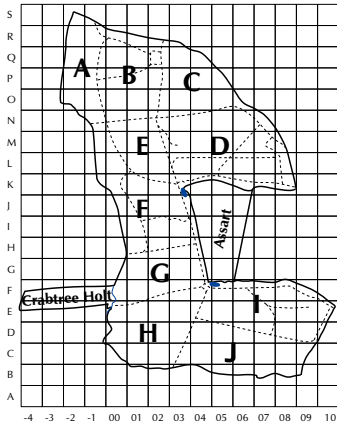


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

October 2014 Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

Project leaders:

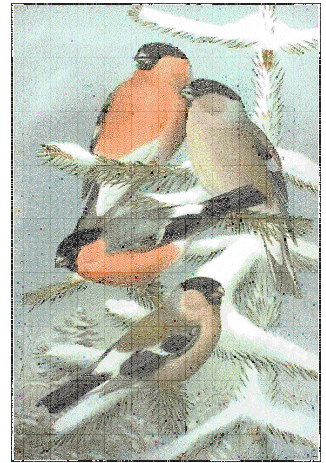
CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringling John Clark

2014/4
Number 99

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The mild autumn seems to have been characterised by lack of birds coming to feeding stations. This has not affected the standard site captures, of course, but has reduced the numbers of captures in our extra nets which are often set at the main feeding station. Our breeding season and autumn capture numbers in the standard sites have all been higher than at any time in recent years. Total captures for the year are already higher than in most recent years - and still with another two months of captures to include before the end of the year. Goldcrests have arrived in good numbers and these have boosted our capture totals. Our other notably abundant species have been Robin, Wren and Bullfinch. Again, the standard site totals do not completely reflect the total abundance as rather more have been captured in extra nets. Robin numbers have recovered to the levels seen about three years ago before a sudden unexplained and unexpected fall in numbers. Blackbird captures have been very patchy - good numbers on some days and otherwise none or almost none. Nuthatches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers are absent from our standard site captures and almost absent from captures in other nets although we continue to hear both species, perhaps less frequently than in recent years.

Species records and the Nottinghamshire Mammal Atlas

Volunteer student Josh King spent a great deal of time transcribing our species records - bird and otherwise - to a spreadsheet. These records, all 6,181 of them, from 1972-1989, 1995-1997 and 2008-2011 have now been checked, formatted and submitted to Michael Walker at the NWT for loading into the species record database. There are sixteen more years' worth of records to be transcribed and volunteers for this job would be very welcome.

Of note are about 200 records of mammals ranging from remains of shrews and rodents in owl pellets to early records of roe deer and muntjac in the wood. These records arrived at the NWT just after Michael (who is county mammal recorder) had produced the first edition of the Nottinghamshire Mammal Atlas. One aim of production of this atlas is to encourage more thorough species recording in the county. Some species are grossly under-recorded. Surely there are more than a dozen one-kilometre squares in the county where house mice have been recorded? Michael will welcome all mammal records from the county, whether they be current or historical. It is well worth searching through old notebooks for such records and submitting them. Species records require, as a minimum, four pieces of information: Species, Date, Place and Recorder - often summarised as What, When, Where and Who. Additional information such as activity, numbers etc. can be useful but are not vital. The place is best given as an OS grid reference to at least 1km accuracy (e.g. SK7679). The Atlas includes full instructions for submission of mammal records. A good number of mammal records have been provided by the BTO using information from Garden Bird Watch and BBS observers.

Two of the maps are reproduced on the last page of this issue. It is hoped that the second edition of the Atlas will have filled many of the obvious gaps. Species particularly well worth reporting include the common, but generally overlooked, species such as rabbits, rats, house mice and moles (molehills indicate presence). The Atlas is available as a PDF document at:

http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/images/uploads/Notts_Mammal_Atlas_2014.pdf

Noteworthy Encounters

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Woodpigeon	4	FP97235	21/9/2014	O02

One of two of this species trapped recently. Both were unringed and both adults. It is unusual to catch a juvenile Woodpigeon. Although Woodpigeons have a very long breeding season, as noted in the previous issue of Twitter, nesting success is very low and fledgeling mortality much higher than adult mortality. Combine this with the

potentially long life of those that do survive the dangerous post-fledging period and we are left with a population with a very high proportion of adults. This contrasts strongly with small birds, such as the tits, where a large proportion, sometimes over half, of the population is of juveniles.

