

TWITTER

1995 Number 4



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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringer.

Shortly after Twitter No 3 went to press - with its anticipation of another 1976 - the rains fell, bringing an end to the possibility of large captures at the pond. In retrospect, there were two big differences between 1976 and 1995. The bean crop on the field next to the pond in 1976 brought in many birds to feed and the populations of Redpolls and Tree Sparrows were much greater than now. Nevertheless, our total number of captures in the 5-hour nets has been the highest ever in Interval 4. Looking back at previous totals shows that most species have been caught in reasonable but not spectacular, numbers with a handful contributing bigger increases. The "big increase" contributors are: Blackcap, Goldcrest (an early year?), Long-tailed Tit, and Robin. What happened to all our Wrens and Blue Tits which have only been caught in typical numbers?

CES - Treswell Wood (Site 13)

There are no prizes for being first to submit CES data to the BTO - just as well because we were only a miserable fourth! However, Will Peach processed our data and sent us a printout within a week - datasets on disk are wonderful things indeed. Thanks from the BTO to all who helped with the gathering of this contribution to their important scheme. Below is a table comparing our CES captures of the last two years.

Species	1994			1995			Change 94 - 95		
	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%
Sparrowhawk	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Wren	24	41	171	29	30	103	+	-	-
Dunnock	15	8	53	20	18	90	+	+	+
Robin	20	31	155	22	40	182	+	+	+
Blackbird	12	7	58	22	9	41	+	+	-
Song Thrush	3	7	233	3	3	100	=	-	-
Whitethroat	4	0	0	3	0	0	-	=	=
Garden Warbler	2	1	50	5	0	0	+	-	-
Blackcap	24	5	21	28	9	32	+	+	+
Chiffchaff	4	7	175	5	5	100	+	-	-
Willow Warbler	8	1	13	4	0	0	-	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	1	0	0	2	0	0	+	=	=
Long-Tailed Tit	3	2	67	0	23	X	-	+	X++
Marsh Tit	4	4	100	2	5	250	-	+	+
Willow Tit	4	2	50	5	3	60	+	+	+
Coal Tit	1	0	0	0	3	X	-	+	=
Blue Tit	11	4	36	5	17	340	-	++	++
Great Tit	6	4	67	7	5	71	+	+	+
Nuthatch	0	0		0	1	X	=	+	X
Treecreeper	2	6	300	4	2	50	+	-	-
Jay	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Chaffinch	8	2	25	0	0	X	-	-	X
Bullfinch	8	0	0	5	2	40	-	+	+
Totals	166	132	80	171	175	102	+	+	+

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

The inherent variability of captures within one site makes it very hard to demonstrate any significant changes, unlike the national dataset which combines captures from many sites. Never mind! Look at the table and see what you think. Only two species show apparent significant changes. Even so the Long-tailed Tit data are not really susceptible to such an

analysis because the birds are not caught independently. As mentioned in Twitter 95/3, the large numbers caught were a result of flocking behaviour rather than a superabundance. That leaves Blue Tits. With the extra boxes it is not surprising that juveniles numbers are well up. What is more interesting is the 'significant' increase in productivity. If it represents a real increase, it means that not only are there more juveniles about but also that there are more juveniles per adult. A good breeding season from all points of view.

Inspecting Nestboxes

It is always a disturbing experience to find a nest abandoned between one observation and the next. There is the nagging doubt that inspection may have led to failure. This year - because of the extra boxes in the south of the wood - there was an unplanned opportunity to compare desertion rates at inspected and uninspected boxes early in the season. The southern boxes were not inspected until after eggs had been laid, so any which were abandoned during building (which is the time at which it is reputedly easiest to deter birds) were abandoned through natural causes. The results are very gratifying. The abandoned-before-egg-laying rate was slightly higher in the non-inspected south, although the difference (North 12.9% 31 boxes, South 14.3% 42 boxes) was not statistically significant.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
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Kestrel	EH28322	3/9/95	R99
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Our first Kestrel since 1990. This one was a young female.

Great Spotted Woodpecker	RH94919	27/8/95	H04
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Another infrequently caught species. This one showed very clearly its rather intriguing moult sequence with contrast between new primaries and old primary coverts making it a clear age code 5.

