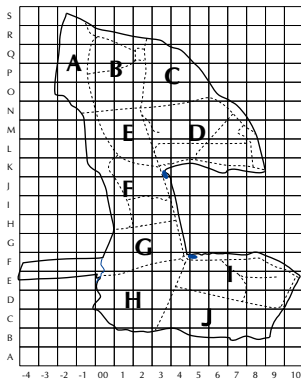


# TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

**March 2005 Treswell Wood IPM Group**  
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

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Photograph: John Clark

**2005/1 Number 51**

## Treswell Wood Common Bird Census - 2004

2004 saw completion of the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the census in Treswell Wood (preceded by three years with a census in the northern part of the wood only) and gives a grand total of 13,721 territories plotted. Although there are some differences in detail between the CBC results and those of the ringers (for instance, CBC Blackbird records are now on a par with those in the late 1970s, ringing captures are still much lower), the overall picture is the same - reflecting a year with a good numbers of breeding birds of a wide variety of species. Sadly, there are some much-missed species - Spotted Flycatcher and Turtle Dove. Goldfinch, on the other hand, have been recorded as breeding for the second year running (the only previous confirmed territory was in 1973) and we have two new species in the 'present but probably not holding a territory' category - Golden Pheasant and Barn Owl. Our thanks to all in the team - the observers, Pat for her organisation and collation of the observations, Richard Thewliss at the BTO for analysing the maps and to Steve Wain for his work in computerising the maps. The full set of results is listed on page 2.

## Nest records 2004 - feedback from the Nest Record Scheme

Just as the birds are beginning their nesting activity for the 2005 season we can publish feedback about the 2004 season from the Nest Record Staff at the BTO. (I should mention that the lateness of this feedback was entirely caused by yours truly forgetting to submit our 2004 nest records until late in the Autumn.) Peter Beaven said:

*Thank you very much for your nest record submission for 2004 and for your continued support of the Nest Record Scheme. Your nest record data for Stock Dove is of particular interest. Populations have increased substantially, probably showing a recovery from the deleterious effects of organochlorine seed-dressings in the 1950s and early 1960s. NRS data has shown a slight increase in nest failure rates at the egg stage (17 days in length), although this is not detectable in farmland habitats. BBS indices suggest that abundance is still increasing (13% since 1994), in the UK and in England alone. Nest records for Bullfinch are in short supply, so are particularly welcome. The UK Bullfinch population has been in decline since the mid 1970s, following a period of relative stability. The decline was initially very steep, but has been shallower since the early 1980s. Nevertheless, results from the Constant Effort Sites (CES) and CBC/BBS, both suggest that the decline is continuing, at least in southern Britain. As with so many species, agricultural intensification is suspected to have played a part in this decline. CES data indicate that productivity has increased over the last decade. However, nest failure rates at the egg stage have risen through the 1990s.*

*The last 12 months have witnessed a number of very significant advancements for the Scheme and, thanks to your efforts and those of your fellow recorders, we are really looking forward to building on these developments over the coming year. **Submission trends:** Just over 28,000 nest records were submitted for the 2003 breeding season, approximately the same number as had been submitted in the previous year. At a regional level, totals have increased in Wales since 2000, whilst falling slightly in England and Scotland and remaining constant in Northern Ireland. The number of recorders submitting data nationally held steady at around 420 individuals and groups. Submission totals for 2003 were very encouraging for several of the target species for which we currently receive fewer than 150 records per annum, with numbers of records for Twite, Nightjar, Meadow Pipit and Yellowhammer all increasing by over 50%, and totals for Swift, Nuthatch, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler all up at least 20%. However, the overall submission trend for open-nesting species continued to decline, with numbers of Whinchat, Stonechat, Bullfinch, Garden Warbler and Sedge Warbler records in particular falling noticeably in last year's submissions. **NRS analyses:** The latest analyses of NRS data were completed in October. As reported in the Nov/Dec issue of BTO News, four species have been added to the NRS Concern List as a result: Barn Owl, Pied Wagtail, Wheatear and House Sparrow. If you missed the article in BTO News, never fear - Nest Record News 2005 will contain a summary of the findings. The results of the NRS analyses are currently*

