

Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) is the part of Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) that manages the National Forest Estate. One of the main parts of this management is nature conservation, and woodland bird conservation is an important part of this work. FES policy for woodland bird habitats focuses on helping to meet targets for priority UKBAP native woodland habitats, and on diversifying planted woodlands to provide better habitat. FES policy for woodland birds concentrates on undertaking widespread action for capercaillie and black grouse. In addition, a significant objective is to integrate conservation action for other priority species into everyday forest management practices. This latter objective is limited by a lack of scientific evidence on what is the best way to manage for some bird species. FES's main work for woodland bird species is summarised in the following table:

Capercaillie	Timing of operations to avoid disturbance Specific habitat work Predator control Fence removal Monitoring Research
Black grouse	Timing of operations to avoid disturbance Specific habitat work Predator control Fence removal Monitoring Research
Raptors	Exclusion zones during breeding season Artificial nest building Some monitoring Supporting research
Nightjar	Habitat improvement Monitoring Supporting research
Passerines	General woodland habitat improvement Supporting enhanced woodland bird index for Scotland

In Scotland, FES manages nearly 380,000 hectares of conifer woodland and over 28,500 hectares of broadleaf woodland. If knowledge of how to integrate effective conservation measures can be improved, there is a great opportunity to improve conifer forests in Scotland for Red List birds such as tree pipit and song thrush, and Amber List birds such as Scottish crossbill, crested tit and redstart.

In order to better understand the population trends of woodland birds in Scotland, FCS is supporting the development of an enhanced woodland bird index for Scotland, in association with Scottish Natural Heritage and the British Trust for Ornithology. This index will help FES to understand what is happening to bird populations on the National Forest Estate, and to target resources more effectively.

The forestry industry in Scotland is changing, with emerging markets and technologies such as wood fuel and renewable energy developing rapidly. These changes will undoubtedly create new problems and opportunities for Scotland's woodland birds.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Kenny Kortland
FES Species Ecologist
Forestry Commission Scotland
Tower Road
Smithton
Inverness
IV2 7NL

Tel: 01463 791575
Mob: 07876 146173

kenny.kortland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk