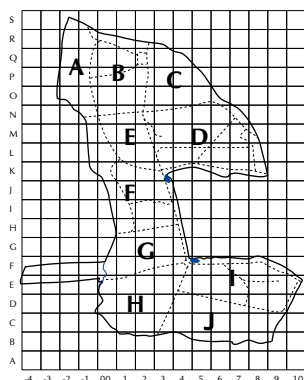


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

December 2002 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

Project leaders:

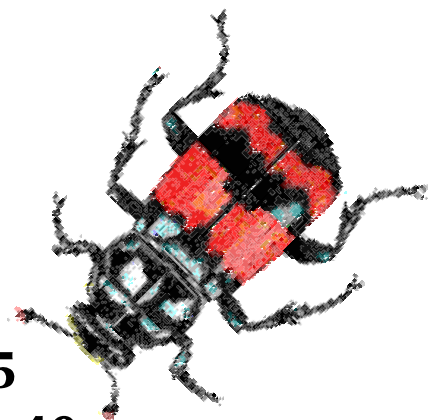
CBC Margaret Price

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringling John McMeeking

2002/5

Number 40



The last part of the year was very wet indeed. This caused some difficulty in maintaining the continuity of visits to our standard sites with an unprecedented five Sundays completely inoperable because of the heavy rain. On December 22nd, with only two weekends left and three standard sites still unvisited, we managed to operate on two of these simultaneously - thanks to all the ringers who turned up to brave the mud and darkness. The next visit was scheduled for December 30th but again, rain intervened. We did manage the full final visit on December 31st with only a few minutes of light rain. The year's quota of standard site visits was completed - but only just. In spite of the wetness, Goldcrests were caught in large numbers, Coal Tits too continue to be captured more often than usual in the standard nets. Wrens, on the other hand, are down in numbers in spite of the very mild weather.

The 30th anniversary of John's first ever visit fell on December 17th. By happy coincidence, it was the right day for the monthly winter round of nestboxes to search for roosting birds so the exact anniversary was marked by some ornithological activity in the wood. A memorable event - are there any other sites in the country with 30 continuous years of bird ringing throughout the year?

The total captures for the year, in standard sites, was just a little below the overall average since 1978. However, since recent years have been rather poor, 2002 has proved to be one of the better recent years. Of note are the record number of Stock Dove nestlings ringed and the very high number of Coal Tit captures. Sadly the Willow Warbler numbers remain very low and the Garden Warbler number has sunk to its lowest ever. Song Thrushes seem to be at least stable and Wren numbers are creeping up year by year.

We have recorded one new species of bird in the wood. On November 13th John Bartley saw a Grey Wagtail at the Piccadilly Pond (F04). It remained there for some time, first hopping around the muddy edges searching for prey, then it perched on a low branch preening before hunting prey again at the water's edge. Although this is only a small pond, it has previously given us other interesting records of waterside birds. These have included a Kingfisher which Eirllys Gilbert saw some years ago, perched on a branch above the pond, apparently watching for prey.

30th Anniversary Dinner

Our thanks are due to Neil Taylor who masterminded this most enjoyable event. Neil writes:

The celebratory dinner for 30 years ringing and census work was held on November 15th 2002 at the South Forest Leisure Complex and was attended by 27 members and friends. The Group was particularly pleased to welcome Dr Jeremy Greenwood and Dawn Balmer from BTO and Dr Will Peach from the RSPB. After the meal had been eaten, Jeremy addressed the group. He was very complimentary about the work carried out by the ringers and census workers over the past 30 years, and explained how important the computerised information now available was for research. Jeremy highlighted the huge benefits which accrue from having IPM records rather than just ringing, or just CBC maps, or just nest recording. He did note that our ornithological information, now covering 30 years, was a very important component of the conservation records the BTO has available. Jeremy finished by wishing the Group continuing success in future years. Our worthy Chairman, John McM, said how pleased he was to see so many friends and members enjoying the evening and paid tribute to all those who had helped over the past 30 years. John then spoke about Margaret Price who had been the leader of the CBC team in Treswell Wood for the past 30 years. Margaret had intimated this was the last year she would be able to be involved with the analysis. John was very pleased to present Margaret with a copy of the new Migration Atlas, fresh off the press to commemorate this. He thanked her most warmly for all the input she had made, particularly with the hundreds of maps she had prepared over the years.

