

## A Bit About BRERC

BRERC collects, stores and distributes wildlife and geology data concerning North Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset. We have millions of records in paper format, and over 800,000 available on a computerised database.

Various organisations and members of the public can request this data. It is used in lots of different ways including; to assess sites, produce species lists, write management plans and to screen planning applications. However, every enquirer must have a good reason to request a data search – not merely because they are curious.

## One Day One Record

We ask people to take part in a very simple survey. On the 18<sup>th</sup> April we would like people to have a look in their garden, nearby park, or local countryside and make a record of a Song Thrush if they see one, or find an anvil, and then send the record to BRERC. And that's it – it's that simple!

The One Day One Record initiatives are planned to stimulate recording and boost the number of records for certain species in the BRERC recording area. So far we have had days dedicated to Amphibians, Reptiles and the aquatic plant Water Forget-me-not.

## Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

### Description

If you come across a stone surrounded by broken snail shells, it's being used as an anvil by a Song Thrush. They pick up snails in their beaks and smash them on the rocks to get out the juicy body of the snail.

Both male and females have brown upper parts and a pale buff throat and breast with arrow head shaped spots. They also have large eyes and pale pink legs. Juveniles have pale buff streaks on their backs.

The Song Thrush can be confused with the Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. However, the Song Thrush is smaller with a buff underwing, whereas the Mistle Thrush has a whiter underwing. The Mistle Thrush has rounded black spots on its breast.

The Song Thrush is also a more secretive bird, although it can be quite tame. The Mistle Thrush can be seen in more open areas, whereas the Song Thrush tends to stay undercover in hedges and woodlands.

The Song Thrush's sound is unlike that of the Mistle Thrush's. The Song Thrush sounds like a soft 'tsip' and they repeat the same phrase three or four times during its song.

**If you are interested in helping to record this beautiful species, please use the recording form overleaf, then return it to the address opposite. Thankyou.**

**You can also send in records using our website.**

## Gardening for Wildlife

The Song Thrush is a welcome visitor to our gardens as they make a meal of all of the slugs and snails, which spend the majority of their time munching through our garden plants.

However, if you are a believer in slug pellets and use them around your garden to protect your plants, this could be disastrous for the poor old Song Thrush as well as the slugs and snails and other garden inhabitants, such as frogs and hedgehogs. When the Song Thrush devours the slimy garden pests, the poison the slugs and snails have eaten is transferred into the bellies of our feathered friends.

Instead, using natural garden predators, such as the Song Thrush and other birds, as well as animals such as the hedgehog is the environmentally-friendly way to protect your garden.

## BRERC

Ashton Court Visitors Centre,  
Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton  
Bristol BS41 9JN

**Telephone:** 0117 9532140

**Fax:** 0117 9532143

**E-Mail:** [brerc@btconnect.com](mailto:brerc@btconnect.com)

**Website:** [www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk)

Your Name..... Your Phone Number.....

Your Address.....

Species	Number Seen	Location (Grid Reference if possible)	Date	Comments
Example: Song Thrush	2	ST999 999 Garden in Old Long Street, Old Town	18/4/04	Also anvil seen

You can use this form to send us records of any wildlife – not just Song Thrushes!

NEXT ONE DAY ONE RECORD – HEDGEHOGS 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2004

Bristol Regional  
Environmental  
Records Centre  
(BRERC)



# One Day One Record Smashing Song Thrushes

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2004



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

BRERC is supported and funded by Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Avon Wildlife Trust, English Nature and Environment Agency