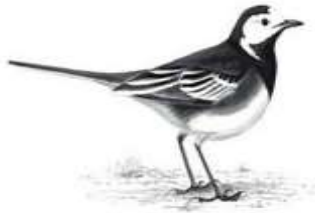


## What's in your garden?



The wagtail you are most likely to see here in the Wold Villages is the Pied Wagtail. A beautiful bird with white, grey and black plumage and a delightful habit of 'wagging' its tail up and down – hence the name.

The Pied Wagtail nests in holes in walls or in the abandoned nests of larger birds. Their own nests are cup shaped and built of grass and moss. The breeding season starts in May with both the male and female adult birds sharing incubation duties. Wagtails feed on insects, mostly caterpillars and flies found in lawns, verges and fields.

The Grey and Yellow Wagtail are less common and are more likely to be seen in the south of the country

## How can I help over the winter months?

Put out feed regularly, especially in severe weather. Set up a bird table if you can and use high-calorie seed mixes. This can also be used to put out kitchen scraps such as animal fats, grated cheese and porridge oats, if you put out the crumbs of your leftover Christmas cake and mince pies that will help. A hanging feeder for black sunflower seeds, sunflower hearts, sunflower-rich mixes or unsalted peanuts will be appreciated as will a supply of fresh water every day, tepid if the temperature is very cold.

## How can I get the children involved?

The BBC Breathing Places site has, as always, a wealth of information about how the kids can get involved in bird watching, feeding and conservation. Their pocket guide 'Feed a Bird' contains handy hints and tips for helping the Pied Wagtail and other birds over the coming months. For a copy just visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/>

