

Hawfinch

Wild New Forest Guided Tours

The New Forest remains one of the last strongholds for this declining species in the UK. Our surveys have revealed a seemingly stable population of up to 350 breeding pairs, offering a glimmer of hope for the future of the Hawfinch.

Marcus has been passionate about Hawfinches for over 15 years, employing a variety of techniques to monitor their populations. These efforts include locating and monitoring communal roosts, color-ringing individuals, GPS tracking, finding and observing nests, and studying post-breeding dispersal.

The team at the New Forest Research Group (NFRG) plays a significant role in surveying and monitoring Hawfinches across the New Forest. On a national level, we collaborate with other Hawfinch fieldworkers, represent the New Forest at meetings and seminars, and contribute to strategies for conserving Hawfinches and other rare woodland birds across Europe.

In 2025, we will deploy GPS tags on three post-fledging juveniles to investigate their dispersal and recruitment—a crucial knowledge gap for this species. This cutting-edge research aims to deepen our understanding of how young Hawfinches contribute to population dynamics and conservation efforts.