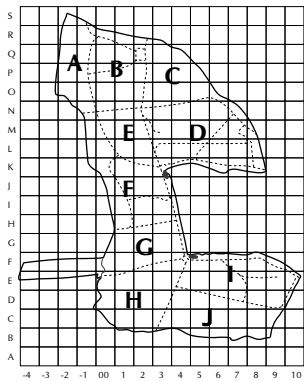


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

August 2001 Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

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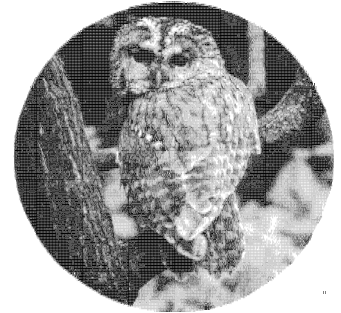
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**2001/2 & 3 -
Numbers 32 & 33**

March - August 2001 - Post Foot and Mouth Double Issue

Continuation of the Treswell Wood operations has not been easy this season. Restrictions resulting from Foot and Mouth disease prevented any visits to the wood during March and April. The pigs were still in the wood at the beginning of May, unable to be moved because the distance from where they were in the wood to where they needed to be on the farm was greater than 500m, even though the farm is adjacent to the wood. The pigs, obviously the homing sort, took the rules into their own hands, broke through the fencing and marched off to the farm unaided. We were soon allowed back in the wood. The first ornithological visit was by Richard Johnson for CBC on May 11th. The following day I made the first nestbox round. By this time many birds had built nests, some were sitting and two broods of Coal Tits had already hatched. One brood was ready to be ringed, the other had already died - cause unknown. The first mist-netting visit was on May 13th by which time we had missed catching the early Chiffchaffs and a controlled Blackcap was the first summer visitor to be captured. We managed only three mist-netting visits out of the usual seven for our second ten-week interval and have not attempted any analysis of the data for that time. We have managed a full complement of visits for interval three although catches have been, on the whole, very poor indeed. There seem to have been very few breeding birds of any species and consequently few juveniles. We have heard parties of tits once or twice but they have evaded capture as yet. One bright spot was the capture of a Spotted Flycatcher and this has been coupled with other sightings by ringers and CBC workers at both ends of the wood. None attempted nesting in our boxes. A new record low catch for this time of year was a single juvenile Robin in the 10 nets set for 5 hours on 5th August. We do not know if the presence of three noisy juvenile Sparrowhawks was deterring any birds from flying in the area. Fortunately captures at the feeders, including two Great Spotted Woodpeckers, compensated for the lack of standard site captures to some extent.

Perusal of the 10-week summary table shows the reduction from last year's second lowest ever total to this year's record breaking low. We caught no Coal or Willow Tits at all in the standard nets but as many Treecreepers as our combined total of tits of all species. The total was under a third the size of our best year (1981). All in all, summer 2001 has not been a good season, so far, for the birds in the wood.

Manpower has still been a problem. Frank Tillotson has been unwell and he and Liz were unable to take part in any of the CBC work. The news is now good and Frank is well on the way to recovery. We look forward to welcoming him and Liz back for CBC 2002. We are most grateful to John and Pat Bartley and to Richard Johnson for sharing Frank and Liz's area between them, adding to their patches for the season, giving us complete coverage. Phil May, now living in Scotland, is unable to look after birds in the dormouse boxes - there is a vacancy for a nestbox inspector here. Thanks are due to Chris Holliland who made the first visit to all these boxes and told me which boxes held bird nests and needed to be visited thereafter. Thanks also to Nigel Bowler who helped with nestbox visits, acting as porter at the nest collection time. The Foot and Mouth epidemic has also taken Dan Bardsley from us - he volunteered his veterinary expertise and has been serving with MAFF in the infected areas. The outbreak is still rumbling on and Dan is still away. On the bright side, John is recuperating. He has been signed off from the pneumonic doctors and is gradually returning to full strength. The message is that Treswell Wood IPM Group can do with more staff - on the ground and at the keyboard. All help welcomed. In spite of all these problems, we have managed to cover all the CBC visits, record events in all nestboxes and make all the required mist-netting visits since May 13th to maintain our own standard cycle and the BTO constant effort system.

