

Still later in the season they may be met with in the more deep and sheltered wood swamps, where the insects, larvæ, and earth-worms, protected, in a measure, from the biting frosts of the more exposed situations, are enabled to remain near the surface during the severest weather; here it is that the sportsman will discover the perforations or borings of this lonely bird.

The warm and almost impenetrable cedar swamps are also favorite resorts for such Woodcocks as remain in the north during the cold weather, as the springs in such situations seldom freeze, and there is always to be found a scanty supply of suitable food even in the depth of winter. These birds, however, like the snipe, are very uncertain in their movements, being governed a good deal by the state of the weather, and other similar causes.

Woodcocks are very abundant in Jersey and Delaware, particularly after a dry spell of weather, as they congregate there from the interior of the country, and spread themselves over the wide extent of meadow lands and marshy cripples so congenial to their habits, and which are so general in the lower portions of these States. Cock-shooting in these districts is equally if not more laborious than Snipe-shooting, more particularly if pursued, as is, we may say, universally the custom, during the oppressively hot weather of July and August. In wandering over these extensive marshes, or, as they are vulgarly called, mashes, it is necessary for the sportsman to exercise considerable dexterity in stepping from tussock to tussock; otherwise he will often be doomed to a sudden plunge into the filthy ooze that surround him on every side. The excessive heat of the weather is another strong objection to the shooting of Woodcocks in the month of July, as the heat is often so oppressive that the birds will spoil in the course of a few hours after being shot, and, in some instances, even before leaving the field for the day. As for hoping to keep the birds over a day or two, to carry home, such a thing is quite impossible, and the sportsman, consequently, is forced to throw them away sometimes when only a day old, if he cannot procure ice to pack them in, which article, by the by, is not always to be had in the country.

The Woodcocks and Snipes are very closely related, and are classified under the genus *Scolopax* by some authors, while others think a separation necessary. The generic name is from the Greek "*micropteryx*," "that has small wings."