



Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

Habitat

The song thrush is found in areas of woodland, trees, bushes and scrub adjacent to grassland. They prefer areas where there is leaf litter and moist ground with large numbers of invertebrates. In arable areas, song thrushes prefer game crops and oilseed rape, as these crops often tend to have damp ground conditions and therefore plenty of insects.

Food

Adults eat a wide range of invertebrates, especially snails and earthworms, along with berries. Their chicks have a similar diet but eat many insect larvae before fledging.

Nesting

Song thrushes breed in between mid-March to the end of August. Nests are made in trees, shrubs, climbing vegetation and occasionally on the ground. They will have up to three broods in a good season when the weather stays warm and dry and food sources aren't limited. They can lay up to three to five eggs per clutch.

Song/call

Strongly varied song, sounds 'dogmatic', often very squeaky and shrill with cascading notes and repetitions.

Beneficial management

- Aim to cut hedges on rotation to boost berry production and protect nest sites from hedge production.
- Establish areas of wild bird crops. Kale is particularly favoured for foraging.
- Aim to create extended field margins in arable and grassland fields to increase feeding opportunities. Try to leave damp areas in field corners to maintain insect populations.
- Song thrushes are vulnerable to molluscicides. A consultation with your agronomist is advised for best practice slug control to prevent poisoning.

