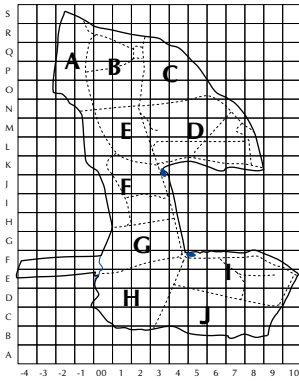


# TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

May 2003 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

Project leaders:

CBC Margaret Price

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringing John McMeeking

2003/2

Number 42



## Common Bird Census

Margaret Price is gradually retiring from her 30 years in office as CBC supremo. We are delighted that Pat Quinn-Catling has agreed to be Margaret's apprentice for the collation of the visit maps of all the CBC recorders, together with details of nests found by the nestbox team. Thanks to Pat for agreeing to this. We hope that she enjoys this most worthwhile work and is able to continue for years to come.

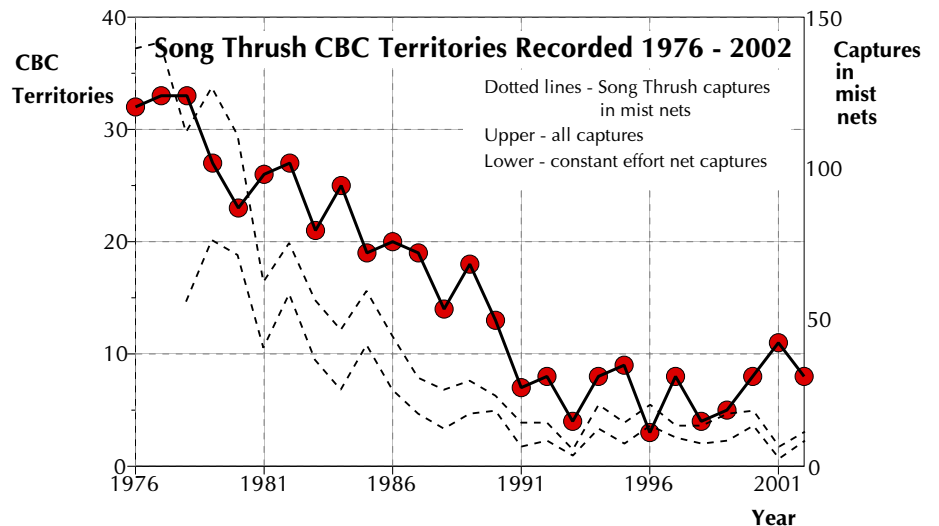
For the record, the CBC team now is: Margaret Price & Pat Quinn-Catling (compilers), John Bartley (Blocks A, B, C and D), Frank and Liz Tillotson (Blocks E and F), Richard Johnson (Blocks G, H and Crabtree Holt), Stuart Martin and George Hudson (blocks I and J).

### From Margaret Price

*Because of the Foot and Mouth Disease, comparisons between 2000 and 2002 will be more valid than those between 2001 and 2002. On that basis, there is a slight upward trend. Those with more than just a slight upward trend are Great Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Warbler, Long-tailed Tit and Great Tit. Meanwhile Blue Tits continue their downward trend. When the first full census was done in 1976 the estimate was 31 pairs of Blue Tits. There were 56 in 1981 (resulting from nestboxes?) and 77 in 1983 (even more nestboxes?). Since then there has been a 6/7 year cycle of up and down although the present downward run is lasting longer than hitherto.*

*The success story is Stock Dove; they have taken a liking to large nestboxes. Until 2001 they were almost absent, or present but not breeding in the wood, or perhaps just a single nest. In 2001 there were 6 territories and 13 in 2002.*

*In Twitter 41 there was a graph of Song Thrush captures showing a steady drop from 141 in 1977 to 10 in 2002. The CBC estimates of breeding pairs show 32 or 33 in 1976 to 1978, a drop from 27 in 1979 to 13 in 1990. Thereafter there have been single figures with a low point of 3 in 1996. Since then they have crept back up to 8 pairs. This picture is very similar to that shown by the ringing data. (Ringing data shown for comparison on the graph with dotted lines.)*



*The shooting rights have now reverted to the Trust following the death of the nominated member of the Oates family. We can expect a reduction in the number of breeding pheasants.*

*Following all the tree felling and scrub clearing that has been done in the southern part of the wood (with the assistance of the Bower family's pigs) you can see right across those compartments instead of being confronted by a jungle. It will be interesting to see the effect on bird life. The ground flora is sure to enjoy the change.*

The CBC results show a continued Mistle Thrush presence. It has now been recorded as a breeding species for five consecutive years. Prior to this, we had never recorded it in more than two successive years. This presence continues this year with regular sightings in the north of the wood and in the coppiced areas in Blocks G and H.

