

Chatty

CHIFFCHAFFS



Can you hear the Chiffchaff sing?

Chiffchaffs are beautiful little birds - so tiny and light, in fact, that they weigh less than a £1 coin! Can you believe that? Try holding a £1 coin and imagine holding a bird that's even lighter!

Chiffchaffs are one of our smallest birds. You can see from the photo, they're a gorgeous green-brown colour, with dark dainty legs and a pale stripe above their eyes.

Now, Chiffchaff is a funny name, isn't it? So if you're wondering where they get their name from, it's because of their very special birdsong! When Chiffchaffs sing, they actually sing their name out loud in a 'chiff chaff, chiff chaff' song!

What do Chiffchaffs eat?

Chiffchaffs like to feast on bugs such as flies, gnats, and caterpillars. If they stick around in the UK in winter, they may also munch on seeds & berries.



Fun Fact!

Most Chiffchaffs migrate to warmer climates for autumn and winter. Some Chiffchaffs fly as far as sub-Saharan Africa (that's the part of Africa that is south of the Sahara Desert).

That's a very long way to fly for such a small, light bird, don't you think?

Did you know?

Chiffchaffs don't build nests up high like most birds. They nest on, or close to, the ground, in amongst brambles and nettles.

What do we mean 'if they stick around' in winter?

Not all Chiffchaffs stay in the UK all year - about 1,000 remain here, out of around 1 million that breed here every year!

Most of our Chiffchaffs are what we call summer migrants, which means they breed and live here in the spring and summer months, and then fly to warmer climates in the autumn. So, now is about the time we'll see Chiffchaffs returning to the UK, which is why they're featuring in our March content!

Chiffchaffs are not under any threat - in fact, they're growing in numbers! The reason for this is that the UK's climate is becoming warmer - showing the effect climate change can have on wildlife.