

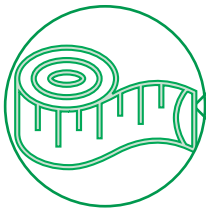
Song Thrush

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Song Thrush
Irish Name: Smólach ceoil
Scientific Name: *Turdus philomelos*

Seen in Ireland: Year Round



Size: The Song Thrush is a little smaller than a Blackbird, about 23-25cm in length.



Habitat (where it lives): The Song Thrush lives all over Ireland, in hedgerows and gardens



Diet: You can see this bird bounding along the ground in search of worms. It also eats fruit, such as Rowan berries, and it will eat snails, smashing open the shell.



Life: A Song Thrush will usually live for about 3 years but the oldest on record was over 10 years old.

Song Thrush Life Cycle



Song Thrush

Some more Facts:

- The Song Thrush is about the same size as a Blackbird.
- It has plain brown upperparts and a creamy underside, with arrow-shaped dark spots in lines down the breast and flanks.
- Its legs are pale pinkish-grey.
- Song Thrushes are seen in ones and twos - never in flocks.
- In Spring the daddy bird sits on top of a tree and sings loudly to boast about the territory (home) he 'owns' in order to attract a mammy bird.
- Once he finds a partner, she builds a nest, usually deep in cover in trees, bushes, ivy or brambles.
- He brings her food, so that she doesn't get hungry.
- The female lays 3-5 eggs over a few days.
- On the last day of laying, she will sit on the nest to keep the eggs warm.
- The chicks are ready to hatch after about two weeks.
- Once the chicks hatch, both parents feed them until they are ready to fly, which also takes about two weeks.
- In Autumn and Winter, the birds will leave the nest site to find good feeding grounds.
- The Song Thrush is known for its song.
- It sings some notes then repeats it three or four times before singing a new tune and repeating it in the same way.
- Song Thrushes like to eat snails.
- They are very clever and break the shell off, by smashing it against a stone with a flick of the head.
- If you ever find a stone, with lots of smashed snail shells all around it, you'll know you've found an 'anvil' or dinner table belonging to a thrush!!