Wren	5W9580	17/9/95	L00
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Ringed 16/7/95 as an adult in C04 - quite a large move for a normally sedentary species.

Robin	J033314	8/10/95	F05
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Ringed as a juvenile in I04 in July 1993, by September 1993 it had moved to F04. Since then it has not moved much - always being caught in F/G 04/05.

Robin	J522175	24/9/95	F02
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Possible rapid post juvenile dispersal and settling to a more permanent area. This bird was ringed on 17/7/94 in N99 then recaptured on 18/9/94 in F02. It was found again on 23/4/95 in breeding condition in E01.

Whitethroat	J522070	3/9/95	R99
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Only our third ever Whitethroat recapture and the first to be recaptured in a subsequent season. Ringed 29/5/94 in R99 about 50m from its recapture point - presumably with a trip to Africa in between. If it has been breeding within the wood why have we only caught it once?

Blackcap	K463072	15/10/95	Q03
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A fairly late capture for this species.

Chiffchaff	5F5181	23/8/95	K02
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Our third capture of the second Chiffchaff of the year. Rather a wanderer 19/3/95 in P01, 23/7/95 in R99 and today in K02. It was not noted as being in breeding condition on any of these three captures. Was it one which failed to find a mate? This could help explain its wanderings.

Chiffchaff	5W9987	8/10/95	B03
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Not our latest Chiffchaff capture ever, but one of the latest. The 5-hour summary reveals a higher number of these birds this autumn than is usual.

Long-tailed Tit	8T5839	17/9/95	J03
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The oldest of our recent Long-tailed Tit recaptures, this bird was ringed on 29/8/92 and has also been recaptured in L06, Q01, R00, I02, Q05, Q04, H04, L04. Such wide ranging movement within the wood is frequent for Long-tailed Tits.

Long-tailed Tit	5W9528	17/9/95	K00
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In contrast to 8T5839, this bird is our first juvenile Long-tailed Tit of the year. It has already been caught 4 times - N00, L06 and I02 and K00.

Coal Tit	J639033	17/9/95	L01
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Ringed 21/5/94 in H01 as a nestling, this is its 7th recapture, 5 of them at the feeders in Q02.

Marsh Tit	J522325	17/9/95	J03
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This female was ringed 7/8/94 in L01, recaptured in H04 on 13/11/94 then found nesting in L03.

Marsh Tit	J522347	24/9/95	F02
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Another roving Marsh Tit. 4/9/94 in M00, 18/9/94 in D03, 12/3/95 in Q03 and 19/3/95 in P00. Suddenly she was found

in a nest box in C04 at the opposite end of the wood and today is a little way back up the wood. This is much wider ranging than, for example, both the Marsh Tit J522325 and the Long-tailed Tit 8T5839.

Marsh Tit **J639006** **24/9/95** **F03**

A nestling of 1994 ringed in L05 and has since then had a roving history D08 on 19/6/94, K02 on 7/8/94, and H03 on 9/10/94.

Marsh Tit **J639013** **1/10/95** **N00**

Another 1994 nestling with a less interesting adult history - 6 captures at the feeders Q02 during its first winter with no other captures between March 1995 and now.

Marsh Tit **K181540** **17/9/95** **L01**

Ringed 13/5/95 in N05 as a nestling, this bird has already been recaptured in J03, I03, H04.

Willow Tit **J522301** **1/10/95** **N03**

This is the 8th capture of a relatively young bird, ringed as a 3 on 31/7/94. We have caught it so far in R99, O06, L04, L05, N07, Q02F and O06. This is fairly typical of Willow Tit movements throughout one half of the wood.

Blue Tit **F253409** **3/9/95** **Q02Feeder**

Ringed 13/1/91 as a 5♂ at Q02 feeders, this individual has a very boring recapture history - a total of 8 recaptures, all at the feeders, including at least one in every winter since its first capture. Where does it breed?

Blue Tit **J033044** **15/10/95** **Q02Feeder**

An interestingly boring capture history - seven captures over three years always at the feeders. Where does this bird live in the breeding season?

Blue Tit **J522422** **17/9/95** **J03**

The 9th capture of this bird which was ringed at the feeders on 23/10/94 and, until today, has only been recaptured there.

