

Hogacre Bird Ringing Report 2022

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2022 marked the second complete year that bird ringing surveys have been undertaken at Hogacre. During 10 sessions, 131 birds from 20 species were processed (Table 1). There were four new species caught at the site (Green Woodpecker, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler and Woodpigeon), but there was an absence of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Reed Bunting, and Sedge Warbler, which were caught in 2021.

In the summer, Hogacre is good for breeding migrants, like Chiffchaff and Blackcap, as well as small numbers of Whitethroat and Garden Warbler. Some Blackcaps overwinter in the UK and increasing numbers of Chiffchaff are starting to do so too. In 2022, six Chiffchaffs were caught in October and one each of Blackcap and Chiffchaff were caught in November, suggesting the site also supports wintering populations of these species. The Chiffchaff caught in November (29th) was of note, because it was likely a Siberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*) – a subspecies of the Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). This is the first Siberian Chiffchaff our group has caught at any of our Oxford sites, despite seeing one with a ring on it at Iffley Meadows in spring. These birds breed in Siberia and winter in the Himalayans, although is thought to be a regular winter visitor to western Europe and the UK.

In the winter, Hogacre also has flocks of Redwing and Fieldfare, as well as small numbers of Lesser Redpoll (maximum of four seen together) which feed in the stand of Silver Birch. Redwing are best caught just after dawn/at dusk, and so with more targeted early/late sessions next year, we hope to be able to increase our catch of these winter visitors. Hogacre is the only site where our group catches Lesser Redpoll; one in February 2021 (25th) and one in January 2022 (6th). By increasing the number of sessions in January and February, we might be able to get a better idea of the number of Lesser Redpolls present at Hogacre at this time of year and determine how long these birds stay for (e.g. are individuals present for days/weeks at a time, or are they just passing through?)

Controls

This year, we recorded our first ‘controls’ at Hogacre, where a bird ringed at Hogacre was caught elsewhere by another ringer, or vice versa. One Blue Tit ringed at Hogacre was re-trapped at Marley Wood, and one Blue Tit pullus ringed in the nest at Wytham Wood was re-trapped at Hogacre. These recoveries show that Blue Tits are more mobile than many people might think, travelling several kilometres.

- ART6548: Age 4 Blue Tit ringed at **Hogacre Common** on 23rd November 2021, re-trapped at Marley Wood on 22nd May 2022. 6km in 180 days.
- ATR5432: Age 1 Blue Tit ringed at Wytham Great Wood on 26th May 2021, re-trapped at **Hogacre Common** on 26th March 2022. 7km in 304 days.

Table 1 Number of new (N) and re-trapped (R) individuals of each species caught in 2020, 2021 and 2022, across six, 12 and 10 sessions respectively, at Hogacre Common. T is the total number of new and re-trapped birds. Ringing occurred in November and December only in 2020.

HOGACRE COMMON									
Species	2020			2021			2022		
	N	R	T	N	R	T	N	R	T
Blackbird	1	0	1	3	1	4	1	0	1
Blackcap	0	0	0	10	0	10	13	1	14
Blue Tit	27	5	32	33	15	48	15	7	22
Chiffchaff	0	0	0	14	2	16	17	1	18
Dunnock	1	0	1	8	2	10	1	5	6
Garden Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2
Goldcrest	4	1	5	4	0	4	2	0	2
Goldfinch	8	0	8	6	0	6	2	0	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Great Tit	18	7	25	23	13	36	12	13	25
Green Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lesser Redpoll	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	17	2	19	8	22	30	12	4	16
Redwing	7	0	7	1	0	1	2	0	2
Reed Bunting	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Robin	3	1	4	10	3	13	5	1	6
Sedge Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Song Thrush	0	0	0	4	0	4	3	0	3
Treecreeper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Whitethroat	0	0	0	4	0	4	3	0	3
Willow Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Woodpigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wren	2	0	2	9	0	9	4	0	4
TOTAL	88	16	104	144	59	203	99	32	131