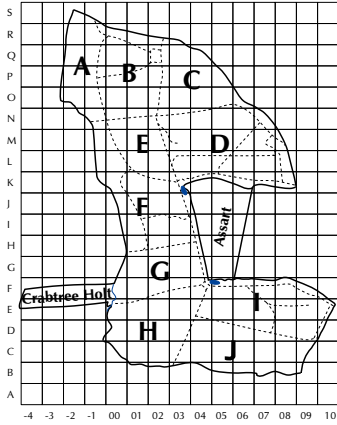
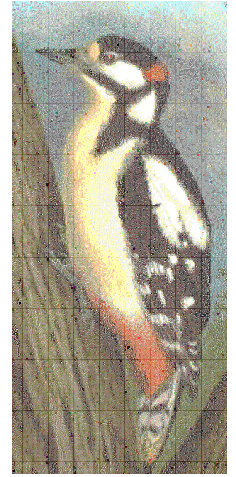


# TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

**December 2021 Treswell Wood IPM Group**  
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

**Project leaders:**

**2021/5**

**CBC** Ellen Marshall

**Number 135**

**Nest Records** Chris du Feu

**Ringling** John Clark

[www.treswellwoodipmg.org](http://www.treswellwoodipmg.org)

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December saw the completion of 49 years of the Treswell Wood monitoring operation which John McMeeking began in 1972. As for 2020 the year has been made difficult because of covid related restrictions. We missed the first of the five standard site cycles but since then have managed to complete the other four cycles. The lack of ringing in January and February is reflected in our annual total of 1,912 encounters. This is a little higher than in 2020 but rather lower than our typical value of over 2,500 but it is likely that the total is also reduced by the poor breeding season. Unlike last year, the CBC team has done the survey work; restrictions were lifted just in time for nest recording and we managed to do the frass collection too. We have not managed to take on any trainees nor host any students in person. However, we do have various students and researchers using our data and we have had several very productive virtual meetings with them. We have published one paper and a second on Robin mites has just been accepted for publication.

There are very many people who contribute in a wide variety of ways, to this unique operation. Territory recorders, map compilers, ringers, nest recorders, data handlers, data archivists, donors, web site managers, species recorders, photographers, data analysts, BTO and NWT staff. We thank them all.

But what about the last ten weeks of 2021? Never mention the good weather as we did in the last issue of TWITTER - after the previous unusual period with no problems at all we suffered several missed Sundays of rain or high wind which is increasingly worrying with ash die back. However, by assembling a larger than usual team one Sunday, we were able to cover the remaining two standard sites on the same day completing the last of the year's quota of standard site visits.

The total number of captures in the standard sites is, like in the previous interval, lower than average in spite of the higher numbers earlier in the year. Again it points to a poor breeding season and it seems this is borne out by the national picture (see BTO CES 2021 below).

In contrast to the low numbers in the standard sites we have had some large catches at the feeding station and Winter CES site (see below). These large catches brought with them several individuals which we had not retrapped for two or more years. We wondered what influence the weather in the preceding two or three days has on birds visiting feeding stations.

At last the PIT tag reader is in operation, after all the irritating little glitches have been overcome. We have tagged eight birds so far. These were all on our initial target list - birds caught regularly at the feeding station over the previous year. With the end of the year approaching, we updated the list to bring in the next cohort of birds and hope to catch more of these regulars soon. The first record on the reader came on 20<sup>th</sup> December of a Blue Tit tagged the previous day. We now have records of four of the eight tagged birds including three records from a Marsh Tit - the prime study species. The first batch of records downloaded from the SD card in the reader came as a great relief to John as it showed that the system he had built and tested did indeed work. It also came as a relief to Richard who had done the initial research and design work and also provided the electronics. Whereas PIT tag readers have been in use by various people for some years, the costs of existing systems run into many hundreds of pounds and many require large batteries or else mains electricity and are very visible. Ours runs on a small battery pack and cost us under £150.

The PIT tag reader monitors for presence of tags several times a second so a bird at the feeder may generate several records whilst there. Clearly these repeated records - although they may be valuable for studies relating to time spent at the feeder - are of a rather different type from ordinary encounter records of birds in the hand. For that reason we have determined to retain all these records in a file but only upload into our encounter database the first record from each bird on any day. It is just these single records that are tabulated in the table of annual encounters.

