

the same continuous manner within a few feet of the ground on the roads or through the woods. When the young birds are six weeks old, it requires nearly as much skill to shoot them as if they were much older.

The Woodcock is a particular favorite of the sportsman, and although the pursuit is laborious on account of the difficult nature of the ground in which the bird is found, yet no other shooting appears to be more fascinating. In Lewis' *American Sportsman*, from which work we have taken the figure of the bird, it is stated, with reference to finding Woodcocks, that "these birds, as before observed, delight in a wet loamy soil, and are seldom or never found in the upland districts, but most frequently locate themselves along the marshy willow and elder borders and extensive flats of our rivers. They also secrete themselves in the dense thickets of underbrush along the margins of smaller streams, or hide themselves in the rank grass and luxuriant fern of our wet meadow lands. In fact, wherever there is a good boring-ground, and a certain degree of seclusion, there will be found Woodcocks in the month of July, many or few, according to the nature of the ground and the favorable or unfavorable state of the breeding season.

When there has been a succession of dry weather, it is quite useless to examine light and open coverts, or sparse woods, in quest of Cocks, as at such times they will be found either on the open wet bottoms, if such spots can then be come across, or more likely in the deep, impermeable thickets and entangled brakes, where the ground seldom or never entirely loses its moisture. On the other hand, when the weather has been extremely wet for some days, Woodcocks will partake themselves to the hill-sides or elevated grounds, as they are not by any means partial to too much water, although a certain degree of moisture is absolutely necessary for their very existence. When the weather begins to get cool, they may also be found in the open woody glens or clearings, enjoying, as it were, the mild warmth of the autumn's sun, as the feeble rays from time to time pierce the sparse foliage of the overhanging trees, or actively engaged boring in the mossy banks of the warm rills, which so often spring up from such sheltered situations. In sections of the country where these birds resort, we can scarcely visit a spot of this kind early in October without finding a couple or so of Cocks, provided the ground is not too often overrun with shooters.