

Lord Lilford informs us that in May, 1857, it was common "among the Aeroceraunian mountains," where he "found its nests among the débris carried down by the melting of the snows on Ischika, one of the highest points of that range." He also "once or twice observed it in the island of Corfu, where it is highly prized as a singing bird."

When speaking of the birds observed round Pisa in 1864, Dr. Henry Giglioli says:—"In April the two Rock-Thrushes make their appearance; and the *Petrocincla saxatilis* may then be seen perched on the detached masses of limestone which adorn the flanks of the Monte Pisano."

"The Rock-Thrush," says Baily, in his 'Ornithologie de la Savoie,' "is not uncommon in the summer among the rocks and the more stony parts of our Alpine regions; it is also found on the lower rocks, on hillocks on the plains, and on hills such as those of Charmettes, from the former habitation of J. J. Rousseau, to the confines of Montagnole, situations naturally of a rocky character, and which border the lake of Bourget, in the proximity of the Abbey of Hautecombe. The rocks which coast the principal route of Mont-du-Chat, as well as the quarries of Lemenc, near Chambéry, are also regularly frequented by a few pairs, which remain and breed. The males, nearly always, arrive alone from the 12th to the 20th of April, according as the spring may be early or late. The females, which also arrive alone, seldom appear until four, five, or six days later. They then pair. The males on the very day they arrive survey the district and its neighbourhood, apparently for convenient sites for the purpose. When in repose, and especially in the morning, they are to be seen on the tops of rocks or isolated stones, and sometimes on the top of a tree, whence they commence a song, which resembles at intervals that of the Blue Thrush, and in the flexibility, softness, and variety of its notes that of the Orpheus Warbler and the Blackcap. They often rise perpendicularly in the air, and descend again, with wings extended and still singing, to the spot whence they rose. Sometimes they flutter along the rocks in a series of undulations, all the while uttering their song; but they never sing with so much grace and cheerfulness as when they again see their females; they immediately mount in the air for a considerable distance, descend again, nearly vertically, and pour forth, with volubility, all the harmony their voice is capable of expressing. As soon as paired, the male and female hasten to seek, in the clefts and holes of the rocks, in ruins situated on some high point, in stony declivities interspersed with shrubs, and more rarely in the holes of abandoned logs, a suitable site for the construction of the nest, which being found, they immediately commence transporting the necessary materials, consisting of small roots, moss, and straw, for the formation of the exterior, and fine herbs, the fibres of plants, and soft roots to line the interior. The female lays four or five eggs, of a bluish green; sometimes they are without spots, at others they are almost imperceptibly spotted with brown at the larger end. If the parents, when bringing food to their young, perceive an intruder, they wait on the top of a rock or shrub till he is gone; indeed they appear never to go direct to the nest, but descend at some distance from it, and run along the paths or rocks until an opportunity offers of feeding their young in safety and secrecy. The adults migrate about the end of August, and the young about the 8th of September."

From the localities above mentioned, the range of the Rock-Thrush would seem to extend as far north as Heligoland, since examples have been killed in that island.

Considerable difference occurs in the colouring of the sexes, and a certain amount of variation in that of the males—those that are newly moulted having the feathers of the breast and under surface tipped with crescents of light grey, which gradually disappear, until the bird assumes a uniform colour.

The male has the head, neck, and upper part of the back blue-grey, passing into brown on the scapularies; centre of the back white; upper tail-coverts dark bluish brown, slightly tipped with greyish white; lesser wing-coverts dark brown, almost black, tipped with white; greater coverts and remainder of the wings brown, the secondaries faintly edged at the tip with white; breast, and all the under surface light chestnut-brown, with, in most specimens, a crescent of grey at the tip; tail deep rusty red, with a wash of brown on the two central feathers; bill black; irides dark hazel; legs and toes dark reddish brown.

The female has the whole of the upper surface of a dull brown; on the lower part of the back an indication of the white mark seen in the male; throat and sides of the throat tawny; under surface the same colour but deeper, each feather bordered with transverse markings of brown at the tip; tail and other parts of the plumage as in the male.

The Plate represents an adult male, drawn from life, in the Gardens of the Zoological Society, and a reduced figure of the female in the distance. The three plants are *Rhododendron ferrugineum*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, and a species of *Cassula*?, taken from the sketch-book of Mr. Wolf, who made the drawings in the Alps.