## Treswell Wood CBC - 2002 Results

Species	Averages					Recent Annual Totals				
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95	96...00	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	1	p	p	1
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	p	1	1	p	p
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	p
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	p	1	1	p	1
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	0	0	p	0	0
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	6.0	5	5	5	3	11
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0	0	0	0	1
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	p	p	p	0	1
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0	1	1	6	13
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	p	0	0	1	0
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	p	p	p	1	1
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	p	1	3	3	3
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0	0	2	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2	2	3	2	6
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	p	p	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	0	0	p
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	81.8	82	127	83	45	92
Dunnock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	12.6	12	13	12	4	14
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	54.0	47	66	79	54	83
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25.2	24	31	26	16	26
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	5.6	4	5	8	11	8
Redwing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	0	0
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	1	1	2	2	2
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	0	0	1	p	0
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	7.2	8	7	9	11	11
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	25.4	30	32	29	25	37
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	19.0	23	27	18	12	21
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	6.8	8	4	4	2	11
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	p	2	1	0	0
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	0	0	0	p	p
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	5.0	4	5	5	2	12
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.2	4	5	3	p	4
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.6	1	2	3	1	3
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7.4	7	5	11	6	7
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	70.0	72	62	59	41	51
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35.2	32	42	30	33	39
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	p	2	1	0	1
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6	3	7	2	p	5
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1.0	1	1	1	p	3
Magpie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	1
Jackdaw	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	0
Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	1	p	2	0	1
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	p	0
House Sparrow	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	p	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	34	54	55	34	53
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	2	1	4	p	p
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	p	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	p	1	1	3	1
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	p	0	2	0	1
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>407</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>525</b>

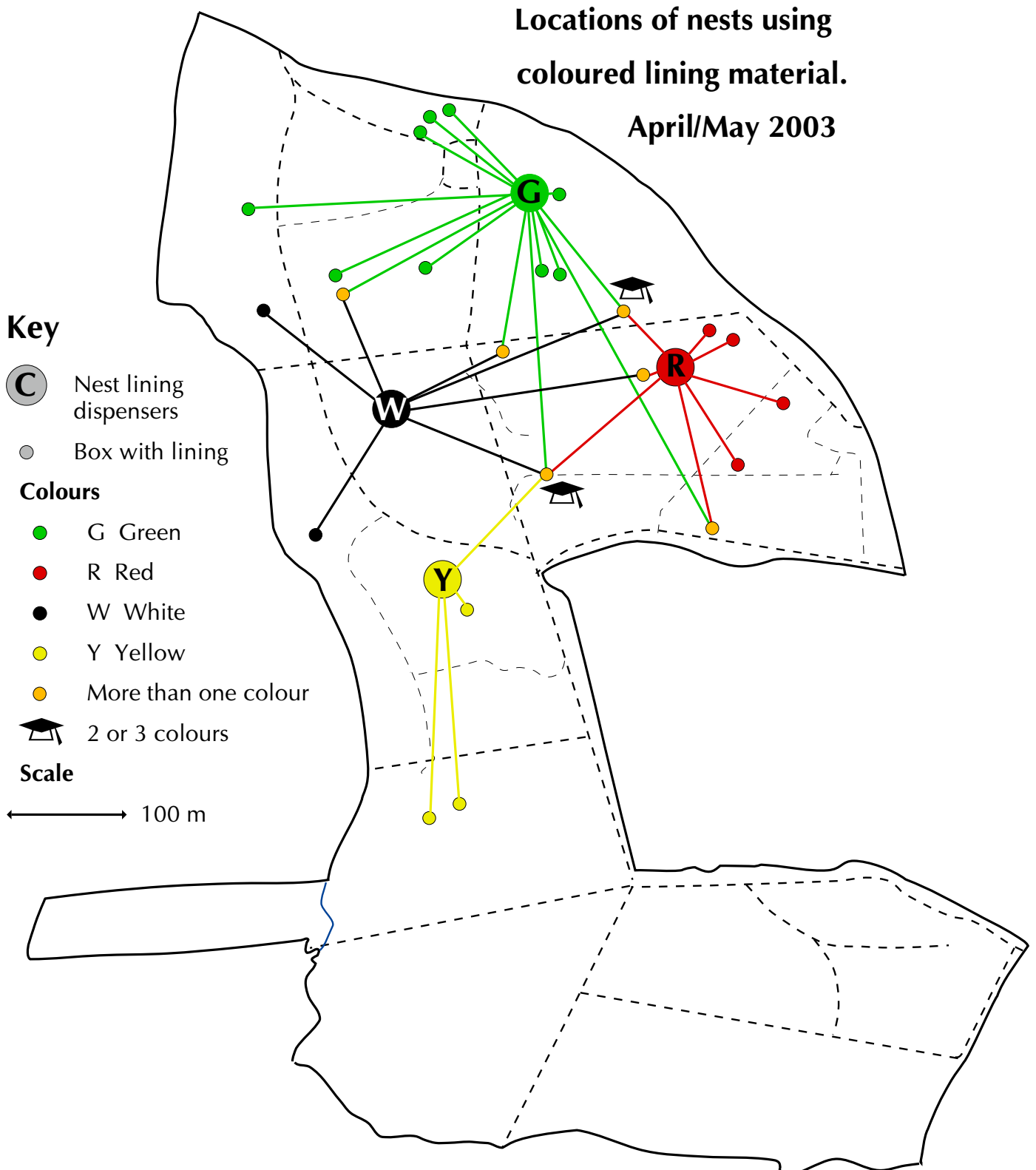
From Richard Thewliss, CBC organiser, BTO

