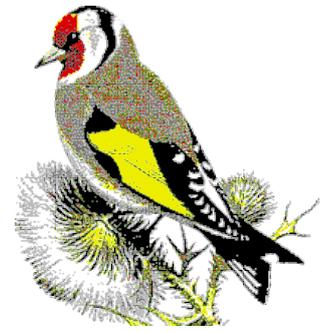


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

December 2001 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

2001/5 Number 35

We ended this final ten-weeks of the year with an all-time low number of birds captured in the standard nets. Unlike many 'record breaking' 10-week catches, which only just fall outside the previous record, this number of 59 massively below the previous low of 88 in 1985 and well under half of the average catch of 128. Long-tailed Tits, which had dominated the previous interval were not captured in such numbers again. The autumn influx of Goldcrests turned into a trickle (although it was still the species with the greatest number of captures). Elsewhere there have been reports of large numbers of Coal Tits present, possibly caused by an influx from the continent. Our standard site captures do not reflect this although we have certainly captured our fair share at the feeders (but see below). Reports on birds in gardens locally are often of low numbers, although from time-to-time there have been larger numbers seen here and there. For example, there have been good numbers of wintering thrushes feeding on fallen apples in orchards but few, if any, have come into to wood to feed on our crab apples.

2001 - A Year to Remember - from John McMeeking

Most bird watchers had their activities curtailed by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which swept across England, Wales and southern Scotland from February onwards and was not finally eliminated until early in 2002. Fortunately there were no cases in Nottinghamshire but, with the contingent of David Bower's pigs, Treswell Wood had its own special problems. These pigs were put into the wood to clear the undergrowth in preparation for coppicing, but they were unable to be taken away because of government restrictions on animal movements. The pigs ignored these restrictions and escaped back to the farm early in May.

So we lost seven of the 14 standard site visits which are normal in the first 21 weeks of the year. This caused a gap in our figures which we can never fill but which will, thankfully, not do too much overall damage to our long-term data set. CBC and nestbox work were also delayed, but sterling work by our team meant that the data sent to the BTO in Thetford were far more extensive than we had dared to hope.

After all this, the Standard Site totals for periods 3 and 5 were the lowest ever (down by a third in period 5, from 88 to only 59) and the period 4 total was only respectable because of the numbers of Long-tailed Tits caught. It looks as if low productivity in the summer resulted in abnormally low numbers of juveniles through the autumn - but we have to do more work on our data to confirm this.

My own complete absence from January 10th through to May 13th, thanks to pneumonia, has been followed by an interminable period of convalescence, making it difficult to pull my weight even now. I want to say 'Thank-you' to everyone who has helped to maintain the mist-netting programme, but especially to Neil and Chris who have been the backbone of this year's campaign.

2002 started quietly, with poor weather and poor catches, but Spring may be just around the corner as you read this. Let us hope for many dry, calm and sunny Sundays to come, with enough birds to keep us working hard.

Treswell Wood Constant Effort 2001

Our CES data, as summarised below, have been submitted to the BTO and incorporated into their system. Dawn Balmer has, as usual, written to thank us and make preliminary observations on our numbers in the light of data received from other CES operations. She says:

Thank you very much for the CES returns for Treswell Wood. We are really pleased that you have been able to do some CES ringing this year. Every dataset we receive is even more important than usual as the full impact of Foot & Mouth on CES ringing this season is still unknown, although we are aware of quite a few sites that were not able to operate. The data for 2001 have now been successfully transferred to our computer system, without any problems. Many thanks for computerising the data - it is a big help.

Overall, many ringers reported a poor season in 2001, and juvenile numbers were particularly low. Treswell Wood reflected this picture, although the hornets' nest on visit 12 probably did not help. Generally, Willow Warbler numbers remain low and many CE Sites have reported a decline in Blue Tits this year. Blackcaps seem to have had

a fairly mixed year, doing well in some sites but less well in others.

Again, many thanks for all your hard work this year. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Please pass these thanks to all the members of Treswell Wood IPM Group for their help this year.

