

There they were so numerous, that, any evening we bent our bird-nesting rambles to the enclosures, we were usually successful in finding two or three nests. These were either placed in a tuft of grass in a rough pasture-field or amongst the thick grass of the meadows, which in May or June was long and fit for cutting. On the furzy common it places its nest, like that of the Stone-chat, at the foot of a furze or stunted thorn-bush, sometimes amongst heath, and at others, though rarely, in the centre of a piece of thick furze a few inches above the ground. The nest is composed outwardly of the stalks of plants and dry grass, with a small portion of moss, and is lined with finer grass. Like the nests of most birds that build upon the ground, it is very slightly woven together, and is not easily brought away whole. The eggs, which are almost invariably six in number, are usually described as of a spotless blue; but they are quite as frequently very finely dotted, and sometimes, though very rarely, distinctly spotted with rust-colour."

A very beautiful nest sent to me by Mr. Smither, of Churt, was composed exteriorly of lichens and moss, very firmly woven together, within which was a lining, fully an inch thick, of fine dried grass, which became gradually finer towards the interior. Two other nests from the same locality, though not so handsome as the above, were composed of the same materials, with the exception of the lichens.

Macgillivray says that the Whinchat is generally so shy and vigilant "that it is not easily shot, unless in the vicinity of its nest, from which it endeavours in various ways to decoy the intruder. If wounded, it hides among the bushes, and is very difficult to be traced. When the nest is approached, the Whinchats evince great anxiety, but at first keep at some distance, perched on the top twigs of the bushes, and at short intervals emit a mellow plaintive note, followed by several short ones resembling the ticking of a clock or that produced by striking two pebbles together, and at the same time jerk out their tail and flap their wings. When the plaintive note alone is uttered, they do not move the body or wings, but for every two ticks there is a jerk of the tail, accompanied by a slight elevation of the wings. The notes may be represented by the syllables, *peep, tick, tick, tick, tick*. Sometimes a single tick only is emitted, frequently four or five, rarely six. If you go nearer the nest, they advance, redouble their cries, flit about from bush to bush, and sometimes hover in a fluttering manner at the height of a few feet."

From M. Bailly's 'Ornithologie de la Savoie' we learn that the Whinchat arrives in that country, and takes up its abode in the cultivated districts, about the 30th of March, that it ascends the mountains to the height of from 1400 to 2000 feet above the level of the sea, and that, at the season of pairing, it utters a lively little love-song from the top of a bush, or while rising and dropping through the air; its manners, in fact, are precisely similar to those of the individuals seen in this country.

The Plate represents a male, of the size of life, on a branch of the May (*Crataegus Oxyacantha*): and a reduced figure of a female in the distance.