

'Tenderie,' three or four acres in extent, is obliged to make zigzag foot-paths through it, to cut away the boughs which obstruct them, and even to hoe and keep them clean. Having thus prepared himself, he purchases one or two bushels of the berries of the mountain ash, with the stalks to which they grew, and which are picked for the purpose after they are red but before they are ripe, to prevent their falling off; these he lays out on a table in the loft or attic. The collection of these berries is a regular trade, and the demand for them is so great that, although planted expressly by the side of the roads in the Ardennes, they have been sold as high as £2 the bushel; but the general price is five francs. We will now suppose our Thrush-catcher arrived at his lodging in the country, that he has had his foot-paths cleared by the aid of a labourer, and that he is off for his first day's sport. He is provided with a basket, one compartment of which holds his twigs bent or straight, another his berries; his springes being already attached to the twigs, he very rapidly drives his knife into a lateral branch and fixes them, taking care that the springe hangs neatly in the middle of the bow, and that the lower part of the springe is about three fingers' breadth from the bottom; by this arrangement the bird alighting on the lower side of the bow and bending his neck to reach the berries below him, places his head in the noose, and finding himself obstructed in his movements attempts to fly away; but the treacherous noose tightens round his throat, and he is found by the sportsman hanging by the neck, a victim of misplaced confidence.

"The workman (who at this season earns a second harvest by this pursuit) carries on his industry in wilder districts, or he frequently obtains permission from his employer to set springes in his master's woods; in this case he supplies the family with birds, which are highly appreciated as a delicacy, especially when almost covered with butter, with a few juniper-berries, and some bacon cut into small dice, and baked in a pan; the rest of his take he sells at from 5*d.* to 10*d.* per dozen.

"No person who has not lived in the country can imagine the excitement among all classes when the Grives arrive. If the morning be foggy, it is a good day for Grives; if bright, bad 'Tenderie.' The reason is obvious: when the birds arrive in a fog, they settle at once in the woods; if bright, they fly round about seeking the most propitious place for food. I may observe, a singular feeling of honour is engendered by this pursuit. Nobody would think of injuring his neighbour's 'Tenderie.' A sportsman would carefully avoid deranging the springes. If when shooting in your own covers a few are taken for the table, you would hang a franc piece conspicuously in an empty springe for every dozen birds taken. The law is very severe on poachers who place a springe *on the ground* to take Partridges, Woodcocks, or Snipes; but of three feet *above* ground the law says nothing, and, save as a trespasser, the placer of springes in the trees of a wood *not* his own property would not be punishable. The number taken is prodigious; as many as 150 Thrushes have been found executed in a 'tenderie' in one morning. The younger members of families of the highest rank commonly follow this amusement before a gun is placed in their hands.

"It may be readily imagined that before 5000 springes are set in a 'Tenderie' of four or five acres, a fortnight or three weeks will have elapsed, even should the grocer, linendraper, or publican be assisted by his wife and children: the amusement is common to all the family—wife, boys, and girls. Many a small tradesman eats little else during his vacation at his 'Tenderie' besides Grives and bacon. From Liege to Tilt, thence to Aywayle, on the rivers Meuse, Ourthe, and the Amblève to Chaudfontaine on the Vesdre, where the rivers are for miles shut in by precipitous banks covered with low woods, scarcely an acre is unlet for 'Tenderie' during the months of August, September, October, and November. The first fortnight of August is occupied in preparations, the rest of the time is the harvest of Grives."

Mr. Box tells me that this species, "the Redwing, and the Fieldfare are all caught in this manner and sold as Grives; but the true Grive is the Song-Thrush. The latter is obtained from the end of August to the second week in September, the Redwing at the end of September and in October, and the Fieldfare at the end of October and in November. A few Ring-Ousels and Blackbirds are often caught among the Thrushes."

The account above given is very instructive, as showing how much more numerous these Meruline birds are in Belgium during the autumn than with us, a circumstance which may be due to this country not lying in the direct line of their migrations.

Besides Britain, the Thrush ranges over all parts of Europe, and even goes a good way into the Arctic Circle—probably as far as the fir-forests extend. It also ranges over the whole of North Africa, and many parts of Egypt and Persia.

It would be superfluous to give a further account of the breeding of the Thrush than is comprised in the passing notices of it already included in this paper. Every schoolboy knows that the lining of its nest is composed of rotten wood with an admixture of water and mud to hold it together; neither have its beautiful blue eggs dotted with black been unobserved.

The accompanying Plate represents a nest and eggs, with their frequent accompaniment, the dog-rose.

The figure of the bird is a representation of an old male, of the natural size, with a reduced figure of a female in the distance.