Bird Fact Files

Nightjar

Where they live – Heathlands, moorlands, open woodlands with clearings and recently felled conifer plantations.

What they eat – Insects; moths and beetles.

Common/uncommon – Summer visitor to the UK between April/May and August/ September.

Facts – Nightjars are nocturnal, hunting at dawn and dusk. They are a brown mottled colour which is a great for camouflaging them against their habitat.

Firecrest

Where they live – Evergreen woodlands, sometimes in gardens and hedgerows.

What they eat – spiders, moth eggs, small insects.

Common/uncommon – Uncommon in general in the UK, resident in the south east, common at High Lodge.

Facts – Firecrests are one of the UK's tiniest birds. A small number of them breed in the UK. They are easier to spot in the Autumn or Winter.

Siskin

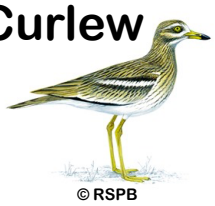
Where they live – Coniferous woodland.

What they eat – Conifer, birch or alder seeds and some insects.

Common/uncommon – Common UK wide, very common at High Lodge.

Facts – Siskins are small lively finches, smaller than a greenfinch. Siskins have lovely yellow patches on their wings and tail.

Stone Curlew



Where they live – Dry, open places with bare stony ground or short vegetation.

What they eat – Worms and insects.

Common/uncommon – Rare in the UK, summer visitor between March and October.

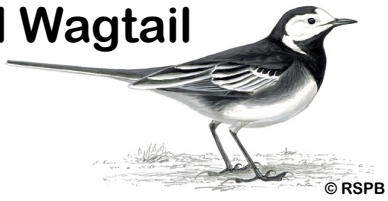
Facts – Stone Curlews are crow-sized with large heads, long yellow legs and relatively long wings and tail. They are active at night, with big yellow eyes to help them hunt.

Forestry Commission England

Learning in your forest

Bird Fact Files continued….

Pied Wagtail



Where they live – Found in most habitats, including towns and cities.

What they eat – Insects.

Common/uncommon – Very common birds across the UK.

Facts – A small black and white bird with a long tail, which it frantically wags up and down. Dashes across lawns looking for food.

Woodlark

Where they live – East and South East of England in heathland habitats.

What they eat – Seeds and insects.

Common/uncommon - Uncommon.

Facts - Streaky brown in colour, with a buffy-white eye-stripe. Although to many they may appear like a boring brown bird, the woodlark is famous for its melodic and fluty song.

Hobby

Where they live – They like to live in areas with both woodland and open habitats. The best place to spot them is hunting over woodland edges or heathlands.

What they eat – Insects and small birds.

Common/uncommon – Uncommon, a summer visitor to the UK

Facts - Hobbies are incredibly agile hunters, being able to take insects such as dragonflies, which they pluck out of the air and even small birds such as swifts and house martins.
Prey is often caught in their talons and transferred to the beak in flight. They can accelerate rapidly in flight and are capable of high-speed aerial manoeuvres.

Robin

Where they live – Robins like to live in a range of habitats and are mainly found in woodlands, hedgerows, parks and gardens.

What they eat – Worms, seeds, fruits and insects.

Common/uncommon – Very common.

Facts – Robins are one of the most easily recognisable birds, with their red breast. Young robins develop this recognisable feature of the red breast as they become adults. Robins are aggressively territorial.

Forestry Commission England

Learning in your forest

Bird Fact Files continued….

Goshawk

Where they live – Best looked for near large areas of woodland and forests with glades and paths for it to hunt along.

What they eat – Small mammals up to the size of a hare and birds as large as geese but will also readily hunt wood pigeon.

Common/uncommon – Fairly uncommon, probably due to persecution.

Facts – They are large hawks, with the females growing larger than the males. Goshawks are quite fierce looking, with red eyes and white eyebrows. They are agile hunters at speed and can weave in and out of trees with precision. Nationally, they are a highly persecuted bird.

Wren

Where they live – Wrens are found in a wide range of habitats; from gardens to woodland, farmland, heathland and moorland. Their favourite habitat is deciduous woodland.

What they eat – Insects and spiders.

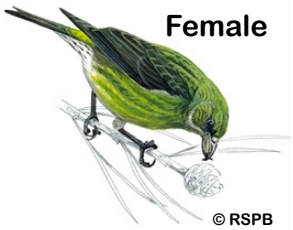
Common/uncommon – Very common.

Facts – Wrens are tiny brown birds with a loud singing voice. They are one of the commonest breeding birds in the UK.

Crossbill

Male

Female



Where they live – In coniferous woodlands.

What they eat – Seeds from conifers.

Common/uncommon – Numbers fluctuate, fairly common in certain areas.

Facts – Crossbills are part of the finch family. They have large heads and bill, which is crossed over at the tip, giving them their name. Usually seen in noisy family groups, they fly close to treetop height; feeding acrobatically, fluttering from cone to cone. Adult males are a brick red colour whilst females are a green colour.

Forestry Commission England

Learning in your forest

Bird watching table

Bird	Tally (𝍸)	Number of points to multiply by	Total points score
Pied Wagtail		10	
Robin		20	
Wren		50	
Siskin		20	
Firecrest		50	
Nightjar		500	
Hobby		100	
Goshawk		1000	
Crossbill		150	
Stone Curlew		2000	
Woodlark		250	
Wood pigeon		10	

Images © RSPB - Mike Langman RSPB-images.com