

Sweden and Norway; it also inhabits the whole of the northern coast of Africa, Persia, and the peninsula of India, over the greater part of which, Mr. Jerdon informs us, it is found in the "cold weather, and is much more common than the *Sylvia orphea* and *S. affinis*. It frequents similar localities, and has the same habits and food, feeding both on insects and flower-buds, and incessantly moving about the upper and extreme branches of trees. Mr. Blyth, who observed it in Bengal, noticed that it frequented Mimosas in small parties and kept chiefly to trees." Besides insects, this species, like the other members of the genus, eats the elder- and other berries, and makes a foray on the fruits of our gardens, particularly in autumn.

"Its song," says the Hon. and Rev. W. Herbert, "is pleasing, but not so strong and varied as that of the Whitethroat. It builds in gardens, like the Blackcap, and with it attacks the fruit, though less pertinaciously, as it is very fond of flies and small caterpillars, and probably on the whole does more good than harm in a garden. The nest is very small and slender, so that it may actually be seen through; and it is often placed in the fork of a rose-bush or thorn, sometimes eight or nine feet from the ground, at others in a low brier. It does not lay, so far as I have seen, above four eggs." In captivity, "it has a little of the manners of the Tits, often running along the wires of the cage, suspended by the feet, which is not usual with the birds of the genus *Sylvia*. It is of a remarkably tame nature. I have captured a cock bird and its young, and, the day after it was taken, it fed them upon bread and hemp, and reared them, and some months after it would even perch upon my hand to feed itself. It is fond of the seeds of the broad-leaved plaintain."

A nest which I took from a garden at Maidenhead was cup-shaped, and composed of various dried grasses, lined inside with similar but finer materials, fibrous roots and horsehair, to which, in another example, a little wool and flocculent vegetable substances were added. The eggs were stone- or greenish white, speckled with brown and ashy grey, particularly at the larger end. They were about 8 lines long by 6 lines broad.

On the 11th of August, 1858, a bird-catcher brought me a beautiful clean-moulted example, which may be thus described:—

Head and ear-coverts dull grey; chest and abdomen greyish white, the former very slightly tinged with vinous, and the flanks with buff; upper surface olive-brown; rump grey; tail and wings brown, edged with grey; bill and legs dark olive-grey; irides very dark brown.

The figures represent the birds as nearly the size of life as may be. The plant is the Bird-Cherry (*Prunus avium*, Linn.).