

the sun could penetrate the foliage of the neighbouring trees, and was formed of dried and skeleton leaves, grasses, and a little moss, and had an interior lining of fine grasses. It was of the usual domed shape, and contained six eggs, which, before being blown, were of a delicate pink, covered with minute blotches of purplish brown, increasing both in number and size towards the larger end, where they formed a tolerably distinct zone; when blown, the pink hue disappeared, and the ground-colour became opaque white.

Having spent the four summer months among us, and reared its two broods, the Wood Wren takes an early departure for lands further south, and, after paying a passing visit to the western shores of Spain, ultimately takes up its winter sojourn in Morocco; while many of those which have spread themselves over Central Europe take the islands of Sardinia, Sicily, and Malta, *en route* to Algeria and the neighbourhood of the Atlas Mountains, and those which have passed the summer still further to the eastward proceed to Egypt, Asia Minor, and Arabia. Thus to and fro, alternately passing and repassing according to the seasons, does this little favourite spend its time.

The colouring of the sexes is very similar; but the female is less brilliant than her mate, particularly in the yellow tint which pervades the external margins of the primaries.

Head, all the upper surface, wing-coverts, and edges of the tail-feathers washed with sulphur-yellow; streak over the eye, throat, fore part of the neck, ear-coverts, sides of the chest, under wing-coverts, and thighs bright yellow; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts pure white; wings brown, all, or nearly all, the feathers margined with bright sulphur-yellow; tail brown above, silvery grey beneath, as are also the margins of the under side of the primaries; upper mandible brown; under mandible flesh-coloured; irides dark brown; legs and feet fleshy brown, with yellow soles.

The young of the year are similar, but of a more olive tint.

The Plate represents the two sexes on a branch of the Copper Beech, a variety of *Fagus sylvatica*.