

SONG THRUSH *TURDUS PHILOMELOS* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The song thrush is a UK priority species and a UK SAP has been prepared³⁹. It is therefore of importance for biodiversity conservation in Caerphilly county borough.

Relevant Legislation/Species Status	
priority species (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	P
EC Birds Directive 1979	Annex I I / 2
Berne Convention 1982	-
Bonn Convention 1979	-
CITES 1975	-
WCA 1981	Part I Section 1 Sch. 3
Birds of Conservation Concern List ³⁰	Red



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2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 UK and Wales

The song thrush is historically very common. Populations were at a stable level nationally until the mid-1970s, but subsequently there has been a severe decline, with a 73% reduction on farmland and 49% in woodland habitats.

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

The species is still a familiar sight in the local area with records from the majority of tetrads (see **Map 2.13**), but its actual population densities are currently unknown. There is some anecdotal evidence of a local decline.

2.3 Links with Habitats

- *Deciduous Woodlands*
- *Wildlife Corridors*
- *Species-rich Grasslands*
- ***Urban Habitats***

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- The reasons for the national decline in this species are poorly understood. Although intensification of farming practices, particularly on arable farms, may be a major factor nationally, this may be less important locally.
- The use of molluscicides e.g. slug pellets in gardens and allotments is thought to be a significant factor in the loss of the song thrush.
- Mortality of young birds due to cold wet weather in the nesting season has been shown to have a severe long-term effect on the population.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 The Gwent Ornithological Society and Glamorgan Bird Club gather information from members on song thrush distribution and both publish annual bird reports^{17, 18, 19}.
- 4.2 The BTO Breeding Bird Survey also contributes to the annual monitoring and recording of song thrush populations⁶.
- 4.3 RSPB research is ongoing.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

- 5.1.1 Halt the decline of this species in the UK by the year 2000 (UKBAP, 1995).
- 5.1.2 Maintain the range and population levels of song thrush, and where possible restore them to that of the 1970 estimate.
- 5.1.3 Identify and implement priority research in order to formulate future conservation action.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

- 5.2.1 Identify the current distribution and population of the song thrush in the local area through a county-wide survey, and establish a monitoring programme (Target: 2004).
- 5.2.2 Maintain the range and population of song thrush (Target: ongoing).

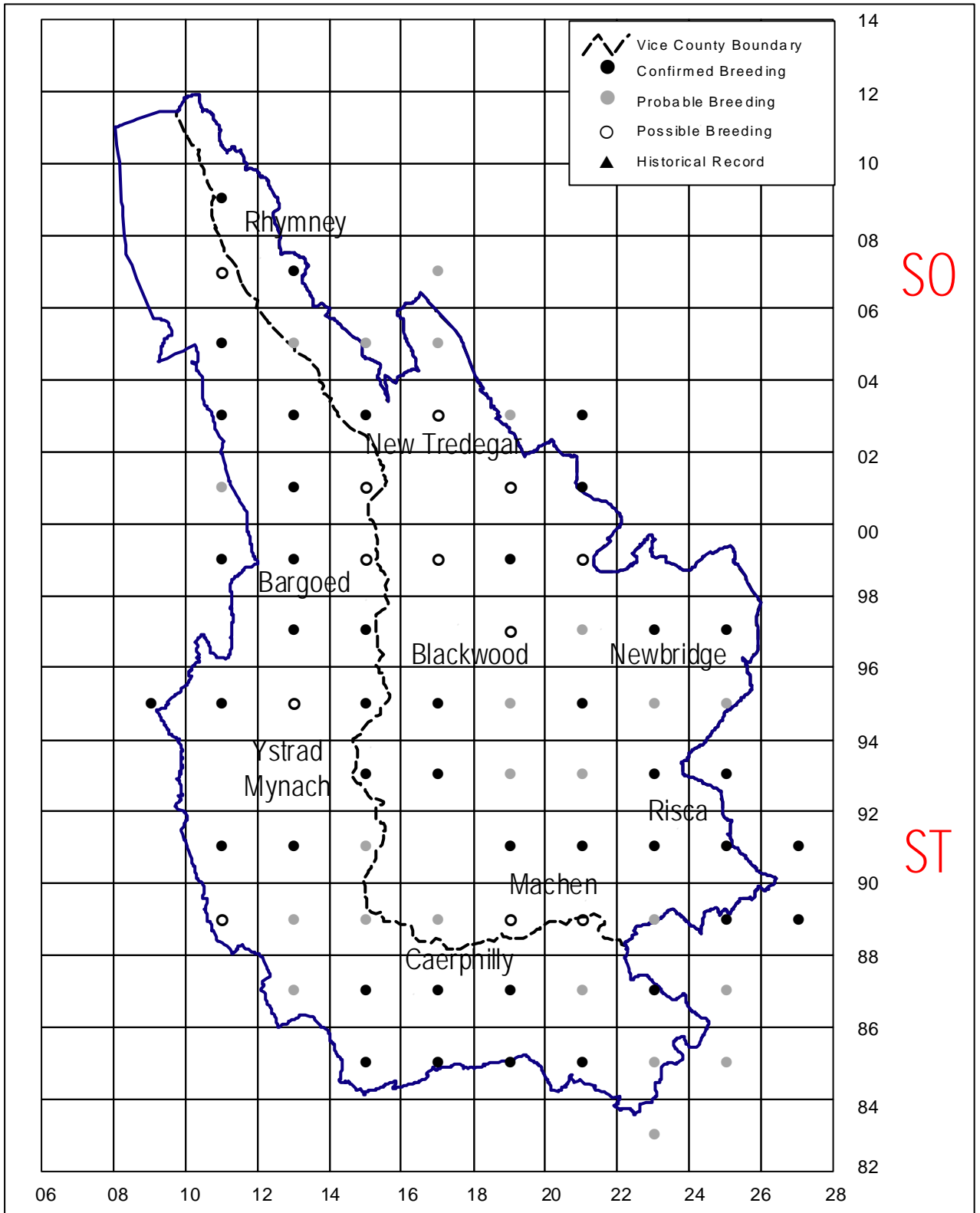
6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.1 Policy and Legislation											
6.1.1 Promote careful and limited use of molluscicides or alternative mollusc control methods on gardens and allotments (e.g. snail pellets).	CCBC	Allotment Societies Community Councils	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
6.2.1 None proposed, but some nesting sites would benefit from SINC status allocated for other reasons.	(CCBC)	-									(✓)
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No other action proposed until further survey work is undertaken to identify population distribution and numbers (Action 6.5).	-	-									

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.4 Advisory											
6.4.1 Provide appropriate advice to farmers, gardeners and householders when the results of research become available.	CBP	RSPB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Identify the current status and population density of the species, for example through the use of "Walk Through Surveys" (similar to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey) of specific areas.	GBC GOS	RSPB BTO CCBC	✕								
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Use as a possible 'flagship' species to raise awareness of the aims of the BAP process with the general public in a Garden and Household Bird Survey targeted at all householders in the county borough.	CBP	-	✓				✓				
6.6.2 Use the song thrush image on leaflets, posters, newsletters etc, where appropriate.	CBP	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✕ Survey year to be determined.

MAP 2.13 - SONG THRUSH



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron. Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sfiil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, LA09004L, 2001.