*The evening did not end quietly. Dan Bardsley was unable to find his car and reported it as stolen. The following morning he returned to examine CCTV tapes of the car park and discovered, to his great embarrassment, that the Leisure Complex has two car parks. Oops! The writer can confirm that over-indulging the drinking elbow was **not** the cause of this aberration.*

Treswell Wood CBC 2002 - Notes from Margaret Price

When I had completed the 2002 species maps, Wrens and Robins seemed to be flourishing but Blue Tits much thinner on the ground than usual. This agrees with the findings of the ringers. Song Thrushes appeared to have enjoyed a reasonably good season so we await the BTO's estimates with interest.

After the Treswell Wood IPM Group's dinner, I was presented with a copy of the BTO Migration Atlas in recognition of my 30 years on the job. (In fact I was given a mock-up because the real thing had not yet been received from the printers. This was just as well because it was light and easy to hold when being photographed. I must weigh the real 5 centimetre-thick book which has now reached me.) I would like to say 'Thank-you.' to those who organised this very welcome present.

When I was doing the 2002 species maps, I kept remembering myself walking around the wood doing the census, the entries brought back the great pleasure which listening to bird song and seeing the flowers had given me. But time marches on and I felt that I could not be sure that when next autumn arrives I would have the energy to prepare the maps. That being so, I have asked John McMeeking to find someone to take my place, preferably before the 2003 breeding season begins. I am sorry to give up my work for the IPM group but I hope someone will volunteer to do the job and so maintain a most worthwhile activity.

Footnote from Chris To save Margaret the work, I have weighed the new Migration Atlas. It is a little over 4 kilograms and this is more-or-less the same as the total mass of all the Treecreepers we have ever ringed in Treswell Wood (4.042 kg excluding the handful of birds which were released unweighed).

Now that Margaret is retiring we need a new person to compile the CBC visit details into species maps. Are there any volunteers for this important task?

Sequential Occupancy of Nestboxes

In the BTO New Atlas of breeding birds (1988 - 1991) Chris Mead wrote, in the account of Stock Dove, *It is theoretically possible for one of these predators (Barn Owl, Tawny Owl or Kestrel) to raise a brood early in the year and for a pair of Stock Doves then to raise a couple of broods in the same box.* This year, we have seen just that, although our birds did rather better than the couple of broods suggested. In box 78 a Tawny Owl raised two young (and also provided us with confirmation of at least one Dormouse having survived the previous winter). This was followed by three successive broods of Stock Doves with 1, 2 and 2 young fledging respectively. In addition, the other Tawny Owl nest for the year, in box 0U, was followed by a single Stock Dove nest although this was not successful. David Glue thinks that having multiple broods of Stock Doves following a Tawny Owl brood in the same box is not unprecedented, although he cannot recall exactly the details of any previous records.

Great Tit Nestlings

We know how many Great Tits fledge from our boxes but we have little idea how many fledge from nests in the wood in natural sites. We do know we catch many unringed juveniles during the summer and autumn but have no idea of their origins. It is possible to estimate population size from capture-recapture data and the analysis below may throw some light on our Great Tit juveniles. The estimates suggest an increasing population in July becoming fairly stable in August and September. There were very few captures in the following months and a worthwhile estimate is not possible. This suggests that there is an influx of juveniles from elsewhere during July (which is probably matched by a dispersal away by some of our box-reared juveniles). The June estimate of 149 birds fledged from nests in the wood is likely to be the one nearest to the actual number fledged. This suggests very rapid post-fledging dispersal and is in line with the behaviour of the Marsh Tit R123600 noted below.

