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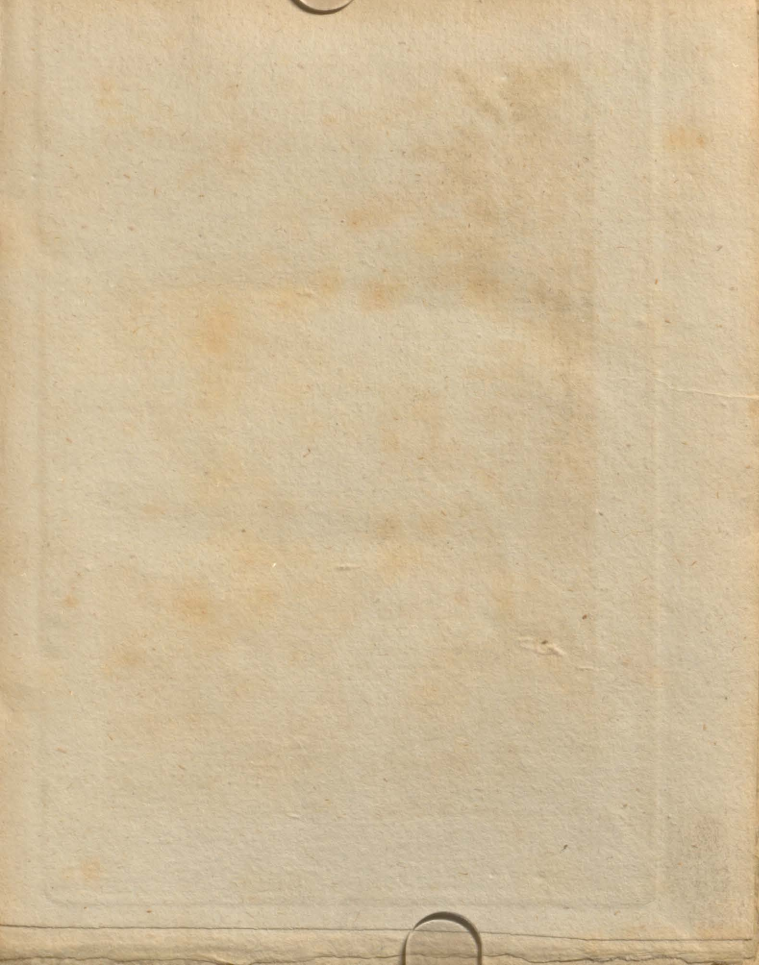


THE
B E A U T I E S
OF THE
C R E A T I O N.

VOLUME II.

B I R D S.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.





Tab. 6. Dec. 1. 1789 by G. Riley Ludgate Street.

THE
B E A U T I E S
OF THE
C R E A T I O N:
OR, A NEW MORAL SYSTEM OF
NATURAL HISTORY:
IN FIVE VOLUMES:

Consisting of

QUADRUPEDS,

BIRDS,

FISHES AND REPTILES,

INSECTS,

TREES AND FLOWERS,

&c. &c.

Designed to inspire Youth with Humanity towards the
Brute Creation, and bring them early acquainted with
the wonderful Works of the Creator.

*Who can this field of miracles survey,
And not with Galen, all in rapture, say,
Behold a God! adore him, and obey!*

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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THE
B E A U T I F U L
OF THE
G R E A T I O N
OF A NEW MORAL SYSTEM
NATURAL HISTORY
IN TWO VOLUMES

By
GEOFFREY
AND
AND
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON

THE SECOND EDITION
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON

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NATURAL HISTORY.

B I R D S.

THEIR GENERAL NATURE.

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

WHILE the forests, the waters, and even the depths of the earth, have their respective inhabitants, the air, which includes an immense space, too elevated for the power of Man to explore, are traversed by innumerable beings, of variegated beauty, called Birds; which, in order to facilitate their flight through those expansive regions, with a swiftness to compensate their want of strength, are formed on the following general principles.

FORM.—The body of a Bird, is made sharp in front, and, when on flight through its native element, it swells

gradually, until the tail is fully expanded, which, with the aid of the wings, serves it not only as a buoy, but also as a rudder to direct its flight.

PLUMAGE.—They are covered with feathers, most admirably adapted to the air they inhabit, being composed of a quill, containing a considerable quantity of air, and a shaft, edged on each side with a most volatile substance, which, with the concavity of the wings, renders the body considerably lighter than the air; and thus enables them to explore an immense space, denied to every other part of the Creation.

SIGHT.—To adapt the sight to the swiftness of their motions, their eyes are not so convex or prominent as in creatures confined to the earth; which not only prevents their being injured by the repulsive force of the air, in their rapid flights, but likewise renders them less liable to be touched with the points of thorns, sprays, &c. in their progress among trees, bushes, and hedges. The film, or nictating membrane, with which they occasionally cover their eyes, without closing the lids, clears and protects

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protects them from the glare of sun-beams, as well as from the mists, fogs, and clouds, with which the air occasionally abounds, when forced to range for food or nesting. The power also of extending the optic nerve, gives such an acuteness to their sight, that they can perceive objects more distinctly, and at a greater distance, than any other creature.

HEARING.—They have the power of distinguishing sounds, without any external ear, which would not only impede their flight, but render them liable to many injuries in darting through bushes, briars, &c.

SMELLING.—Their scent is so very acute and extensive, by which they are apprised of the approach of their natural, as well as artificial enemies, that those who decoy Ducks, are obliged to keep a piece of burning turf in their mouths, to prevent being discovered.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE.—The bones, which are formed sufficiently strong to support the weight of the body, and the system of its functions, are so light, as to

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

be scarcely any additional burden to the flesh. All their internal structure is calculated to increase the surface beyond the proportion of the solidity of their bodies, in order to render them lighter than the same portion of air. The lungs and ends of the windpipe branches imbibe air into a number of bladder receptacles. The crop, which is the repository for superfluous food, supplies them in long flights, and other times of indispensable necessity. Their food being generally dry, hard, and crude, they have a gizzard, which, with the help of sand, and other stony particles they swallow, aid them in digestion.

MOULTING.—Although Birds, from the simplicity of their structure, habitation of the air, and perpetual exercise, are less subject to disease than other creatures, yet they are liable to one to which no others are exposed; this is the sickness attending the annual renovation of their plumage, which is called their Moulting time.

GENERATION.—In the Spring, when Nature affords abundance of food, Birds are stimulated to pair, to increase their species. Having chosen their mate for the ensuing year,

year, they proceed to those official cares which distinguish the approach of being made parents. With all the fondness of such expectations, they proceed to collect materials for their nests, which they build with the skill of the most expert architect. They discover so much constancy to each other, with such unabating care and affection in breeding and rearing their young, that they might be taken as examples by the human species.

HABITATION.—Birds are particularly attached to the place of their nativity. A Rook, if undisturbed, will never quit its native grove; the Blackbird and Redbreast are tenacious of their birthrights; and many others, that are known to emigrate annually from this country, have been found, by frequent experiments, to return to their usual breeding-places.

MIGRATION.—Is that passage of Birds from one climate to another, according as they are impelled by fear, hunger, or change of seasons. Many have been the conjectures of naturalists and travellers respecting this extraordinary conduct in particular Birds. Some have supposed,

that those which were not strong enough to sustain a flight over expanding oceans, collected themselves in bodies, and repaired to chasms in rocks, or sought a temporary tomb beneath the waters, where they remained, in a state of torpidity, until the revolving seasons should recall them to the exercise of their former functions. Others have imagined, that they actually sought climes more congenial to their nature and subsistence, at a time when cold and scarcity rendered the country of their sojournment both dangerous and inconvenient. The times of their departure and return are so regular, that, in the course of five years, the average has not exceeded more than a single day. Those tribes which have not sufficient strength to cross the immense deserts and vast oceans, such as Swallows, Martins, &c. are supposed to find a winter subsistence in the southern countries of Europe, where the clemency of the season seems, most hospitably, to invite them to partake of their bounties.

