Bird Survey

Ten Acre Wood, Stirchley

May 2022

**Survey Aim**

To record bird species at Ten Acre Wood, Strichley, pre-project work 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 tarmaced 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 31st May 2022 from approximately 9am until 12noon by the Senior Conservation Officer and the Chair of the Friends group. This consisted of walking north from Cartland Road, through the various woodland blocks, pausing in a number of places and recording the birds seen and heard on route. The site was then walked again with three fifteen minute stops at:

1. SP 05806 81628, approximately opposite Pit Leasow Close
2. SP 05979 81924, the bridge towards the northern end of the site
3. SP 05732 81590, the bridge at the southern end of the site

A number of other shorter stops were also made including at the riverside by the orchard, in the woodland just beyond the northern bridge (approximately SP 05939 81907) and by the gabions at SP05788 81734.

**Weather and other notes**

The weather was cool and overcast with an occasional rain shower. The cycle route was relatively busy, including with family groups, as it was half-term. There were also a number of dog walkers, including a dog in the river, by the orchard area.

**Species recorded**

**Walkover 1**

List in order of recording. \*Location when heard - bird may have been on the opposite side of the river.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern side of river\*** |  |  | **Western side of river\*** |  |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** |  | **Common Name** | **Latin Name** |
| Robin (young bird) | *Erithacus rubecula* |  | Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* |
| Blackbird | *Turdus merula* |  | Blackbird | *Turdus merula* |
| Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* |  | Blue Tit | *Cyanistes caeruleus* |
| Blackcap | *Sylvia atricapilla* |  | Greenfinch | *Chloris chloris* |
| Blue Tit | *Cyanistes caeruleus* |  | Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* |
| Magpie | *Pica pica* |  | Blackcap | *Sylvia atricapilla* |
| House Sparrow | *Passer domesticus* |  | Great Tit | *Parus major* |
| Greenfinch | *Chloris chloris* |  | Dunnock | *Prunella modularis* |
| Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* |  | Chiffchaff | *Phylloscopus collybita* |
| Chiffchaff | *Phylloscopus collybita* |  | Great Spotted Woodpecker | *Dendrocopos major* |
| Song Thrush | *Turdus philomelos* |  | Robin | *Erithacus rubecula* |
| Sparrowhawk (nesting) | *Accipiter nisus* |  | Goldfinch (flying over) | *Carduelis carduelis* |
| Stock Dove | *Columba oenas* |  |  |  |
| Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus* |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **In the river** |  |  |  |  |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** |  |  |  |
| Mallard | *Anas platyrhynchos* |  |  |  |
| Moorhen | *Gallinula chloropus* |  |  |  |
| Grey Heron | *Ardea cinerea* |  |  |  |
| Grey Wagtail | *Motacilla cinerea* |  |  |  |

**Walkover 2**

Point 1: SP 05806 81628, approximately opposite Pit Leasow Close. Start time 10.20am

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** | **Notes** |
| Chiffchaff | *Phylloscopus collybita* |  |
| Blackcap | *Sylvia atricapilla* |  |
| Blackbird | *Turdus merula* |  |
| House Sparrow | *Passer domesticus* | In bramble patch and flying over to gardens |
| Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* |  |
| Little Egret | *Egretta garzetta* | Flying over |
| Starling | *Sturnus vulgaris* | Flying over/around. Small numbers, approx. 3-5 |
| Magpie | *Pica pica* |  |
| Greenfinch | *Chloris chloris* |  |
| Swift | *Apus apus* | Flying high overhead, screaming. Small numbers |
| Common Whitethroat | *Sylvia communis* | In bramble on eastern side of path at southern edge of woodland block by Andrew Cohen House |
| Carrion Crow | *Corvus corone* | On unmown grassland on eastern side of path |
| Blue Tit | *Cyanistes caeruleus* |  |
| Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus* | In conifer |
| Jay | *Garrulus glandarius* |  |
| Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* |  |
| Dunnock | *Prunella modularis* |  |

Point 2: SP 05979 81924, the bridge towards the northern end of the site. Start time 10:50am

