

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Bird · Winter visitor · Oct-Mar



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Our smallest common thrush: dark brown above, boldly streaked below, with a creamy stripe over the eye and a rusty-red patch along the flank and under the wing that gives it its name. Redwings reach Dumfries from October, usually mixed in with fieldfares, and feed on hedgerow berries and, later in the winter, on damp grassland. Most have moved back north by the end of March.

BEHAVIOUR

Redwings migrate at night, and the thin, high 'tseep' called between birds passing over a lit town in October is one of the more atmospheric sounds of the local year. By day they feed in loose flocks, more cautious than fieldfares, dropping into hawthorn and rowan and flying up together at any disturbance. In hard frosts they turn to windfall fruit in gardens and orchards.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Thrushes (Turdidae)
SIZE	21 cm · smaller than a song thrush
UK STATUS	Red-listed

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