coast above high-water mark; and quarries, ramparts of fortresses, railway-cuttings, and garden-walls in the vicinity of the sea are also attractive to them. They may also be seen hopping about the grass on the top of the cliffs; and you will sometimes find them in churchyards, flitting about on the tombstones, and making short excursions into the air after insects, much in the manner of the Flycatchers. They are also very partial to the vicinity of stone arches and caverns, where they will immediately hide when pursued, and remain concealed for a length of time. They will sometimes perch on bushes. During the first week of their arrival in the neighbourhood of Plymouth these birds are, in some seasons, rather plentiful, but after that time disperse, though some remain; and I find that a favourite locality is seldom without its Blackstart during the winter, and, should one be killed, another soon takes its place. I have never seen the bird in summer, but meet with it throughout the winter, from November to April. I often find it during severe frost and snow in the middle of winter, fresh birds from time to time making their appearance among the rocks of the seashore, driven, no doubt, from places further inland by the inclemency of the weather, and which is also the case just before they leave our coasts in spring. On November 2nd, 1853, after a severe gale, I saw one of these birds near the village of North Petherton in Somersetshire, not many miles from the Bristol Channel. This species appears very liable to be caught in traps; for I have, on several occasions, obtained them with their tails clipped, apparently with a pair of scissors; and in one instance I shot one with its tail cut short, and a piece of red worsted tied round its leg. At the time of their migration they have been known to alight on board ships in the Channel. The majority of Blackstarts which visit us are young birds of the year, old males being very scarce and shy. In many of their actions these birds resemble both the Robin and Wheatears. Indeed, they appear to take the place of the latter birds on our coasts during the winter, and leave, just as they arrive, in spring. I have seen both species at the same time in March, on one or two occasions. In plumage this species varies considerably, but I have no doubt that the old male never loses the black plumage after having once attained it; and the only difference I have observed between the winter and spring plumage of the old male is this:—in November the plumage is long, and more or less tipped with brown and grey; but towards April these tips become abraded or worn off, leaving the black plumage underneath much more clear and distinct, which is likewise the case with the plumage of many of our small birds in spring. I feel certain that the Blackstart is some years in attaining its full plumage, and that consequently young birds in their plain grey dress may often be found breeding on the Continent; and which circumstance has given rise to the supposition among continental ornithologists that there are two species of this bird. Young males, with partially black breasts, have seldom any sign of the white patch on the wing; but on one occasion I met with a specimen in its plain grey plumage, without a sign of black on the breast, but with the white on the wing as strong as in the old black male. This I cannot account for, as the black almost invariably appears before the white. Young males of the year may be distinguished by their tails being of a brighter red, and the whole plumage of a clearer grey, with less of the brown shade so observable in the females. The stomachs of all I have examined contained the remains of flies and beetles; but in the gullet of one I found an entire and large specimen of Ligia oceanica, an animal found creeping on the rocks, and much resembling an immense woodlouse."

Independently of the temperate and southern parts of Europe, this species ranges over the greater portion of North Africa. I believe it never visits India, its place there being supplied by several allied species.

The Baron de Sélys-Longchamps states, in his 'Faune Belge,' that the Black Redstart arrives in Belgium from the 20th to the 25th of March, and that it inhabits the large towns on the banks of the Meuse and Ourthe. It nests in the holes of walls and crevices of rocks; each couple selecting a hill or an edifice, whence they drive away all others of their species. The male, perched up on the summit of a church, upon a chimney, or top of a rock, pours out day and night its monotonous chant. It is common at Liege, Namur, and Brussels; and migrates in October.

According to M. Bailly, the nest is composed exteriorly of the fallen leaves of trees, moss, roots, straw, and small pieces of wool or cotton bound together, lined with hair, feathers, and grasses. The eggs are from four to six in number, of a pure and shining white.

The Plate represents a male and female, of the size of life, with a nest and eggs in a cleft of rock.