of which was estimated, perhaps with some Eastern exuberance, at twelve millions sterling. It was ascended by silver steps and stood on golden feet set with jewels. It obtained its name from the two open peacocks’ tails composed of magnificent diamonds, rubies, and other stones which formed part of its appurtenances. Apparently it was made for Shah Jahan by the French designer of the Taj Mahal. According to that veracious chronicler, Sir John Mandeville, the seven steps of the throne of Prester John were respectively of onyx, crystal, green jasper, amethyst, sardonyx, cornelian and chrysolite. They were bordered with gold and set with pearls. The throne itself was of gold enriched with jewels. Ranjit Singh’s golden throne—it is of wood covered with plates of gold—is in the possession of the British Crown. European thrones were usually more modest in concep­tion and less barbaric in execution than those, real or legendary, of the East. The medieval emperors of Byzantium had, how­ever, imbibed a good deal of the Orient, and their famous throne, which is supposed to have been imitated from, as well as named after, that of Solomon, was guarded by golden lions, which rose to their feet and roared when some artful mechanism was set in motion. An exceedingly ancient chair of state is the so-called throne of Dagobert (see Chair). The most recent writers on this remarkable relic suggest that it is a bronze copy of Dagobert’s golden throne. However that may be, there can be no doubt that it possesses at least one illustrious modern association, for Napoleon sat in it when he; distributed the first decorations of the Legion of Honour in his camp at Boulogne in 1804. The throne which Napoleo had made for himself was a heavy gilded chair with an abundance of Egyptian orna­ment, lions’ heads and imperial eagles. One of the many curiosities of a conclave for the electing of a Pope is that every cardinal present occupies a throne, since, during the vacancy of the Holy See, each member of the Sacred College is a potential sovereign. When the election has taken place the canopy of every throne is lowered, with the exception of that occupied by the new pontiff. The palaces of the great Roman nobles contained—and still in some cases contain—a throne for use in the event of a visit from the pope. The papal throne itself is an antique bronze chair which stands in St Peter’s. Embassies frequently contain a throne for the use of the sovereign in whose territory the building technically stands. No ancient throne­chair pertains to the British monarchy; the coronation chair is not, properly speaking, a throne, since it is used only during a portion of the coronation ceremonies. The actual throne of Great Britain is the oaken Gothic chair in the House of Lords occupied by the sovereign at the opening and prorogation of parliament.

**THRUM-EYED,** a botanical term for flowers which occur in two forms, one of which shows the stamens in the mouth of the corolla, as in the primrose, contrasted with pin-eyed (*q.v.*).

**THRUSH (A.** S. *prysce,* Icel. *pröstr,* Norw. *Trast,* O. H. Ger. *Drosce,* whence the mod. Ger. *Drossel,* to be compared with the analogous English form Throstle,@@1 now almost obsolete, both being apparently diminutives), the name that in England seems to have been common to two species of birds, the first now generally distinguished as the song-thrush, but known in many districts as the mavis,@@2 the second called the mistletoe-thrush, but having many other local designations, of which more presently.

The former of these is one of the finest songsters in Europe, but it is almost everywhere so common that its merits in this respect are often disregarded, and not unfrequently its melody, when noticed, is ascribed to the prince of feathered vocalists, the nightingale (*q.v.*). In the spring and summer there is hardly a field, a copse or a garden that is not the resort of a pair or more of song-thrushes; and the brown-backed bird with its spotted

