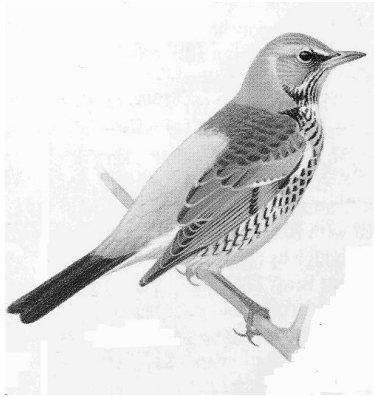
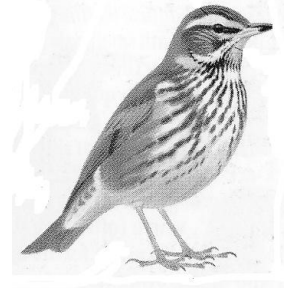


Winter Thrushes

In the winter, the UK becomes home to a number of immigrant thrushes. These fly over the North Sea from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe looking for more clement weather and hopefully some food supplies in the from of berries, worms and suchlike. Our Blackbird population increases greatly with the arrival of visiting Blackbirds – the density of Blackbirds in the hedges in winter can be very high.

But two other winter thrushes are more colourful and more unusual. These are the Redwing and the Fieldfare. The Redwing is a delightful small thrush with a large rusty patch on the side of the breast which also extends over the underside of the wing – hence the name. It has stripes on its face and lovely warm cream underparts with spots. There have been good numbers of Redwings in the area this winter, escaping from the more frozen parts of the country. Mostly they have been feeding in the fields, often with Starlings, but sometimes they come into gardens – they really like rotten apples or ivy berries.



The Fieldfare is a much bigger and more impressive bird, patterned in grey, chestnut and black, giving a somewhat piebald appearance. They have a loud “chacking” call and often travel in flocks. Although quite common in England we do not often see them around here, though they are regularly reported from the south of the county.

Both these thrushes are still with us at present, but they will be departing soon back to their breeding territories, thankful that the Pembrokeshire worms and ivy berries have kept them alive through the winter!

Rosemary Royle