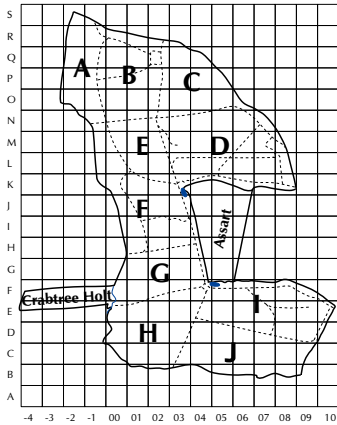


# TWITTER

2019/5

Number 125



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

## December 2019 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

### Project leaders:

**CBC** Pat Quinn-Catling

**Nest Records** Chris du Feu

**Ringling** John Clark



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## Treswell Wood Conference 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Booking for the conference is now open on the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust site at:

<https://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/events/2020-02-29-treswell-wood-conference>

We hope all the enthusiasts working in the wood will be able to attend. In addition to the presentations to update everyone about the activities in the wood and learn about what has been discovered about the wildlife there will be time over lunch and coffee breaks to get to know the other people involved. We will hear about some of the research that has been done using the Treswell Wood data and see some of the posters produced by students about their projects. It will also give you the chance to pass on any nature books you no longer need to the book stall, and buy any more that interest you. We look forward to seeing you on the 29<sup>th</sup> February

## The 10 weeks

The last three months of the year have been very wet. The fixed point photographs have shown just how wet it has been. One part of the main ride, just before the assart gate is often flooded by the end of the winter but looking back through the six year's photographs we see it has never before been flooded this early in the winter. In spite of the wet weather we have only missed one weekend's ringing with one other session being moved from Sunday to Saturday. We managed to complete all the standard site visits by early December.

Autumn capture numbers are usually boosted by the arrival of Goldcrests. This year they are not abundant but, in spite of this, captures in the standard site nets have been above average. This has followed higher than average totals in each of the other five 10-week intervals. Remarkably, in spite of there being 40 previous years' data, this year's captures have increased the overall average annual capture by two. Overall, quite a good year. High spots have included the first captures of Buzzards and a Woodcock. In contrast to the relatively high totals the overall annual total is a little lower than in the last three years. Part of this results from a lower number of nestlings ringed than in the last two years but the main reason is likely to be that of lower overall catching effort. We have suffered some weather problems now and then forcing us to cancel a visit. Sometimes we have been rather short-handed. Fortunately we have managed all the standard site visits and it is the totals from them that give a truer picture of the bird abundance than do the over the raw number of encounters.

It has been a very good year for dormice but also for other small mammals. Many wood mice have been using bird boxes through the autumn. The assart is riddled with vole holes and, by day, you do not have to be an expert mammal spotter to have multiple sightings of them darting across small open spaces between the holes. No doubt the Barn Owls from Forwood Farm know all about them.

Finally, congratulations to Amy who has been awarded a C ringing permit, allowing her to ring independently. The permit arrived a few days before Christmas. What a fine (and well deserved) present for Amy and a boost to the group to have another ringer licensed to be responsible for ringing sessions.

## Marsh Tits and PIT tags

Despite their severe decline in the UK, we enjoy steady catches of Marsh Tit in the wood. Broughton et al. (2012) tells us to expect territories averaging 5 to 6 ha (range 1.5 to 14 ha). The CBC team have recorded up to six territories in the 45 ha of the wood giving an average area of around 9 ha. However, examination of the territory maps shows that the territories only cover a small part of the wood and are typically only 2 ha in area - much smaller than quoted by Broughton. This may be, in part, attributable to the supplementary feed the birds receive at the feeding stations, where they are frequently caught. To investigate more about the feeding habits of Marsh Tits, this Spring we hope to be able to give a number of individuals a PIT tag (passive integrated transponder) on the opposite leg to their metal ring. The tiny tag is encased in a plastic ring, similar to that of a colour ring. The tag has a unique bar code that is identified by an electronic reader situated at the feeding station. This will log every visit

