

Fieldfare nestlings and fledglings feeding and adoption by the European Blackbird

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Abstract

Inter-specific adoption is an intriguing topic in behavioural and evolutionary ecology. Being a rare phenomenon is rarely documented in the literature and thus reports of inter-specific adoption based on solid data are particularly valuable. Here, owing to a long-term and extensive monitoring of a local population of the European blackbird (*Turdus merula*, hereafter blackbird), we describe observations of alloparental behaviour exhibited by blackbirds towards fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) nestlings (single nest, first record ever) and fledglings (twelve cases in total). We discuss the observations in respect to available literature.

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