**Winter Bird Survey**

**Ten Acre Wood, Stirchley**

**(Survey Undertaken 13.30, 3/12/22)**

**Survey Aim**

To record bird species at Ten Acre Wood, Strichley, for the Friends of Ten Acre Woods.

**Site Description**

Ten Acre Wood is a 9.74 hectare site, located off River Brook Close, Stirchley. The site comprises a number of distinct woodland blocks on both sides of the River Rea. The site runs from Cartland Road to the junction of Dogpool Lane and Dad’s Lane. Holder’s Lane Wood and Cannon Hill Park are on the northern edge of the site; Hazelwell Park is at the southern end of the site and the River Rea cycle route continues to the north and south of the site. Highbury Park is also nearby. Part of the site is a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC; part of the Rea Valley SLINC (BM092, EcoRecord, 2022) and part of the site is a Potential Site of Importance (PSI).

The nature of the woodland blocks varies, but includes wet areas, areas of dense Bramble, more open areas and a variety of structure in the understorey including Hawthorn, Hazel, Dogwood, Guelder Rose and areas of Blackthorn. The depth and form of the River Rea also varies from narrower, shadier areas, to broader, more open areas, riffles and a weir. The banks include steep sandy areas to areas that have been reinforced with stone-filled gabions.

There are well used paths on both sides of the river, the eastern path is tarmacked and forms part of the River Rea cycle route, which runs from Birmingham City Centre to Cannon Hill Park and Kings Norton Park.

On the eastern side of the main path, between the woodland blocks and River Brook Close, are two areas of grassland, which, at the time of survey, were uncut and contained a variety of grass and wildflower species. It appeared to have good potential for meadow creation, should funding and management allow.

**Survey Methodology**

A walkover survey was carried out on 3/12/22 from approximately 13.30 – 14.30 by the Alexander Jones (Natural Heritage Officer, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust). This consisted of a circular transect starting from the entrance to the reserve off Dogpool Lane, following the left-hand bank of the river to Cartland road and returning following the right-hand Bank of the river. Two Fifteen minute stops were taken at the areas described as the ‘woodland orchard’ (approximately SP 05939 81907) and ‘Gabion Baskets’ (SP05788 81734). Birds were identified by both call and sight (where only call is heard this will be noted).

**Weather and other notes**

The weather was cold but clear with a little rain towards the end of the visit. The site was relatively quiet with a few dog walkers and cyclist on the paths. It was noted that some river restoration was in the process of being undertaken (not actively during the monitoring) which had had some impact on the state of the riparian habitat.

**Species recorded**

**Walking Transect (Commenced at 13.30)**

Robin - (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Blackbird -  *Turdus merula*

Wren - *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Blue Tit - *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Magpie - *Pica pica*

Wood Pigeon -*Columba palumbus*

Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*

Sparrowhawk - *Accipiter nisus*

Grey Heron - *Ardea cinerea*

Goldcrest - *Regulus regulus*

Great Tit -*Parus major*

**Point 1: SP 05939 81907, ‘Woodland Orchard’**

Robin - *Erithacus rubecula*

Blue Tit - *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Long Tailed Tit – *Aegithalos caudatus*

Great Spotted Woodpecker – *Dendrocopus major*

Wood Pigeon – *Columba palumbus*

Goldcrest - *Regulus regulus*

Magpie – *Pica pica*

Great Tit – *Parus major*

Redwing – *Turdus iliacus* (6 flew over low)

**Point 2: SP05788 81734 ‘Gabion Baskets’**

Woodpigeon - *Columba palumbus*

Sparrowhawk *– Accipiter nisus*

Herring Gull (Small flock over- approx. 12) – *Larus argentatus*

Magpie -*Pica pica*

Black Headed Gull (over) – *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Blue Tit – *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Blackbird – *Turdus merula*

Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus*

Robin – *Erithacus rubecula*

**Incidental records**

Grey Squirrel

Multiple Species of mushroom (Candlesnuff, Hoof Fungus and Jelly Ear)

NB – some cherry laurel was observed in the southern end of the reserve, management of this is recommended if not already underway.