

Cairngorms RPAC Habitat & Species Priority list

Species	Distribution in Cairngorms	Habitat preference
Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	All rivers and tributaries.	Spawn in upper reaches and tributaries, migrate to sea, return to rivers
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Widespread but scarce. Angus Glens & lower Deeside primarily, expanding in Badenoch & Strathspey	Lowland farmland mosaics
Birchwood moths: Kentish glory moth <i>Endromis versicolora</i> ; Cousin german <i>Euschesis sobrina</i>	Widespread but scarce. Primarily Deeside and Badenoch & Strathspey, under recorded	Moorland edge and open birchwood specialists. Dependant on regenerating birch in sunny locations.
Black grouse <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	Scarce on upland and forest edge areas	Mosaic of pine and birch woodland (native and plantation) and scrub with understorey of heather and blaeberry, usually bordering on moorland. Wet areas.
Bog specialist Dragonfly species: Azure hawkler, <i>Aeshna caerulea</i> , Northern emerald, <i>Somatochlora arctica</i> , White-faced darter, <i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	Widespread but scarce in uplands and lowlands	Acidic bog pools and runnels in upland areas, bog woodland and sphagnum rich pools in lowlands.
Capercaillie <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	Pine woodland, rare	Mainly native pine forest and conifer plantations, with range of tree ages and densities. Good understorey of blaeberry with wet / boggy areas
Common toad <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Widespread	Wetlands, rough grasslands, woods, gardens
Crested tit <i>Parus cristatus</i>	Conifer woods in Badenoch & Strathspey, scarce	Native pine woods and conifer plantations
Daubenton's Bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Widespread but scarce	Riparian habitats. Roosts in riparian trees and bridges, feeds over water.
Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>		
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Potentially widespread (but rare) in upland areas.	Moorland, montane crags and upland native pine woods with access to large open hunting territories. Absent from much of the suitable habitat.
Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Widespread but uncommon in uplands	Moorlands, blanket bogs, damp pastures and rough grasslands
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Scarce breeding bird & common winter visitor	Rivers and lochs, uses riparian trees (and artificial nest boxes) for roosting and nesting sites.
Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Potentially widespread (but rare) in moorlands.	Breed on moorlands and peatlands requiring deep heather for nest sites. Absent from much of the suitable habitat.
Juniper <i>Juniper communis</i>	Widespread	On farmland, grassland, moorlands and woodland sites
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Widespread but uncommon	Open farmland with wet areas (arable, permanent pastures, rough grazing) and cattle grazing
Mason bees (<i>Osmia inermis</i> & <i>Osmia uncinata</i>)	Widespread but rare, Highland Perthshire and Badenoch & Strathspey	Calcareous & species rich grasslands
Mountain hare <i>Lepus timidus</i>	Widespread but uncommon in uplands	Upland grasslands, moorlands and hills
Northern brown argus <i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	Widespread but uncommon In uplands and lowlands	Lightly grazed calcareous grasslands with rockrose plants
Northern damselfly <i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	Rare, Badenoch & Strathspey and Deeside	Shallow ponds or lochans with abundance of emergent vegetation adjacent or within woodlands
Pearl bordered fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Widespread but uncommon	Mostly (grazed) broadleaved woodland margins and clearings with grassy field layer and light covering of bracken. Plus moorland edge and rough grassland. Food plant – violets, usually south-facing.
Pipistrelle spp	Widespread	Open woodlands, farmland, wetland and urban habitats

Red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Widespread	Native pine woods and conifer plantations, but also broadleaved woods where no grey squirrel competition.
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	Widespread but uncommon	Wet pasture and open farmland with cattle grazing
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Widespread but uncommon	Wetland / scrub mosaics, winter stubbles
Ring ouzel <i>Turdus torquata</i>	Widespread but uncommon in uplands	Uplands
River jelly lichen <i>Coellema dichotomum</i>	Rare, restricted to parts of river Isla, Erict, North Esk and Don	An aquatic lichen found in unpolluted rivers
Scottish crossbill <i>Loxia scotia</i>		
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Widespread but uncommon	Open farmland (arable, grass or rough grazing), winter stubbles, and moorland.
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread	Variety of habitats, make use of buildings, present in most communities
Tree sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	Angus Glens and Lower Deeside, uncommon	
Twinflower <i>Linnaea borealis</i>		
Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Upland and upland fringes	Breeds on moorland and on in-by pasture & arable ground, uses winter stubbles
Upland moth species Netted mountain moth, <i>Macaria carbonaria</i> , Northern dart, <i>Xestia alpicola</i> , Sword grass, <i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	Widespread but rare. Deeside and Badenoch & Strathspey (under recorded)	lowland raised bog, damp acidic moorland and upland blanket bog, wood/moorland edge
Water vole <i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Widespread but scarce in uplands	Uplands, ditches, burns & rivers, wetlands and other waterbodies
Wildcat <i>Felis sylvestris</i>	Widespread but scarce	Upland and moorland edge, woodlands and rough grasslands
Woolly willow <i>Salix lanata</i>		
Wood Ants <i>Formica exsecta</i> , <i>F. aquilonia</i> & <i>F. lugubris</i>	Conifer woods in Badenoch & Strathspey and Deeside, uncommon	Mostly undisturbed conifer forests and woods, with dappled light (amount of light required depends on specific species)
Habitat	Distribution in Cairngorms	Notes
Arable land & cereal field margins	Lowland areas of Straths (uncommon)	Limited area on lowland farms
Aspen woodland [covering aspen hoverfly, blunt-leaved bristle moss, aspen bracket fungus & dark-bordered beauty moth]	Widespread in Badenoch & Strathspey, local elsewhere	In all types of woodland as individual stands or small groups and in some places dominant tree species
Birch woodland	Widespread	
Blanket bog	Uplands, widespread	
Conifer plantations	Widespread	In relation to re-structuring, enhancing diversity, & improving woodland habitats
Control of non native plant invasive species: Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam	Limited distribution, River Don and River Esk	Mainly alongside water courses of all sizes.
Dystrane dykes	Primarily Deeside & Angus Glens	farmland feature
Montane scrub	Rare	Upland areas
Heather moorland/Upland heath	Widespread	
Bearberry heath <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Uncommon habitat in managed moorlands	
Native broad- leaved woodland	Widespread but scarce	Upland oak in particular plus ash, hazel, willow, wet woodland of alder.
Native Scots pine woodland	Widespread	
Reed beds and Fens	Widespread but localised	Reedbeds are wetlands by dominated reeds, fens are low nutrient status associated with peat
Riparian & wet woodland	Widespread	In upland and lowland areas along watercourses and waterbodies
Rivers & burns	Widespread	
Semi-natural species- rich grassland	Widespread but scarce.	Calcareous, acid and neutral – some larger fields and areas of habitat within in bye, more in uplands, remnants along river banks.
Standing open water	Widespread	Lochs, lochans, ponds and pools
Upland grassland	Widespread	Calcareous, species-rich acid grasslands and serpentine heath