

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

Areas and status: Main population in northern and western Britain; now scarce in lowlands. Steep decline through late 70s and 80s. BoCC red list.

Woodland type: Coniferous plantation (particularly spruce), mixed woodland, birch woods, Alder carr.

Preferred habitat niches:

- Primarily young woodland and scrub in breeding season
- Stands with high stem density and small girth in range of woodland types and scrub, but preference for conifer
- Overall favours early successional and pioneer woodland with birch/alder
- In winter travels widely in search of trees providing good supplies of small seeds, e.g. Birch, Alder, Larch & Spruce

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

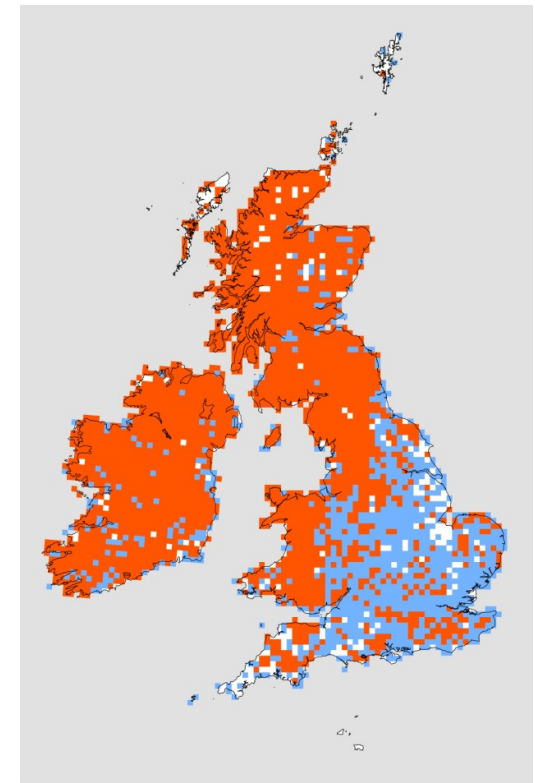
- Maturation of woodland and loss of early successional stages
- Reduction in woodland management, leading to decline in young growth stages
- Intensive silvicultural management leading to loss of scrub layer and birch (e.g. use of pesticides to remove 'weedy species')
- Agricultural improvement in upland margins leading to loss of scrubby inter-grades to woodland edge

Potential habitat management solutions:

<i>Prescription</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Restructure closed canopy woodland and conifer plantations	Increase proportion of young birch in conifer stands. Maintain successional nature of native woodlands and conifer plantations, especially stands of larch and spruce.
Ride enhancement	Provide diverse edge structure retaining birch.
Glade creation/improvement	As above
Develop scrubby woodland edge	Allow scrub to develop at interface with open habitats and manage by periodic cutting back and allow to re-grow on rotation, aiming for a wood – grassland – scrub mosaic. This provides structured edge with birch. Also acts as a buffer to intensively managed agricultural land e.g. intensive pasture. If unable to allow scrub development outwards from woodland, remove majority of woodland edge trees in a band 20-50m deep, to allow scrub development along edge within woodland boundary.
Plant new native woodlands where suitable, to increase availability of early successional woodland in landscape	Plant new native woodlands where suitable in a landscape context, containing a high proportion of birch and alder (minimum 40 % of mix). Where suitable, larch or spruce can be included as up to 20 % of mix. Planting birch and alder on edges of woodland blocks will maximise seed production as a food resource. Where possible, plant at low density to allow a high proportion of infill by natural regeneration, where birch is likely to be common. Make sure that any planting is appropriate in the landscape and do not plant on top of other priority habitats.



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- Breeding
- Wintering

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