With Michael Walker (NWT) we spent a day sorting through photographs and other material which came from John McMeeking's extensive collection. Sadly some photographs which had no date or location and no features which enabled such things to be deduced had to be discarded. Others were scanned, adding to the digital

## Annual Summary - All ringing records 2021

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		PIT	Recvs.	Othr.	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Stock Dove	.	5	.	24	9	.	.	.	38	
Woodpigeon	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Barn Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Tawny Owl	.	2	.	3	2	1	.	.	8	
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	.	2	1	.	11	.	.	.	14	
Green Woodpecker	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Jay	.	4	.	.	1	1	.	.	6	
Coal Tit	.	2	7	.	34	2	.	.	45	
Marsh Tit	.	.	4	7	40	4	3	.	58	
Blue Tit	2	31	56	207	308	23	7	1	649	
Great Tit	1	28	30	59	168	20	4	1	334	
Long-tailed Tit	.	13	.	.	11	5	.	.	29	
Chiffchaff	1	25	11	.	12	2	.	.	51	
Blackcap	1	22	11	.	9	2	.	.	45	
Whitethroat	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Goldcrest	.	12	9	.	3	2	.	.	26	
Wren	.	34	31	37	43	12	.	1	158	
Nuthatch	.	6	4	.	20	1	.	.	31	
Treecreeper	.	10	5	.	27	3	.	.	45	
Blackbird	.	40	15	.	26	4	.	1	86	
Song Thrush	.	19	6	.	7	1	.	.	33	
Robin	.	29	38	.	41	16	.	.	124	
House Sparrow	.	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	
Dunnock	1	23	19	.	33	7	.	.	83	
Chaffinch	.	8	2	.	6	.	.	.	16	
Bullfinch	.	11	5	.	3	3	.	.	22	
Greenfinch	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Goldfinch	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1914</b>

### Totals in recent years:

<b>2020</b>	4	333	316	329	761	82	.	6	43	1874
<b>2019</b>	7	443	440	378	1224	181	.	5	37	2715
<b>2018</b>	10	367	502	547	1398	208	.	5	45	3082
<b>2017</b>	4	446	447	418	1279	254	.	1	31	2880
<b>2016</b>	15	542	470	329	1286	198	.	6	34	2880
<b>2015</b>	15	443	425	286	1143	224	.	5	46	2587
<b>2014</b>	12	328	470	328	934	135	.	3	36	2246
<b>2013</b>	11	352	439	316	1203	222	.	1	11	2555
<b>2012</b>	27	408	326	221	1149	182	.	7	35	2355
<b>2011</b>	12	462	357	331	1097	160	1	8	38	2466
<b>2010</b>	14	437	499	544	1655	243	1	6	13	3412

**Key:** **Ctrl** - Birds ringed elsewhere and caught in Treswell Wood including all birds from Hillcrest Farm. **Juvnl** - juveniles. **Pulli** - birds ringed as nestlings. **Rt** - ordinary recaptures. **SDR** - same day recaptures. **PIT** - records imported from PIT tag reader. **Recvs.** - recoveries, i.e. our own ringed birds found dead in Treswell Wood. **Othr.** - most in this table are pulli which were ringed but died before fledging; they are not included in the Pulli column.

collection we hold (and we really do need a volunteer to do some cataloguing). Destroying unidentified pictures was a salutary experience. Without at least the vital four features of a biological record - Who, What, When, Where - such images are of little use. Another category of obsolete images is that where modern digital images result in a superior picture. A slide of a primrose, used many times over the years, now compares poorly with a digital image. It is really not worth retaining. Sadly some slides, which were fully documented, had begun to deteriorate and colours were not true - perhaps digital adjustment may restore them.

## **BTO CES 2021**

We submitted our CES data after the end of the season with a covering note to Lee Barber at the BTO.

