

TWITTER

1996/4 - Number 9

Ringling: By permission of NWT
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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringger.

Our ten-week totals have fallen to somewhat below average after the disappointing breeding season. Mixed parties of birds are present in the wood, but we have not seen any sign of the big mixed flocks which are usually in the wood in the late summer and autumn. As with the poor breeding season, Treswell Wood is not alone! There are some birds at the feeders which have augmented the capture totals, but even here numbers are not particularly large. Finches and Yellowhammers have not yet reappeared, although Greenfinches are already feeding in gardens in greater numbers than is usual for the time of year. Our brighter spots include several captures of Nuthatches (they must have bred in the wood this year?) and more frequent captures of Bullfinches, although still far fewer than there were 15 years ago.

Treswell Wood Ringing Group

After the thoughts in the first Twitter of the year, feedback is encouraging and so we will form a formal ringing group. Although many ringing groups charge a membership fee to cover the costs of rings and equipment, we cannot really see any more need for contributions than there has been in the past. (Of course, anyone wishing to contribute to the cost of peanuts to keep our feeders stocked with birds may do so!) José raised the subject of the group T-shirt. (Will you be responsible, José, for T-shirt production, marketing and sales?) Chris must list people who wish to be members on the Ringing Group registration form. Let him know if you want to join (and what you think about the T-shirt!). When you book a place at the Ringers' Conference, ask to have **Treswell Wood R G** emblazoned on your identity badge.

No doubt we will follow IBIS and other learned publications and include a section on Members' Activities. First under this heading must be our congratulations to Phil on qualifying for his C permit.

Correspondence from the BTO

From Will Peach and Dawn Balmer (CES)

Thank you very much for returning your CES data so promptly. It seems to have been a very odd year so we were hoping for some early returns to get a grasp of the season. As with the majority of sites we have looked at so far your adult total catch is about the same as last year but juveniles are well down. National results so far, confirm that resident species, particularly Wren and the tits have had a poor breeding season. Of the migrants Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler seem to have suffered from the cold, wet start. Here at the Nunnery our CES catches were down by about 50% overall - let's hope next year will be better.

Finally thank you for making such a great job of the CES this year. Your continued contribution is greatly appreciated.

From David Glue (Nest Records)

(David is an avid reader of Twitter and these comments follow the last issue.) *It has been a wicked year for many species - comments include mediocre, grim, worst ever for titmice. Supplementary feeding was in great demand as endorsed by your captures for Yellowhammers, Chaffinches and Greenfinches. Productivity for a wide range of birds looks to be well below average but we will have to wait for the 1996 NRC to quantify the picture. Early CES results appear to be confirming the picture - good to see IPM approach working well.*

David also notes that tits are coming into gardens early and in larger than average numbers. Our captures at the feeders have not been particularly large and the food we put out lasts the whole week. Have our birds headed for gardens in spite of what we offer them?

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
Woodpigeon	FA41995	25/8/96	O06
Wren	5W9784	13/10/96	N07

Not spectacular but reassuring. On this bird's first capture on 26/3/95 (L06, age code 5) it had 8 spots on the fourth primary. Now, after its first full moult it has 10 spots, not in line.

Dunnock **K463658** **15/9/96** **Q02 Feeder**

A most unusual moult pattern. It had moulted inner secondaries on both wings. Tail and tertials were unmoulted. Dunnocks moulting primaries or secondaries as part of the PJ moult are very rare (Chris Mead remembers two such Dunnocks in his life. Another was found this year, moulting primaries at the West Burton course.)

Robin **J522351** **8/9/96** **L01**

Post-juvenile non-dispersal! Ringed as a 3 on 4/9/94 in L01, this bird has been caught as far away as 80m from its first recapture position, also in L01.

Redwing **RX57607** **13/10/96** **N07**

Our third earliest Redwing ever and our first since 16/2/94. The previous early dates were 12/10/80 and 4/10/92.

Coal Tit **K463931** **15/9/96** **H04**

This is a bird caught in our first tit 'flock' of the season. It was one of a party of about 30 birds crossing Main Ride South near Piccadilly Circus. It had been ringed 3 weeks earlier at the feeders. Presumably some of the birds at the feeders are ones we might normally have caught in the roving flocks.

