

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*  
Uncommon passage visitor, casual breeder

**1987** – Last year's male returned to central Bradford by 9th May. Sadly, although noted singing on 11th and 17th June, he failed to attract a mate. The only other record concerns an immature/female watched feeding with migrating Whinchats on 2nd September at Fly Flatts Reservoir.

**1988** – The first, on playing fields near Halifax on 9th April, was either a first-summer male or a female while the next, a female, frequented the finder's garden at Buttershaw on 11th April. The breeding pair in central Bradford was well-reported with young first seen on 12th August and last seen on 16th August, although a female/immature was reported from the same site on 22nd of that month. The last, again in the finder's garden, was in the Shibden Valley on 29th and 30th October and was thought to be a winter male.

**1989** – A female was near Heights Lane, Eldwick, on 27th March, a typical date.

**1990** – A single female first-winter bird at Fly Flatts Reservoir on 25th August.

**1991** – A female/first-winter was present at Norland, Halifax, from 25th August to 7th October.

**1992** – Just two records of this now irregular species, both female/immatures in the spring period: the first at Wilsden on 19th April, the second visited Caldene Fields on 27th April.

**1993** – Three records: a male at Fly Flatts Reservoir on 14th April, two males and a female at Luddenden Dene from 26th April to 3rd June and finally a female at Shibden Valley on 23rd September.

**1995** – There was just one record of this irregular species when a first-winter/female was noted on 12th August at Fly Flatts Reservoir.

**1996** – Only one record was received; this was a first-winter male at Nan Scar on 15th September.

**1999** – The one and only sighting of 1999 was a 'garden tick' for the fortunate Baildon observer. It was a probable first-summer bird, and was seen for about an hour and a half on the morning of 24th March.

**2000** – An average year with two substantiated sightings. The first was in a garden at Harden on 23rd July, and the second a male in summer plumage, which was well received by many observers at Thornton Moor Reservoir between 19th and 27th November.

Another record of a bird near Norwood Bottom on 6th August did not have any descriptive details, which is particularly unfortunate as the bird was apparently carrying food and this was perhaps indicative of breeding in the area.

**2001** – The only bird of the year, a female or first-winter male, was in the car park area at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 28th October and showed well for the whole day, but was not located again.

**2002** – There were two substantiated records, both in November. A first-winter male was at Kex Gill Quarry from 1st to 10th, and a bird Burley on 9th provided a nice garden record.

**2005** - A male and female were located in the Trough Lane fields, near Oxenhope, on 21st April, but both had moved on within the day.

**2006** - Recorded for the second successive year, a bird was present at Thornton Moor Reservoir for a few hours on 4th August (KM, BV). Reports of another bird later in the year were, unfortunately, not supported by a description.

**2007** - A 1st-winter male was found near Soil Hill on 25th August, and remained for at least five days.

**2008** - A pair in Bradford from 19th to 24th June had originally been discovered some weeks previously. There was no evidence of breeding.

**2009** - Individuals were seen at Whetstone Gate on 29th March, at nearby Burley Moor on 7th April, and a probable juvenile was found above Halifax in late August.

**2010** - An exceptionally good year, with nine identifiably different birds seen. A spring record of one on Rombalds Moor on 19th March, was followed by four July records. On the 23rd one was at Cold Edge, on the 25th a single was on Soil Hill and two were at Thornton Moor, and another was there three days later. Within a week, two more were seen: individuals near Glovershaw on 2nd August, and at Addingham Moorside on the 3rd. The final bird was again at Cold Edge on 23rd November. For the second year running, one of the birds was a very young juvenile, again prompting suspicions of possible local breeding.

**2013** - A female bird was seen and photographed outside Ilkley Lido on 1st May. This was the first record since 2010, when nine birds were reported.

**2015** - It was a much better year for this species with four birds recorded. Two spring sightings involved singles, one at Oxenhope on 6th April and the second in the area of Paul Clough two Days later (CB). The third one was noticed as it moved south accompanying three Wheatears on 1st August. On the penultimate day of that month an another single was watched at Leeshaw.

**2017** - Just one report, of a single on Soil Hill on 8th April.