

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

What to look for

One of Britain's largest resident land birds

Feeding in flocks and returning to roost all together in long, straggly lines

Black all over. Adults have pale, whitish-grey patches around the base of their bills

Look for the groups of scruffy nests of sticks (rookeries) at the tops of tall trees



Where found

Farmland, fields where there are plenty of woods and trees - common in all but the very north of Scotland

When to look

Nesting starts in February-March before the first leaves appear on trees

Not to be confused with...

Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*)



Did you know?

Rooks are very sociable birds - if you see one on its own it is more likely to be a crow!

Their flight includes many aerial acrobatics, with gymnastic swooping, twisting and tumbling

They sometimes steal sticks from each others' nests

Eggs are a glossy greenish-blue with dark spots - both parents feed the young after they have hatched

Collective nouns for rooks are congregation, storytelling, building, parliament and clamour

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