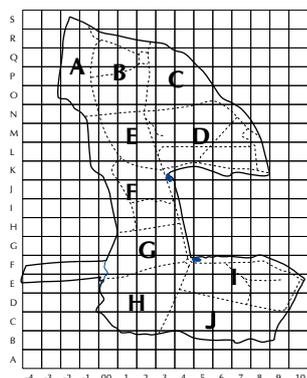


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

December 2008 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

Project leaders:

CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringling John McMeeking

2008/5

Number 70



Year summary

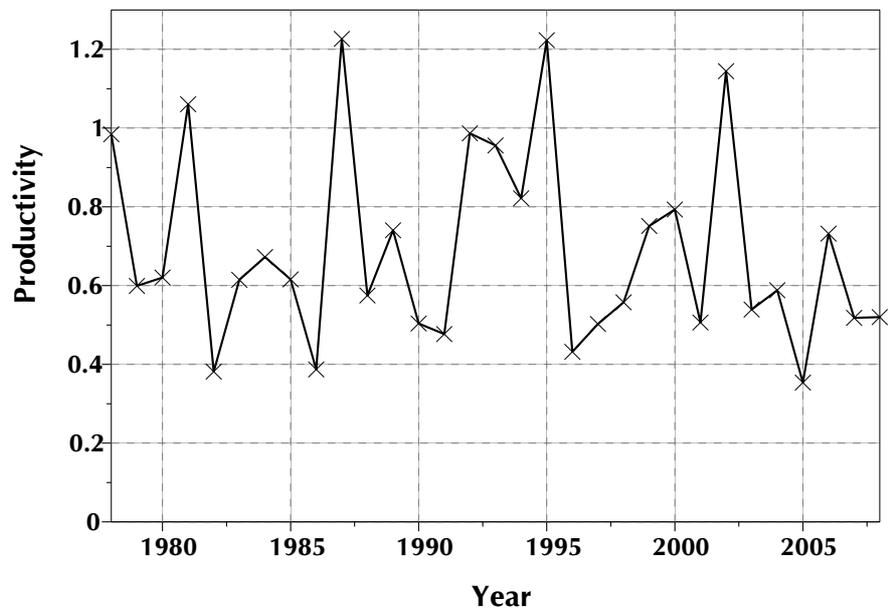
In spite of the very poor breeding season, our standard site capture numbers for the year are only a little below average and, surprisingly, above the average for the previous decade. This might seem good news but it must be remembered that our catches in the early part of the year were well above average. The dismal breeding

Annual Summary - All ringing records 2008

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Recvs.	Othr	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Kestrel	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Stock Dove	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Woodpigeon	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tawny Owl	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	3	2	.	23	.	.	.	28	
Wren	.	30	39	11	53	18	.	1	152	
Dunnock	.	17	13	.	20	5	.	1	56	
Robin	.	32	66	5	83	34	6	.	226	
Blackbird	.	40	14	.	63	9	.	.	126	
Song Thrush	.	10	2	.	7	.	.	.	19	
Mistle Thrush	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Lesser Whitethroat	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	32	12	.	22	13	.	.	79	
Chiffchaff	.	18	7	.	18	3	.	.	46	
Willow Warbler	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	22	54	.	31	5	.	.	112	
Spotted Flycatcher	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Long-tailed Tit	.	18	11	.	53	1	.	.	83	
Marsh Tit	.	1	1	.	23	2	1	1	29	
Willow Tit	.	.	2	.	15	1	.	.	18	
Coal Tit	.	4	12	21	89	3	.	1	144	
Blue Tit	6	47	23	31	293	20	.	3	430	
Great Tit	5	61	16	66	315	44	.	2	516	
Nuthatch	.	5	2	.	21	1	.	.	29	
Treecreeper	.	4	14	.	30	1	.	.	49	
Jay	.	1	1	.	2	.	.	.	4	
Chaffinch	.	38	23	.	83	11	.	1	156	
Greenfinch	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldfinch	.	4	.	.	1	.	.	.	5	
Bullfinch	.	20	18	.	14	2	.	.	54	
Totals	11	417	332	136	1259	173	7	10	2373	

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

performance and consequent lack of juveniles has pulled this promising number downwards. What would be interesting (if someone has the time) would be to do a full examination of some measure of productivity over the 31 years of constant effort netting. A very simple measure is just the ratio of juvenile captures in intervals three and four to the number of adult captures in the second and third intervals. The result of this does show a great deal of annual variation with the final two years being low, but not unprecedentedly so. The last year of really good productivity was 2002. Interestingly, although the overall trend is slightly downwards, it is not significantly so. A good season in 2009 could be enough to alter this apparent overall declining trend.

