

TWITTER

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Treswell Wood Ringing Group

Ringling: By permission of NWT

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Treswell Wood - Information To Tell Every Recorder.

Very low numbers of birds, again, were captured although there have been some surprisingly good days such as 27/9/98. We captured next to nothing in standard nets, but caught a large mixed flock along the Dam Ride, G/H. Oddly, the flock was spread all along the 8-net run, unlike such captures in the past when the flock has been concentrated in just two or three nets. These birds were also captured in approximately equal numbers on both sides of the net; normally the majority would land on one side as the flock passes across the net line.

Goldcrests have arrived in good numbers but our normally numerous Blue and Great Tits are little in evidence. A few may be seen at the feeders but the food is going down much more slowly than normal and catches there have been small. On the bright side, one long-life feeder has had a squirrel-proof cage attached around the wire mesh and this has, so far, kept the squirrels away from both food and feeder. Until the cage was fitted the squirrels were destroying wire mesh feeders at the rate of about 2 every three weeks.

Our nest-record cards have been submitted to the BTO, for the first time under the group code of TWIG, anticipating our formal recognition as an IPM group. Thanks to all involved in completion of the 143 cards. Fortunately records of failed nests are just as valuable as those of the successful nests! We would welcome even more nest recording, next year, of nests found casually whilst on CBC, or other, work. More nest recording would add to the value of the whole survey/ringing operation. The cards are straightforward to complete and training can be arranged in the spring. Ask John or Chris if you are interested.

We had not had reports of any of our colour ringed birds before 16/10/98 when one, a female, was seen singing near the ringers and carefully avoiding the mist nets. Robins are vocal throughout the year and, with the autumn loss of leaves, will be very much more visible over the winter months. Please do keep a sharp lookout. We should be able to gain valuable extra information from sight records which can enhance survival calculations.

Noteworthy Captures

Species	Ring	Date	Grid
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Woodpigeon	FV90000	13/9/98	D08
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One of two Woodpigeons captured recently. Both were adults, the other (FV89999) was captured on 16/08/98 in K01.

Dunnock	K287613	18/10/98	H04
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A bird ringed as a juvenile at the pond in August 1994, now of a respectable age, and recaptured occasionally since then in the northern end of main ride south. Today's capture was in Norman's Ride and it seems likely this bird is a resident in the south-west corner of block F, but rarely coming within reach of our nets.

Blackbird	XE21672	18/10/98	H02
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Where do they hide? This female was ringed at the end of old Windy Ride (K02) on 2/7/95 as a breeding bird. She has not been recaptured in the three succeeding years until today.

Song Thrush	RX67632	18/10/98	H01
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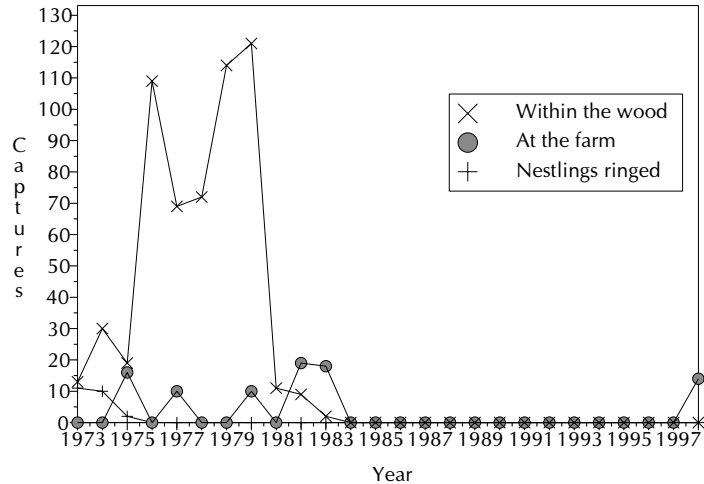
Even in the 'good old days' when Song Thrushes were common, captures declined rapidly during the autumn as if the birds were only summer visitors to the wood. This, and a second caught on the same day, are the only two we have caught in the last 10 weeks.

Redwing	RX57630	18/10/98	H02
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Our first Redwing of the season caught, like a good many of our other 'Noteworthyies', on Norman's Ride, F/G. At

House Sparrow**VV34193**

The House Sparrow has, surprisingly to many, suffered a very serious decline in its breeding population (down by 68% in the last 25 years). This is a token bird from the collection of 14 birds that Richard caught at the farm. These captures prompted a look at our past data. It 15 years since we trapped any of these birds at all, either at the farm or in the wood. In the early days of nestboxes we had a few breeding pairs, but there have been none since 1982. We used to catch birds at the pheasant feeders but they are just not seen at the Car Park feeding station in spite of both the mixed diet of peanuts and grain which is available and the proximity of domestic and farming activity a mere 100m away across the road.

