

the little bird whose proceedings in constructing its nest I have just described, belongs. In the Indian tailor-birds, the object of their sutorial art is stated above; and doubtless, in the case of the Italian, the attack of some enemy is prevented by her mode of fabricating her nest. Situated so near the ground, her eggs, but for this defence, might otherwise become the prey, perhaps, of some small quadruped or reptile. He who created the birds of the air taught every one its own lesson, and how to place and construct its nest as to be most secure from inimical intrusion. I may observe here, that Professor Nitzsch's three Orders, or rather Sub-classes, mentioned above, receive some confirmation from the places selected by the individuals composing them, to form their nests and deposit their eggs in. The *aquatic* birds generally select places in the vicinity of *water*; the *terrestrial* make them on the *ground*; and the great body of the *aërial* construct their nests in *trees, shrubs, and plants*.

The birds of this Order, as to their *food*, leave no vegetable or animal substance untouched, and the humming-birds, with their butterfly-tongue, imbibe the nectar of flowers. Of a vast number, insects form the principal part of their food, and they are the chief check to their too great multiplication; and sometimes, as in the case of the locust-eating thrush,\* they devote themselves to a particular tribe of insects, but most of the insectivorous birds will also eat grain.

*Order 7.*—The last Order of birds, the *Raveners*, includes those that are most perfect in their form, and all are remarkable for their predatory habits. Their power of wing, and talon, and beak, distinguish them from all other birds of the *air*; and though some of the terrestrial birds vie

\* *Turdus gryllivorus*.