Coal Tit **K720005** **25/8/96** **Q02 Feeder**

The first of our 1996 nestling Coal Tits to be recaptured. Ringed 28/5/96 in F08.

Willow Tit **K463681** **13/10/96** **L04**

This bird was ringed a week earlier near the feeders. Willow Tits do rove widely around their group territories during the non-breeding season. (We believe there are two group territories with Norman's Ride being the line of demarcation between them). This bird, although it knows about the feeders, is presumably not dependent on them for its food.

Marsh Tit **J522325** **15/9/96** **H04**

We ringed this bird on 7/8/94 and it has since bred in a nestbox. It has always been identified as a Marsh Tit although today was the first occasion on which we have noted its tail pattern. It is the first one we have found which is of the Willow Tit pattern - tail 2-1-1 (see Twitter 1995/2 for the diagram of tail shapes). Never mind - continue noting tail shape - there is always bound to be a Murphy Tit somewhere.

Marsh Tit **K181883** **6/10/96** **Q03**

A nestling of 1995 now with 6 captures in its history ranging over most of blocks C and D. At this capture it was in the net with K720006 who shares the same mother. It seems like a chance capture rather than an early pairing for this bird is a female (having been trapped earlier with a well developed brood patch) and K720006 has a wing so small it is unlikely to be a male.

Great Tit **NC90317** **1/9/96** **Q02 Feeder**

This may be one of José's elusive birds which did not wear a colour ring for the 1996 season. It is a 1995 nestling from box 34 in M07 which was a regular at the feeders until just before we started colour ringing for the 1996 season.

Great Tit **K463177** **1/9/96** **Q02 F**

This is its fifth capture - each one at the feeders including one during the breeding season in May. It was sighted twice in I03 at a nest in a dormouse box which is in an area where we net only infrequently.

Great Tit **K463213** **25/9/96** **F04**

This bird was ringed at the feeders during the spring influx this year. It was trapped there again in May (in breeding condition) and today's capture is its first anywhere else in the wood. Where did it breed? Why wasn't it observed singing by our intrepid colour ring watchers?

Great Tit **VV34001** **28/5/96** **Q02 Feeder**

A second recapture of this nestling ringed bird. It was ringed at a box within a few metres of the southern edge of the wood and is now a regular at the feeders in the north. Its capture, with those of its three siblings (VV34002,3 & 4), separately but on the same day, gave two firsts for us: The first brood of Great Tits to enjoy 100% recapture rate, and ditto on the same day!

Blackcap **K463028** **1/9/96** **R98**

This bird was ringed as a 3♂ in Q01 on 3/9/95 and this is its first recapture. Was it a non-Treswell reared bird engaged in post-juvenile dispersal when it found, and liked, Treswell or is it one of our own birds?

Goldcrest **8Y3090** **1/9/96** **N02**

Our first (and so far only) Goldcrest of the autumn. It was with a small party of tits and Treecreepers coming to drink at a puddle at the main cross roads. Goldcrests are certainly in the wood, they are heard on every visit now, but are not yet cooperating with us!

Nuthatch **VR78712** **25/8/96** **Q02 feeder**

A juvenile male, the third Nuthatch we have caught this year. Is there hope they will become more common in the near future? It was followed by a fourth, VR78995, at the feeders on 1/9/96, a fifth '996 on 15/9/96 in H04 and the sixth '997 on 6/10/96 at the feeders (see below).

Nuthatch**VR78997****13/10/96****Q02 Feeder**

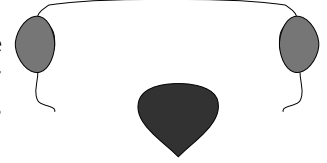
Our first retrapped Nuthatch for some time - although a week is not a very long time. According to Svensson, birds cannot be aged on contrasting greater covert colours. Jenni & Winkler, however, show that there may be contrast within the median or marginal coverts. This bird did have the outer median coverts noticeably duller, particularly at their tips. Look carefully at Jenni & Winkler and at the next Nuthatches you catch.

Treecreeper**5W9995****8/9/96****L01**

One of the first Treecreepers to have its head+bill measured. At 31.5mm it was over the proposed sex-separating value of 30.5mm and, happily, it had been sexed as a male at an earlier capture. Keep up the measurements!