*If you think we are under-reporting juveniles that is because they have not arrived in the mist nets to ask to be reported. It looks like a bad breeding season for almost all species.*

Lee replied:

*Thank you very much for your CES submission. It's really good to see that you managed all 12 visits this year. Do not worry, I completely believe you about the lack of juveniles as most CES are like this, this year. It is nice to see you are still getting quite a few Song Thrushes and Bullfinches and it must have been a real treat to get Tawny Owl and Sparrowhawk this season.*

*Anecdotal reports from CES ringers suggest that 2021 has not been a great year, with average numbers of adults being caught but only half the number of juveniles usually expected of a variety of species. It will be interesting to see what the final totals will be once all the data for the year are in.*

The preliminary CES report has since been published (search for CES 2021 Preliminary Report on the BTO web site). It confirms what Lee's anecdotal evidence suggested. For most species it has been a very poor breeding season.

Lee's thanks for our work naturally extends to all the group members who have contributed directly, indirectly, knowingly or unknowingly.

## **Winter CES**

During the 2020 lockdown the BTO considered the possibility of running a national Winter CES operation (WCES) on the same lines as that of the long-standing CES scheme. When the national CES began it was largely an act of faith - only one site in the country had been attempting a long-term systematic operation (Marsworth Reservoir near Tring) with the head of the BTO Ringing Scheme running the mist netting site there. Time has shown it is a very effective population monitoring scheme providing national estimates of annual survival, productivity and abundance. The survival estimates, in particular, cannot be generated by any other national survey.

As we know from our own standard site operation of the last nearly 45 years, captures in the winter can be very low. Such catches might fail to enthuse ringers so the BTO trial WCES allows artificial provision of food. Playback lures and food provision are strictly forbidden on the summer CES. Our standard site visits during the winter are, in effect, a strict WCES operation with no artificial attractants. At the same time we have also been catching birds at the feeding station for these winters. That gives opportunity for us to look at any differences between birds coming to feeding stations and those only caught at standard sites. We have done some preliminary analyses and there are, as expected, many differences. Some species are very much over-represented in feeder catches - these include Great and Blue Tits but, surprisingly, not Coal Tits. There are also differences in age structures and these are not consistent between species. The data need to be looked at closely in order to understand potential biases caused by artificial attractants and we hope to be able to produce a worthwhile analysis after the end of this winter's operation.

## **Tree survey**

Amongst the papers which have surfaced in John McMeeking's collection is a highly detailed, hand-drawn map of the wood as it was when the Notts. Trust acquired it before coppicing began. The survey work was done in 1973-1974 by Margaret Price and others. For each area of the wood, details are given of the tree composition and typical heights, hedgerows are documented as are the surrounding fields. It is a beautifully presented work of both art and science - a real treasure. We have, of course, had a high resolution scan made of it and this will be on the web site. By coincidence, Carl Soulsbury, a biologist at Lincoln, with Michael Gillman, had been thinking about further work in the wood particularly relating to Ash dieback. This map is acting as spur in that direction. The intention is to repeat the survey which will be, appropriately, 50 years after the original survey.

## **Cloud storage**

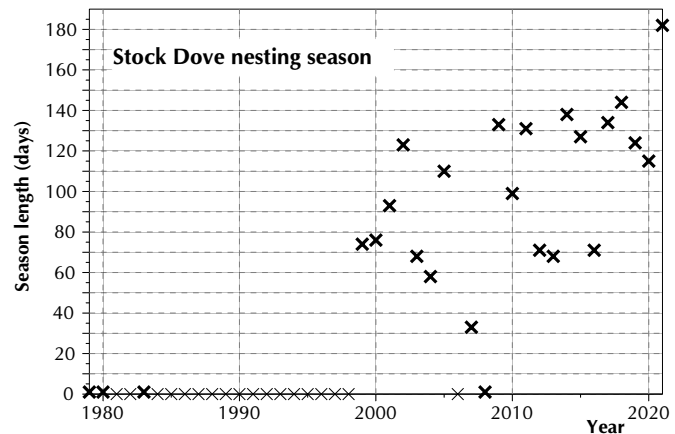
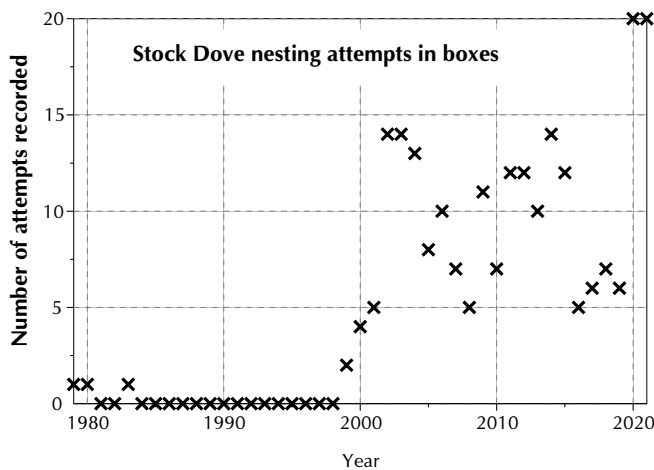
Our computerised data set holds far more than just the 120,000 bird encounter records, 20,000 bird territory maps and 5,000 nest records. Although John McMeeking's original intention was to document the birds in the wood, it is vital that things that impact on the birds are, where possible, recorded. Thus we have computerised records of all the coppicing that has been done, weather, frass, habitat, .... Although we also make casual records of other species we often find these casual records, over a long period of time, do tell a story. For instance we have recorded earlier flying date of butterflies and changes in abundance of early purple orchids. There are many photographs including a 10-year set of fixed point images showing habitat changes within, and between, years.

