



## Managing Woodland for Woodland Birds



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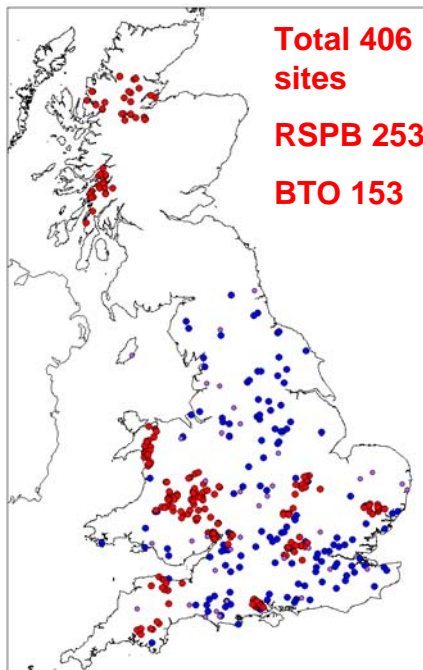
Monitoring Population change

What do we know?

## The Repeat Woodland Bird Survey 2003/04

### Aims:

- 1) To use historic data (1960's-80's) and do repeat surveys of woodlands using the same methods
- 2) Collect data on habitat and other factors which may be contributing to declines:
  - Woodland structure
  - Deer and squirrels
  - Landscape composition



### Methods

RSPB – point counts

2 visits

5 min counts at 10 points  
per wood

BTO – territory mapping

CBC plots

4 visits



8 out of 33 species showed large declines (> 25%) according to both surveys

Declining species	BTO survey % change	RSPB survey % change
Lesser redpoll	-89	-59
Willow tit	-78	-72
Willow warbler	-74	-69
Spotted flycatcher	-70	-36
Tree pipit	-70	-85
Wood warbler	-64	-55
LS woodpecker	-43	-59
Garden warbler	-26	-39

## Plus worrying trends for a further 3 species:

Declining species	BTO survey % change	RSPB survey % change
Lesser redpoll	-89	-59
Willow tit	-78	-72
Willow warbler	-74	-69
Spotted flycatcher	-70	-36
Tree pipit	-70	-85
Wood warbler	-64	-55
LS woodpecker	-43	-59
Garden warbler	-26	-39
<b>Pied flycatcher</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-20</b>
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-74</b>
<b>Redstart</b>	<b>+7.7</b>	<b>-54</b>

## Declines of long distance migrants

Declining species	BTO survey % change	RSPB survey % change
Lesser redpoll	-89	-59
Willow tit	-78	-72
Willow warbler	-74	-69
Spotted flycatcher	-70	-36
Tree pipit	-70	-85
Wood warbler	-64	-55
LS woodpecker	-43	-59
Garden warbler	-26	-39
Pied flycatcher	-25	-20
Hawfinch	-17	-74
Redstart	+7.7	-54

11 out of 33 species showed large increases (> 25%) according to both surveys

<b>Increasing species</b>	<b>BTO survey % change</b>	<b>RSPB survey % change</b>
Chiffchaff	+155	+191
Goldcrest	+138	+88
Green woodpecker	+81	+269
Coal tit	+74	+49
GS woodpecker	+70	+123
Robin	+64	+71
Blackcap	+57	+80
Wren	+57	+91
Treecreeper	+52	+95
Great tit	+51	+32
Blue tit	+31	+33

## Conclusion

- From 33 species examined, serious population declines of several species
- All long distance migrants show >25% population decline
- Resident species also showed large population declines
- Several species have increased – residents and short distance migrants