It has been observed, that some Birds, which migrate in particular climates, are constantly resident in others. According to Herodotus, there is a species of Swallow, that

that abides perpetually in Egypt; which must undoubtedly arise from the equality of the seasons in that part of Africa. This property, therefore, is not peculiar to any particular species of Bird, but rather caused by the difference of the country and climate in which they are bred. In Cayan, Java, and other warm climates, those Birds, which uniformly migrate in the cold regions of Norway, North America, and Kamschatka, are constant residents through every change of season. The manner of their departure is too curious to pass unnoticed. They range themselves in a column, like an I, or in two lines, resembling the sides of a wedge. When they have taken flight, one particular bird takes the lead; after going a certain distance, he is relieved by another. In their progress, several particulars occur, to excite our wonder, as well as our veneration, at that immensity of wisdom, which has formed them with so extraordinary an instinct. Who acquainted their young with the time, place, and necessity of their departure? and what can induce them to change the place of their nativity for a strange country? Who causes the imprisoned Bird to feel its captivity at the time of emigration; or who is the Herald, to assemble

INTRODUCTION.

these feathered voyagers and travellers? Who is it that forbids one to depart before the appointed time? Who forms their charts; or who supplies them with a compass, to direct them over pathless wastes, and trackless oceans? Or who is it that guides them to those countries, where they rest and recruit themselves after their long journies, so as to be enabled to reach their destined sojournment? As these questions can only be referred to the wisdom of the Great Creator of the Universe, we cannot avoid learning from them this lesson of humility at least: that, whatever may be the boast of human reason, it vanishes, when compared with this wonderful instinct of the emigrative power in Birds.

CLASSES.—According to Linnæus, Birds are divided into Six Classes, in the following order:

I. THE *Rapacious Kind*—Which are carnivorous, and live by preying on others, or eating the flesh of dead animals. They are distinguished by the beak, which is strong, hooked, and notched at the point; by their short muscular legs, strong toes, and crooked talons; by their strength

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Strength of body, impurity of flesh, nature of food, and ferocious cruelty.

II. THE *Pie Kind*—Which are distinguished by their miscellaneous food, and their females being fed by the males in breeding time.

III. THE *Poultry Kind*—Which are distinguished by their fat muscular bodies, and pure white flesh. Strangers to any attachment, unlike other Birds, they are promiscuous in the choice of their mates.

IV. THE *Sparrow Kind*—Which mostly compose the vocal and beautiful. Some live on seed, others on insects. While rearing, they are remarkably fond and faithful.

V. THE *Duck Kind*—Are distinguished by their bills, which serve them as strainers for their food; and by their feet, which, being webbed, enable them to swim in the waters, where they chiefly reside.

VI. THE *Crane Kind*—Are distinguished by their long and penetrating bills, which enable them to search

for food at the bottom of waters, near which they chiefly reside; and by their necks and legs, which are proportionable in length.

HAVING thus briefly given an account of the different Classes, with their distinguishing peculiarities, we shall begin our description with those which cannot be ranged systematically; such as the Ostrich, Cassowary, Condour, Dodo, &c. which, being of extraordinary size, and incapable of flying, are not included in the Six Classes before mentioned.





T H E O S T R I C H.

THIS Bird, according to Naturalists, is one of the largest in the world. The head, which is like that of a Duck, rises to the height of a man on horseback. The body is like a Camel, and has two short wings, which, though exceedingly strong, are not expansive enough to

buoy it from the surface of the earth; but, with their assistance, added to the length of its legs, it exceeds in speed the swiftest Arabian. It has legs and thighs like a Heron; and each foot has three claws covered with horn, the elastic strength of which greatly facilitates and increases its flight.

Its eggs are so large, that they commonly weigh fifteen pounds. That they disregard their future progeny, Kolben denies, having seen them sit on their eggs at the Cape of Good Hope. She, however, deserts them by day; but, like other birds, returns to them at night. The climate at the Cape requiring her brooding heat, it is a natural instinct; but, in those parts of Africa nearer the Equator, we conceive they do, as reported, leave their eggs to be hatched by the heat of the sun, but not without the precaution of covering them with sand, and bringing worms and other provisions for the young, when hatched; for, in birds, as in other creatures, Nature conforms to the soil and climate which they are to inhabit. The simplicity and ignorance of the Ostrich is particularly observable, in its only hiding its head to secure its body from the attack of the hunters.

THE amazing power possessed by this Bird, of digesting stones, iron, and other crude substances, evinces the wisdom of the Creator, in giving it the faculty of turning to nutriment those things which its barren and native deserts only afford.

THESE birds are sometimes bred tame, for the sake of eating the young ones, of which the female is said to be the greatest delicacy; and a single egg is said to be a sufficient entertainment for eight men. The skin of the ostrich is so thick, that it is used for leather by the Arabians; and of the eggs drinking-cups are made. The value of the plumage is well known in most countries of Europe.

As the spoils of the Ostrich are thus valuable, it is not to be wondered at that man has become their most assiduous pursuer. For this purpose, the Arabians train up their best and fleetest horses, and hunt the Ostrich still in view. Perhaps, of all varieties of the chase, this, though the most laborious, is yet the most entertaining. As soon as the hunter comes within sight of his prey, he puts on his horse with a gentle gallop, so as to keep the

Ostrich

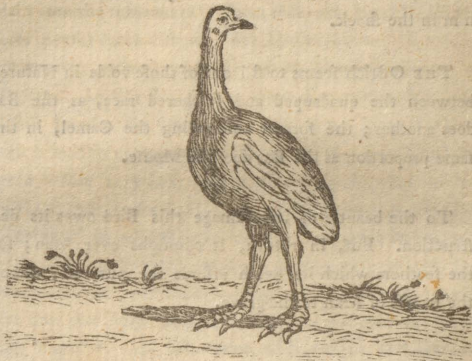
Ostrich still in fight, yet not so as to terrify him from the plain into the mountains. Upon observing himself, therefore, pursued at a distance, the bird begins to run at first, but gently; either insensible of his danger, or sure of escaping. In this situation he somewhat resembles a man at full speed; his wings, like two arms, keep working with a motion correspondent to that of his legs; and his speed would very soon snatch him from the view of his pursuers, but, unfortunately for the silly creature, instead of going off in a direct line, he takes his course in circles; while the hunters still make a small course within, relieve each other, meet him at unexpected turns, and keep him thus still employed, still followed for two or three days together. At last, spent with fatigue and famine, and finding all power of escape impossible, he endeavours to hide himself from those enemies he cannot avoid, and covers his head in the sand, or the first thicket he meets. Sometimes, however, he attempts to face his pursuers: and, though in general the most gentle animal in nature, when driven to desperation, he defends himself with his beak, his wings, and his feet. Such is the force of his motion,

motion, that a man would be utterly unable to withstand him in the shock.

THE Ostrich seems to fill one of those voids in Nature, between the quadruped and feathered race, as the Bat does another; the former resembling the Camel, in the same proportion as the Bat does the Mouse.

To the beauty of its plumage this Bird owes its destruction. But, in return, it triumphs over Man; for the feathers which its death affords the pursuers, attend the hearse of Man to the grave.





THE CASSOWARY.

THIS Bird, which is found in the southern parts of the East Indies, is about five feet and a half high. The wings are so small, as to be scarcely perceptible. It has a crest on its head, resembling a helmet, three inches high. Though every feather of this Bird is adapted for flight,

none

none are entirely destined for covering. The extremities of them are armed with five prickles, the longest of which is eleven inches. It is described to have the head of a Warrior, the eye of a Lion, defence of a Porcupine, and fleetness of a Courser; but, though provided thus formidably, it is perfectly inoffensive. It neither walks, runs, hops, jumps, nor flies; but, kicking up one leg behind, it bounds forward with the other, with a velocity not to be equalled by the swiftest Arabian.

THUS formed for a life of hostility, for terrifying others, and for its own defence, it might be expected that the Cassowary was one of the most fierce and terrible animals of the creation. But nothing is so opposite to its natural character, nothing so different from the life it is contented to lead. It never attacks others; and instead of the bill, when attacked, it rather makes use of its legs, and kicks like an horse, or runs against its pursuer, beats him down, and treads him to the ground.

IT is said that the passage of the food through its gullet is performed so speedily, that even the very eggs which
it

it has swallowed whole, pass through it unbroken, in the same form they went down. The Cassowary's eggs are of a grey ash colour, inclining to green. The largest is found to be fifteen inches round one way, and about twelve the other. The voice of this bird resembles the grunting of a hog.

THE southern parts of the most eastern Indies seem to be the natural climate of the Cassowary. His domain, if we may so call it, begins where that of the Ostrich terminates. The latter has never been found beyond the Ganges; while the Cassowary is never seen nearer than the islands of Banda, Sumatra, Java, the Molucca Islands, and the corresponding parts of the Continent.

