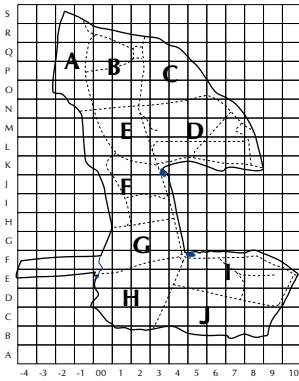


TWITTER



Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder

October 2005 Treswell Wood IPM Group
(Integrated Population Monitoring)

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Project leaders:

CBC Pat Quinn-Catling

Nest Records Chris du Feu

Ringing John McMeeking

2005/4
Number 54



BTO Constant Effort Sites Scheme, Treswell Wood, 2005

It is always reassuring when different approaches to the same problem give similar results. Our CES data are in line with our nest recording - good numbers of nesting attempts but low success. Here we have good numbers of adults but overall productivity (as measured by the ratio of juveniles to adults) down by 47%. This is also in line with national figures, so it is not just Treswell Wood which has suffered a poor season. Our CBC data have been submitted to Thetford for analysis and their conclusions will come back in due course. It is likely that they paint a brighter picture than CES because CBC deals with abundance of adults whereas CES tells us how successful these adults have been in their breeding activity.

Species	2004			2005			Change 2003 - 2004		
	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%
Tawny Owl	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Woodpigeon	1	0	0	1	0	0	=	=	X
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	0	0	2	1	50	=	+	+
Wren	13	11	85	24	18	75	+	+	-
Dunnock	9	2	22	19	3	16	+	+	-
Robin	18	19	106	17	10	59	-	-	-
Blackbird	17	6	35	25	5	20	+	-	-
Song Thrush	5	2	40	2	1	50	-	-	+
Blackcap	21	14	67	20	3	15	-	-	-
Chiffchaff	7	1	14	3	1	33	-	=	+
Willow Warbler	0	0	X	0	1	X	=	+	X
Spotted Flycatcher	2	0	0	2	0	0	=	=	X
Long-tailed Tit	6	2	33	5	4	80	-	+	+
Marsh Tit	1	0	0	2	0	0	+	=	=
Willow Tit	2	0	0	1	0	0	-	=	=
Coal Tit	2	0	0	0	2	X	-	+	X
Blue Tit	7	1	14	4	0	0	-	-	-
Great Tit	7	7	100	18	0	0	+	-	-
Treecreeper	6	6	100	4	1	25	-	-	-
Jay	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Chaffinch	10	0	0	13	2	15	+	+	+
Goldfinch	0	0	X	1	0	0	+	=	X
Bullfinch	6	7	117	11	3	27	+	-	-
Totals	138	81	58.7	176	55	31.3	+	-	-

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

Dawn Balmer and Mark Grantham who organise the BTO CES have written, thanking us and commenting on our data.

Treswell Wood did seem to do quite well for adults, but not so for juveniles. This does mirror other sites regionally, where particularly Phylloscopus warblers and tits have had a poor year in terms of productivity. Nice to catch Jay and Tawny Owl, though.

Again, very many thanks for all the team's hard work - your efforts are much appreciated. If you have any interesting retrap histories, recoveries, controls involving CES birds, send them in for inclusion in the next issue of CES News. Any short articles or artwork would be gratefully received.

Pesola Balances - Checking and Maintenance

Pesola balances are very robust indeed and will last a lifetime without ever needing new batteries. However, they do need to be cared for. Neil has given his balance a new life after the button was sticking against the insides of the barrel. Rather than using sticky oil, or even non-sticky WD-40, he recommends graphite. Apply it using a 2B, or softer, pencil. (This is also good advice for lubricating Yale type locks.) We do have a set of standard masses with which you can (and should) check your Pesola balances (or your new-fangled electronic devices).

Bank Vole Predation on Nests?

