

Jackdaw

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Jackdaw
Irish Name: Cág
Scientific Name: Corvus monedula

Seen in Ireland:

Year-round

In Autumn and Winter, Jackdaws often join up with Rooks and Hooded Crows to feed and roost together in very large numbers



Jackdaws measure about 33 cm in length and weigh around 240 g.



Jackdaws can be found almost anywhere in Ireland; living happily in towns or in wild places.



They feed in open areas such as pastures, parks, on the tide line at the beach and in school yards. They are omnivores, meaning they eat lots of different foods. This includes insects, seeds, fruit, scraps and bird eggs. They also eat acorns when they are ripe.



They live to be about five years old.

Jackdaw Life Cycle

In **winter** Jackdaws can join really large flocks; usually with a mix of crows, including Rooks. These flocks can number tens of thousands of birds!

In **Spring** young Jackdaws in their first year will find a partner for life. All pairs will start to establish a territory and find good nest sites at this time.

Young birds will stay feeding with their parents for a number of weeks, before joining bigger flocks and feeding independently.

Both the male and female help to build a nest. The nest site can be a coastal cliff, old house, shed, chimney, or in tree holes in woodlands, parks and gardens.

After one month in the nest, being fed by both parents, the chicks are big and strong enough to take flight by **summer**.

4-5 eggs are laid in the nest, usually around the start of April. The female will incubate the eggs for about 20 days.



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Some more Facts:

- Jackdaws are part of the Crow family and is one of the smaller crow species.
- It is dark grey or black all over with a hint of silver on the back of the neck. It has black legs and blue eyes.
- Jackdaws are usually seen in pairs; even within larger flocks you can notice birds staying close to their partner.
- They are very social and noisy birds; spending a lot of time calling to each other
- The central cup of the Jackdaw's nest is usually lined with hair, grass or fur.
- Jackdaws have been known to perch on the back of horses and sheep to pull out hairs in order to line their nest. Ouch!
- In Autumn and Winter, Jackdaws often join up with Rooks and Hooded Crows to feed and roost together in very large numbers.