Treswell Wood - Common Birds Census 2000

The BTO have completed their analysis of the maps for 2000 - the details, together with comparisons with previous years are in the table below. Richard Thewlis, the CBC national organiser thanks all of the CBC team for the hard work and effort that they have put in over the years to produce such a valuable run of census information. Details

of the national results for 2000 are in the July/August issue of BTO News. He notes that we had good numbers last year, of many species, most of whose populations appear to be stable.

Margaret Price comments:

I had estimated at least five pairs of Song Thrushes, possibly seven, the BTO make it 8 which is back up to the 1997 figure. I wonder if we shall ever return to the 13 - 25 of the 1980s.

Wrens were down to 83, part of the normal fluctuations, no doubt. The BTO estimate three Tawny Owls against the single territory of the previous five years, two Green Woodpeckers against none, Robins up to 79 - the highest number since 1981, Great Tits down to 30 but both these last two species were within the usual range for the last few years. I said there seemed to be more Bullfinch records than in 1999 but the BTO estimate is still for only a single breeding pair.

Species	Averages				1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Notes
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95						
Teal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	p	new
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0	0	p	1	p	x
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	1	1	p	1	1	x
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	p	0	x
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	1	1	x
Red-legged Partridge	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Grey Partridge	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	p	x
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	10	5	5	5	5	x
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	~
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	1	1	p	p	p	x
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	1	x
Woodpigeon	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	nc	0	nc	nc	nc	nc
Collared Dove	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Turtle Dove	7.6	1.4	0.2	0.0	0	0	p	0	0	~
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	1	1	p	p	p	x
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1	2	p	1	3	x
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	2	new
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	3	2	2	2	3	x
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0	0	p	p	p	x
Swallow	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	67	50	82	127	83	-35%
Dunnock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	14	12	12	13	12	-8%
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	42	36	47	66	79	+20%
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25	20	24	31	26	-16%
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	3	8	4	5	8	x
Redwing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	p	new
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1	0	1	1	2	x
Lesser Whitethroat	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Whitethroat	5.6	1.6	1.8	0.0	0	1	0	0	1	x
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	6	6	8	7	9	x
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	19	17	30	32	29	-9%
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	10	17	23	27	18	-33%
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	8	10	8	4	4	x
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0	0	p	2	1	x
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	~
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	8	3	4	5	5	x
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	5	4	4	5	3	x
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	4	3	1	2	3	x
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7	7	7	5	11	x
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	83	74	72	62	59	-5%
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35	37	32	42	30	-29%
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1	2	p	2	1	x
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	2	4	3	7	2	x
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1	1	1	1	1	x
Magpie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	p	p	0	p	0	x
Jackdaw	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	p	0	x
Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0	1	1	p	2	x
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
House Sparrow	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	0	p	x

Tree Sparrow	21.0	10.8	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Chaffinch	33.4	38.4	39.0	39.0	36	24	34	54	55	+2%
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1	1	2	1	4	x
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	p	p	x
Redpoll	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Bullfinch	5.4	3.2	3.0	1.4	0	1	p	1	1	x
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0	0	p	0	2	x
Reed Bunting	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	~
Total territories	457.4	457.0	437.6	386.2	395	351	407	514	467	

Notes

% - percentage increase or decrease 1999 - 2000 for species with 10 or more territories in either year.

p - present but no territory confirmed

nc - not counted

x - fewer than 10 territories

new - new species for Treswell Wood CBC

~ - no territories in either of last two years

The National Nest Reference Collection

So far, this year's collection totals 91 items and includes tit nests in all states from those abandoned before eggs were laid, through those where broods have fledged successfully to those where young have been killed by predators and sexton beetles have moved in for the burial. With last year's theft of our collection of 95 nests still painfully fresh in the memory, it was with some relief that we delivered this year's collection intact to Mike Hansell at the Glasgow University museum on 13th August. Mike now has more funding and is hoping to have a display open to the public next spring. It will include some of our specimens. Others will be used for research purposes.

