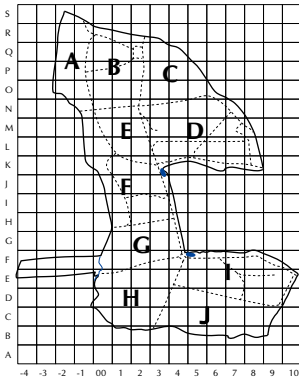


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder **December 2005**

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



2005/5

Number 55

Visit 1750, on December 18th, fell one day after the 33rd anniversary of John McMeeking's first ringing visit to Treswell Wood. Such anniversaries are good times to look backwards at what we have done, and forwards to what we hope to do.

During 2005 we maintained the ringing programme although, for the first time ever, the last of our standard site visits for the year was not made until January 2nd (Christmas on a Sunday does not help the ringing programme). This completed our 28th year of all-year constant-effort netting. The CBC team managed another full survey of the wood - the 30th consecutive year for the whole wood. All nests in nestboxes and dormouse boxes were recorded and nest records submitted to the Nest Records Scheme at the BTO - the 27th year of nest recording in the wood. One new species of bird has been added to our ringing list - the Little Owl.

Away from the wood, all this year's ringing and nest record data have been computerised. Background data computerised include a record of where coppicing has taken place and all the casual sighting notes made by the ringers. Steve Wain has completed computerisation of all historic CBC maps (with only this year's maps and a handful of inexplicably mislaid maps from the past outstanding). The year has seen publication and submission of several papers using our data. These include *Recent changes in body weight and wing length among some British passerines* (Yoram Yom-Tov and others in *Oikos*), *Validity of ageing Wrens on fourth-primary spots* (Robin Ward, submitted to *Ringing and Migration*), and *Egg productivity and mortality for Blue Tits and Great Tits in Treswell Wood* (Charles Deeming - poster for the Incubation and Fertility Research Group conference). Nests have been sent to the National Nest Reference Collection and others to Charles Deeming at Lincoln University for project work with students. We have also supplied unhatched eggs for Charles Deeming's research. Feather samples were sent to Lisette Coiffait for stable isotope analysis which she hopes will throw light on the origins of our wintering Blackbirds. Group members have continued to collect bird corpses (window strikes, car victims etc.) for the Natural History Museum skin collection. Mammal, mollusc and butterfly records from the wood will be submitted to local recorders.

We are very grateful for the continued support shown by the many who have helped with the operations within the wood - CBC, nest recording, ringing - to the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust which permits the work in the wood and to the woodland management team, particularly Tony Kennedy and Rob Atkinson, who do so much to ensure that all is on order for the bird crew.

Each additional year of work brings more-than-proportional value to a long-term study of natural systems. We hope to continue with our programme as usual. There is one area, however, where we have not made progress this year. This is the computerisation of the background notes made on ringing visits. These notes include the casual sightings of other species, first dates for flowers blooming, the times at which nets were set and unset, the weather, long-hand notes on unusual features of birds in the hand etc. This data entry can be painstaking and time consuming - but it is worthwhile. Once the information is computerised, searching for references to particular species is rapid and thorough. The whole of the dataset could be searched by computer in far less time than it takes to flick through a season of paper records.

Astute readers will, by now, have recognised an appeal for help. If you have some spare time and fancy delving into the past to transcribe hand-written notes to computer file, then let John or Chris know. There are plenty of years' data to go at - almost everything from 1972 to 1995 with a few missing bits thereafter. It is ideal work for dark evenings or rainy days.

Peter Bower

Long-standing ringers will remember how much help and friendship Peter Bower and his family gave to us while he lived at Stanhope Farm, bordering the south of the wood. For many years our equipment was stored in his outbuildings and he was happy to let us do some ringing on his land. After a long illness, Peter died early in January. Our sympathy goes to Kath and his family.