Twitter 2005 reported that there had been large-scale predation of nests at the egg stage by rodents. We suggested it was bank voles - this, we are told would be unusual. Our evidence is that wood mouse nests have been almost non-existent in nestboxes (and this is unusual). Tawny Owls have bred well this year and that indicates high numbers of small mammals. We have examined small mammal remains in one Tawny Owl nest and found the following numbers of lower jaws: Bank Vole 24; Field Vole 14; Wood Mouse 4; Common Shrew 8. BWP notes that the proportions of these small mammals in the Tawny Owl diet is 20%, 14%, 22% and 8% respectively but this varies according to abundance of prey. Certainly, in this nest, wood mice are very much under-represented with bank voles making up nearly half of the intake. This is indirect evidence that bank voles may be the egg predators.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Age/sex	Ring	Date	Grid
Sparrowhawk	3F	ET87299	11/9/2005	C03

A young female bird - we only managed to ring two of the four chicks in the nest we found in the wood - so it is possible this is one of our birds. Our captures of Sparrowhawks are very biased towards males - over the years we have trapped a total of 50 fledged individuals of which only 15 were female. Females, because of their larger size, are likely to be better at escaping from mist nets than males.

Great Spotted Woodpecker	3F	CT84212	18/09/2005	Q02 Feeder
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Our first woodpecker of the ten-week interval. This was followed by retraps of only two more individuals during the ten weeks - rather fewer than we have handled in recent intervals.

Wren	4	AVL358	9/10/2005	D08
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The first capture of this last year's nestling-ringed bird. It was from a late nest, so it is good to see at least one late bird surviving. As a rule, later birds which do survive have to disperse further than earlier birds simply because earlier birds have had more time to establish themselves locally. Assuming the bird was still around its breeding territory, its post natal dispersal was a massive 450 metres (yes, Wrens often disperse far less than that from their natal site).

Marsh Tit	4	R353455	11/9/2005	E04
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We have ringed a number of juvenile Marsh and Willow Tits this autumn in spite of the apparent failure of the wood's own breeders. These juveniles have been captured in good numbers over the last 3 months. Curiously, very few of the nesting adults have been captured recently. This bird is an exception. It was ringed in the spring - one of the birds captured at the additional sunflower-seed feeders provided by the RSPB. It nested in F06, being the mate of female R558610 which was one of last year's nestling ringed birds.

Nuthatch	2F	BE89946	18/09/2005	N00
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One of a pair of Nuthatches trapped today - the first since since July when we trapped a juvenile. We have now installed a further six boxes especially for Nuthatches. The first six boxes of this design were all used this season by Great Tits. We hope the Nuthatches decide to make use of them next year.

Blackcap	4M	R353198	2/10/2005	D01
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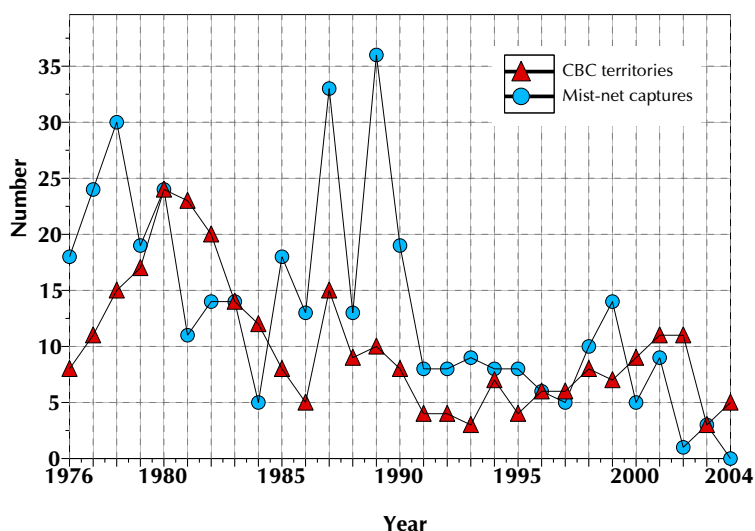
Our latest Blackcap of the season - just in the latest one percent of our captures for the species. It was a new bird and likely to be a bird moving south on its autumn journey rather than a breeder in the wood which we would have been fairly likely to have trapped earlier in the season. The productivity for Blackcaps has been low in the wood (and we believe elsewhere) this year. No surprise then that this was an adult rather than juvenile

