
BLACK REDSTART (Phoenicurus ochruros)

IDENTIFICATION
13-15 cm. Adult male black in summer, grey blackish in winter, with a white patch on wings. Female, juvenile and some postjuvenile males with brown plumage. In all plumages, rump and tail reddish.

SIMILAR SPECIES
Adult male unmistakable. Female and juvenile recalls a Nightingale which is bigger and without dark central tail feathers. Female and juvenile Redstart have brown upperparts and buff underparts.

SEXING
Adult male with grey-black body feathers, with a white patch on wings. Adult female with grey-brown body feathers, without a white patch on wings. Juveniles resembles a female and sexing is not possible using plumage pattern. CAUTION: after postjuvenile moult, many 1st year males are similar to females so it is necessary to first determine the age for correct sexing (it is therefore not possible to sex 1st year autumn/2nd year spring female-like birds).

http://blascozumeta.com


AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

**Juvenile** resembles a female but with fresh plumage.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with contrast between moulted wing feathers, which are darker and greyer than brownish juvenile retained (check moult limits within greater coverts or between moulted median and retained greater coverts); tip of shaft on the outermost tail feather black in more than 9 mm, sometimes with a dark patch on the outer web.

**Adult** without moult limits on wing; tip of shaft on the outermost tail feather black in less than 8 mm, without a dark patch on the outer web.
MOULT

Complete postbreeding moult, usually finished early October. Partial postjuvenile moult involving body feathers, lesser, median and none to all greater coverts (often 3 or 4); some birds extend their moult to some tertials and exceptionally inner secondaries; usually finished in October.
Black Redstart. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
<th>IX</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>XI</th>
<th>XII</th>
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STATUS IN ARAGON
Resident, breeds widely distributed throughout the mountainous areas of the Region; wintering in the Ebro basin.

Black Redstart. Summer. Adult. Female (09-VII).


Black Redstart. Summer. 2nd year. Male().

Black Redstart. Summer. Adult. Head pattern: top male (09-VII); bottom female (09-VII).

Black Redstart. Summer. Adult. Upperparts pattern: left male (09-VII); right female (09-VII).

Black Redstart. Summer. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (09-VII); right female (09-VII).

Black Redstart. Summer. Upperparts pattern: top left 2nd year male (); top right 2nd year male/female (19-VI): left juvenile (09-VII).
Black Redstart. Summer. Adult. Wear of tail and pattern of the outermost tail feather: left male (09-VII); right female (09-VII).


Black Redstart. Winter. 1st year. Upperparts pattern: left male (18-XI); right male/female (18-XI).


Black Redstart. Winter. 1st year. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left male (18-XI); right male/female (18-XI).