Dawn Balmer

CES Summary, Treswell Wood, 2001

Species	2000			2001			Change 00-01		
	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%
Kestrel	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Wren	10	12	120	10	11	110	-	-	-
Dunnock	9	2	22	9	2	22	=	=	=
Robin	17	17	100	8	19	238	-	+	+
Blackbird	11	2	18	11	1	9	=	-	-
Song Thrush	9	2	22	1	0	0	-	-	-
Garden Warbler	1	0	0	5	0	0	+	=	=
Blackcap	21	4	19	18	2	11	-	-	-
Chiffchaff	4	0	0	6	1	17	+	+	+
Willow Warbler	1	0	0	1	0	0	=	=	=
Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	X	1	1	100	+	+	+
Long-tailed Tit	1	2	200	1	0	0	=	-	-
Marsh Tit	4	2	50	1	1	100	-	-	+
Willow Tit	2	2	100	0	0	X	-	-	X
Coal Tit	1	3	300	1	2	200	=	-	-
Blue Tit	7	0	0	5	1	20	-	+	+
Great Tit	5	1	20	4	2	50	-	+	+
Treecreeper	5	4	80	4	6	150	-	+	+
Jay	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Chaffinch	5	0	0	8	0	0	+	=	=
Bullfinch	8	0	0	3	0	0	-	=	=
Totals	117	59	50.4	98	49	50.0	-	-	-

Key Ad - adults caught, Juv - juveniles caught,
Prod% - productivity (Juv/Ad) - down, + up, = no change, X not calculable

Professor Jerzy Behnke - Inaugural Lecture

Jerzy's inaugural professorial lecture will take place on Friday, March 8th at 8 p.m. in Lecture Theatre B3, School of Life Sciences, Nottingham University. He extends an invitation to anyone associated with Treswell Wood operations. Although such lectures are open to the public, so there is no need to announce your intention to attend in advance, it would be helpful of you let Chris or John know so that we can let Jerzy approximate numbers arriving from this part of the world. The title of the lecture is ***Across deserts and in the wilderness, chasing hosts, parasites and genes.***

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3M	RR11974	4/11/2001	Q02 Feeder

We ringed this young bird one week earlier at the feeder. Unlike many of this species it presented no problems in ageing having features as described in the official guide - new primaries and old greater coverts. Also caught and ringed on 28/11/2001 was a second Great Spotted Woodpecker - a juvenile female. Again, standard appearance presenting no ageing problems. Too good to be true?

Dunnock	4	K463419	30/12/2001	Q02 Feeder
----------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	-------------------

We noted in Twitter 17 that this Dunnock had vanished for two years since ringing and was then retrapped in the same part of the wood. Because of the sedentary behaviour of Dunnocks it is unusual to have long gaps between captures of individuals caught in a standard site. This bird - having been absent between May 1996 and March 1998 then vanished again from June 1998 until March 2000. Now, it reappears again for its first capture at the feeder which is very close to its other capture positions just west of the car park. Has it only just discovered the feeder or is it rather good at avoiding capture? Or what?

Robin	4	N275198	30/12/2001	Q02 Feeder
--------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	-------------------

This bird was ringed and recaptured in the autumn of 1999 at Grove End (R-1). The following year it was caught in breeding condition in the southern part of the wood, G04. That is quite normal for a post-juvenile dispersal

movement. However, this capture was back in its juvenile haunts in the north of the wood at the feeder. Could it have located and noted the feeder when it passed through that part of the wood during its post-juvenile dispersal phase, and simply returned to feed?

Robin 4 N275371 2/12/2001 C03

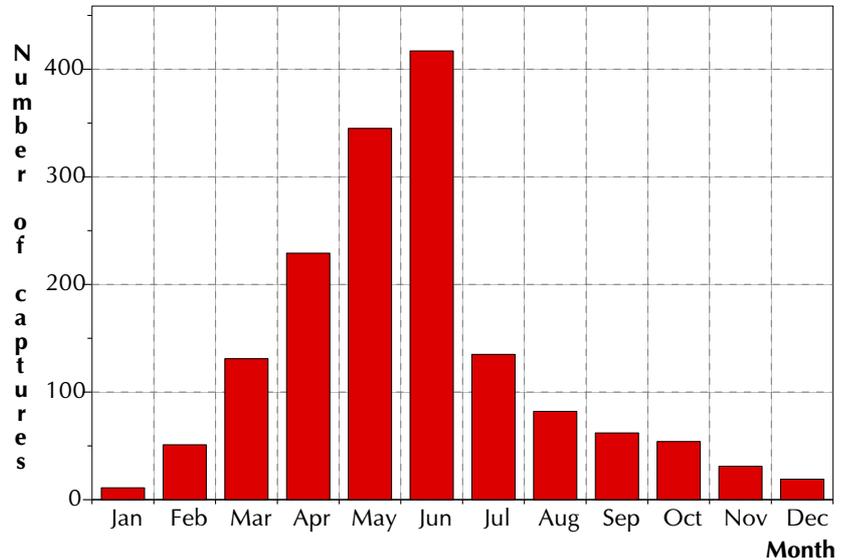
The third capture for this Robin which we ringed almost two years ago. It is also one of several which have provided repeated mite counts for the researchers. On this occasion, in addition to the mites clustering in the primary feathers, it had a very obvious infestation on the head.

