

# Fieldfare

*Turdus pilaris*



## What to look for

One of the larger thrushes, slightly bigger than a blackbird

Characteristic blue-grey head and rump

Chestnut back

White underwing flashes show in flight

Commonest call is "chack, chack, chack" in flight



## Where found

Look for them in single-species flocks or with redwings. Open country, fields, hedges and orchards throughout the UK, and gardens when weather is hard

## When to look

Winter visitor arriving from October onwards

Leaves in April

## Not to be confused with...

Mistle thrush



### Did you know?

Robert Marsham, in his notes on birds written the late 1700s, notes that fieldfares 'taste very bitter'

They are very social birds, spending the winter in flocks of anything from a dozen to several hundred strong

They feed on insects, worms and berries - hawthorn hedges are a favourite feeding area

The RSPB estimate that there are 720,000 fieldfares overwintering in the UK (here from November to March)

🎵 **Hear this bird's call at:**

[http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/wildlife/what\\_was\\_that\\_bird.htm](http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/wildlife/what_was_that_bird.htm)

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