Winter Migrant Birds Spotter Sheet









Don't forget to log your sightings at www.wbrc.org.uk

At least 4,000 species of bird are regular migrants. That's about 40% of the world's total.

In the UK about half the species migrate – especially insect-eaters that can't find enough food during winter.

Winter visitors are birds that arrive in autumn from the north and east to spend the winter in the UK, where the weather is milder and food is easier to find.

In spring, they return to their breeding quarters.



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

In winter, bramblings form vast flocks where their food, seeds of beech trees, is particularly abundant; some large roosts have been estimated to contain over ten million birds.

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The fieldfare is particularly pugnacious in defending its nest against egg-thieves - often by bombarding them with faeces. Smaller birds often nest close by to benefit from some extra protection.

Many water birds also spend the winter on the sea around the UK coast including common scoters, great northern divers and red-necked grebes.

Redwings are a classic night-time migrant. Listen out on dark clear nights, particularly in autumn and early winter, and you may hear the thin 'tseep' of migrating redwings overhead.

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