

distinguished from the last, not only by the characters lately noticed, but likewise by a considerable difference in their habits and manners. Amongst them we find all those that delight us by their varied song; they are truly birds of the *air*, for they seem to have the full command of that element; many of them moving gaily in every direction that their will suggests, rising and falling, flying backwards and forwards, or performing endless evolutions, *pro re nata*, in their flight. These *Perchers* also are the best nest-builders, not usually selecting, like the Climbers, the interior of a hollow tree or similar situations, but most commonly interweaving their nests between the twigs and branches of trees and shrubs, or suspending them from them, or even attaching them to humbler vegetables; some having even exercised arts from the creation, which man has found of the greatest benefit to him, since he discovered them. These birds, indeed, may be called the inventors of the several arts of the weaver, the sempstress, and the tailor, whence some of them have been denominated *weaver* and *tailor-birds*.

The nest of the little Indian *weaver-bird*,\* though it has neither warp nor woof, being formed by various convolutions of the slender leaves of some grass, so intertwined and entangled as to produce a web sufficiently substantial for the protection of the inhabitants of the nest, is, nevertheless, a very wonderful structure, but as it is well known† I shall not further enlarge upon it, but proceed to the *tailor-birds*, whose nests are still more remarkable.

India produces several species that are instructed by their Creator to *sew* together leaves for the protection of their eggs and nestlings from the voracity of serpents and apes; they generally select those at the end of a branch or twig,

\* *Ploceus Textor*.

† There are several of these nests in the museum of the Zoological Society.