## Annual Summary - All ringing records 2019

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Recvs.	Othr.	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	
Buzzard	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Woodcock	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Stock Dove	.	6	.	11	.	.	.	2	19	
Tawny Owl	.	1	.	7	4	.	.	.	12	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	5	5	.	11	.	.	.	21	
Jay	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Coal Tit	.	7	12	.	47	7	.	.	73	
Marsh Tit	.	.	9	9	75	8	.	.	101	
Blue Tit	2	58	92	233	420	32	.	20	859	
Great Tit	1	43	41	107	297	49	.	15	553	
Long-tailed Tit	.	32	.	.	37	4	.	1	74	
Willow Warbler	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Chiffchaff	.	34	13	.	6	9	.	.	62	
Blackcap	1	45	25	.	17	9	.	.	97	
Garden Warbler	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Goldcrest	.	10	18	.	14	2	.	2	46	
Wren	.	25	53	7	50	15	.	.	150	
Nuthatch	.	9	6	.	32	2	.	.	49	
Treecreeper	.	6	11	.	24	3	.	.	44	
Blackbird	.	50	29	.	59	8	.	.	146	
Redwing	.	10	5	.	.	.	.	.	15	
Song Thrush	.	11	6	.	5	.	.	.	22	
Robin	.	16	58	.	64	18	.	.	156	
House Sparrow	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	
Dunnock	.	12	24	.	23	7	.	.	66	
Chaffinch	1	30	12	.	26	6	.	.	75	
Bullfinch	1	20	14	.	9	2	.	.	46	
Greenfinch	1	1	4	4	2	.	.	.	12	
Goldfinch	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1224</b>	<b>181</b>	.	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2715</b>
<b>Totals in recent years:</b>										
<b>2018</b>	10	367	502	547	1398	208	.	5	45	3082
<b>2017</b>	4	446	447	418	1279	254	.	1	31	2880
<b>2016</b>	15	542	470	329	1286	198	.	6	34	2880
<b>2015</b>	15	443	425	286	1143	224	.	5	46	2587
<b>2014</b>	12	328	470	328	934	135	.	3	36	2246
<b>2013</b>	11	352	439	316	1203	222	.	1	11	2555
<b>2012</b>	27	408	326	221	1149	182	0	7	35	2355
<b>2011</b>	12	462	357	331	1097	160	1	8	38	2466
<b>2010</b>	14	437	499	544	1655	243	1	6	13	3412

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

an individual makes to the feeders. This will give us a better idea of how reliant they are on the stations adding to our picture of how they use the wood. If you wish to find out more about how PIT tags work the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have an excellent video of them in action at <https://tinyurl.com/u6y7bsr>

We are very grateful to Norman Lewis who has kindly helped to fund the equipment necessary for the project.

**Amy Offland**

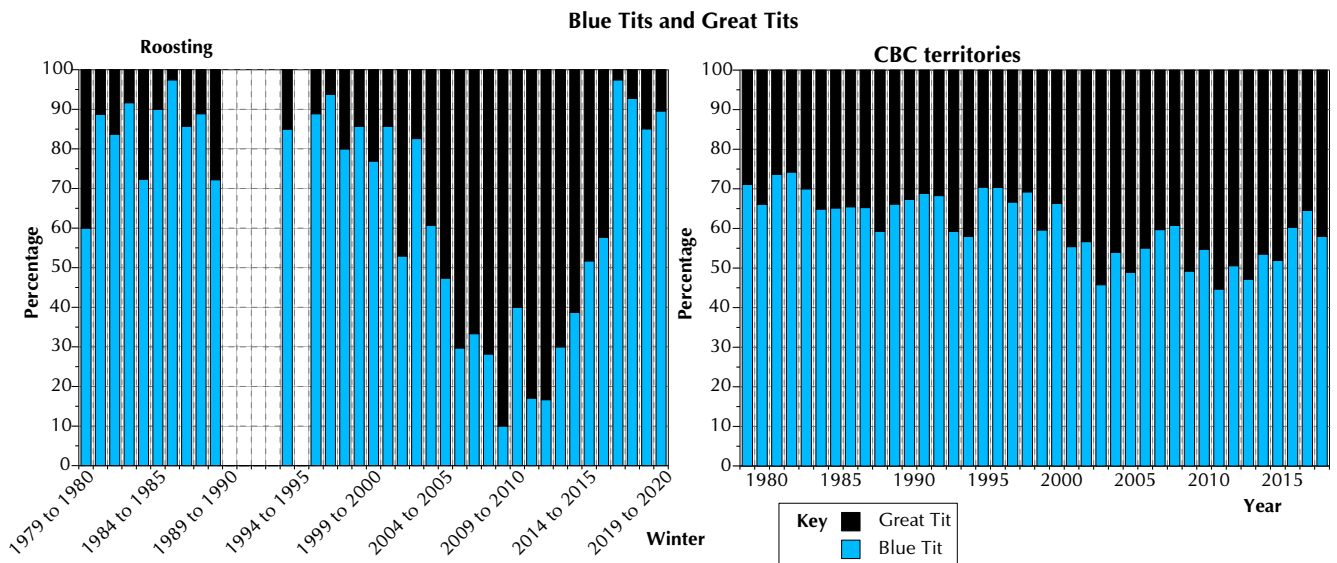
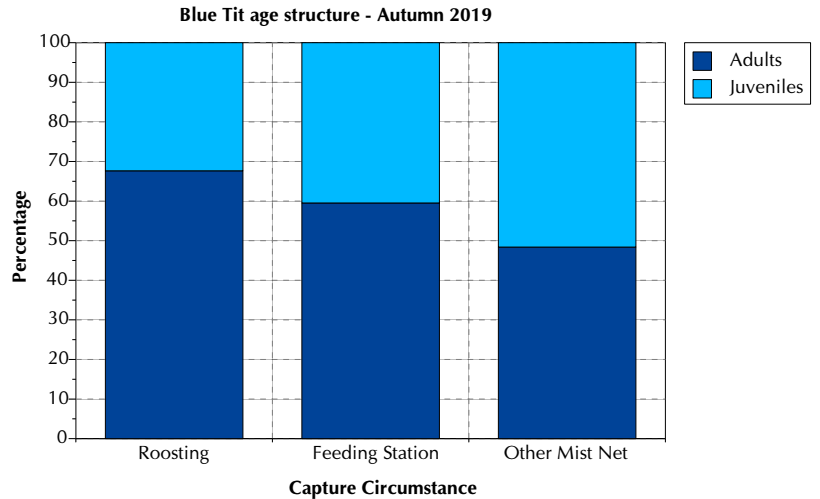
*Broughton, R.K., Hill, R.A., Freeman, S.N., Bellamy, P.E. and Hinsley, S.A., 2012. Describing habitat occupation by woodland birds with territory mapping and remotely sensed data: an example using the Marsh Tit (Poecile palustris). The Condor, 114(4), pp.812-822.*