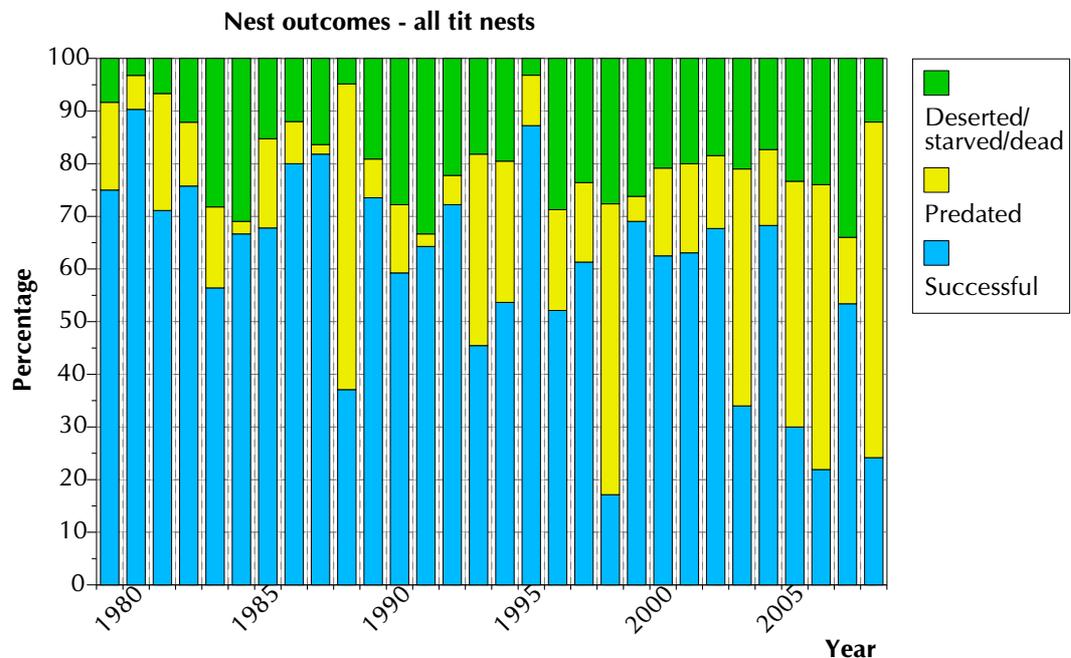


Our total number of encounter records with birds, 2373, is also rather down on typical. This number, however, is not just a product of bird abundance, it also depends on our activity. Again, it would be interesting to compare these total encounter numbers with some measure of our activity. And, talking of our activity, we are delighted to be able to welcome Dan Bardsley to the rank of A permit holder and both Gill Bardsley and Jo Surgery to that of C permit. Congratulations to all of you.

Another look at the nestbox results from summer 2008

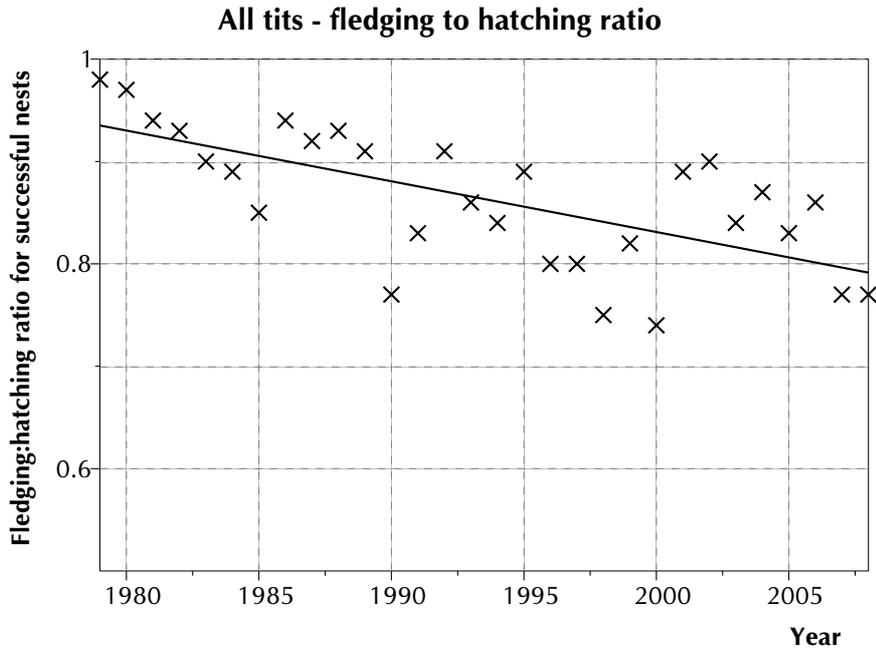
As it is time to get the boxes ready for the new season I thought it would be worth another look at last year's depressing results to see if there are things we should be doing this year to help the birds.

