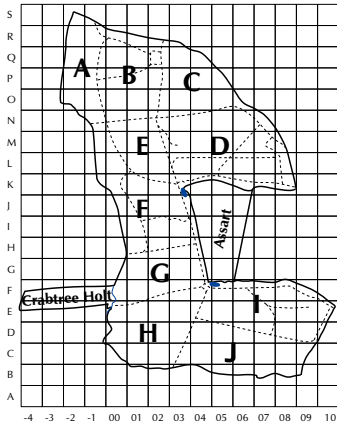


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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

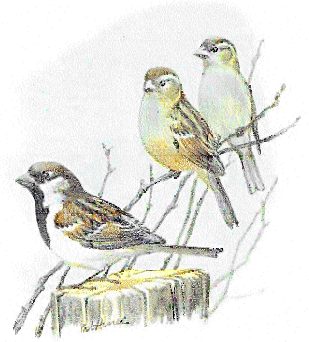
March 2016 Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

Project leaders:

CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringing John Clark



2016/1 Number 106

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It has been an interesting start to the year, with storms from Gertrude to Katie seeming to target Sundays with rain or strong winds. This gave us a bit of a backlog which led us to do two standard sites on one Sunday, and with another site being done on a weekday we managed to complete the standard sites in time (sometimes it is useful to have retired people in the team). In spite of the unusually difficult weather, our standard sites captures, although variable between sites, are overall somewhat above average, helped by a large catch of Blackbirds on one day and consistently reliable captures of Robins. The difficult weather has prevented us from visiting the car park feeding station as often as normal so we have missed much of the 'spring influx' of Blue and Great Tits.

We are fortunate to have had a number of new trainees starting in the last six months, and it is pleasing to see the progress they are making. Oliver (our youngest trainee) has just secured a placement on Fair Isle for most of July - we are not sure whether it will be relaxing after finishing his A levels, but it will certainly be interesting, and expose him to a very different set of birds. Congratulations to Ellen who has been appointed as the trainee representative on the BTO ringing committee and to Jenny who has had her C permit upgraded. Amy, our newest recruit, has expertise in websites, and was foolish enough to let us know this. By the time the next Twitter is out we hope to have begun a presence on the web - nothing too fancy, but something to let people know what we do.

Ash dieback has been confirmed in the wood. This has led to some clearance of ash on the wood edge and alongside some of the rides which form the nature trail. This is in accordance with advice from the Forestry Commission to minimise the chance of dead trees falling on passers-by. As part of the clearance, the tree from which our feeding station was suspended has been felled and the whole feeder area became much more exposed to wind (making mist-netting impossible more often) and open to very public gaze with the threat of interference or theft of feeders (regrettably this is not unknown in the wood). We have, with agreement of the Notts. Trust, moved the feeding station a little further into the wood - this is a major change because the feeding station had been in place since December 1980. Happily, the birds have taken to the new site with no difficulty.

The CBC season is upon us. Thanks to those who have already started their visits - the Chiffchaffs are back in the wood to welcome them. The processing of the CBC data for the last two years had been delayed because of sequences of badly timed events and domestic pressures. However, we are now back in order with the 2015 results presented here. Steve has already digitised the last two year's territory maps and these will be sent to the CBC team very soon. Thanks to all those involved with the survey including the observers, Pat who aggregates the species observations, John Marchant at the BTO who determines the territory maps and Steve who computerises them. A fine co-operative effort. The CBC results are almost exactly the same as those of 2014 and a little higher than the average for the last four years - though still lower than in former times. It would be quite in order to ask whether the long-term decrease results from woodland management but quite out of order to assume it to be so. The bird population in the wood depends on conditions within the wood but also on those in the immediate and wider surroundings. For example, there has been a serious decrease in Willow Warbler populations in the southern part of Britain and the almost complete loss of our breeding population reflects this. Had their numbers remained stable, the total territory numbers now would match those of the better five-year periods. Some species have increased - notably Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps but our major decreases - Song Thrush, Dunnock, Garden Warbler - do follow regional patterns.

