

# Pied Flycatcher

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

Bird · Summer migrant · Apr–Aug



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Males in spring are striking: black above and white below with a bold white wing patch and a small white forehead spot. Females are a soft brown version of the same pattern. Pied flycatchers are birds of western oak woodland, and the Galloway valleys are within their British stronghold — they are scarce in the town itself but reachable in the hanging oakwoods not far from Dumfries.

## BEHAVIOUR

Like the spotted flycatcher it hunts by sallying from a perch, but it is more restless, moving perch frequently and often taking prey from foliage or the ground as well as in flight. Pied flycatchers nest in tree holes and take very readily to boxes, which is why long-running nest box schemes in western oakwoods have made them one of Britain's most closely studied birds.

## WHEN TO SEE IT

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| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
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## QUICK FACTS

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| FAMILY    | Old World flycatchers (Muscicapidae) |
| SIZE      | 13 cm · smaller than a sparrow       |
| UK STATUS | Red-listed                           |