

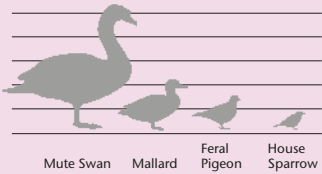
# Bird profiles

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- ♀ female      ♂ male
- ☾ juvenile      🌙 immature
- ♂ adult
- 🌱 spring      ☀️ summer
- 🍂 autumn      ❄️ winter

## SCALE INDICATORS

Each species is compared to one of four well-known birds, for an accurate indication of size.



## DISTRIBUTION MAPS

Each species profile includes a map showing the range of the species, with colours reflecting seasonal location.



- Summer distribution
- Resident all year
- Seen on migration
- Winter distribution

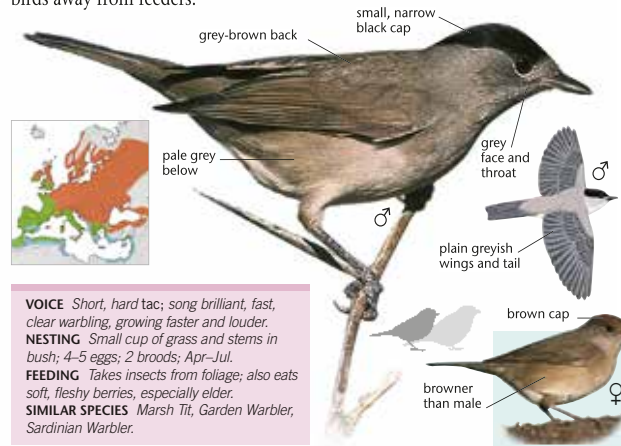
# Blackcap

*Sylvia atricapilla*

The Blackcap is a stocky warbler with a typical, hard, unmusical call. Its song, however, is beautiful, rich, and full-throated, less even than the similar song of the Garden Warbler. It may overwinter in northwest Europe, when it visits gardens to take seeds and scraps, often driving other birds away from feeders.



**SINGS** brilliantly from perches in woods, parks, and large bushy gardens, with plenty of thick undergrowth.



**VOICE** Short, hard tac; song brilliant, fast, clear warbling, growing faster and louder.  
**NESTING** Small cup of grass and stems in bush; 4–5 eggs; 2 broods; Apr–Jul.  
**FEEDING** Takes insects from foliage; also eats soft, fleshy berries, especially elder.  
**SIMILAR SPECIES** Marsh Tit, Garden Warbler, Sardinian Warbler.

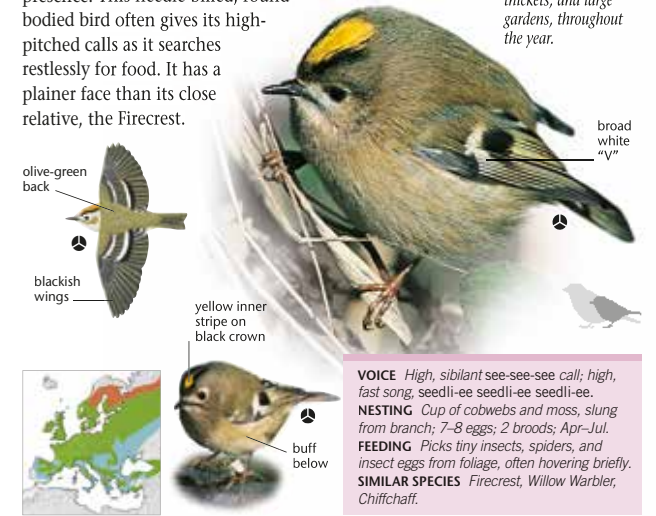
# Goldcrest

*Regulus regulus*

Europe's smallest bird, the agile, busy Goldcrest frequently forages very close to people, apparently oblivious of their presence. This needle-billed, round-bodied bird often gives its high-pitched calls as it searches restlessly for food. It has a plainer face than its close relative, the Firecrest.