In addition to this rapid post-fledging dispersal there also seems to be a later dispersal which leads to our regular February influx of new Great Tits. (However, this winter it may have started rather earlier - we have already controlled two Great Tits from Cottam. Their details are listed under Controls and Recoveries.)

Month	Recaptures	Juveniles trapped	Population estimate
June	19	27	149
July	22	40	221
August	13	24	194
September	12	25	220

The populations have been estimated using the Petersen Method. The population estimate is $\frac{(N \times M)}{R}$. Here, the first marked sample, N, is the collection of all ringed nestlings which fledge from our boxes. The second sample, M, consists of all Great Tit juveniles which we capture in mist nets in a particular month. R is the number of nestling-ringed birds which are recaptured in mist nets during that month.

Museum Specimens

From time to time we find dead creatures in good condition or invertebrates which need to be identified. In October we took a collection of them to Sheila Wright at Wollaton Hall and she has sent us details. The mammals will be stuffed for their collection. Dead mammals in good condition with known date and place of collection are always welcome. If you find any, tell John or Chris who will pass them on to Wollaton Hall. Likewise, good bird specimens are always in demand for the Natural History Museum skin collection.

Sheila wrote:

Many thanks for the material you brought in this morning - Don Sharp (the taxidermist) was delighted with the mammals, he said that most of them were in excellent condition. I've had a look at the insects, and they are as follows:

*Queen hornet (**Vespa crabro**)*

***Tipula vittata**. A local species of crane-fly in Notts - there are 5 or 6 old records given in Carr, one being for Treswell Wood (29.5.1899) - good to know it's still there more than a century later.*

***Pyrochroa serraticornis** - this is the usual Cardinal beetle that we find in Notts.*

*Three species of sexton beetle - **Nicrophorus humator** (the black one), **Nicrophorus vespilloides** (3 red and black ones), and **Oiceoptoma thoracicum** (reddy-brown thorax).*

***Pentatoma rufipes**, the Forest Bug. A common shield bug on oak and alder.*

Once again, many thanks for the specimens.

The crane fly had attracted our attention because of its size and blue cells on the wings. The three species of sexton beetle were all taken from the same nest box which held a smelly brood of dead Great Tits. The first two species are genuine, hard-working sexton beetles whose function in life is to bury the corpses of dead animals thereby giving their larvae a food source when they hatch from the eggs laid underground near the corpse. The third species is a 'cuckoo' of the sexton beetle world, coming to the dead carcass where it will find larvae of other scavengers on which to feed.

Mammal Larders

In Twitter 36 of January 2002, we gave details of the Water Shrew found dead in a nestbox. This was the first definite confirmation that the species lived (or had lived) in the wood. We presumed that it had left the frozen pond and taken to hunting in the undergrowth. Its searches took it to a nestbox where there would be invertebrate prey but cold and hunger had overcome it.

In November we found the bodies of two animals - a Great Tit and a vole (species yet to be confirmed) in the same box (95 in K03). A month later there was yet another vole dead in the box, together with the broken shells of some not-fully-grown *Cepaea* snails. We wonder now whether the shrew was a victim of whatever predator is using that box as its larder. As usual, I asked Roger Cottis, a mammal expert, for a comment. He replied:

Your mammal/bird finds are interesting. The only explanation I can think of, which fits the caching of small prey items, would be a weasel. They certainly cache food and are agile climbers. It would be worth making a note for the Natural History Museum to look for weasel canine marks when they process the skin of the Great Tit, similarly if you could look at the vole's neck for blood and puncture marks if it occurs again. Another thought, is to attach some narrow sticky strips around the entrance hole of that box in order to trap some hair, which could then be identified. (Consideration would be needed to prevent trapping the birds attempting to roost in the box.) Hope that helps.