There is one possibility of looking at changes in populations which are moderately independent of woodland management - that is by examining parts of the wood which are non-intervention areas. We do have two of our seven standard sites which are wholly within such areas (Grove End in the north and Nightingale Ride in the south). By examining our standard site captures in these sites over the years, for numbers and diversity, we might be able to throw some light on the matter. The northern area could be particularly interesting because it was subject to an intensive botanical survey in the early years of the Trust's ownership of the wood. We hope, thanks to volunteer James Faulconbridge, that this survey may be repeated. It would be very interesting to see how the flora, on which all the fauna depend, has changed over the 40 years of non-intervention.

Treswell Wood CBC - Numbers of territories - 2015

Species	5-year averages							Mean	
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95	96...00	01...05	06...10	11/14	2015
Canada Goose*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	p
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.4	p
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	1.0	1
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	1.0	1
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.8	1
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	6.0	8.6	8.0	7.7	5
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.1	0.4	p
Lapwing*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	7.0	3.1	5.8	6
Woodpigeon	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	nc	nc	nc	nc	13
Collared Dove	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0
Turtle Dove	7.6	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	p
Barn Owl	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	p
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	3.0	1.4	1.3	0
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.6	2.2	1.7	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	5.6	6.8	4	4
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Skylark*	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	2.0	3.7	4
Swallow*	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1
Meadow Pipit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	p
Pied Wagtail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	81.8	76.4	72.8	65.7	79
Dunnock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	12.6	8.4	10.6	5.7	7
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	54.0	81.4	73.2	35.5	45
Wheatear	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25.2	27.0	33.6	21.2	20
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	5.6	6.8	10.2	6.5	8
Fieldfare	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	2.8	3.8	1.0	1
Lesser Whitethroat	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Whitethroat	5.6	1.6	1.8	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	7.2	6.8	3.0	1.0	p
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	25.4	27.2	25.8	21.0	23
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	19.0	18.6	21.2	24.2	28
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	6.8	5.0	4.3	2.5	p
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	p
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	5.0	8.2	6.2	2.7	3
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.2	2.1	1.1	3.2	2
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.5	0.6	0.5	1
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7.4	6.4	4.4	4.7	3
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	70.0	50.6	44.2	41.2	41
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35.2	46.8	34.8	43.5	38
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	1.2	3.0	6.5	4
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6	3.1	2.4	4.5	1
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1.0	1.9	1.7	1.7	2
Magpie	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0
Jackdaw	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	1
Rook	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0
Carrion Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.7	2
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0
House Sparrow	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Tree Sparrow	21.0	10.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	0
Chaffinch	33.4	38.4	39.0	39.0	40.6	48.8	45.0	39.7	41
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	0.7	0.5	0.1	0
Goldfinch	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.5	1.0	2
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p
Redpoll	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Bullfinch	5.4	3.2	3.0	1.4	0.6	1.8	2.0	3.1	3
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0
Reed Bunting	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0
Total territories	457.4	457.0	437.6	386.2	426.8	464.8	427.6	373.7	390

Notes: p - present but too few observations to determine any territory. nc - not counted, * territorial behaviour recorded but extremely unlikely that nesting takes place in the wood.

Used bird nests and the National Nest Reference Collection

Last year we donated a large number of used nests to Charles Deeming at Lincoln University for various research projects he and his students are undertaking. We will be doing the same this year and he will also welcome any Blackbird and Thrush nests which you may come across. Note that nests cannot be collected until August 1st unless you have recorded the nest (e.g. for the BTO Nest Record Scheme) and thus have evidence to show that you know the birds have finished with it.

In the past we have also donated many nests to the National Nest Reference Collection at Glasgow University. The notes below are from Mike Hansell who curates the collection. (His priority list for 2016 has been edited here to include only species we might have some vague chance of finding in or around the wood.)

