

Wild New Forest

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New Forest Ringing Group (NFRG)

Established in 2022, the New Forest Ringing Group (NFRG) consists of a dedicated team of 11 members, led by Marcus as the trainer. The group includes A permit holders Andrew Colenutt and Tommy Saunders, along with trainees Emily Louise, Jamie Ward, Rob Farnworth, Tara and Amy Squire, Katarina Saleiko, Elliot Frost, Willow Bloomfield, and Felix Walker-Nix. NFRG conducts a range of projects across the New Forest, including CES (Constant Effort Survey) programs, Hawfinch tracking, color-ringing of waders, seabirds, and raptors, nocturnal wader monitoring, and studying migratory species.

CES (Constant Effort Survey) at Keyhaven Marsh

This British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) survey has been running annually at Keyhaven Marsh since 2017. The survey involves placing mist nets in fixed locations for a set period every 10 days between May and September.

The goal is to monitor breeding productivity, bird health, and interannual population variations over time.

Winter CES at Normandy Marsh

Following a successful trial in 2021, this survey aims to track changes in wintering bird populations over time. Conducted from November to February, it employs the same methodology as the main CES at Keyhaven Marsh.

Hawfinch RAS (Ringing Adults for Survival) at Bolderwood

Established in 2015, this project monitors the longevity, breeding site fidelity, and productivity of Hawfinches. As with many ringing studies, consistency over long periods is crucial for identifying population trends and dynamics.

Tern and Gull Color-Ringing Program

This Solent-wide project, in collaboration with Farlington Ringing Group and the RSPB, involves color-ringing fledgling Little, Common, and Sandwich Terns, as well as Black-headed and Mediterranean Gulls. The program investigates post-fledging dispersal, migratory routes, and breeding site fidelity.

Peregrine Color-Ringing

As part of a nationwide effort, NFRG contributes to color-ringing fledgling Peregrines and supports the monitoring of local Peregrine Falcon populations.

Nocturnal Wader Surveying

This recently established project focuses on nocturnal wader feeding areas, particularly Jack Snipe, Snipe, and Woodcock. The aim is to estimate population numbers and identify important nocturnal feeding sites. Collaborating with local bird ringers, the project targets areas in the southern New Forest and Lymington-Keyhaven Marshes.

Wader Color-Ringing

NFRG supports several established local projects involving species such as Ringed Plover, Lapwing, and Avocet. Additionally, a new project aims to color-ring wintering Turnstone to better understand their migratory routes.

Autumn Migration Monitoring

A core focus of NFRG's year is monitoring migratory birds, especially around the marshes. Between August and November, the team can often be found at Keyhaven or Normandy Marsh, weather permitting.