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** | **Notes** |
| Song Thrush | *Turdus philomelos* | In bushes on eastern side of path on eastern side of river |
| Blackbird | *Turdus merula* |  |
| Goldcrest | *Regulus regulus* |  |
| Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* |  |
| Moorhen | *Gallinula chloropus* | In river – 2 adults behaving territorially to each other |
| Robin | *Erithacus rubecula* |  |
| Magpie | *Pica pica* |  |
| Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* |  |

Point 3: SP 05732 81590, the bridge at the southern end of the site. Start time 11.20am

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| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** | **Notes** |
| Wren | *Troglodytes troglodytes* |  |
| Blackcap | *Sylvia atricapilla* |  |
| Dunnock | *Prunella modularis* |  |
| Robin | *Erithacus rubecula* |  |
| Wood Pigeon | *Columba palumbus* |  |
| Blackbird | *Turdus merula* |  |
| Carrion Crow | *Corvus corone* | Flying overhead |
| Chiffchaff | *Phylloscopus collybita* |  |
| Greenfinch | *Chloris chloris* |  |

Two other species, that had not previously been observed, were also recorded during the second walkover:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** | **Notes** |
| Bullfinch | *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* |  |
| Jackdaw | *Corvus monedula* | Flying overhead |

**Incidental records**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Latin Name** | **Notes** |
| Early Bumblebee | *Bombus pratorum* |  |
| Common Carder Bee | *Bombus pascuorum* |  |
| Buff-tailed Bumblebee | *Bombus terrestris* |  |
| Common Flower Flies | *Syrphus* sp. |  |
| Hoverflies | *Bacchini* sp. |  |
| Harlequin Ladybird | *Harmonia axyridis* |  |
|  |  |  |

**Bird records from EcoRecord**

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| **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Record Date(s)** |
| *Aegithalos caudatus* | Long-tailed Tit | 2019 |
| *Alcedo atthis* | Kingfisher | 02/01/2014; 26/08/2017; 18/08/2018; 23/11/2019; 2019 |
| *Anas platyrhynchos* | Mallard | 27/04/1987; 2019; 24/04/2020 |
| *Ardea cinerea* | Grey Heron | 07/07/2016; 21/07/2016; 23/11/2019; 2019 |
| *Buteo buteo* | Buzzard | 12/12/2017 |
| *Chloris chloris* | Greenfinch | 2019 |
| *Columba palumbus* | Woodpigeon | 2019 |
| *Corvus corax* | Raven | 08/04/2017 |
| *Corvus corone corone* | Carrion Crow | 27/04/1987; 05/10/2020 |
| *Cyanistes caeruleus* | Blue Tit | 27/04/1987; 2019 |
| *Delichon urbicum* | House Martin | 2019 |
| *Dendrocopos major* | Great Spotted Woodpecker | 24/03/2013; 2019 |
| *Egretta garzetta* | Little Egret | 09/10/2017; 24/02/2019; 01/06/2020  |
| *Emberiza citrinella* | Yellowhammer | 27/04/1987 |
| *Erithacus rubecula* | Robin | 2019 |
| *Fringilla coelebs* | Chaffinch | 18/06/2016 |
| *Gallinula chloropus* | Moorhen | 21/07/2016; 2019 |
| *Garrulus glandarius* | Jay | 03/10/2011; 2019 |
| *Motacilla cinerea* | Grey Wagtail | 27/05/2019 |
| *Parus major* | Great Tit | 27/04/1987; 2019 |
| *Passer domesticus* | House Sparrow | 2020 |
| *Phylloscopus collybita* | Chiff Chaff | 2019 |
| *Pica pica* | Magpie | 27/04/1987; 05/10/2020 |
| *Picus viridis* | Green Woodpecker | 10/04/2013; 21/11/2013 |
| *Prunella modularis* | Dunnock | 2019 |
| *Psittacula krameri* | Ring necked parakeet | 2021 |
| *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* | Bullfinch | 27/01/2018; 2019 |
| *Sitta europaea* | Nuthatch | 2019 |
| *Streptopelia decaocto* | Collared Dove | 2019 |
| *Sylvia atricapilla* | Blackcap | 24/12/2016 |
| *Turdus merula* | Blackbird | 27/04/1987, 2019 |
| *Turdus philomelos* | Song Thrush | 14/05/2020 |