First of all, thanks for your help in contributing to this collection in the past. It is now 17 years since we started this collection of the nests of British breeding birds. It is now a very large collection of bird nests from the UK, second only to that of the Natural History Museum, and one of the largest in Europe.

Because of the maturity of the Collection, our appeal now concentrates on the nests of UK species that are generally rare, very difficult to locate or both and for which, consequently, we have either no nests at all or no more than six. However, as last year, our list contains two species where we have more than ten nests but, for other reasons would like additional specimens; they are the Dartford Warbler and the Ring Ouzel.

Priority wish list for 2016: Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Nuthatch, Turtle Dove,

Also desirable: Jay

We are still interested in good nests of other species, in particular 'voucher' specimens or nests that have been the subject of a published research programme.

Thanks again for any help you are able to give or have given in the past.

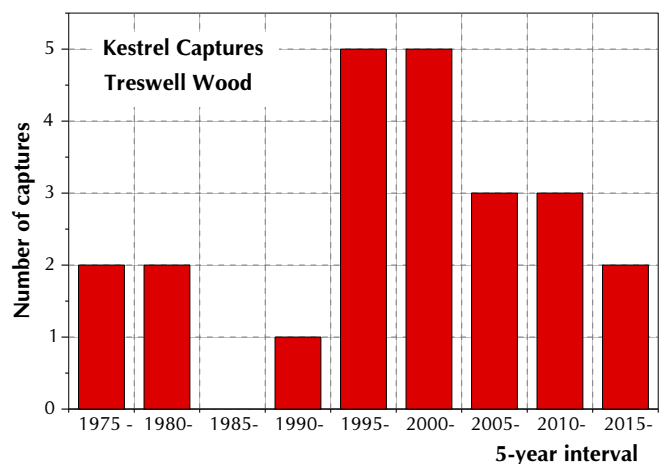
Professor Mike Hansell. Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ. Email: Mike.Hansell@glasgow.ac.uk

Any contributions to either Mike or Charles would be welcome.

Noteworthy Encounters

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Kestrel	6F	EL01986	10/1/2016	M04

This is our 23rd capture of a Kestrel (excluding the one brood of nestlings ringed). The previous capture was almost exactly a year ago. It appears that Kestrels are more common in the wood than in the early days - CBC results, ringing data and casual sightings all tell the same picture. This increase may be related to better hunting habitat in recently coppiced areas. We had seen a Kestrel earlier in the day hunting over one such area and had remarked that it was just possible we might catch it. Curiously, when we did catch it in a net at the edge of the coppice it was caught coming out of the wood into the open area rather than coming from the open area where it had been hunting earlier.



Great Spotted Woodpecker	4F	CT95960	22/2/2016	Q03
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An old friend which graced us with this capture at the new site of the feeding station on the first occasion that we had set mist nets there. A good beginning. This bird had been ringed in May 2010 and has been recaptured 20 times since then.

Wren	5	AXD414	24/1/2016	D07
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It is always pleasing to retrap birds which we had ringed as nestlings, particularly species less commonly ringed than Blue and Great Tits. This bird was ringed as a nestling in F03 in 2015 and retrapped in mid-July, a month after fledging, in D07. At this time it was still in full juvenile plumage. We retrapped it again in D07 in September by which time it had undergone its post-juvenile moult. On this capture it was still in D07 and it seems probable it will remain there - a post-natal dispersal distance of about 250m. Such small distances are quite common for this highly sedentary species.

Song Thrush 4 RW58268 17/1/2016 N02

We have always regarded the Song Thrush as a summer visitor to the wood. Normally they will arrive before other summer visitors which is not surprising if their migration, as we suspect, may take them little further than nearby villages. We have, over the years, recorded nearly 2,000 captures of the species in the wood. Of these, only 22 - just over 1% - have been in January. We have never before captured more than a single Song Thrush on any day in any January. On this day - also the day of a very large catch of Blackbirds - we caught four Song Thrushes. This is quite unprecedented. Of these, one was a new bird, two were recaptures of birds ringed as juveniles in 2015 and this one a recapture of a bird ringed in its first breeding season in spring 2014 and not re-encountered between then and this day.