Many thanks indeed for carrying out the Common Bird Census at your plot in 2002. I have finished analysing your maps. Your surveys were of an excellent standard and again produced good results.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the hard work you have put in over the years to sustain the long-running monitoring at your plot. I hope that the census this year is going well for you.

## Nest lining

Once again, this year, we have placed differently coloured nest lining material at various points within the wood in the hope of ascertaining the distance over which birds forage for nesting material. Because of the greater spread of boxes throughout the wood, we have a much better picture of where the lining material is being used. The picture so far is shown in the diagram. Tits are nesting in boxes throughout the wood but only nests in which some



of the lining has been used are plotted. The complete lack of this lining being used in the south of the wood reflects the relatively short distances which it seems that birds travel in order to find suitable material. The preponderance of green lining probably results from the location of the material near the feeders which are used by birds from many parts of the wood. Many more birds will be aware of the easy-to-gather material here rather than at the other three dispensers elsewhere in the wood. A few birds have used materials from two or more of the dispensers. One Great Tit has used three colours and another has used material from all four dispensers. (Perhaps the bird has a combined degree in Fashion and Fabrics with Tourism and Materials Studies from one of the newer universities? On the map the three and four colour nests are marked with a suitable academic motif.)

On the map, the four large circles show the locations of the dispensers which are all drawn in the correct colour (except for white which is shown as black). Readers of electronic versions of Twitter will receive the full colour version, readers of the black and white printed copies will see only various shades of grey.

By the end of the season, when we combine results with those from previous years, we should have enough information to produce at least a preliminary report.

## Dormouse (and other) nestboxes

After finding two dormice last year, we decided to place dormouse boxes throughout the wood. This was in the hope that, wherever any dormice might be, they would have a chance of using a box and we would have a chance of finding them. Production of the boxes was a massive operation - the team who had agreed to look after the boxes also volunteered to produce them (rather like asking the condemned man to tie his own rope). Andy Edwards, as ever, produced a good number too. By the time the season began we had 42 clusters of 6 boxes in place (that is a total of 252 boxes as you will have worked out by now). Clusters are spaced about a typical dormouse territory apart so that any dormouse should have some boxes available. The clustering is to ensure that birds do not invade all the boxes to the exclusion of dormice. It is most unlikely that all six boxes in any cluster will be used by the very territorial tits.

The increased spread and number of dormouse boxes has required a larger team of inspectors. By happy chance, we seem to have acquired a collection of able, enthusiastic, early-retired people who have agreed to take on responsibilities for recording events in nestboxes. Chris Holliland continues to oversee the dormouse recording (although there have been no sightings yet this year). The team of box inspectors is: John Clark (Blocks A to F), Dan and Gill Bardsley (blocks G, H and Crabtree Holt), John Bartley (Blocks I and J). Chris du Feu continues to look after his bird nestboxes in the northern and central part of the wood and John Black has agreed to oversee the large, high nestboxes which are spread thinly around the wood. These have been used increasingly by Stock Doves over the past four years. John now hopes to attract other larger species too.