**FEEDS** in coniferous and mixed woodland, thickets, and large gardens, throughout the year.



**VOICE** High, sibilant see-see-see call; high, fast song, seedli-ee seedli-ee seedli-ee.  
**NESTING** Cup of cobwebs and moss, slung from branch; 7–8 eggs; 2 broods; Apr–Jul.  
**FEEDING** Picks tiny insects, spiders, and insect eggs from foliage, often hovering briefly.  
**SIMILAR SPECIES** Firecrest, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff.

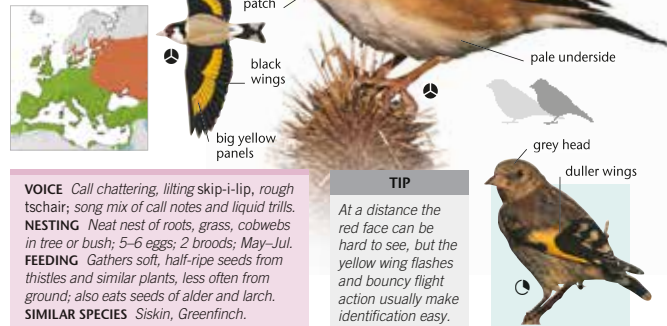
# Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*

Flocks of colourful Goldfinches pick on waste ground, farmyards, and field edges, feeding soft, milky seeds from thistles, tall daisies, and similar plants with their pointed bills. They are agile feeders, often swinging head-down from seedheads, and have a distinctive dancing flight and tinkling calls.



**FORAGES** in weedy places with tall seed-bearing flowers such as thistles and teasels; also in alder and larch.



**VOICE** Call chattering, litting skip-i-lip, rough tschair; song mix of call notes and liquid trills.  
**NESTING** Neat nest of roots, grass, cobwebs in tree or bush; 5–6 eggs; 2 broods; May–Jul.  
**FEEDING** Gathers soft, half-ripe seeds from thistles and similar plants, less often from ground; also eats seeds of alder and larch.  
**SIMILAR SPECIES** Siskin, Greenfinch.

**TIP**  
 At a distance the red face can be hard to see, but the yellow wing flashes and bouncy flight action usually make identification easy.

# Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita*

By sight the Chiffchaff is almost impossible to distinguish from the Willow Warbler, although the slightly plumper Chiffchaff's habit of dipping its tail downward is a useful clue. When it sings, it betrays its identity by repeating its name over and over again – and luckily it sings a lot, particularly in spring. Some Chiffchaffs spend the winter in western Europe, unlike Willow Warblers.



**REPEATS** ITS name from perches in woodland, parks, bushy areas, and large gardens; favours taller trees in summer.



**VOICE** Call slurred, sweet hweet; song easy, bright chip-chap-chip-chap-chup-chup-chip.  
**NESTING** Domed grass nest, low in bush or undergrowth; 5–6 eggs; 1–2 broods; Apr–Jul.  
**FEEDING** Takes insects and spiders from leaves, slipping easily through foliage.  
**SIMILAR SPECIES** Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler.

# Long-tailed Tit

*Aegithalos caudatus*

The tiny rounded body and slender tail of the Long-tailed Tit give it a ball-and-stick shape that is quite unique among European birds. In summer, family parties move noisily through bushes and undergrowth, but in winter they often travel through woodland in much larger groups, crossing gaps between the trees, one or two at a time.



**LIVES** in woods with bushy undergrowth. Increasingly visits garden feeders.



**VOICE** High, thin, colourless seee seee seee; short, abrupt, low trrrp or zerrp.  
**NESTING** Rounded nest of lichen, moss, cobwebs, and feathers with side entrance, in low bush; 8–12 eggs; 1 brood; Apr–Jun.  
**FEEDING** Tiny insects and spiders taken from twigs and foliage; some seeds.  
**SIMILAR SPECIES** None.

