Portæ Caspiae, laid waſte Perſia, and joined the Romans againſt Choſroes king of Perſia. In 1042 they ſubdued the Perſians, in whoſe pay they ſerved, and from whom they derived the Mahometan religion : and afterwards pouring forth, overran Syria, Cappadocia, and the other countries of the Hither Aſia, under diſtinct heads or princes, whom Ottoman ſubduing, united the whole power in himſelf, which to this day continues in his family, and who fixed his seat of empire at Pruſa in Bithynia. His ſuccessors ſubdued all Greece, and at length took Conſtantinople in 1453 ; which put a period to the Roman empire in the Eaſt, under Conſtantine the laſt emperor. It is a ſtanding tradition or prophecy among the, Turks, that their empire will at length be overturned by the Franks or Chriſtians ; which ſeems now to be drawing on apace towards accompliſhment.

TURCOISE. See Turquoise.

TURCOMANIA, a province of Aſiatic Turkey, anſwering to the ancient kingdom of Armenia.

TURDUS, the thruſh ; a genus of birds belonging to the order of *paſſeres.* The bill is ſtraightiſh, bending towards the point, and slightly notched near the end of the upper man­dible. The noſtrils are oval, naked or half covered with a membrane; the corners of the month are furniſhed with a few ſlender hairs, and the tongue is ſlightly jagged at the end. There are 136 ſpecies; of which 7 are Britiſh, the viscivorus, pilaris, iliacus, muſicus, roſeus, merula, and torquatus.

**1.** The *viſcivorus,* or miſſel, is the largeſt of the genus. Its length is if inches; its breadth 161/2. The bill is ſhorter and thicker than that of other thruſhes ; duſky, ex­cept the baſe of the lower mandible, which is yellow. The irides are hazel. Head, back;· and ſeffer coverts of the wings, are of a deep olive brown. The lower part of the back is tinged with yellow. The loweſt order of leſser coverts, and the great coverts, are brown ; the first tipped with white, the laſt both tipped and edged with the ſame colour. The inner coverts of the wings white. The tail is brown ; the three outermoſt feathers tipped with white. The cheeks and throat are mottled with brown and white ; the breaſt and belly are whitish yellow, marked with large spots of black ; the ſegs are yellow.

Theſe birds build their neſts in buſhes, or on the side of ſome tree, generally an ash, and lay four or five eggs : their note of anger or fear is very harſh, between a chatter and ſhriek; from whence ſome of its Engliſh names. Its ſong, however, is very fine ; which it begins sitting on the ſummit of a high tree, very early in the ſpring, often with the new- year, in blowing ſhowery weather, which makes the inha­bitants of Hampſhire to call it the st*orm-cock.* It feeds on insects, holly and miſſeltoe berries, which are the food of all the thruſh kind : in ſevere ſnowy weather, when there is a failure of their uſual diet, they are obſerved to ſcratch oat of the banks of hedges the root of arum, or the cuckoo pint ; this is remarkably warm and pungent, and a proviſion fuitable to the ſeaſon.

2. The *pilaris,* or fieldfare, is in length 10 inches, in breadth 17. The head is aſh-coloured inclining to olive, and ſpotted with black ; the back and greater coverts of the wings of a fine deep cheſnut ; the tail is black ; the lower parts of the two middlemoſt feathers, and the interior upper ſides of the outmoſt leathers excepted ; the first be­ing aſh coloured, the latter white. The legs are black ; the talons very ſtrong.

This bird paſſes the ſummer in the northern parts of Europe ; alſo in Lower Auſtria. It breeds in the largeſt trees ; feeds on berries of all kinds, and is very fond of thoſe of the juniper. Fieldfares viſit our iſlands in great flocks about Michaelmas, and leave us the latter end of February or the beginning of March.

Theſe birds and the redwings were the *turdi* of the Ro­mans, which they fattened with crumbs of figs and bread mixed together. Varro informs us that they were birds of paſſage, coming in autumn, and departing in the ſpring. They muſt have been taken in great numbers ; for, accord­ing to Varro (lib. 3. c. 5.) they were kept by thouſands to­gether in their fattening aviaries. They do not arrive in France till the beginning of December.

3. The *musicus,* or throſtle, is in length 9 inches, in breadth 131/2. In colour, it so nearly reſembles the miſſel- thruſh, that no other remark need to be added, but that it is leſs, and that the inner coverts of the wings are yellow.

The throstle is the fineſt of our singing birds, not only” ſor the ſweetneſs and variety of its notes, but for the long continuance of its harmony ; for it obliges us with its long for near three parts of the year. Like the miſſel-bird, it delivers its muſic from the top of ſome high tree ; but to form its neſt descends to ſome low buſh or thicket : the neſt is made of earth, moss, and ſtraw, and the inſide is curiouſly plaſtered with clay. It lays five or six eggs, of a pale bluiſh green, marked with duſky ſpots.

4. The *iliaeus,* or redwing, has a very near reſemblance to the throſtle ; but is leſs : their colours are much the ſame ; only the ſides under the wings and the inner coverts in this are of a reddiſh orange, in the throſtle yellow ; above each eye is a line of yellowiſh white, beginning at the bill and passing towards the hind part of the head.

Theſe birds appear in Great Britain a few days before the fieldfare ; they come in vaſt flocks, and from the ſame coun­tries as the latter. With us they have only a disagreeable piping note ; but in Sweden, during the ſpring, they sing very finely, perching on the top of ſome tree among the foreſts of maples. They build their neſts in hedges, and lay six bluiſh-green eggs ſpotted with black.

5. The *merula,* or black-bird, when it has attained its full age, is of a fine deep black, and the bill of a bright yellow; the edges of the eyelids yellow. When young, the bill is duſky, and the plumage of a ruſty black, ſo that they are not to be diſtinguiſhed from the females ; but at the age of one year they attain their proper colour.

This bird is of a very retired and ſolitary nature ; fre­quents hedges and thickets, in which it builds earlier than any other bird : the neſt is formed of moss, dead graſs, fibres, &c. lined and plaſtered with clay, and that again covered with hay or ſmall ſtraw. It lays four or five eggs of a bluiſh-green colour, marked with irregular duſky spots. The note of the male is extremely fine, but too loud for any place except the woods : it begins to sing early in the ſpring, continues its muſic part of the ſummer, deſiſts in the moulting ſeaſon, but reſumes it for ſome time in September and the first winter-months.

6. The *torquatus,* or ring-ouzel, is ſuperior in ſize to the black-bird ; the length is 11 inches, breadth 17. The bill in ſome is wholly black, in others the upper half is yel­low ; on each side the mouth are a ſew briſtles ; the head and whoſe upper part of the body are duſky, edged with pale brown; the quill-feathers and the tail are black. The coverts of the wings, the upper part of the breaſt, and the belly, are duſky, ſlightly edged with aſh-colour. The mid­dle of the breaſt is adorned with a white creſcent, the horns of which point to the hind part of the neck. In ſome birds this is of a pure white; in others of a dirty hue. In the females and in young birds this mark is wanting, which gave occaſion to ſome naturaliſts to form two ſpecies of them.

The ring-ouzel inhabits the Highland hills, the north of England, and the mountains of Wales. They are alſo found to breed in Dartmoor, in Devonſhire, and in banks