## Treswell Wood CBC - 2004 Results

Species	Averages					Recent Annual Totals				
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95	96...00	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	p	1	1	0
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	1	p	p	p	p
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	0	0
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1	p	1	1	p
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	p	0	0	p	0
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	6.0	5	3	11	8	12
Golden Pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	p
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0	0	1	0	p
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	p	0	1	1	1
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	1	6	13	7	6
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	1	0	p	0
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	p	1	1	p	0
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	p
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	3	3	3	3	3
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	1	1	1	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	3	2	6	8	6
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	0	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	p	0	0
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	81.8	83	45	92	89	75
Duncock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	12.6	12	4	14	8	8
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	54.0	79	54	83	87	85
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25.2	26	16	26	27	34
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	5.6	8	11	8	7	3
Redwing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	0	0	0
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	2	2	2	2	5
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	1	p	0	0	p
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	7.2	9	11	11	3	5
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	25.4	29	25	37	20	29
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	19.0	18	12	21	23	23
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	6.8	4	2	11	5	8
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	1	0	0	p	1
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	0	p	p	0	0
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	5.0	5	2	12	8	10
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.2	3	p	4	3	1
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.6	3	1	3	2	1
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7.4	11	6	7	6	7
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	70.0	59	41	51	49	68
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35.2	30	33	39	58	58
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	1	0	1	2	1
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6	2	p	5	4	4
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1.0	1	p	3	2	3
Magpie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1	0	p
Jackdaw	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	2	0	1	0	p
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	0
House Sparrow	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	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	55	34	53	56	53
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	4	p	p	p	1
Goldfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	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	3	1	1	2
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2	0	1	0	0
Reed Bunting	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total territories</b>	<b>457.4</b>	<b>457.0</b>	<b>437.6</b>	<b>386.2</b>	<b>426.8</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>519</b>

being used to update the Wider Countryside Report (WCR) (<http://www.bto.org/birdtrends/>) for 2004. As well as presenting trends in productivity calculated from your nest record submissions, this report also brings together the latest trends in abundance calculated from CBC/BBS data and trends in survival calculated from Ringing Scheme data. So if you want to know whether a species is increasing or declining rapidly, the WCR should be your first port of call. Thanks again for all your efforts on behalf of the NRS and we wish you an enjoyable and productive season in 2005.

## Willow Tits, Marsh Tits, the RSPB and Visit 1699

The RSPB is carrying out studies into Marsh and Willow Tits. Both species are red-listed with populations falling nationally. The RSPB hopes to discover reasons for the decline and requirements for populations to be successful with the hope of finding conservation measures which can be used to help both species recover. They will be carrying out detailed observations of individual birds in a number of sites in the East Midlands. Treswell Wood is one site where we have both species breeding and we have been colour ringing birds of both species to enable the RSPB field workers to follow individual birds in the wood. In order to trap the birds, temporary sunflower seed feeders have been placed in the wood. Naturally, other birds are attracted to these feeders and we have been amazed how rapidly they have found them. In one case, a standard seed feeder was emptied within 4 days of being put in place.

Our standard site visit to Nightingale Ride on March 6<sup>th</sup> was visit 1699. Two of the temporary RSPB feeding stations were within range of the ringing base and extra nets were set there. One feeder had been in place for just a week, the other for only four days. It is a long time since we have captured so many birds in a single day. Highlights of the 125 captures included two Nuthatch recaptures, one new Great Spotted Woodpecker and, best of all, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (see Noteworthy Captures).

Richard, on receipt of the day's data, did some thinking about the birds we trapped and his words of wisdom are below.

*Today's is the 7th highest total number of birds in any one visit and the highest since 1981. Also of interest is that this was the first visit between February and May to go over 100 captures. Three of the big December visits were over three days in 1979. The bulk of the rest included sparrow and finches feeding on stubble fields adjacent to the wood. These numbers are brought to you by the Lancaster random Treswell fact generator.*

### The Top 6 Visits

Date	Catch
06 03 2005	125
26 07 1981 (tit flocks)	128
10 07 1976 (Pond)	166
23 11 1975 (Farm)	168
08 08 1976 (Pond)	170
21 12 1975 (Farm)	202
14 08 1976 (Pond)	207

### Months with visits with over 100 birds

Month	Number of visits
January	2
June	2
July	6
August	4
September	2
November	3
December	5

