



Black Redstart

- It is a **small-sized bird** (14-15 cms) and it **breeds across the Himalayan Range**.
- It occurs almost throughout **Europe, Asia** and in the **portions of Africa** and breed in the high altitude areas of **Kashmir, Ladakh, Tibet** and the **Central Himalayan Range**.
 - In India, the bird sticks to areas near wetlands, open cultivation, scrubs, gardens and orchards.
- The bird has **two races**:



- **P. phoenicuroides** (in Western Himalayas)
- **P. Rufiventris** (in Central and Eastern Himalayas)
- The **primary difference** between them is that the male of the former has a grey crown, nape and lower back while the latter ones are much darker.
- Both sexes display a **bright rufous-orange tail** which is best seen when they fly or flash it open while shivering their tails, justifying the name Redstart (**steort** means **'tail'** in proto-Germanic language).
- **IUCN Red List** status- **Least Concerned**.
- It is protected under the **Schedule IV of the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)**.