At present all the data are held on one computer with, of course, several backups. This is not now an ideal system. Access to information has to be via the secretary. The backup data sets which other members hold are not always

up to date so if there is a disaster with the computer and up-to-date backups in the house, a good deal of work would be needed to recover recent data. We have, therefore, decided to invest in cloud storage as an additional backup system. This will have the advantage that permissions can be arranged so that people other than the secretary can have direct access to the data. That would mean that, for instance, someone could volunteer to catalogue and organise the collection of digital images. That job could then be done as time allowed without the need to bother the grumpy old secretary for more images every few days.

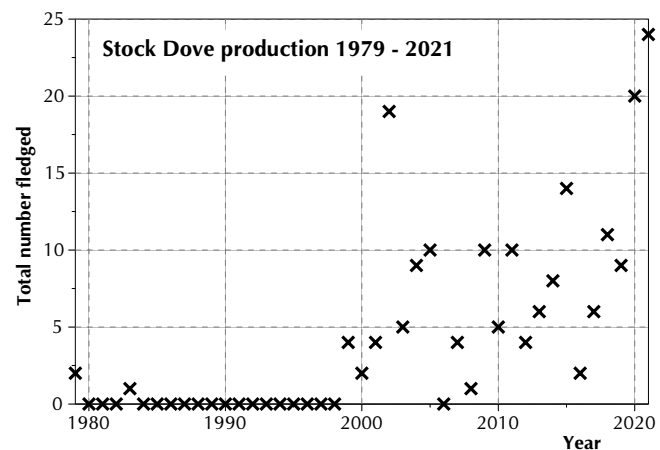
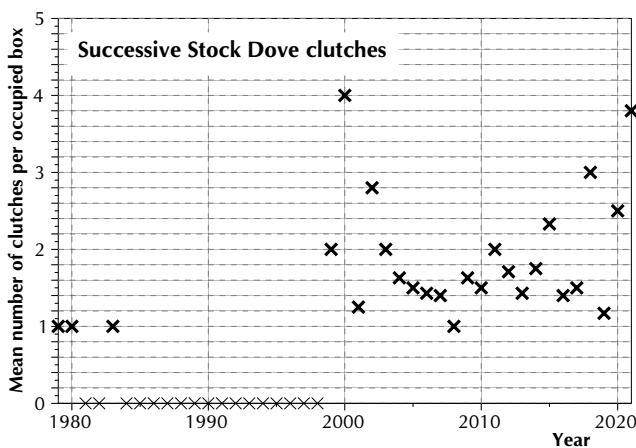
## Stock Doves

Stock Dove populations had declined seriously during the 1950s and 1960s because of the affects of toxic pesticides. They had recovered nationally somewhat by the mid 1970s but then declined a little before making a fuller recovery. This is reflected in our Stock Dove records. There were single nests found in boxes in 1979, 1980 and 1983 followed by none until two were found in 1999. Since then there have been generally increasing nesting attempts. Nest success has been variable because the species is highly vulnerable to predation by Grey Squirrels. In addition to increasing numbers of nesting birds, the climatic amelioration has allowed a lengthening nesting season. Because we do not inspect the large boxes weekly we do not know the first egg dates so cannot use them



to measure the length of the season so an alternative measure has to be used. The second graph shows the length of the season in days as measured by the number of days inclusive from the first nestling being ringed to the day the last is ringed. The zero points with faint crosses represent years with no nests. A longer nesting season allows more broods and this is shown in the third graph. The average number of clutches per occupied box is give (again the faint crosses represent years with no nests found). In two years (2002 and 2021) one box has held five successive nests. According to the literature it seems that five is the maximum number of broods ever recorded although it is far from being exceptional. No doubt, if spring continues to come earlier and autumn later it is quite probable that we will see six successive clutches before long.