We also delivered during April a handful of last year's nests which had not been ready when the main batch was stolen. These included those which Dave Barritt and Phil May had collected in Sussex and Chain Bridge Lane respectively. We also sent a nestbox complete with its hornet nest.

Mike Hansell sends his thanks for all these nests. He has also sent me some 'guidelines for nest collectors' and will welcome any more used nests of known species in good condition. As before, I will be happy to take any such nests to deliver to him eventually. Nests need to be frozen for a few days in order to kill parasites. I have a freezer for this purpose so I am happy to prepare the nests for Mike's collection. Ask me for more instructions.

Mammal records

Eric Palmer has taken on the task of mammal recorder for the county. The existing county mammal record collection does not represent our mammal life fully and Eric will welcome any records of mammals - species, date and place plus any other notes about activity. He would like historical records too - so if you have any buried in notebooks from the past, please send them to him. Small mammals are particularly under-recorded.

The Treswell Wood ringing field sheets hold records of mammals (and other things) but it is very difficult to locate these records because they are scattered throughout the thirty years' of field sheets. If anyone would be interested in typing some of the field sheet notes into a computer it would make the eventual task of extracting mammal (and other) records very simple indeed. Any volunteers?

Nestboxes

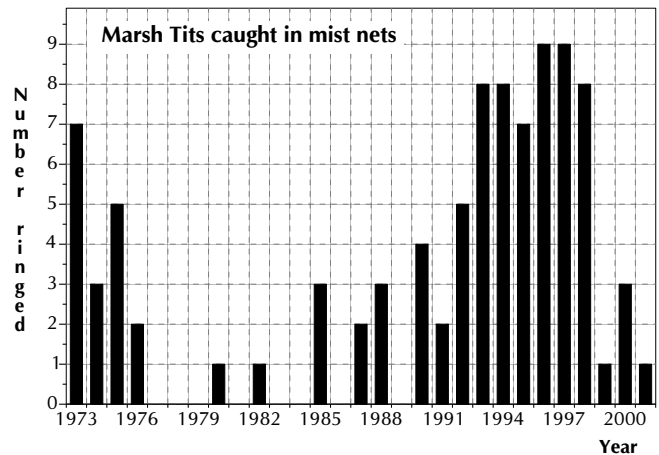
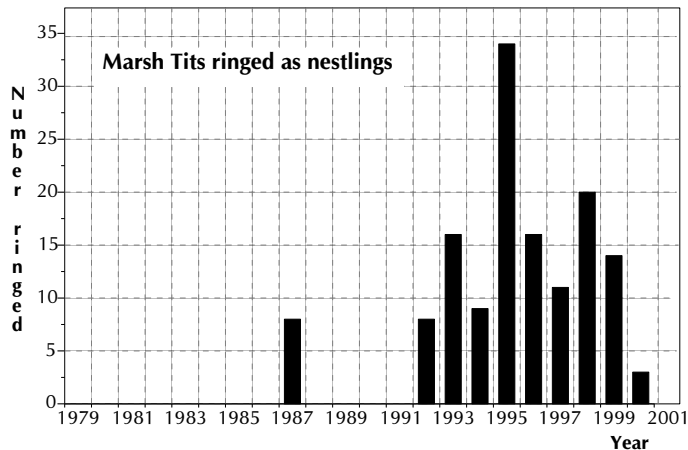
At present the Stock Doves still have young, so a full table of events will be given in the next Twitter. The season has been rather different from recent years, with rain not falling heavily at the critical time for nestlings. This has made for higher success of nests although numbers of nests are low (because of low numbers of adults birds). Success within the wood has been variable. The north-west (blocks A and B) was dubbed by Nigel Bowler on his first visit as 'the wood of death'. Only one nest in a box was successful in that area. Failures of most others there were caused by predators which were most likely to have been wood mice. In contrast, nests in the dormouse boxes, at the opposite end of the wood, were very successful indeed. The table gives comparisons of the success rates of Blue Tit nests in the two sets of boxes. Those in the main set include both the disastrous collection in blocks A and B together with the others in blocks C to G which were more successful. The failures in the main set were at every stage with some nests being destroyed by predators, or usurped by wasps, even before eggs were laid.

