

Common Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Bird · Resident · here all year



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Our largest and commonest pigeon: blue-grey with a pink breast, a bold white patch on each side of the neck and a broad white bar across the wing that is obvious in flight. Woodpigeons are everywhere around Dumfries — woodland, farmland, gardens and town centre trees — and have become steadily more numerous as oilseed rape and winter cereals have spread.

BEHAVIOUR

They feed heavily on crops, buds, seeds and berries, and can strip a brassica bed in a morning. The display flight is distinctive: a steep climb, a sharp wing-clap at the top and a stiff-winged glide down. The song is a soft, muffled five-note phrase, repeated and then cut off abruptly. Like all pigeons they feed their young on 'crop milk', which lets them nest in almost any month.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Pigeons and doves (Columbidae)
SIZE	40–42 cm
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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