## Roosting tits

We continue with the monthly night-time visits to nextboxes recording roosting tits over the four winter months. A good many of them have interesting histories but two things stand out overall. One is that the individuals using boxes for roosting are not a typical cross section of those we catch in mist nets. The other is the variation between winters in the proportions of Blue and Great Tits found.

With regard to the population structure, the graph gives the numbers of Blue Tits found roosting, caught at a feeding station and caught elsewhere in the wood broken down by age. One explanation for the larger numbers of adults roosting in boxes and, to a lesser extent, found at feeding stations could be that they have longer to explore the wood and find the most favourable places to feed and roost.

As for the changes in species composition, the graph shows how it has changed over the years. (Note that there were some winters when we did not visit the boxes looking for roosting birds.) The massive changes in proportions of the two species is in sharp contrast to the relatively more stable proportions recorded in the CBC. It is quite clear that, for these two dominant tit species, the proportions of found roosting bear little relationship to the proportions in the breeding population. It could be worth looking at the proportions of juveniles in the population although the graph above shows that it is adults that form the greater part of the roosting population for Blue Tits, at least.



## Blue Tit post juvenile moult

In the winter of 2018/19 we took part in a national project to record the extent of juvenile Blue Tit post-juvenile moult. This was described in the January 2019 issue of Twitter. Our results tended to suggest that juveniles which had replaced more feathers, and were therefore clothed in harder wearing material, had no survival advantage over those which had replaced fewer feathers. This was not expected. However, our sample was, of course, relatively small and very few birds had replaced more tail feathers than the two central ones which might confer just a little survival advantage but not enough of an advantage to outweigh random factors. The national results were presented at the BTO conference in December. Again results were equivocal. Replacing more tail feathers seemed to be coupled with higher survival but moult of the other tracts (tertials, alula and greater coverts) was not. David Norman, presenting the results noted that we have only one winter's data and it could be that it was not a typical winter. The future? The project showed that recording of greater covert and alula moult in Blue Tits was very quick and reliable. Recording of tail and tertial moult took longer because of the difficulty sometimes in ascertaining whether feathers were replaced or not.

One hoped for side-effect of the project was that it would encourage ringers to look more carefully, and to record, details of the extent of post-juvenile moult. There seems to have been some move in that direction by ringers in general. In Treswell Wood we have been recording greater covert moult more frequently than before and are now often recording alula moult - which we had never done before. In addition we have been recording these features

on some other species too - including Coal Tits, Great Tits, Blue Tits, Blackbirds, Chaffinches and Bullfinches. We are continuing to record the state of moult on our captures of young Blue Tits to see whether last year was exceptional. We are also keen to record more systematically the number of unmoulted greater coverts and alula fathers in other species too.