THIS Bird, like the Ostrich, is extremely voracious of all things capable of passing its swallow. The Dutch assert, that it not only devours glass, iron, and stones, but even burning coals, without the least fear or injury. From its scarcity, it is generally supposed not to be so prolific as the Ostrich; but this may be more owing to their native place being usurped by Man, than from any defect in its nature;

nature; for both its natural armour, and digestive power, are convincing proofs that it is destined for the desert, and not for cultivated plains. So that, like other wild creatures, when they have, in vain, disputed with Man the possession of their own territories, they may have withdrawn themselves to some solitary desert, far from the prying eye of Man, and for which they are so peculiarly formed.

THE EMU,

WHICH is a Bird but little known, is six feet high, resembling the Ostrich in form; and has been reckoned, by travellers and naturalists, to be of the same species. It is the largest Bird yet discovered on the New Continent: but is chiefly found in Guiana, Brazil, Chili, and the immense forests bordering on the mouth of the river Plata. Some assert, that it buries its eggs in the sand, like the Ostrich; but they may be mistaken, as those of the Crocodile are buried and hatched in the same manner.



THE D O D O.

THE inactive appearance of this Bird, seems to fill another void in Nature between Birds and Beasts, which is that between the Sloth, and a more active individual of the feathered tribe. Its body, which is nearly round, is very ponderous, and covered with grey feathers. The legs

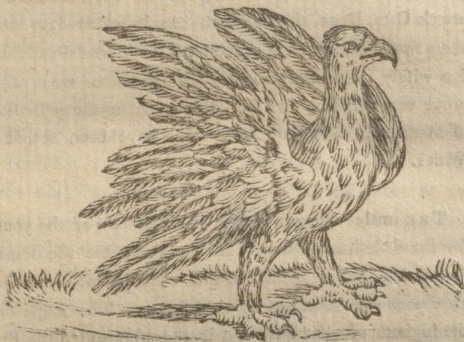
legs resemble the pillars of a fixed building, but seem scarcely strong enough to support the body; the neck is thick and purfy; and the head has two wide chaps, that open beyond the eyes, which are large, black, and prominent: the bill, which is extremely long and thick, is of a bluish white, and crooked in opposite directions, resembling two pointed spoons laid on the back of each other. It has a stupid and voracious appearance, which is greatly increased by a bordering of feathers, that grow round the root of the beak, and have the appearance of a cowl or hood. The Dodo is, in short, a most complete picture of stupidity and deformity.

LIKE the Sloth, it is incapable either of defence or flight. It is a native of the Isle of France, where it was first found by the Dutch. It is asserted by some, that the flesh is nauseous; while others, on the contrary, contend that it is palatable and wholesome. This Bird grows to such an enormous size, that three or four of them are sufficient to dine a hundred sailors. The Dodo, by some, is thought to be the Bird of Nazareth, the description of it being exactly similar to that Bird.

THIS

THIS seems to be an entire exception to the general nature of Birds, both in appearance, as well as activity. If we except the Owls, and Birds of that description, there are scarcely any but what are agreeable in form, and alert in motion; but this, on the other hand, appears formed, not only to disgust the spectator, but to be almost an immoveable burlesque of the feathered tribe. Were we allowed to give our opinion of the final cause of creating so unseemly a creature, we should say, it was formed as a foil to the various beauties discovered in the rest of the Bird Creation.





THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

THIS Bird is about three feet nine inches in length, and eight spans in breadth. Its bill is strong, sharp, and crooked: the eye has four lids, to guard it against excessive light, and prevent it from external injuries: the toes are covered with scales; and the claws are exceedingly
strong

strong and formidable. It is found in the mountainous parts of Ireland, where its fierceness has been observed to attack Cats, Dogs, Sheep, &c. As it seldom lays more than two eggs, it is a convincing proof that Providence has wisely prevented too great an increase of what might prove very offensive, if not destructive to the possessions of mankind. Some of these birds have been found in Wales.

THE male engages in the maintenance of the young for the first three months; after which time the female undertakes, and continues in this employment, until they are capable of providing for themselves. The Eagle flies the highest of all birds, and is therefore called the Bird of Heaven. Bochart says, that it lives a century, during which period it is continually increasing. Such is its thirst after blood, that it never drinks any other liquid, unless when sick. Not content with preying on birds, and the smaller beasts, it will plunge into seas, lakes, and rivers, after fish. His sight is more acute than that of any other bird. The feathers are renewed every ten years, which greatly increases its vigour, as expressed in the beautiful

tiful simile of David: *Thy youth shall be renewed like that of the Eagle.* The Eagle that would not quit the corpse of Pyrrhus, who had brought it up from a nestling, is a proof that this species of bird is capable of attachment and gratitude.

Of all Birds, he has the quickest eye; but his sense of smelling is far inferior to that of the Vulture. He never pursues, therefore, but in sight; and when he has seized his prey, he stoops from his height, as if to examine its weight, always laying it on the ground before he carries it off. As his wing is very powerful, yet, as he has but little suppleness in the joints of the leg, he finds it difficult to rise when down; however, if not instantly pursued, he finds no difficulty in carrying off his prey.

IN order to extirpate these pernicious Birds, there is a law in the Orkney Islands, which entitles any person that kills an eagle, to a hen out of every house in the parish in which the plunderer is killed,

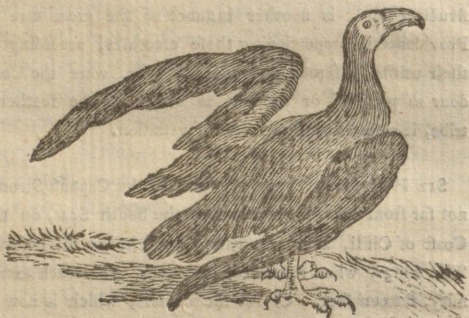
THE nest of the Eagle is usually built in the most inaccessible

cessible cliff of the rock, and often shielded from the weather by some jutting cragg that hangs over it.

THERE are sixteen other sorts of Eagles; namely, the Sun, Bold, Ring-tailed, and Black Eagles; Osprey Bird; Crowned, Common, White, Rough-footed, Erne, Jean le Blanc, Brazilian, Oroonoko, Eagle of Pondicherry, and Vulturine Eagle.



THE



THE CONDOUR OF AMERICA.

IT is doubtful which this bird is most allied to, the Eagle or the Vulture; its force and vivacity resembling the former, while the baldness of its head and neck are like the latter. No bird can compare with it for size, strength, rapacity, and swiftness of flight. It is, there-

fore, more formidable than the Eagle to birds, beasts, and even to mankind. The rarity of this pernicious and destructive bird, is another instance of the great care of Providence in proportioning these creatures, according to their utility or ferocious propensity; for, were the Condour as prolific, or common as others of the feathered tribe, it would spread universal devastation.

SIR Hans Sloane says, one was shot by Captain Strong, not far from Mocha, an island in the South Seas, on the Coast of Chili, as it was sitting on a cliff by the sea side. The wings, when extended, measured, from each extremity, sixteen feet. One of the feathers, which is now in the British Museum, is two feet four inches in length, one inch and a half in circumference, and weighed three drachms, seventeen grains and a half.

ACCORDING to Garcilaso de la Vaga, several have been killed by the Spaniards, which in general measured fifteen or sixteen feet from wing to wing. To prevent the too fatal exercise of their fierceness, Nature has denied them such talons as the Eagle. They have only
claws,

claws, which are as harmless as those of the Hen. Their beaks are, however, strong enough to tear off the hide, and penetrate the bowels of an Ox. Two of them will attack and devour a Cow or a Bull; and it has often happened that boys of ten years of age have fallen a prey to them. The inhabitants of Chili are, therefore, in continual dread lest their children should be devoured in their absence. In order to allure them, they expose the form of a child, made of a very glutinous clay, on which they dart with such rapidity, and penetrate so deeply with their beaks, that they cannot disengage themselves. The Indians assert, that they will seize and bear aloft a Deer, or a young Calf, as easily as Eagles do a Hare or a Rabbit.

NATURE apprises every one of its approach, by causing it to make so great a noise with its wings, as almost to occasion deafness. The body is as large as that of a Sheep, and the flesh as disagreeable as carrion. Thus Man loses no food from the providential scarcity of this terrific and devouring creature. Forests, not affording room for its flight, are never infested with its depredations; they, therefore, dwell mostly in mountains, visiting the
shores

shores at night, when rain or tempests drive their finny prey thither for shelter.

