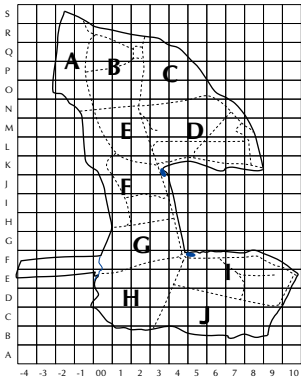


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell
Every Recorder **May 2006**
Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

All projects by permission of NWT

Project leaders:

CBC

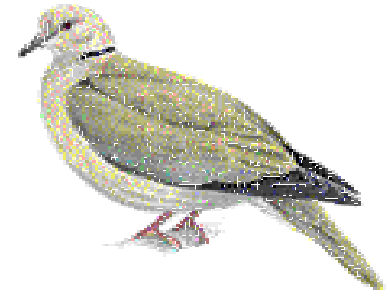
Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records

Chris du Feu

Ringing

John McMeeking

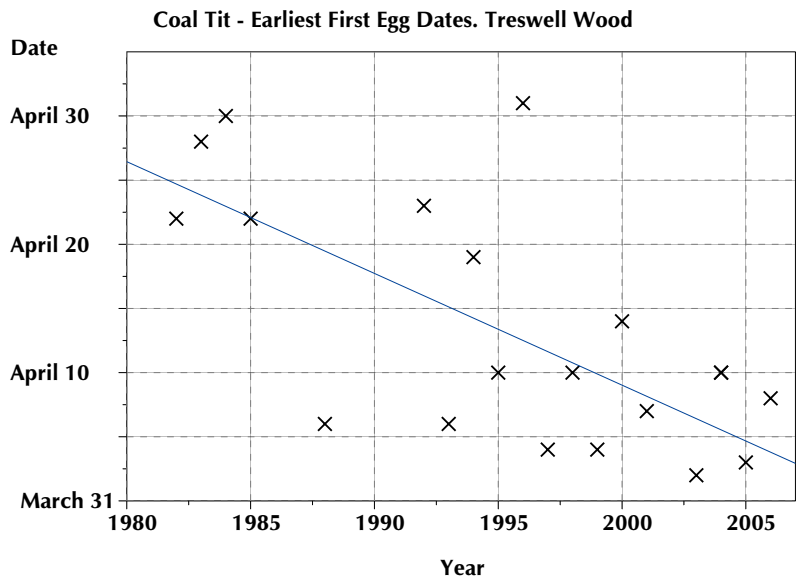


2006/2

Number 57

After a record number of birds was caught in our standard site nets in the first 10 weeks of the year, this interval's standard site captures have fallen below average. The weather has delayed migrant arrival and the nesting of residents. Our earliest nest in a box, a Coal Tit as usual, was some days later than in several recent years, although earlier than in past decades. After it started its nest, there was a gap of well over a week before any other tits began nesting. We still have a few tits starting late replacement clutches, so it is too early to calculate overall timing of nests. However, it is certain that this year's tit nesting will prove to be much later than in recent years. Just as one Swallow does not make a summer (and many Swallows do not seem to have made one either this year), one late year does not destroy the long-term trend of earlier nesting in line with climate change. The graph demonstrates clearly the strength of the long-term trend in earliest Coal Tit first egg dates together with the relative lateness of this year's first nest.

David Glue notes that the lateness of the spring has led to lower breeding success with some birds including the tits. Our experience so far supports this. Although we have suffered some egg predation, apparently by small rodents, their numbers are reported to be low locally and nationally. Our three Tawny Owl territories are not performing well and few nestlings are likely to fledge this year. Again, this is in line with reports from around the county.



Common Bird Census - Treswell Wood 2005

The BTO continues to analyse our CBC records, for which we are very grateful. The full table of results for 2005, together with comparisons from earlier years is given. Steve Wain has computerised the 2005 CBC maps and added them to the collection on CD. He has also enhanced the 'user interface' (i.e. made it easier to use and added some extra features such as that for making comparisons between species or years).