The adjacent chart summarises the tit nest results where eggs were laid for the wood last summer, and puts them in the context of previous years' results. As has already been reported in the August Twitter (68), it was a very bad year for the tits. Looking at the chart, it is worrying to see that of the seven years with a success rate of below 50%, four have been in the last six years. Note that a nest is counted a success as long as at least one bird fledges from it.



The main problem in 2008 was predation. Some of the boxes had been suspended with a disc to prevent weasel and mouse access. These have been successful, but are harder for the nestboxers to access and suitable sites to hang them are difficult to find. More will be added this year and we are also looking at testing various other types of anti-predator devices.

One other dismal result last year was the number of chicks dying in the nest, apparently from lack of food. To see if this is part of a trend, the fledging to hatching ratio over time gives an indication of how successful the parents are in raising their chicks. By looking only at successful nests, predation does not affect the result.



This, unfortunately, shows a steady decline over the years, with the last two years being particularly bad. Twitter 39 had an earlier analysis, for Blue Tits only, showing a decline in the numbers of nestlings fledged from all nests - successful or not. The cause appeared to be more failure of complete clutches rather than lower clutch size, lower hatching success or even increased partial mortality within broods. Grey squirrels, woodpeckers, weasels and weather can all contribute to total nest failure.

When the CBC results for 2008 are available, I will update the work and look further into the situation.

John Clark

2009 - a year of data analysis and computerisation?

The dataset we have accumulated over the past nearly 40 years contains a treasure house of unexplored material. Much of it is computerised giving a good start for analysts in their work. From time to time we have made suggestions in Twitter about useful lines of investigation that could be followed but we are painfully aware that our efforts have produced a wonderful data set crying out to be used. We have produced a few papers of our own, and are continuing to do so; we have contributed our data to several collaborative studies which have, again, resulted in some papers; we have our data in use by a number of students; our data also have been used as part of various BTO analyses - Atlas, CES, Nest Records, CBC. But there is scope for much more to be done. Volunteers are welcome - ideas for analyses are abundant; many have been mentioned in past issues of Twitter and many more reside in John McMeeking's brain cells.

Analyses of such large data sets require computerised data. We have made very good progress towards the full computerisation of our data set. 2008 has seen a major step in our data archiving. As we reported earlier, our historical files of field sheets have all been scanned and the originals lodged with the Nottinghamshire County Archives. One major computerisation operation is to enter the 'background notes' from mist-netting visits. These notes include casual observations of other species, weather, mist net types and times of operation etc. Once these are computerised as text files, searching for any key words is a very simple matter indeed. This used to be a specialist field of computing called free-text retrieval but that facility is now available to all in the form of the 'Search' or 'Find' button in bog-standard word-processing software. During 2008 the first year's background notes to have been entered from a scanned master copy have been completed. This is quite a relief - until that was done we were not completely sure that scanned images would be up to the job. They are! Thanks to Steve Wain for doing all the scanning, to Jo Surgey for being the text-entry-from-scanned-images guinea pig and to the county archivist for storing our original field sheets in perpetuity.

Twitter No. 68 contained a table showing what we had done and what was still to be done. Any volunteers for any of these operations would be welcomed with open arms.

Common Bird Census maps

Steve Wain has committed all the CBC maps to computer and these images have been available on CD for some time. Some people, however, like to have printed copies of the fruits of all their hard work rather than just examining maps through a web browser on the computer. If any of the CBC workers (or anyone else for that matter) would like a year's set of CBC maps in one printable document on a CD, please contact Chris or Steve and your wishes will come true.

