

probably sucked the eggs on the spot. We sought him everywhere, in the hope that he might have preserved them, but he was not to be found. Through the kindness of my friend I was not wholly disappointed after all. The Black Stork laid two more eggs, which he secured and brought over to England the following summer. These are now in my collection. They are smaller than those of *Ciconia alba*, from which they may also be distinguished by a very faint greenish tinge being noticeable on closer inspection." More commonly the Black Stork resorts to the distant forests for the purpose of nesting and rearing its young, particularly those which are interspersed with streams and pools of water or marshy flats. "There towards the end of April," says Mr. Hewitson, "it builds its nest in solitude near the top of one of the highest trees of the forest, for the most part upon that of the pine tree. The nest, though large, is less than that of the White Stork; its foundation of sticks is rendered more firm and stable by the addition of sods of earth, the remainder of the nest being completed with finer sticks. The eggs are four in number, very like but smaller than those of the White Stork."

The Black Stork is only an occasional or rare visitant to our islands, in proof of which I may mention that Yarrell enumerates only four specimens as having been killed in any part of them, namely—Colonel Montagu's bird on West Sedge Moor, in Somersetshire, in May 1814; one on the Tamar, in Devonshire, in November 1831, now in the possession of E. H. Rodd, Esq., of Penzance; another at Otley, near Ipswich in Suffolk, October 1832; and one on the south side of Poole Harbour, November 1839; to these, however, two more have been added by the Rev. F. O. Morris, namely, one killed on Market Weighton Common, in the East-Riding of Yorkshire, in October 1852, and a second, which Mr. Chaffey, of Dodington, informed him had been killed in the Weald of Kent. In addition to these Mr. A. Newton informed Mr. Stevenson "that Mr. Thornhill, of Riddlesworth, possesses a very fine specimen which he obtained in the flesh more than twenty years since of a labourer who had just shot it on some property of his own in Romney Marsh; and in Mr. J. H. Gurney's collection is a specimen said to have been killed at Poole in 1849, just ten years later than the one before mentioned from the same locality." Besides the above, W. Christy Horsfall, Esq., states in the 'Zoologist' for 1862, under the date of September 8th, that he had just added to his collection a fine specimen which had been recently obtained at Hartlepool; and the Hon. Augusta Annesley has called my attention to another, which her friend F. D. Hibbert, Esq., stated had been shot on Otmoor about the middle of November 1862. To these another has yet to be added: on the 14th of June 1867, I received a letter from Mr. Anthony Hammond informing me that a fine Black Stork had been shot on the banks of the river Nar, at Westacre, in the morning of the 19th of May. It had been about the meadows in the neighbourhood for a week and was always fishing. It proved to be an adult female, weighing over seven pounds, and is now in the fine collection of birds at Westacre High House.

The food of the Black Stork is precisely the same as that of its ally; in its search it wades deep in the water and kills its prey by shaking and beating before swallowing it. When about to fly, the bird takes one or two short leaps, and, when alighting, skims a short distance before touching the ground, and places its wing-feathers in order before it moves on further. It readily submits to captivity, and never uses its powerful bill offensively against its companions. The only sound made by the bird appears to be the clattering one produced by the repeated snapping of its mandibles.

Mr. Jerdon mentions, in his 'Birds of India,' that there "this bird is considered one of the finest quarries for the *Bhyri* (*Falco peregrinus*), and the day that a Black Stork is killed is marked by the Indian Falconer with a white stone."

There is no difference in the colouring of the sexes, and but little in size; the female is, however, a trifle smaller than the male.

The portion shown of the principal figure is nearly of the natural size.