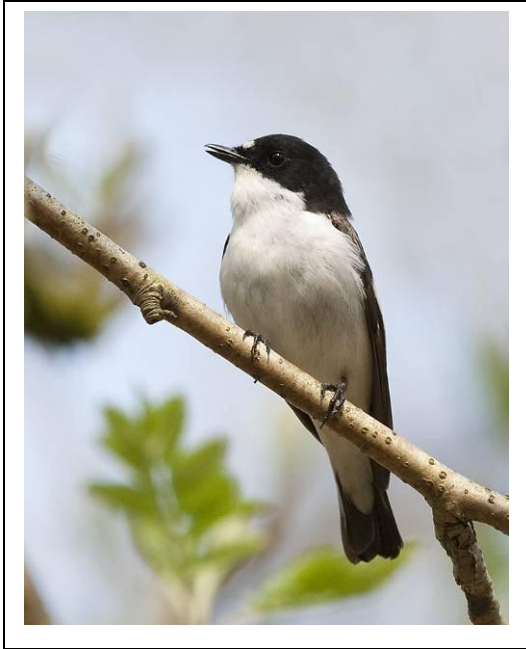


Pied Flycatcher

The Pied Flycatcher is a small migratory bird breeding in most of Europe and western Asia and wintering mainly in western Africa.



As well as taking insects in flight, this species hunts caterpillars amongst the oak foliage, and will take berries. It is an early spring migrant and its loud rhythmic and melodious song is characteristic of oak woods in spring.

Pied flycatchers breed in upland broadleaf woodland in the north and west of Britain preferring mature oak woodland, but also breeding in mature upland ash and birch woods. They require high horizontal visibility - a low abundance of shrub and understorey, but with high proportion of moss and grass. Management needs to maintain this open character, but also allow the occasional replacement trees. They prefer trees that have tree holes, i.e. dead trees, or dead limbs on healthy trees. They also like lichens that grow on trees.

Birds arrive in England in April and May, have just one brood and return to Africa in late August and September. They build an open nest in a tree hole, and will readily adapt to a nest box. 4-10 eggs are laid.

Status

The Pied flycatcher has on average decreased in population by 25% within the last 25 years. It has ceased to breed in several parts of its former range within Britain