*Here are some thoughts: What an interesting day. Looking at the retrap histories I think we will find two types of birds at the feeders - those that we have caught at the car park feeder, Q02, this winter and those that we have not. The ones which have not been caught appear to have long periods between recaptures such as: P400355, P400957, R123560, R353052, VS50907\*, VS50924\*, R558205\* and R558315\*. (\* signifies a first-time retrap of a nestling-ringed bird.) Of the 'old' birds (that is, those ringed more than a year ago) only one has been caught at the feeders this winter whereas of the 'young' birds, nine have been caught at the feeders this winter. As a result I would think that adult birds have a lower requirement to travel far for food because they are better at finding it locally but when food is provided nearby they will take it. Have we now sufficient data from a single feeder to create some kind of 'sphere of influence' type thing to suggest the ideal density of feeders required to pull in most adults or most immature birds. I would expect that the majority of the '5s' are from the influx and most of the adults are residents that we have not yet found where they breed - the block south of the dam, east of Bower's Ride or south of Nightingale Ride? Another thing today's catch shows is how little we know about the southern birds compared to the Northern birds. The only way we can change this is by having southern feeders (like we now do). This should give interesting options assuming we ring in the wood north/south/north/south - less frequent ringing at each feeder might give increased catches because of lower disturbance. Richard.*

## Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
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<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>5M</b>	<b>DA51859</b>	<b>6/2/2005</b>	<b>N07</b>
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Most of our Sparrowhawk captures are of young males and we rarely retrap them. We presume they are wandering about until they secure a territory. This bird - again a first winter male - is our first of the species for the year and remained in the wood long enough to be retrapped the following week (complete with the remains of a Blackbird almost stripped of flesh).

<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker 5F</b>	<b>CT84060</b>	<b>2/1/2005</b>	<b>Q02 Feeder</b>
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Still coming to the the feeder after being ringed there last December. It appeared again on 16/1/2005 and, most unusually, was not caught in the usual Great Spotted Woodpecker flight path described in the last Twitter. It redeemed itself later in the day by being trapped again - this time in the usual metre-square patch of netting.

<b>Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 5M</b>	<b>VR78791</b>	<b>6/3/2005</b>	<b>C07 Feeder</b>
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Although this is the second capture ever of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in Treswell Wood it is the first we have ringed here. Our first capture, in April 1986, was of a male ringed two years earlier in Gamston Wood. This species is not frequently recorded in the wood - the last CBC record was in 2000 when it was only marked as 'present' as opposed to 'having a territory'. It was netted near a temporary feeder sited to help the RSPB with their Marsh and Willow Tit research. Whether it had been attracted to the feeder or had been merely passing we do not know. It was captured in part of the wood where we very rarely site our nets so it is possible it could have been in the wood for some time - we do not know (but hope it remains to breed).

<b>Song Thrush</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>RX57670</b>	<b>30/1/2005</b>	<b>K04</b>
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As far as Treswell Wood is concerned, Song Thrushes have always seemed to be summer visitors. It is most unlikely they winter as far south as our warblers - some probably move little further than Treswell village. (Twitter 41 showed the seasonal pattern of captures.) Their return is usually earlier than that of the warblers - not surprising when you consider the short distance they have to travel. This bird is our first of the, apparently, early spring.

<b>Blackbird</b>	<b>6M</b>	<b>RH94767</b>	<b>13/2/2005</b>	<b>H01</b>
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A Blackbird ringed in 2000 and not retrapped since 2002 might appear to be a winter visitor. Not so - all three previous captures have been in May (2000, 2001 & 2002), during the breeding season. All have been in the same small part of the wood (H02 or H03). It seems to be a resident living in a part of the wood where we mist-net fairly often. Where does it hide? Contrast this with RH94775, another 6M, caught at the same time about 40 metres from this bird. It was also ringed in summer 2000 but not retrapped until last year when it was captured in March and June - again in the same small area within the wood.

<b>Robin</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>P400174</b>	<b>23/1/2005</b>	<b>F04</b>
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Today was a very good day for Robin captures with 9 out of the 36 individuals captured being of this species. This was the oldest, having been ringed as a juvenile in August 2000. He eluded capture until February 2004. He has been caught once again since then, always on the edge of the western end of compartment I. It is possible his territory lies within the western part of that compartment - a place where we have not set mist nets.