THEY are chiefly to be found in the deserts of Pachomac, where men seldom venture to travel; those wild regions being alone sufficient to inspire the mind with a secret horror, affording no other music but the roaring of wild beasts, and the hissing of serpents; while the adjacent mountains are rendered equally terrible from the visits of this destructive bird.

THIS bird is thought, by naturalists, to be the same as the Rock, found in Arabia, the Tarnassar, in the East Indies, and the large Vulture, in Senegal.





THE KING OF THE VULTURES.

THIS bird differs from the Eagle, in its indelicate voracity; preying more upon carrion than live animals; which disposition seems wisely adapted by Providence, as a prevention against the nauseous and epidemical effects that might otherwise arise from carcases being left to putrify

trify on the earth. Its preying on the eggs of Crocodiles, which lay each of them at least two or three hundred, in the sands, is another dispensation of Divine Providence, in order to prevent too great an increase of those voracious and destructive animals.

THE form of this bird is distinguished from the Eagle, by the nakedness of its head and neck; though, not being destined to prey particularly on living birds, &c. their flight is not equal to that of the Eagle, Falcon, or Hawk. But, being allured by putrefaction, their sense of smelling is proportionally exquisite. Happily for us, it is a stranger to England; while it is found in Arabia, Egypt, and many parts of Africa and Asia. There is a down under the wings, which in the African markets is frequently sold as a valuable fur.

THE Vulture is considered so serviceable in Egypt, that, in Grand Cairo, large flocks are permitted to reside, in order to devour the carrion of that great city, which would otherwise be liable to frequent pestilence.

It is serviceable, likewise, in those countries where hunters pursue, and destroy animals merely for the skins; as they follow, and devour the bodies before they lie long enough to corrupt the air; which they do so greedily and voraciously, as to be unable to fly. But when they are attacked, they have a power of lightening their stomachs, so as to effect their escape.

This bird is somewhat larger than a Turkey-cock, and remarkable for the uncommon formation of the skin covering the head and neck, (which is of an orange colour) being bare. The eyes are surrounded with a skin of a scarlet colour, and have a beautiful pearl-coloured iris. Although the King of the Vultures stands confessedly the most beautiful of this deformed race, its habits are equally disagreeable with the rest.

THE flight and cry of these birds, being particularly observed and attended to by the Roman Augurs, must have arisen from their considering, where they were most inclined to direct their flight, from the previous sense they had of an approaching slaughter; which the Romans al-

ways flattered themselves was to ensue of the enemies they were preparing to engage.

THE GOLDEN VULTURE.

ALTHOUGH this bird is larger, yet, in other respects, it resembles the Golden Eagle. It is four feet and a half in length. The lower part of the neck, breast, and belly, are red: the back is covered with black feathers, the wings and tail with those of a yellowish brown. Though the various species differ very much in respect to colour and dimensions, yet they are all easily distinguished by their naked heads, and beaks partly straight, and partly hooked.

IN this class are also to be ranged, the Golden, Ash-coloured, and Brown Vultures, natives of Europe; the Spotted and Black Vultures, of Egypt; the Brazilian, and the Bearded Vultures.

OF all creatures, the two most at enmity, are the Vulture of Brasil, and the Crocodile. The female of this
terrible

terrible amphibious creature, which in the rivers of that part of the world grows to the size of twenty-seven feet, lays its eggs, to the number of one or two hundred, in the sands, on the side of the river, where they are hatched by the heat of the climate. For this purpose, she takes every precaution to hide from all other animals the place where she deposits her burden: in the mean time, a number of Vultures sit, silent and unseen, in the branches of some neighbouring forest, and view the Crocodile's operations, with the pleasing expectation of succeeding plunder. They patiently wait till the Crocodile has laid the whole number of her eggs, till she has covered them carefully with the sand, and until she is retired from them to a convenient distance. Then, all together, encouraging each other with cries, they pour down upon the nest, hook up the sand in a moment, lay the eggs bare, and devour the whole brood without remorse.



THE FALCON.

THE dignified sport of Falconry, which formerly distinguished the recreation of the English Nobility, has been long discontinued. A person of rank scarcely ever appeared without his Falcon, which, in old paintings, are the criterion of titular distinction. Harold, afterwards
King

King of England, was painted with a Falcon on his hand, and a Dog under his arm, when he was going on an important embassy. To wind a horn, and carry a Falcon with grace, were then marks of being well bred. Learning was left for the study of children born in a more humble sphere.

IN the reign of James I. Sir Thomas Monson gave one thousand pounds for a Cast of Hawks. An unqualified person, taking the eggs of a Hawk, even upon his own ground, was fined and imprisoned, at the pleasure of the King. Edward III. made it felony to steal a Hawk.

THE Generous Hawk is distinguished from the baser race of Kites, Sparrow-hawks, and Buzzards, by the second feather, which in this kind is the longest; whereas, in the other kinds, the fourth feather is the longest. They also possess natural powers, of which the other race are destitute. They pursue their game with more swiftness and confidence, and, from their generosity of temper, they are so attached to their feeders, as to become very tractable.

THE Hawk or Falcon pursues the Heron, Kite, and Woodlark, by flying perpendicularly upwards, which affords the greatest diversion; while other birds, by flying horizontally, diminish the pleasure of the sportsman, as well as endanger the loss of his Hawk.

THE Norwegian breed of Hawks were of such esteem in the reign of King John, that, in consideration of a present of two of these birds, that monarch allowed the friend of Jeffry Fitzpierre to export one hundred weight of cheese; a very great privilege in those days. We learn further, from Maddox's Antiquities, that the interest of Richard I. was obtained, by the present of one Norway Hawk, in favour of John, the son of Ordgar.



parts of the breast white; the legs are yellow, and the
feathers below the breast. This bird is sometimes found
entirely white. It was first introduced into the island of
such as Cancer, Havana, &c.

In this species of bird, the feathers of the
throat, breast, neck, and belly are white, and
the feathers of the back and wings are black, and
the feathers of the tail are black and white.



THE GYR-FALCON.

Many of the names which are applied to the
names of this bird, we think it worthy to
inform our Readers, that they are called, according to the
language of the several nations, by the name of

THE GYR-FALCON.

THIS species of Falcon, which exceeds all others, both
in size and elegance, is nearly as large as an Eagle. The
bill is hooked and yellow, and the plumage mostly white:
the feathers of the back and wings have black spots, in
the shape of hearts: the thighs are clothed with long fea-
thers,

thers, of the purest white : the legs are yellow, and feathered below the knees. This bird is sometimes found entirely white. It was used to fly at the noblest game, such as Cranes, Herons, &c.

IN this species of birds may be classed, the Peregrine Falcon, Sacre, Mountain, Grey, White, Tunis or Barbary Falcons, and

THE FALCON GENTLE,

WHICH is known from other Falcons by the neck being surrounded with a light yellow ring.

MANY mistakes having been made, with respect to the names of this species of bird, we think it necessary to inform our Readers, that they are called, according to the times they are taken, after the following names :

If taken in June, July, or Aug. they are called *Gentle*
 - - - - Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. - - - - *Pilgrims*
 - - - - Jan. Febr. March - - - - *Antenere*
 and, if once moulted, it is called *Hagar*, from the Hebrew, which signifies a *Stranger*.



T H E G O S H A W K .

THIS bird, which is larger than the Common Buzzard, is longer in form, and more elegant in shape. The breast and belly are white, beautifully streaked with transverse lines of black and white. This species, as well as that of the Sparrow-hawk, are distinguished by the name

of Short-winged Hawks, from their wings, when closed, not reaching to the end of the tail. This bird was formerly much esteemed, and taught by Falconers to pursue Cranes, Wild Geese, Pheasants, and Partridges.

Of this species there are also, the Honey, Moor, and Turkey Buzzard; the Hen-harrier, Kestrel, and Hobby.

THE SPARROW-HAWK.

THERE is a great difference in size between the male and female of this bird; the latter weighing nearly twice as much as the former. They vary also considerably in their plumage; though the back, head, coverts of the wings, and tail, are generally of a blue grey. It makes great devastation among Pigeons and Partridges.

THE MERLIN,

WHICH is the smallest of Hawks, and not much larger than a Thrush, has been known to kill Quails and Partridges, and display such courage, as to render itself as formidable as birds of six times its magnitude.

THE

THE GREATER BUTCHER BIRD.