Garden Warbler **3** **R353161****11/9/2005** **D03**

Our first and last capture of a Garden Warbler for the year. Never very large, our captures of this species have declined over the years. The CBC territory count tells much the same story, with an overall decline since the peak of the early 1980s. The peaks in 1987 and 1989 are difficult to explain. All the captures in 1987 and all but two in 1989 were of adult birds - so good breeding seasons provide no explanation.

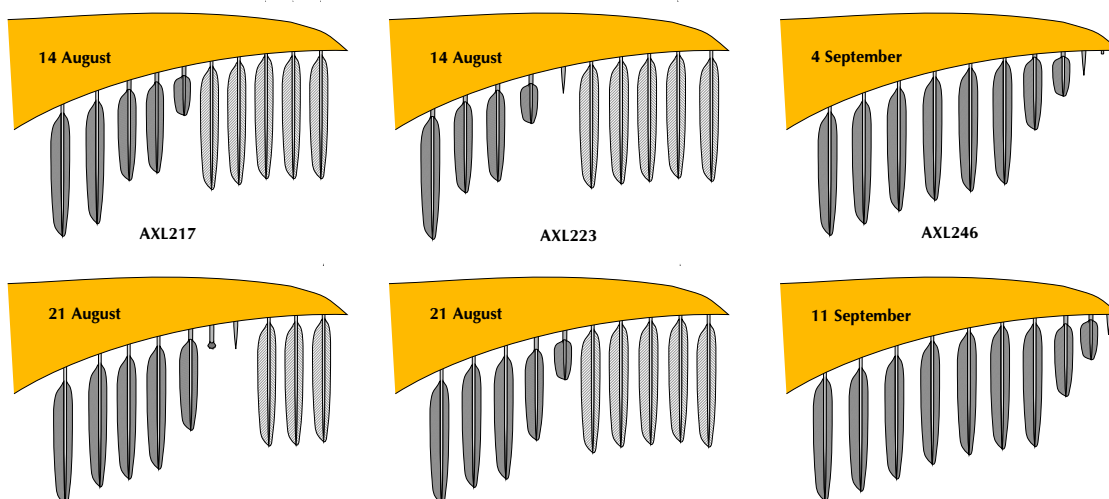
Willow Warbler **3J** **AXL228****21/08/2005** **K04**

Our only Willow Warbler capture for the year. A sad decline from the 'old days' when we could rely on netting then regularly and frequently. Typically, in the 1970s we had 40 captures per year, dropping to around 20 by the end of the 1980s. By the end of the century they were captured in penny numbers only. We associated our captures of Willow Warblers with well-grown coppice. The wood, with its coppice rotation, always has such areas so it seems the fall in Willow Warbler numbers is related to external, rather than internal, factors.

Garden Warblers in Treswell Wood**Chiffchaff** **AXL246** **4F** **4/9/2005** **F03**

One of three of this species captured twice within a short period of time. Of particular interest for all three was that they were all in main moult at both captures and we managed to record the primary moult scores at each capture. Although the typical progress of moult is well known, repeated measurements on individuals are not common. Recording of moult scores on many individuals throughout the season reveals the progression of moult within the species. However, by recording moult on the same individuals we can see the rate of moult in individuals and also see how this rate varies between individuals. The sketches attempt to portray how the feathers of these birds developed between captures (but for clarity, all feathers have been drawn as if the 10 full-grown primaries would be of the same length).

