

Name:

Spotted flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

UK status:

[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red Listed.

London status:

Declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

Protected status:

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.

‘Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England’ (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Open landscapes with ancient trees; Woodland; Parks, squares & amenity grassland; Farmland

Citation:

The spotted flycatcher has been in steady decline since the 1960s. As the rate of this is consistent across the UK, the causes are most likely to be connected with changing conditions along migration routes and in wintering grounds. Long-term UK weather trends as well as habitat disturbance may have also played a part. The decline is certainly apparent in London; up until the early 1990s a number of favoured parks in central London held regular breeding pairs, but these are all now gone. If the species’ decline is beyond our influence then very little may be done to further conservation here, beyond strategic nest-box (open-fronted) deployment and habitat management to favour insectivorous species. Large historic parklands (for example Richmond and Trent Parks) appear to support a significant proportion of our remaining breeding birds.



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Conservation priorities:

- Annual London-wide breeding surveys
- Strategic nest-box deployment
- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices [All address UK SAP targets T1, T2]

References:

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