parched plains,—lizards and insects being the food of those affecting the former situations, while the huge Dacelos (frequenting the latter) eat snakes, small quadrupeds, and insects. Fish appears to be the chief food of the members of the restricted genus *Alcedo*, of which our well-known Kingfisher is the type.

Genus Alcedo.

KINGFISHER.

A resident species; common in all the central portion of England, more scarce in Scotland, and not a common bird in Ireland. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, and insects. It is the only species which habitually lives in Britain and on the continent of Europe, beyond which its range is not very far extended. Other species of this form inhabit India, some of its islands, and Africa.

Genus Ceryle.

A group of Kingfishers, of about a dozen or fifteen species.

58. CERYLE ALCYON.

This American bird has been twice killed in Ireland—once in the county of Meath in October 1845, and again in the county of Wicklow in November of the same year (Thompson, 'Natural History of Ireland, Birds,' vol. i. p. 373). These Transatlantic birds must be regarded as interlopers, since they have no just claims to a place in our fauna.

Family CORACIIDÆ.

No member of this family has yet been seen in the New World; and the Old may claim the form as one of its finest ornithological productions. There are even fewer species of this family than of the *Meropidæ*; and those few are all warm-country birds. They are abundant in Africa; one or two species frequent India; others the islands of the Eastern archipelago. Up to this time no true Roller has been found in Australia, where it is represented by the members of the genus *Eurystomus*.

Genus Coracias.

ROLLER.

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Although the Roller is a regular summer visitant to the centre of Germany and other parts of the Continent, its occurrences in England have been few and far between; here, therefore, it can only be regarded as an accidental visitor. It has nevertheless been occasionally killed in the three kingdoms.