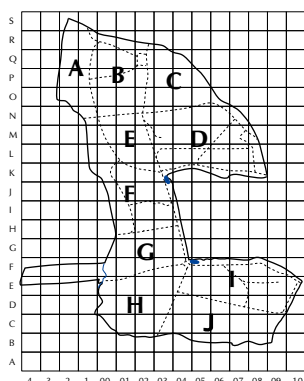


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

December 2011 Treswell Wood IPM Group

(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

2011/5

Project leaders:

Number

CBC

Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

85

Ringing

John Clark & John McMeeking



As always, it has been an interesting year in the wood. News of the Blackcap ringed in the wood and recaptured in Southern Spain was a good addition to the long distance travel records of our birds, made all the better by the fact it was released after being recaptured. We have not seen it again in the wood this year - that was just too much to expect. The first use of nestboxes by Kestrel and Nuthatch was very pleasing, and even though they did not use the special 'species specific' boxes provided, both nests were successful. On the negative side, this was the second consecutive year in which we captured no Willow Tits. Sadly the outlook for this species seems particularly grim.

The Frass collecting has provided a new tool to look at food resources in the wood available to the breeding birds, and has already shown why they had some problems last spring. More data in future years will give us a better understanding of one of the important factors affecting breeding success in the wood.

We have hosted a number of visitors to the ringing in the wood during the last year, and as well as enjoying the view of birds in the hand, all have left with an understanding of what we do, and how ringing and constant effort sites contribute to the national data, providing a solid base for population research. One thing commented on favourably by one of the visitors was the wide spread of ages in the team. We have been most fortunate in welcoming both young and 'mature' trainees in the last year. This mix of ages, backgrounds and experience is one of the things that helps us all to keep learning. We look forward to an interesting 40th year in the wood.

The Treswell Wood ringing work aims to document the changing pattern of bird activity - happily it is not an operation aimed at ringing as many birds as possible. Reports from several other places suggest a good breeding season for summer visitors but not so good for many resident species. Certainly, our own data support a poor breeding season for most residents. The summer visitors are now elsewhere so a good breeding season will not be reflected in our capture totals for the last ten weeks of the year. We know how bad the tit breeding season was and our standard site totals show this - total adult captures of the four box-nesting species are only slightly greater than total juvenile captures - not what might be expected in species which are capable of producing a dozen or so chicks in a brood. But it is not only the tits - the total of captures of Blackbirds, Robins and Dunnocks is equal to that of Treecreepers. Curiously this little species is one resident which seems to have flourished during the year. The capture total table also holds another interesting feature - it is the first time that three predatory species have featured in our standard site captures in a single ten-week interval - one each of Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Tawny Owl. And what about 2012? We can only hope that the avian outlook is less gloomy than that of the national economy. What we can guarantee is that, whatever the new year brings, we will do our best to document it.

We do know that 2012 will bring two notable events. First will be the first Treswell Wood IPM Group conference on Saturday 25th February - the details are below. The second event - at the other end of the year will be the 40th anniversary ringing visit to the wood.

The Treswell Wood IPM Group Conference - Saturday, 25th February 2012

This event is planned as an opportunity for all involved with the bird operation in the wood to meet all the others, to learn about their activities, to hear what is being done with some of the data and to have a chance to influence future projects. The conference will be in Treswell Village Hall (SK781 792). The programme is given below.

Andy Clements, Director of the BTO, will open the conference and share his views on the work undertaken here. The rest of the morning will include short presentations about the various operations in the wood - woodland management, census work, ringing, nest recording, and the dormouse project. During the breaks there will be plenty of time to meet others over coffee and lunch and see some of the data brought to life on the computer screen - Steve Wain will have the complete computerised series of CBC maps. In the afternoon we will be able to learn more from Charles Deeming (Lincoln University) and Andrew MacColl (Nottingham University) about the studies they are doing using the Treswell Wood data.

We would like to stress again that this meeting is open to everyone associated with the Treswell Wood operation in

any way - and if you receive a copy of Twitter you are automatically 'associated'. If you wish to come from afar, contact one of the locals and it should be possible to arrange overnight accommodation (and a ringing visit to the wood on the following day).

There will be several changes in the CBC team before the 2012 season. We hope that this event will provide an opportunity for the experienced census workers to meet the new volunteers who may need some induction before the 2012 season begins.