Year Summary -All Records 2005

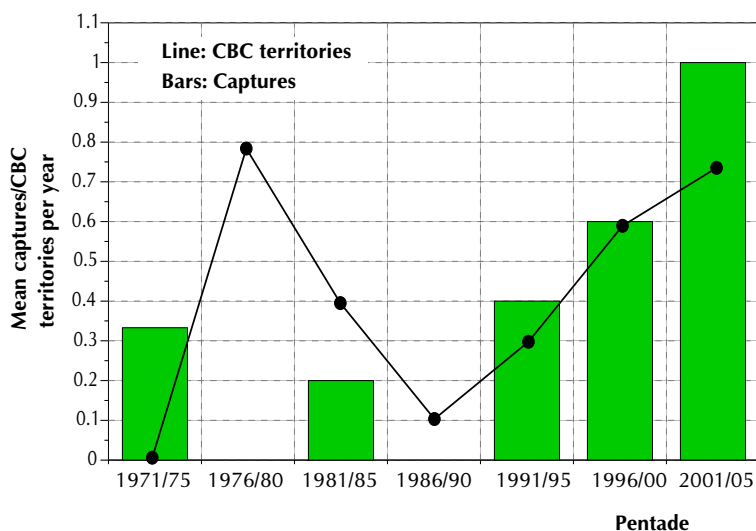
	Ctrl.	New Birds		Pulli	Retraps		Sight	Recvs	Othr	Total
		Adult	Juvnl		Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	1	1	2	2	.	.	.	.	6
Kestrel	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Stock Dove	.	.	.	8	.	.	.	.	.	8
Woodpigeon	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Little Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tawny Owl	.	3	.	4	1	.	.	.	1	9
Great Sp. Woodpecker	.	5	6	.	35	5	.	.	.	51
Lesser Sp. Woodpecker	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	.	45	55	14	49	25	.	.	.	188
Dunnock	.	28	10	.	33	7	.	.	.	78
Robin	.	34	36	11	82	17	24	1	.	205
Blackbird	.	30	17	.	66	7	.	1	.	121
Song Thrush	.	9	2	.	2	1	.	.	.	14
Mistle Thrush	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Garden Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	40	14	.	13	12	.	1	.	80
Chiffchaff	.	19	9	.	9	1	.	.	.	38
Willow Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	11	51	.	30	16	.	.	.	108
Spotted Flycatcher	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Long-tailed Tit	.	27	4	.	57	7	.	.	.	95
Marsh Tit	.	1	6	.	47	3	28	.	.	85
Willow Tit	.	4	4	.	37	5	18	.	.	68
Coal Tit	.	5	16	8	84	1	.	1	.	115
Blue Tit	5	101	32	84	236	20	.	.	21	499
Great Tit	1	93	34	102	369	59	.	6	1	665
Nuthatch	.	3	1	.	4	1	.	.	.	9
Treecreeper	.	7	10	.	43	10	.	.	.	70
Jay	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Chaffinch	2	41	41	.	78	16	.	1	.	179
Greenfinch	.	14	2	.	7	.	.	.	.	23
Goldfinch	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Bullfinch	.	15	21	.	12	2	.	.	.	50
Totals	8	554	377	233	1296	215	70	11	23	2787

Key: **Ctrl** - Birds ringed elsewhere and caught in Treswell Wood or vice-versa. **Juv** - 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.

Noteworthy Captures

Species **Age/sex** **Ring** **Date** **Grid**
ET87300 **Kestrel** **3M** **18/12/2005** **Q02 feeder**

This is our 13th Kestrel capture. The chart shows our captures per five-year interval. They do seem to be less infrequent now in the wood in spite of the general decline in their numbers nationally. Possibly, with increased coppicing, the larger proportion of open ground within the wood provides better hunting habitat for them. The CBC territory count tells much the same story apart from during the late 1970s. Any offers for an explanation? In calculating the CBC figures, as usual, birds being present but with no confirmed territory were awarded half a territory.



Great Spotted Woodpecker 2F CT84060 18/12/2005 Q02 Feeder

Take care when trying to age Great Spotted Woodpeckers. It seems that few, if any, have read the instructions about how to moult. They are highly unpredictable. This bird appeared to be a juvenile with some remaining older greater coverts arranged, as for a typical passerine, at the outer edge of the greater covert tract. With the wisdom gained by examination of recapture histories we can now tell that these 'old greater coverts' were adult greater coverts which had not been moulted in the, otherwise, full autumn moult. We know it was not a bird of this year as its first capture date was a year less a day earlier. It graced us again with its confusing, apparently young, plumage on 2/1/2006.

Great Spotted Woodpecker 4M CT84084 13/11/2005 Q02 Feeder

We ringed this bird as an adult in May 2005 and have retrapped it several times. Beware of it - not just because of its excessively noisy behaviour during extraction. It is an adult but its plumage has two odd features. First, it has a handful of red-tipped feathers in the crown. It would be easy to believe it was a juvenile which had not yet dropped all its crown feathers. Second, like many of the species, it has some primary coverts which are older and browner (probably through wear and bleaching) than the corresponding primary feathers.