We have checked and the increased number of nests is not related at all to the availability of large nestboxes although if the local population increases box provision could become a limiting factor in the wood.



What is the overall picture? More birds nesting successfully and a lengthening nesting season with more young fledging. The future looks bright for the species. Whether farmers will welcome this any more than they delight in large numbers of Woodpigeons is another matter.

## Moult and Plumage

Over the years we have recorded a number of what we call 'Grey Tits' - these are Great Tits with plumage almost free of yellow. The number we see varies a great deal between years, usually none but sometimes several. We suspected that it related to food supply at the time of moult and a lack of carotene has been suggested. It seemed unlikely that it was genetic because almost all birds we have recaptured after a subsequent moult have had normal colouration. We do notice that in some years Great Tits are much more difficult to age than in others and we think this is related to the brightness of the plumage which, again, depends on conditions at the time of moult.

This year, Robins have been more problematic than usual (see ANE3374) with several adults having what appeared to be juvenile greater coverts with a large buff 'rose thorn' shaped spot at the tip. This seems to be quite different a thing from the Great Tit problem. Robins seem to be a matter of type (big spots or not) whereas Great Tits are a matter of degree. We have no idea how conditions at moult could trigger such a switch - if indeed it is a switch.

Accordingly we contacted Lukas Jenni (author of *Moult and Ageing of European Passerines*, now in its long-awaited second edition.) We are very grateful to him for his rapid, very full and very helpful reply. He confirmed what we suspected about the Great Tits. It is almost certainly a lack of the right nutrients at the time of moult which influence the brightness of the plumage - carotene being the vital ingredient. However, it is just possible that there is a genetic factor - a bird could be less able to make use of carotene and so produce the pale plumage in spite of adequate supplies. Lukas is well aware of the problems of ageing Robins with the rose thorn tips and, like us, looks for the sharp contrast between juvenile and adult coverts rather than the gradual gradation between adult covert feathers. As for the presence or absence of these spots he has no idea of whether they are more common in some years than others. That raises questions. Do individuals retain the same pattern of greater coverts from one adult moult to the next or are the rose thorn tips more common in some years than others. We have an opportunity here for an investigation. Because of our very high recapture rate we could record (perhaps most easily with photography) the covert pattern of adult Robins and, when we retrap them in a subsequent year, look again and see what the pattern is. If the patterns remain the same between moults it will perhaps indicate something to do with heredity and a sedentary population. If they are different on the same individual it will indicate that there is some external trigger which causes the generation of these spots.

## Noteworthy Encounters

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>3M</b>	<b>DT21911</b>	<b>21/11/2021</b>	<b>D09</b>

This is our second Sparrowhawk capture for the year. Since the species recolonised the area in the late 1970s we have had an average of 2.5 captures a year so this year's captures, particularly in view of missed visits during lockdown, is about what we would expect.

<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<b>2M</b>	<b>LK39036</b>	<b>14/11/2021</b>	<b>Q03</b>
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This bird was ringed as a recently fledged juvenile in 2019 and retrapped several times. We last retrapped it in May 2021 and noted its bill tip had been broken. This is clearly not a good thing for a woodpecker which uses the bill for hacking into wood. We wondered if it would survive. Obviously it did and the bill had regrown and was now normal in size and shape. In a sense it is no surprise that the bill regrew - bills grow much as do human fingernails. What, perhaps, is surprising is that although it must have been used for some heavy woodworking whilst regrowing this has not prevented its full regrowth.

<b>Marsh Tit</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>ANA7378</b>	<b>28/12/2021</b>	<b>Q03 PIT record</b>
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The first of the main target species to provide a PIT tag record. This bird is well known to us. It has been captured 20 times and now given us three PIT records. It was ringed as a juvenile in 2018. It was only caught twice in 2019 and a few times in 2020. It may have nested in 2020 but we were unable to catch any early-nesting Marsh Tits on the nest. It was caught this year on a nest in the west end of the north-west part of the wood.

