## INTRODUCTION.

Europe, Africa, India, and China. They are alert in their actions, and dwell almost exclusively in rocky and sterile places where little water occurs, that element not apparently being necessary to their existence.

WHEATEAR.

lxiv

An early spring visitant from Africa. Breeds in various parts of the three kingdoms, after which both old and young retire to winter in warmer climates; some individuals proceed to high northern latitudes—Greenland and Arctic America.

## Genus Pratincola.

An Old-World form, the members of which are more arboreal than the Wheatears, frequently perching on shrubs, bushes, and grasses. They are distributed over Europe, Africa, India, and China.

Strictly a migrant from the south, arriving at the end of April, and, after breeding, departing again to whence it came: while here, it is very generally distributed.

Stone-Chat of Furze-Chat.

A resident bird, inhabiting commons and heath-covered districts; breeds and remains in its chosen situation from year's end to year's end. It is also found on the continent of Europe, and probably in some parts of Asia.

## Genus Erythacus.

Of this genus there are three species, the well-known Robin (E. rubecula) of Europe, and the E. akahige and E. komadori of Japan.

This familiar denizen of our gardens, shrubberies, and woodlands is a constant resident with us, is dispersed over the three kingdoms, and is a general favourite. It is also found on the continent of Europe, in North Africa, and the islands of Madeira and Teneriffe, in which latter island I have myself shot examples.

## Genus Cyanecula

Two or three very differently marked birds of this form exist in Europe, Africa, India, and China. By