Perusal of the table shows continuation of usual trends - the sad decline of the Dunnock and Song Thrush; the absence of Cuckoo, Turtle Dove, Redpoll, both whitethroats and both sparrows; the increase of Nuthatch and Robin and the continuing volatility of the Wren population. It is also interesting to note differences between CBC interpretation of observations, nest records, ringing data and the RSPB work targeted specifically at the Marsh and Willow Tits. Pheasants are also interesting - they now suffer no shooting but their numbers are not augmented by release from within the wood. On balance, they seem to be, at least, remaining stable since the shooting ceased.

Thanks from the BTO for all who have taken part in the CBC, thereby adding to a unique, long-term, integrated bird recording operation.

Nestboxes for Willow Tits

Last year we used 31 nestboxes made from logs with a hollowed top which was then stuffed with rotting birch wood. (The design is described in the BTO Nestbox Guide and in Twitter 16). This was in the hope of attracting Willow Tits which need to excavate their own nesting cavity. Not one of these nest sites was used. Of these boxes,

Treswell Wood CBC - 2005 Results

Species	Averages					Recent Annual Totals				
	76...80	81...85	86...90	91...95	96...00	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mallard	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	p	1	1	0	0
Sparrowhawk	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8	p	p	p	p	1
Buzzard	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	p
Kestrel	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	p	1	1	p	p
Red-legged Partridge	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Partridge	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	p	0	p
Pheasant	8.2	4.7	8.0	6.4	6.0	3	11	8	12	9
Golden Pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	p	0
Moorhen	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0	0	1	0	p	0
Woodcock	2.0	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0	1	1	1	2
Stock Dove	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	6	13	7	6	3
Woodpigeon	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Collared Dove	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Turtle Dove	7.6	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	1	0	p	0	0
Cuckoo	5.0	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	1	1	p	0	0
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	p	p
Tawny Owl	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.2	1.4	3	3	3	3	3
Green Woodpecker	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	1	1	1	2	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1.6	3.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2	6	8	6	6
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Swallow	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied Wagtail	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	p	0	0	p
Wren	59.4	55.8	69.0	71.8	81.8	45	92	89	75	81
Duncock	27.2	23.8	22.2	13.4	12.6	4	14	8	8	8
Robin	58.4	60.4	46.6	48.0	54.0	54	83	87	85	98
Blackbird	35.0	29.0	28.4	20.2	25.2	16	26	27	34	32
Song Thrush	29.6	23.6	16.8	7.2	5.6	11	8	7	3	5
Redwing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Mistle Thrush	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0	2	2	2	5	3
Lesser Whitethroat	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitethroat	5.6	1.6	1.8	0.0	0.4	p	0	0	p	0
Garden Warbler	15.0	15.4	9.4	4.4	7.2	11	11	3	5	4
Blackcap	15.4	12.4	20.4	20.6	25.4	25	37	20	29	25
Chiffchaff	14.8	8.2	8.6	15.8	19.0	12	21	23	23	14
Willow Warbler	27.6	44.0	31.4	18.2	6.8	2	11	5	8	4
Goldcrest	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.6	0	0	p	1	p
Spotted Flycatcher	1.6	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	p	p	0	0	p
Long-tailed Tit	3.4	3.0	3.6	4.8	5.0	2	12	8	10	9
Marsh Tit	1.6	0.5	1.0	2.2	4.2	p	4	3	1	2
Willow Tit	3.0	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.6	1	3	2	1	p
Coal Tit	2.0	2.6	2.0	6.2	7.4	6	7	6	7	6
Blue Tit	32.8	60.2	67.2	59.2	70.0	41	51	49	68	44
Great Tit	13.4	26.8	36.8	31.8	35.2	33	39	58	58	46
Nuthatch	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.2	0	1	2	1	2
Treecreeper	2.0	1.8	4.0	3.4	3.6	p	5	4	4	2
Jay	3.2	3.6	2.4	1.4	1.0	p	3	2	3	1
Magpie	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	p	0
Jackdaw	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	0	1	0	p	2
Starling	5.2	4.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	p	0	0	0	0
House Sparrow	1.2	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	0	0
Chaffinch	33.4	38.4	39.0	39.0	40.6	34	53	56	53	48
Greenfinch	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	p	p	p	1	1
Goldfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Linnet	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Redpoll	3.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	5.4	3.2	3.0	1.4	0.6	3	1	1	2	2
Yellowhammer	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	1	0	0	0
Reed Bunting	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Total territories	457.4	457.0	437.6	386.2	426.8	319	525	493	519	468