Redwing 5 RT55902 14/2/2016 B03

A welcome capture of this attractive species - rarely caught by us in the wood. This one was right at the edge of the wood, possibly just straying in from the adjacent field when frightened by some event or other. This was the second Redwing this year. Unusually the first one was caught within the wood, but on the same day as we had an influx of Blackbirds with which the Redwing may have been associated.

Blackbird 6M LE35239 10/1/2016 K00

This was a very big Blackbird indeed with a wing length of 141 mm. It is the fourth largest Blackbird we have recorded in the wood (out of over 3,000 encountered). We also caught two more large birds (wing 139) a week later (they being the eighth equal largest encountered). It is quite likely that these large birds are winter visitors from the continent. One analysis which would be worth doing, would be that of wing length of Blackbirds according to month of capture (broken down by age and sex, of course). This would show us whether our winter birds were generally larger than those residents which remain in the wood after migrants have departed for Scandinavia.

The following week we had a very large catch of Blackbirds - 29 individuals. As with the four Song Thrushes on that day, this number was unprecedented but, from the recapture histories would appear to have been composed of both winter visitors and residents.

Coal Tit 6 X649869 17/1/2016 Q02

A fine, ageing little bird caught on the last day of operation of the old feeding station. We ringed it in 2010 as juvenile. It is now approaching its sixth breeding season - quite an achievement for a small bird.

Long-tailed Tit 4 EYD521 13/3/2016 Cottam Power Station

We ringed this bird in the wood in October and retrapped it in December. On both occasions it was with a party of Long-tailed Tits which included several of the same individuals. When it was caught at Cottam Power Station it was no longer with its former friends. Perhaps surprisingly, given the wide-ranging flock behaviour of the species, we have not had any exchanges of this species with Dave Fogg's ringing operation at Cottam since 1978. In October of that year seven Long-tailed Tits with Treswell Wood rings were trapped at Cottam many of them in the same parties.

Great Tit 6F D309678 10/04/2016 J02 (Box 26)

The second, and unfortunate, record of an adult in a nestbox this breeding season. The bird had been ringed as a young female in March 2015 and nested successfully, producing five young. She was captured roosting in this box (26) in February and last captured alive at the new feeding station on March 6th. This box was empty on April 3rd but her body was in it a week later - dead with some signs of injury. Alas, there will be no more direct passing-on of her genes. Of her five offspring, quite remarkably, four have a recapture history within the wood, the most recent being in March. So there is hope for her genes to continue down to another generation.

Great Tit 6F D309701 25/3/2016 E09 (Box C17)

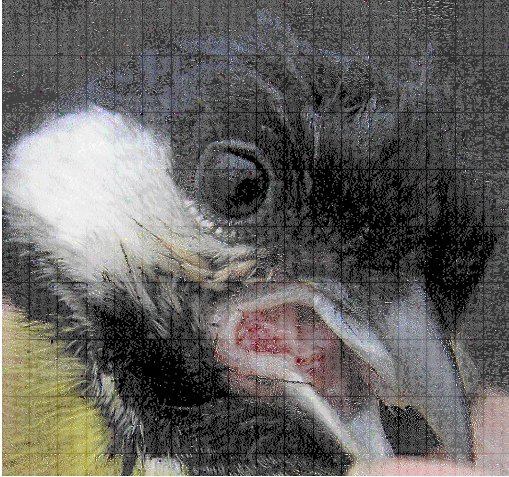
The first, rather luckier, capture of an adult at a potential nesting site. Keith, wearing his nestbox inspector's hat, came across the box to find this Great Tit stuck in the entrance hole. Apparently it could move neither further in nor back out. With some difficulty it was, at last, eased out of its predicament and released. The hole in the box then enlarged just in case it tried again. Are our nestbox holes too small? No - if they were all big enough for Great Tits to enter easily then there would be more pressure for nesting sites on the smaller tits. We have never before recorded a bird, alive or dead, stuck in the entrance hole in this way - it seems that this bird may have been overambitious in its investigation of potential nesting sites.