<b>Robin</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>R353580</b>	<b>13/2/2005</b>	<b>H01</b>
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One of a trio of Robins trapped today. All three were first winter birds, all three had been ringed as juveniles in the summer or early autumn, all three had not been retrapped since then and all three now have individually identifiable colour rings. It would appear that they were reared locally, probably in the wood, have spent the winter in the surrounding countryside and have returned to their natal area in the hope of establishing a breeding territory.

<b>Robin</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>R558671</b>	<b>16/1/2005</b>	<b>Q02</b>
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One of our first colour-ringed Robin sightings of the year. This is a bird in its first winter and seems to have an established base near the car park (look out for it when you pass by). The other, R502795, was noted in Twitter 50. All sight records of Robins are welcome (ring combination, date, time and place). Why not take a walk in the wood searching for our colour-ringed birds before the leaves make sighting more difficult?

<b>Coal Tit</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>N645232</b>	<b>6/2/2005</b>	<b>Q02 feeder</b>
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A very good age for a Coal Tit - 5 years and 268 days since being ringed as a nestling in 1999 by Phil May in one of the old dormouse boxes. (How Phil managed to be in one of the old dormouse boxes is another matter.) She has been trapped frequently, either at the feeders or in L07 where she nested, with her last previous capture being in August 2003. Where has she been since then? Did she breed in 2004? - we did not find her in any of our boxes.

**Marsh Tit                      4                      P400877                      6/2/2003                      N00**

The RSPB has extended its project on Marsh Tits to include Treswell Wood. During the spring, our birds will be followed by the RSPB field workers who will be recording details of habitat and activities in order to understand what is good, and what is bad, for Marsh Tits. They hope to develop conservation measures to halt the national decline. Last year we colour-marked the Willow Tits for the RSPB, and had placed red rings on both legs of all Marsh Tits so they would be easily separable in the field from the Willow Tits then being studied. Our Marsh Tits will, from now onwards, be marked individually - this bird is the first. Keep an eye open for these (and Robins and Willow Tits). To separate the species, remember that Marsh Tits always have a red ring on at least one leg and never have a black ring. Willow Tits have a black ring on at least one leg and never have a red ring. (Robins may have any colour combinations but can be separated from the other colour ringed species by their redder plumage.)

**Blue Tit                      6                      P400940                      16/3/2005                      C07 Feeder**

Where do they hide? So many of this year's birds seem to be happy to frequent more than one of the feeders, even when the feeder has only been in place for a matter of a few days. This bird is different. We ringed it as a nestling in 2001 in F06. Since then it has not been trapped anywhere - neither at a feeding station nor elsewhere - until today when it appeared at a recently installed feeder.

**Blue Tit                      5                      R558614                      2/1/2005                      Q02 Feeder**

In the past some of our nestling ringed tits vanished from the wood in the autumn, some never having been retrapped by us at all, to be captured in Retford or elsewhere nearby during the winter, and then to return to us in the spring. This year we have had no such controls reported. However this bird, and its sibling R558618, were both retrapped today for the first time since ringing. Also retrapped was another first-time 2004 nestling ringed Blue Tit, R558601. Where have they been all winter? It looks like an early start for this year's 'February' tit influx.

**Great Tit                      6M                      N275154                      16/2/2005                      Q02 Feeder**

Where do they hide? This ageing bird was ringed as a juvenile in 1999 at the feeders. Once he had moulted into adult plumage we did not see him again at the feeders but caught him each autumn or winter somewhere in block D. From October 2003 to the present he was not captured again at all. Now he is back at the feeders.

**Great Tit                      5F                      R353758                      27/2/2005                      Q02 Feeder**

In 2002 we trapped a very grey Great Tit (Twitter 37). It seemed to be coloured like individuals of the race *Parus major cinereus* from the Indian subcontinent. This spring several of our birds have exhibited this pale plumage with much grey and little yellow on the underside.

*Ulli, commented: I cannot remember that the Great Tits were very grey during my time (that sounds as if it was very long ago). In those days they were more or less similar to what I had expected. At the moment, however, our laboratory Great Tits are becoming paler and therefore greyer. This is because they do not ingest all the carotinoids they normally would from the little foliage-eating caterpillars they find outside. With the yellow and the green fading away, they seem more grey. Is there something like a bad caterpillar year?*

In addition to the grey birds in Treswell, some similar individuals have appeared in Beckingham. Has anyone else noticed these birds recently? Does anyone have any idea why their diet might be different this year, if that is the cause? And, if it is the cause, why are we not finding grey Blue Tits?