This reply prompted a request to Sheila Wright at Wollaton Hall and she responded:

How interesting. Yes, we do still have the shrew in the freezer. We did not stuff it, as it seems to be a very unusually marked specimen. As you may recall, it was orangy underneath rather than the normal white. We wanted to do some tests first to see whether the colour was something it picked up in water - eg. a stain from algae, or whether it was genuine pigmentation. If the latter, these things are often more valuable to researchers frozen rather than mounted; also we would need to take photographs. When we eventually thaw it, we will certainly check to see if it has signs of a fight with a weasel - although I remember that it seemed to be in very good condition. Thanks for this information. Best wishes, Sheila

TRAMS

Neil has been gathering together various notes about ageing and sexing birds which we have published in Twitter. His first draft is now printed and includes details of the species which have given us most trouble over the years. He has printed enough copies for all the ringers who operate in the wood at present - ask him if you have not received one. This is only the first draft and he hopes to produce later editions which will include more details. He

will welcome any suggestions about the content and presentation which he can incorporate into the next edition. Some of the notes include things to investigate - e.g. shape of buff panels on Treecreeper primaries - rather than established facts. It is hoped that TRAMS will help stimulate improved ageing and sexing.

(TRAMS? Treswell Ringers Aide Memoire Service, of course.)

A permits

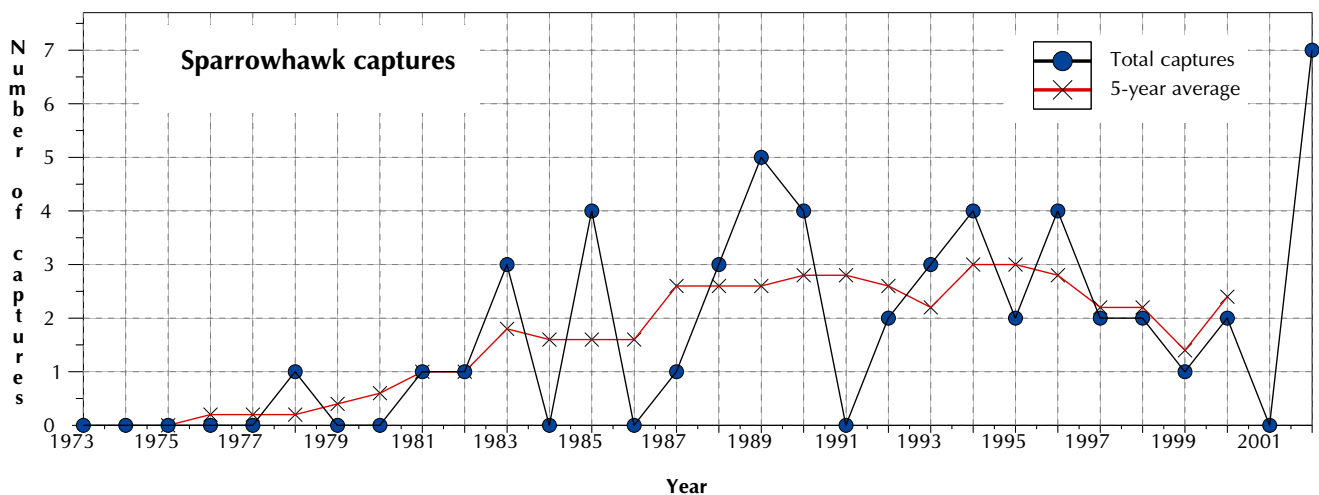
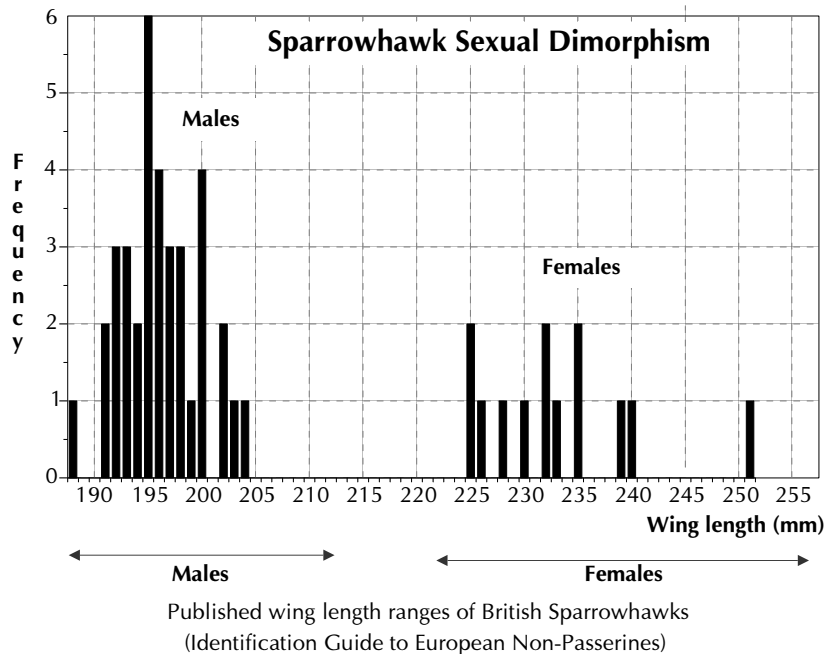
January brought good news for some of our team and former ringers in the wood. Their applications for full A ringing permits have been approved. Congratulations to Richard du Feu, Steve Wain and Peter Harrison. We wish them well in their ringing careers.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Sparrowhawk	3F	ES03300	3/11/2002	R00