Ring	First Date	Second date	First score	Second score	Increase in score	Increase per day
AXL217	14 August	21 August	5544200000	555421000	7	1.00
AXL223	14 August	21 August	4442100000	5554200000	6	0.86
AXL246	4 September	11 September	5555553211	555555321	4	0.57

**Goldcrest** **4M** **AXL108** **16/10/2005** **P00**

Our first between-winter retrap of the season. We ringed this bird on 31/12/2004 in P00 and retrapped it two months later a mere 50 metres away in O-1. Today's capture was in the same place as its first capture. Some Goldcrests are easy to age - either with narrow, pointed tail feathers (juvenile) or else broad rounded tail feathers (adult). Many birds, however, have tail feathers with points but rather broader than some obvious juveniles. This bird was a case in point. We had decided, in the field, the feathers were sufficiently pointed and narrow for it to be a juvenile. Beware when ageing Goldcrests. If in doubt, call it unageable.

Jay **3** **DA20219** **2/10/2005** **D01**

There have been reports of an abundance of Jays in various parts of the country this autumn. This is our only Jay capture of the last ten weeks - a young bird. This is a far cry from the Jay invasions of 1978 and 1983 when we caught totals of 10 and 11 birds respectively.

Goldfinch **4M** **R353157** **4/9/2005** **F02**

We continue to capture a steady trickle of this attractive species. They seem to be little attracted to the niger seed at the feeders, instead they appear in mist nets in all parts of the wood.

Bullfinch **3F** **T663101** **2/10/2005** **D01**

One of the rather-more-than-expected number of Bullfinches trapped this autumn. However, the ratio of juveniles to adults is not high (1.06:1), although not as low as the corresponding figure for our CES captures only (0.27:1). For the August to October period in all years combined, the ratio of juveniles to adult Bullfinches is 3.34:1 so this year's productivity does look very low indeed. Looking at our standard site captures (which is a subset of all captures) we see that the productivity appears very high (9:1). The overall totals are likely to give the truer, rather gloomier, picture.

Controls and recoveries**Species** **Age/sex** **Ring** **Date** **Place****Sparrowhawk** **DA87116** **26/09/2005** **Woodbeck**

Considering we have ringed so few Sparrowhawks (50 adults and 6 nestlings in 32 years) the number reported elsewhere is very high - 9 to date. Three of ours have been controlled (West Burton Power Station, 1985; Cottam Power Station, 1989; Chain Bridge Lane, 1999). Four have been found dead (Retford 1991; Treswell Wood, 1994; Ricall, Yorkshire, 1996; Woodbeck 2005). Two have been ringed elsewhere and captured in the wood (West Drayton 1988; Tiln 1990). This bird was found dead in trees on the farm at Woodbeck Bottom.

Long-tailed Tit **4F** **9Z3037** **7/8/2005**

We ringed this bird in September 2001. Peter Cobb then trapped it in the willow plantation at Darlton in September 2002 and again in January 2003. It then remained untrapped until July and August 2005 when Peter trapped it twice again in Darlton. Although it is some four years since we ringed it, the bird needs to survive another three years to approach Treswell Wood's longevity record for the species.

10 Week Summary 2005 Interval 4 in Standard Sites

Visits 1740, 1735, 1730, 1732, 1734, 1733, 1736

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Sparrowhawk	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Wren	2	.	15	2	.	.	19
Dunnoek	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Robin	.	.	5	3	.	3	11
Blackbird	1	.	1	3	.	.	5
Garden Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Blackcap	.	.	.	.	.	3	3
Chiffchaff	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Willow Warbler	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	1	.	4	.	.	.	5
Long-tailed Tit	2	.	.	4	.	.	6
Marsh Tit	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Willow Tit	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
Coal Tit	.	.	3	.	.	1	4
Blue Tit	.	.	3	3	.	.	6
Great Tit	.	.	1	3	1	.	5
Nuthatch	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Treecreeper	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
Bullfinch	1	.	9	.	.	.	10
Totals	9	.	45	25	1	8	88