Nestbox set	Begun	Nests With eggs	Young fledged	Success rate %	Eggs			% Success rates	
					Laid	Hatched	Fledged	Eggs	Hatchlings
Main set	21	16	11	52	135	115	87	64	76
Dormouse	17	15	14	82	144	134	119	83	89

Stock Doves nested in 4 distantly separated boxes - this means we have had at least 4 pairs nesting. Two of these suffered from predation, the other two have been successful. Three Tawny Owls nested and laid eggs. Of these, all

eventually failed. The first had deserted the nest even before the wood had been reopened, the second deserted shortly afterwards. The third hatched three chicks, two of which died within 10 days. Why they died is not clear - it was not a lack of food for the wood mice seem to have been abundant. The third chick was doing well but was killed when half grown by some unknown predator.

Sadly, we have had no Marsh Tits nesting this year. Our population of these birds died out in the late 1970s then became re-established 5 years later. They seem to be declining again. We have no explanations why - can anyone else suggest reasons? This decline is shown in both nest records and numbers of new birds ringed during mist netting. Note that in the two graphs below, the horizontal scale is different. The nestling data begins in 1979 when boxes were first installed whereas the mist netting data begins at the start of mist-netting in 1973.

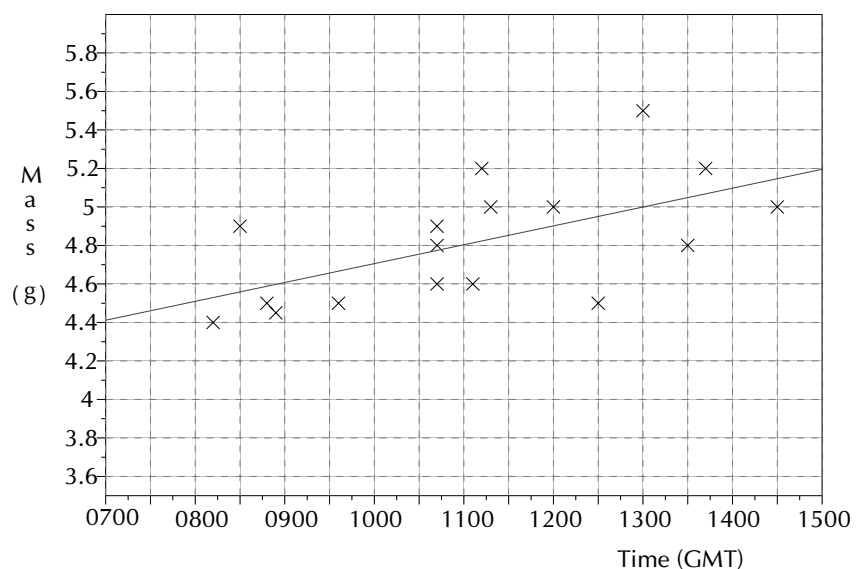


Treswell Wood in Key Stage 3 Mathematics Tests

You will be delighted to know that some of our Goldcrest weight data were used in a KS3 mathematics question (all England's 14-year old children sit these tests.) I am not sure if the children sitting the tests were delighted but do think it is important that they are presented with real data which relates to the natural world.

For the record, the task had to be such that real data were presented and the task set was biologically meaningful. In additional, it had to be comprehensible to people with no special knowledge of birds and as little non-mathematical text as possible had to be included in the question. There is no reward for answering the question correctly but, for the record, here it is.

