

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Bird · Resident · here all year



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A shy, pinkish-brown woodland crow with a black moustache, a streaked crown it can raise into a crest, a brilliant white rump that flashes as it flies away, and a patch of finely barred electric-blue on the wing. Jays live in the oak and mixed woodland around Dumfries and visit larger wooded gardens. They are far more often heard than seen — usually as a harsh, tearing screech from deep cover.

BEHAVIOUR

In autumn jays become single-minded about acorns, carrying several at a time in the throat and bill and burying them individually across the woodland floor — several thousand in a good season. Many are never recovered and germinate, which makes the jay one of the most effective planters of oak woodland in Britain. The rest of the year they take insects, caterpillars, and other birds' eggs and young.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Crows (Corvidae)
SIZE	34–35 cm · jackdaw-sized
UK STATUS	Green-listed

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