

Status of Priority Species

Song thrush: Photographer unknown

The song thrush is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority due to rapid declines in the UK, especially on farmland, possibly caused by a loss of

invertebrate prey. It has seen a moderate decline in woodland, possibly caused by drainage and reduction in shrub layers. The species has declined by 57% since the 1970's. The survival rate of juveniles has fallen.

The bullfinch is a UK BAP species that has declined rapidly on farmland and moderately in woodland since 1970, averaging a 56% decline. The decline is possibly due to loss of scrub and hedges and over cutting of hedgerows.

Both of these species will benefit from actions taken towards the targets. The song thrush will benefit from targets 3, 4, and 7-9. The bullfinch will benefit from targets 4 and 7-9.

Requirements

- ! Maintaining a variety of habitats and micro-habitats, including ponds, old trees, flower rich lawns, decaying timber, scrub, bare ground, damp hollows, etc.
- ! Sustainable gardening, including composting and using rain water.
- ! Links to surrounding habitat.
- ! Minimal disturbance - especially needed by breeding birds.
- ! Wildlife gardening, including erecting nest boxes, winter bird feeding, encouraging flowering plants and growing fruit and vegetables.
- ! Organic gardening.
- ! Flowers and nesting pots for bumblebees.
- ! Bat surveys prior to bridge and building work, including wood treatment.
- ! Regular ground disturbance benefits some invertebrates that require bare patches. Bare areas are valuable.
- ! Trees, shrubs and wildflowers, planted in schemes, should be of local native provenance.
- ! Development of habitats in school grounds.
- ! 'Living churchyard' projects.

Male Bullfinch: Whitfield Benson