The goldcrest is Britain's smallest species of bird. On winter days, a goldcrest must eat enough food to keep it warm at night. During the day, the mass of the bird increases. The scatter diagram shows the mass of goldcrests at different times during winter days. It also shows the line of best fit.



- Estimate the mass of a goldcrest at 11.30.a.m. [1]
- Estimate how many grams, on average, the mass of a goldcrest increases during one hour. [1]
- Which goldcrest represented on the scatter diagram is least likely to survive the night if it is cold? Show your answer by circling the correct point on the scatter diagram, then explain why you chose that point. [1]

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4M	RH94773	13/5/2001	Q02 Feeder

One of a pair of woodpeckers ringed last June, both caught with brown-stained plumage. As so often with this species, ageing is a problem. They seem to moult feathers unpredictably. This bird had clear contrast between older, duller, worn 'juvenile' coverts and the new adult type. That would make it appear to be a bird hatched last year. Alas, not so. It was ringed as an adult a year ago. It is a pity that Great Spotted Woodpeckers do not read the ageing and sexing guide. It would be much easier if they were to follow its instructions. In addition we have also trapped juvenile woodpecker RR11972 and adult RH94761 on several occasions.

Dunnock	5M	P400222	9/6/2001	N06
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Normally young Dunnocks have settled down to a small range by the end of their first autumn. This one appeared to have done - we had trapped it previously three times in September and November 2000 and in February 2001, always in H04. Suddenly we trap it far away (400 m is 'far away' for a Dunnock) in the north-east of the wood as a breeding male.

Song Thrush	4	RX57640	20/5/2001	H02
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We ringed this as a juvenile nearby in G04 in July 1999 and have not seen it between then and now.

Garden Warbler	4	P400077	20/5/2001	H02
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Our first of last year's ringed Garden Warblers to be retrapped this year. It was in breeding condition (although it is not easy to sex this species reliably on brood patch as the males have such a large bare area of belly in the breeding season) and trapped in H02, near to its capture position of G04 last July.

Blackcap	6M	N275044	20/5/2001	H02
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Ringed in E01 during May 1999, we retrapped him during July 2000 nearby in G01 and today, nearly a year later he is back in the same part of the wood. This is one of five Blackcaps captured this season which we ringed last year or earlier.

Spotted Flycatcher	4M	P400388	27/5/2001	R00
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Our first Spotted Flycatcher capture since 1998, which itself came three years after its immediate predecessor. The last recorded nesting attempt in boxes was in 1990, and the last successful attempt in 1987. A sad decline of an attractive summer visitor.

Coal Tit	4F	N459714	27/5/2001	F05 on nest
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It is always useful and pleasant to find one of our nestling-ringed birds as a breeding adult. This bird, in her first breeding season, has moved from the north of the wood, Q00 where she was hatched, to the dormouse box area in the south of the wood.

Blue Tit	6F	N275204	12/5/2001	O01 on nest
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A momentous capture - the first bird to be handled after the reopening of the wood. She was nesting in box 65. Unlike almost every other nest in boxes in blocks A and B of the wood, her nest survived the ravages of predators and all but one of her brood of 9 fledged.

Great Tit	6M	K463386	3/6/2001	D03
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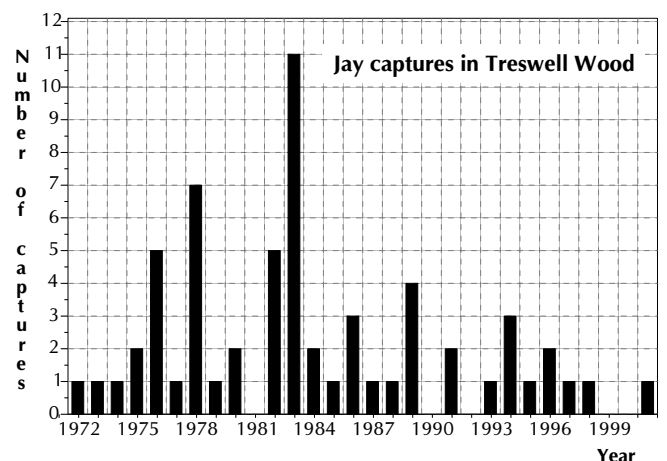
A golden oldie, still wearing its campaign anklets from José and Ulli's colour ringing days. He was hatched in 1995 and we ringed him in May 1996. A goodly age for a small bird.