The first of three Sparrowhawks ringed during November and December. This bird was very large with a wing of 251mm (11 mm longer than the previous record holder in the wood) and still only a first year bird. In contrast, our second bird (DA87113, 3M on 22/12/2002 in C03) was small, even for a male, with a wing of 190 mm. The third bird, DA87114 a juvenile male, was trapped on 31/12/2002 in N00. Sparrowhawks are the most sexually dimorphic of British birds. To illustrate this, the chart shows the wing measurements of all the Sparrowhawks we have caught. Observe the complete lack of overlap in measurements of the two sexes. The graph also indicates the range of wing lengths given in Kevin Baker's identification guide.

We first trapped a Sparrowhawk on visit 378 in 1978 and the next one was not caught until 1981. The graph below shows the steady increase in numbers captured over the years, together with a smoothed 5-year moving average graph which shows the underlying increase more clearly. These data are in line with the recolonisation of the area by Sparrowhawks since their lowest point (caused by persecution and pesticides in the 1960s). Whereas in the 1970s, the sight of a Sparrowhawk anywhere in the area was rare, nowadays they are so commonly seen that some garden birdwatchers rather resent their presence near the bird table. It is worth looking at the Sparrowhawk page on the BTO web site. Their national CBC population index graph is almost identical to our 5-year smoothed graph.



Great Spotted Woodpecker 3M CF40640 3/11/2002 Q02 Feeder

We continue to capture small numbers of these attractive birds, mostly at the feeders. This autumn we have ringed two new birds and recaptured only one. This was the first of the new birds, a rather scruffy-plumaged young male. Normally we would expect more recapture events than birds to ring.

Goldcrest 4M 9Z3086 15/12/2002 P01

This bird was ringed just over a year ago on 2/12/2001 in D03. We have only had thirteen previous between-winter captures of Goldcrests. Of these seven were retrapped in the following winter, five were retrapped in the second winter and one lasted through its third winter. (This latter bird seemed to be a resident, being ringed in August 1975 and last trapped in April 1978.) The Migration Atlas notes that adult Goldcrests may be more sedentary than first winter birds and this, in addition to the high mortality in the tiny species, will help to explain our lack of second winter retraps. The Atlas also notes the possibility that a large proportion (up to a third) of adult Goldcrests may be misaged as juveniles because their tail feather shape is not as rounded as the guide book would have us believe. We examined the tail feathers of this bird closely. They were certainly broader than those of juveniles but were also pointed at the ends rather than rounded as in the ageing and sexing guide.

