

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

Areas and status: Widespread throughout UK. Rapidly declining across much of its UK range, although declines slower in the south-west BoCC red list.

Woodland type: Range of native woodland types, eg lowland mixed broadleaved woodland, wet woodland and semi-natural pine

Preferred habitat niches:

- Mature, tall, well structured woodland
- Nests in open cavities, crooks of branches, against tree trunks and walls, often concealed by climbers e.g. ivy and honeysuckle
- Nest height 1.5 to >10m
- Likely to occur in more natural landscapes

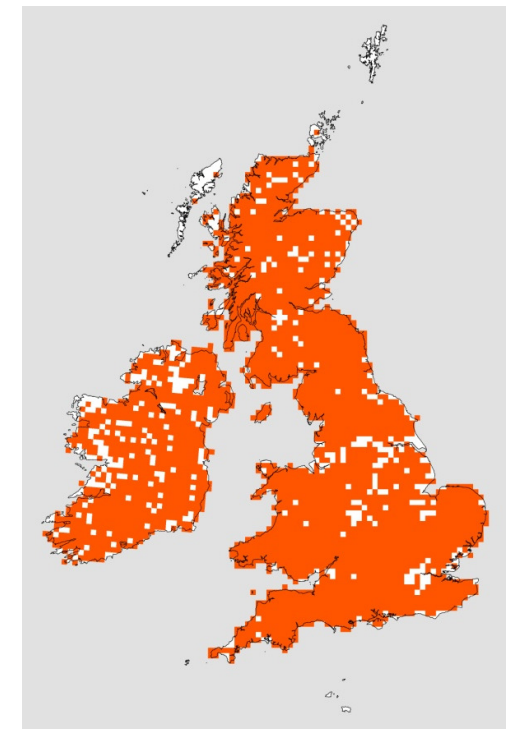
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Simplification of stand structure; loss of mid strata understorey, gaps and open space
- Reduced management leading to stand crowding, increased shade and reduced invertebrates
- Lack of, or too much grazing may lead to lower invertebrate prey abundance
- Lack of climbers to conceal nest sites, hence increasing predation risk
- Damage to understorey and field layer due to invasive woody plants
- Lack of dead wood features limiting natural nest hole availability

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Thinning simple-structured or crowded stands. Partial halo-thinning of semi mature trees	Selective felling to reduce shading, create space for tree growth, understorey, shrub layer, and ground flora development. Partially halo-thin semi-mature trees that are crowded, to allow girth and crown development, and create open space for foraging flights.
Manage understorey, e.g. by small scale coppice or re-instate coppice with standards system	Rejuvenate understorey by coppicing small sections. Where appropriate, (re)instate coppice with standards system to provide mature trees. Manage grazing and browsing to maintain varied understorey. Control / remove invasive woody vegetation.
Ride enhancement, glade creation or improvement	Develop/manage wide rides & glades (e.g. widened ride junctions) with shelter, in-feature trees, and irregular edges. Enhance micro-climate (create sheltered sunny patches) for invertebrate prey. Ride and glade width should be at least 1.5 x mature canopy height where possible, with 3-zone management of edges (short grassy zone grading to longer vegetation, to scrub edge).
Retain and enhance deadwood	In tree features such as dead boughs with cavities, retention of snags to provide nest sites and increase volume of invertebrates.
Retain ivy and other climbers	Potential nest sites. If there is a need to manage, ensure a good proportion is retained at any one time.
Diversify simplified woodland edge away from prevailing winds/Enhance woodland edge	Thin along sheltered woodland edge to provide diverse structure.
Retain/create/manage scrubby woodland edge habitat interfaces Provide buffer strips to woodland edge	Promote gradation from woodland through scrub to open habitat. Rotationally manage woodland edge scrub to provide a variety of structure including open spaces and mature edge-trees. Create grass buffer strips, especially alongside intensive agriculture, to buffer woodland from pesticides and provide sheltered invertebrate habitats.



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■ Breeding

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