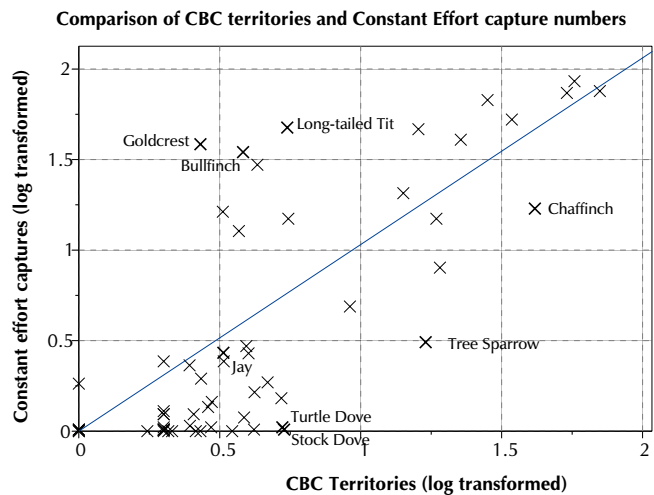
Moult - replacing some or all of the plumage - is one of the major events in birds' annual cycle. Demands made by moult rank alongside those of breeding, migrating or winter survival, yet studies of moult have been relatively few compared to those other events. Anything that can be done to add to our knowledge and understanding of moult can only be good. Thanks to all the ringers in the wood for continuing to record these data.

## Common Bird Census and Constant Effort captures

Both these long-running surveys are aimed at recording the changes (or lack of changes) in bird populations in the wood. The strength of running both concurrently is that they give independent measures of bird populations. But how do their measures relate to each other? There is plenty of material for a serious, in depth study of the data. What is presented here is a very superficial view which we hope may lead someone to look further into it.

The idea is simple - tabulate the average number of CBC territories recorded annually for each species and tabulate the total number of each species caught in constant effort nets. Note that CBC is a survey which operates in a standardised way from year to year so any meaningful comparison with bird captures must also depend on uniformity of capture effort. Next plot a scatter diagram. Problem number one is that there is clustering near the origin of the graph because many species have few territories and also have small numbers captured each year. To overcome this points are plotted with a  $\log(n+1)$  transformation. What this does is to stretch the lower parts of the axes relative to the higher parts, thereby spreading the indecipherable cluster of points near the origin.

On the graph is drawn the line on which points will lie if the two surveys are equally effective for that species. Normally with a scatter diagram we might be looking for strong correlations. However, here the interest probably lies in points which are furthest from the line. The further from the line, the more different are the surveys. A few of the points have been labelled with the species. Examination of those lying furthest from the line will point to more refined ways of doing an analysis or else point to species which are harder to assess through one survey than the other.



Three species stand out far above the line, being relatively more common in constant effort captures than with CBC territories. Goldcrest, of course, is largely a winter visitor, often in large numbers. Long-tailed Tits - does their breeding behaviour underestimate the number of pairs or do we have visitors from outside the wood? Bullfinches often operate as pairs - that might seem to double the numbers caught. But would we catch a pair only half as often as we would catch singletons? Bullfinches also seem to count as one of the easier species to census so, if anything we would expect the Bullfinch point to be on the other side of the line. On the other side are Tree Sparrows - which are now extinct in the wood as a breeding species so the data refer almost exclusively to earlier years. That species is notoriously hard to capture and even harder to recapture. Chaffinches make their presence very well known by sound - that could explain why the CBC operation seems more effective at detecting them than constant effort ringing. The two pigeons - Turtle Dove and Stock Dove appear in the same place for entirely different reasons. Their song is easy to hear and very distinctive. On the other hand they seem to be very hard to catch (even when they are present). Stock Doves have only nested in the wood in any numbers in fairly recent years and, like the Turtle Dove, are easy to census. We have only ever caught one in a mist net. For the most part they fly above net height.

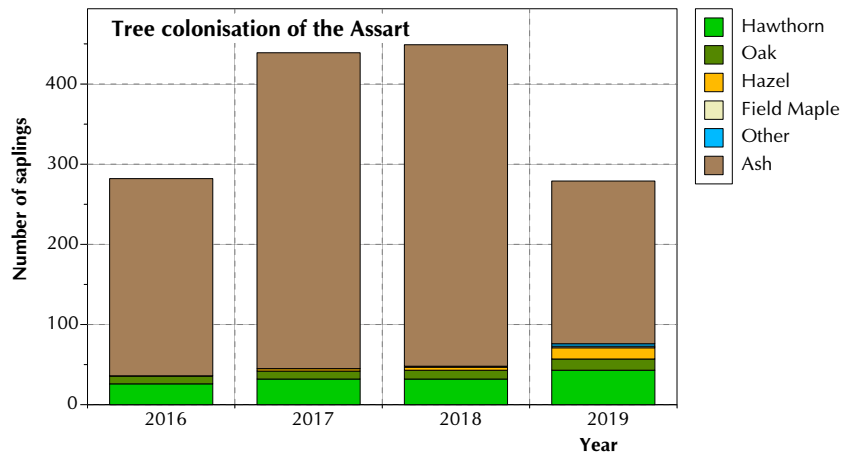
Two other species are highlighted. The Jay - because our recent capture of it prompted this initial analysis. We had thought capture rates might severely under-represent its presence but it seems not so. More comments on the species are made in Noteworthy Captures. The closest point to the line is that for Wren. A noisy little bird in the breeding season so CBC will cover it well. It tends to be a very low flier so mist-netting also will give a good coverage. Happily the two surveys are in agreement.