**Great Tit                      5F                      TC61053                      13/2/2005                      H01**

More light on the spring influx? We ringed this bird as a nestling in 2004 and retrapped it several times as a juvenile, always at the feeders. From September onwards it was not trapped and, with its previous frequency of capture at the feeder we must presume it had left the wood. Now it reappears - not at the feeder but further south in the wood. It was not alone - another of our 2004 nestlings, VS50877, also returned today after being absent since July. No reports yet of any having been found elsewhere during the winter.

**Great Tit                      6F                      VS50749                      9/1/2005                      G04**

A nestling ringed bird from 2002 not retrapped until last November. She was ringed in a box in E03, only about 50 metres from her November recapture position (an average dispersal speed of about 5 cm per day). By today, a mere two months later, she was a further 50 metres away. Female Great Tits generally disperse more widely than do males - this individual has obviously other ideas.

**Great Tit                      6F                      VV92983                      26/1/2005                      D07 Roosting**

Our first visit to the boxes at night was to the dormouse boxes in blocks I and J. All our roosting birds were Great Tits. This is very different from what we find in the rest of the wood where Blue Tits outnumber Great Tits by about 5 to 1. This bird is sometimes trapped at the feeders in the north of the wood and was found roosting in an adjacent box last winter. We ringed her originally as a nestling in the north of the wood in May 2002.

**Treecreeper 6 5Z1452 2/1/2005 O06**

A good start to the year - we adopted this species for our logo some years ago. This was one of four birds in our first net round of the year. Also included was another retrapped Treecreeper. We ringed this, respectably aged, individual as a juvenile in 2002 (also in O06) and have retrapped it only in or near compartments B and C.

**Nuthatch 5F VR78790 23/1/2005 F04**

Nuthatches are now heard on almost every visit to the wood - this is a change from only a few years ago when their call was a rarity. Most of our recent captures have been in the north of the wood but this one was visiting our new 'finch' feeding station in the south. The CBC recorded one territory last season but with the numbers we are catching and with some new nestboxes sited especially for them, we may find more territories this year. We retrapped this bird on 6/3/2005 at the new, temporary RSPB feeder near the dam.

**Controls and recoveries**

We have captured several Blue and Great Tits ringed elsewhere as part of this year's 'Spring Influx' to the wood. Details of these are reported below briefly - adding to the picture of the timing and distances moved in the local redistribution of birds in the spring.

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>AXL029</b>	<b>16/2/2005</b>	<b>Rampton</b>

Long-tailed Tits do rove fairly widely although it is over two years since any of ours were found elsewhere. This bird was ringed by us on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2004 and recaptured on 20<sup>th</sup> October, still in the wood.

<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>5F</b>	<b>R465763</b>	<b>27/2/2005</b>	<b>Q02 Feeder</b>
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Ringed as a juvenile in June 2004 by Peter Harrison in Sturton-le-Steeple.

<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>R465840</b>	<b>16/2/2005</b>	<b>H04 Roosting</b>
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Ringed in October 2004 by Peter Harrison in Sturton-le-Steeple and recaptured there by him in mid-December.

<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>T352549</b>	<b>28/2/2005</b>	<b>Q02 Feeder</b>
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Ringed on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2005 by Mike Archer in Rampton.

<b>Bullfinch</b>	<b>4M</b>	<b>R502665</b>	<b>8/12/2004</b>	<b>Rampton</b>
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We ringed this bird in the wood on 29/6/2003 as a full grown male and recaptured him in August 2004. That would seem to make him a resident. Why does he suddenly move off to Rampton?

<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>R962886</b>	<b>6/3/2005</b>	<b>C07 Feeder</b>
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Ringed in December 2004 by Mike Archer in Rampton.