breast, hopping over the grass for a few yards, then pausing to detect the movement of a worm, and vigorously seizing the same a moment after, is one of the most familiar sights. Hardly less well-known is the singular nest built by this bird—a deep cup, lined with a thin but stiff coating of fragments of rotten wood, ingeniously spread, and plastered so as to present a smooth interior—in which its sea-green eggs spotted with black are laid. An early breeder, it builds nest after nest during the season, and there can be few birds more prolific. Its ravages on ripening fruits, especially strawberries and gooseberries, excite the enmity of the imprudent gardener who leaves his crops unprotected by nets, but he would do well to stay the hand of revenge, for no bird can or does destroy so many snails, as is testified to the curious observer on inspection of the stones that it selects against which to dash its captures—stones that are besmeared with the slime of the victims and bestrewn with the fragments of their shattered shells. Nearly all the young thrushes reared in the British Islands—and this expression includes the storm-swept isles of the Outer Hebrides, though not those of Shetland—seem to emigrate as soon as they are fit to journey, and at a later period they are followed by most of their parents, so that many parts of the kingdom are abso­lutely bereft of this species from October to the end of January. On the continent of Europe the autumnal influx of the birds bred in the North is regarded with much interest, for they are easily ensnared and justly esteemed for the table, while their numbers make their appearance in certain districts a matter of great importance.

The second species to which the name applies is distinguished as the mistletoe-thrush, or, by corrupt abbreviation, the missel­thrush.@@3 It is known also in many districts as the “ storm-cock,” from its habit of singing in squally weather that silences almost all other birds, and “ holm-(*i.e.* holly-) thrush” ; while the harsh cries it utters when angry or alarmed have given it other local names, as “ screech,” “ shrite” and “ skrike,” all traceable to the Anglo-Saxon *Scric.@@4* This is a larger species than the last, of paler tints, and conspicuous in flight by the white patches on its outer tail-feathers. Of bold disposition, and fearless of the sleety storms of spring, as of predatory birds, the cock will take his stand on a tall tree, “ like an enchanter calling up the gale ” (as Knapp happily wrote), and thence with loud voice proclaim in wild and discontinuous notes the fervour of his love for his mate; nor does that love cease when the breeding-season is past, since this species is one of those that appear to pair for life, and even when, later in the year, it gathers in small flocks, husband and wife may be seen in close company. In defence of nest and offspring, too, few birds are more resolute, and the daw, pie or jay that approaches with an ill intent speedily receives treatment that causes a rapid retreat, while even the marauding cat finds the precincts of the “master of the coppice,” (*Pen y llwyn),* as the Welsh name this thrush, unsuitable for its stealthy operations. The connexion of this bird with the mistletoe, which is as old as the days of Aristotle, is no figment, as some have tried to maintain. Not only is it exceedingly fond of the luscious viscid berries, but it seems to be almost the only bird that will touch them.

The thrushes form a distinct family, Turdidae, of the Oscines division of perching birds, and are now divided into five sub­families: (1) Turdinae, or true thrushes and their immediate allies, the ousel (*q.v.*), the fieldfare (*q.v.*), the redwing (*q.v.),* the rock-thrushes (*Monticola),* the wheatears, stonechats, whinchats (see Wheatear), the redstarts (*q.v.*), robins (see Redbreast), and

@@@1 For many interesting facts connected with the words “ thrush ” and “ throstle ” which cannot be entered upon here, the reader should consult Professor Skeat’s *Etymological Dictionary.*

@@@2 Cognate with the French *mauvis,* though that is nowadays almost restricted to the redwing. Its diminutive is *mauviette,* the modern table-name of the skylark, and perhaps *mavis* was in English originally the table-name of the thrush.

@@@3 There is no doubt of the bird taking its name from the plant mistletoe (*Viscum album),* about the spelling of which there can be no uncertainty—A. S. *Misteltan,* the final syllable originally signify­ing “ twig,” and surviving in the modem “ tine,” as of a fork or of a deer’s antler.

@@@4 It seems quite possible that the word shrike, though now commonly accepted as the equivalent, in an ornithological sense, of *Lanius,* may have been originally applied to the mistletoe-thrush. In several of the Anglo-Saxon *Vocabularies* dating from the 8th to the nth century, as printed by Thomas Wright, the word *Scric,* which can be hardly anything else than the early form of “shrike,” is glossed *Turdus,*