



# TWITTER

## 1997/4 - Number 14

October 1997 Treswell Wood Ringing Group

**Ringing:** By permission of NWT

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**Editors:** Richard & Chris du Feu



### Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringer.

Captures in the wood have been very low, although not an all-time low. Perhaps the most (or least) notable day was 28/9/97 with only 2 birds in the standard 5 hour nets on Bower's Ride. There continue to be good numbers at the feeders although, obviously, many of the birds captured there are relatively recent, and regular, retraps. We have heard some parties of tits and other associated birds but none of the very large flocks. Although our resident birds seem to be down in numbers we are enjoying what appears to be a Goldcrest invasion. The table below gives numbers ringed over the years by month. The number for October 1997 is bracketed as it includes only the birds ringed on the first October visit. Other ringers have also reported larger numbers than normal both locally (Peter H in Maumhill Wood) and further afield (Richard dF in exile in Lancaster). For interest, the final column shows the national annual total number of Goldcrests ringed.

#### Goldcrests ringed in Treswell Wood, 1972 - 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Nat
1972												4	4	
1973	2	5	5	2	0	0	0	1	8	10	4	4	41	
1974	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	10	2	0	24	
1975	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	15	2	8	3	33	
1976	1	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	20	2	3	35	7502
1977	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	14	12	7	44	5989
1978	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	5	3	33	6392
1979	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2337
1980	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	25	21	6	56	9307
1981	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	10	31	19	2	68	10447
1982	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	10	8	2	28	8776
1983	2	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	9	9	15	6	49	17750
1984	3	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	1	27	8050
1985	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	6	1	28	11471
1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	2372
1987	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	3	10	6	31	10833
1988	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	16	16	10	54	25386
1989	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	14	12	6	40	28050
1990	5	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	6	30	29	11	90	26827
1991	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	15	4016
1992	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	24	20	67	11859
1993	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	17	26	13	6	73	14773
1994	7	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	22	15	2	57	11596
1995	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	28	12	3	63	
1996	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	9	
1997	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	(8)			21	
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>997</b>	
<b>Mean</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>39.9</b>	

Our latest record of summer visitors, so far, was of several Chiffchaffs singing on 21/9/97.

## CES 1997

1996 was a very poor year from many points of view. 1997 has had even fewer adults caught in the national CES nets but there has been an increase in the number of juveniles trapped. This indicates higher productivity per breeding pair in spite of the small number of juveniles trapped overall. The table below compares our CES captures for 1996 and 1997.

Species	1996			1997			Change 94 - 95		
	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%
Sparrowhawk	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Long-eared Owl	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Woodpigeon	1	0	0	1	0	0	+	=	=
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Wren	18	15	83	10	13	130	-	-	+
Dunnock	13	3	23	15	4	27	+	+	+
Robin	17	11	65	5	11	220	-	=	+
Blackbird	20	7	35	17	7	41	-	=	+
Song Thrush	9	2	22	5	0	0	-	-	-
Whitethroat	2	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Garden Warbler	4	0	0	1	2	200	-	+	+
Blackcap	19	4	21	12	5	42	-	+	+
Chiffchaff	8	1	13	7	3	43	-	+	+
Willow Warbler	7	0	0	4	1	25	-	+	+
Long-Tailed Tit	6	1	17	0	0	X	-	-	X
Marsh Tit	7	3	43	1	4	400	-	+	+
Willow Tit	3	0	0	1	0	0	-	=	=
Coal Tit	2	0	0	0	3	X	-	+	X
Blue Tit	9	4	44	10	11	110	+	+	+
Great Tit	7	3	43	5	6	120	-	+	+
Treecreeper	6	2	33	5	6	120	-	+	+
Jay	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Chaffinch	6	0	0	6	0	0	=	=	=
Bullfinch	6	0	0	7	0	0	+	=	=
<b>Totals</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>66.1</b>	-	+	+

**Key** Ad - adults caught, Juv - juveniles caught, Prod - Productivity (Ad/Juv),  
 - - down, + - up, = - no change, X - not calculable.

## Juveniles moulting tail feathers

This is not an uncommon phenomenon - the Moulting Guide gives details of species in which it occurs. However, it seems to be becoming more common amongst our birds. It may be just old age creeping on, but in the early 1980's it seemed so rare an event to find a Great Tit juvenile with tail in moult that it was Moulting Card-worthy. This year we have collected moult data much more systematically than before and maybe with the same effort over the next few years we may be able to see a trend emerging. If more juveniles are moulting their tails, what causes it? Is it a trend that is likely to continue? Indeed, this year we have also found juvenile Greenfinches in primary moult (in both Retford and Beckingham). Whilst this matter is of great interest in its own right, it is also important to be aware that some of the birds for which we normally rely on tail shape for ageing could be misaged if we do not look for other supporting features. The species in which we have observed post-juvenile tail moult this year are: Wren, Dunnock, Blackbird, Marsh Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Chaffinch. One Chaffinch which was trapped still with its head in juvenile plumage had a fully moulted and regrown tail which showed all the characteristics of an adult. This bird, and others like it, will be very difficult to age once all their juvenile head and body plumages have been replaced. Beware!

## From Fred and Postman Pat

We sent Fred and Pat a laminated, full-size, colour photocopy of the envelope which had transmitted copies of field sheets from Chris to John for some months. They are delighted with it and will frame and hang it in their archive of treasured possessions. In return they sent us a rather fine nestbox, in high quality marine ply, dated and marked with the 'Doncaster Sorting Office' stamp.