Marsh Tit 4 N305747 15/12/2002 Q02 Feeder

Our fourteenth capture of this ageing little bird. The sedentary nature of the species may be seen from this one's movement history. Ringed as a juvenile in M02 in August 1998, we next trapped it in the north-west corner of the wood three months later. Thereafter we have only retrapped it in blocks A and B.

Marsh Tit 3 R123600 22/12/2002 B03

This bird was referred to, although not by ring number, in Twitter 38 in the note on separating juvenile Marsh and Willow Tits. It had fledged in from a box, during early May, in the north of the wood (O02) and was caught in mid-June in Nightingale Ride (D08) already in the company of another family party of Marsh Tits (female and two newly fledged offspring). We have observed before that juveniles of both these species are prepared to cross the boundary between north and south of the wood (ride F/G running through row H of our grid) but that adults have almost never been trapped on one side and then recaptured on the other. We presume that juveniles are taking part in local exploration before settling to a fairly rigidly fixed group territory. Since first retrapping R123600 in Nightingale Ride, we have trapped it again there in September and now nearby in B03. It seems its post juvenile dispersal was very rapid indeed, taking place within the first month after fledging.

Blue Tit 4 K463932 17/12/2002 N05 Roosting

This fine bird made its Twitter debut in number 15 - our 25th anniversary issue. Five years later it is still with us and is our most reliable nestbox rooster ever. We found the bird roosting again, for the eleventh time, in box 90. This captures include at least one each winter since we first ringed the bird as a juvenile in August 1996. In addition, we have trapped it eight times at the feeder but nowhere else apart from its first capture in O06.

Great Tit 4F K463701 20/11/2002 L04 Roosting

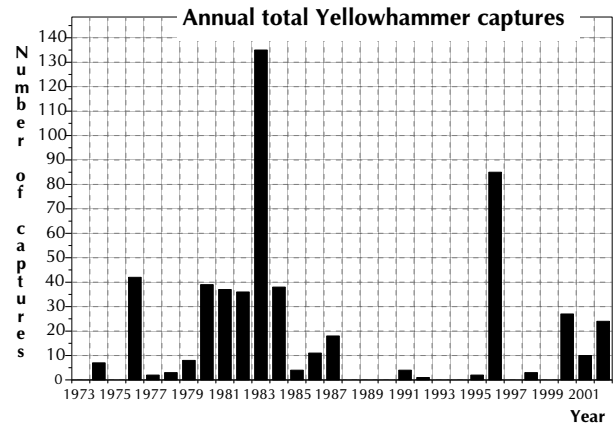
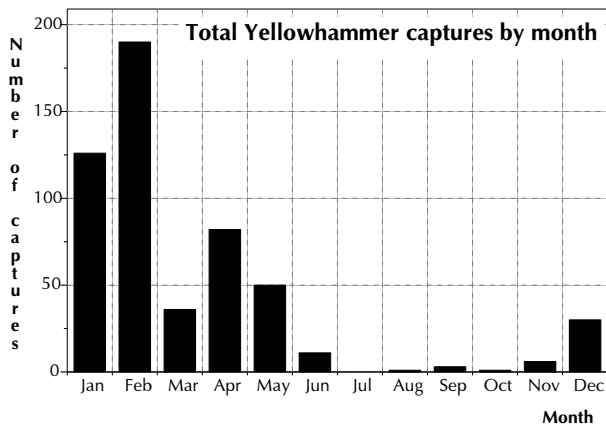
Ulli colour ringed this bird in March 1997 and this is our 25th record of her, including 5 sight records. She has always been seen or captured in the centre of the wood apart from a few captures at the feeder. She is still wearing her colour ring - a single ring with a red band over a yellow band on the right leg and a BTO metal ring on the left leg. Any further sightings of this 6½ year old veteran would be welcome.