BTO Atlas - can you help?

Most readers will be aware of the four-year BTO Atlas project which is now in its second season (for more details look at the Atlas pages on the BTO web site at www.bto.org). Our data will be used in this project because, unlike with previous atlas projects, the technology is now available to draw information from many sources rather than just from specific atlas recording. This means our ringing data, nest records, casual observations and CBC data will all contribute. This atlas project will document both breeding and winter distributions and will also produce some

estimates of bird abundance (among other things). It is a very expensive project and, as with the Migration Atlas of a few years ago, the BTO is raising some funding for it by asking for sponsorship of bird species by individuals or groups. The Treswell Wood team did succeed in the auction for the Treecreeper in the Migration Atlas and we would like to sponsor the same, special Treswell species for this atlas. The BTO team has agreed to reserve the species for us, confident in our assurances that we will be able to make a sufficiently large donation (the going rate for such species £2000). Twitter is circulated to a large number of interested people and we hope that some of you will be happy to make a contribution to our sponsorship of the Treecreeper. Donations can be made directly to the BTO or, if you prefer, via John McMeeking. If you send a cheque to the BTO, mark it for the attention of Graham Appleton (BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU) and state that it is specifically for Treswell's Treecreeper sponsorship. It would also be helpful to say whether the BTO can also claim back tax under the gift aid scheme. There is also opportunity to donate to the Atlas on-line. At the moment there is no facility for on-line donations to be made specifically for the Treecreeper, but we hope there will be shortly. We will send an email as soon as that automatic system is set up for us. As there are still more than two years to run, we should be able to raise sufficient money. We will, of course, include an update of the total received so far in each issue of Twitter until the project is completed.

Many thanks for all your continuing support of the work of the team whether it be in the wood, elsewhere or in any donations you make.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Sparrowhawk	6M	DA51893	30/12/2008	Q02 Feeder

Our first, and last, Sparrowhawk for the year. It was, unusually, for us, not a first-year male. Instead it had full adult grey plumage with deep orange eye colouration. A fine bird although its presence at the feeding station might help explain the absence of other birds there.

Great Spotted Woodpecker	2M	CT84206	31/12/2008	P00 Feeder
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The BTO is now revising the non-passerine ageing and sexing guide. We have compiled a great deal of information about ageing this species - mostly from years of experience of mis-ageing adult birds as juveniles. Various notes about the subject have appeared in previous issues of Twitter. We also spent a day in the Natural History Museum skin collection examining the species. This bird which we ringed in as a red-capped juvenile in 2005, and another adult recaptured the previous week, have been particularly useful in helping confirm ideas. Essentially, after the post-juvenile moult some birds may retain tracts, or part tracts of juvenile wing covert feathers. Any bird with old, brown greater or median and greater coverts can safely be aged as a juvenile, code 3/5. The replacement of primary coverts, however, seems to be completely unpredictable and adults can be found with a clear contrast between a complete set of old primary coverts and replaced other wing coverts. Spots on primary tips are, likewise, no guide at all with birds of all ages having, or not having, spots on some, or most primaries. In the absence of clear identification as a juvenile (because of contrast between greater and other coverts) birds should be given the unknown age code 2 (or 4 in the spring).

Jay	3	DA51891	12/10/2008	L04
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Our third Jay of the year. We retrapped it two weeks later about 100 metres from its initial point of capture - rather shorter a distance than our Jay of 2007 which had been ringed as far away as Manchester (Twitter 67) and merited an entry in the BTO annual ringing report.

Robin	3	V666752	26/10/2008	K00
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The second individual to be retrapped from this year's single brood of Robins to be ringed. Only a small sample, of course, but 40% is a very high recapture rate for small passerines species.

Robin	4	R502768	9/11/2008	M07
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Robins, like Treecreepers can be very sedentary. However, they differ in the range of their local movements. Robins hold their small territories aggressively and rarely stray from them. Treecreepers, in spite of their tiny size, have very large territories and rove widely within them and probably into neighbouring territories too. Compare the known ranges of this bird (which is typical for adults Robins) with that of Treecreeper 5Z1452 (also typical for Treecreepers).

