

it remains all the year round at Mentone, whence my son, Dr. Franklin Gould, brought me fine examples of both sexes killed by himself in winter. "In Italy," says Mr. Taylor, "I have noticed it to be particularly abundant about Susa, and in a less degree about Rome. In the south of Italy and in Sicily I have often seen it kept as a cage-bird. Speaking of the bird in the neighbourhood of Pisa, Dr. Henry Giglioli says it generally frequents old towers and church-steeple, and pours forth its glowing melody even from the top of the Verruca, a ruined mediæval fortress which crowns one of the highest summits of the Pisan range."

"Generally distributed through Southern Spain," says Mr. Howard Saunders in 'The Ibis' for 1871, "no matter how wild the locality, the Blue Rock-Thrush will always be your companion; and though very shy during the breeding-season, it is by no means so at other times. I could often have shot specimens; but this I could never bring myself to do; and it would appear that the bird exercises some influence over the usually unimpressionable natives; for I never saw one amongst the bunches of Thrushes &c. either in Spain or Italy. The eggs are difficult to obtain, both from the situation of the nest and from the habit the bird has of making several nests before finally deciding which it means to occupy. The young are prized for the cage, but not to the same extent as in Italy, Malta, and Greece, where fabulous prices are sometimes given for a good songster."

Mr. Wright informs us that the "Blue Thrush becomes strongly attached to the locality in which it has been brought up, and seldom quits it. This affection is also shown in a state of captivity; and the bird rarely long survives removal to a new and strange place. Almost fabulous prices are sometimes given for a good songster. An instance is fresh in my memory of a noble lady who considered herself fortunate in securing one for £7 10s.; and two or three pounds is not an unusual price. The male nestlings may easily be distinguished from the females at a very early age by their blue wing-coverts."

"The well-known Blue Thrush," says Mr. Tristram, "is to be found in Palestine all the year round wherever stones crop above the surface, whether by the shore or on the hills, and especially among ruins, but always solitary. Rarely ever were a male and female to be seen together. I scarcely expected to find it (as I did) along with the Black-and-white Kingfisher on the coast, sitting among the surf-beaten rocks, and feeding on sand-lice and shrimps. On two occasions I killed it from the shore, and had to wade into the sea to secure my specimens. Unsociable as it is, it yet frequents the dwelling of man, a taste for stonework evidently overcoming all other prejudices; but nowhere is it more thoroughly at home than among the ruins of a deserted and untrodden Roman city, like Gerash, Rabbah, or Gadara. The 'vomitoria' of the amphitheatres are exactly to its liking; and in the recesses of these it has its nest, the male meanwhile perched on the top of an old column and uttering his dolorous ditty. Mr. Cochrane and I took a nest with four fresh eggs on April 2nd, in one of the robbers' caves in the Wady Hamam, near the Sea of Galilee. The nest was conveniently placed on a shelf far in, without any attempt at concealment, and was like the nest of our Blackbird, with mud mingled with the straw, instead of a shell of cow-dung. The young birds are fledged at the beginning of May. The eggs are very pale blue, smaller than those of the Thrush."

The figures represent what I consider to be male and female, drawn from Mentone specimens, of the size of life.