

Summing-up of presentations

- Policy drivers for woodland bird conservation (country policy statements: bird index, bird indicators) vary with country.
- The range of policy delivery and management options have to be tractable on the ground and are also constrained by the multi-purpose function of forestry as well as by the woodlands available for management e.g. in Scotland on National Forest Estate, the majority of forests are productive conifers and only small proportion are broadleaves, reducing the scope for work for certain woodland birds.
- The list of policy and management options were similar for each country. For example policy options of low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) and woodfuel, and management options of thinning, woodland creation and, fencing/ deer control were covered.
- Clear and focussed FC policy objectives result in greater levels of delivery e.g. for capercaillie (an FC Scotland Target Species) and East Midlands Woodland Bird Project.
- Issues for woodland birds are clearly different in the north and south of GB:

In the north (Scotland and parts of Wales), these are about realising the opportunities for woodland birds. Opportunities could be delivered through wider actions and by small changes to current management. Barriers to performing woodland management to benefit birds often result from wildlife constraints and the other functions woodlands deliver. A better understand of the ways to minimise constraints and realise opportunities are required.

In the south (England and parts of Wales) woodland bird declines are severe, better understanding of causes of decline as well as the delivery of appropriate targeted action are required. Woodland management will be stimulated (due to woodfuel agenda) regardless of requirements of the bird index. There is a need to understand how to direct woodland management in the presence of deer management and at what scale this is required to influence the bird index.

- If the successful 'evidence base' approach used in addressing farmland bird declines is followed, woodland birds should be subject to monitoring and evaluation, diagnosis of problems, and development and testing of prescriptions. Evidence to support this can be gathered in a variety of ways e.g. large-scale datasets, autecology, field experiments, landuse/management trials coupled with evaluation.
- The East Midlands Birds Project and the LISS trials at Lake Vyrnwy can be regarded as landuse/management pilot projects for woodland birds, where work has been designed based on best knowledge available. Evaluating the success of these by monitoring bird response (and ideally other taxa) is key in the development of knowledge and the delivery of further woodland bird initiatives.
- There is a need to make the link between woodland birds and woodland biodiversity to understand the value of woodland birds as biodiversity indicators. This will strengthen the role of woodland birds within the PSA28 target and in other policy targets. It will also help justify the attention given to birds, compared to other species groups covered by the UK BAP, when priorities are set for conservation delivery through habitat management by the Habitat Groups in each country.