Coal Tit	4	V475417	19/12/2008	M01 Feeder
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What a relatively good autumn it has been for Coal Tits. They have seemed to be more common than usual in gardens locally as well as here in the wood. The graph shows how the proportions of captures of the three most common tits at feeders during the last three months of the year has varied. Although the proportion of Coal Tits is not unprecedentedly great this year, there is a clear increasing trend in time. (Note that, for some reason, we did

not do any trapping at feeding stations during the autumn of 1990.)

Great Tit 4F

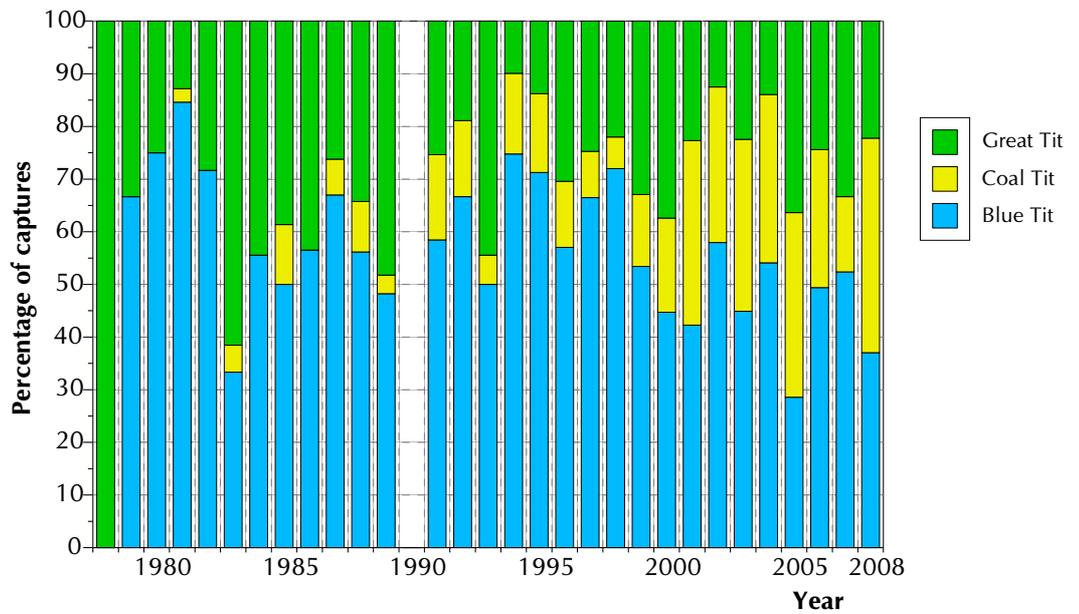
TC61418 11/12/2008

P-2 Roosting

This one of our 2006 nestling-ringed birds now with a respectable capture history giving details of post-juvenile moult, breeding activity, adult moult and roosting in boxes. It is a product of the south of the wood but seems to have settled in the north, never having been captured more than 150 metres

from the north edge of the wood. On this occasion it was roosting in a box where we had found it both nesting and roosting in during 2007. There were very few birds indeed to be found roosting in boxes (perhaps not unexpected with the low number of birds apparently in the wood after such a terrible breeding season). One surprise was TC61419, a brother of this bird, roosting in a box in the south of the wood. It is tempting to draw conclusions from just two birds, but Great Tit males are supposed to disperse less far from the nest than females - and here we have a demonstration of that.

Captures of tits at feeders - October to December



Willow Tit 3

V475719

9/11/2008

N06

This is one of the very few juvenile Willow Tits we have ringed this year. Like many others in the past, its first capture was in the south of the wood. Thereafter it moved over the unseen border across the centre of the wood to the other side, where it has remained to be captured another 5 times.

Long-tailed Tit 2

AJD400

26/10/2008

K00

Long-tailed Tits can be very long-lived for such small birds. This one is now entering at least its fifth winter - we first trapped it in the spring of 2004 and have seen it a dozen times since then, capturing it at least once in each year with captures at all times of the year except during the moult period. Also caught three weeks later was a similarly aged Long-tailed Tit, AJD378.

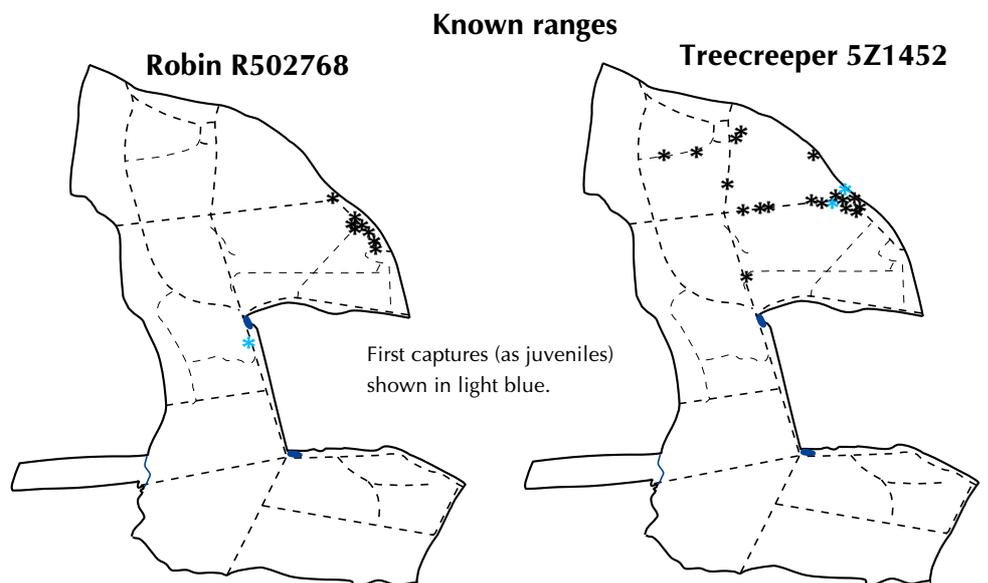
Treecreeper 4

5Z1452

9/11/2008

N06

Another old friend at 6 years and 141 days since ringing. It has a longer capture history than the Robin R502768, noted above. However, the number of captures of this bird is greater per year of its life. Why? Robin territories will cover only a small part of one of our standard netting sites. Treecreeper home ranges may cover three or four standard sites, not to mention non-standard netting places too. In any ten-week period we have more chances to catch them than Robins which may have home ranges which are netted only once during that cycle of visits.



Nuthatch 2M TC61300 30/11/2008 C09

We continue to catch this species - this is the 29th capture this year. What a change from the 'good old days' when this attractive bird did not grace the wood with its presence. For the record, our first Nuthatch capture was in 1981 and we enjoyed an average of four captures per year from then until 1987. After that they were not caught again until 1995 from which year we made an average of 15 captures per year. In 2000 we captured none at all (although we continued to hear them calling) and, from 2001 onwards we have enjoyed an average of 16 captures per year.

Controls and recoveries

A goodly collection of movements are noted here. A few should have been reported earlier but have surfaced in the end-of-year heap. Another batch are local movements between the wood and nearby villages.

Species Age/sex Ring Date Grid

Coal Tit 4F R353174 28/5/2008 N06 Dead in nestbox

Ringed in 2005 as a juvenile and recaptured since then 5 times. Another presumed victim of our weasels of mass destruction.

Blue Tit 4F V475557 9/5/2008 O00 Dead in nestbox

Part of our 2008 spring influx of tits. Unusually for influx birds, it was an adult rather than first breeding season bird. Yet another victim of the nestbox predators.

Blue Tit 5 X027513 06/02/2008 Q02 Feeder

This year we enjoyed a rather earlier than usual spring influx of tits which included a greater proportion of Blue Tits than usual. A few of these birds had a history. This was ringed by North Notts Ringing Group at Headon 1/1/2008

Movements from Treswell Wood to Hillcrest Farm, Treswell

Species	Age	Ring	Ringing date	Recapture date	Notes
Great Tit	3J	TJ49649	11/6/2008	28/8/2008	
Blue Tit	3J	V475746	11/7/2008	28/8/2008	
Great Tit	3J	V475500	30/1/2008	28/8/2008	
Blue Tit	3J	V475857	24/9/2008	28/10/2008	Returned 14/1/2009
Blue Tit	1	V666619	20/5/2007	8/10/2008	
Great Tit	1	TJ49649	12/6/2008	26/11/2008	
Blue Tit	4	V475888	16/11/2008	19/12/2008	
Great Tit	4M	V475819	28/8/2008	3/11/2008	Returned 14/12/2008
Great Tit	3F	V475876	4/11/2008	19/12/2008	Returned 14/1/2009

Movements from Hillcrest Farm, Treswell to Treswell Wood.

Species	Age	Ring	Ringing date	Recapture date	Notes
Blue Tit	3	V414593	3/11/2008	30/11/2008	
Great Tit	3M	V414562	8/10/2008	28/12/2008	

Movements from other villages to to Treswell Wood.