Blue Tit **K181639** **15/10/95** **L05**

Post-juvenile non-dispersal! This bird was ringed as a nestling in box 81, L07 in May.

Great Tit **H229584** **15/10/95** **Q02Feeder**

Our oldest Great Tit captured for some time - ringed 7/7/91 and captured only 8 times, mostly at the feeders and, unlike J033269, not seen by José in either this or last breeding season.

Great Tit **J522384** **3/9/95** **Q02Feeder**

This would be another of our "feeder only" birds, having not been recaptured since ringing on 25/9/94 but for José's 14 sightings. 10 of these were at the feeders, the other 4 were around Howard's cross roads.

Great Tit **J033269** **3/9/95** **Q02F**

Only the eight capture of this bird, ringed 20/2/94 at the feeders - but next time you are ringing with John, examine its full sighting history over José's two seasons of observations - well over a page of records.

Nuthatch **VP04301** **17/9/95** **L01**

Our second Nuthatch of the year, closely followed by VP04302. We have heard them regularly. A pity they don't grace our nets (or nest boxes) more often! This bird was caught again at the feeders on 15/10/95.

Controls & Recoveries

Blackbird **RH94575** **3/9/95** **R99**

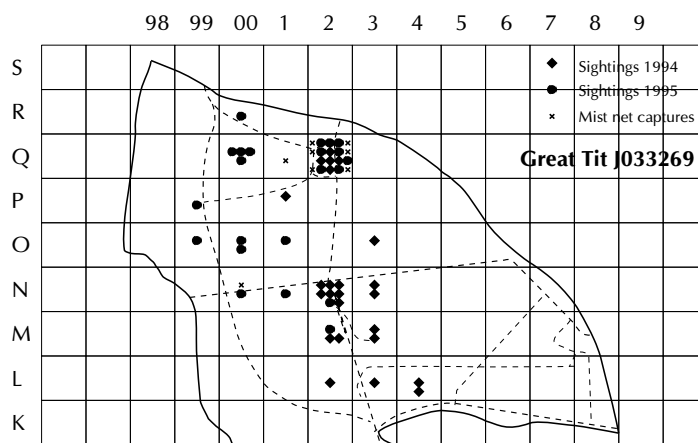
Found dead, body entirely eaten, only wings and tail remaining. Ringed 1/1/95 at Grove End in net 1 and recaptured on 28/5/95 in net 3. When it was found it was just at the end of net 4. An adult female.

Blue Tit **K287554** **15/10/95** **Sturton-le-Steeple**

The second of our 1995 nestbox-ringed birds to be found elsewhere and, as with the previous bird, it was caught by Peter in his back garden. This bird had already been captured in Treswell Wood on 16/7/95 in H04.

Footnote

Steve has drawn our attention to the correspondence in the Daily Telegraph and New Scientist about Feral Pigeons commuting by tube in London. It is apparently clear that the birds use the tube to commute rather than going by air. Steve asks for you to be on the lookout for Great or Blue Tits jumping in or on to your vehicles as you move from the south of the wood up to the feeders!



Ten - week Summary - August to October 1995

1995 Interval 4 Visits 1210 1218 1213 1215 1212 1208 1217

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Kestrel	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	.	1	16	1	.	5	23
Dunnock	.	.	8	1	.	2	11
Robin	1	.	20	1	.	5	27
Blackbird	.	1	7	.	.	1	9
Song Thrush	.	.	2	.	.	1	3
Whitethroat	.	.	3	1	.	.	4
Blackcap	3	.	19	.	.	3	25
Chiffchaff	3	.	3	.	.	1	7
Willow Warbler	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
Goldcrest	5	.	15	.	.	.	20
Long-tailed Tit	13	.	4	21	.	.	38
Marsh Tit	.	.	2	3	.	9	14
Willow Tit	.	.	.	7	.	3	10
Coal Tit	.	.	3	1	.	2	6
Blue Tit	.	.	7	4	.	10	21
Great Tit	.	.	6	5	.	2	13
Nuthatch	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Treecreeper	.	.	2	3	.	1	6
Chaffinch	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	9	.	.	.	9
Totals	27	3	129	49	.	45	253

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	---	708
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Min	64	57	99	68	88	422
Mean	89	110	180	149	133	619