moustache. My collection contains many such varieties, of which those from chalk districts are the most beautiful. On the continent of Europe other varieties occur, and examples from Norway far exceed in size those from more southern countries, especially those of the British Islands. Having mentioned these facts, I must now state in what countries the Yellow Bunting is found besides our own. As regards Europe, it will not be necessary to say more than that it occurs in all parts of the continent, from the shores of the Mediterranean to Norway, Sweden, and Lapland; it also inhabits the whole of the northern regions of Africa, from Tunis to the Nile; further eastward it becomes scarce, but I possess the skin of a female from Erzeroom. I have never seen a specimen from India, neither does Schrenck include it in his List of the Birds of Amoorland.

M. Bailly, in his work on the ornithology of Savoy, states that "during the mornings of the months of October and November flocks of this Bunting pass through Savoy. They come from the north, traverse the valleys, and generally direct their course towards the southern countries of Europe. Some flocks, mingled with the Chaffinches and Cirl Buntings, emigrate from Savoy in order to pass the winter in more genial regions, and return again towards the end of February and beginning of March; but considerable numbers constantly remain there even during the most severe frosts. The Yellowhammer readily submits to confinement, where it will subsist on millet and hemp-seeds or buckwheat, but has no song to solace those who may keep it. When destined for the aviary, care must be taken that it be not frightened, lest it be destroyed by dashing itself violently against the bars of its prison. Its flesh is delicate and much sought after." Many modes of capturing it for the purposes of the table are resorted to. In the environs of Yenne, and particularly at St. Paul, it is hunted unmercifully. The villagers keep the entrances of their barns and granaries wide open during the day (in order that the birds may enter in quest of subsistence), conceal themselves behind the buildings, and, as soon as they have seen a number enter, rush with shouts to the doors and suddenly close them. Most of the frightened birds attempt to escape by the windows, and there become entangled in nets placed for the purpose, while those that continue to fly about are pitilessly killed with blows from rods or switches.

M. de Sélys-Longchamps informs us, in his 'Faune Belge,' that "the Belgian villagers kill many of these birds when the ground is covered with snow, by a kind of sporting called *ramaille*. On a moonless night a man goes along the sides of old hedges, holding in his hand a torch of burning straw, towards which the Yellowhammers, quitting the hedges, direct themselves, and are immediately knocked down by two or three other men with large branches of thorn."

Mr. Hewitson states that the nest "may be found upon almost every briery hedge-dyke; it is most commonly placed upon the ground, but not unfrequently occupies the centre of a thick bush. It is formed outwardly of straws, bits of moss, sometimes sticks and coarse grass, finer towards the interior, which is finished with roots and a few hairs. The female sits closely, and is not easily driven from the nest. The singularly marked eggs, which are from three to five in number, always form a large portion of the bird-nesting spoils which fill the string of the schoolboy. Although subject to great variation, they are usually so characteristic of the species that it would not be easy to confound them with those of any other bird, except the rarer eggs of the Cirl Bunting. In form they are occasionally very long and oval, and sometimes as round as a marble. I have seen a single specimen of this egg so much suffused with colour that it might have been mistaken for that of the Cuckoo."

The adult male in summer has the head, cheeks, ear-coverts, and throat, chest, and centre of the abdomen lemon-yellow, the feathers surrounding the crown streaked with dusky; the lower edge of the ear-coverts is also similarly streaked; nape yellowish, passing into a greenish-olive tint on the lower part of the neck; feathers at the back and wing-coverts black in the centre and largely margined with sandy red; lower part of the back dark rust-red; primaries dusky black, narrowly edged with pale yellow; secondaries and tertiaries also dusky black, more broadly margined with rufous; tail dusky black, the two centre feathers margined with rufous, and the two outer ones on each side with a broad patch of white down the apical portion of the inner web; breast and flanks yellowish red, each feather darker in the centre; bill bluish horn-colour; irides, legs, toes, and claws light brown.

The Plate represents the two sexes, of the size of life, on a flowering branch of the Bramble, *Rubus fruticosus*; the beautiful little plant accompanying it is the *Pyrola minor*, obligingly sent to me for the embellishment of this work by the Rev. H. Harpur-Crewe.