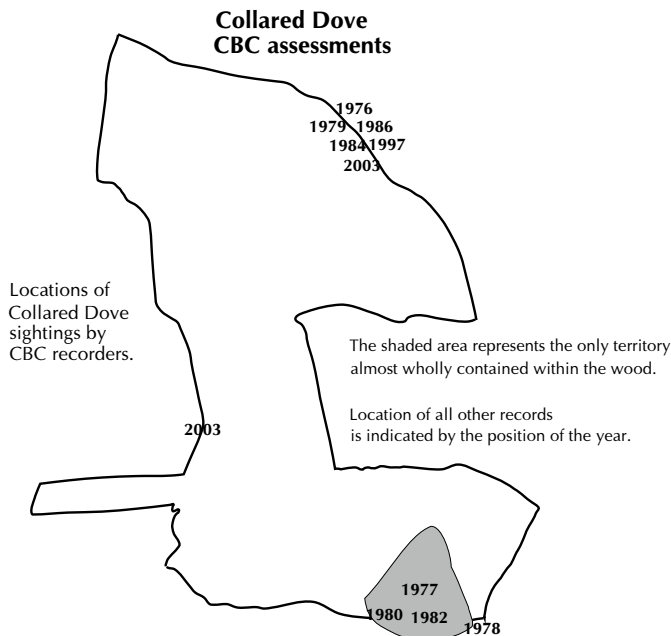
19 had already been in place for one or more seasons. It was not as if they were something entirely new which the Willow Tits did not realise would make good nest sites. Suddenly, for the first time, six of these boxes have been excavated this year. All is not as straightforward as it might seem. One box was used by a small mammal, two by Marsh Tits, two by Blue Tits and one by a Wren. Marsh Tits have been known, infrequently according to the literature, to excavate their own nest holes. I have seen Blue Tits, twice, excavating their own nesting cavities in boxes stuffed with expanded polystyrene. It is possible, but unlikely, that these species have done their own excavations. Why they should is a mystery - there is no shortage of ready made holes nearby, for each of these hollowed logs acts as a marker pointing the nestbox inspector to a cluster of dormouse boxes hidden nearby. Birds use these dormouse boxes readily. Even more unlikely is the prospect of a Wren excavating its own nest. Another possibility is that the Willow Tits (which nested elsewhere in natural sites successfully this year) excavated some, or all, of these logs and allowed their earlier excavations to be used by other species.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Sparrowhawk	5M	DA20235	30/4/2006	D08

A very pleasing capture indeed - this is one of the two nestling Sparrowhawks we ringed last summer within the wood. It is the first recapture of either of them. Not such good news for the Blackbird it was carrying - a half-grown nestling obviously plucked from the nest.

Collared Dove	4	EL87421	14/5/2006	Q02 Feeder
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One of two birds captured together at the feeder. This is our first ever capture of the species within the wood. Examination of the CBC maps show that birds have been recorded occasionally during the breeding season in 11 years. All sightings have been at the edge of the wood, most of them opposite Wood House which lies across the road north of the wood. In 2003, one record was on the west side of the wood, north of Crabtree Holt and the remaining four records in the south-east corner of the wood. Only in 1977 was it considered that there was a territory within the wood (in the south-east). All other records have suggested that the main body of the territory was outside the wood. Collared Doves had been seen at the feeders during the previous week by two of us, on different days and, as far as we know, this is the first time they had been seen there. This is surprising as the feeder is near the edge of the wood, and has food suitable for the species. Perhaps more surprising is the fact that either bird was caught at all, let alone two. They are seldom caught in mist nets, often taking-off very steeply. Even when they are intercepted by a net, they frequently escape.