It is interesting to note that, although this is our 7th most commonly encountered species, we ringed no new adults in 2021. New birds were either nestlings or juveniles. That seems to indicate a fairly closed, stable population with high adult survival. Why they should be doing so well in the wood compared to elsewhere is a mystery.

<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>AAL8554</b>	<b>24/10/2021</b>	<b>Q03</b>
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In the previous issue of TWITTER we noted very few nestling-ringed Blue Tit recaptures. Completely in line with Murphy's Law, we immediately started recapturing these birds. We have retrapped 23 of the 207 ringed nestlings which fledged - 11% which is slightly lower a proportion than is typical but still rather better than expected in a year with low juvenile survival. Contrast this with our nestling-ringed Great Tit captures. Overall we retrap 21% of the birds by the year end. This year it is even lower than the Blue Tits - only 8.5%. Recently fledged juvenile Great Tits were unusually scarce at the feeders and this, again, points to higher than usual mortality soon after fledging.

**Blue Tit**                      4            **ANA7536**    **16/11/2021**    **I03**                                      **Roosting**

Roosting rounds - winter brings the 'stumble round the wood in the dark' challenge. Amongst the regular roosters we also found a few with no roosting history and more unringed birds than normal - possibly a legacy of missed visits over the last year. This particular bird is one of our several serial roosters. Of its 12 encounters, all but three have been when roosting in a nestbox. It is always in the same small area within the wood and fairly faithful to particular boxes - having used only three for these nine captures.

We are fairly sure that the birds we find roosting are not drawn at random from the woodland population and have tried to devise some statistical means to support our feeling. However we have so far failed because of what seems to be a vital missing piece of information - the total number of Blue Tits which are in the wood but not captured. That is, at least, a Rumsfeldian 'known unknown'. If anyone can suggest a way through the problem we would be delighted. Maybe PIT tagging could throw some light on whether these birds do use the feeders more than we know now.

**Blue Tit**                      4            **Z782423**    **28/11/2021**    **Q03**

Our oldest recently captured Blue Tit - ringed 5y 128d previously. Curiously two other Blue Tits from the same 2016 juvenile ringed cohort were caught on the same day.

**Blue Tit**                      4            **Z782433**    **14/11/2021**    **Q03**

This was ringed as a juvenile in July 2016 at the main feeding station. It has been retrapped several times since then, always at the feeder and is now one of the dwindling number of birds which have been processed by John McMeeking. In spite of it being familiar with the feeder it evaded capture there from May 2019 to this capture about 18 months later. Some of the gaps between captures of other individuals which we have seen recently can be ascribed to missed ringing during the lockdown. This one cannot be explained solely in that way.

**Great Tit**                      4M        **ANA7167**    **14/11/2021**    **Q03**

Another mystery absentee bird with a history of captures at the feeder as a first breeding season bird in 2018. It was not seen again at the feeder until this capture three years later. Its only other encounters have been as a roosting bird in a nestbox in the north of the wood in November and December 2018

**Great Tit**                      3            **AJN3657**    **24/10/2021**    **Q04**

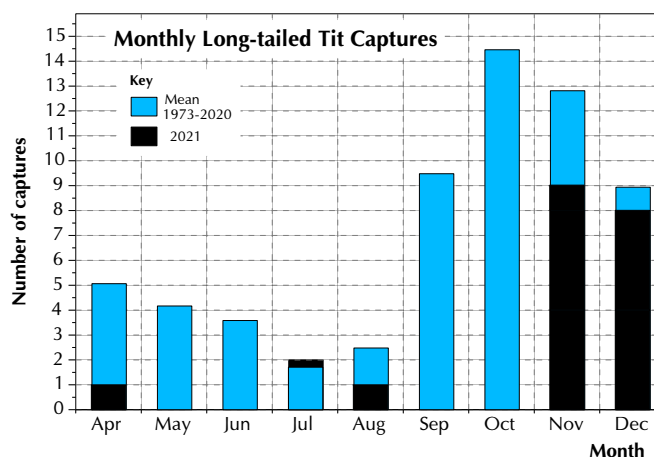
Another of the difficult Great Tits. Its sex was not very clear. It had a relatively long wing (which is an indicator but far from absolute confirmation of being male) but did not have a particularly glossy cap and the black breast band was far less wide than on most males. When we see such birds we all look at them. For this bird there was no consensus.

