

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Bird · Resident · here all year



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A large black crow with a purple gloss, a peaked head, shaggy 'trousers' of loose thigh feathers and — the clinching feature on adults — a bare, greyish-white face at the base of a long pointed bill. Rooks are birds of farmland with tall trees, and their rookeries in stands of beech, ash and Scots pine around Dumfries are among the most conspicuous bird colonies in the district.

BEHAVIOUR

Rooks are sociable in everything they do. They nest colonially, repairing the same bulky stick nests each spring and stealing sticks from neighbours while they are away. They feed in flocks on pasture and ploughed land, taking earthworms and leatherjackets, and roost communally in winter in gatherings that can number thousands. Nest repair starts remarkably early, often in February.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Crows (Corvidae)
SIZE	44-46 cm
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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