

Amongst the birds most remarkable for their instincts, in the present Order, is the *wryneck*.* It is a feathered *ant-eater*, and is organized by its Creator to entrap its prey by the very same means as the quadruped ones. Like them, it can protrude its tongue to a very great length, which is not owing to the structure of this organ itself, but to a peculiar ligamentous sheath in which it usually is contained. Its salivary glands are above an inch long, and shaped somewhat like a tea-spoon. The saliva they secrete is so very viscid as to be capable of being drawn into threads finer than a hair, and several feet in length; so that when the tongue is besmeared with it, no insect that touches it can escape. Like its analogues, it darts its tongue into an ant-hill, or lays it on an ant-track, and draws it back into its mouth laden with prey.† It is singular that the functions, in warm climates, given in charge by Providence to *quadrupeds*, in temperate ones, in this instance, devolves upon *birds*. The rapid increase of ants, in tropical countries, probably rendered it necessary that their devourers should be more numerous, and act with a greater momentum.

The general functions of this Order, as they are in most of those of the present Class, are various. The food of some are roots, fruits, and other vegetable substances;‡ of others the grubs of insects;§ of others, again, principally insects in general under every form;|| and lastly, some to fruits or insects will add the eggs and the nestlings of other birds.¶

Order 6.—The birds of this Order, the *Perchers*, are

* *Yunx torquilla*.

† I owe these observations on the wryneck principally to a medical friend, George Helsham, Esq., of Woodbridge, in Suffolk, a practical ornithologist, not only systematically and anatomically, but knowing birds also in their haunts, and conversant with their habits and instincts.

‡ The Psittaceans.

§ The Pies.

|| The Cuckows.

¶ The Toucan.