of the caged Turtle Dove, Nightingale, or Whitethroat during the period at which, were they free, they would be leaving our shore; once let that period be passed, their efforts cease, and apparent resignation to their prison ensues. "It sometimes happens," says Mr. R. Gray, "that Swifts, obeying their unconquerable instincts, will at the close of a stormy season desert their unfledged young, and leave them to perish of hunger. Late breeds especially are subject to this unnatural desertion. Oftener than once I have seen the little round sooty faces of the young ones peering out of their holes and plaintively crying for food, after which they have crept back to die. In these very nests, on the return of another season, the same old birds have been known to rearrange their building-materials, a few straws being merely laid over the bones of the abandoned to receive a new family."

It is a matter of surprise to some persons, as indeed it may be to the most astute philosopher, how such frail little birds as the Chiffchaff and its allies can cross the sea from France or Portugal without exhibiting any very apparent signs of fatigue; yet we know that they do so, and moreover that a still smaller species, the Goldcrest (Regulus cristatus), effects a much longer passage when crossing the German Ocean in its migration from the opposite parts of the continent. I must not omit to mention, however, that occasionally hundreds of these diminutive birds are found in an exhausted state in the early morning on the Northumberland and Norfolk coasts; and in support of this I may quote here a very interesting passage from the work of the late gifted Mr. Selby, which runs thus:—" On the 24th and 25th of October 1822, after a very severe gale, with thick fog, from the north-east (but veering towards its conclusion to the east and southeast), thousands of the Goldcrests were seen to arrive upon the sea shore and sandbanks of the Northumbrian coast, many of them so fatigued by their flight or perhaps by the unfavourable shift of the wind, as to be unable to rise again from the ground; and great numbers were in consequence caught or destroyed. The flight must have been immense in number, as its extent was traced through the whole length of the coasts of Northumberland and Durham. There appears little doubt of this having been a migration from the more northern provinces of Europe (probably furnished by the pine-forests of Norway, Sweden, &c.), from the circumstance of its arrival being simultaneous with that of large flights of the Woodcock, Fieldfare, and Redwing."

Woodcocks, we know, generally arrive in fair condition on our north-eastern shores at dawn, with a wind that is either easterly or within a point or two of that direction; but should the wind shift after their flight has commenced, the increased muscular effort required lands them on our coast in an exhausted and emaciated state. Assuming, however, that birds, both great and small, have availed themselves of a favourable slant of wind, no great amount of muscular effort would be requisite, inasmuch as those arriving from the south will require little more than an hour to cross the Channel, while the passage of the German