Great Tit 4M D309871 14/2/2016 E01

Some Great Tits are very hard to age - we think this problem is not as widely recognised as it should be. We do notice it because of our relatively high recapture rate which gives so much opportunity for detecting mis-aged birds. Even when we know from examining the recapture history of the bird in the hand what its age is, it can be

difficult to appreciate this from the plumage. This one, for example, was ringed as a juvenile in July 2015. In juvenile plumage, of course, mis-ageing would be very unlikely indeed so we can be almost certain that this is a genuine first winter bird. Even when examined closely, it was hard to see any convincing difference in colouration or brightness between primary and greater coverts. Most Great Tits are straightforward, but for the difficult ones, first look at them from many angles and in different lights. Look to see if the primary coverts have slightly paler, greyer tips than the rest of the feather. Then look at the recapture history list (and look at the bird again) before it is released.

Great Tit **6F** **L327995** **13/3/2016** **H02**



This bird was described in Twitter 101 of March 2015. It had been very badly infected with avian pox, including a large lesion inside the mouth. It was so bad that we considered it unlikely to survive simply because of the difficulty it would have in swallowing food. The photograph shows its serious condition in the spring of 2015. In January 2016 we retrapped it alive and with no trace of pox. We examined it very closely on this occasion in March and, again, could find no trace of pox at all. After the outbreak in the wood of late 2014 and early 2015 it seems that the population is clear of the infection. We have recorded no definite cases since January 2015 and only two birds which had small lumps which may, but probably may not, have been avian pox. We had made the decision in 2014 to ring all birds we found with pox because our recapture rate within the wood might well be high enough to be enable us to find more about pox survival. At least in this bird's case, we know that pox is not fatal and symptoms not permanent.

Goldfinch **5** **Z782144** **14/2/2016** **E01**

This species is often heard in tree tops, not so often netted. After catching them reasonably frequently in recent years, this is the only one so far this year. Possibly lack of opportunity to operate at the feeding station may have contributed to fewer being captured. Several people have remarked that Goldfinches do not seem to take niger seed as readily as they did two or three years ago. Certainly the niger feeder in the wood was rarely used during 2015. Sunflower hearts are reputedly their current food of choice. As with several birds, so with this species sexing is far more tricky than the identification guide suggests. Many birds seem to ignore the instructions and wear plumage intermediate between those described to separate the sexes.

House Sparrow **4M** **TT49220** **6/3/2016** **Q03**

A welcome capture at the new feeding station. It has been just over a year since our previous capture of this once very common species. It is a very much under-rated species. Far from being a boring little brown bird, the male is rather handsome when viewed close up. And from the ringing training point of view it is excellent - a very robust species with no nasty habits and ideal for the new ringer to become familiar with safe bird processing practice.

10-Week Summary: 2016 Interval 1, Captures in Standard Sites

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Kestrel	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	.	3	.	2	4	.	9
Robin	.	2	.	8	4	.	14
Blackbird	6	5	.	6	1	.	18
Song Thrush	.	1	.	1	.	.	2
Redwing	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	2	1	.	4	6	.	13
Long-tailed Tit	3	.	.	6	.	.	9
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Coal Tit	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
Blue Tit	.	4	.	3	1	.	8
Great Tit	.	.	.	2	3	.	5
Treecreeper	1	1	.	5	2	.	9
Chaffinch	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	5	.	1	2	.	8
Totals	13	24	.	39	26	.	102