Tawny Owl **8** **GR24214** **14/9/2014** **O05**

A good start to a ringing session and the first Tawny Owl we have mist-netted since 2011 (in which year we ringed four). But even one Tawny Owl mist netted in a year is an above average total. This is only the 16th individual we have ever caught in mist nets. This compares with a grand total of 60 ringed as nestlings and another 12 adults ringed at the nest. Curiously not one of these nestbox-ringed birds has ever appeared in a mist net.

Great Spotted Woodpecker **3F** **LE35171** **2/11/2014** **F04**

After recent years in which we have enjoyed larger numbers of this species, this year has seen rather fewer - just nine. Of these, four have been juveniles and the previous capture of this species was as far back as in June. This bird was one of the small proportion of juveniles which can be aged after the post-juvenile moult. It had not moulted all its greater coverts leaving an obvious contrast between the black median coverts and unmoulted, greayer outer greater coverts.

Meadow Pipit **3** **D309543** **7/9/2014** **E10**

The only Meadow Pipit ringed this year - opportunities for luring them down to the assart have not presented themselves as they did last year. This bird was caught by the hedgerow of the green lane in the south-east of the wood beside the grassy landing strip.

Blackcap **3F** **D309563** **21/9/2014** **N-1**

At this time of year, a young Blackcap unringed when caught is most likely to be one from further north making its way southwards for the winter, rather than being a local bird not yet on the move. It is late for the species, but not exceptionally late. Nearly 60 of the 2,385 Blackcaps we have captured have been seen after this date - although it is most likely that the five November and December birds were wintering continental birds rather than wintering British birds.

Chiffchaff **2** **EYD316** **12/10/2014** **M02**

The last Chiffchaff (so far) of the year - unringed on arrival (which we corrected), probably a juvenile making its way southwards. We have only ever caught six Chiffchaffs later than this, although the three in November and December were more likely to be over-wintering birds than late-departing migrants. As often, the last of the summer birds is still here when the first of the winter birds arrives - see Goldcrest EYD258.

Goldcrest **3M** **EYD258** **14/9/2014** **N03**

The first Goldcrest of the year, arriving reasonably, but not unprecedentedly, early. It just makes it into the earliest 5% of the 2,317 Goldcrests we have captured. It promises to be a good year with about double the average number caught by the end of October. This figure, though, must be regarded with some caution. Goldcrest numbers are very volatile with our numbers caught by the end of October varying from 2 to 110. We also use playback calls to lure this species more than we used to do in former times (but never at standard sites, of course).

Long-tailed Tit **2** **CXN010** **26/10/2014** **J03**

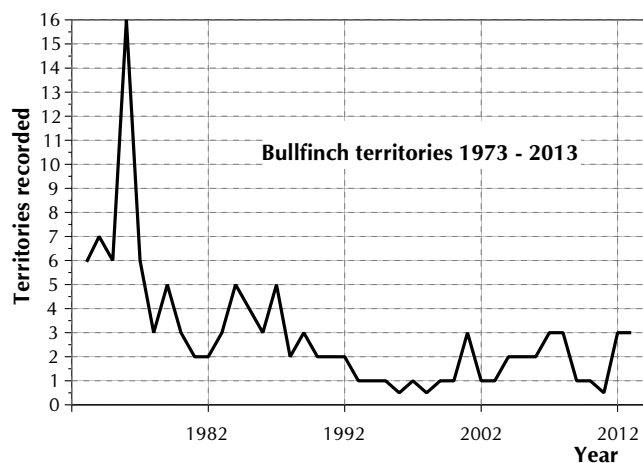
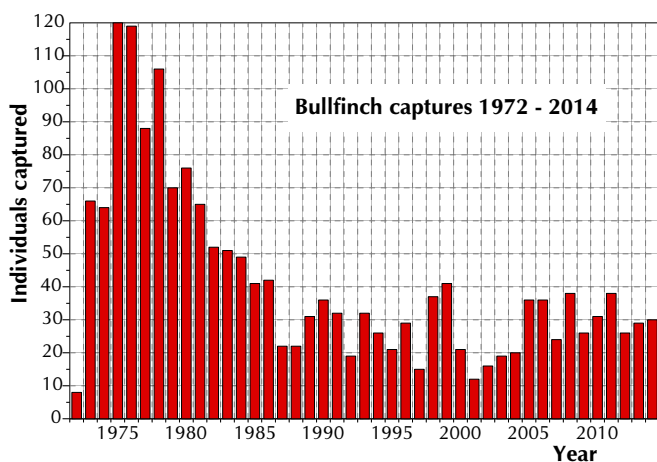
A vintage bird, ringed in March 2009 and so at least 6^{1/2} years old. It is particularly pleasing to see such an old bird after so few captures of this species earlier in the year. At 5 years and 7 months since ringing it is the 6th oldest Long-tailed Tit we have recorded but still with 18 months to go to break our Treswell Wood longevity record for the species.