We will also have a bookstall and proceeds will go towards TWIG funds. Any unsold books will be given to the BTO second-hand book collection. If you have any natural history books you wish to donate to this, please pass them to any group member. (It would be useful to give a suggested guide price for any books which might be of relatively high value).

So, if you have ever wondered who else is involved with the wood and what they do, what other people think of the work done here and what else we should be doing, complete the form on the last page and send it to Neil now. We look forward to seeing you all on the day. More details are available from John Clark, Chris du Feu or Neil Taylor (contact details are on the members' list).

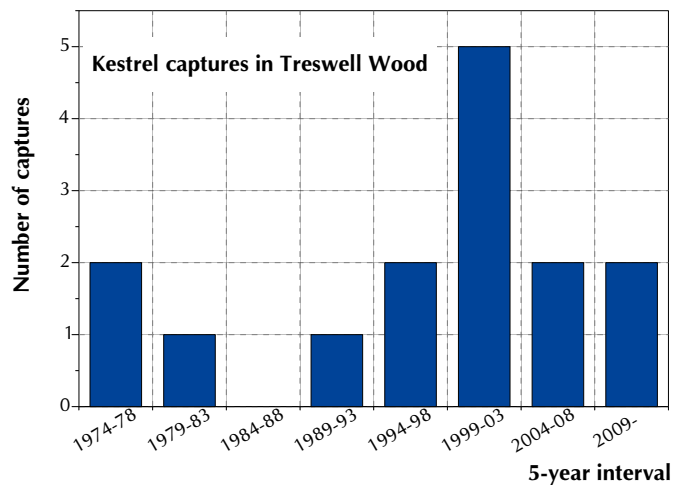
Treswell Wood IPM Group bank account

Keith Stedman kindly agreed to be treasurer for the group. With the forthcoming conference it was clear that we needed a bank account and Keith has now arranged this. Apart from using it for dealing with the conference we will also use it for holding any donations or subscriptions which will be spent on equipment, rings or bird food. An additional benefit is that we have now registered with the Grant Arms Hotel, Speyside (web site www.bwwc.co.uk) If anyone books a wildlife holiday there and says they are a member of the group, the hotel will make a £10 donation to group funds. Cheques can be made out to Treswell Wood IPM Group or, more simply, just to TWIG.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Kestrel	3M	EL87439	18/12/2011	N-1

What an excellent last capture in any standard site net for the year and, incidentally, 39 years and one day after John McMeeking's first ever ringing visit to the wood. It was caught at the west edge of the wood flying through the recently cleared strip with a dead wood mouse in its talons. If there was any disappointment in this capture it was that this was a new juvenile rather than a recapture of one of the nestlings we had ringed in the wood during the summer. This is only the 16th full-grown Kestrel we have caught. It seems likely we are catching more than in earlier years. With such small numbers it is hard to be certain, but note that the current 5-year interval still has two years to go. If numbers are generally increasing it could result from higher numbers locally or (possibly more likely) better hunting habitat within the wood with more open, newly coppiced areas with fewer standards than before. There seems to be no within-year pattern, with captures spread fairly evenly through the seasons. About about two-thirds of captures have been of young birds.



Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Woodpigeon	3	FH22054	1/12/2011	Q02 Feeder

Of 78 Woodpigeons we have ringed, this is the first to be retrapped. It was captured 'by hand' as a recently fledged juvenile but could just fly and was judged fit to ring. To our pleasure, it has survived. This recapture was in the top shelf of a mist net. Its plumage was interesting. It still had much juvenile body plumage and so certainly was a juvenile. It had begun primary moult but arrested after just the inner primary had regrown. It seems that it will enter its second calendar year still wearing most of its juvenile plumage, perhaps restarting its body moult in the spring. Since this recapture we have seen it again, still in the car park area near the feeders, still able to fly well but still very happy to walk instead.

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2M	CT84374	18/12/2011	Q02 Feeder

This species has a great deal in common with London buses, not just the red colour but also the habit of arriving in threes after a long wait. The last Great Spotted Woodpecker capture in the wood before this one was in June. This bird had just been processed when we returned to the same net to find two more caught in it. All three birds have a

history in the wood, this one being the longest having been ringed in 2008. It has apparently been a bad breeding season for the species with only one juvenile captured this year. The other eight birds trapped this year include two new adults and one with a history going back to 2005.