THIS bird, which during the summer constantly resides here, (the smaller Red Butcher-bird migrates) remains among the mountainous parts of the country; but in winter they descend into the plains and nearer human habitations. The larger kind make their nests on the highest trees, while the lesser build in bushes in the fields and hedge-rows. They both lay about six eggs, of a white colour, but encircled at the larger end with a ring of brownish red. The nest on the outside is composed of white moss, interwoven with long grass; within, it is well lined with wool, and it is usually fixed among the forking branches of a tree. The female feeds her young with caterpillars and other insects while very young; but soon after accustoms them to flesh, which the male procures with surprising industry. Their nature also is very different from other birds of prey in their parental care; for, so far from driving out their young from the nest to shift for themselves, they keep them with care; and even when adult they do not forsake them, but the whole brood live
in

in one family together. Each family lives apart, and is generally composed of the male, female, and five or six young ones; these all maintain peace and subordination among each other, and hunt in concert. It is easy to distinguish these birds at a distance, not only from their going in companies, but also from their manner of flying, which is always up and down, seldom direct or side-ways.





THE HORNED OWL.

HAVING described the rapacious birds of day, we proceed to those of night, which are equally cruel, and more treacherous. That no link in the chain of Nature should be incomplete, these birds employ the night in devastation, preventing by this means any chasm in the round

of

of time. They are distinguished from all other birds by their eyes, which are better adapted for the purposes of darkness than of light. Like Tigers and Cats, which subsist by their nocturnal watchfulness, they are endued with the power of discerning objects, at a time when we should conceive it to be totally dark. The idea, however, that they see best in total darkness, is erroneous; twilight, which is the medium between the glare of day, and the gloom of night, being the time they see with the greatest perspicuity. But the faculty of sight differs greatly in the different species.

THE note of the Owl is truly hideous; and such is the antipathy of the small birds to it, that, if one appears by chance in the day-time, they all surround, insult, and beat him. So great however is the utility of this bird, that one Owl will destroy, in the same space of time, more mice than six cats.

THE White, or Barn Owl, which is the most domestic, can see the smallest mouse peep from its hole; while the Brown Owl is frequently observed to have a sight strong
enough

enough to seek its prey in the day-time. Destined to appear by night only, Nature seems to have thought it unnecessary to lavish on them any beauties, either of form or plumage, as they would have been lost to general contemplation.

As a subject of vigilance, this bird was consecrated to Minerva, and seems to fill that chasm between quadrupeds and the feathered race, which is observable between Cats and Birds.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL,

WHICH is nearly as large as an Eagle, has some feathers rising from his head, which he can elevate or lower, at pleasure. The back, and coverts of the wings, are varied with deep brown and yellow. It usually breeds in caverns, hollow trees, or ruined buildings, making their nests nearly three feet in diameter.

THIS species of Owl is sometimes found in Cheshire, Wales, and the north of England.

THE LESSER HORNED OWL.

THE wings of this bird are so long, that, when closed, they reach beyond their tails. The feathers of the head, back, and coverts of the wings, are brown, edged with yellow: the tip of the tail is white.

THERE is also a smaller kind of Horned Owl, which is not much larger than the Thrush.

OF Owls, there are also, the Little Owl, which is remarkable for its elegance; the Screech Owl, which has blue eyes, and iron-grey feathers; and the Brown Owl, which remains all day in the woods.

NOTWITHSTANDING this species of birds differ so materially, both in size and plumage, their eyes are all adapted for nocturnal vision, to enable them to seek their food, which they always do by night. They have strong muscular bodies; powerful feet and claws, for tearing their prey; and stomachs properly adapted for digestion.

BIRDS of the POULTRY KIND.

THIS Class is the most harmless, as well as the most serviceable to Man. It not only furnishes the table of the epicure with various dainties, but also forms a considerable addition to the necessaries of life. The Rapacious Kind may amuse us in the sports of the field, and the warbling songster, with its melodious voice, delight us in the grove; but none can equal the essential service, and solid advantages of the Domestic Poultry. They are a source of wealth to the peasantry, who keep them at a small expence, especially at farm houses, and where they have a range of common; which the prodigious influx of eggs and fowls continually pouring into the markets of this great and opulent metropolis, daily testify.

THEY were originally of foreign origin; but time and the climate has so inured them to us, that they are now considered as natives; and, by their great increase, form no inconsiderable part of merchandise.

As the Rapacious Class are formed for war, this seems equally desirous of peace. They are naturally indolent and voluptuous; have a strong stomach, usually called a gizzard, which makes them very voracious; even while pent up, and separated from their companions, they still enjoy the pleasure of eating, and will grow fat, while many of the wilder species pine away, and refuse even common sustenance.

It is particularly remarkable of this Class of Birds, that, though naturally fond of society, their sensual appetites are such, as to admit of no connubial fidelity, which is such a distinguishing characteristic in Birds of the Rapacious Kind, such as the Eagle, &c. whose connexions, when once formed, never end but with their lives.



T H E C O C K.

O F all birds, the Cock seems to have been the first reclaimed from the forest, to gratify the luxury and amusement of Man. This bird, in its domestic state, undergoes many variations. In Japan, there is a species of this fowl, which seems to be covered with hair instead

of

of feathers. These varieties show the length of time they must have been under the dominion of Man; the departure from their original characteristic arising from the mixture of breeds, brought from different countries, which have been allowed to corrupt, without improving the stock. That the Cock was originally imported from Persia, is generally acknowledged. It has been, however, so long in this country, that, amongst the ancient Britons, it was one of the forbidden foods.

FROM the very great length of time this bird has been resident amongst us, we should be apt to doubt whether it was natural to any other country, was it not sometimes to be found in the islands of the Indian Ocean, where it still retains its wild and natural liberty.

ARISTOPHANES calls it the Persian Bird, in order to show the country where it is produced.

The Cock, like the Bull, wild and irregular in his appetites, ranges from one Hen to another, struts about the farm-yard, like a Sultan in his seraglio, and considers every one of his sex as his rival and enemy. Careless of his

his progeny, he leaves to the female all the care of providing for the young; which she performs with the greatest maternal care and tenderness, till they are capable of providing for themselves.

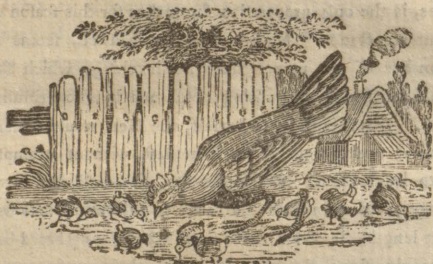
THE Cock, when opposed to a Bird of Prey, is timorous and cowardly; but, when in opposition to one of his own species, he is naturally valiant, seldom leaving his antagonist until he is killed or taken from him; many shameful instances of which are too frequently exhibited in the different cockpits of the metropolis.

To the bravery of this bird, even Princes themselves, in different parts of the world, have, to their shame be it spoken, owed a principal part of their amusement. Heathens might have fallen into this error; but that a race of people, calling themselves Christians, who are styled the patrons of compassion and humanity, should take a delight in setting these inoffensive birds to destroy each other, can only be attributed to an inordinate thirst of gain peculiar to those gamblers who have so much disgraced this country.

EXCLUSIVS

EXCLUSIVE of this, there are two other species of Cocks, called the Hamburgh and Bantam Cock ; the latter of which is well known and distinguished in this country, by its diminutive size, and feathered legs.





T H E H E N,

WHOSE maternal affiduities are almost become proverbial, seldom clutches a brood of chickens above once a season. The number of eggs a domestic hen will lay in the year are above two hundred, provided she be well fed and supplied with water and liberty.

T H E

THE Hen makes her nest without any care, if left to herself; a hole scratched into the ground, among a few bushes, is the only preparation she makes for this season of patient expectation. Nature, almost exhausted, seems to inform her of the proper time for hatching, which she herself testifies by a clucking note, and by discontinuing to lay. If left entirely to herself, the Hen would seldom lay above twenty eggs in the same nest, without attempting to hatch them. While she sits, she carefully turns her eggs, and even removes them to different situations; till at length, in about three weeks, the young brood begin to give signs of a desire to burst their confinement, till they acquire sufficient strength to break the shell.

THE strongest and best Chickens generally are the first candidates for liberty; the weakest come behind, and some even die in the shell. When all are produced, the Hen leads them forth to provide for themselves. Her affection and her pride seem then to alter her very nature. She abstains from all food that her young can swallow, and flies boldly at every creature that she thinks is likely to do them mischief.