Nuthatch 3M VR78771 24/11/2002 Q02 Feeder

Sometimes operation of Murphy's Law is suspended. Neil had brought an American 'bander' and her husband to see what went on in the wood. In the short time they were there they did see some familiar species (Brown Creeper and Black-capped Chickadee or something very similar), some less familiar species (the Finger-pecking Chickadee *Parus caeruleus* and British Robin) and two Nuthatches caught together. This capture of two Nuthatches together was a bonus for the ringers, enabling them to compare the plumages of male and female. So much easier to sex them when they are both in the hand. Twitter 39 gave first capture details of this and the other bird, VR78770, on 18/8/2002.

Yellowhammer 4F R123856 17/11/2002 G04

Our first Yellowhammer of the winter - one of four captured on this day. All seemed to be coming in from the fields to feed on grain put out for the Pheasants in this part of the wood. With them were several Chaffinches. This is rather earlier in the winter than is usual for Yellowhammers to be caught - we had only ever caught two birds in November before. The first graph below shows the combined monthly captures since ringing began and the second graph the total annual captures. After the very thin time in the early 1990s, they seem to be present in greater numbers again. The numbers reflect the changes in where and how food is put out for Pheasants and our ability to exploit it, as well as (or rather than?), the local population.



Controls and recoveries

Species **Age/sex** **Ring** **Date** **Grid**
Great Tit **5M** **P897094** **12/01/2003** **Q02 Feeder**

This bird was ringed by Dave Fogg at Cottam as a juvenile in late August 2002 and retrapped there by him in October and again as late as 17th November. Normally our spring influx of Great Tits begins in February. This bird is, clearly, an incomer. On the same day we captured other unringed Great Tits all of which were first winter birds. Is the Great Tit influx very much earlier this year?

Great Tit **3F** **P897099** **31/12/2002** **Q02 Feeder**

A bird with a similar history to the previous individual. Dave Fogg ringed it at Cottam on the same day as P897094 and retrapped it once, early in September. We do, from time to time, control birds from Cottam but it is rare to have two so close in time and with such similar capture histories.

Chaffinch **4M** **P671227** **29/09/2002** **H04**

Another of Mike Archer's birds ringed at his Rampton roost last winter. This is the third of his Chaffinches we have caught in the wood since he started ringing at Rampton just over two years ago. In return he has now trapped five of our Treswell Wood ringed Chaffinches.

10 Week Summary - Captures in Standard Sites

2002 Interval 5, Visits 1570, 1570, 1565, 1568, 1566, 1567, 1571

	New Birds		Recaptures		Total	
	Adult	5	3	5		3
Sparrowhawk	.	.	3	.	.	3
Wren	.	.	1	1	.	3
Dunnock	1	.	3	2	.	7
Robin	.	.	4	3	.	11
Blackbird	3	.	5	.	.	8
Goldcrest	.	.	28	.	.	33
Long-tailed Tit	7	.	.	6	.	13
Marsh Tit	1	.	.	.	.	2
Willow Tit	.	.	.	1	.	5
Coal Tit	.	.	2	3	.	7
Blue Tit	.	.	3	1	.	6
Great Tit	.	.	.	3	.	4
Treecreeper	.	.	2	.	.	2
Chaffinch	3	.	5	.	.	9
Yellowhammer	4	.	.	.	.	4
Totals	19	.	56	20	.	117

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	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	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	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

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

Minimum	59	57	94	68	59	422
Mean	87	107	165	142	127	623
Maximum	124	145	288	253	177	865

Treswell Wood IPM Group 2002

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the group's efforts during the year. The list below includes all who have visited us in the wood or have helped from a distance. We look forward to seeing you in 2003.

