propriate name of Butcherbird, *Lanius*. Selecting a station on a twig or decayed branch, it sallies forth in pursuit of insects which happen to pass near; and it is probably from its remaining so perched for a long time that it has obtained the name of *excubitor*, or the Sentinel—although another mode of accounting for this appellation has reference to its being employed on the Continent in trapping Hawks, when, being fastened to the ground, it apprises the falconer, by its loud screams, of the approach of a bird. Its flight is undulated, or performed in a waving line; and when searching for prey it occasionally hovers in the manner of a Hawk. Although it is generally represented as carrying its prey in its bill, it appears that it sometimes employs its feet for that purpose. . . Its ordinary notes resemble the syllables *wee*, *wee*, pronounced loudly and sharply, and in anger it screams like a Hawk; but it emits various sounds, and is said to imitate the notes and cries of many of the smaller birds for the purpose of attracting them. On the continent it places its nest, which is very large, in the fork of a branch at a considerable height from the ground, forming it of moss and stems of dry grass, and lining it with wool and hair. The eggs are from five to eight in number, of a greyish-white, marked toward the larger end with spots of reddish-brown and greyish-purple; their length is an inch and two twelfths; and their greatest diameter ten twelfths. They defend their nest against Crows and Hawks with admirable courage and skill, so as to put to flight birds possessed of ten times their strength; and their affection for their young corresponds with the ardour of their temper, as appears to be generally the case in animals. After the young come abroad, they remain with their parents until the commencement of the pairing-season.

"Although individuals have been found with us at all times of the year, it has not been observed to breed in this country. It is not uncommon in France, where it remains all the year, generally keeping to the woods in summer and autumn, but approaching inhabited places in winter, and thus appearing to be more numerous at that season. It is found as far south as Spain and Italy, and extends northward to Sweden, Russia, Norway, and Lapland, but leaves those countries at the approach of winter. In England its migrations are very irregular. It has been killed in Suffolk in January, April, May, and July; in Norfolk in the autumn; and one frequented a thick thorn hedge near Mr. Hoy's house at Higham, in December, but was so shy, that it could not be approached within gun-shot. On examining the hedge, Mr. Hoy found three frogs and as many mice, spitted on the thorns. He therefore set six very small steel traps, each baited with a mouse. On the following day two of the traps were found sprung, and the bait gone. By watching in concealment, Mr. Hoy soon afterwards observed the Shrike dart down to a bait perpendicularly, but not quick enough to escape, as it was caught by two of its toes. The bird was carried alive to the house and placed in a room in which a thorn bush was fixed, and some mice given to it; one of which it was observed, through a hole, to spit upon a thorn with the greatest quickness and adroitness."

A writer in the 'Naturalist' says:—"I can testify to the power assigned to this bird by some naturalists of varying its notes, or rather imitating those of other birds. Not exactly, indeed; for my first acquaintance with the Butcherbird was occasioned by my hearing notes not entirely familiar to me, though much resembling those of the Stonechat. Following the sound, I soon discovered the utterer; and while listening, to my surprise, the original notes were discarded and others adopted of a softer and more melodious character, never, however, prolonged to anything like a continuous song. Its grave ash-coloured garb, with its peculiar black patch on the cheek, soon convinced me that my unknown friend was the Butcherbird, that petty tyrant of its neighbourhood, carrying on incessant warfare and wanton waste of life amongst the small fry of the Passerine order, and whose war-cry was wont to put all minor warblers to flight."

To the above I would add that the materials of which the nest is formed appear to vary according to the nature of the country in which it is built; thus the late Mr. Wheelwright describes a nest taken by himself in Lapland as one of the warmest and most comfortable he had ever seen, being large and deep, built outwardly of dead fir branches, and lined with a very thick layer of the pure-white feathers of the Willow-Grouse.

The male has the head and upper surface clear grey; line across the forehead and over the eye white; lores and moustache-like streak on the side of the head black; wings black, with the exception of the bases of the primaries and secondaries and the tips of all but the first four primaries, which are white; upper tail-coverts and all the under surface white; three outer tail-feathers white, except the basal portion of the shaft, which is black; remainder of the tail-feathers black; tipped with white, which lessens in extent as the feathers approach the centre; upper mandible brownish black, margined with yellowish grey at the base; lower mandible yellowish grey, brownish black at the tip; irides dark brown; feet brownish black.

The difference in the female has been pointed out above.

The young have the upper parts brownish grey; tail-coverts faintly barred with dusky; wings and tail blackish brown. As the birds advance in age the upper surface becomes of a purer grey, the under surface white, and the wings and tail darker.

The Plate represents an adult male. The Shrew on the thorn is the *Sorex araneus*, Linn.