TEN or twelve chickens are the greatest number that a good Hen can rear at a time ; but as this bears no proportion to the number of her eggs, schemes have been imagined to clutch all the eggs of a Hen, and thus turn her produce to the greatest advantage. The contrivance we mean, is the artificial method of hatching Chickens in stoves.

HERE we have, in this little domestic creature, another striking instance of the blessings bestowed on man by his all-wise and beneficent Creator ; for, while her young supplies our tables with the most exquisite food, and her eggs contribute to restore the health of the sickly and debilitated, she no less contributes to assist the poor industrious cottager to increase his scanty pittance ; and though he is now, by the arbitrary hand of lordly power, deprived of his natural right of feeding his cow, or a few sheep, on the common, yet his straw-built house still affords him room to keep a Cock and a few Hens.

“ Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen who survey

“ The rich man’s joys increase, the poor’s decay,

“ Say

111 " Say where, ah! where shall poverty reside,
 112 " To 'scape the preffure of contiguous pride?
 113 " If to some common's fenceless limits stray'd,
 114 " He drives his flocks to pick the scanty blade;
 115 " The fenceless fields the sons of wealth divide,
 116 " And e'en the bare-worn common is denied."





THE PEACOCK.

THE Italians have observed, not unaptly, that this bird has the plumage of an angel, the voice of a demon, and the appetite of a thief. They were originally from India, and are still found in vast flocks in the islands of Ceylon and Java. The beauty of the Peacock deprived

it first of its liberty; which proves to demonstration, that beauty is not confined to the destruction of the human species. So early as in the time of Solomon, according to the tenth chapter of the First Book of Kings, Apes and Peacocks are found among the articles that were imported from Tarshish. They were so much esteemed by the Greeks, that a pair of them was reckoned worth upwards of thirty pounds sterling. When first introduced into Greece, they were made a public exhibition. Hortensius, the orator, was the first who served them up as an entertainment for the table. They were afterwards considered as the choicest of viands, and one of the greatest ornaments of the feast: but their palatable fame soon declined, as may be observed by the conduct of Francis I. who served them up in their plumage, by way of ornament, not as a dainty.

To describe the Peacock as concisely as possible, we have only to observe, that the head, neck, and beginning of the breast, are of a deep shining blue: on the crown, is a tuft of green feathers; and the tail, which may be said to vie in splendour with the rainbow, (the colours being

Being so beautifully intermixed) they display with all the seeming vanity of a conceited beauty. The gold, chestnut, green, and blue of the eyes, are so happily disposed, that they form the finest harmony, and most beautiful contrast of colour, that can possibly be conceived. The bird himself is sensible of this superiority of plumage, which certainly exceeds every thing of the kind in Nature's works.

THE Pea-hen seldom lays above five or six eggs in this climate before she sits. Aristotle describes her as laying twelve; and it is probable, in her native climate, she may be thus prolific: for it is certain, that in the forests where they breed naturally, they are numerous beyond expression. The bird lives about twenty years; and not till its third year has it that beautiful variegated plumage that adorns its tail.

THE



THE PHEASANT.

NEXT to the Peacock they are the most beautiful of birds, as well for the vivid colour of their plumes, as for their happy mixtures and variety. It is far beyond the power of the pencil to draw any thing so glossy, so bright, or points so finely blending into each other.

In fact, nothing can satisfy the eye with a greater variety and richness of ornament than this beautiful creature. The iris of the eyes is yellow; and the eyes themselves are surrounded with a scarlet colour, sprinkled with small specks of black. On the fore-part of the head there are blackish feathers mixed with a shining purple. The top of the head, and the upper part of the neck, are tinged with a darkish green that shines like silk. In some, the top of the head is of a shining blue, and the head itself, as well as the upper part of the neck, appears sometimes blue and sometimes green, as it is differently placed to the eye of the spectator. The feathers of the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, have a blackish ground, with edges tinged of an exquisite colour, which appears sometimes black, and sometimes purple, according to the different lights it is placed in; under the purple there is a transverse streak of gold colour. The tail, from the middle feathers to the root, is about eighteen inches long; the legs, the feet, and the toes, are of the colour of horn. There are black spurs on the legs, shorter than those of a cock; there

is a membrane that connects two of the toes together; and the male is more beautiful than the female.

THIS bird, though so beautiful to the eye, is not less delicate when served up to the table. Its flesh is considered as the greatest dainty; and when the old physicians spoke of the wholesomeness of any viands, they made their comparison with the flesh of the Pheasant. In the woods the hen-pheasant lays from eighteen to twenty eggs in a season; but in a domestic state she seldom lays above ten. Its fecundity when wild is sufficient to stock the forest; its beautiful plumage adorns it; and its flesh retains a higher flavour from its unlimited freedom.

THE Pheasant, when full grown, seems to feed indifferently upon every thing that offers. It is said by a French writer, that one of the king's sportsmen shooting at a parcel of crows, that were gathered round a dead carcase, to his great surprize, upon coming up, found that he had killed as many Pheasants as Crows. It is even asserted by some, that such is the carnivorous disposition of this bird, that when several of them are put together in the

same

same yard, if one of them happens to fall sick, or seems to be pining, that all the rest will fall upon, kill, and devour it.

THERE is a Bastard Pheasant which is of a mixed breed between the Pheasant and the Cock. The back is reddish, mottled with brown and white; the lower parts ash-coloured, spotted with brown. There is also a variety supposed to be produced between the Turkey and the Pheasant, and on that account called the Turkey Pheasant. It is like the former, of a mingled colour.

THERE are about eight or ten foreign birds known of this genus. Among these the painted, or Golden Pheasant of China, is most conspicuous for its beauty. It is less than the common Pheasant, not being more than two feet nine inches long. The general colour of the plumage is crimson; on the head is a beautiful yellow crest, the feathers of which appear like silk. The back and rump are yellow; the scapulars are blue, the quills brown marked with yellow; the tail is twenty-three inches in length, and the colour is chesnut, mottled with black. The Hen

is materially different, the general colour of her plumage being brown. It appears a hardy bird, and has been known to propagate with our common Pheasant.

THE Argus Pheasant is a magnificent bird. It receives its name from the quills being marked with eyes resembling those in the Peacock's train. The top and hind part of the head and neck is a changeable blue; the back dusky, marked with reddish brown; the throat and breast dull orange. It is the size of a Cock Turkey, and the two middle feathers of the tail are three feet in length. This bird, as well as the former, and the Superb Pheasant, the predominant colour of which is a beautiful green, is a native of China.





THE BUSTARD

IS the largest native land bird of Britain; the male generally weighing twenty-five pounds. It is about nine feet broad, and four feet long. The head and neck are of an ash colour, and the back is barred transversely with black, bright, and rust colour: the greater quill feathers are

D 2

black;

black; those on the belly are white; the tail, which consists of twenty feathers, has broad red and black stripes; and the legs are of a dusky hue.

THE female is about half the size of the male. They were formerly much more numerous than at present; but the increased cultivation of the country, added to the extreme delicacy of its flesh, has caused a great decrease of the species. Another circumstance, equally unfavourable to this bird, is its amazing size, which renders it so unwieldy and slow in flight, as to render it almost impossible to escape the aim of the sportsman.

BUSTARDS are principally found on Salisbury Plains, Newmarket and Royston Heaths, Dorsetshire Uplands, and those of Marston or Lothian, in Scotland. They run very fast; and, although slow in flight, will, when on the wing, continue their progress, without resting, for several miles. It is with such difficulty they take flight, that they are very frequently run down by Greyhounds. They seldom wander above twenty or thirty miles from their haunts. They live on berries, which grow on the heaths,

and

and on earth-worms, that are found on the Downs before the sun rises.

As a security against drought, Nature has furnished the male with a pouch, that will contain near seven quarts of water, with which, it is supposed, they accommodate and supply the female while sitting, or the young, until they can fly.

It lives about fifteen years, but cannot be domesticated, from the want of a sufficient supply of the food which they delight in, which they can only obtain in their natural state.

THERE are two other species of this bird, which are called the Indian Bustard and Little Bustard.





BIRDS of the DOVE and PIGEON KIND.

ALL the beautiful varieties of the tame Pigeon, derive their origin from one species, the Stock-dove. This bird, in its state of nature, is of a deep blueish ash colour; the breast dashed with a fine changeable green and purple; the sides of the neck with shining copper colour: the wings are marked with two black bars, one on the quill feathers, and the other on the coverts. The back is white, and the tail is barred near the end with black. These are the colours of the pigeon in a state of nature; and from these simple tints the art of man has propagated such a variety, that words cannot describe, nor even imagination conceive. Nature, however, preserves her great out-line; and
though

though the colour of these birds may be changed by art, yet their natural inclinations and customs remain inviolable.