Long-tailed Tit 2 BXA416 20/11/2011 D03

This bird was ringed at Rampton Manor in the autumn of 2008 and retrapped in the wood in February 2009. We did not recapture it again in 2010 but this is its second recapture this year. A month later we recaptured another Rampton bird, BXA432 which we had not seen since December 2009 and also two birds ringed at Hillcrest Farm in 2008 which we had recaptured in the wood earlier in 2011. An eclectic collection.

Marsh Tit 3 L327704 23/11/2011 Q02 Feeder

This is the only one of the 13 Marsh Tits ringed in the nest in 2011 to be recaptured - but this is its third recapture, always in the north of the wood well away from its natal area in the south. One retrap from 13 nestlings is not a high number, somewhat lower than the low proportion of Great Tits (27/216) but rather greater than the 3/71 Blue Tits we have retrapped so far.

Annual Summary - All ringing records 2011

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Recvs.	Othr	Total
		Adult	Juvnl	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Sparrowhawk	.	2	2	.	1	.	.	.	5	
Kestrel	.	.	1	5	.	.	.	1	7	
Stock Dove	.	.	.	10	.	.	.	1	11	
Woodpigeon	.	4	1	.	1	.	1	.	7	
Tawny Owl	.	3	1	2	.	.	.	.	6
Barn Owl	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker	.	2	1	.	19	.	.	.	22	
Wren	.	24	45	.	28	11	.	.	108	
Dunnock	.	16	10	.	8	3	.	.	37	
Robin	.	26	22	.	17	11	.	.	76	
Blackbird	.	32	7	1	43	9	.	1	93	
Song Thrush	.	11	2	4	5	4	.	1	27	
Redwing	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Garden Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	2	69	20	.	23	16	.	.	130	
Chiffchaff	.	23	19	.	17	3	.	.	62	
Willow Warbler	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	10	31	.	25	11	.	.	77	
Spotted Flycatcher	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	3	
Long-tailed Tit	.	41	11	.	80	7	.	.	139	
Marsh Tit	.	1	7	13	53	2	.	.	76	
Coal Tit	.	4	25	.	84	10	.	1	124	
Blue Tit	4	60	39	71	226	14	.	1	432	
Great Tit	6	46	37	216	362	44	.	4	734	
Nuthatch	.	1	5	5	26	.	.	.	37	
Treecreeper	.	6	23	.	40	5	.	.	74	
Jay	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	
Tree Sparrow	.	9	.	.	1	.	.	.	10	
Chaffinch	.	25	20	.	22	5	.	.	72	
Goldfinch	.	23	4	.	5	1	.	.	33	
Bullfinch	.	15	23	.	9	4	.	.	51	
Yellowhammer	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Totals	12	462	357	331	1097	160	1	8	38	2466

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.

Notes: The Barn Owl nestlings were ringed at Forwood Farm adjacent to the wood. These are the only birds ringed outside the wood.

Marsh Tit 4 R353196 20/11/2011 E02

The oldest bird we have retrapped this autumn - 6 years and two months since being ringed in autumn 2005. Marsh Tits are very sedentary and thus will know their range very well indeed. This can enable them to survive hard times through intimate knowledge of the best places to feed and shelter. However, the apparent longevity can be further enhanced by their sedentary behaviour. If they remain in the same area they are much more likely to be retrapped by us than birds which are equally old but range more widely. This is our second oldest known Marsh Tit - just three months short of the record of 6 years, 6 months set by J033353 in January 2000.

Blue Tit 3 L327676 23/11/2011 Q02 Feeder

One of only three of the 2011 nestbox-ringed cohort of 71 birds to be recaptured this year. This is a record low in both numbers and proportion.

Blue Tit 4 X649893 6/11/2011 D07

This bird was ringed a year previously and recaptured in March of this year at Hillcrest Farm. Back now in the wood.

Great Tit 4M TJ49871 6/12/2011 P-2 Roosting

We have checked the nestboxes for roosting birds twice this autumn. Very few birds were found on either occasion - another insight into the low productivity and survival of our Blue and Great Tits this year, perhaps? This was the oldest bird found - ringed as a nestling in 2009 and frequently retrapped in the north-west of the wood. It is also one with a history of roosting in boxes throughout the winter of 2010/2011

Great Tit 4M X497513 6/11/2011 D07

A Hillcrest Farm bird ringed there in January 2009 and retrapped in the wood two months later. Since then it has made one appearance in late 2010 followed, a year later, by this recapture.

Controls and Recoveries

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Great Tit	3M	X497930	20/11/2011	E02

Our only movement to or from the wood reported this autumn. A short movement - it was ringed in Hillcrest Farm in July and retrapped there a week later.

