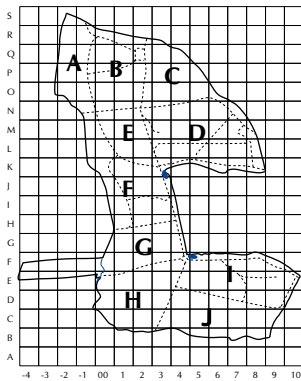


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

March 2004 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

Project leaders:

CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringing John McMeeking

2004/1

Number 46



Treswell Wood Common Birds Census - 2003

We received the results and maps drawn by Richard Thewlis at the BTO slightly earlier than usual. This completes 31 years of Margaret Price's work in co-ordinating the survey in Treswell Wood - a remarkable record given that she was hardly a spring chicken when she began in 1973. Pat-Quinn Catling served her apprenticeship with Margaret last year and has now taken over as CBC co-ordinator. To mark the occasion of the handover, Pat held a tea party for the CBC team, ringers and nestbox inspectors. This gave us a chance to meet each other, to look at the maps which are the product of the team's fieldwork and to thank Margaret for her work. As a memento of the occasion we presented her with a copy of the new BTO Nestbox Guide. We also viewed the CD-ROM of the whole Treswell Wood computerised data set, including the historic CBC maps which Steve Wain has digitised. This allows us to study maps from previous years. Steve's system also allows viewing of the territory maps superimposed on the map showing the age of coppice in each part of the wood. Many thanks to Steve for his continuing heroic efforts in computerising the maps so that they are available for all to see.

Our thanks to Pat for inviting us for the afternoon and for the tea and cakes. The trouble with organising an event like this is that the team will be expecting it again next year...

RSPB Willow Tit studies

The Willow Tit is one of our red listed species, having declined by over 50% nationally in the last 25 years. The RSPB is carrying out a study into the causes of the decline of the Willow Tit with the intention of being able to discover causes and implement remedial action. Alex Lewis is the staff member on charge of this operation. She has been visiting various sites where Willow Tits are still present and will be carrying out studies in as many of these as possible. By chance, this has coincided with extra effort on our part to attract Willow Tits to nest in artificial sites. We have had, since 1998, a few 'stump' boxes (described in Twitter 1998/1 and pictured above). Those which we have left empty have, so far, proved very attractive to Marsh and Coal Tits. Those few which we stuffed with polystyrene have not been used by Willow Tits. We have now increased the number, stuffed them with rotting birch and spread them through the wood. Alex was very impressed with them. I have to admit that they do look attractive and functional. The real test, however, is whether the Willow Tits like them. We wait to see and also look forward to helping Alex in her work to understand and assist this attractive little species. (It would be remiss of me not to mention that the 'stump' box is described in the new BTO Nestbox Guide and the photographs of the box in the guide were taken in Treswell Wood. Price £7.99 + £1 p&p from the BTO, or ask Chris for a p&p-free copy).

WMD - Postscript

Several of our old friends continue to take an interest in the events in the wood. Peter Kirmond, who ringed regularly in the wood during the 1970s, recently passed on a copy of Twitter, knowing that the recipient, Stuart Sharp, would be able to relate to the story of hungry weasels.

Stuart contacted us with this tale (I have edited some strong language he used to describe the weasels to ensure that this issue is not blocked by any electronic censor). Stuart is a member of Dr Ben Hatchwell's team at the University of Sheffield engaged in a long-term study of Long-tailed Tits.

I've been studying the Long-tailed Tits in a wood near Doncaster for 3 years (for a PhD), and in 2003 much of my work was inhibited by our mustelid friends. As I'm sure you know, nest failure in Long-tailed Tits is always high, but this year (2003) over 90% of my 130-odd nests failed, and more than half of these went down to stoats and weasels.

After reading the Twitter article, I thought you might be interested to know that someone was suffering similar

