

Black-tailed Godwit

1987 – A single at Knotford Nook on 7th and 8th March spent some of its time feeding in nearby fields.

1989 – A bird at Otley Gravel Pits on 7th September stayed for about 15 minutes before flying east.

1990 – A bird was at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 11th March while one in summer-plumage visited Otley Gravel Pits on 20th and 21st April. Finally, a single flew west at Chelker Reservoir on 2nd May.

1992 – Six adult birds showing characteristics of *L.l.islandica*, all in full breeding plumage, were present at Thornton Moor Reservoir all evening on 13th July – a day of north-westerly winds.

1993 – This was a good year with four records all from Otley Gravel Pits. A single in summer plumage was seen on 24th April. The next day there was another single, this time in winter plumage. Two adults were recorded on 4th July. On 3rd July six adults were present in full breeding plumage, all showing characteristics of *L. i.islandica*.

1994 – Three were present for 30 minutes at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 5th August; one had a yellow ring on each leg.

1995 – This was a good year at least five individuals. A single adult showing characteristics of *L.l.islandica* was at Otley Gravel Pits on 8th July. The second was watched for 45 minutes before leaving south at Chelker Reservoir on 29th July and the third was noted at Otley Gravel Pits on 28th August. A juvenile, also showing *L.l.islandica* characteristics, was reported from Swinsty Reservoir by many observers between 30th August and 5th September. Finally a single adult at Fewston Reservoir left to the south on 2nd September.

1996 – A bird in adult summer plumage showing the characteristics of *L.l.islandica* was seen at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 21st and 22nd July. Another bird at the same site on 4th August, again in adult summer plumage, showed characteristics of *L.l.limosa* – a site first in terms of sub-species identification. Two birds were seen flying west with Eurasian Curlews at Otley Gravel Pits on 3rd August. Finally, a juvenile showing the characteristics of *L.l.islandica* was present at Beaver Dyke Reservoir between 17th and 19th August.

1998 – There were no reports of this species in 1997, so the few 1998 sightings are all the more noteworthy. All records came from just two locations – Otley Gravel Pits and Kex Gill – all of single birds, and all within the eight-day period between 20th and 27th April.

Three observers at Otley Gravel Pits on 20th April identified 'their' bird as belonging to the race *Limosa islandica*. Another bird of this race was seen at Kex Gill on 27th April. A single bird at Otley Gravel Pits on 23rd and 24th completes the year's records.

1999 – The only record of this species was of a bird heard at Otley Gravel Pits on 22nd Augst.

2000 – The only record was of a bird seen at Otley Gravel Pits on 28th March.

2001 – Three reports represents a reasonably good year for the recording area. A bird of the race *L.l.islandica* spent 24th and 25th April at Otley Gravel Pits. Return autumn passage produced a bird at Thruscross Reservoir on 8th July, and on 10th there were two birds at Otley Gravel Pits.

2002 – Two birds were reported on passage this year, both in July. The first was a single bird in the fields adjacent to Chelker Reservoir on 14th, and the second at Leeshaw Reservoir for two days from 28th.

2003 - Only one record this year of a single bird at Otley Gravel Pits on the 15th June.

2004 - An impressive flock of 31 birds was seen by the select few of a work party at Otley Wetland Nature Reserve on 17th April (D&BP et al), and represents the largest ever gathering in the Group's area. On 27th June, four were found at Cold Edge Dams, and the final record was of three birds seen flying from Warley Moor to Thornton Moor Reservoir, where they spent half an hour on 5th August.

2005 - The only record was of eight birds flying west at Thornton Moor Reservoir on 30th August.

2006 - Three records of this species in the recording area is a good showing.

The first of these involved two birds at Otley Wetland on 2nd May, and the other two reports both came from John o' Gaunt's Reservoir. A single bird was present there on 23rd July, and around three weeks later four birds were seen.

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2007 - For the second successive year, there were three records.

A spring migrant was found at Otley Wetland on 22nd April (PRo), and just over two months later, return passage was evident, with the discovery of a party of seven birds on 26th June at Farnhill Ings. These showed characteristics of the Icelandic race *L.l.islandica*. The final report was of a bird seen over Oxenhope on 26th September.

2008 - Two birds were at Cononley Ings on 2nd April, and at Silsden Reservoir on 21st August.