Dan Bardsley	Ringling	Tony Kennedy	Woodland management
Gill Bardsley	Visitor	Ulli Langemann	Data analysis
Dave Barritt	Ringling,	Stuart Martin	CBC
John Bartley	CBC	Phil May	Scottish correspondent
Jerzy Behnke	Mites	John McMeeking	Ringling
Adrian Blackburn	Visitor	Stuart Martin	CBC
The Bower Family	Equipment storage	Eric Palmer	Ringling, mammal recording
Becky Bradley	Visiting 'bander'	David Parkin	Visitor
Earl Bradley	Visitor	Peter Phillips	Ringling
Kyle Campbell	Ringling	Margaret Price	CBC organiser
Dave Carthy	Long-distance migrant	Neil Taylor	Ringling
John Clark	Ringling	David Thompson	Data analysis
Sally Clough	Ringling	Frank Tillotson	CBC
Peter Cobb	Ringling	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Ted Cowley	Ringling	Steve Wain	Ringling, data processing
Marcus Croft	Visitor		
Andy Edwards	Nestbox making	John McMeeking	01636 830389
Chris du Feu	Ringling, nestboxes,	Chris du Feu	01427 848400
Richard du Feu	Ringling, data processing		
Chris Holliland	Dormouse boxes	Neil Taylor	01427 612933
Richard Johnson	CBC		
Andrew Joys	PhD project		

Treswell Wood - Annual Ringing Totals for 2002

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Recvs.	Othr	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	2	3	.	1	1	.	.	.	7
Kestrel	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Stock Dove	.	.	.	19	.	.	.	.	.	19
Woodpigeon	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Tawny Owl	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	1	.	6
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	.	1	4	.	12	.	.	.	.	17
Wren	.	32	49	27	28	11	.	1	.	148
Dunnock	.	18	27	.	27	8	.	.	.	80
Robin	.	20	51	8	50	10	6	2	1	148
Blackbird	.	24	15	4	19	5	.	1	.	68
Song Thrush	.	8	2	8	2	.	.	.	.	20
Mistle Thrush	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Garden Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	35	25	.	11	16	.	1	.	88
Chiffchaff	.	9	9	.	6	2	.	.	.	26
Willow Warbler	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Goldcrest	.	9	69	.	7	7	.	1	.	93
Long-tailed Tit	.	27	9	.	32	3	.	.	.	71
Marsh Tit	.	1	9	17	35	2	.	.	.	64
Willow Tit	1	1	11	.	35	7	.	.	.	55
Coal Tit	.	.	18	58	109	6	.	.	.	191
Blue Tit	2	51	35	189	168	10	.	1	16	472
Great Tit	1	31	33	105	219	30	.	3	14	436
Nuthatch	.	1	1	.	3	.	.	.	.	5
Treecreeper	.	6	19	.	35	8	.	.	.	68
Jay	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chaffinch	2	42	53	.	66	14	.	2	.	179
Greenfinch	.	5	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	8
Bullfinch	.	5	11	.	4	1	.	.	.	21
Yellowhammer	.	23	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	24
Totals	6	356	456	440	873	141	6	13	31	2322

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

Chris Mead

As preparation of this issue was almost complete we received the sad news from Thetford that Chris Mead had died peacefully in his sleep on the night of 16th January. Many present and former members of the Treswell Wood team will know of his major role in the organisation of the BTO Ringing Scheme over many years. Some of you may have seen him 'in the flesh' at Swanwick conferences, or elsewhere, and will certainly have seen him on television or read some of his writings in the press.

He served as one of the BTO press officers for the years after his retirement from the Ringing Office and was seen by many as the public face of the BTO.

In addition to his formal work with the BTO he pursued a notable career as a ringer. He will be greatly missed.

