

## Fieldfare

The Fieldfare breeds in woodland and scrub in northern Europe and Asia. It is strongly migratory, with northern birds moving south during the winter. It is a very rare breeder in the British Isles, but is a migratory species with a palearctic distribution.



It breeds in northern Norway, northern Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and Siberia as far east as the Tian Shan Mountains in North West China. Its winter range extends through West and South Europe to North Africa, though it is uncommon in the Mediterranean region.

In the winter, groups of Fieldfares are chiefly found in open country, agricultural land, orchards and open woodland. They are nomadic, wandering wherever there is an abundance of berries and insects. It is omnivorous, eating a wide range of molluscs, insects and earthworms in the summer, and berries, grain and

seeds in the winter.

Fieldfares often nest in small colonies, possibly for protection from predators. The nest is built in a tree where five or six eggs are laid. There may be two broods in southern parts of the range but only one further north.

**Photograph by G. Sparshott**