Tawny Owl	8F	GM61012	6/5/2006	J00 On nest
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Tawny Owls are very sedentary and can be long-lived. However, it is some time since we retrapped an adult at the nest in two successive years. Last year this bird nested in a box about 200 metres from this year's nest.

Pleasingly we then trapped a second Tawny Owl, GM61014, also at its nest for the second consecutive year. This bird had moved rather more between nests, about 400 metres from the centre of the wood to the far north.

Great Spotted Woodpecker	6F	CT84076	24/4/2006	D02
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Ringed just over a year ago, this bird has now been captured six times, always at a feeding station and all of these except one being the temporarily sited feeders aimed at capturing all Marsh and Willow Tits for the RSPB work. Its capture locations range from the far north to the far south of the wood. It is, unusually, one of the few woodpeckers which seems to have read the identification guide and wears plumage according to its age.

Dunnock	6	R502878	16/4/2006	L07
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Ringed two and a half years earlier and not retrapped since then until now. This is not particularly unusual for such a sedentary species as the Dunnock, particularly when trapped in a site which we do not visit as frequently as our standard sites. More unusual was the capture on the same day of R502877, a Robin, ringed on the same day and also not recaptured since.

Robin **6M** **R353289** **2/5/2006** **Q01**

Where do they hide? Robins are sedentary so the lack of captures of this bird between ringing in April 2004 and today is unusual. It was ringed, and recaptured, on one of our standard sites which is visited 5 times each year. It is near the car park where it could easily travel to the feeder, which we visit much more frequently. It is colour ringed and so could have been seen in that area had it been there.

Robin **4M** **R502795** **14/5/2006** **N02**

Our old friend and cover bird (Twitter 55), now with nearly 50 captures or sight records to his credit. After his brief foray to the car park area over the turn of the year, he is now back again firmly in control of the area around the main cross roads. This is the first time we have retrapped him, as opposed to observing him, since February 2005. Keep watching for him, and other colour-marked birds.

Song Thrush **1J** **RX57694** **14/5/2006** **N-1**

Our first fledged juvenile to be trapped this year. No more juveniles were trapped again until 28th May when we caught juvenile Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Song Thrush, Blackbird and Chaffinch - a sudden rush.

Blackcap **6M** **T663256** **16/4/2006** **L05**

Our first Blackcap of the year - but not the recapture of an old friend which we often have. The first female Blackcap was trapped two weeks later. The first recaptured bird from last year was not caught until 28th May (T663073, which had been ringed in July 2005).

Chiffchaff **4** **2U4101** **2/4/2006** **G04**

Our first Chiffchaff, and first summer migrant, of the year - three weeks later than our earliest ever date of 12th March.

Jay **5** **DA20220** **30/4/2006** **D07**

This bird was ringed last December, trapped a mere 150 metres away from today's capture location. Our first Jay capture for the year.

Brambling **6F** **T663248** **9/4/2006** **O06**

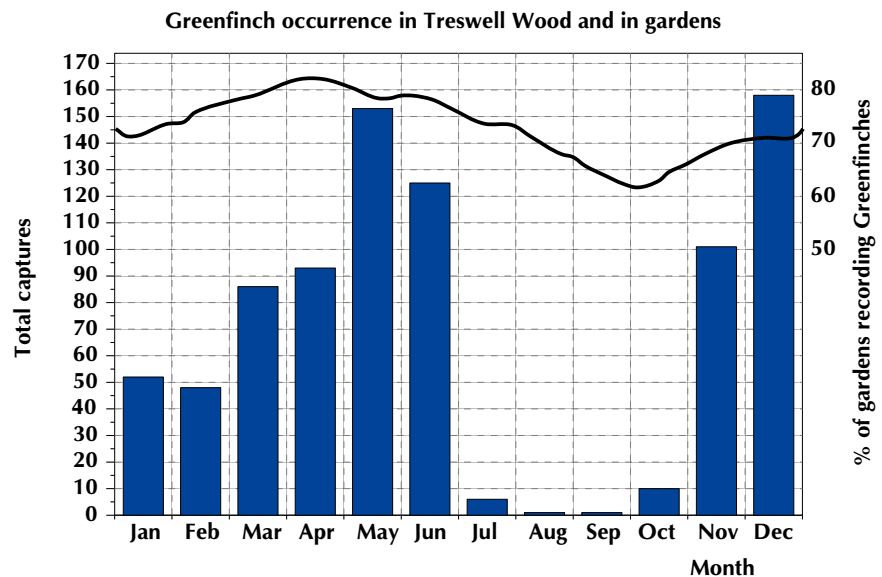
This is the second Brambling we have trapped this year and only our 22nd bird of the species. After a gap of eight years, we trapped our 21st individual earlier this year (Twitter 56). The last year in which we trapped two or more was 1982. Today's bird, unlike almost all the previous birds, was trapped in standard site nets rather than at a feeding station.