Species	Age	Ring	Ringing date	Recapture date	Notes
Great Tit	3F	C367590	27/10/2008	9/11/2008	From Rampton

10 Week Summary 2008 Interval , Captures in Standard Sites

Visits: 1939, 1933, 1931, 1932, 1936, 1934, 1941

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	1	.	3	1	.	3	8
Dunnock	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Robin	.	.	3	4	.	7	14
Blackbird	2	.	1	5	.	1	9
Goldcrest	3	.	8	.	.	4	15
Long-tailed Tit	6	.	.	10	.	.	16
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
Willow Tit	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Coal Tit	.	.	2	1	.	2	5
Blue Tit	3	.	1	7	.	1	12
Great Tit	1	.	.	3	.	1	5
Treecreeper	1	.	2	4	.	.	7
Jay	1	.	.	.	.	1	2
Bullfinch	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Totals	20	.	21	38	.	21	100

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Recent years' totals

Interval	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1978	101	131	243	223	131	829
1979	97	115	211	91	123	637
1980	86	102	210	147	170	715
1981	102	110	288	188	177	865
1982	66	113	165	89	110	543
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	98	74	127	421
1992	64	64	115	223	159	625
1993	81	70	112	158	126	547
1994	88	109	212	155	157	721
1995	91	124	240	253	104	812
1996	95	121	128	116	97	557
1997	59	99	126	98	98	480
1998	78	84	116	80	106	464
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	116	146	104	114	597
2004	103	128	126	165	132	654
2005	107	140	150	88	133	618
2006	128	98	185	125	166	702
2007	107	110	138	73	92	520
2008	125	130	151	86	100	592

Summary Data since standard site netting began in 1978

Maximum	128	145	288	253	177	865
Minimum	59	64	98	68	59	364
Mean	91	107	163	135	127	622

Treswell Wood Integrated Population Monitoring Group - TWIG

TWIG does not have a formal membership list. 'Membership' seems to result from being involved in some way with the group's work. The list below includes all those who have helped in any way during 2007. (Apologies if any names have been omitted.) We are very grateful to all members for their contributions in the wood or elsewhere. We look forward to another productive year in 2009.

Treswell Wood IPM Group members 2008

Rob Atkinson	Notts Wildlife Trust	Phil May	Scottish correspondent
Mike Archer	Data entry	Clive McCormack	Ringling
Dan Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	John McMeeking	Ringling
Gill Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Lottie Morrell	Nottingham University
Dave Barritt	Ringling	Carrie Musson	Nottingham University
John Bartley	CBC, Nestboxes, Mammal recording	Tim Newbould	Nottingham University
Pat Bartley	CBC	Peter Phillips	Ringling
Jerzy Behnke	Mites	Margaret Price	CBC founder (died March 1 st)
Ben Bower	Ringling	Pat Quinn-Catling	CBC co-ordinator
Kyle Campbell	Ringling	Cassandra Raby	Nottingham University project
John Clark	Ringling, Nestboxes	Tom Reader	Nottingham University
Peter Cobb	Ringling	Finn Stewart	RSPB Willow Tit project
Roger Cottis	Mammal advice	Jo Surgey	Ringling
Ted Cowley	Ringling	Neil Taylor	Ringling
Charles Deeming	Lincoln University - egg research	David Thompson	Data analysis
Paul Eady	Lincoln University	Frank Tillotson	CBC
Andy Edwardes	Nestbox making	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Lucy de Wesselow	Nottingham University project	Dave Valentine	Woodland management
Chris du Feu	Ringling, Nestboxes,	Steve Wain	Ringling, Data processing, 'Bible' production
Richard du Feu	Ringling, Data processing	Alice Warburton	Nottingham University
Haydn Griffiths-Jones	Nottingham University	Robin Ward	Data analysis
Chris Holliland	Mammals, Dormouse boxes	Visitors:	Harris & Lochlan Campbell, Clays Cloggers
Katy Holvey	Nottingham University project		
George Hudson	CBC		
Richard Johnson	CBC		
Andy Kirk	Ringling		
Tony Kennedy	Woodland management		
Ulli Langemann	Foreign correspondent		
Sarah Lewis	Nottingham University		
Ray Lister	Woodland management		
Stuart Martin	CBC		

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