

Name:**Song thrush***Turdus philomelos***UK status:**[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red List.**London status:**

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Protected status:

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.

'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Parks, squares and amenity grassland; Open landscapes with ancient trees; Private gardens; Woodland; Farmland; Railsides

Citation:

Although still a familiar and widespread bird, the song thrush declined steadily over the last three decades to about half the previous population and now appears stable, although in the south and east of England, including London, there has been a continuing small decline over the last ten years. The main factor behind the decline is known to be the survival of young birds, but just why they survive poorly is not known. In parks and gardens, where song thrushes eat slugs and snails, an increase in the use of molluscicides has been widely blamed, but without any good evidence. Competition with the ubiquitous blackbird has also been suggested, as well as a deficiency in soil invertebrates during our increasingly drier summers. In farmland the reason is most likely to be intensive farming and its associated impacts on hedgerows and other places favoured by the thrush.



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Conservation priorities:

- Local population monitoring
- Anti-pesticide campaigning
- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices [All address UK SAP targets **T1**, **T2**]

References:

Baillie, S.R et al. (2005). [Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2004](#). BTO

Hewlett, J. Ed. (2002). *The Breeding Birds of the London Area*. LNHSRSPB (2002). *The Population Status of Birds in the UK – Birds of conservation concern: 2002-2007*

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Self, A. Ed. (2004). *London Bird Report for 2000*. LNHS