**10 Week Summary 2005 Interval 1 (Standard Site captures only)****Visits 1699, 1691, 1690, 1692, 1689, 1688, 1693**

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	1	1	.	2	2	.	6
Dunnoek	.	3	.	.	1	.	4
Robin	1	2	.	6	5	.	14
Blackbird	1	3	.	3	7	.	14
Song Thrush	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	2	3	.	1	9	.	15
Long-tailed Tit	3	.	.	14	.	.	17
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Coal Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Blue Tit	1	5	.	3	5	.	14
Great Tit	1	5	.	4	2	.	12
Treecreeper	2	.	.	2	3	.	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>107</b>

## Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

### Averages

Interval	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1978 - 1987	90	113	182	140	130	655
1988 - 1997	86	107	170	149	127	637
1998 - 2002	77	82	119	123	123	511

### Annual Data

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2003	117	116	146	104	114	597
2004	103	128	126	165	132	654
2005	<b>107</b>					

### Summary data 1978 - 2004

Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Mean	87	106	163	141	127	623
Min	75	57	94	68	59	422

## Advance Warning - June 12<sup>th</sup>

On June 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Notts/Lincs BTO gathering. Several of our ringers will be attending so we plan to ring in Treswell Wood on the Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> that weekend. Please note this in your diary.

## Publication at last

Workers at the Netherlands Institute for ornithology have published another paper which uses our data in *Ecology*, the prestigious journal of the Ecological Society of America (*Ecology*, 86(3), 2005, pp. 693 - 700)

Like their earlier publications which use our data, this also uses datasets from a variety of long-term population monitoring operations throughout Europe and further afield. The abstract of the paper is given below in full - given the small size of our Marsh and Willow Tit populations, and the extinction and recolonisation of the wood by Marsh Tits in the early 1980s, the paper is likely to provide interest for those working with these two species.

### Time to extinction of bird populations

**Abstract.** *The risk of extinction of populations has not previously been empirically related to parameters characterizing their population dynamics. To analyze this relationship, we simulated how the distribution of population dynamical characters changed as a function of time, in both the remaining and the extinct populations. We found for a set of 38 bird populations that environmental stochasticity had the most immediate effect on the risk of extinction, whereas the long-term persistence of the population was most strongly affected by the specific population growth rate. This illustrates the importance of including information on temporal trends in population size when assessing the viability of a population.*

*We used these relationships to examine whether time to extinction can be predicted from inter-specific life history variation. Two alternative hypotheses were examined. (1) Time to extinction should decrease with increasing clutch size or decreasing survival rate because of the larger stochastic components in the population dynamics of such species. (2) Time to extinction should increase with decreasing clutch size or longer life expectancy if extinction rates are most strongly influenced by variation in the specific population growth rate. In the present data set, time to extinction increased with decreasing clutch size because of larger stochastic influences on the population dynamics of species with large clutch sizes located toward the fast end of the slow-fast continuum of life history variation. This demonstrates that inter-specific variation in extinction risk can be predicted from knowledge of general life history characteristics. Such information can therefore be useful for assessing minimum sizes of viable populations of birds.*

## Stop Press - Computerisation of Treswell Wood CBC Maps

Steve Wain has just completed the computerisation of all the available Treswell Wood CBC maps. Our thanks to him for this monumental work. The full set of maps will be included on future copies of the TWIG CD-ROM.

## Cartographic developments

Since John McM began ringing in 1972, we have recorded all bird operations on the McMeeking grid. This appears at the top left of page 1 of every issue of *Twitter* and can be used to identify the locations of the captures we report. Some younger people question the use of the 63 metre McMeeking grid but the reason is very simple. 70 youthful McMeeking paces measured approximately 63m and a square with this length of side has an area of one acre. As it happens, this area is suitable for bird related recording. Our densest breeder, the Wren, has territory sizes of about an acre in the best years. However, several of the team now use GPS receivers in the wood and it has become

distressingly apparent that the McMeeking grid does not feature in the systems catered for on these devices. Maps of the wood with the old grid are included on the TWIG CD-ROM and I have now added two more maps - one with the National Grid and another (a rather confusing map) with both the McMeeking and National grids. For the benefit of the modern ornithologist, a map with just the National Grid is included below. This can be cut-and-pasted from the PDF version of this issue using Acrobat reader.

Feedback about this map would be useful. The map is hand drawn in a computer vector graphic package from John's original map of the wood which was derived from an OS map. We have, over the years, added additional paths to the map as they have been created in the wood. All of them have been plotted by dead-reckoning using a variety of instruments including tape measures, 18m mist nets and ringer's paces. It is likely that the plotted positions of some non-historic paths are a little inaccurate. If you find any such discrepancies between reality and the map, please let Chris know so that he can improve the map.

## Treswell Wood - National Grid

