	L00
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One of our own nestbox products - fledged in 2002 and still going strong. Apart from its first recapture as a juvenile in August 2002, all its subsequent captures have been in the winter months. It is almost as if it is just a winter visitor to the wood.

Blue Tit **4** **R558592** **11/11/2007** **Q02 Feeder**

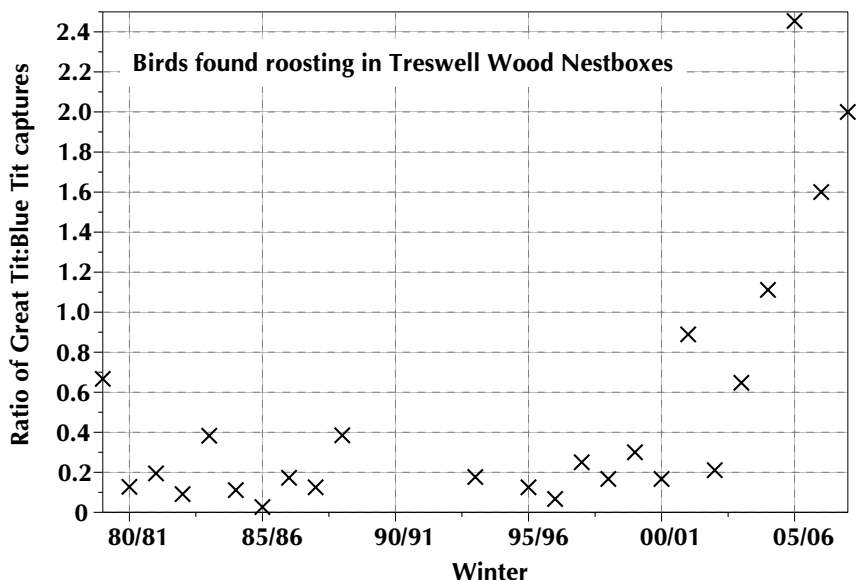
At first glance this bird appeared to be a juvenile. Closer inspection revealed it to be an adult which had not moulted some outer primary coverts. There have been some other tits with slightly aberrant moult characteristics this autumn. Andy Gosler noted that he had also seen some similar odd moult in a handful of tits - something he had not observed before.

Great Tit 4M **P400676** **31/12/2007** **O-1 Roosting**

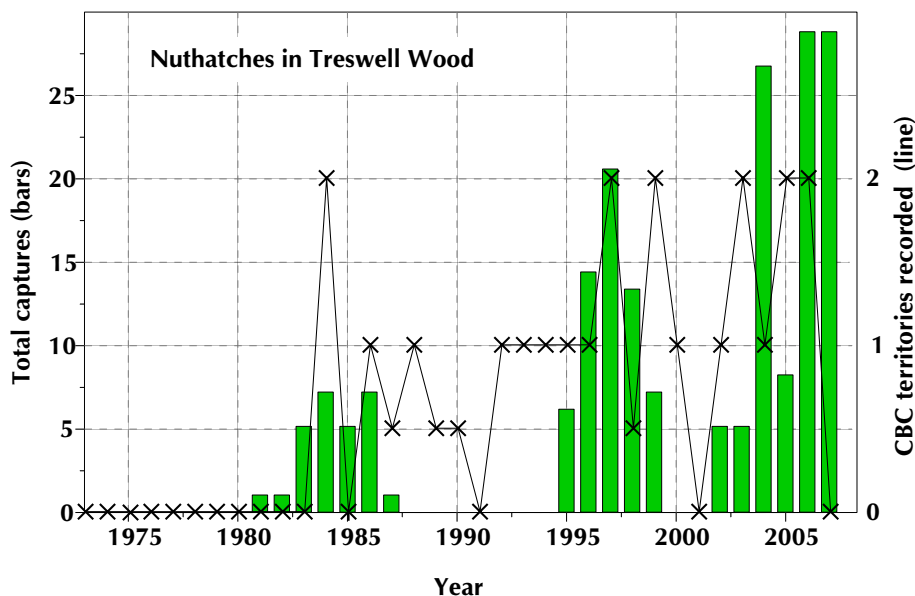
This bird has a rather long history having been ringed in the spring influx of 2002. We have captured it frequently since then although it is only this winter that we have found it roosting in a box. A year older, at 6 years and one month since ringing, was P400516 which we found roosting at the end of October.

The balance of roosting tits, like those of breeding tits, has shifted from Blue Tits to Great Tits over the past few years. The graph reveals that, up to the winter of 2000/2001, we found, typically, five roosting Blue Tits for every Great Tit. Suddenly, thereafter, the ratio of Great Tits has increased very rapidly with now around twice as many found as Blue Tits. Undoubtedly

there is a change in the relative proportions of these two species - whether we look at numbers of nests recorded, nestlings fledged, CBC territories or birds captured. It is also clear that this change began after 2000, before which there was a period of relative stability and that the change is not just the result of one or two aberrant years. What might be the reason for this is quite another matter.

