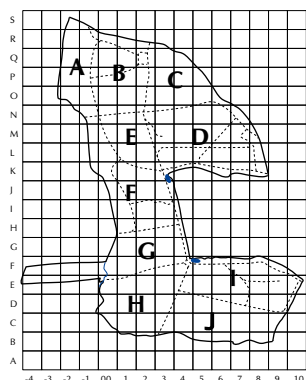


# TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

**March 2007 Treswell Wood IPM Group**

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

**2007/1**

**Number 61**

All projects by permission of NWT

**Project leaders:**

**CBC**

Pat Quinn-Catling

**Nest Records**

Chris du Feu

**Ringing**

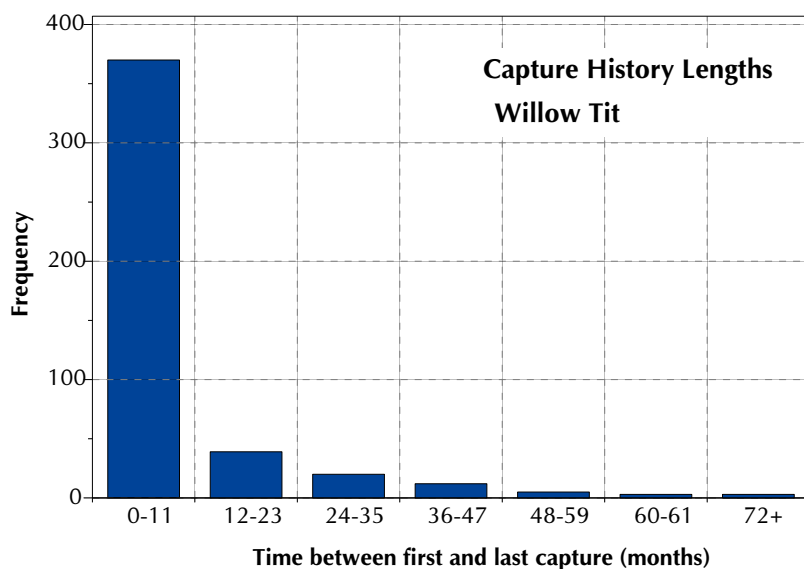
John McMeeking



## Willow Tit survival

Finn Stewart is engaged in a PhD study at Nottingham University for the RSPB. He is continuing the work started by Alex Lewis, of trying to understand why Willow Tits are in decline nationally.

*The initial results of the Willow Tit annual survival work at Treswell Wood seem to confirm everybody's ideas about the species. For such a small bird the annual survival is very high with some individuals making it into their seventh year. The graph simply plots the time elapsed between an individual's first and last captures (although this, of course, cannot distinguish between emigration and death). A more formal annual survival table is in the pipeline using only individuals caught as juveniles in their first summer in the CES nets. The initial work for that has been completed and the good news is that all that hard work on the CES really pays off. With a year counted as running from June until the following May there are only 17 'gaps' in the entire capture histories for willow tits, so the year of emigration or death can be reliably inferred.*



*What does 'gap' mean? I have totalled the consecutive years that each individual was caught in the CES nets and so measured presence/absence in the wood for each individual throughout its history. Out of all the Willow Tits ever caught there are only 17 that have been caught in one year, then missed a year but caught again in the year following that. In fact there are fewer than 17 individuals involved as one bird was caught twice with a three year gap between the two capture events. 17 'year gaps' seems very few for such a long data set. It means that the CES trapping effort is sufficient, at least for Willow Tits, to give a confident estimate of when an individual has died or emigrated. Including all captures, not just standard nets, all but four of these gaps are 'filled' (with one individual contributing three of these gaps) and no other gaps were created by any additional individuals which were caught.*

**Finn Stewart**

## Blasts from the past

We have spent some time and effort in trying to computerise as much of our written information as we can. The work can be tedious but, as we have seen from Finn's notes, having computerised access to such comprehensive data is invaluable. In working through past data we have found some missed or forgotten things. For example, about half a dozen local recoveries of our birds have come to light - the paper reporting system of the past seems not always to have worked well. Sometimes other observation made at the time did not seem to be of particular importance. With hindsight, such things can look different.

For example, we have noted the increasing proportion of juvenile birds, Great Tits in particular, which are moulting their tail feathers in addition to the normal moult of various covert feathers. Other ringers have, in the past few years, observed an increasing number of juvenile birds - particularly Greenfinches and Goldfinches - which have moulted some, or all, of their primaries. The BTO is encouraging ringers to look for such moult; it may

prove to be yet another change driven by global warming. While working through the data archives as part of the programme of computerising all our data, we came across a record of a juvenile Greenfinch, NA91012, moulting its primaries. This record for 10/10/1976 predates the recent records by over 20 years.

We have also begun to transfer data into IPMR - the BTO's current ringing data software. Doing this will enable us to submit all our historic data set to the BTO, complete with data for moult and various biometric information. The process also allows opportunity for a further check on the veracity of our data. So far, data for 1972 to 1977 inclusive have been transferred and data for 1972 to 1975 submitted electronically to the BTO.

## Noteworthy Captures

**Species**                      **Age/sex**                      **Ring**                      **Date**                      **Grid**

**Sparrowhawk**                      **5M**                      **DA51866**                      **4/2/2007**                      **I03**

Our first Sparrowhawk of the year - a bird ringed as a juvenile last August. Most of the birds of this species which we catch are young males, few of them seem to stay around long enough to be retrapped.