10 Week Summary 2011 Interval 5, Captures in Standard Sites

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Kestrel	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Tawny Owl	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Wren	.	.	5	1	.	.	6
Dunnock	2	.	1	.	.	.	3
Robin	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Blackbird	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Song Thrush	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Blackcap	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	3	.	4	1	.	2	10
Long-tailed Tit	10	.	.	10	.	.	20
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Coal Tit	.	.	2	.	.	3	5
Blue Tit	1	.	2	8	.	4	15
Great Tit	.	.	4	8	.	2	14
Nuthatch	.	.	1	1	.	1	3
Treecreeper	.	.	3	1	.	3	7
Bullfinch	1	.	5	.	.	.	6
Totals	17	.	32	35	.	17	101

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

Recent years:

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2008	125	130	151	86	100	592
2009	57	130	156	85	80	508
2010	94	100	144	119	143	600
2011	96	112	120	105	101	438

Summary Data since standard site netting began in 1978:

Maximum	128	145	288	253	177	864
Minimum	57	33	94	68	59	364
Mean	90	108	162	133	125	613

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

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 2011. (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 2012.

Treswell Wood IPM Group members 2011

Richard Anderton	Ringling	Olivia Masi	Ringling
Rob Atkinson	NWT Reserve Officer	Andrew MacColl	Nottingham University
Dan Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Stuart Martin	CBC
Gill Bardsley	Ringling, Nestboxes	Phil May	Scottish correspondent
Dave Barritt	Foreign correspondent	John McMeeking	Ringling
John Bartley	CBC, Nestboxes, Mammal recording	Peter Phillips	Ringling
Sophie Bennett	Lincoln University	Pat Quinn-Catling	CBC co-ordinator
Jerzy Behnke	Mites	Keith Stedman	Ringling
Ben Bower	Ringling	Alex Stewart	Nottingham University
Abi Burns	Ringling	Jo Surgey	Ringling
Hannah Byrne	Nottingham University	Neil Taylor	Ringling
David Carthy	Ringling	Frank Tillotson	CBC
John Clark	Ringling, Nestboxes	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Peter Cobb	Ringling	Dave Valentine	Woodland management
Charles Deeming	Lincoln University - egg research	Steve Wain	Ringling, Data processing, 'Bible' production
Paul Eady	Lincoln University	Visitors:	Various members of ringers' families, , Southwell U3A members.
Andy Edwardes	Nestbox making	Contacts	
Chris du Feu	Ringling, Nestboxes,	John Clark	01636 814239 johnrclark50@hotmail.com
Richard du Feu	Ringling, Data processing	John McMeeking	01636 830389 johnmcmeeking@talktalk.net
Peter Harrison	Ringling	Chris du Feu	01427 848400 chris@chrisdufeu.force9.co.uk
Chris Holliland	Mammals, Dormouse boxes	Neil Taylor	01427 612933 n.taylor321@btinternet.com
Mike Hopper	Ringling		
George Hudson	CBC		
Richard Johnson	CBC		
Andy Kirk	Ringling		
Tony Kennedy	Woodland management		
Ulli Langemann	Foreign correspondent		
Ray Lister	Woodland craft tuition		

The Treswell Wood IPM Group Conference - Saturday, 25th February 2012

Provisional Programme

09:30	Arrival, Coffee & Registration	
10:00	Introduction & Welcome	John McMeeking
10:05	Where does Treswell fit in the scheme of things?	Andy Clements
10:30	Managing the wood	Rob Atkinson
10:50	Ringing in the wood	John Clark
11:10	Coffee	
11:40	Common Birds Census	Richard Johnson
12:00	Nest boxes	Chris du Feu
12:20	Dormice	Chris Holliland
12:40	Buffet Lunch	
13:40	Introduction to the afternoon	
13:45	Don't count your chickens	Charles Deeming
14:15	Coppicing and bird abundance	Andrew MacColl
14:45	Summary so far & things to think about for next session	
14:50	Coffee	
15:10	What will we do next?	
16:00	Close	



Treswell Wood IPM Group Conference - Saturday, 25th February 2012

Booking form.

Name:

email:

Any special dietary requirements:

I enclose a cheque for £8 payable to TWIG.

Please send this form and cheque to:

Neil Taylor,
11A Willingham Road,
Lea,
Gainsborough,
Lincolnshire,
DN21 5EN