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Woodland management for birds



A significant number of woodland birds are declining in England, and some of these are declining dramatically.

The causes of these declines are, to a large extent, thought to be linked to the changes in the character of England's woodlands in recent decades. These changes are in response to the loss of or changes to the commercial markets, and to increases in deer populations. These have brought about a dramatic change in woodland structure and loss of foraging and nesting habitat.

This book, which is co-produced by the RSPB and Forestry Commission England, aims to provide practical guidance on management to benefit these species, that is integrated into wider woodland management. It reviews the ecology and habitat needs of important species, describes the changes in English woodland character and the known causes of the declines in woodland birds, and discusses woodland management to help woodland birds.



The guide is softback, A4, 90 pages long, with 37 figures, 46 plates and 8 tables

The **Introduction** presents the case for woodland conservation for birds in the context of sustainable forest management and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Chapter 1 describes the main woodland types and the typical bird communities that they support. The character of woodland is defined by the soils, climate, history and management. The broad woodland types, including the UK BAP priorities are all discussed.

Chapter 2 profiles 27 of the main declining and rare bird species. The status, causes of decline, ecology and management options are discussed for each species.

Chapter 3 focuses on the key management issues. The management of the key habitat features for birds is discussed. These include woodland structure, coppice, ride and glade management, dead wood, woodland edge management, hydrology, grazing and browsing, game management, nest box provision, public access and managing disturbance.

The **appendices** include descriptions of the new Forestry Commission England Woodland Grant Scheme and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme; and a comprehensive **bibliography** includes references to many practical information notes and papers.

The book is illustrated throughout and is designed to be as accessible as possible.