Song Thrush 3

RS78217 16/12/2000 M00

Captures of Song Thrushes are very low after their serious local and national declines. This is only our 7th capture this year. Curiously it comes in mid-December. In the past, the bulk of our captures were in the breeding season with the species being largely absent during winter. We used to consider it almost a summer visitor (although we appreciated its migration probably went little further than the surrounding villages). The table gives a summary of Song Thrush captures by month since ringing began.

Months of Capture of Song Thrushes. 1972 - 2001



Blackbird 4M RH94739 11/11/2001 N-1

We ringed this bird just over two years ago and had not retrapped it between then and now. The first capture was near the dam (G00), very close to the edge of the wood. Does it live in a linear edge-territory - we only infrequently net on that edge of the wood, or is it a regular winter visitor (which also prefers the west side of the wood)?

Blackcap P400537 3M 7/10/2001 D03

Our last Blackcap, and our last summer visiting warbler of the year. This is about average the last date for Blackcaps in the wood although they are now found throughout the year in gardens locally.

Marsh Tit N305780 4 25/11/2001 Q02 Feeder

We ringed this as a juvenile in August 1998, so it is now over three years old. It seems to rove widely - like Willow Tits do - in the northern half of the wood. It has never having been captured further south than the pond, in its 13 capture history, despite ranging from east to west edges of the wood. This capture was its first at the feeder.

Coal Tit J639033 4 30/12/2001 Q02 feeder

A real vintage bird. This is one of our nestling ringed Coal Tits, hatched in 1994 so now in its 8th calendar year. As an adult it has been trapped mainly at the feeder although we have not caught it there since January 2000. We noted it before in Twitter 15 and wondered whether it was a winter visitor to the wood since even its captures away from the feeder have always been in the winter months.

Blue Tit K720439 4M 30/12/2001 Q02 Feeder

An ageing creature with a comprehensive capture history. Ringed as a nestling in 1997 it has since been trapped in H04 eight times, roosting in boxes there during at least three winters. Apart from those captures, all others have been at the feeder. It is an obvious commuter from the southern part of the wood to the fast-food outlet in the north.

Blue Tit P400957 3 25/11/2001 Q02 Feeder

Ringed as a nestling in L03 in June this year, we have already retrapped this bird 4 times. Three of these captures, including today's, were at the feeder in the north of the wood. Last week (18/11/2001) it was retrapped in the south of the wood D08. Is it one which has settled in the south but happy to commute to abundant food in the north?

Jay 3 DA20230 4/11/2001 G04

Our third capture of this species for the year making this a slightly better than average year for them. Twitter 2001/2&3 gave details of previous annual captures for this species.

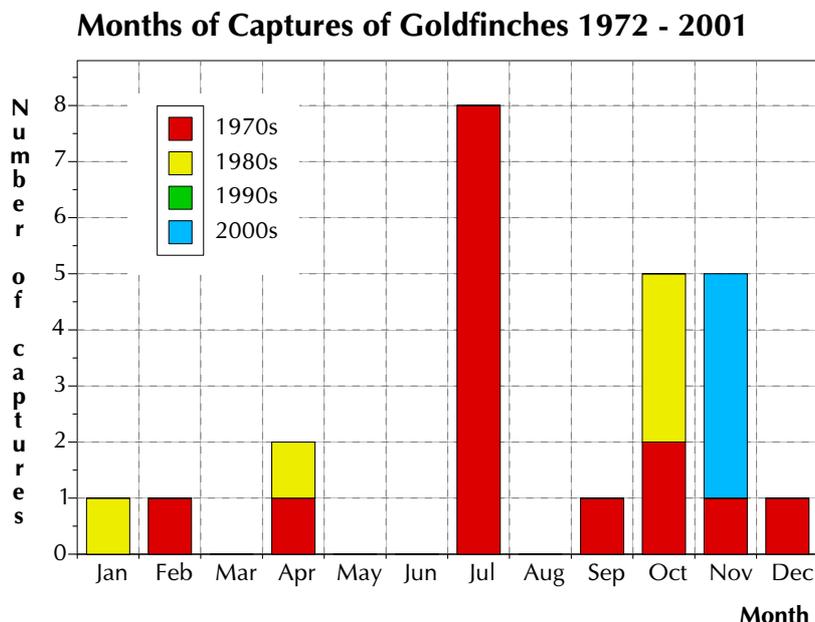
Chaffinch 4M K720608 11/11/2001 Q02 Feeder