THE beautiful varieties of the same Pigeon are so numerous, that it would be a fruitless attempt to describe them all: for human art has so much altered the colour and figure of this bird, that pigeon-fancyers, by pairing a male and female of different sorts, can, as they express it, breed them to a feather. From hence we have the various names expressive of their several properties, such as, Carriers, Tumblers, Powters, Horse-men, Croppers, Jacobines, Owls, Nuns, Runts, Turbits, Barbs, Helmets, Trumpeters, Dragoons, Finnikins, &c. As it is incompatible with our plan to admit of any other than the most singular and curious, we must content ourselves by describing the four following, to which we have annexed very accurate drawings.

THE Turtle-dove is a smaller, but a much shyer bird than any of the Pigeon kind; it frequents the west of

England during the summer months, breeding in thick woods, generally of oak.

THE fidelity and constancy of these birds is proverbial; and a pair being put in a cage, if one dies, the other seldom survives it long. It is a bird of passage, and does not stay in our northern climates during winter. They come over here in large flocks in the summer, to breed; and though they delight in open, mountainous, and sandy countries, yet they build their nests in the middle of the thickest woods, choosing the most unfrequented places for incubation. They feed upon all sorts of grain, but the millet seed is their favourite repast. The Turtle-dove commonly measures twelve inches and a half in length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail; and when the wings are extended, the breadth is twenty-one inches.

SOME naturalists affirm, that this bird lays its eggs twice a year, and, if this assertion may be depended on, which is very probable, as it is a bird of passage, it is once when it visits us in summer, and once when it migrates to some warmer climate in winter.

THE

THE Dove-houfe Pigeon breeds every month. It lays two white eggs, which produce young ones of different sexes. When the eggs are laid, the female fits fifteen days, not including the three days she is employed in laying, and is relieved at intervals by the male.

So rapid is the fertility of this bird in its domestic state, however incredible it may appear, that, from a single pair, fourteen thousand seven hundred and sixty may be produced in the space of four years.





THE ENGLISH POWTER.

THIS Pigeon derives its name from being originally bred in England, and is a cross breed between a Horseman and a Cropper; and frequently paring their young ones with the Cropper, has added great beauty to this bird, and raised its reputation among the fanciers.

ACCORDING

ACCORDING to the rules laid down by the fancy, this bird ought to measure, from the point of the beak to the end of the tail, eighteen inches; to have a fine shape and hollow back, sloping off taper from the shoulders; for when it has a rise on the back, it is termed hog-backed; the legs, from the toe-nail to the upper joint in the thigh, seven inches. The crop ought to be large and circular towards the beak, rising behind the neck, so as to cover and run neatly off at the shoulders, with a smart girt; and their variety of plumage gives a fine symmetry to the whole bird.

IN order more fully to display the beauties and properties of the Powter, we will here describe in what manner a Powter ought to be pied, after the fancy of the ablest judges. The front of the crop should be white, encircled with a shining green, interspersed with the same colour he is pied; but the white should not reach the back of the head, for then he is ring-headed. There should be a patch, in the shape of a half moon, falling upon the chops of the same colour with which he is pied; and when this is wanting, he is called swallow-throated. The head,

neck, back, and tail, should preserve a uniformity of colour; and, if a blue-pied Pigeon, he should have two black streaks of bars near the end of both wings; but if these chance to be of a brown colour, it greatly diminishes the value of the bird, and he is then kite-barred, as the fanciers term it. When the pinion of the wing is speckled with white, in the form of a rose, it is called a rose-pinion, and is highly esteemed, though it is a great rarity to find any one complete in this property; but when the pinion has a large dash of white on the external edge of the wing, he is said to be bishoped or lawn-sleeved. They must not be naked about the thighs, nor spindle-legged, but their legs and thighs must be stout and straight, and well covered with white soft downy feathers: but whenever it happens that the joints of the knees, or any part of the thigh, is tinged with another colour, he is foul-thighed. If the nine flight feathers of the wing are not white, he is foul-flighted; and when only the extreme feather of the wing is of the same colour with the body, he is called sword-flighted.

THE crop of the Powter ought to be filled with wind, so as to shew its full extent, with ease and freedom; for it is a very great fault, when a bird overcharges his crop with wind, and strains himself so much, that he sometimes falls backwards, because he is not able to give a quick vent to the confined air, which makes him disquiet and heavy; and many a fine bird has, by this ill habit, either fallen into the street, down a chimney, or become an easy prey to the cats. The reverse is being loose winded, so that he exhibits so small a crop, as to appear to as little advantage as an ill-shaped runt. A Powter should play erect, with a fine well spread tail, which must not touch the ground, nor sink between his legs; neither must it rest upon his rump, which is a great fault, and is called rumping. He should draw the shoulders of his wings close to his body, displaying his limbs without straddling, and walk almost upon his toes, without jumping or kicking, as is the manner of the Uploper, but moving with an easy majestic air.

THE Powter that approaches nearest all these properties is a very valuable bird; and some fancyers, by a patient
perseverance

perseverance and great expence, have bred these birds so near the standard prescribed, as to sell them for twenty guineas a pair.

THE Powter was formerly so much valued, as to monopolize the attention of the fancy in general; but since the Almond Tumblers are brought to such perfection, the Powter is now much neglected. Some fanciers declare that if Tumblers were kept in separate pens, and trained as the Powters are, they would shew in the same manner, and be equally familiar.





THE CARRIER.

THE Carrier is rather larger than most of the common-sized pigeons. When they stand upright on their legs, they shew an elegant gentility of shape far exceeding most other pigeons. From the lower part of the head, to the middle of the upper chap, there grows out a white, naked
 flesh,

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flesh, which is called the wattle, and is generally met by two small protuberances of the same luxuriant flesh, rising on each side of the under chap; this flesh is always most valued, when of a blackish colour.

THE circle round the black pupil of the eyes, is commonly of a red brickdust colour, though they are more esteemed when of a fiery red: these are also encompassed with the same sort of naked, fungous matter, which is very thin, generally of the breadth of a shilling; and the broader this spreads, the greater is the value set upon them; but when this luxuriant flesh round the eye is thick and broad, it denotes the Carrier to be a good breeder, and one that will rear very fine young ones. The gentlemen of the fancy are unanimous in their opinion, in giving this bird the title of "The King of the Pigeons," on account of its graceful appearance, and uncommon sagacity.

THIS species of the Pigeon were originally bred at Bassora, an ancient city of Persia, and from thence transmitted to Europe; they are called Carriers, from having been

been used to convey intelligence, by letters, from one city to another. It is from their extraordinary attachment to the place of their nativity, and more especially where they have trained up their young, that these birds were employed in several countries as the most expeditious Carriers. These birds are first taken from where they were bred, to the place from whence they are to return with intelligence. The letter, which should be thin paper, must be gently tied under the wing, in such manner as not to incommode the bird's flight; and it is then set at liberty to return. The winged messenger no sooner finds itself at large, than its love for its native home influences all its motions. It immediately flies up into the clouds to an almost imperceptible height, and then, with great certainty and exactness, darts itself by some unknown intuitive principle towards its native spot, which is frequently at the distance of many miles, bringing its message to the person to whom it is directed. By what visible means they discover the place, or by what compass they are conducted in the right way, is equally mysterious and unknown; but it has been proved by experiment, that they will perform a journey of forty miles, in the space

of

of one hour and a half; which is a degree of dispatch three times sooner than the swiftest four-footed animal can possibly perform. This method of sending dispatches was in great vogue in the East, and particularly at Scanderoon, till very lately; Dr. Ruffel having informed us that the practice is now discontinued. It was used there on the arrival of a ship, to give the merchants at Aleppo a more expeditious notice than could be devised by any other means.

EXTRAORDINARY attention was formerly paid to the training of these Pigeons, in order to be sent from governors in a besieged city, to generals that were coming to succour it; from princes to their subjects, with the news of some important transaction; or from love-sick swains to their Dulcineas, with expressions of their passion.