Robin 2 R502795 18/12/2005 N02 Sight record

This is our front cover bird. It was colour-ringed in October 2003 in square L02. Since then we have recorded it nearly 30 times - always in the block of six squares L02 to N03. It is an exceptionally inquisitive bird. To observe it, go somewhere near the main cross roads and pretend to be working. Ensure you make some noise. It should arrive to inspect you within a matter of seconds. If our ringing base is in its patch we find it hopping around our feet for much of the morning. On this occasion, John C. had brought some festive mince pies. We placed some grain on the stool for it to eat but it showed more interest in John McM's mince pie - as it hovered in front of it working out the best approach. We decided to give it part of a pie where it could eat it without expending so much energy on hovering. Thanks to the wonders of digital photography, we now have a picture of a real Robin at a real festive mince pie. Any offers for the caption?

Robins are well known for their sedentary behaviour, so it was with some surprise that we saw this bird again (possibly at its New Year's Eve party?) at the main feeding station in Q02 as the light was fading. Although this is not a great distance from its normal haunts, it is at least as far as the distance across its known range. There has often been another Robin present in this area. Has it allowed our friend to join it? Has our friend moved territory to a better area after the existing Robin died or moved? Or did cold weather lead to a temporary breakdown of normal behaviour? Look out for this bird at the main cross roads and at the feeder too and let us know if you see it. (Left leg: Yellow ring over pale blue ring; Right leg: pink and black ring over BTO metal ring.)

Goldcrest 4M AXL108 23/10/2005 P-1

Our first between-winter retrap of the season. It was ringed in December 2004 in square P00, as a young male, retrapped in February in O-1 then not seen again until 16th October in P00 and trapped again today. Although it is likely to have moved a great deal - possibly even across the North Sea - between the February and October captures, it does not seem to rove widely within the wood.

Coal Tit 4M R123550 23/10/2005 Q02 Feeder

It is always good to recapture our nestling-ringed birds. This one has now reached respectable middle age, having been ringed in the nest in 2002 in D04 and captured several times since then both at the feeders and in its likely breeding area somewhere between the main entrance and the main cross roads.

Marsh Tit 2 T663076 23/11/2005 F04 Feeder

One of this year's juveniles of unknown origin, ringed and retrapped several times on the northern part of the wood. Today it was associating with another Marsh Tit at the Piccadilly feeder. Curiously both birds had the same colour combinations but on opposite legs. Coincidence? Strangely we captured two Willow Tits a couple of weeks earlier together, again with symmetric colour combinations.

Blue Tit 6 P400940 2/1/2006 F04 Feeder

We ringed this bird in June 2001 as a nestling in F06. It remained uncaught until March 2005 when it appeared at one of the temporary RSPB feeders in C07. Today it has reappeared at the 'finch' feeder at Piccadilly Circus. This is 4 years and 214 days since ringing - a good age for the species.

Blue Tit 4 R123966 7/11/2005 J01 Roosting

One of the handful of birds found roosting on our first visit of the winter. Over the years the balance of roosting birds has shifted from Blue Tits to Great Tits with the larger species now outnumbering the smaller in the ratio about 4:1. This bird is an old friend, having been found roosting in the same box in December 2003 and nesting in

it in May 2005. We ringed it as a juvenile in August 2002 in N03. Also found roosting on the same evening in separate boxes in different parts of the wood, Great Tit siblings TC61317 and TC61319, both ringed as nestlings in May 2005.

Great Tit 4M R502517 18/12/2005 Q02 Feeder

Where do they hide? We ringed this bird at the feeder in March 2003, as part of the spring influx, and recaptured it shortly afterwards. Next we found it roosting in nearby nestboxes in November and December of that year. Since then, no sign of it for a period of two years.

Great Tit 4F VV92983 31/12/2005 D07 Roosting

In contrast, here is an old, frequently trapped friend. We ringed her as a nestling in May 2002 in the north of the wood. She has settled in the south and uses our boxes for roosting and our feeders for sustenance.

Nuthatch 5M BE88948 2/1/2006 D04

Nuthatches are still frequently heard in the wood - capturing one is a less frequent event. This is the first new Nuthatch ringed since January 2005 although there are at least four individuals which have been present in the wood during the autumn.

