

it frequents in the Highlands of Scotland alone are let every season almost entirely for its sake for hundreds of thousands of pounds,—is exclusively a British bird ; and, unless by miracle a new migratory instinct were given to it, a complete submersion of the British islands would secure its destruction. If the submergence amounted to but a few hundred miles in lateral extent, the moorfowl would to a certainty not seek the distant uninundated land. Nor is it at all to be inferred, that in a merely local but wide-spread deluge, birds occupying a more extensive area than that overspread by the Flood would, according to Dr Kitto, “speedily replenish the inundated tract as soon as the waters had subsided.” The statement must have been hazarded in ignorance of the peculiar habits of many of the non-migratory birds. Up till about the middle of the last century, the capercailzie, or great cock of the woods, was a native of Scotland. It was exterminated, however, about the time of the last Rebellion, or not long after : the last specimen seen among the pine forests of Strathspay was killed, it is said, in the year 1745 : the last specimen seen among the woods of Strathglass survived till the year 1760. Pennant relates that he saw in 1769 a specimen, probably a stuffed one, that had been killed shortly before in the neighbourhood of Inverness. But from at least that time the species disappeared from the British islands ; and, though it continued to exist in Norway, did not “replenish the tracts from which it had been extirpated.” The late Marquis of Breadalbane was at no small cost and trouble in re-introducing the species, and to some extent he succeeded ; but the capercailzie is, I understand, still restricted to the Breadalbane woods. I have seen the golden eagle annihilated as a species in more than one district of the north of Scotland ; nor, though it still exists in other parts of the kingdom, and is comparatively common among the mountains of Norway, have I known it in any instance to spread anew