Bullfinch**K463674****6/10/96****N00**

This was one of a party of four juveniles caught together. As so often with this species, the bird had pushed its head through a net mesh. Extraction from this position is normally awkward with Bullfinches because of their large heads. This one was even more difficult as the bird had an unusually flat, wide head with bulging eyes.

**Controls & Recoveries****Dunnoek****K463488****1/9/96****R99**

A victim of Sparrowhawk although it is not clear if it was killed in the net or dropped when a Sparrowhawk carrying it flew into the net. It was a 3J, ringed 5 weeks earlier at the feeders.

Dunnoek**J522272****25/9/96****Q02**

Found dead near the feeders, no obvious injury nor cause of death. It had been a regular at or near the feeders since being ringed there on 21/2/95.

"A level" Statistics

Treswell Wood ringers will be delighted to know that some of their data will be used in questions in some A Level Statistics exams. (It would not be right to say exactly which data will be used nor what questions will be asked!) The request came from an examiner who wished to use real data to examine real problems rather than using invented data in contrived contexts. The data will be credited to Notts Wildlife Trust/Treswell Wood Ringing Group - thanks from the examiner for your help in creating the data sets. We are not sure if the A Level examinees will be so willing to give their heartfelt thanks!

Birds at the feeders

We have speculated from time-to-time about the compositions of captures of birds at the feeders and elsewhere. Below is a table for captures in this ten-week interval making such a comparison. Note that the total captures include birds at standard sites, extra nets and feeder nets so the grand total is much greater than the niggardly ten-week total given in the summary table.

	Birds not at feeder	Birds at feeder	Total	% at feeder	Species in order of % captured at feeders	
Sparrowhawk	1	0	1	0	Great Tit	90
Woodpigeon	1	0	1	0	Nuthatch	80
Wren	28	0	28	0	Blue Tit	68
Dunnoek	15	8	23	35	Coal Tit	47
Robin	21	7	28	25	Willow Tit	42
Blackbird	9	1	10	10	Dunnoek	35
Redwing	1	0	1	0	Marsh Tit	35
Blackcap	9	2	11	18	Chaffinch	33
Chiffchaff	2	0	2	0	Robin	25
Goldcrest	1	0	1	0	Bullfinch	22
Long-tailed Tit	3	0	3	0	Blackcap	18
Marsh Tit	17	9	26	35	Blackbird	10
Willow Tit	7	5	12	42	Treecreeper	6
Coal Tit	10	9	19	47	Sparrowhawk	0
Blue Tit	25	52	77	68	Woodpigeon	0
Great Tit	11	94	105	90	Wren	0
Nuthatch	1	4	5	80	Redwing	0
Treecreeper	15	1	16	6	Chiffchaff	0
Chaffinch	2	1	3	33	Goldcrest	0
Bullfinch	7	2	9	22	Long-tailed Tit	0

Moult Codes - yet again!

One does not have to be doing badly in order to improve. We are doing quite well with the learning process over code recording. One minor point concerns the code for juveniles which have nearly completed post juvenile moult. Their code will still be P. The code E is reserved for adults which have completed moult of flight feathers and are just in head/body moult. Most juveniles are, in effect, always in the adult E stage for they do not moult their flight feathers at all. Likewise the code N should only be used for adults but not for birds which have completed partial post-juvenile moult. The fact that their age code is 3, rather than 3J, indicates that they are in their post juvenile plumage.

Ten-week Summary - August to October 1996

1996 Interval 4: Visits 1267, 1273, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1275, 1274

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	1	.	13	3	.	3	20
Duncock	.	.	7	1	.	.	8
Robin	.	.	11	3	.	.	14
Blackbird	.	1	4	3	.	.	8
Redwing	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	1	.	3	2	.	.	6
Chiffchaff	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Long-tailed Tit	1	.	.	1	.	.	2
Marsh Tit	.	.	3	5	.	3	11
Willow Tit	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Coal Tit	.	.	.	4	.	1	5
Blue Tit	1	.	3	3	.	4	11
Great Tit	.	.	1	8	.	.	9
Nuthatch	1	1
Treecreeper	1	.	1	5	.	1	8
Chaffinch	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Bullfinch	1	.	5	.	.	.	6
Totals	9	1	54	40	.	12	116

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	---	460
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Min	64	57	99	68	88	422
Mean	89	110	177	147	132	659