Mr. Rodd, respecting an unusual irruption of this species, will be read with interest; it was received on the 24th of April, 1870. "I am sure you will be interested in hearing that a large immigration of Golden Orioles has taken place in the immediate neighbourhood of Penzance and at the Scilly Isles. They are mostly in superb adult plumage. Five were killed out of eight, and a fine male and a female besides, at Trevethoe, near Hayle. A flock of forty or fifty was risen in a thick plantation on the grounds afterwards." Surely such beautiful birds, when they do arrive in this country, should receive protection instead of the destruction which now invariably awaits them.

Family TURDIDÆ.

A large number of medium-sized insessorial birds are included in this family—Thrushes, Blackbirds, Fieldfares, Redwings, &c. Their omnivorous appetite leads them to eat insects and their larvæ, snails, worms, fruits, and berries. Some are constantly resident, others are migratory; some spend the summer, others the winter with us.

Genus Turdus.

The Thrushes and the Blackbirds are seemingly very different; and were it not for numerous intervening forms, the generic characters of *Turdus* and *Merula* would be more easily defined. The greater part inhabit the temperate portion of the earth, but are not found in Australia or New Zealand.

Very generally distributed, and constantly residing and breeding here, as it does also in most parts of the European continent.

Strictly stationary. Common in Europe; generally breeds in all the middle counties of England. It also inhabits Scotland, where it is annually becoming more and more numerous. Sings early and breeds in May. The following note from Professor Owen, dated Sheen Lodge, Richmond Park, 28th April, 1872, respecting the pugnacious propensities of this species, cannot fail to be of interest:—"You know that the Missel-Thrush boldly attacks Magpies and other birds larger than itself; but you may not be aware that it bullies man himself. I was transplanting, about sunrise this morning, and was startled by a loud menacing noise above me, and on rising and looking up saw a Missel-Thrush darting from branch to branch, chattering loudest as it passed over and near to my head; and then it made a dash at me, sweeping close past my face with a chattering scream, and, alighting on a branch about six yards off, turned round and