

**Female cuckoos lay their eggs in the nest of the species that raised them (dunnock, reed warbler and meadow pipit are favoured 'hosts')**



**Worcestershire**

**Listen out for the distinctive chiff-chaff song early as the birds are one of the first to arrive back from its wintering grounds (south Europe and north Africa); they can occasionally be heard singing in the dying days of February.**

**A drought in the western Sahel region of Africa in 1968 caused a 90% drop in the number of whitethroats breeding in Britain; a crash from which numbers have still not fully recovered.**

**Originally, house martins nested on cliffs but they soon took to nesting on buildings, attaching their mud nest cup under eaves; each up takes up to 10 days to build, and over 1000 beak sized pellets of mud.**

**Thought by many (until the 19th Century) to hibernate in the winter; female swallows will choose to mate with the males that have the longest and most symmetrical tail streamers.**

**By sleeping with half of its brain at a time, the swift lives a perpetually aerial life, coming down only for a short period each year to breed.**

**Once regarded as a summer visitor, blackcaps can now be seen all year round, particularly in the south, but the winter birds are thought to be mostly visitors from central Europe rather than British breeders who have stayed here.**

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Photo credits: Pete Walkden, Vince Garvey, Steve Waterhouse, Margaret Holland, Karen Summers, Rob Evans, Stuart Andrews



# Spring/Summer Migrant Birds Spotter Sheet



**Chiffchaff**



**Cuckoo**



**Whitethroat**



**Lesser whitethroat**



**Swift**



**Willow warbler**



**Blackcap**



**Swallow**

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