

Common Whitethroat

Curruca communis

Bird · Summer migrant · Apr-Sep



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A lively warbler of hedgerow, bramble and rough scrub, with a grey head, rusty-edged wings, long tail and a clean white throat that it puffs out when singing. Whitethroats arrive in Dumfries from mid-April and take up territory along field edges, disused ground and scrubby riverbank — anywhere with dense low cover and a few song perches. Males are far more visible than females.

BEHAVIOUR

The song flight is characteristic: the male launches vertically from a bramble, delivers a hurried, scratchy little phrase while bouncing in the air, then parachutes back into cover. Between flights he sings from an exposed twig with his throat feathers raised. Whitethroats feed on insects low in the vegetation through summer, adding berries before departure.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Typical warblers (Sylviidae)
SIZE	14 cm · sparrow-sized
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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