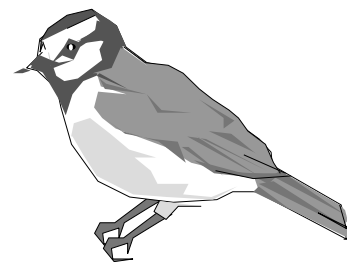


# TWITTER

1995 Number 1



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**Ringling:** By permission of NWT

Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Ringer.

Steve has suggested that we ought to communicate more information to our ringers. John agrees and, as ever, the Beckingham office is landed with the paperwork.

We intend to produce five of these newsletters a year, one at the end of each 10-week standard site cycles. We envisage most will use a double A4 sheet, but the end of year issue will be one to look forward to with its breathtaking summary of the year's events - maybe it will stretch to 4 A4 sides.

The standard site cycle we operate is the system which is proving so useful in understanding the Treswell Wood populations and for this reason we have decided to produce this bulletin to mark the completion of each cycle. We will include a summary of the standard site captures for the 10-weeks in each issue, together with a table of all 10-week totals since the beginning of time.

The rest of the bulletin will include - as here - a digest of recent captures of interest, things everyone ought to know about, particular birds to look out for and anything else.

Complaints about content etc. to John, credits (including financial, some hope!) to the overworked team in the Beckingham office. Contributions for later issues will be welcome.

In the sections below, the bold header line will contain, as appropriate, species name, ring number, date of capture and location in the wood (grid references are shown on the map above). We will try and stick to this format!

## Noteworthy captures (January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Greater Spotted Woodpecker      RH94571      Q02 Feeder**

5♂, this particular bird has been caught around the feeders on three days this winter, twice being Same Day Retrapped.

**Song Thrush      RX57579      26/2/95      P03**

Ringed on 12/6/94 at Treswell End. It is unusual to retrap Song Thrushes in Treswell this early in the season. Usually our Song Thrushes behave as summer visitors, re-appearing just before Blackcaps.

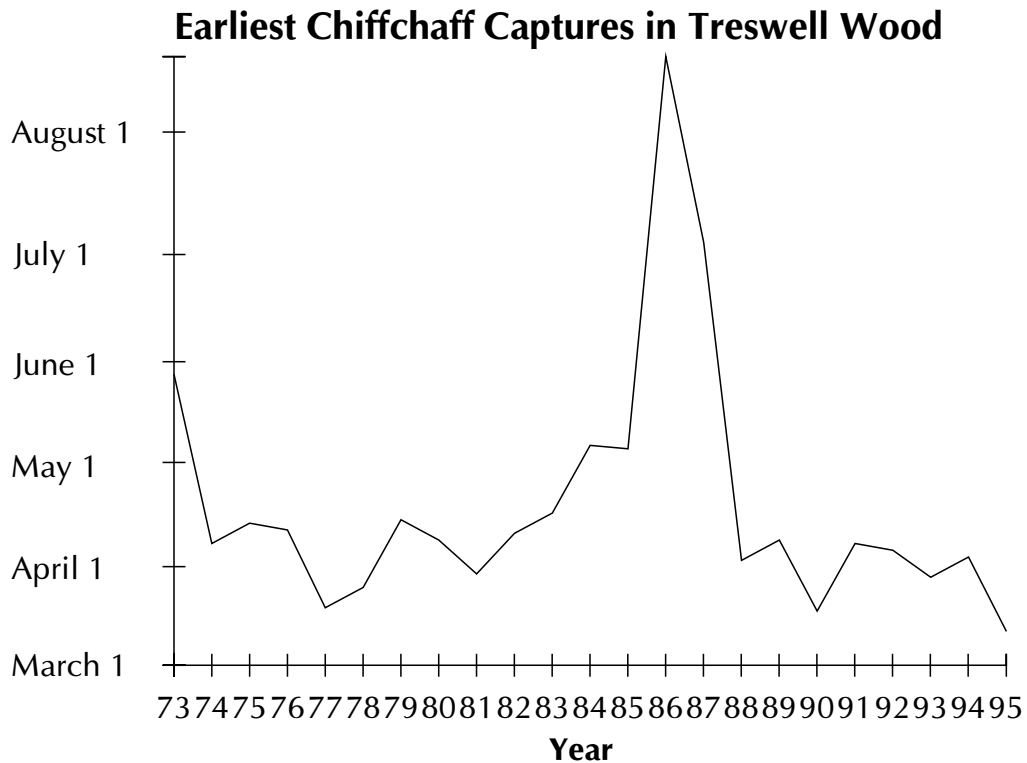
**Chiffchaff      5W9777      12/3/95      P01**

First of the year on 12/3/95! This was our earliest ever- caught even before we heard any song. The first captures in other years (some obviously so late because we failed to catch them, rather than a late arrival) are illustrated overleaf. Is there a general trend to earlier arrival?

**Goldcrest      12/3/95      P00**

Two Goldcrests were caught on 12/3/95, of ordinary size, but weighing an amazing 6.4 and 5.9 grams. Building up reserves for the return journey? An hour later, and 1 net away from the Chiffchaff

which we presume had just completed its journey!



**Marsh Tit**

**J522347 12/3/95 Q03**

Trapped twice as a 3 in autumn 1994 in M0 and D3. Whereas adult Willow Tits almost never travel between north and south of the woods, we have never checked whether Marsh Tits do the same.