**Nuthatch** **2M** **TC61400** **22/12/2007** **D03**

We have ringed a total of seven Nuthatches this year. With a total of 28 capture events through the year it remains a less-common species within the wood. Although we have heard it in every year since it first appeared in 1981, we have not captured them in all years. The pattern of captures is also interesting, suggesting three attempts at establishing a population. Of these, the current one has been most prolonged and most successful. The CBC territory data results a very similar pattern. It is always very pleasing when the outcomes from two independent surveys are so much in agreement. The species is expanding its range and abundance nationally. Let us hope that this attractive woodland species is now with us to stay. (In the graph, years in which Nuthatches were present in the breeding season but there was insufficient evidence to map a territory, have been awarded an honorary score of 0.5 territories.)

**Treecreeper** **4** **AJD004** **16/12/2007** **F07**

An excellent capture on our 35th anniversary visit, and timing its capture so as to be seen by the visitors. Not our oldest-ever Treecreeper but 5 years and 3 months since ringing is a most respectable age for this tiny species.

Annual Summary - All ringing records 2007

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Recvs.	Othr	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Stock Dove	.	1	.	2	.	.	.	1	4	
Woodpigeon	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tawny Owl	.	.	1	6	2	.	.	.	9	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	1	5	.	12	1	.	.	19	
Wren	.	54	53	4	37	23	.	.	171	
Duncock	.	15	7	.	21	7	.	.	50	
Robin	.	33	55	5	79	18	8	1	199	
Blackbird	.	38	37	6	49	8	.	6	144	
Song Thrush	.	19	4	.	12	4	.	.	39	
Redwing	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Mistle Thrush	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	45	11	.	23	19	.	.	98	
Chiffchaff	2	30	2	.	14	8	.	.	56	
Willow Warbler	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	27	26	.	15	3	.	.	71	
Spotted Flycatcher	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Long-tailed Tit	.	22	16	.	61	5	.	.	104	
Marsh Tit	.	1	9	6	49	11	4	.	80	
Willow Tit	.	.	4	.	20	5	.	.	29	
Coal Tit	.	2	13	18	68	7	.	.	108	
Blue Tit	2	91	49	89	321	28	.	2	30	612
Great Tit	5	39	35	171	527	106	.	1	37	921
Nuthatch	.	3	4	.	21	28
Treecreeper	1	6	3	.	37	5	.	.	.	52
Jay	1	1	2
Chaffinch	1	48	44	.	75	22	.	3	.	193
Greenfinch	.	3	1	.	4
Goldfinch	.	1	1
Bullfinch	.	14	10	.	15	4	.	1	.	44
Totals	12	500	388	307	1459	284	12	15	68	3045

Key: **Ctrl** - Birds ringed elsewhere and caught in Treswell Wood. **Juvnl** - juveniles. **Pulli** - birds ringed as nestlings. **Rt** - ordinary recaptures. **SDR** - same day recaptures. **Sight** - observations of colour-ringed birds. **Recvs** - recoveries, i.e. our own ringed birds found dead in Treswell Wood. **Other** - all in this table are pulli which were ringed but died before fledging; they are not included in the Pulli column.

Controls and recoveries

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Place
Robin	5	R558956	14/4/2007	Near Treswell Wood

A road traffic victim, found by John Bartley. It was ringed as a first winter bird in January.

Great Tit	6M	R353840	18/2/2007	D08
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We ringed this bird in March 2005 and retrapped it again during the breeding season of that year. It was then found the following March by John Clark at Hillcrest farm in Treswell village. Back again this year during the spring influx but no recaptures since then. This is one of our few recently recorded return movements.

Great Tit	5M	V184864	8/4/2007	H04
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Another local movement from Hillcrest farm. John Clark ringed this in late March and it appeared in the wood some 10 days later.

Great Tit	3F	V475419	23/11/2007	Rampton
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Ringed some six weeks before in the wood, this bird appeared at the North Notts Ringing Course in Rampton.

Chaffinch **3F** **V475180** **23/11/2007** **Rampton**

Another product of the North Notts Ringing Course. We ringed this as a juvenile in the wood in June 2007.

Great Tit **3M** **V475345** **18/12/2007** **Hillcrest Farm**

Ringed in September as a young male, we have not recaptured this bird in the wood since ringing.