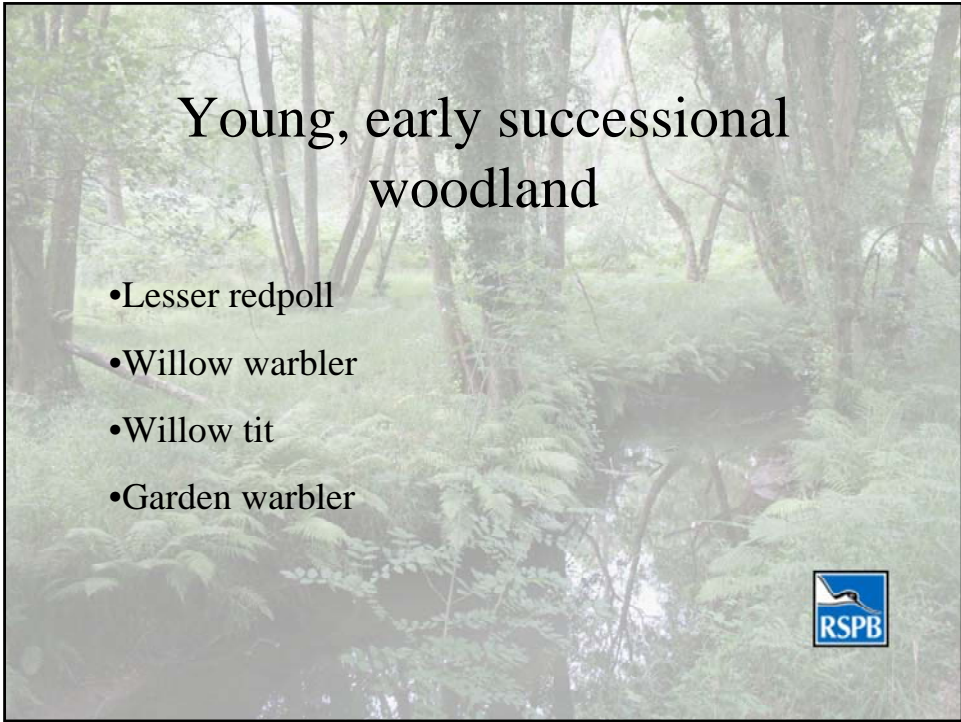
## Conclusion

- Woodland habitats have changed
- Population changes were associated with factors relating mainly to habitat structure and cover.
- Potential drivers likely to be reductions in woodland management and increases in deer grazing




## Woodland Management for Woodland Birds

What can we do?



Young, early successional  
woodland

- Lesser redpoll
- Willow warbler
- Willow tit
- Garden warbler



Mature woodland

- Lesser spotted woodpecker
- Wood warbler
- Spotted flycatcher
- Pied flycatcher
- Redstart
- Marsh tit
- Hawfinch





## Wet woodland

- Lesser spotted woodpecker
- Willow tit
- Hawfinch
- Garden warbler
- Willow warbler



## Willow warbler



### Habitat

- Successional scrub woodland, coppice, birch
- Ground nester – nest concealed in scrub
- Woodland edge and birch woods.

### Management

- Restore coppice (7-10yrs).
- Manage rides to maintain scrubby edge.
- Woodland creation
- Encourage natural succession esp. birch.



## Willow tit



### Habitat

- Early successional scrub, wet woodland.
- Hole nester – excavates new hole each year.

### Management

- Retain/provide standing deadwood
- Reverse drainage systems
- Encourage/create scrub woodland especially in wet areas.

## Lesser spotted woodpecker

### Habitat

- Mature, open woodland, parkland, wet woodland.
- Hole nester – branches of mature trees (oak, birch, alder).

### Management

- Restructure immature closed canopy woodland: thinning
- Encourage crown development
- Retain deadwood/encourage standing deadwood.
- Thin mature but under managed wood
- Reverse drainage systems - encourage soil moisture



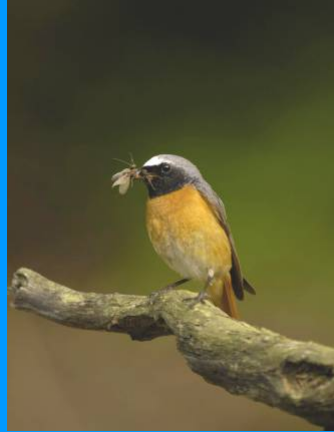
## Redstart

### Habitat

- Mature open oak woodland and woodland edge, parkland.
- Cavity nester – utilize existing crevices (trees, buildings).

### Management

- Thinning to encourage tree growth (requires developed crown).
- Restore parkland
- Nest boxes



## Wood warbler

### Habitat

- Mature oak woodland, simple ground vegetation.
- Ground nester – little vegetation cover (nest under a fallen branch).

### Management

- Control grazing – reduce shrub layer (retain field layer).
- Coupe felling for regeneration or coppice (encourage structure).



# Spotted flycatcher

## Habitat

- Mature woodland, edges and glades
- Cavity / ledge nester – ivy/creeper on trunk.

## Management

- Ride enhancement, glade creation.
- Retain ivy and other climbers.
- Restructure immature closed canopy woodland (thinning/coppicing).
- Nest boxes.