Our sixth capture of this bird, always at the feeder. It seems like a local breeder, having been trapped at the feeder

in April 1999 and May 2000, both times in breeding condition, in addition to its other winter captures. We had not seen it for almost a year - its previous capture was 17/12/2000.

Goldfinch **3F**
P400574 **18/11/2001** **J03**

The chart below shows how few Goldfinches we catch and how many years it is since we last caught any in the wood. They seem to have been present locally in greater numbers this winter than is usual. This bird was one of four caught in nets set near the thistles they had been feeding on in the cleared area opposite the pond. Although there are usually a few marsh thistles growing here and there in the wood, this year there has been a much larger patch and this attracted our large party of Goldfinches.



Yellowhammer **4F** **N275408** **16/12/2001** **H04**

Yellowhammers move into the wood in winter when grain is put out for feeding Pheasants. Of the handful we have captured so far this winter, this is our only retrap. We ringed it as an adult just over a year earlier in the same place. Although Pheasant food is put out in several places, it seems to be only here, on the edge of the wood, that the Yellowhammers consistently come in any numbers.

Controls and recoveries

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Coal Tit	3F	P400542	30/11/2001	Rampton Village

Mike Archer has begun the winter's roost netting at Rampton and has already caught four of our birds. We have yet to trap any of his. Kyle has been ringing with him on some occasions and this bird was processed by Kyle at Rampton. We ringed it in Treswell Wood on 7/10/01 in D03.

Coal Tit	3	P400975	23/11/2001	Rampton Village
-----------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	------------------------

Ringed in Treswell Wood 21/6/01 in a small, late brood of three birds only. It was trapped again on 24/11/2001 in Rampton.

Blue Tit	3	N645431	23/11/2001	Rampton Village
-----------------	----------	----------------	-------------------	------------------------

Ringed in Treswell Wood on 19/5/01 in L05. This was one of a brood of 9 birds and also our earliest successful brood of Blue Tits for the year.

Great Tit	3	VS51160	20/8/2001	SK7380 Little Gringley, near Retford
------------------	----------	----------------	------------------	---

Our first nestling-ringed bird of the year to found outside the wood. It had moved 3 km WNW towards Retford. It was found dead, with an injury, but cause of death not identified.

Chaffinch	3F	P400511	30/11/2001	Rampton Village
------------------	-----------	----------------	-------------------	------------------------

Ringed 16/9/01 at the feeder, trapped 3 times since then. It is quite possible this bird is still visiting Treswell Wood to feed, but returning to roost in Rampton. The tits which Mike has controlled, on the other hand, are more likely to have moved away from Treswell for the whole winter not to be seen again until their return 'migration' in the spring, or else have dispersed from Treswell never to be seen there again.

Coal Tits

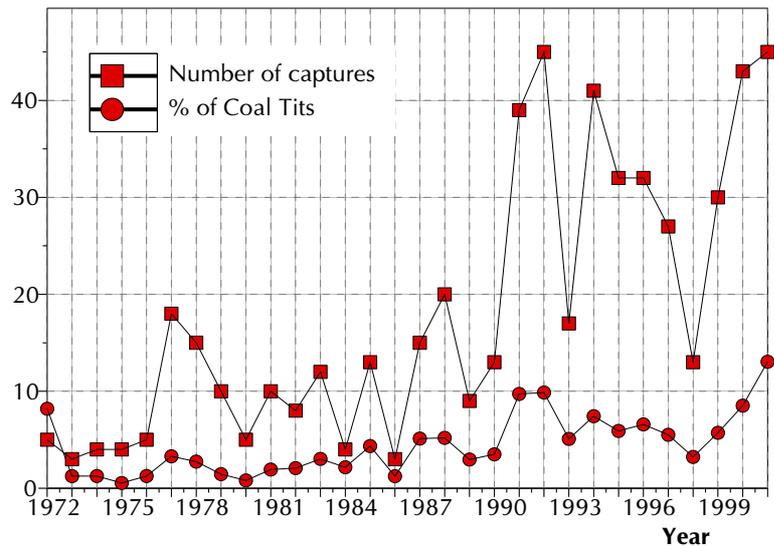
Although the numbers trapped in standard nets were not great, we appeared to have had much larger numbers than usual overall, mostly at the feeder but in other non-standard nets too. This was well worth looking at. As so often, impressions made at the time are not always completely reliable. In fact we were making more captures of Coal Tits than usual but not vastly more. The apparently very large number resulted from larger numbers than in earlier years (part of a trend in captures in the wood) coupled with the very low catches of other species. A second feature of the captures was in conflict with the idea that we were enjoying an invasion from elsewhere. Many of our captures were recaptures of 'old friends'. Even the captures of birds ringed this year included nestling ringed birds and those ringed before long-distance dispersal movements would have taken place in the autumn. (As with all the other group data, there is much to analyse in far greater detail than the brief preliminary analysis below. If you want to try your hand at attacking the dataset, let John or Chris know. It is all free!)