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Interval	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1978	101	131	243	223	131	829
1979	97	115	211	91	123	637
1980	86	102	210	147	170	715
1981	102	110	288	188	177	865
1982	66	113	165	89	110	543
1983	82	140	143	185	128	678
1984	91	114	110	82	106	503
1985	103	88	135	118	88	532
1986	77	104	153	68	141	543
1987	95	112	196	209	124	736
1988	92	143	180	137	119	671
1989	124	137	282	145	103	791
1990	99	145	204	130	175	753
1991	65	57	98	74	127	421
1992	64	64	115	223	159	625
1993	81	70	112	158	126	547
1994	88	109	212	155	157	721
1995	91	124	240	253	104	812
1996	95	121	128	116	97	557
1997	59	99	126	98	98	480
1998	78	84	116	80	106	464
1999	88	96	140	113	163	600
2000	75	106	106	159	170	616
2001	57	33	94	121	59	364
2002	85	89	141	176	117	608
2003	117	116	146	104	114	597
2004	103	128	126	165	132	654
2005	107	140	150	88	133	618
2006	128	98	185	125	166	702
2007	107	110	138	73	92	520
Summary Data						
Maximum	128	145	288	253	177	865
Minimum	57	33	94	68	59	364
Mean	90	107	163	136	127	623
10-year Averages since standard site netting began in 1978						
1978 - 1987	90	113	182	140	130	655
1988 - 1997	86	107	170	149	127	637
1998 - 2007	95	100	134	120	125	574

Publications during the year

du Feu, C.R. & Deeming C. Temperature and the development of the brood patch in British songbirds. Avian and Poultry Biology Reviews, Vol 18, No.2, 2007

10 Week Summary 2007 Interval 5, Captures in Standard Sites

Visits 1868, 1869, 1861, 1863, 1865, 1864, 1866

	New Adult	Birds 5	Recaptures 3	Total Adult	5	3	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Wren	3	.	3	1	.	3	10
Dunnock	1	.	.	1	.	.	2
Robin	.	.	2	3	.	5	10
Blackbird	1	.	5	6	.	2	14
Goldcrest	4	.	4	2	.	1	11
Long-tailed Tit	5	.	.	12	.	.	17
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Coal Tit	.	.	1	2	.	.	3
Blue Tit	.	.	.	9	.	2	11
Great Tit	.	.	2	4	.	1	7
Nuthatch	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Treecreeper	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Totals	15	.	18	43	.	16	92

This is our third lowest standard visit capture for the last 10-weeks of any year - 1985 and 2001 totals were 88 and 59 respectively. The captures during this last interval did vary a great deal with later visits being more productive than earlier ones.

Treswell Wood Integrated Population Monitoring Group - TWIG

TWIG does not have a formal membership list. 'Membership' seems to result from being involved in some way with the group's work. The list below includes all those who have helped in any way during 2007. (Apologies if any names have been omitted.) We are very grateful to all members for their contributions in the wood or elsewhere. We look forward to another productive year in 2008.

Treswell Wood IPM Group members 2006

Rob Atkinson	Notts Wildlife Trust	Tony Kennedy	Woodland management
Mike Archer	Data entry	Ulli Langemann	Foreign correspondent
Dan Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Ray Lister	Woodland management
Gill Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Stuart Martin	CBC
Dave Barritt	Ringling	Phil May	Scottish correspondent
John Bartley	CBC, Nestboxes, Mammal recording	Clive McCormack	Ringling
Pat Bartley	CBC	John McMeeking	Ringling
Jerzy Behnke	Mites	Peter Phillips	Ringling
John Black	Ringling, Nestboxes	Margaret Price	CBC founder
Rosie Blackman	Ringling	Pat Quinn-Catling	CBC co-ordinator
Ben Bower	Ringling	Cassandra Raby	Nottingham University project
Kyle Campbell	Ringling	Finn Stewart	RSPB Willow Tit project
John Clark	Ringling, Nestboxes	Jo Surgey	Ringling
Peter Cobb	Ringling	Neil Taylor	Ringling
Roger Cottis	Mammal advice	David Thompson	Data analysis
Ted Cowley	Ringling	Frank Tillotson	CBC
Charles Deeming	Lincoln University - egg research	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Paul Eady	Lincoln University	Dave Valentine	Woodland management
Andy Edwardes	Nestbox making	Steve Wain	Ringling, Data processing, 'Bible' production
Lucy de Wesselow	Nottingham University project	Robin Ward	Data analysis
Chris du Feu	Ringling, Nestboxes,	Visitors:	David Coles, William Coles, Michael Brown, Helen Tayford, Mike Clark, Voirrey & Bill Oxley, Sara Bone, Jody Fairish, Lynda Milner, Dave Fogg, Christine du Feu, Peter Harrison, James Nicholson, pupils and staff from Beckingham, North Wheatley, Ranby and Everton Primary Schools.
Richard du Feu	Ringling, Data processing		
Jamie Glossop	Ringling		
Chris Holliland	Mammals, Dormouse boxes	John McMeeking	01636 830389
Katy Holvey	Nottingham University project	Chris du Feu	01427 848400
George Hudson	CBC	Neil Taylor	01427 612933
Richard Johnson	CBC		
Andy Kirk	Ringling		