

buffeting and *whauping* with all his might. When the young are hatched, they remain near the spot; and are for a long time difficult to raise; a pointer will stand and road them; and at that time they are tender and well-flavoured. By autumn they are nearly all dispersed to the sea-coasts, and have now lost their clear whistle. They remain here until next spring, feeding at low tide on the shore, and retiring for a few miles to inland fields at high water; on their return again at the ebb, they show a remarkable instance of the instinctive knowledge implanted, and most conspicuous, in the migratory sea- and water-fowl. During my occasional residence on the Solway, for some years past in the month of August, these birds, with many others, were the objects of observation. They retired regularly inland after their favourite feeding-places were covered. A long and narrow ledge of rocks runs into the Frith, behind which we used to lie concealed for the purpose of getting shots at various sea-fowl returning at ebb. None were so regular as the Curlew. The more aquatic were near the sea, and could perceive the gradual reflux; the Curlews were far inland; but as soon as we could see the top of a sharp rock standing above water, we were sure to perceive the first flocks leave the land, thus keeping pace regularly with the change of the tides. They fly in a direct line to their feeding-grounds, and often in a wedge shape; on alarm, a simultaneous cry is uttered, and the next coming flock turns from its course, uttering in repetition the same alarm-note. In a few days they become so wary as not to fly over the concealed station. They are one of the most difficult birds to approach, except during spring; but may be enticed by imitating their whistle."

"The cry of the Curlew," says Thompson, "is by far the loudest uttered by any of our grallatorial birds. It will perhaps be scarcely credited that it can be heard at the distance of nearly three English miles; yet, under peculiar circumstances, such is the case. I have heard it on calm moonlight nights, when at the extremity of the bay at Holywood Warren, awaiting the flight of these birds from Harrison's Bay and Cons-water, whence the flowing tide would drive them from particular banks respectively about two and three miles distant from my station. The call from the first-named locality sounded quite near, and from the latter distinct, though much more faintly, the state of the tide evincing with certainty that all the banks, except the two alluded to, were covered too deeply with water for the birds to be on them."

"Whilst in Norway," observes Mr. Hewitson, "we were much amused with what appeared to us to be quite a new and unnoticed habit amongst the *Grallatores* or Wading-birds. We found it to be a practice by no means uncommon with the Redshank and Greenshank, to settle upon trees; but what surprised us more than all, was to see the long-legged Curlew alight, as it frequently did, on the tops of the highest trees of the pine forest, and to hear it as it passed from tree to tree, utter its loud clear whistle. Mr. George Matthews informed me, on his return from Norway, that Curlews were common during summer, and generally in pairs about Trondhjem, where they were usually seen perched on the tops of the cabins of the peasantry."

Mr. Selby states that "the nest is placed on the ground amongst heath or coarse herbage, in a shallow part scraped in the ground, and lined with decayed grass and rushes. The eggs are four in number, placed with their large ends outwards, and the smaller meeting to a point in the centre of the nest, of a pale olive colour, blotched all over with two shades of brown. The young leave their place of birth as soon as hatched, and are then covered with a thick yellowish-white down, varied with spots and masses of brown. By degrees the feathers develop themselves; but the young birds are not sufficiently fledged to take wing till they are six or seven weeks old. During this period they are assiduously attended by their parents, who lead them to appropriate feeding-places, and, by brooding over, protect them from the cold and wet. Under these circumstances Curlews lose the excessive shyness that characterizes them at all other times, and, when the young are approached, will fly close around the intruder, uttering their cry of *courlis* in quick repetition. The flesh of these birds is excellent, being juicy and highly flavoured, and is in great estimation for the table."

A partial, but not very striking, change takes place in the plumage of the Curlew at the pairing-season, the tints becoming somewhat richer, and the spotting more apparent, the lighter portions of the feathers of the upper surface assuming a redder hue, and the stripes of black on the neck and chest becoming more conspicuous. The plumage of both sexes is alike; the female is generally the larger of the two; but to determine the sex with certainty, dissection must be resorted to. Considerable difference occurs in the length of the bill, some individuals, even of the same sex, having that organ much longer than others; and it would seem that it increases in length even after the bird is capable of reproduction.

The Plate represents an adult and two young ones, of the natural size.