

Pied Wagtail

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Pied Wagtail / Willy Wagtail
Irish Name: Glasóg shráide
Scientific Name: Motacilla alba yarrellii

Seen in Ireland:

All year round. Common throughout Ireland.



A small, black and white, long-tailed, active bird approximately 18cm in length. It weighs 17-25g.



The Pied Wagtail lives in a wide variety of habitats, often close to water, and including urban areas in Ireland. It is not common in upland areas or bogs. These birds often visit school yards and car-parks!

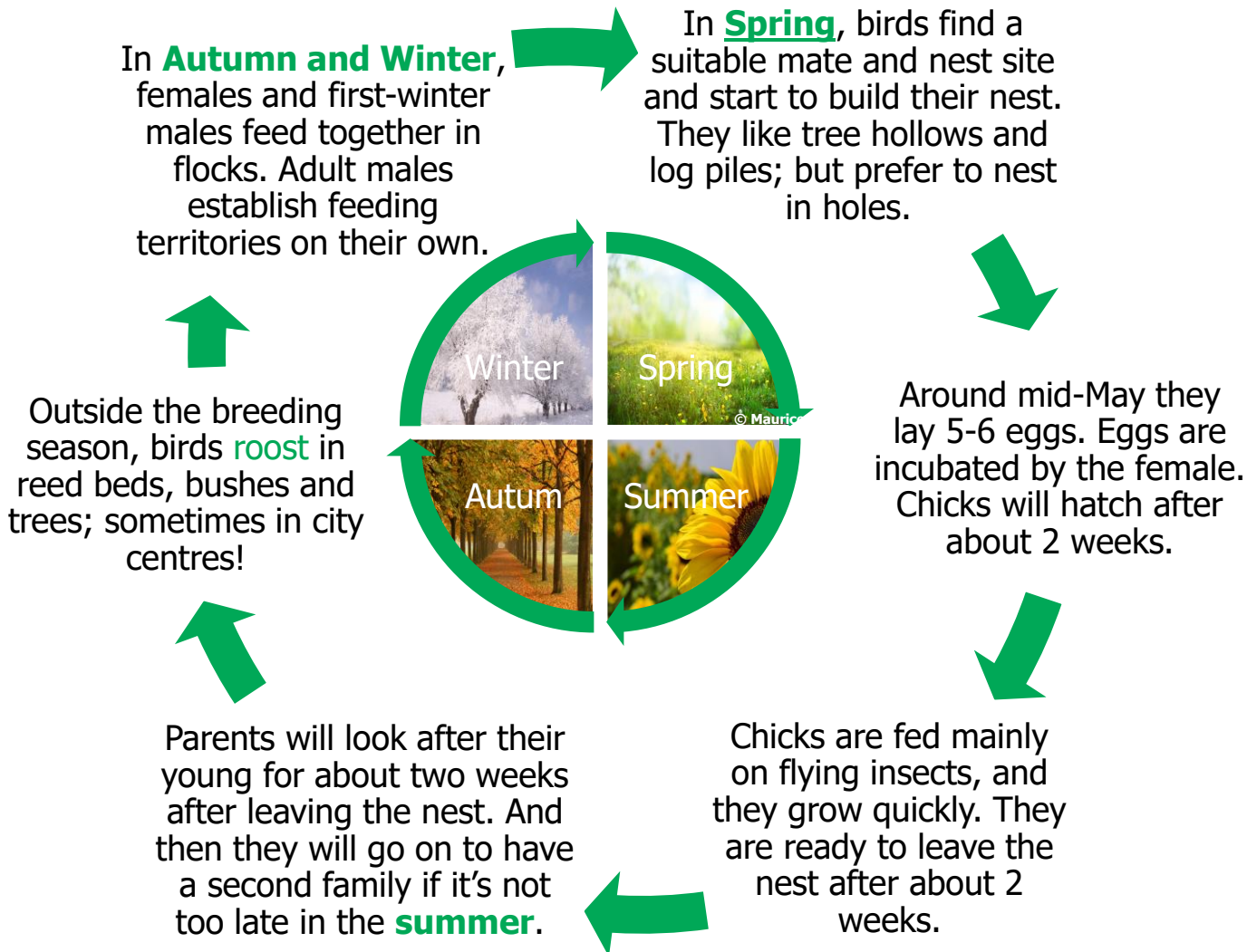


They feed mainly on insects caught on the ground or in flight.



They live around 2 years, but the oldest recorded age is over 11 years, (wildlifetrusts.org).

Pied Wagtail Life Cycle



Pied Wagtail



Some more Facts:

- A small, black and white, long-tailed, active bird.
- It is often seen standing whilst busily wagging its tail up and down, and that is where it got the name wagtail.
- It dashes about over grassland, lawns and car parks in search of food.
- It often calls out during its somewhat bobbing flight.
- During the winter, pied wagtails form large groups at night to keep warm and safe.
- In the UK these roosts have had as many as 4000 birds huddled together! That must be one noisy sleep-over