**Coal Tit**

**H229077 21/2/95 Q02 Feeder**

Ringed on 3/11/91 in Block D, it has moved from there to the feeders, and on 3 of its captures back to Block D; last seen 21/2/95 at the feeders.

**Blue Tit**

**H229090 1/1/95 Q02 Feeder**

This individual is probably the most uninteresting bird in Treswell, which makes it interesting. It was ringed on 10/10/91 at the feeders and has been caught about 20 times since, always at the feeders.

**Blue Tit**

**J033043 Q02 Feeder**

This bird must be an interesting bird because it has bred on the same nestbox (No. 11 in O01), two years running. (I say running, but a bird would be flying.) But apart from this it is only slightly better than H229090 shown above. It was ringed on Howard's Ride as a 3 on 13/12/92 and has only been caught at the feeders since, apart from 4 captures (3 on the nest), about 100m south of the feeders.

**Great Tit**

**H609622 26/2/95 Q02 Feeder**

This female Great Tit was ringed at Cottam Power Station on 3/10/93 and then caught in Treswell on 16/2/94, 26/3/94, 15/5/94. She now carries colour rings.

**Great Tit**

**J388369 26/02/95 Q02 Feeder**

This is another female control, from West Burton PS, ringed on 6/8/93, and controlled on 6/3/94.

**Treecreeper**

**8T5808 15/1/95 M00**

This individual was ringed on the 12/7/92 and has been seen 8 times since. It was ringed in the southern part of the wood as a juvenile but ever since has been captured north of Norman's Ride which seems to be the boundary between the southern and northern populations in the wood. It was not captured for 2 years from December 92, but is now found in the middle of the wood.

**Chaffinch** **H229088** **22/2/95** **Q02 Feeder**

This was ringed on 10/11/91 at the feeders and not seen again until 6/2/94 and then not again until 22/2/95 on Steve's first solo visit. (not quite solo - Charles was there to supervise!) This is a fairly common pattern for Chaffinches with a long period between ringing and first recapture.

**Greenfinch** **VJ35002** **12/3/95** **Q02Feeder**

Identified as a 5♂ but with an exceptional post-juvenile moult sequence. All body feathers and coverts had moulted and the outermost 1st and 3rd primary coverts on the right wing, and outermost 3 on the left. The contrast between adjacent adult type and juvenile primary coverts was interesting, to say the least.

**Greenfinch** **NN18123** **12/3/95** **Q02Feeder**

We rarely retrap our Greenfinches. This one was retrapped a year less a day since ringing.

**Yellowhammer** **J522497** **12/3/95** **Q02 Feeder**

Only the 5th we have captured this decade. Compare this with previous decades - 62 individuals in the 70's, 317 in the 80's including 135 in 1983 alone.

## Look out for .....

**Dunnock** **J033733**

Caught at the feeders and mis-aged (by CD!) twice. If you catch this bird in the Grove End area, have a good look at the eye colour, wing coverts and tail shape. It is a 6 whatever it looks like.

**Great Tit** **J522386**

This is colour ringed with black and white rings. Ringing and sighting field sheets are contradictory! Please check very carefully if you handle it. Which colour rings are on which legs?

## News from the very top

Two more papers are being written using Treswell Wood data. Will Peach has begun attacking our Blackcap, Dunnock and Robin data so that he, JM & CD can write a similar paper to the one on Wren and Treecreeper survival which will appear in Ibis this autumn. Rob Fuller has outlined the way we should tackle the problem of determining the effects of woodland management on bird populations. He is keen to see what we can do with the post-breeding period and winter. These two important time intervals have not been studied anywhere before (to his knowledge) in this way. SW is working on the number crunching (16,787 mist nets sited up to the end of 1994, excluding those at pond and feeders etc.)

Will reports that Andy Gosler has been studying Treecreepers in west Wales. Andy discovered recently that Treecreepers survive badly in wet winters - this is the same conclusion as the Treswell data have indicated. Andy suggests that one reason is that invertebrates are washed off tree trunks by the rain. We think a reason is that birds' plumage is wetted by close contact with wet trees and this leads to heat loss with consequent higher mortality.

## Colour ringing of Great Tits

José has agreed to extend the colour ringing to females as well as males, in the hope of identifying some as they bring food to the nest, without disturbing them on the nest. February brought its usual influx of new Great Tits to the feeders and we now have a total of 72 colour ringed individuals.

## ... and finally.

As ever many thanks are due to all of you who have helped to provide such a valuable dataset, particularly to those who have ensured the continuity of the system during John's long holiday.

# Ten-week Summary - January to March 1995

1995 Interval 1 Visits 1179 1177 1174 1175 1183 1176 1178

	New Birds			Recaptures			
	Total Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	1	3	.	2	1	.	7
Dunnock	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
Robin	1	.	.	2	5	.	8
Blackbird	7	3	.	3	1	.	14
Goldcrest	1	2	.	.	3	.	6
Long-tailed Tit	3	.	.	14	.	.	17
Marsh Tit	.	.	2	.	.	.	2
Willow Tit	.	.	.	4	3	.	7
Coal Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Blue Tit	1	6	.	1	3	.	11
Great Tit	.	4	.	4	5	.	13
Treecreeper	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Chaffinch	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>91</b>

## 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	142	89	110	520
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	<b>91</b>	---	---	---	---	(91)
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Min	64	57	99	68	88	422
Mean	89	110	180	149	133	619