The first graph shows the steady increases in both the numbers of captures of Coal Tits in the last three months of the year (excluding same-day recaptures) and the increasing proportion of our captures which are of Coal Tits. (Note that the 1972 data are from John's first two visits in December 1972.) Examination of nest records also shows an increasing population of nestbox users which, presumably, reflects an increasing overall breeding population.

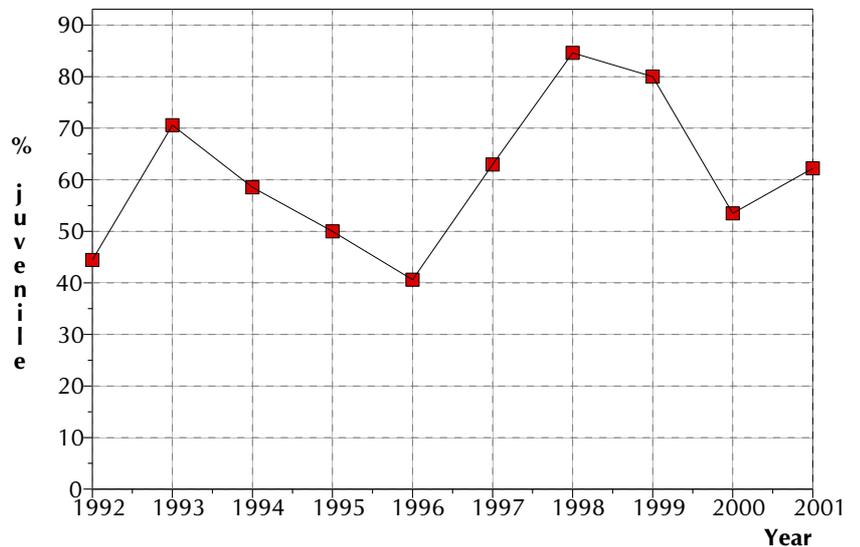
The second graph shows the proportion of the Coal Tit captures which have been of juveniles. This graph is drawn from 1992 only because, before then, ageing methods for Coal Tits were not as good as they are since the publication of Svensson in that year. There is no overall trend in these proportions, but it is clear that the 2001 figure is about as average as you can have. Again, this does not support the idea that we have enjoyed an influx of continental juveniles engaged in a mass dispersal movement.

Amongst other things we also noted a relatively large number of old really friends in the captures (see J639033 in Noteworthy Captures above). The table below gives the lengths of recapture histories of our autumn birds for the last 10 years. The 'age' is counted as 0 if we first ringed the bird in that year so, for example, a bird in 1998 which had been ringed in 1998 would count as 0, but a bird in 1998 which we had ringed in 1996 would count as 2.) This year's figure does support the idea that our present population has a higher proportion of older birds than usual.

Captures of Coal Tits in autumn



Ages of Coal Tits 1992 - 2001



Length of Capture Histories of Autumn-Caught Coal Tits

Length of capture

Length of capture history (years)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
0	16	11	17	8	11	11	7	13	15	14
1	8	2	2	4	1	5	1	3	6	4
2	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	1	5
3	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	2
4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Average length	0.48	0.40	0.45	0.94	0.81	0.47	0.33	0.35	0.52	1.04

And what does it all mean? We have not the faintest idea.