There is plenty of material here for a very full investigation into the relative strengths and weakness of these two monitoring operations. Perhaps someone might be in a position to follow on from our 1991 paper which examined one aspect of the effectiveness of constant-effort netting.

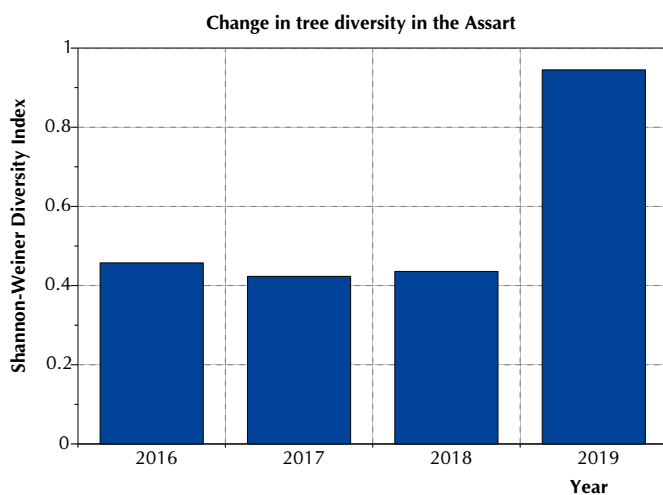
## The assart

With Michael Gilman of Lincoln University, we are continuing to record the development of the assart - from bare field to (in many years' time) mature woodland. We have a number of transects across the assart with sampling points evenly spaced along each transect. Each autumn we count and measure all the trees growing within 4m quadrats centred on the sampling points. The graph shows the total numbers of trees of all species recorded in all these quadrats.

It is quite clear that ash has been the dominant species and, all other things being equal, it would have remained so. However all other things are not equal - ash dieback has appeared. In the first three years, ash represented around 90% of the number of seedlings and saplings and the total number of ash plants was increasing each year. In the 2019 survey, the ash numbers have dropped by about 50% from last year to below the 2016 total. Meanwhile, the other woody species are slowly increasing. The percentage of quadrats occupied is interesting with



hawthorn rising from about 20% to 29% and oak from 7% to 11%. There are many interesting details such as the distribution of hazel (near the edge), the new occurrence of maple, the annual height increments of oak and hawthorn and the reduced heights of ash saplings as the leading shoots wither. With the decreasing numbers of ash and increasing numbers of other species we would expect a measurable increase in species diversity. The graph shows this well. (The measure of diversity used here is the Shannon-Weiner index. Like all other measures of diversity it only has meaning when making comparisons between samples.) Interestingly there was a slight drop from 2016 to 2017 which might have heralded the beginning of an annual decrease in diversity as, year by year, ash became to dominate the regrowth. In 2018 diversity was marginally increased as ash dieback suppressed any increase in ash and in 2019 we saw a major increase with other species now gaining a better foothold on the regenerating woodland.



In addition to recording the heights of plants we have recorded whether ash plants were infected by ash dieback or not. Almost all were; many had already died and fallen - hence the lower number of plants. Those that were still alive included many that were unlikely to survive through the 2020 season. The future? It is, in spite of (or because of) ash dieback, bright for the assart. It will not develop into ash monoculture and the few ash which survive are likely to be resistant to ash dieback, perhaps providing a seed bank for the future.

In addition to the records of tree growth, we have also been taking fixed point photographs of the assart as it develops. There are also a number of historic images which show the assart when it was under cultivation. These, and other records will provide a long-term picture for future research.

## Birds of Nottinghamshire

This long-awaited book is now published. David Parkin, the project leader, has managed, at a late stage, to include a dedication of the book to 'John McMeeking, Ornithologist and Conservationist'.