## Common Bird Census 1997 - From Margaret Price

*The members of the CBC team did not notice great differences between 1997 and 1996 but Liz, who does F & G,*

was pleased to hear Song Thrushes where there had been none last year. She said it was also a 'Chiffchaff year'. CBC workers usually stop around fledging time and so would not notice a change in numbers of juveniles. Richard, who does H and Crabtree Holt, had two Song Thrushes on his patch, one giving a passable imitation of a neighbouring Nuthatch, the other of a Quail (Where had it heard a Quail to imitate? France?) No one heard or saw the Long-eared Owl which the ringers trapped after the end of the CBC season. In my own garden in West Bridgford I seemed to have, during August, a never ending procession of family parties of Blue Tits eating nuts and balls of fat. They were helped by House Sparrows, Greenfinches and some juvenile Great Tits. During the winter, the balls of fat were eaten very slowly, but during August they disappeared at a rate of knots. I sent an appeal to Erin to renew stocks.

## Goodbye Ulli, José & the Great Tit colour ringing.

It's a good wind that blows nobody any ill, one might say. Congratulations to Peter McGregor from Nottingham University who has been given a professorship in Behavioural Biology at the University of Copenhagen. The bad news for us is that this will end the very productive relationship we have had with him. He is very appreciative of the facilities we have made available for his research. Without the team's work José's PhD and Ulli's research would hardly have been possible. For our part we have benefited enormously from the stimuli given by both Ulli and José. We wish them all the best and hope that we will see something of them in the future. Treswell Wood is always open! Their work done in the wood, with the Great Tits we have ringed for them, has been presented at several conferences worldwide including the International Ethological Conferences in Hawaii (1995) and Vienna (1997). We look forward to seeing these papers in print. (Hint!)

## Treswell Wood Ringing - The First 25 Years Celebration.

Neil has arranged the dinner at the Lord Nelson, Winthorpe for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1998 at 7.30pm. The cost will be £13.50 per head to include fruit juice/wine. Contact him to book places.

## Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
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<b>Wren</b>	<b>0Y5918</b>	<b>21/9/97</b>	<b>D02</b>
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One of our nestling-ringed Wrens, now 15 months old, moult nearly complete and with 12 spots on the forth primary. It was caught in the newly coppiced part of H where we have rarely, if ever, set any nets before. See Twitter 11 for its previous recapture.

<b>Goldcrest</b>	<b>8Y3218</b>	<b>31/8/97</b>	<b>D07</b>
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Our first Goldcrest of the autumn - somewhat earlier than usual but not very far ahead of the pack. Three more were caught the following week. Already we are well up on numbers.

<b>Blackcap</b>	<b>J522509</b>	<b>10/8/97</b>	<b>H02</b>
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Unusually for a between-seasons Blackcap recapture, this one missed a year between capture and first recapture. Ringed 16/6/95 as a breeding male in D07, this recapture is somewhat further from the original capture point than for most Blackcap recaptures.

<b>Coal Tit</b>	<b>K720233</b>	<b>5/10/97</b>	<b>Q02 Feeders</b>
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The first of this year's nestbox Coal Tits to be recaptured. It was ringed in E08 and has moved north to the feeders.

<b>Marsh Tit</b>	<b>K720263</b>	<b>17/8/97</b>	<b>N07</b>
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At last - the first of this year's nestbox Marsh Tits to be recaptured. Ringed in D05. It has since appeared at the feeders.

<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>K463958</b>	<b>31/8/97</b>	<b>D08</b>
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Ringed as a successful breeding female on a nest box in Wiggly Ride (J03) earlier this year, it was retrapped nearby in I04 in July in moult. Now it seems to have moved some distance away from its breeding territory. Moves of such distance are usually to or from the feeders.

<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>K463707</b>	<b>14/9/97</b>	<b>L01</b>
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Who says recaptures are of no use? This one was caught one week before in primary moult with score 45. Today it had score 48. Look in the Moulting Guide to see how few are the repeated moult measurements on a single bird!

<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>K463862</b>	<b>5/10/97</b>	<b>Q02 Feeders</b>
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Beware of this very-brightly plumaged bird. Its primary coverts and alula are almost as blue as the new greater coverts. Like the Chaffinch noted earlier, it, and others like it, may be hard to age later on. It is one of the batch of very big juveniles (78mm wing) captured in the summer and the bright colour seems to go with the large size.

## Controls & Recoveries

### Robin **K463859** **14/9/97** **R03 Road death**

A short history. This bird was ringed as a 3J on 4/7/97 at the feeders, retrapped there twice in July and not seen again until being found in full first-winter plumage, squashed on the road under 100m away.

### Greenfinch **VR78703** **30/4/97** **South Leverton**

Ringed at the car park feeders on 21/5/96 and not seen since. Found freshly dead in South Leverton - no details of cause of death.

### Greenfinch **VR78706** **1/4/97** **South Leverton**

Ringed on the same day as VR78703, above, and also found dead in South Leverton almost a year later. This one died after flying into a window. Greenfinches have been very mobile locally this year - these two adding to the considerable numbers recorded moving between local ringing sites.

## 10 Week Summary

1997 Interval 4, Visits 1321, 1325, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1319, 1326

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	.	.	5	.	.	2	7
Dunnock	2	.	.	2	.	.	4
Robin	.	.	8	.	.	1	9
Blackbird	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	.	6	1	.	.	7
Goldcrest	.	.	11	.	.	1	12
Long-tailed Tit	12	.	.	2	.	.	14
Marsh Tit	.	.	2	.	.	2	4
Coal Tit	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blue Tit	.	.	8	4	.	8	20
Great Tit	.	.	.	4	.	2	6
Treecreeper	5	.	6	.	.	.	11
Chaffinch	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	.	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	.	<b>16</b>	<b>98</b>

## 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	142	89	110	520
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	<b>98</b>	---	382
<b>Max</b>	124	145	288	253	177	865
<b>Min</b>	59	57	99	68	88	422
<b>Mean</b>	88	110	175	144	130	654