10 Week Summary 2001 - Interval 5

Visits 1518, 1520, 1519, 1521, 1516, 1515, 1517

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	Juv	Pulli	Adult	Juv	Pulli	
Wren	1	.	2	.	.	2	5
Dunnock	.	.	2	1	.	.	3
Robin	.	.	3	3	.	3	9
Blackbird	.	.	3	1	.	.	4
Song Thrush	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	2	.	10	.	.	.	12
Long-tailed Tit	2	.	.	4	.	.	6
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Willow Tit	.	.	1	.	.	1	2
Coal Tit	.	.	1	1	.	1	3
Blue Tit	1	.	.	.	.	2	3
Great Tit	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Treecreeper	1	.	2	.	.	.	3
Jay	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Chaffinch	1	.	3	.	.	.	4
Totals	10	.	29	10	.	10	59

Treswell Wood - Annual Ringing Totals for 2001

	Ctrl.	New Birds			Retraps		Sight	Rec	Other	Total
		Adult	Juv	Pulli	Rt	SDR				
Stock Dove	.	1	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	5
Woodpigeon	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Tawny Owl	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	.	.	3	.	9	1	.	.	.	13
Wren	.	16	26	13	9	1	.	1	.	66
Dunnock	.	10	19	.	22	2	.	.	.	53
Robin	.	13	49	.	31	6	3	.	.	102
Redstart	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Blackbird	.	19	7	4	11	3	.	1	.	45
Song Thrush	.	1	4	.	2	.	.	.	.	7
Garden Warbler	.	5	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	9
Blackcap	1	23	16	.	9	5	.	.	.	54
Chiffchaff	1	8	3	.	4	3	.	.	.	19
Willow Warbler	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	4	19	.	4	1	.	.	.	28
Spotted Flycatcher	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Long-tailed Tit	.	40	2	.	13	.	.	.	.	55
Marsh Tit	.	.	5	.	11	.	.	.	.	16
Willow Tit	.	1	6	.	28	2	.	.	.	37
Coal Tit	.	1	14	27	64	.	.	.	5	111
Blue Tit	.	26	15	202	92	4	.	2	22	363
Great Tit	.	15	16	78	98	7	.	1	.	215
Nuthatch	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Treecreeper	.	5	13	.	3	4	.	.	.	25
Jay	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	3
Chaffinch	1	20	31	.	24	4	.	.	.	80
Greenfinch	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Goldfinch	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Bullfinch	.	4	8	.	4	2	.	.	.	18
Yellowhammer	.	5	4	.	1	.	.	.	.	10
Totals	3	224	267	330	442	47	3	5	28	1349

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.

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	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)
(bracketed numbers - some visits missed through F&M and are excluded from calculations below)						
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Min	59	57	94	68	59	422
Mean	87	108	168	141	128	634

Treswell Wood Integrated Population Monitoring Group - 2001

Claire & Emily Adwick	Visitors	Ulli Langemann	Data analysis
Clare Aston	Mites	Stuart Martin	CBC
Dan Bardsley	inging	John McMeeking	Ringling
Gill Bardsley	Visitor	Eric Palmer	Ringling, mammal recording
Dave Barritt	Ringling, DNA analysis	Peter Phillips	Ringling
John Bartley	CBC	Margaret Price	CBC organiser
Jerzy Behnke	Ringling, Mites	Neil Taylor	Ringling
The Bower Family	Equipment storage	David Thompson	Data analysis
Nigel Bowler	Help with nestboxes	Frank Tillotson	CBC
Kyle Campbell	Ringling	Liz Tillotson	CBC
Rob Campbell	Visitor	Steve Wain	Ringling, data processing
Dave Carthy	Distant but regular visitor	Charles Wain	Visitor
Claire Chester	Mites		
Sally Clough	Ringling	Contact numbers	
Peter Cobb	Ringling	John McMeeking	01636 830389
Marcus Croft	Visitor	Chris du Feu	01427 848400
John Daisley	Ringling		email:chris@beckingham0.demon.co.uk
Andy Edwards	Nestbox making		
Chris du Feu	Ringling, nestboxes,		
Richard du Feu	Ringling, data processing		
Chris Holliland	Dormouse boxes		
Richard Johnson	CBC		
Andrew Joys	PhD project		
Tony Kennedy	Woodland management		
Ulli Langemann	Data analysis		
Stuart Martin	CBC		
Phil May	Scottish correspondent		
John McMeeking	Ringling		