**Great Tit**                      4            **D455474**    **28/11/2021**    **M03**

Another bird with an interesting history. At 7y 275d since ringing it is our third oldest recorded Great Tit (out of 7,985 we have encountered). The oldest two were 8y 009d in 1992 and 9y 86d in 2018. It is also not strictly a Treswell Wood bird - JC ringed it as a juvenile in the village in 2014. It was retrapped soon after in the wood and retrapped a few times until November 2017 but not seen since until this capture. It is another 'where has it been bird'?

**Long-tailed Tit**            2            **JTE363**      **21/11/2021**    **D08**

This has been a poor year for Long-tailed Tit captures. We did not catch any family parties during the summer and autumn as we normally expect to do. Of the four birds we have retrapped during the autumn, this bird is the oldest at just over three years since it was ringed. Three years is a respectable age for such a small bird but it is not even half way to the seven year record we have from some years ago. We cannot say anything about captures in January to March because of the lockdown. However, since then captures have been very low indeed as the chart shows. For the months April to December the average number of monthly captures for all years from 1973 to 2020. Superimposed on this in black are the captures in 2021. The lack of captures in the late spring does indicate a poor breeding season. They are early nesters and the unusual spring weather could have led to very low breeding success. Small birds do suffer high winter mortality but they also often enjoy high productivity. A low population in 2021, if followed by a mild winter and a good breeding season could see the numbers of this attractive little species return to normal.



**Goldcrest**                      **4F**            **JTE696**      **14/11/2021**      **O06**

Goldcrests, being small, suffer high mortality in winter. The annual adult survival rate is only 15%. Our winter captures of Goldcrests are almost certainly mainly of migrants (which could be either from northern British or across the North Sea) but little is known about between-winter site fidelity. We have had two over-winter survivors reported from elsewhere (Retford and Shirecliffe) and six within-winter movements. These six do indicate a degree of within winter movement - one was retrapped as far away as the Cumbrian coast. Today's bird is one of 32 which we have retrapped in two successive winters - that is an average of less than one per winter which might make this seem a rare event. On the other hand these 32 represent nearly 1% of the Goldcrests we have caught. Given their low annual survival rate, their unknown winter site fidelity and an unknown, but probably low chance of recapture, a between-winter recapture rate of 1% seems remarkably high.

Goldcrests are often difficult to age. Juveniles have narrow, pointed tail feathers (provided they have not moulted their tail in post juvenile moult). Adults have broader, more rounded tail feathers. Unfortunately very many seem to have tail feathers which are worn and of intermediate width. This one behaved well having very rounded tail feathers. Would that all Goldcrests had read the guide book and obeyed the rules better than many of our politicians.

**Wren**                              **4**            **AXD479**      **11/11/2021**      **K00**

One of two 2020 nestlings retrapped on the same day (but not together). Both were also previously retrapped on the same day (but not together) in April 2021.

**Wren 3**                            **3**            **CRD811**      **12/12/2021**      **E02**

The second of this year's 37 nestling-ringed Wrens to be retrapped. The species is particularly sedentary but this bird is taking this to extremes, being caught five months after fledging only 25 metres from its natal nestbox.

**Nuthatch**                      **2F**            **TT49208**      **19/12/2021**      **Q03**

This is our oldest recorded Nuthatch recaptures 6y 35d after being ringed in November 2015. In spite of its age it has only just crept past the half-way mark to the national record of just under 12 years.

**Blackbird**                      **4F**            **LK39128**      **19/12/2021**      **M02**

One of a small but steady stream of Blackbirds we catch in the wood. Over recent years we have recorded the fat on Blackbirds. The BTO system for recording fat leads to a score in the range 0-8 although scores above 4 are only rarely encountered except on birds preparing for migration. The fat in winter is a fuel reserve allowing birds to survive over cold winter nights. It was discovered some 20 years ago that birds regulated their fat very carefully - too little fat and they risked death by starvation on a cold night. Too much fat and they would take off too slowly to evade Sparrowhawk or cat attack. It is a very delicate balancing act.

