to view. Its song, too, by most persons would be taken for that of the Black Ousel; and even now it might have escaped detection had not the accurate ear and experienced eye of Mr. Robson been engaged in the pursuit."

"Since the capture of the specimen thus referred to," says Mr. Yarrell, "several others have been obtained. Mr. Newman has recorded in 'The Zoologist,' p. 3476, an example obtained at Dartford in May 1852. The Rev. F. O. Morris has noticed one killed by the side of a pond near Sittingbourne on the 4th of May 1853. I have had in my hand for examination two specimens of this bird in the flesh and but recently dead, one of them killed between Tunbridge and Sevenoaks, the other at Erith."

According to various Continental authors, the bird arrives in Holland about the middle of April, and is then abundant in the marshes of that country, especially near those banks near water which are overgrown with reeds and rushes. It visits Belgium and the low flat lands of France, even those in the neighbourhood of the Channel. It is also found in Germany, Dalmatia, Italy, Tripoli, and Sicily. In Palestine Mr. Tristram observed it among the reeds by the mouth of the Jordan. Mr. Salvin says it is the commonest species of the Sylviinæ in the marsh of Zana in the eastern Atlas, "where its incessant note day and night assails one's ears. It breeds abundantly among the taller reeds;" and Mr. Tristram says, "as we pushed and struggled through them, the nest of Sylvia turdoides was exposed from two to six feet over head, loosely built and abundantly lined with feathers, but deep and strong and elegantly interlaced between four or five tall reed-stems. Its principles of construction are exactly like those of the Reed-Wacbler of England; but in finish of workmanship or architectural skill it falls far short of its cousin." Dr. Heuglin found young birds in August on the wooded island of Schlech-said near Massaua on the Red Sea. Lord Lilford states it is common and resident in Corfu and Epirus, and in a note to me remarks :—" Sedge-Warbler is a bad name for this species; for, according to my observation, it is exclusively a Reed-Warbler." In Malta it is not common; but a few are taken every year. Dr. H. Giglioli mentions that it is abundant among the reeds which border the Arno, near its mouth, where its loud and laugh-like notes are constantly heard; and lastly, Mr. Howard Saunders tells me that "it is numerous in the marshes north of Seville, but never leaves the reed-beds. The eggs are generally somewhat smaller than the average of those taken in Holland and other countries north of Spain."

A nest of five eggs, received unblown from Holland, June the 1st, 1861, were of a delicate pale green, blotched with two or three shades of purple, one very deep, and slightly with olive-brown; they measured fifteen sixteenths of an inch in length by five eighths in breadth. Six nests accompanying these eggs differed but little from each other. They were strongly interlaced fabrics of dried stems and leaves of a coarse grass or rush; the walls very thick and strong; the interior deep and lined with very fine stems and the flowering heads of delicate grasses.

When in Holland in 1861, Dr. Schlegel, of Leyden, presented me with a very beautiful nest of this bird. It was remarkable for the manner in which it was suspended to six stout stems of some kind of reed placed at such equal distances that the nest, when inverted, presented the appearance of an almost perfect hexagonal cone. The dried grasses and fine rushes of which it was composed were interwoven round the stems as neatly as in the finest basket-work. It was very deep, and the sides were slightly hollowed.

The sexes are alike in colouring; and, from a plate in Bettoni's 'Storia naturale degli Uccelli che nidificano in Lombardia,' I perceive that the young, even before they leave the nest, very closely resemble the adults.

The Plate represents the bird of the natural size. The accompaniments are the common bulrush and the beautiful aquatic plant, known, I presume, to every one, Butomus umbellatus.