Recording of events in nestboxes is going remarkably smoothly so far. All our data are being computerised using IPMR (the BTO software which deals with nest records). The BTO can look forward to a large number of detailed, multiple-visit nest records. Thanks to all of you who have been involved with the nestbox efforts in any way.

## Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Stock Dove</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>EH28369</b>	<b>30/04/2003</b>	<b>N02</b>

Stock Doves have a very long breeding season although, until this year, they have not begun to nest particularly early. This is the first time that a Stock Dove has been the first nestling to be ringed in the year. The earliest previous Stock Dove nestling ringed was 12 May in 2002. There could well have been an even earlier brood but for the unwanted attention of grey squirrels which destroyed at least two other early nests.

<b>Blackbird</b>	<b>6M</b>	<b>RH94701</b>	<b>04/05/2003</b>	<b>D10</b>
------------------	-----------	----------------	-------------------	------------

Where do they go? We ringed this bird, age code 5, in breeding condition in D09, in one of our standard nets, in April 1999. He was not retrapped until June 2002 in the net adjacent to his first capture position, even though nets are set in that site five times each year. Today he was trapped a mere 20 m from where we first trapped him four years ago.

<b>Chiffchaff</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5Z1427</b>	<b>30/03/2003</b>	<b>K04</b>
-------------------	----------	---------------	-------------------	------------

The first Chiffchaff song was heard on 19<sup>th</sup> March. We had to wait until today for the first captures. This recapture from 2002 had been ringed last May and retrapped in June in the central part of the wood. The same morning we trapped another 8 new Chiffchaffs. This large catch equalled half of the total number ever trapped by us in March. Although this is far from our earliest capture, they certainly seem to have arrived in large numbers.

**Blackcap**                      **4M**            **P400773**      **30/04/2003**      **Q02 Feeder**

Whether this Blackcap was caught at the feeder because he was taking food from it or because he was passing by and was a 'collateral' capture, is not clear. He is our first Blackcap recapture this year from previous years, having been ringed nearby as an adult in P01 in May 2002.

**Blackcap**                      **6M**            **R502551**      **30/03/2003**      **K00**

Our earliest ever Blackcap capture - the only one we have ever handled in March. (Twitter 1995, Issue 4 contained a table of earliest and latest dates of Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs.)

**Willow Tit**                      **6**              **N305744**      **16/03/2003**      **R-1**

A 'northern' Willow Tit, strictly confined to the higher latitudes of the wood. Willow Tits usually rove widely within a strictly defined area. Our adult birds generally stay to one side or other of Norman's Ride (east-west through row H). This bird seems to be even more sedentary than most of the species. We ringed it as a young juvenile in August 1998 in N-1. Since then we have trapped it 28 times but always in blocks A and B or else at the feeder immediately adjacent to block B.

**Coal Tit**                      **6F**            **N645232**      **23/04/2003**      **L07 On nest**

Our early bird, nesting in the box that held the earliest tit nests in 2001 and 2002. Unfortunately in neither of those years did we establish for certain that it was her nest (although she was mist netted near it in 2002). In 2000 she nested in a box about 20 m away from this box (again an early nest). She is one of our 1999 nestling-ringed cohort and has moved from her natal site in D05 to the north-east corner of the wood.

**Blue Tit**                      **6F**            **N459951**      **07/05/2003**      **G03 On nest**

Our Blue Tits often use the same nestbox in two successive years, or more if they live long enough. This is one such bird. She is one of our nestbox-bred birds, ringed in June 2001 in O01. That makes the breeding dispersal distance about 450 m. On the same day we also found one of her offspring from 2002 (R123758) nesting in a box in N05, again a distance of a little under half a kilometre from her natal site.

**Nuthatch**                      **4M**            **VS50778**      **30/04/2003**      **Q02 Feeder**

Our first Nuthatch to be ringed since the autumn and, unlike so many, one with clearly marked plumage that made determination of its sex very easy indeed.

**Chaffinch**                      **6M**            **K720635**      **27/04/2003**      **Q02 Feeder**

We had not seen this 1999 ringed bird since trapping him in June 2000 in L02. In spite of his age - he is now 5 years old, the markings on his tertials were very pale, more like those of a juvenile. These pale edges were, however, very sharply edged. Agers be warned.