Great Tit **3M** **TT49143** **2/11/2014** **F04**

Sadly, another bird badly infected with avian pox. It is the first we have caught which has never been captured at or near the main feeders. This suggests that the feeding station is not the only centre of infection but that the condition is spread throughout the wood. We retrapped this bird five weeks previously and it had a medium-sized lesion over the right eye. On this occasion it had a very large lesion. All the other birds we have trapped and retrapped with pox have given a maximum time between successive captures of one week, followed by no subsequent recaptures. This suggests that either death (or departure from the wood) is very rapid once the pox has taken hold. We have also seen four birds which have been pox free when captured or recaptured but developed medium or large lesions within no more than a month. We have not yet recaptured any that have been infected and subsequently recovered from the condition. (Ringers please note the hygiene instructions for dealing with these birds in Twitter 98.)

Bullfinch 4M D309401 26/10/2014 J03

One of a surprising number of this species captured recently. Preliminary CES results from the BTO also suggest a good year for the species nationally. The chart gives the numbers of Bullfinch individuals captured each year since ringing began in the wood. It is clear that they suffered a serious decline. This is supported by the CBC territory data (Note that the first survey was in Spring 1973, the surveys for 1973 - 1975 covered only the northern two-thirds of the wood and the 2014 records have not yet been analysed. The few 1972 captures were from the first

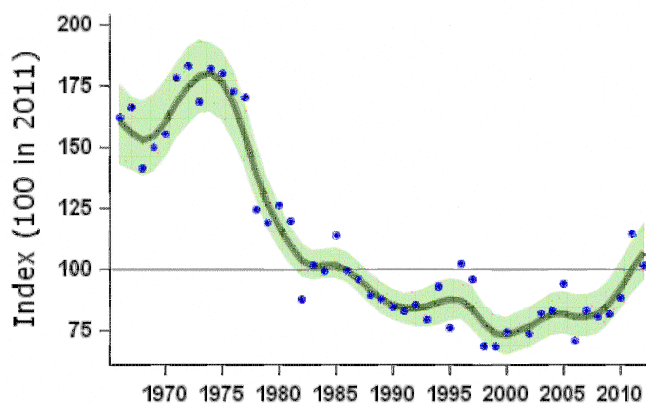


two visits in late December.) There are still two more months left of the year and we can expect the final total to be about the highest since the mid 1980s.

It is pleasingly interesting to compare both the CBC and capture graphs with the national population trend published by the BTO and reproduced here. The national picture is virtually identical to ours. And the cause of the sudden fall in the 1970s followed by a slight recovery in the last 10 years? 'The demographic mechanism of decline remains unclear.' Read more on the BTO web pages.

Bullfinches are often very late to moult and this individual D309401, was even later than most - still with only the inner 6 primaries fully grown and the outermost still in its sheath. Curiously, all the other Bullfinches captured on the same day as this one had completed moult, making this one very much a non-conformist.

Incidentally, we have had an excellent season for recording moult, with 96% of our captures having a moult code (including not yet in moult or moult completed) recorded from before the first birds began to moult at the start of June until the end of October. During the peak months of July and August, we failed to record a moult code for only three birds. Well done ringers and scribes.

**CBC/BBS UK 1966-2012
Bullfinch**

10-Week Summary: 2014 Interval 4, Captures in Standard Sites

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Woodpigeon	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tawny Owl	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	2	.	24	2	2	2	32
Dunnock	1	.	2	.	.	1	4
Robin	.	.	20	4	.	.	24
Blackbird	.	.	18	4	.	.	22
Song Thrush	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	2	.	7	2	.	.	11
Chiffchaff	2	.	2	.	.	.	4
Goldcrest	2	.	7	.	.	.	9
Blue Tit	.	.	1	1	.	2	4
Great Tit	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Treecreeper	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
Bullfinch	.	.	6	.	.	.	6
Totals	12	.	87	16	2	6	123

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week periods - Summary table

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2008	125	130	151	86	100	592
2009	57	130	156	85	80	508
2010	94	100	144	119	143	600
2011	96	112	120	105	101	534
2012	69	125	132	66	72	464
2013	76	90	89	100	157	512
2014	83	132	181	123		(519)

