membrane which borders their ſides to the very end. — Theſe birds appear on the Engliſh coaſts and wet grounds in the winter-time in but ſmall numbers.

1. The *calidris,* or red-ſhank, is found on moſt of our ſhores; in the winter time it conceals itſelf in the gutters, and is generally found ſingle or at moſt in pairs. It breeds in the fens and marſhes; and flies round its neſt when diſturbed, making a noiſe like a lapwing. It lays four eggs, whitiſh tinged with olive, marked with irregular ſpots of black chiefly on the thicker end. It weighs five ounces and a half: the length is 12 inches, the breadth 21; the bill near two inches long, red at the baſe, black towards the point. The head, hind part of the neck, and ſcapulars, are of a duſky aſh-colour, obſcurely ſpotted with black; the back is white, ſprinkled with black ſpots; the tail elegantly barred with black and white; the cheeks, under ſide of the neck, and upper part of the breaſt, are white, ſtreaked downward with duſky lines; the belly white; the exterior webs of the quill-feathers are duſky; the legs long, and of a fine bright orange colour; the utmoſt toe connected to the middle toe by a ſmall membrane; the inmoſt by another ſtill ſmaller.
2. The *gallinago,* or common ſnipe, weighs four ounces; the length, to the end of the tail, is near 12 inches; the breadth about 14; the bill is three inches long, of a duſky colour, flat at the end, and often rough like ſhagrin above and below. The head is divided lengthwiſe with two black lines, and three of red, one of the laſt paſſing over the middle of the head, and one above each eye: between the bill and the eyes is a duſky line; the chin is white; the neck is varied with brown and red. The ſcapulars are beautifully ſtriped lengthwiſe with black and yellow; the quill-feathers are duſky; but the edge of the firſt is white, as are the tips of the ſecondary feathers: the quill-feathers next the back are barred with black and pale red; the breaſt and belly are white; the coverts of the tail are long, and almost cover it; they are of a reddiſh brown colour. The tail conſiſts of 14 feathers, black on their lower part, then croſſed with a broad bar of deep orange, another trarrow one of black; and the ends white, or pale orange. The vent feathers are of a dull yellow; the legs pale green; the toes divided to their origin. In the winter-time ſnipes are very frequent in all our marſhy and wet grounds, where they lie concealed in the ruſhes, &c. In ſummer they diſperſe to different parts, and are found in the midſt of our higheſt mountains as well as of our low moors; their neſt is made of dried graſs; they lay four eggs of a dirty olive colour, mark­ed with duſky ſpots; their young are ſo often found in England, that we doubt whether they ever entirely leave this iſland. When they are diſturbed much, par­ticularly in the breeding ſeaſon, they ſoar to a vaſt height, making a ſingular bleating noiſe; and when they deſcend, dart down with vaſt rapidity: it is alſo amuſing to obſerve the cock, while his mate fits on her eggs, poiſe himſelf on her wings, making ſometimes a whittling and ſometimes a drumming noiſe. Their food is the ſame with that of the woodcock; their flight very irregular apd ſwift, and attended with a ſhrill ſcream. They are moſt univerſal birds, found in every quarter of the globe, and in all climates.

SCOLOPENDRA, in zoology, a genus of infects belonging to the order of aptera. The feet are very

numerous, being as many on each ſide as there arc joints in the body; the antennæ are ſetaceous: there are two jointed pappi, and the body is depreſſed. —Theſe infects are very formidable and noxious in the warm countries, where they grow to the length of a quarter of a yard or more, though in this climate they ſeldom grow above an inch long. The ſcolopendra is alſo called the *centipes* from its number of feet. In the Eaſt Indies it grows to ſix inches in length, and as thick as a man’s finger: it conſiſts of many joints; and from each joint proceeds a leg on each ſide: they are cover­ed with hair, and ſeem to have no eyes; but there are two feelers on the head, with which they find out the way they are to paſs: the head is very round, with two ſmall ſharp teeth, with which they inflict wounds that are very painful and dangerous. A ſailor that was bit by one on board a ſhip felt exceſſive pain, and his life was ſuppoſed to be in danger; but by the ap­plication of roaſted onions to the part he recovered. The bite of the ſcolopendra *morsitans @@§* in Jamaica is ſaid to be as poiſonous as the ſting of a ſcorpion. — Some of the ſpecies live in holes in the earth: others under ſtones, and among rotten wood; ſo that the re­moving of theſe is exceedingly dangerous in the coun­tries where the ſcolopendrae breed. —Theſe infects, like the ſcorpion, are ſuppoſed to be produced perfect from the parent or the egg, and to undergo no changes after their firſt excluſion. They are found of all ſizes; which is a ſufficient reaſon for believing that they preſerve their firſt appearance through the whole of their exiſtence. It is probable, however, that, like moſt of this claſs, they often change their ſkins; but of this we have no certain information. The ſcolopendra for- ſicata is the largeſt in this country, of a dun colour, ſmooth, and compoſed of nine ſcaly ſegments, without reckoning the head. The feet are 15 in number on each fide, and the laſt longer than the reſt, and turned backwards, form a kind of forky tail. The antennæ are twice the length of the head, and conſiſt of 42 ſhort ſegments. The inſect’s progreſſive motion is very quick, and ſometimes ſerpentine. It is found under ſtones on the ground, under flower-pots and garden boxes.

SCOLYMUS, in botany: A genus of the polygamia aequalis order, belonging to the ſyngeneſia claſs of plants; and in the natural method ranking under the 49th order, *Compositae.* The receptacle is paleaceous; the calyx imbricated and prickly, without any pappus.

SCOMBER, the Mackerel, in ichthyology, a ge­nus belonging to the order of thoracici. The head is ſmooth and compreſſed, and there are ſeven rays in the gill membrane. There are ten ſpecies; — of which the moſt remarkable are the following.

1. The ſcomber, or common mackerel, a ſummer-fiſh of paſſage that viſits our ſhores in vaſt ſhoals. It is leſs uſeful than other ſpecies of gregarious fiſh, being very tender, and unfit for carriage; not but that it may be preierved by pickling and ſalting, a method, we believe, practiſed only in Cornwall, where it proves a great re­lief to the poor during winter. It was a ſiſh greatly eſteemed by the Romans, becauſe it furniſhed the pre­cious garum, a ſort of pickle that gave a high reliſh to their fauces; and was beſides uſed medicinally. It was drawn from different kinds of fiſh, but that made from the mackerel had the preference: the beſt was made at

@@@ § See Plate CCCCXLV.