The list price of the book is around £45 and it is on sale at both Attenborough and Idle Valley visitor centres. Initial responses to the book have been very positive indeed. It is attractive, well produced and a mine of information for both the serious ornithologist and the dedicated twitcher. Too late for a Christmas present but why not have a New Year present too?

ISBN 978-1-789620-09-2

## Noteworthy Encounters

**Species**                      **Age/sex**                      **Ring**                      **Date**                      **Grid**

**Sparrowhawk**                      **6F**                      **EL87473**                      **01/12/2019**                      **H04**

We referred to this bird in the August 2013 issue of Twitter. It was the first female we had retrapped. Females are much larger than males and tend to escape from mist nets fairly easily. Since then we have retrapped a second female but this is our first 'second retrap' female. It is now nearly seven years since she was ringed as a first winter bird and nearly five years older than our second-longest recapture history. The typical lifespan of a Sparrowhawk is four years but this one still has another 11 years to go to reach the national record.

**Buzzard**                      **3**                      **GV40486**                      **3/11/2019**                      **D09**

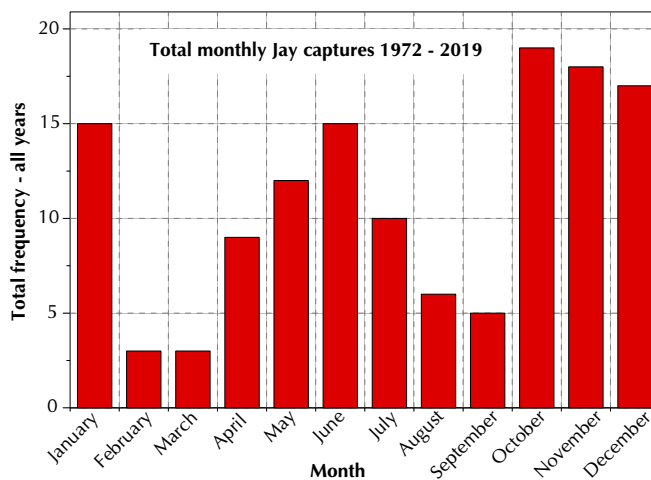
This is our second Buzzard - the first ever having been caught in April. In the April issue of Twitter we noted that we would investigate a large-mesh mist net suitable for catching such birds with a view to siting it across a ride where the Buzzards' flight lines seem most likely to be. We have done that and the result has been no captures at all in that net - not even Woodpigeons. This bird was caught, and held, in an ordinary mist net, low down in a densely wooded area on one of our standard sites.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** **3M**                      **LK39036**                      **15/12/2019**                      **Q03**

We believe it may be possible to determine the sex of red-capped Great Spotted Woodpeckers from the extent of the red in the crown. The plan is to measure the red cap on juveniles and then hope to retrap them after post-juvenile moult when they can be sexed on the the red patch, or lack of it, on the nape. The only problem has been that once we had decided on this plan, woodpecker breeding success in the wood seemed to decline and we caught very few juveniles. Of these we retrapped very few. Happily this bird is in line with our expectations - a red cap extending far back on the crown to be replaced by male adult plumage.

**Jay**                      **4**                      **DK98439**                      **16/11/2019**                      **B03**

Our second Jay this year. This is one species where the numbers encountered do not seem to reflect their presence in the wood. Because of its noisy call we hear them very frequently indeed. Typically we catch just two a year. This is the point which sparked the superficial probe into comparisons between CBC (mean 2.3 territories) and constant effort netting (mean 1.7 captures per year). In fact, the Jay point on the graph is very close to the average line. In spite of its vocal obviousness, both survey methods do agree very closely. With such limited, and sporadic captures it has never seemed meaningful to look at long term trends. However, a look at captures per month does show a distinct pattern. Autumn and early winter have the highest numbers of captures, mainly of juveniles with occasional influxes (possibly from Scandinavia) - with the breeding season giving a lower peak. Late winter and late summer (moulting time?) are the low spots.



**Coal Tit**                      **3**                      **ANA700**                      **15/12/2019**                      **Q03**

As noted in the paragraph on the extent of post-juvenile moult, we have been recording the presence of unmoulted greater coverts on some other species including Coal Tits. In his presentation at the BTO conference, David Norman noted that he had seen a few records of Blue Tits which had changed the recorded number of unmoulted coverts over the winter. He suggested the reason was not over-winter moult (or, in some case 'unmoult'), more likely misidentifying the age of feathers. Some individuals are tricky, even amongst Blue Tits which are the most obvious. Coal Tits can be very much more difficult. Indeed sometimes it is hard to detect whether they are in post-juvenile or adult plumage. This bird is one of the difficult offenders and we have recorded it as having 3, 2, 2, and 3 unmoulted coverts on four successive captures. Another individual has records of 3, 4, 4, 4, 3 unmoulted coverts on five consecutive occasions. At least these numbers are close, but it does indicate the difficulty of absolutely reliable recording on species which are less obvious than Blue Tits.

