

example, was purchased at a poulterer's shop in London in 1836, in which year a third was killed in Kent; a fourth was shot at Hunmanby, near Scarborough, the seat of my excellent old friend Admiral Mitford, in 1847, and the fifth near Marsden, in the county of Durham, in 1848; the only Scottish example was killed at Spinningdale, in Sutherlandshire, in May 1847. For the knowledge of a sixth British example I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. George Weare Braikenridge, who sent me the following extract from a letter addressed to him by Charles Edwards, Esq., of the Grove, Wrington, Somersetshire:—"The Tengmalm's Owl in my collection was killed at Winscombe, on the north side of the Mendip Hills, about six miles from hence, in the winter of 1859-60; and I had it in the flesh the same day from the person who shot it. Two were seen; but although I offered for the second, it could not be procured."

Bailly, in his 'Ornithologie de la Savoie,' says, "Tengmalm's Owl inhabits the more thickly wooded districts of Switzerland, especially those of the Valais and the lower part of the Jura; and that it is also common in the northern parts of Savoy, particularly in the thick woods of larch and fir in the neighbourhood of Albertville, the whole of the Tarentaise, the Maurienne, and Chamounix, and remains there all the year round. It does not affect old buildings and the interior of towers, like the Little Owl, but prefers the solitude of the thick woods of the mountains, particularly those in which it can find old and hollow pine trees wherein it may hide itself during the day, and the female deposit her eggs. There it continues to dwell all the summer, the greatest part of autumn, and, whenever the weather may continue mild, the greater part of winter. At all times, but especially when it has its young to feed, it kills great numbers of the smaller birds, such as warblers, tits, &c., which abound in the thick woods spoken of. It pairs at the end of March or the beginning of April; but the eggs are not laid until early in May in the woods or the middle part of the mountains, and not until the 5th or 10th of June in the more recluse forests. The eggs, which are four or five in number, are placed on the rotten dust at the bottom of a hole in a tree, a fir tree being generally preferred; they are of a dull white, stained occasionally with the hue of the damp material on which they are laid. The bird does not quit the mountain forests until snow and the intensity of the cold has compelled the small birds upon which it feeds to seek more genial localities; it then roves about at night in the woods of the low hills and plains, and in dull weather may be seen fluttering about at midday. Besides birds it devours insects, particularly beetles, grasshoppers, the sphinx, and other large twilight-loving moths, lizards, and slugs, which it finds among grass, bushes, and stones, and on small quadrupeds, frogs and their spawn, and terrestrial mollusca, which it hunts for in the fields, meadows, and fens. It is easily domesticated, if it be not allowed to suffer from hunger. One kept by Mr. Thabuis, at Moutiers, in 1852, evinced a great partiality for *Helix pomatia*, *H. hortensis*, and several other mollusks when given fresh, and preferred them to pieces of raw meat."

Mr. Wolley obtained eggs of this bird during his stay in Lapland. Some of them were found in the *tyllas*, i. e. the egg-boxes set up by the inhabitants for the use of the Golden-eyed Duck and other aquatic birds; while others were taken from a hole made by the Black Woodpecker, *Picus martius*, in a Scotch fir, at about seven or eight feet from the ground.

It has been remarked by Wheelwright that "whenever this Owl has appeared during autumn in the very south of Sweden a severe winter has always followed. It occupies in the Quickiock forest precisely the same range as the Hawk Owl, and we never saw one on the fell sides higher than the fir region. It is a bold voracious bird; one night I shot a female in full chase after lemming on a frozen lake; and another female, which I caught on her eggs in Wermland and placed in a fishing-creel, had, by the time I reached home, nearly devoured a tit-mouse I had thrown in. I kept this bird for a long time in a cage; she became very tame, and was a very pretty little pet. The call-note is a very musical soft whistle, never heard except in the evening and night. I could never detect the slightest difference.

"Next to the Hawk Owl, Tengmalm's is the commonest species found in the Lapland forests; but, being much more nocturnal in its habits, is not so often seen; not that the light appears to affect its vision, for there the summer nights are as light as day; and we rarely went into the forest any night without seeing this pretty little Owl hawking after its prey. Its eggs vary much in shape, but not so much in size. In the same hole you will find some as round as musket-balls, others oval and elongated. The usual size is about $1\frac{3}{8}$ by 1 inch. This species has a much more southern range than the Hawk Owl, for we not unfrequently take eggs in Wermland; but, strange to say, they are met with only about every third year."

The Plate represents the bird of the natural size, with a Harvest Mouse (*Mus messorius*) in its bill.