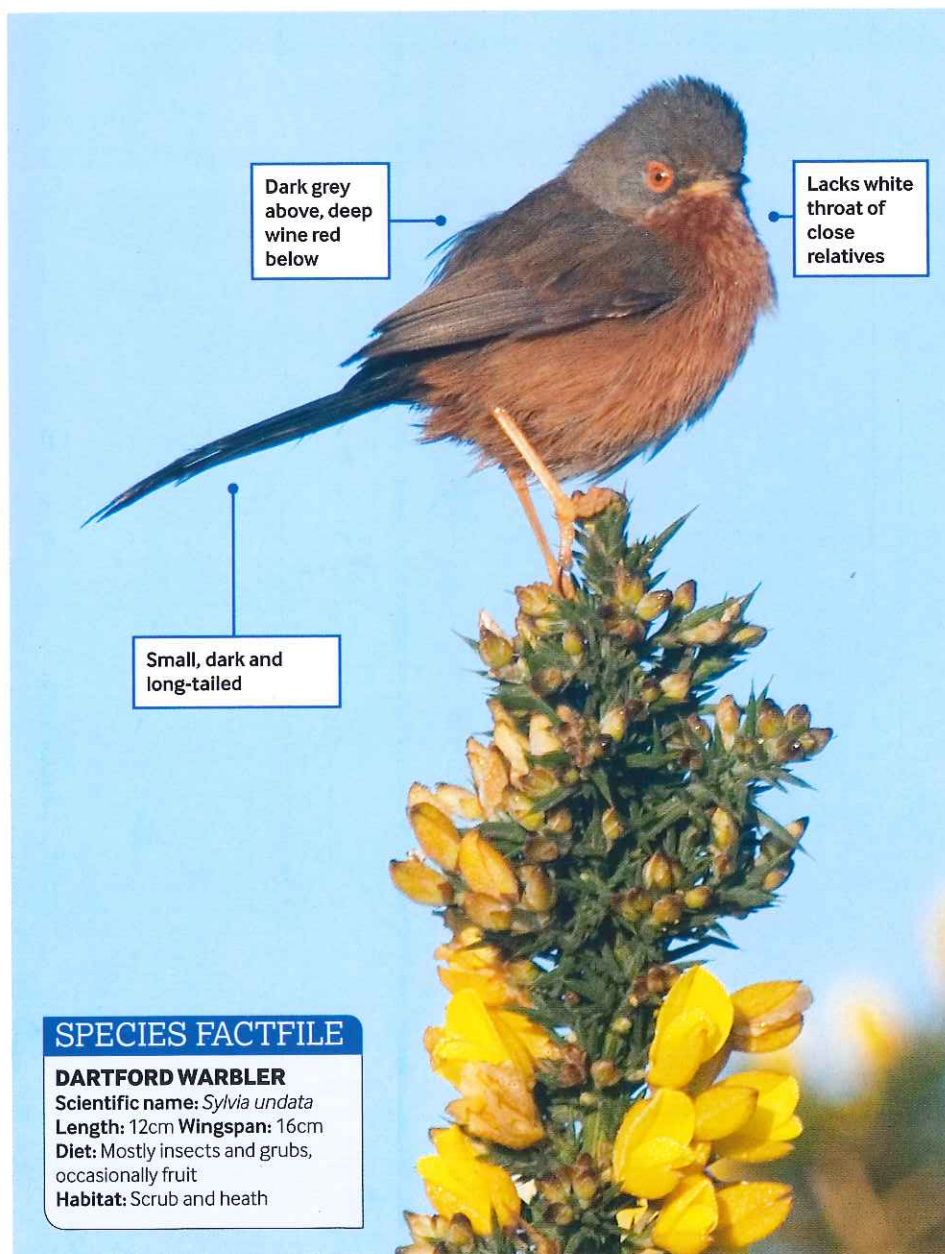


ID INSIGHTS

DARTFORD WARBLER



Dark grey
above, deep
wine red
below

Lacks white
throat of
close
relatives

Small, dark and
long-tailed

SPECIES FACTFILE

DARTFORD WARBLER

Scientific name: *Sylvia undata*
Length: 12cm **Wingspan:** 16cm
Diet: Mostly insects and grubs,
occasionally fruit
Habitat: Scrub and heath

THE DARTFORD WARBLER is a bird of acid heathlands in this country, rarely seen away from heather and gorse. Indeed, they are rarely seen, even in their favoured habitat, using the abundant cover of the dense foliage to seek a hiding place at the slightest hint of danger. The views are often very brief, so it is helpful to be aware of potential problem species, such as Dunnocks, Wrens and other *Sylvia* warblers

that may be in or around the habitat. As with many of the ID challenges in this section, concentrate on size and structure (ie small size and long tail) to begin with, then move onto the dark plumage, including the deep red underparts, dark grey-brown upperparts and red eye ring. As is the case with many birds, learning the call and song is often the first and best clue to initial ID.



Male Dartford Warbler
in typical habitat

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CONFUSION SPECIES

WHITETHROAT Similarly long-tailed, but larger and bolder, with obvious pale underparts and white throat.



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DUNNOCK Shaped a bit like a Robin in sparrow's clothing. Dark with grey and brown, sparrow-like plumage.



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