Treswell Wood CBC - 2003 Results

Species	Averages					Recent Annual Totals				
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95	96...00	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	1	p	p	1	1
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	1	1	p	p	p
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	0	p	0
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1	1	p	1	1
Red-legged Partridge	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Partridge	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	p
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	6.0	5	5	3	11	8
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0	0	0	1	0
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	p	p	0	1	1
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1	1	6	13	7
Woodpigeon	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Collared Dove	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Turtle Dove	7.6	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	p
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	p	p	1	1	p
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	1	3	3	3	3
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0	2	1	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2	3	2	6	8
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	p	0	0	0
Swallow	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Wagtail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	p	0
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	81.8	127	83	45	92	89
Dunnock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	12.6	13	12	4	14	8
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	54.0	66	79	54	83	87
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25.2	31	26	16	26	27
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	5.6	5	8	11	8	7
Redwing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	0
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	1	2	2	2	2
Lesser Whitethroat	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	5.6	1.6	1.8	0.0	0.4	0	1	p	0	0
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	7.2	7	9	11	11	3
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	25.4	32	29	25	37	20
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	19.0	27	18	12	21	23
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	6.8	4	4	2	11	5
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	2	1	0	0	p
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	0	0	p	p	0
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	5.0	5	5	2	12	8
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.2	5	3	p	4	3
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.6	2	3	1	3	2
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7.4	5	11	6	7	6
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	70.0	62	59	41	51	49
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35.2	42	30	33	39	58
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	2	1	0	1	2
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6	7	2	p	5	4
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1.0	1	1	p	3	2
Magpie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	0	1	0
Jackdaw	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	0	0	0
Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	p	2	0	1	0
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	0	0
House Sparrow	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	0
Tree Sparrow	21.0	10.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaffinch	33.4	38.4	39.0	39.0	40.6	54	55	34	53	56
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	1	4	p	p	p
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	p	0	0	0
Redpoll	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	5.4	3.2	3.0	1.4	0.6	1	1	3	1	1
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	2	0	1	0
Reed Bunting	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Total territories	457.4	457.0	437.6	386.2	426.8	514	467	319	525	493

problems! Some years, we find almost no nest depredation from mustelids, and 2003 was our worst year (including several years prior to my own research). We too have reached the conclusion that a lack of alternative prey must be the cause. Problem is, once the creatures get their eye in for a Long-tailed Tit nest, they go crazy. One day a single nest is hit. Within a few days, almost none of the nests in that area are still active. (Stoats and weasels chew a hole in the base of the nest, whereas mice seem to use the nest entrance, and corvids and squirrels just rip the whole nest to bits).

Hope this is of some interest.

Bullfinches

Fiona Proffit at the Edward Grey Institute for Ornithology in Oxford, says that she is nearing the end of her PhD study. We have given her our Bullfinch data. She tells of some changing patterns of activity.

You may be interested to hear that the moult records showed that Bullfinch juveniles are beginning moult eight days earlier than they were in the 1960s. The number of juveniles per adult caught in October increased over time, as shown below. (Treswell Wood data added for comparison.)

Year	All Fiona's data	Treswell Wood only
1962-74	2.91	2.71
1975-82	3.09	5.37
1983-95	5.03	5.50
1996-2001	6.18	5.27

I used these time periods because they coincided with periods of differing CBC trend for Bullfinches (increasing, decreasing, stable and decreasing respectively). Will send you a copy of the paper when it comes out.

Kind regards, Fiona

We look forward to seeing the paper. We have not looked into moult of Bullfinches, but we have done some analysis of post-juvenile moult of Great Tits. We have found that more of them are now moulting their tail feathers than in earlier years. It would be worth seeing if we could determine from our ringing records whether they are starting to moult earlier too. They are certainly breeding earlier and this must allow them more time to moult.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Robin	6	P400430	07/03/2004	E00

This bird was retrapped in the south-west corner of the wood - its first recapture after being ringed as a juvenile in July 2001. It now has a colour ring. When it was ringed, it was still in its juvenile plumage. Often such birds will disperse after their post-juvenile moult and find a breeding territory elsewhere the next spring. This bird has not done that - being retrapped after an interval of over two and a half years within 50 m of its original capture site (in a part of the wood where we net only infrequently)

Robin	4	RS02795	20/01/2004	N02 Sight record
--------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	-------------------------

This is one of last year's juveniles which we ringed a mere 100 metres away from where it is now regularly seen. This individual seems to be rather curious and readily approaches human activity anywhere near its range. It has been seen as far north as the main cross roads and nearly as far south as the pond. Keep an eye open for it next time you walk down the main ride. It carries yellow over light blue plastic rings on the left leg and on the right a single plastic ring with pink and black bands placed above the metal BTO ring.

Redwing	6	RS57636	25/01/2004	I04
----------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	------------

Following on from the handful of Redwing captures at the end of last year came another three in total. This was the last to date. A good start to the year.

Goldcrest	6F	AJD127	18/01/2004	K04
------------------	-----------	---------------	-------------------	------------

One of our between-winter recaptures with three captures in each winter. Although Goldcrests must travel long distances to reach the wood, it seems that some of them remain within the wood for the winter and this one seems to have spent two winters here. The map shows its capture locations in the two winters. Since we set our nets all over the wood but have only