**Marsh Tit**                      **4**                      **L327798**                      **10/11/2019**                      **N06**

Marsh Tits, with their large home ranges from which they rarely stray tend to live longer than the more mobile Blue Tits. This bird, at 6y 162d since ringing is our fifth oldest recorded, two years short of our internal record and still not far beyond half way to the national record of 11y 3m.

**Blue Tit                                    4                    AVC1617    16/11/2019    B03**

One of the 2018 nestling-ringing birds first re-encountered in Retford in January and not seen again until now, back in the wood. We have recorded many movements of nestling-ringed birds to Retford in winter followed by a return movement in the spring. This one is quite different, apparently not returning to the wood until the following winter.

**Blue Tit                                    4                    AVC1661    12/11/2019    E05**

Another of our 2018 cohort of nestling-ringed birds first retrapped at Hillcrest Farm in Treswell village. It was back in the wood this autumn and on this particular occasion was found roosting in one of the nestboxes. If it survives to the spring it is likely to breed near its winter roosting site. That would give a natal dispersal movement of about 400 metres - with some more distant wanderings en route.

**Blue Tit                                    4                    Z782015    15/12/2019    Q04**

This Blue Tit seems to have learnt in the Chaffinch school of behaviour. Ringed in 2015 as a juvenile, it was retrapped until December 2016. Then no sign of it for almost exactly three years - that is longer than the life of most Blue Tits. Then it reappears. Where has it been hiding?

**Great Tit                                    4F                D309148    24/11/2019    N00**

Our oldest recent capture of a Great Tit, 6y 78d since ringing as a juvenile. We have retrapped it at least once each year apart from 2017. It seems to frequent the northern third of the wood and has sometimes been captured on the north edge opposite Wood House. Surprisingly only three of its 14 captures have been at the feeding station. Typically those caught at the feeding station are frequent users. In spite of its age it still has half as long again to go before it challenges our internal age record. It is the 13<sup>th</sup> oldest out of the 7,700 Great Tits we have encountered.

**Great Tit                                    4F                D309675    15/12/2019    Q03**

Rather younger than D309148 at only 4y 283d since ringing, this Great Tit has been captured more times than any other. This is its 38th capture. Unlike D309148 though, it is a regular visitor to the feeding station - about half its captures are there. Like D309148 it is strictly a traveller in the northern third of the wood and probably beyond the wood into the gardens opposite. Eight of its captures have been while roosting in boxes, always within a circle of radius 50m.

**Long-tailed Tit                            2                EYD368    15/12/2009    Q03**

After what we believe to have been a very poor breeding season in the wood, Long-tailed Tits seem to be here again - possibly mostly newcomers to the wood. This was one of a party of six and the only one with a long history in the wood having being ringed almost exactly five years earlier. This is a very good age for a bird of such a small species. However, of the 1,621 Long-tailed Tits we have ever encountered it is only the 10<sup>th</sup> oldest. Our internal record is 7y 27d set in 1983 which is, in turn, nearly two years short of the national record. (Our oldest bird had, amazingly, survived the two very hard winters of 1978/79 and 1982/83). Of the other birds in the party three were ringed last autumn or winter but not seen again until late Autumn, one had been ringed in August and one was unringed.

**Chiffchaff                                    2                JTE423    27/10/2019    M00**

We assume that most of the Chiffchaffs we catch in late autumn are over-wintering birds or late-migrating birds passing through the wood on their southward journey. Assumptions may be wrong. This bird was ringed as a breeding female in June. Whether she will remain over winter or is very late in moving south we may never know.

**Goldcrest                                    4M                JTE365    16/11/2019    F03**

We have only caught 17 Goldcrests in the last three months of the year. Of these, this is the only one we had previously ringed - one of the very few which survive over winter and are then retrapped. It had been ringed almost exactly a year earlier in the wood.

**Nuthatch                                    2M                TT49368    1/12/2019    E02**

At the recent BTO conference the value of consistency in measurements was discussed. With any measurements of birds (or indeed almost anything living) there is bound to be some between- and within-observer variation. It is important to minimise this. On Nuthatches we measure tarsus and total head length in addition to the usual wing length. We started this to assist a student project some years ago. We have continued because it offers us all the opportunity to remain familiar with the technique (and it has been noted on at least two ringing courses how trainees from Treswell Wood are much more familiar with such measurements than are many). In an ideal world, all our measurements would be the same. The tarsus length remains constant once the bird is full grown, unlike wing length which is subject to wear and replacement. This world is not ideal as can be seen from the 10 measurement of the tarsus made since we first ringed it in July 2018. These are (in chronological order) 25, 23.5, 23, 23, 23, 24, 23, 23.5, 23, 23. These are mostly fairly close to 23.5 This difficult measurement requires very

careful judgement of the pressure on the bird's ankle. It is important that we use this small variation as a spur to improve rather than as a reason to abandon the measurement.

