Holy Land does in deep gorges, with precipitous cliffs of soft limestone honey-combed in all directions by caves and fissures. Several of these gorges are named, from the multitude of Pigeons they contain, 'Wady Hamam,' i. e. Ravine of Pigeons. One of the most remarkable of these is the Wady Hamam leading from Hamam,' i. e. Ravine of Pigeons. One of the most remarkable of these is the Wady Hamam leading from the plain of Gennesaret at the south-west, where are the famed robbers' caves, inhabited by thousands of Rock-doves, whose swift flight and roosting-places far in the fissures render them secure from the attacks of the many Hawks that share the caverns with them. They also swarm in the ravine of the Kelt, by Jericho, the many Hawks that share the caverns with them. They also swarm in the ravine of the Kelt, by Jericho, the sides of the Mount of Temptation, and in the Kedron. Above all, they people the recesses of the cliffs which shut in the Arnon and the Zerka, in the land of Moab, as they did in the time of Jeremiah. The Rock-Pigeon of these districts is the same as the Columba Schimperi of Egypt. On the coast, however, and in the colder highlands, the C. livia is the common bird. Neither bird migrates in Palestine, and we found the eggs and young at all times of the year."

"The hardy little blue Rock-Pigeon (Columba livia)," says St. John, "abounds on all the sea-coast of Scotland where the rocks are steep and broken into fissures and caverns. One moment dashing into its breeding-place, and flying out the next, then skimming the very surface of the breakers, it gives animation and interest to many a desolate and rugged range of cliffs as far north as Cape Wrath and Whiten Head; and it still frequents the rocks on this coast, though in small numbers, and is so intermingled with the House-Pigeon (which it so exactly resembles), that it would be difficult to decide if any of the wild birds still remain. In the caves on the Ross-shire coast, and all along the north, great numbers are still seen. They build in the caves and holes of the rocks close to the sea-side; and the nest is usually placed in the most inaccessible and difficult recesses of the rocks—so much so that, numerous as they are, it is often very difficult to obtain their eggs. The nest is composed of whatever twigs, pieces of dried grass, &c. they can pick up in the

wild places they inhabit, and is precisely like that of the tame Pigeon."

Macgillivray states that, "at early dawn, the Pigeons may be seen issuing from their retreats among the rocks in straggling parties, which soon take a determinate direction, and, meeting with others by the way, proceed in a loose body along the shores until they reach the cultivated parts of the country, where they settle in large flocks and diligently seek for grains of barley and oats, pods of the charlock, seeds of the wild mustard, polygona and other plants, together with several species of small-shelled snails, especially Helix ericetorum and Bulimus acutus, which abound in the sandy pastures. When they have young, they necessarily make several trips in the day; but from the end of autumn to the beginning of summer they continue all day in the fields. In winter they collect into flocks, sometimes composed of several hundred individuals, and at this season may be easily approached by creeping and skulking; but in general they are rather shy.

"The notes of the Rock-Dove resemble the syllables coo-roo-coo quickly repeated, the last prolonged. It is monogamous, and its nuptials are celebrated with much cooing and circumambulation on the part of the male. A love-scene among the rocks is really an interesting sight. Concealed in a crevice or behind a projecting cliff, you see a Pigeon alight beside you and stand quietly for some time, when the whistling of pinions is heard and the male shoots past like an arrow and is already beside his mate. Scarcely has he made a rapid survey of the place when, directing his attention to the only beautiful object he sees, he approaches her, erecting his head and swelling out his breast by inflating his crop, and, spreading his tail at the same time, uttering the well-known coo-roo-coo, the soft and somewhat mournful sounds of which echo among the cliffs. The female, shy and timorous, sits close to the rock, shifting her position a little as the male advances and sometimes stretching out her neck as if to repel him by blows. The nest is formed of withered stalks and blades of grass and other plants, not very neatly arranged, but disposed so as to answer the intended purpose. Two beautiful white eggs of an elliptical form are then deposited; and in due time the young make their appearance.

The front figure is of the natural size. There is little or no difference in the plumage of the sexes.

It would be out of place here to give any account of the numerous domesticated varieties of the Rock-Dove, since they will be found amply described in 'The Pigeon-fancier's Manual' and similar publications; but I cannot refrain from alluding to the vast power of flight produced by constant cultivation in that known as the Carrier Pigeon, a bird which has been for ages employed, especially in the East, to convey intelligence from one distant point to another—a striking instance of which has just been called to my attention by H. W. Freeland, Esq., of Chichester:—"Last week the members of the Ornithological Society of Pesth despatched two carrier pigeons to Cologne, whence they had arrived two days before. Four Hungarian pigeons accompanied the Rhenish ones as an escort, but returned shortly after. The pigeons commenced their flight at 6 A.M.; and at five in the afternoon a telegram arrived from Cologne stating that they reached that town at two, thus performing the whole distance between Pesth and Cologne (about 600 miles) in eight hours."—Morning Post, Thursday, June 9, 1870.