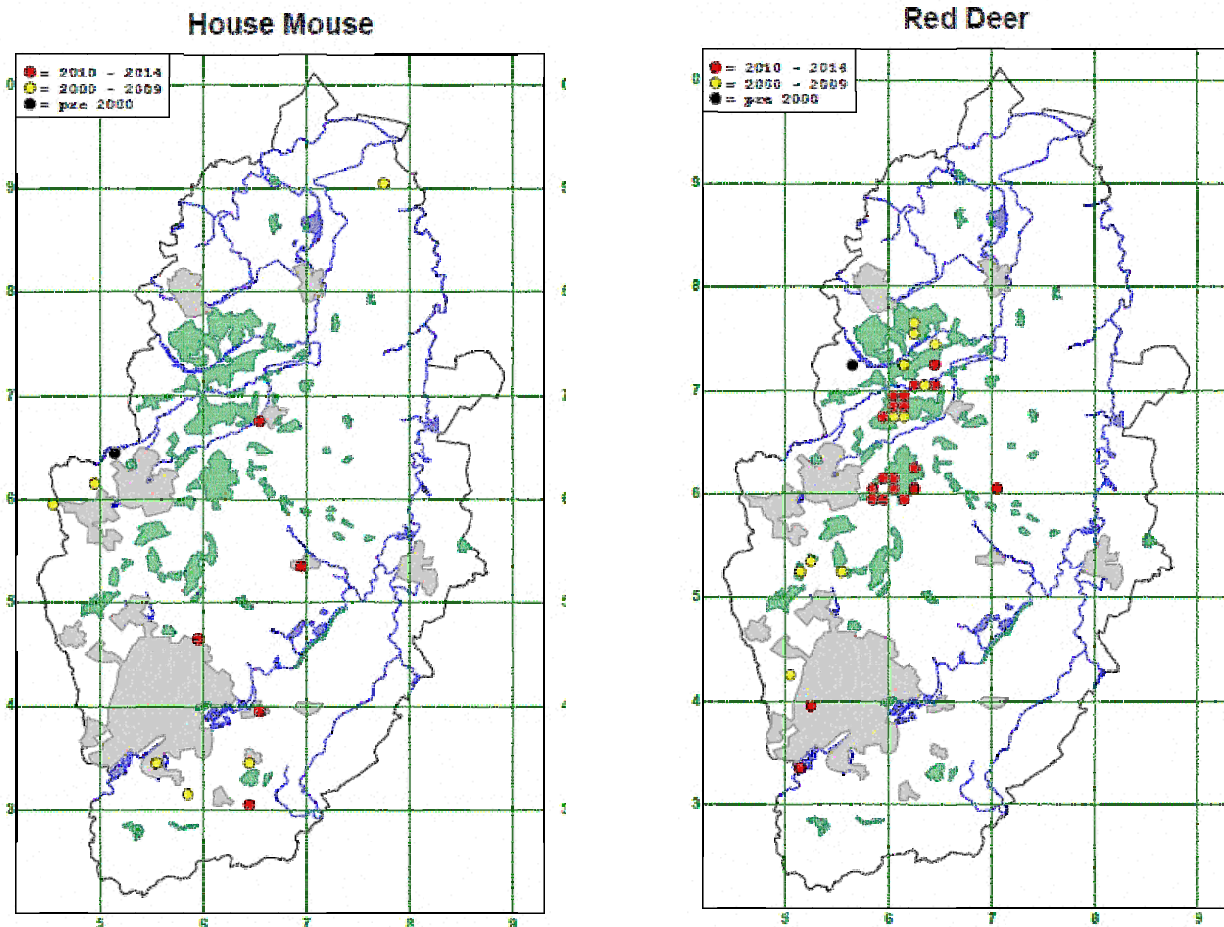
Summary Data since standard site netting began in 1978:

Maximum	128	145	288	253	177	864
Minimum	57	33	89	66	59	364
Mean	90	108	160	131	123	609

10-year Averages since standard site netting began in 1978:

1978 - 1987	90	113	182	140	130	655
1988 - 1997	86	107	170	149	127	637
1998 - 2007	95	100	134	120	125	574
(2008 - 2013)	86	115	132	94	109	536

Maps from the 2014 Nottinghamshire Mammal Atlas



The House Mouse is small, a pest, widespread, abundant and lives in proximity to humans. It is generally overlooked. The Red Deer is large, less widespread, but sightings are always memorable, noteworthy and consequently reported. The Red Deer map is quite likely to be fairly representative of the real distribution of the species but there is plenty of opportunity for observers to enhance the House Mouse picture.