are enumerated in the useful 'Hand-list of Birds' of the late Mr. G. R. Gray, of the British Museum. As might naturally be supposed, much diversity of form exists among the members of so vast a body of birds, each form being especially adapted to some given purpose or locality, the boles and leafy foliage of trees, rocky parched plains and humid grassy meadows being alike resorted to by one or other of them. They are all zygodactyle in the form of their feet, although, in some cases, only a rudiment of one of the hind toes is found to exist. So far as my knowledge extends, they one and all deposit their beautiful shining white eggs in the boles of trees; but I think it probable that some few may occasionally place theirs in crevices of rocks. Their principal food consists of insects and their larvæ; the ground-frequenting species consume ants and their eggs in great numbers; and fruits and berries are not rejected by others. The species inhabiting Europe are about ten in number, four of which are represented in the present work; and I here subjoin notices of the occurrence of two or three other accidental visitors from America.

Subfamily PICINÆ.

Genus Picus.

Members of this truly arboreal form are found both in the Old and in the New World. They feed almost exclusively on insects and their larvæ, but probably partake of spiders also, which they search for and extract from the bark of trees.

204. Picus major . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXX.

Great Spotted Woodpecker.

A resident species. Common in England, but more rarely met with in Scotland and Ireland.

205. Picus leuconotus . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXXI.

White-backed Woodpecker.

An accidental visitor to the Hebrides.

206. Picus minor . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. LXXII.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

A resident species in England, extremely rare, if at all to be found, in Scotland, and never occurs in Ireland.

The late Mr. Briggs, of Cookham, in Berkshire, who was a close observer of nature, and especially of our native birds, informed me just prior to his death that he had witnessed many curious actions and displays performed by this species while flitting and hovering with outspread wings around the leafy branches and