

if a Coot's or Water-hen's nest be not tenanted by its owner, it usually supplies free quarters to a Water-Snake." (Ibis, vol. ii. p. 159.)

Thus it will be seen that Northern Africa is the great stronghold of this species. It also occurs in Asia Minor, the Caucasus, Oriental Russia, Siberia, and China, as proved by its being enumerated in Mr. Swinhoe's 'List of the Birds of Amoy.' The reader will now be able to form his own judgment as to the countries this bird frequents. In England and Ireland its visits are uncertain, though not unfrequent. In its winter dress it very much resembles the Slavonian Grebe; but it may at all times be distinguished from that bird by its more diminutive size, and by the upward curvature of the bill. In their summer dress they are so very different that a glance at the two Plates on which they are represented will be sufficient to show that they are quite distinct.

Mr. Gatecombe, of Plymouth, to whom I am indebted for many interesting notes respecting our native birds, informs me that he has killed immature birds near that town, and, many years since, an old male in full summer plumage. I find also among my MSS. a note from Mr. Robert Rising, of Yarmouth in Norfolk. This note was kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Leadbeater. It relates to a very fine adult example in full dress which had been sent to him to be mounted, near the end of August 1863, and is as follows:—"The Grebe was killed on Horsey Mere, on the 6th of May last, with two others, and a fourth on the day following. These birds (two males and two females) had been seen continually on the mere through the winter and up to the very time they were shot, and would most likely have been killed long before, had they not been luckily mistaken for Dabchicks. I much regret that I did not give instructions for the reeds and shores round the mere to be well searched after the birds were killed, as I can scarcely resist the conviction that they had already nested there, as the water had become so entirely their habitat during all this time."

Mr. Stevenson, of Norwich, states that, "the habits of this species appear to be almost exactly the reverse of the Slavonian, being frequently obtained in its summer plumage during April and May, but rarely met with in its winter dress; indeed a single bird shot at Lynn, in November 1857, is the only record, in my notes for the last twelve years, of its appearance at the latter season. Messrs. Gurney and Fisher, writing in 1846, observe, 'In the month of April last no less than five specimens of the Eared Grebe were killed within a week at Wroxham and other places in the county; and it is somewhat remarkable that these have all proved, upon dissection, to be male birds.' A fine specimen, in full breeding-plumage, was shot at Sutton in April 1849; and in the 'Zoologist' for 1851 (pp. 3116, 3175) I find two notices of Eared Grebes, from the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, being purchased in the London markets. The first, killed on the 14th of April of that year, was sent up to London with some Crested Grebes; and a fine male and female, shot on the 17th, were purchased by a London dealer, who also received another pair in May 1852 from the same locality; and the females in both instances contained eggs, about the size of small marbles. In 1854, about the 18th of May, a very beautiful specimen was killed at either Burgh or Filby, which is now in the collection of the Rev. C. Lucas. In 1861 a pair, assuming summer plumage, were shot at Kimberley, the seat of Lord Wodehouse, on the 30th of March, and on the 24th of April of the same year a perfect example at Martham, and one in half change on Hickling Broad. The following summer, however, was even more remarkable for the number of these birds obtained in full summer plumage. One of these females is said to have contained a quantity of eggs; and there is little doubt, from their late appearance on our broads in summer, that this Grebe, like the Slavonian, would occasionally remain to breed if undisturbed; but unfortunately, though little observed in the sombre garb of winter, the very brilliancy of their nuptial plumage ensures instant persecution."

In summer the adult male has the head and neck black; from behind the eye, spreading over the ear-coverts, a triangular patch of silky light-chestnut-coloured feathers; all the upper surface and wings dark brown; the secondaries white, but scarcely perceptible when the wing is closed; breast and under surface shining silvery white; flanks chestnut; bill black; irides and eyelash red; legs dark green externally, lighter within.

In winter the crown of the head is dark brown, the other parts of the head and chin pure white; back of the neck and upper surface dark brown.

The Plate represents a male and a female of the size of life. The plant is the Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*).