DA20220 Jay DA20220 3 11/12/2005 D09

Only our 3rd Jay capture of the year - making just an average number of captures for the year. This is surprising in a year which has seen a Jay invasion nationally.

Controls and recoveries

Species Age/sex Ring Date Place

Great Tit 3M TC61319 7/12/2005 I03 Roosting

Male Great Tits tend to disperse less far from their natal site than do females. This bird had not yet moved at all. We ringed him in this same box as a nestling in May this year. Since then he has been trapped five times at the the feeder in the north of the wood and once roosting in another box nearby, but nowhere else. This is first time we have ever found a Great Tit roosting in its natal box. In the past, we have also found just one Blue Tit roosting in its natal box. With totals of 214 individual Blue Tits and 80 Great Tits roosting in boxes altogether, this shows how rare an event this is.

Sadly, a tragic end to the saga. On our next round of the boxes on 31/12/2005 we found the recently-dead remains of this bird in a nearby box. No sign of injury - he was probably a victim of the cold spell.

10 Week Summary 2005 Interval 5 in Standard Sites

Visits 1749, 1751, 1743, 1744, 1747, 1745, 1750

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult			Adult			
Wren	3	.	3	1	.	2	9
Robin	.	.	4	3	.	3	10
Blackbird	3	.	8	11	.	.	22
Goldcrest	2	.	20	.	.	1	23
Long-tailed Tit	15	.	.	18	.	.	33
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	3	.	4	7
Willow Tit	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Coal Tit	.	.	2	2	.	2	6
Blue Tit	1	.	8	7	.	6	23
Great Tit	.	.	1	8	.	.	9
Treecreeper	1	.	3	5	.	3	12
Nuthatch	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Jay	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Totals	25	.	52	59	.	23	159

The full table of our 10-week captures since 1978, on the following page, shows that this has been one of our best last intervals of the year. The annual total is also above average. In spite of the apparent poor breeding productivity, the total is the highest for a decade. Overall then, with good numbers, a new species ringed and our second Lesser Spotted Woodpecker capture, certainly a year to remember.

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1978	101	131	243	223	131	829
1979	97	115	180	91	123	606
1980	86	102	211	147	170	716
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	99	74	127	422
1992	64	64	115	223	159	625
1993	81	70	112	158	126	547
1994	88	109	209	155	157	718
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	159	644
Summary data 1978 - 2004						
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Mean	88	107	162	141	128	624
Min	75	57	94	68	59	422

Note: Bracketed numbers represent incomplete data sets and are not included in summary figures above. Incomplete data sets in 2001 result from foot and mouth restrictions.

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 2005. (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 2006.

Treswell Wood IPM Group members 2005		Andy Edwardes	Nestbox making	Pat Quinn-Catling	CBC co-ordinator
Dan Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Chris du Feu	Ringling, Nestboxes,	Neil Taylor	Ringling
Gill Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Richard du Feu	Ringling, Data processing	David Thompson	Data analysis
Dave Barritt	Ringling,	Claire Hargraves	Ringling	Frank Tillotson	CBC
John Bartley	CBC, Nestboxes, Mammal recording	Chris Holliland	Mammals, Dormouse boxes	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Pat Bartley	CBC	George Hudson	CBC	Steve Wain	Ringling, Data processing, 'Bible' production
Jerzy Behnke	Mites	Richard Johnson	CBC	Robin Ward	Data analysis
John Black	Ringling, Nestboxes	Tony Kennedy	Woodland management	Visitors:	Arjun Amar, Eric Palmer, Arthur Hoyland, Elaine Gathercole & Nottingham Birdwatchers, Rob Atkinson (NWT), Rafa Torralba, Sandra García González, Raul González, Clemen, José and David Cañazares,
Kyle Campbell	Ringling	Ulli Langemann	Foreign correspondent		
John Clark	Ringling, Nestboxes	Alex Lewis	Ringling, RSPB Marsh and Willow Tit projects		
Sally Clough	Ringling	Ray Lister	Woodland management		
Peter Cobb	Ringling	Stuart Martin	CBC		
Roger Cottis	Mammal advice	Phil May	Scottish correspondent	John McMeeking	01636 830389
Laura Daniels	RSPB Marsh and Willow Tit project	John McMeeking	Ringling	Chris du Feu	01427 848400
Charles Deeming	Lincoln University - egg research	Peter Phillips	Ringling	Neil Taylor	01427 612933
Paul Eady	Lincoln University	Margaret Price	CBC founder		