Chaffinch **6M** **P400897** **2/4/2006** **I03**

Not our oldest ever Chaffinch, but at 4 years and 214 days since first being ringed, this bird is certainly a veteran.

Greenfinch **6M** **VR78800** **28/5/2006** **Q02 Feeder**

We had not trapped any Greenfinches since August 2005 and, suddenly, four appeared in our nets. Three were new. This was one we had ringed in the spring of 2005. The bars in the chart show the aggregated monthly capture pattern for this species in Treswell Wood. In recent years, we have had relatively fewer captures in the early months of the year than in former times when Pheasant-feeding seemed to attract this species. There has always been a severe lack of captures from mid-summer until late autumn. Compare these with the national Garden BirdWatch monthly pattern (black line on the chart) where the peak occurrence in gardens is earlier than in the wood and the fall in summer is not so acute. (The GBW line is taken from the BTO's web site where similar data may be seen for many species. www.bto.org/gbw/results_speciestrends.htm)



Controls and recoveries

Long-tailed Tit **4F** **BBY544** **5/3/2006** **H04**

Peter Cobb ringed this bird in the willow plantation in Darlton on 23/10/2005 and did not see her again. She was retrapped again in the wood on 21/5/2006. Curiously, on the same day as Peter ringed this bird, he also captured one of our Treswell Wood Long-tailed Tit exports, AJD432 (Twitter 56).

Blue Tit **6F** **R353218** **10/5/2006** **I03 Killed on nest**

A victim of a weasel while she was sitting on the nest. We ringed her in the spring of 2004 as a young female and we know she reared a brood of 6 in that year and may have reared more last year. We do not know whether she managed to pass on her genes as none of her 2004 progeny have ever been recaptured.

Blue Tit **6** **R558632** **19/5/2006** **L00 Killed on nest**

One of our 2004 nestling-ringed birds and retrapped 4 times since then. Judging by its wing length on recaptures, it was likely to be a male (although we never retrapped it during the breeding season to be sure of this by examination for cloacal protuberance). Normally it is the female of the pair, which spends so much more time sitting on the nest, that falls victim to the weasel.

Blue Tit **5F** **R558795** **10/5/2006** **L04 killed on nest**

Another weasel victim. We had trapped this individual 5 times since ringing her as a nestling in 2005, a mere 120 metres from where she made her ill-fated nest.

Great Tit **6F** **R353697** **10/5/2006** **M02 Killed on nest**

We ringed this weasel victim as part of the 2005 spring influx of Great Tits. She nested successfully that year and, unlike R353218, we had retrapped one of her brood. Sadly, this one offspring has also fallen victim to a mammalian predator.

Chaffinch **6M** **R055564** **30/4/2006** **D09**

Another export from the Rampton ringing site. This bird was ringed there in 14th February 2003 and this is its first capture in the wood.

