

flowing, the fields green, and the fallows rarely frozen, however severe the winter may be elsewhere. Still such large bags are seldom obtained as are made in other parts of England, Wales, and Ireland—the reason being that the woods are not so extensive, and the coverts, where large, so dense that no man with a gun can penetrate them. If the Cocks are got to rise, they pitch again without breaking cover; not so, however, in some parts of Cornwall, for there many charming little rushy bottoms exist, across which a Cock may be killed at the widest part. It is here that the bird suffers, and it is in such little winding gullies between the hills that I have found some of the pleasantest Cock-shooting I have ever had. Now, although the bags made in Cornwall contain fewer birds at the end of the day than in some other counties, the deficiency is not due to the birds being less numerous, but to their favourite woods and gullies being often more inaccessible to the beaters; so difficult to traverse, indeed, are they, that I question if any but a Cornish man would survive a second day's toil, if he were not irrecoverably lost among the high tussocky grasses during the first. Such severe work for men I have never witnessed; and dogs appear to be useless; hence in a county so frequently intersected with localities of this description as Cornwall is, a great number of Cocks live in a comparatively small area. At Tregothnan the covers are seldom shot until January; and as they remain in a state of quietude during the other eleven months of the year, the shooting is then most enjoyable. On some of his twenty beats Lord Falmouth frequently shows his friends more than a hundred rises in a day. The Cocks killed, however, seldom amount to more than thirty; when to these are added three or four times as many wild-bred Pheasants, a fair sprinkling of Snipes and ground-game, with now and then a Teal and a Mallard, sufficient sport is afforded to gratify the appetite of every man who may consider himself a sportsman.

In Wales the Cock-shooting approaches somewhat that of Cornwall; but the ground is more stony, and the walking consequently more difficult. Here the little cocker spaniels are more generally used; for the dog beats the man in rounding the boulder stones on the hillsides, and easily threads the thorny thickets through which the beater cannot get. In Scotland heathy valleys, fir- and larch-plantations take the place of the sedgy, boggy bottoms of Cornwall and the thorny hillsides of Wales; there and in the Western Islands Woodcocks afford less sport than in the counties further south. Here in the north it is the Grouse and black game which demand the attention of the sportsman, who scarcely cares to raise his gun at the Woodcock. Ireland, on the other hand, is a country especially adapted for the bird to winter in; and to give an account of the sport enjoyed there would fill many folio pages; but as I have said a few words on Cock-shooting in England and Scotland, I cannot omit stating that the Muckcross party in January 1863, consisting of Captain Herbert, Lord Elcho, Mr. Balfour, General Grey, and Colonel Long, killed 908, the average number of guns during ten of these days being four; on the ninth, 110 were counted from the bag at the end of the day.

The following table gives the weight and the length of wing, from the shoulder or carpal joint to the tip of the first primary, of twelve male and twelve female mature Woodcocks from various parts of the country, taken without any particular selection, and is given to show the comparative weight and size of the sexes:—

MALE.					FEMALE.				
	Length from carpal joint to end of first primary.	Extent of outspread wings.	Weight.	Locality.		Length from carpal joint to end of first primary.	Extent of outspread wings.	Weight.	Locality.
1	inches. $7\frac{5}{8}$	inches. 23	ounces. $12\frac{1}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.	1	inches. $7\frac{1}{8}$	. . .	ounces. $10\frac{1}{2}$	
2	$7\frac{7}{8}$	. . . .	12	Tregothnan, Jan.	2	$7\frac{1}{4}$	. . .	$10\frac{1}{2}$	Jardine Hall, Nov.
3	$7\frac{5}{8}$	23	$12\frac{3}{4}$	Somerleyton, Dec.	3	$6\frac{1}{8}$	Small race.	$9\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan.
		Length from tip of bill to end of tail $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches.							
4	$7\frac{1}{2}$	. . . .	$12\frac{3}{4}$	Somerleyton, Dec.	4	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . .	$11\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan.
5	$7\frac{3}{4}$	. . . .	$13\frac{1}{2}$	Somerleyton, Dec.	5	$7\frac{5}{8}$	23 inches.	$12\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan.
6	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . . .	$12\frac{1}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.	6	$6\frac{1}{4}$	. . .	$11\frac{1}{2}$	Somerleyton.
7	$7\frac{1}{4}$	. . . .	12	Jardine Hall, Nov.	7	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . .	$10\frac{1}{2}$	
8	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . . .	12	Jardine Hall.	8	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . .	$11\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.
9	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . . .	$11\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.	9	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . .	$10\frac{1}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan. 14.
10	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . . .	$11\frac{3}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.	10	$7\frac{3}{8}$	. . .	11	
11	7	Very fat bird, small race.	$10\frac{3}{4}$	Unknown.	11	$7\frac{1}{4}$	. . .	$11\frac{1}{4}$	Tregothnan, Jan.
12	$6\frac{7}{8}$	Small race.	9	Unknown.	12	$7\frac{3}{8}$	23 inches.	$13\frac{1}{2}$	Tregothnan, Jan.; a very long bill, length 3 inches; plumage very light.
	89		$142\frac{3}{4}$			$87\frac{1}{4}$		135	

It will be seen that the wings of the 12 males, measured as above stated, amount to 89 inches, and their weight to  $142\frac{3}{4}$  ounces, while the wings of the females are  $87\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and their weight 135 ounces; consequently that the excess of the length of the wing in the 12 males is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and of their weight  $7\frac{3}{4}$  ounces. I believe the males have generally the shorter bill, the longer wing, and the finer tail, while the rump of this sex is more red and the barrings of the under surface of the body more distinct; much difference also