

# Linnet



Linnet (male)



Linnet (female)

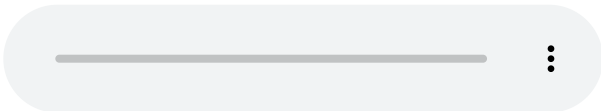
Scientific name: **Linaria cannabina**

Bird family: Finches

UK conservation status: Red

Protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

## Linnet song audio



Sander Bot, Xeno-canto

## Key information

A small, slim finch, widely distributed and once very popular as a cage bird because of its melodious song. Males are attractively marked with crimson foreheads and breasts, females much browner. It has an undulating flight, usually twittering as it flies and may be seen in large flocks during the winter.

Linnet numbers have dropped substantially over the past few decades, with the UK population estimated to have declined by 57 per cent between 1970 and 2014. The latest Breeding Bird Survey results show a decrease in all countries.

## What they eat:

Seeds and insects.

# Measurements:

Length:

13.5cm

Wingspan:

21-25.5cm

Weight:

15-22g

# Population:



UK breeding:

UK wintering is the number of pairs breeding annually. UK wintering is the number of individuals present from October to March. UK passage is the number of individuals passing through on migration in spring and/or autumn.

# Identifying features:

This bird species has different identifying features depending on sex/age/season.

## Linnet (male)

Feather colour: Black Brown Cream/buff Grey Pink/purple Red White

Leg colour: Brown

Beak: Black Brown Short Chunky

Natural habitats: Farmland Grassland Heathland Urban and suburban

## Linnet (female)

Feather colour: Black Brown Cream/buff Grey White

Leg colour: Brown

Beak: Black Brown Short Chunky

Natural habitats: Farmland Grassland Heathland Urban and suburban

# Similar birds:

 Lesser redpoll

Lesser redpoll

 Mealy redpoll

Common redpoll

 Twite illustration

Twite

# Where and when to see them

While widespread across the UK, there are concentrations of linnets along the east coast from Kent to Aberdeenshire, but they are scarce in upland regions and north west Scotland. Look for them on commons, heathland, rough ground, farmland hedges, saltmarshes and in parks and gardens.


\* This map is intended as a guide. It shows general distribution rather than detailed, localised populations.

Resident

Passage

Summer

Winter

 Linnets distribution

You can spot linnets all year round.

This bird can be seen in the UK in: jan feb mar apr may jun jul aug sep oct nov dec

## RSPB reserves

[RSPB Winterbourne Downs](#)

[RSPB Culbin Sands](#)