**Bullfinch**                      **6M**            **N275319**      **11/05/2003**      **N01**

Caught in exactly the same net as when it was first trapped as a juvenile in October 1999. This is the first time we have retrapped him since October 2000. Our Bullfinch population is far lower than in former years - only one CBC territory was recorded last year. Whatever the cause of the decline, this bird would have us believe that it is not caused by low adult survival.

**Controls and recoveries**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Age/sex</b>	<b>Ring</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Grid</b>
<b>Dunnock</b>	<b>6F</b>	<b>N275415</b>	<b>18/03/2003</b>	<b>R-1 Road casualty</b>

It is always worth looking for bird corpses on the road near the wood (or anywhere else, for that matter) to see if the bird wears a ring. This one was killed by a car sometime in the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Her freshly dead body was found at mid-day having not been there at 08:00. She was a local bird, ringed on 30/01/2000 at the feeders (Q02) and recaptured there or nearby six times, at least once in each year. She was one of our problem birds, giving us difficulty with ageing. Even as an adult her plumage had some juvenile characteristics. Her plumage was not damaged in the impact with the car so she will be given to the Natural History Museum for their skin collection, together with copious notes explaining peculiarities of her plumage.

**Willow Tit**                      **4**              **P671338**      **27/04/2003**      **N03**

This is the second Willow Tit we have controlled in the last few months (See Twitter 39 for the previous one). Prior to that we had not captured any Willow Tits ringed elsewhere, although one of ours ringed in 1982 was captured the following year in Gamston Wood. It was ringed by Mike Archer in Rampton on 27/1/2003. Although Rampton is less than 3.5k away, it is rare to find Willow Tits moving such a distance.

**Blue Tit                      6F            P400648      18/05/2003      B08 On nest**

Predation at nests by weasels and wood mice seems to be a little higher this year than normal. This bird was the victim of a weasel which killed her on the nest and destroyed her young. She was ringed on 03/02/2002 in D08 and then found nesting in a box in C09 on 01/05/2002.

**Great Tit                      5F            R017309      30/03/2003      Q02 Feeder**

One of Peter Cobb's Darlton birds. He ringed this six weeks before at Darlton Grange on 12/02/2003. Each spring we enjoy a large influx of Great Tits into the wood. We have little idea of their origins, although occasionally we have recaptured some of our own previous summer birds which have been found elsewhere in between. This control throws little light on the source of the influx. It could have been a fairly local bird, perhaps reared near Darlton, or else a bird from a greater distance which Peter intercepted on its journey towards Treswell.

**Chaffinch                      5F            R123946      25/03/2003      Rampton**

Another local movement of one of our Chaffinches. We ringed this one on 18/08/2002 and retrapped her in the wood on 08/09/2002 and 17/11/2002.

**10 Week Summary - Captures in Standard Sites**

2003, Interval 2. Visits 1587, 1584, 1581, 1583, 1582, 1585, 1588

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	1	3	.	3	2	.	9
Dunnoek	1	3	.	.	2	.	6
Robin	3	3	.	3	2	.	11
Blackbird	1	2	.	1	1	.	5
Song Thrush	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Blackcap	2	4	.	1	.	.	7
Chiffchaff	3	5	.	1	1	.	10
Goldcrest	.	3	.	.	1	.	4
Long-tailed Tit	5	.	.	5	.	.	10
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	2	1	.	3
Willow Tit	.	.	.	2	4	.	6
Blue Tit	1	6	.	6	4	.	17
Great Tit	.	4	.	1	7	.	12
Treecreeper	.	.	.	5	2	.	7
Chaffinch	2	1	.	2	.	.	5
Bullfinch	.	1	.	1	.	.	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>116</b>

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

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>Averages</b>						
1978/9	98	123	212	157	127	718
1980/4	85	116	179	138	138	656
1985/9	98	117	189	135	115	655
<b>Annual data</b>						
Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1999	88	96	140	113	163	600
2000	75	106	106	159	170	616
2001	(57)	(33)	94	121	59	(364)
2002	85	89	141	176	117	608
2003	117	<b>116</b>	---	---	---	<b>(233)</b>

Note: Bracketed numbers represent incomplete data sets and are not included in summary figures below. Incomplete data sets in 2001 result from foot and mouth restrictions.

**Summary data 1978 - 2002**

<b>Minimum</b>	59	57	94	68	59	422
<b>Mean</b>	87	105	165	142	127	623
<b>Maximum</b>	124	145	288	253	177	865