

Session 3: Population Dynamics

Date: Tuesday 31 October, 2017
Time: 16:30 – 16:50
Room: Seminar Room

The importance of conservation measures for pied flycatchers breeding in the boreal landscape dominated by forest management

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It is known that the number of available cavities is often limiting the abundance of secondary hole-nesting animals. The great majority of population studies of hole-nesting birds are however conducted in nest box populations in relatively small areas, and we tend to have a poor idea of how severe the limitation is in the landscape scale. This is particularly the case in the heavily managed boreal forests of northern Europe, where we have a limited understanding of even how many cavities there are for the whole community of hole-nesters. Here, I will address the following questions: 1) how many natural cavities suitable for secondary hole-nesting birds there are in the forest-dominated landscape of Finland; how many of them may be available for the pied flycatcher, an obligate hole-nesting bird that is a long-distance migrant and the last to arrive at the scene; and 3) what is the importance of different conservation measures for this species. I will address these questions primarily by using preliminary data from surveys searching for natural cavities in SW Finland, supplement with line transect and nest box data. The results are useful in putting the ecological and behavioural studies of nest-hole breeding birds into a context outside the restricted study sites and in considering the state of the managed forests for the hole-nesting community.