20/9/98**Bower's Farm****House Sparrow Captures 1973 - 1998****Controls & Recoveries****Species****Ring****Date****Grid****Blackcap****J522669****5/5/98****Belmesthorpe, Leics TF0411, 74km @159°**

This Blackcap was ringed as a juvenile in Treswell Wood on 30/7/95 and had not been seen since then. When ringed, it was in early post-juvenile moult, still too early to determine whether it was male or female. It seems to have been a fairly locally reared bird, not yet started on its post-natal dispersal.

Blue Tit**N408401****20/9/98****Q02F**

An early between-sites movement of a juvenile. This bird was ringed by Dave Fogg at Cottam three weeks earlier on 30/8/98 - a movement of 6km @ 270°.

CES 1997

The table below compares our CES captures for 1997 and 1998.

Species	1997			1998			Change 94 - 95		
	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%	Ad	Juv	Prod%
Sparrowhawk	1	0	0	0	1	X	-	+	X
Long-eared Owl	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Woodpigeon	1	0	0	1	1	100	=	+	+
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	X	-	=	X
Wren	10	13	130	13	19	146	+	+	+
Dunnock	15	4	27	9	3	33	-	-	+
Robin	5	11	220	17	15	88	+	+	-
Blackbird	17	7	41	19	2	10	+	-	-
Song Thrush	5	0	0	4	1	25	-	+	+
Garden Warbler	1	2	200	2	0	0	+	-	-
Blackcap	12	5	42	25	12	48	+	+	+
Chiffchaff	7	3	43	7	2	28	=	-	-
Willow Warbler	4	1	25	1	0	0	-	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	0	0	X	(1)	0	X	X	X	X
Marsh Tit	1	4	400	1	4	400	=	=	=
Willow Tit	1	0	0	1	2	200	=	+	+
Coal Tit	0	3	X	1	0	0	+	-	X
Blue Tit	10	11	110	6	1	16	-	-	-
Great Tit	5	6	120	8	2	25	+	-	-
Treecreeper	5	6	120	4	2	50	-	-	-
Chaffinch	6	0	0	3	0	0	-	=	=
Bullfinch	7	0	0	8	0	0	+	=	=
Totals	115	76	66.1	130	67	51.5			

Key

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

Our CES numbers document the terrible breeding season - a year to remember (or forget)! Although the overall picture is down, there are no statistically significant changes to the total or to any individual species. Blue and Great Tits combined, however, have suffered a significant reduction in productivity. One consolation is that CES data do support our findings with the nestboxes. There were about the same number of nesting attempts but productivity was very low indeed. Young Dawn Balmer, who now organises the CES scheme at the BTO, says "*I was only at primary school when Treswell Wood constant effort ringing began*". Writing to thank us for our season's 'official' CES returns she commented: "*Another fairly poor year in Treswell - you are not on your own! ... The juvenile total was slightly down on last year, the lack of tits being largely responsible for this difference. Good numbers of young Blackcaps were caught - a feature of many CES sites this year. Nationally, it has been a very mixed year again. Initial results suggest breeding success was good for Blackcaps and Robins. ... Scotland is reporting another dreadful year - mainly due to the weather. Again, many thanks to all members of the group for all your hard work this year. It is much appreciated. I hope the weather treats us all a bit better next year!*"

10 Week Summary August - October 1998

1998 Interval 4 Visits 1374 1376 1375 1370 1379 1371 1377

	New Birds			Recaptures			Total
	Adult	5	3	Adult	5	3	
Woodpigeon	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Wren	.	1	9	.	.	1	11
Dunnock	.	.	2	3	.	.	5
Robin	.	.	11	2	.	4	17
Blackbird	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
Song Thrush	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Goldcrest	3	.	9	.	.	.	12
Spotted Flycatcher	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Long-tailed Tit	4	.	.	2	.	.	6
Marsh Tit	.	.	1	1	.	2	4
Coal Tit	.	.	1	.	.	1	2
Blue Tit	.	.	5	1	.	1	7
Great Tit	.	.	1	1	.	.	2
Treecreeper	1	.	2	.	.	1	4
Jay	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bullfinch	.	.	3	.	.	.	3
Totals	12	1	47	10	.	10	80

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	---	(358)
Max	124	145	288	253	177	865
Min	59	57	99	68	88	278
Mean	87	109	172	141	128	628