

eggs: partridges, plovers, snipes, redshanks, wood-pigeons, ducks, and teal, all seemed to have contributed to support these ravenous birds."

"On comparing specimens of the Hooded and Carrion Crows," remarks Macgillivray, "I cannot discover any difference in the form of the parts or in the texture and outlines of the feathers by which they can be distinguished; nor is there any decided difference in their size. Yet I am persuaded that the two species are perfectly distinct; for we have large tracts of country (the whole range of the Outer Hebrides, for example) inhabited by the Hooded Crow, without an individual of the other species to be seen; and in districts inhabited by both they always keep separate, the Carrion-Crow being moreover a much wilder bird than the other. It is alleged by some writers that these two species sometimes breed together, producing hybrids having characters intermediate between the two. How such hybrids could be recognized, I am unable to conjecture; for the mere extent and tint of the grey-coloured space varies greatly in the Hooded Crow.

"According to authors, this species occurs in all parts of Europe, remaining stationary in the eastern and mountainous districts, but appearing only in September and October in the western countries. In the whole of Scotland it is stationary all the year, although many individuals may probably migrate southward."

Mr. Tristram, in his notes "On the Ornithology of Palestine," says:—"In December we met with the Hooded Crow (*C. cornix*) at Jenin (Engannim), a day's journey south of Nazareth; and neither in winter nor summer did we find it further north. There is not the slightest difference in size or plumage between Palestine and British specimens, except that the former are clearer and brighter in coloration. It is curious that this bird, merely a winter visitant to all except the more northerly portion of the British Isles, should be sedentary, not only in Southern Syria, but also in Egypt, and that in the north of Palestine it should be, if present at all, at any rate very scarce. There were a few pairs at Jenin, which roosted among the palm trees, where we obtained them as they were returning home in the evening. In the district about Nablous they were scarce, but more numerous at Jerusalem, living there in society with Ravens and Rooks, but not nearly so abundant as the other Corvidæ. We never saw them in the southern wilderness, or in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea; but on crossing to the other side of the Jordan, the *C. cornix* was widely distributed over the highlands and open plains of Moab and in the southern and eastern portions of Gilead, not loving the thick forests, but resorting chiefly to the open plains, where a few terebinth trees occasionally varied the landscape. In these regions we found it breeding, on isolated trees, on rocks, and in old ruins; and here we found the Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Oxylophus glandarius*) depositing its eggs in its nest, and obtained several. It was interesting to meet, among the ruins of Rabbath Ammon, with this corroboration of Messrs. Brehm, Cochrane, and Allen's observations in Egypt, where they frequently obtained the eggs of *O. glandarius*, but exclusively in the nests of *C. cornix*. In Spain, on the contrary, Lord Lilford took them from the nests of *Pica caudata*; and our Algerian specimens were invariably in the nests of *P. mauritanica*."

Lord Lilford tells us that the Hooded Crow is an occasional winter visitant to Epirus, where he saw it near Previsa in March 1857, that it is common on the coasts of Albania in December, abundant in Montenegro in August, and apparently quite unknown in Corfu—frequent in the island of Sardinia, where he was assured it breeds among the reeds which fringe the "stagni," or large salt-water lagoons in the neighbourhood of Cagliari, and that it is rarely met with in Northern Spain; and Mr. Howard Saunders tells me it is equally scarce in the southern part of the latter country, but is very abundant on the campagna of Rome in winter.

The Hooded Crow is an early breeder, and makes its nest upon trees in those countries where trees are found, and, in their absence, on marine rocks and cliffs. The nest is composed of sticks and straw, lined with wool and hair. The eggs are from four to six in number, of a light green, mottled all over with greenish brown; they are nearly two inches in length by one inch and a quarter in breadth.

Like the rest of the true Crows, the sexes are outwardly alike; but the female is somewhat smaller and less strongly marked than the male, and the young soon attain the livery of the adults.

The figure is of the natural size, with a nest and eggs of the Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*).