

# Blackbird

*Turdus merula*



## What to look for

Males have black plumage and a bright yellow beak. Females have brown plumage, a mottled breast and a brownish beak

Flight is usually low and over short distances and often accompanied by a harsh chattering alarm call



## Where found

Almost anywhere except the most barren uplands. Thrives in gardens and parks. You're as likely to find them nesting in a city centre as on a farm. Nests in trees and bushes. Their nests are made from grasses and lined with mud

## When to look

Nest building from February

Produces 2 or 3 broods between March and May

## Not to be confused with...

Ring ouzel

## Hear this bird's call at:

<http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/wildlife/factfiles/birds/blackbird.htm>

### Did you know?

Blackbirds are residents, so can be seen at any time

They are monogamous, and established pairs will stay together for as long as they both survive

The blackbird is the national bird of Sweden, which has a breeding population of 1-2 million pairs

In folklore, a blackbird nesting near the house is seen to be a harbinger of good fortune

Blackbirds are found throughout the temperate parts of Europe, Asia, North Africa and Australia

The name blackbird is first recorded as applied to the species *Turdus merula* in 1486



Help us develop more resources like this:  
[www.naturescalendar.org.uk/help/support.htm](http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/help/support.htm)

