

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Bird · Resident · here all year



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One of our commonest birds. Males are handsome in spring, with a blue-grey crown, pink-flushed face and breast and bold white shoulder flashes; females are subdued olive-brown but share the same white wing bars, obvious in flight. Chaffinches are in every Dumfries garden, park, wood and hedgerow, feeding mostly on the ground beneath feeders rather than on them.

BEHAVIOUR

The song is a distinctive accelerating descending rattle finishing in a short flourish, often described as a fast bowler's run-up. Young males learn it from neighbours, so chaffinch song varies regionally — birds in one glen can sound measurably different from another. In winter they flock on stubble and woodland floor, and are joined by continental birds, including occasional bramblings among them.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Finches (Fringillidae)
SIZE	14.5 cm · sparrow-sized
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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