**Redwing**                      **3**                      **RF28889**                      **10/11/2019**                      **N03**

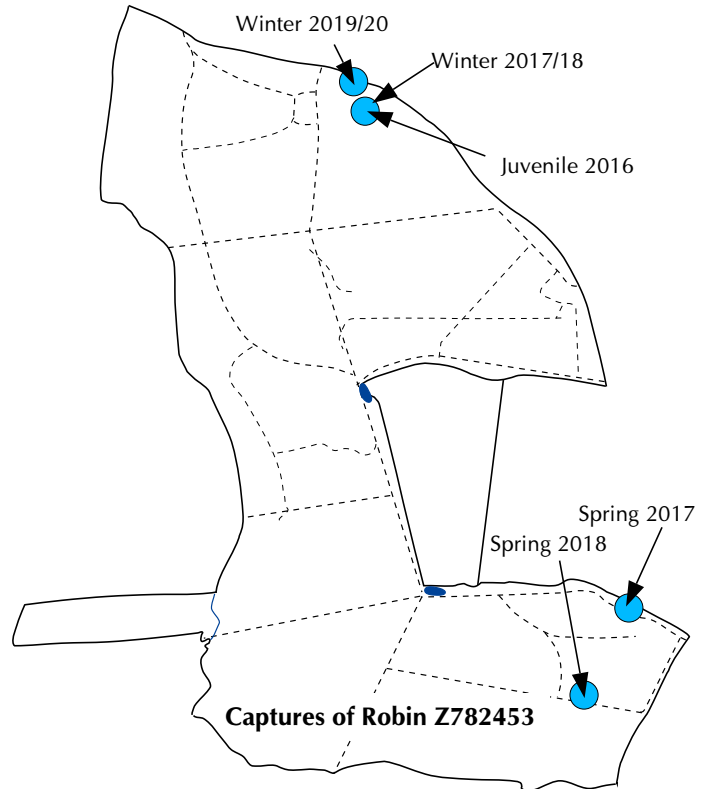
Redwings respond fairly well to appropriate sound lures. This is one of five caught this autumn with another 10 caught in February. This gives the highest total ringed in any year since 1976 when a number were caught in hedgerows between Stanhope Farm and the wood. All this autumn's birds so far have been juveniles.

**Blackbird**                      **4M**                      **LE35181**                      **15/12/2019**                      **Q03**

Wintering Blackbirds from Scandinavia are often much larger than British residents. This bird, with a wing length of 140mm, would appear to be from Scandinavia. Out of the 3,500 Blackbirds we have ringed, only 6 have had longer wings than this. Furthermore we have only caught this bird in December to February in the five successive winters since we ringed it in December 2014. Some Blackbirds are known to winter in the same place year after year and this one seems to be one of those - we have only ever caught it in the northern third of the wood.

**Robin**                                      **4**                                      **Z782453**  
**15/12/2019**                      **Q03**

Although we tend to think of Robins as sedentary, in fact they do migrate - but not as far as Swallows. Both sexes maintain winter territories and females tend to migrate further than do males. What about this one? The map shows its captures as a juvenile in the north of the wood in 2016. Its first adult capture was in the south of the wood as a breeding female but in the following winter she was back in the north, possibly even venturing to Wood House. Spring 2018 brought her back to the south to breed. We did not encounter her in the 2019 breeding season but here she is again the following winter back in the north. That makes her annual migration about 750 metres each way.



### 10-Week Summary: 2019 Interval 5, Captures in Standard Sites

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Buzzard	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Jay	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Coal Tit	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
Blue Tit	.	.	7	9	.	1	17
Great Tit	.	.	1	11	.	3	15
Long-tailed Tit	1	.	.	8	.	.	9
Chiffchaff	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Goldcrest	4	.	4	.	.	.	8
Wren	1	.	10	8	.	7	26
Nuthatch	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Treecreeper	.	.	2	2	.	2	6
Blackbird	5	.	5	6	.	1	17
Robin	.	.	6	3	.	7	16
Dunnock	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	2	.	4	.	.	.	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	.	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	.	<b>23</b>	<b>129</b>