It is interesting, and puzzling, to compare the fat scores of the woodland Blackbirds with those caught in a garden some 15 kilometres north of the wood. The garden Blackbirds may be in greater danger from cats and they also have generally reliable sources of food put out daily by gardeners. There would seem to be no need to carry heavy fat stores. yet the opposite is true. For the garden birds so far this winter the average score is 2.7 with a maximum of an almost unheard of 5. For the wood the average is only 0.7 with a maximum of only 2.

**Robin**                            **4**            **ANE3374**      **19/12/2021**      **M03**

This year has brought several Robins which have been very difficult to age. Well behaved adult Robins have plain brown greater coverts and juveniles have yellowish spots on the tips of these feathers. During post-juvenile moult some, or all, of these coverts will be moulted and replaced by the adult plain brown type. This year more adults than usual seem to have regrown these feathers with apparently juvenile tips. By careful examination we can usually tell the difference. Juveniles have a sharp break between old, tipped and new untipped coverts whereas adults have tips which increase in size from the outer one, reach a maximum size then decrease again before vanishing towards the inner end of the feather tract. This bird was one of the most difficult. Eventually we determined it as adult which the capture history records confirmed. It would be interesting to investigate what is going on.

**Dunnock**                      **4**            **TY54159**      **24/10/2021**      **Q04**

The Dunnock is a most sedentary species and of the 3,100 Dunnocks we have encountered since ringing began in the wood only eight have been recorded away from the wood. This one was ringed by Peter Cobb in Darlton in July 2020 as a juvenile and he last retrapped it there in mid-August. By this time it had lost its juvenile plumage and was ready to start its post natal dispersal which, over a year later brought it to the wood. The movement from Darlton to the wood is 7km. Only two other incoming movements have been from further afield than this - one from Wellow (14km) and one from Lincoln (21km). The longest recorded movement from the wood is only 6km. In contrast to the lack of external encounters, we have a wealth of information about movements within the wood.



Half of the birds we have ringed have been re-encountered in the wood with an average of just under three recapture events for these birds. Yes, a very sedentary species.

**Chaffinch 3F AJN3719 12/12/2021 H04**

We realised as we processed this bird that a Chaffinch capture was now a relatively rare event - this was only the 19<sup>th</sup> Chaffinch we have captured this year. However, four which we caught were badly infected with scaly leg mite and unringable. The decrease in capture numbers is in line with national trends - the preliminary BTO CES report for 2021 gives a 39% decrease in Chaffinch abundance compared to the previous 5-year average. One possible cause is overwinter survival which has dropped by 64% over the previous average. Scaly leg mite, in itself is not fatal. However it reduces fitness and makes an infected bird more likely to suffer from predation, accident or starvation. It is likely that scaly leg mite is playing its part in reducing Chaffinch numbers.

**10-Week Summary: 2021 Interval 5, Captures in Standard Sites**

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Coal Tit	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Blue Tit	1	.	2	7	.	2	12
Great Tit	1	.	2	7	.	.	10
Long-tailed Tit	9	.	.	6	.	.	15
Goldcrest	4	.	2	2	.	1	9
Wren	1	.	3	9	.	2	15
Treecreeper	2	.	.	4	.	.	6
Blackbird	7	.	5	3	.	.	15
Song Thrush	1	.	2	.	.	.	3
Robin	2	.	4	4	.	4	14
Dunnock	1	.	2	1	.	.	4
Chaffinch	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	.	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>	.	<b>9</b>	<b>109</b>

**Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week periods - Summary table**

**Summary Data** since standard site netting began in 1978:

Interval	1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>Maximum</b>	128	198	288	253	177	864
<b>Minimum</b>	57	33	89	66	59	364
<b>Mean</b>	92	115	159	130	126	611

**10-year Averages** since standard site netting began in 1978:

1978 - 1987	90	113	182	140	130	655
1988 - 1997	86	107	170	149	127	637
1998 - 2007	95	100	134	120	125	574
2008 - 2017	93	133	150	109	120	605

**Recent Years**

2018	95	108	182	184	119	688
2019	113	131	170	152	129	695
2020	120	---	---	93	174	(387)
2021	...	163	129	90	109	(491)