

Sheffield-Derby

Services from Sheffield to Derby form part of the principal routes between the North East and South West of England and between London and the Midlands. Virgin Trains, Midland Mainline and Central Trains all run services on this route linking South Yorkshire with Derbyshire.

This route skirts the eastern side of the Peak District National Park passing through Chesterfield. Both Sheffield and Derby are great places from which to explore this important wildlife area. Here, many streams snaking down from higher ground are home to the **dipper**. These plump birds are dark brown above but are easy to see at the edge of a river or on stones in the middle thanks to their white belly – occasionally bobbing up and down – hence their name! They actually go under the water searching for food under stones on the riverbed.

A mixture of countryside and the more urban environment is a good place to look out for **jackdaws**, small crows which breed in many habitats but live particularly successfully in our towns where they nest under tiles or in chimney pots. While you're looking to the skies for birds, keep an eye out for our only flying mammals, the **bats**, of which we have sixteen species. The most common is the **pipistrelle**, which often roosts in the roofs of our houses where it is warm. As the journey continues, the mixed farmland you pass on the route provides both food and shelter for a range of species. This environment is well populated by **rabbits***, but occasionally **brown hares** can also be spotted, particularly in the evenings, when they become more active. Pasture itself provides ideal nesting and feeding areas for birds such as **lapwings*** and cereal crops for species like **skylarks**.

*Rabbit – picture on page 13

*Lapwing – picture on page 11



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Jackdaw - a familiar bird of town and country, happy to nest near us.



© Jonathan Reynolds, GCT

Brown hare - mainly solitary, brown hares come together in late winter and spring for courtship and breeding.



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Pipistrelle bat - the most common bat in the UK and so small it would fit into a matchbox



© Philip Newman/NPL

Dipper - a wonderful bird of our upland fast flowing streams.