10 Week Summary 2006 Interval 2 in Standard Sites

Visits 1770, 1771, 1763, 1764, 1766, 1767, 1772

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Wren	.	4	.	4	3	.	11
Dunnock	1	.	.	4	1	.	6
Robin	2	3	.	2	1	.	8
Blackbird	.	2	.	3	1	.	6
Song Thrush	.	3	1	1	.	.	5
Blackcap	.	5	.	.	.	.	5
Chiffchaff	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	.	1	.	.	2	.	3
Long-tailed Tit	.	.	.	4	.	.	4
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Coal Tit	.	1	.	2	.	.	3
Blue Tit	1	4	.	4	1	.	10
Great Tit	.	6	.	.	7	.	13
Treecreeper	1	2	.	2	4	.	9
Jay	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Chaffinch	2	1	.	3	.	.	6
Brambling	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	1	.	2	1	.	4
Totals	9	33	1	32	23	.	98

Treswell Wood Standard Site Totals in 10-week Periods

Interval	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2006	128	98	.	.	.	.
Maximum	128	145	288	253	177	865
Minimum	57	33	94	68	59	422
Mean	90	106	162	139	127	623
Averages						
1978 - 1987	90	113	182	140	130	655
1988 - 1997	86	107	170	149	127	637
1998 - 2002	77	82	119	123	123	511

Boettgerilla pallens - new to Treswell Wood

We do try and record species other than birds on our ringing visits and, from time to time, report more interesting observations in Twitter. Avid readers will recall the notes on our Tree Slugs in Twitter 39 and will be eager to hear news of other slug species. Read on.

Boettgerilla pallens, the Worm Slug, is a small, pale, slender slug. Unlike most of our native species, it is carnivorous and it is rare to find more than one or two individuals in any one place. It was first recorded in Britain only in 1972, but since then has spread rapidly and can now be found as far south as the Channel Islands and as far north as the Western Isles. Although widespread, the recorded distribution is patchy. The East Midlands are particularly poorly recorded with only two previous 10-km records in Nottinghamshire and four in Lincolnshire. Its spread is often assisted by mankind unwittingly transporting it from garden centre to garden. Most records are from gardens or other habitats much disturbed by human activity. Undoubtedly its recorded distribution in the county is a gross understatement of its true distribution. One well-grown individual was found during the mini-beast activities on the Treswell Wood open day on June 4th. The wood has been subject of a good deal of searching for slugs over the past 10 years, including a recent field visit by members of the Conchological Society and *Boettgerilla pallens* has not been found. It does, therefore, seem to be a genuine recent arrival in the wood rather than a long-standing, but overlooked, resident. So, here we have a third county record, a first for Treswell Wood and the first in the county in anything approaching a 'wild' habitat.

For the record, below is a full list of slugs recorded in Treswell Wood. Interestingly, several species which are common in gardens locally are rarely seen, or even not recorded at all, in the wood. These include *Arion fasciatus*, *Deroceras panormitanum*, *Tandonia budapestensis* and *Tandonia sowerbyi*.

<i>Arion ater</i>	The Black Slug. Abundant everywhere, appearing in various colours including brown and greyish-white.
<i>Arion subfuscus</i>	Widespread but not abundant.
<i>Arion circumscriptus</i>	Infrequently seen.
<i>Arion silvaticus</i>	Infrequently seen.
<i>Arion fasciatus</i>	Rarely seen.
<i>Arion distinctus</i>	The Garden Slug. Common everywhere.
<i>Arion hortensis</i>	The Garden Slug. Rarely seen - a sibling species of <i>Arion distinctus</i> . Also a garden pest but much less common in this area.
<i>Arion intermedius</i>	The Hedgehog Slug. Infrequently recorded but probably common.
<i>Tandonia sowerbyi</i>	Sowerby's Slug. Uncommon
<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>	The Budapest Slug. Uncommon
<i>Boettgerilla pallens</i>	The Worm Slug. New arrival.
<i>Limax maximus</i>	The Tiger Slug. Widespread, often seen but not abundant.
<i>Lehmanna marginata</i>	The Tree Slug. Abundant except at woodland edges (see Twitter 39)
<i>Deroceras laeve</i>	The Marsh Slug. Commonly found in waterlogged areas.
<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	The Netted Slug. Common everywhere.