**Redwing**                      **6**                      **RX57810**                      **28/1/2007**                      **B03**

It is three years since we last caught any Redwings. This, and RX57811 which was caught at the same time, are our 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> records respectively. We rarely see them in the wood - the best times are during hard winters, when food is scarce but there are still fallen crab apples in the wood. At present, fallen crab apples are abundant but the other two factors certainly do not apply. Most of our Redwing captures were in the late 1970s with very few since.

**Mistle Thrush**                      **5**                      **CT84293**                      **4/2/2007**                      **G04**

We often hear and see Mistle Thrushes in the wood but rarely catch them. The previous one we caught was last June. This one was caught near an area recently coppiced - this seems to be their favoured habitat. In addition, John Clark found a freshly dead, unringed, Mistle Thrush the week before, also in another newly coppiced area. The table below shows the locations of our grand total of 16 captures for the species. Given the predominance, over all years combined, of uncoppiced areas, this rather small sample of captures does support the idea that this species does choose coppiced areas over more dense woodland.

Habitat/Coppice age	Uncoppiced	0 - 3 years	4 - 7 years	Feeding station
Captures	4	6	3	3

**Robin**                      **4**                      **P400401**                      **28/1/2007**                      **Q02 Sight record**

Our first sight record of the year which seemed to coincide with a number of Robins arriving in the wood. Earlier in the week three Robins - two unringed and one with a metal, but no colour rings - were seen around the car park. Now this bird, which has been seen defending that area in the past, is back and seems to be in control again, having not been seen since mid-October. Last year he seemed to yield control of the area to another bird around the turn of the year, only to recover it again by the spring. Is he a migrant, leaving the wood for a time during the winter months? Thanks to Dave Valentine for this, and other, Robin sight records.

**Robin**                      **6**                      **R353577**                      **4/3/2007**                      **E01**

We have enjoyed an above-average number of new Robins this spring. It appears to be a similar influx to that which we have noticed with Great Tits each spring. Many of these birds are unringed, first winter birds. This bird is different. It was ringed as a juvenile in 2004 about 150 metres to the south-east. We have not retrapped it between then and now. It is possible it has been lurking somewhere in block H, but it is unusual to have such a long interval between ringing and first recapture for this species

**Wren**                      **5**                      **AVL319**                      **14/2/2007**                      **J00**                      **Roosting**

We only rarely find Wrens roosting in nestboxes in the wood and have never found the legendary large gatherings of these birds. This bird was roosting with a second bird, AVL320. Wrens are reputed to use old nests for roosting but these two were using an empty box. The last time we recorded roosting Wrens was in 2002.

**Blue Tit**                      **6**                      **P400940**                      **28/1/2007**                      **F04 feeder**

A golden oldie - ringed as a nestling in 2001 and not seen again until 2005 when it appeared at one of the temporary feeding stations sited specifically to catch Marsh Tits for the RSPB Willow and Marsh Tit programme. We have trapped it twice more since then, both times at feeding stations. It is now 5 years and 8 months since it was ringed - a goodly age for the species.

**Coal Tit**                      **6**                      **R123550**                      **4/1/2007**                      **L-1 Feeder**

Ringed as a nestling in 2002 and retrapped frequently since then, this bird is approaching its 5<sup>th</sup> breeding season -



this one, which are not reportable (2 at Gamston, 2 at Rampton). In the future, when the BTO computerised recovery handling system is fully operational, such short-distance movements will be recorded within the national database and it will be possible to learn more about the dispersal movements of this unusual species.

**More birds have moved between Hillcrest Farm, Treswell and the wood. These are listed together below.**

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>6M</b>	<b>T100534</b>	<b>28/1/2007</b>	<b>F04 Feeder</b>

Ringed on 3/3/2006 at Hillcrest Farm and not seen there since.

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>T100593</b>	<b>25/2/2007</b>	<b>M01</b>

Ringed on 3/3/2006 at Hillcrest Farm and not seen there since.

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>V184807</b>	<b>4/3/2007</b>

Ringed on 15/11/2006 at Hillcrest Farm and not seen there since.

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>5F</b>	<b>V184828</b>	<b>7/1/2007</b>	<b>Q02 Feeder</b>

Ringed on 6/12/2006 at Hillcrest Farm and not seen there since. This was captured at the same time as a number of new, apparently incoming birds in a spring influx a month earlier than typical.

### 10 Week Summary 2007 Interval 1, Captures in Standard Sites

Visits 1822, 1819, 1816, 1817, 1820, 1818, 1823

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult			Adult			
Wren	1	2	.	4	2	.	9
Dunnock	.	1	.	1	2	.	4
Robin	.	5	.	6	4	.	15
Blackbird	.	4	.	6	2	.	12
Song Thrush	1	3	.	.	.	.	4
Redwing	1	1	.	.	.	.	2
Mistle Thrush	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	1	.	1	1	.	3
Long-tailed Tit	2	.	.	9	.	.	11
Marsh Tit	.	1	.	1	4	.	6
Willow Tit	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Blue Tit	.	6	.	4	2	.	12
Great Tit	1	3	.	4	5	.	13
Nuthatch	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Treecreeper	.	1	.	2	.	.	3
Chaffinch	.	3	.	.	1	.	4
Bullfinch	1	1	.	2	1	.	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>107</b>

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

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
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	<b>107</b>	---	---	---	---	<b>(107)</b>
<b>Summary data for all years since 1978</b>						
<b>Maximum</b>	128	145	288	253	177	865
<b>Minimum</b>	57	33	94	68	59	364
<b>Mean</b>	90	106	164	139	128	627

Thanks again to Derek Robertson for permission to use his Treecreeper image. More of his art can be seen at [www.derekrobertson.com](http://www.derekrobertson.com)