Great Tit	3J	VS51158	1/7/2001	E01
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The first live capture of any of our nestling-ringed birds of the year. It was caught together with an adult female (which could have been its mother, but we do not know) and another, unringed, juvenile. It could have been just a chance collection of birds, or the beginning of the autumn flocking, or one juvenile tagging along with an adult with young from a different brood.

Jay 5F	DA20229	3/6/2001	D04
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As the diagram shows, this is our first Jay capture since 1998. We average about two Jay captures a year with no clear temporal trends. The exceptional captures of 1976 resulted from the drought and in 1983 there was massive eruptive movement from Europe, westwards through England. Can anyone explain the large number of captures in 1978?



Chaffinch 6M N305909 13/5/2001 Q02 Feeder

Where do they hide? Yet another Chaffinch that we have caught only once before, nearly three years ago, both times at the feeders.

Controls and recoveries

Species **Age/sex** **Ring** **Date** **Grid**
Blackbird **4F** **RH94780** **27/5/2001** **Treswell Wood, dead on road**

We ringed this bird as an adult in the north of the wood (Q03) in August 2000. She was a road traffic victim.

Chiffchaff **4M** **4M9899** **24/6/2001** **L01**

Dave Fogg had ringed this individual a month earlier at Cottam. When he ringed it, it was in breeding condition and there had already been time for its first brood of the year. Was it a failed breeder which was on the move, trying to find a better place? Was it a successful breeder which decided to have another attempt elsewhere? Was it a late arrival, in breeding condition when Dave caught it on passage at Cottam? This is the second Cottam-ringed Chiffchaff we have caught. The first, 6S7619, was ringed on 7/4/1996 not yet in breeding condition at Cottam and we trapped it as a breeding male on 21/7/1996 and then a year later on 20/4/1997. It seems to have been a passage bird when ringed at Cottam - a much easier movement to explain than that of this year's bird.

Blue Tit **5** **P400375** **1/6/2001** **L05**

A curious recovery. This was one of the last birds ringed before the Foot and Mouth closure. She was found dead underneath the used Blue Tit nest in box 29 after the young had fledged. Her body was dry and shrivelled so she had been there some time - she was certainly not the female who owned the nest. It seems that she used the box for roosting and died one night. By that time of year - late February or March - she would have selected the box for nesting. Once she died, a second female moved in to the territory and selected the box for nesting.

Great Tit **3J** **VS51181** **18/6/2001** **C03**

The first of our nestling-ringed birds of the year to be found again. Its remains, including ring, were in the Tawny Owl box. The bird fledged around the 10th of June so its life - like those of very many newly fledged birds - was very short indeed.

10 Week Summary - 2001 Interval 3

Visits 1498, 1496, 1495, 1499, 1501, 1497, 1503

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Wren	2	6	3	1	.	.	12
Dunnock	2	2	.	2	.	.	6
Robin	2	3	10	2	1	.	18
Blackbird	2	4	1	2	.	.	9
Garden Warbler	4	.	.	1	.	.	5
Blackcap	5	7	.	1	1	.	14
Chiffchaff	3	1	1	3	.	.	8
Spotted Flycatcher	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Marsh Tit	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blue Tit	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
Great Tit	.	1	.	1	.	1	3
Treecreeper	1	.	5	.	.	.	6
Jay	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Chaffinch	1	3	.	1	1	.	6
Bullfinch	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
Totals	23	30	21	14	5	1	94

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2000	75	106	106	159	170	616
2001	(57)	(33)	94	.	.	.
(5 visits only)		(3 visits only)				
Max	124	14	288	253	177	865
Min	59	57	94	68	88	422
Mean	87	108	164	141	131	634