THE simple use of them was known in very early times: Anacreon informs us, that he held a correspondence with his lovely Bathyllus, by a dove. Taurosthenes, by means of a pigeon, which he caused to be decked with purple, sent the news to his father, who lived in the isle

of

of Ægina, of his victory in the Olympic Games, on the very day he had gained it. When Modena was besieged, Brutus, within the walls, kept an uninterrupted correspondence with Hirtius without, and this by the assistance of pigeons, setting, at nought every stratagem of the besieger, Anthony, to stop these winged couriers. In the times of the Crusades, there are many instances of these birds being made useful in the service of war. Tasso relates one during the siege of Jerusalem; and Joinville another, during the crusade of St. Louis.





THE JACOBINE.

THIS pigeon is usually called, for shortness, the Jack; it is a very pretty bird: but very good birds of this species are exceedingly scarce, the genuine breed being greatly degenerated by an imprudent method of intermixing them with the ruff, with a view of improving the

the chain by the length of the ruff's feathers; but by this ill-judged practice, the chain is greatly detrimented. The bird bred larger, is much flimsier in its hood and chain, with an additional length of beak; in a word, it is worsted in all its original properties; for the real Jack is one of the smallest pigeons; and the less they are, the more they are valued. It has a range of inverted feathers on the back part of its head, which turns towards the neck, like the cap or cowl of a monk; from hence this bird derives its name of Jacobine, or Capper, as some call it; the religious of that Order wearing cowls or caps, joining to their garments, for the covering of their bald pates. Therefore the upper part of this feathered colouring is called the hood; and the more compact and close this feathered ornament grows to the head of the bird, so much the more does it enhance its value among the curious. The Dutch style the lower part of this range of feathers, the cravat; but with us it is called the chain. The feathers which compose this chain should be long and thick; so that by laying hold of the bill, and giving the neck a gentle stretch, the two sides should lap over each other, as has been often experienced in some of the best birds of this species;

species; but real good ones are very scarce in this country. Though this breed has been much neglected with us, our neighbours the Dutch and French breed them to great perfection. A few summers ago, an eminent fancier and great naturalist purchased six pair of these pigeons at Rotterdam, and transmitted them to England, with a view of establishing the true original breed in his native country; but his design was unfortunately frustrated by a merciless cat, who accidentally got into the loft where they were kept, and destroyed them all, to the great regret of all those who are curious in the fancy, as they are by far the prettiest pigeon of the toy kind.

THE real Jacobine is possessed of a very small head, with a short spindle beak, and clear pearl eye; and the less these properties are, the better. As to its plumage, there are yellows, reds, mottled, blues, and blacks: though the yellow-coloured birds always claim the precedence, yet of whatever colour they prove to be, they must always have a white tail and flight, and a clean white head. The legs and feet of some of these birds are covered with

feathers,

feathers, others are naked and without any ; but this is of no signification, as each sort has its admirers.

DEALERS in pigeons, like dealers in horses, practise various arts to take in the unwary, and impose upon the credulity of the less knowing ; and they have a method of artificially raising the chain and hood of this pigeon, which they term coaxing it : this they do by clipping the feathers at the hinder part of the head and neck, and constantly stroking the chain and hood towards the head ; besides, when they find it necessary, they cut out a small piece of skin from between the chest and the throat, and immediately stitch it up again, by which means the chain becomes closer ; and such adepts are some of the dealers in this art, as to make an indifferent bird fetch a good price.





THE FAN-TAIL, OR BROAD-TAILED SHAKER.

THIS Pigeon, especially when luffful, has a frequent tremulous motion, or shaking in the neck, which, joined to the breadth of its tail when spread, gives the bird the name of Broad-tailed Shaker. This bird is possessed of a long, taper, handsome neck, which it erects in a serpentine form,

form, rather leaning towards its back, somewhat like the neck of a swan; it has a very short beak, and is exceedingly full breasted, with a tail composed of a vast number of feathers, very seldom less than four and twenty, and never exceeding six and thirty, which it spreads in a very striking manner, like the tail of a Turkey-cock, and raises it up to such a degree, that the tail appears joined to the head, in the nature of a Squirrel's; and from hence some fanciers give them the name of Fan-tails: but when it is so crowded with feathers, it occasions it frequently to droop its tail, and hinders it from throwing it up to meet its head, which is so great an imperfection in the opinion of the fancy, as never to be over-looked, be all the other properties of the bird ever so perfect; though a very large-tailed bird of this species, which carries its tail according to the rules of the fancy, is a great rarity, and of great value.

THOUGH the general colour of its plumage is entirely white, there are yellow, red, blue, and black-pieds, and some all blue; but the whites are the favourite birds, as they have by far the noblest carriage, both in their tail and head.

head. There is another kind of Broad-tailed Shakers, which differ in nothing from the above-described bird, the neck excepted, which is shorter and thicker; but the Shaker with the longest neck is by far the handsomest and most valuable bird.



BIRDS of the PIE KIND.

THIS Class of Birds, though not formed for war, delight in mischief, and are perpetually harrassing other birds, without the least apparent enmity; and includes all that noisy, restless, chattering tribe, from the Raven to the Woodpecker, which hover about our habitations, and make free with the fruits of our industry.

THOUGH they contribute the least of any Birds to the pleasures or necessities of Man, they are as remarkable for instinct, as for their capacity to receive instruction; cunning and archness are peculiar to the whole tribe. They have hoarse voices, slender bodies, and a facility of flight, which baffles the pursuit of all the Rapacious Kind. Of this Class, we select the following, as most deserving our attention.

THE



THE T O U C A N.

WHICH in size and shape resembles a Jack-daw, has a remarkable large head, to support an enormous bill, which, from the angles of the mouth to the point, extends six inches and a half in length, and upwards of two inches in breadth, in the broadest part not much thicker than

than parchment. Some naturalists have thought, but erroneously, that the Toucan had no nostrils; this mistake, in all probability, originated from their being placed in the upper part of the bill, and, consequently, nearly covered with feathers.

BETWEEN the white on the breast, and the black on the belly, are a number of red feathers, most beautifully formed in the shape of a crescent, with the horns pointing upwards. The toes are disposed in the same manner as those of the Parrot, two before and two behind.

THE Toucan is so easily tamed, that it will hatch and rear its young in houses. Its chief food is pepper, which it is said to devour like a glutton. Pozzo, who bred one of these birds, says, that it resembles a Magpie, both in voice and motion. Naturalists seem to think, that the Toucan uses its tongue to all those purposes for which other birds use their bills. This naturally accounts for the thinness of the beak, which seems only calculated as a sheath for the tongue, which is very large and strong.

THIS

THIS bird inhabits only the warm climates of South America, where it is much esteemed for the delicacy of its flesh, and beauty of plumage. The feathers of the breast are particularly admired by the Indians, who pluck them from this part of the skin, and, when dry, glue them to their cheeks, which they reckon an irrefutable addition to female beauty.

WHEN we contemplate the Bird Creation, we cannot consider without amazement, how variously Nature has formed their bills, wings, feet, and bodies, according to their different wants and peculiarities, occasioned either by situation or disposition; a more striking instance of which cannot be adduced than in the bird just described.





THE GREEN WOODPECKER.
THE GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

THIS bird is about nine inches long, sixteen inches in breadth, and two ounces three quarters in weight. The bill is of a black horn colour, and the forehead pale buff; the crown of the head is of a glossy black, and the hind part is marked with a deep rich crimfon spot; the cheeks

are

are white, bounded beneath by a black line, which passes from each corner of the mouth, and surrounds the hind part of the head; the neck is encircled with black; the throat and breast are of a yellowish white; the back, rump, coverts of the tail, and lesser coverts of the wings, are black. The webs of the black quill feathers are elegantly marked with round white spots. The four middle feathers of the tail are black; the next are tipped with dirty yellow; and the ends of the two outermost are black. The legs are of a red colour.

THE colours of the female are the same as in the male, except the crimson spot on the head.

THE GREEN WOODPECKER.

OF this bird there are many kinds and varieties, forming large colonies, in the forests of almost every part of the world. The wisdom of Providence, in the admirable formation of creatures according to their respective natures, cannot be better exemplified than in the birds of this genus.

WOODPECKERS,

WOODPECKERS, feeding entirely upon insects, and their principal action being necessarily that of climbing up and down the trunks or branches of trees, have a long slender tongue, armed with a sharp bony end, barbed on each side, which, with the assistance of a curious apparatus of muscles, they dart to a great depth into the clefts of the bark, from whence they draw out the lurking insects.

WHEN this bird discovers a rotten, hollow tree, it cries aloud, which alarms the insect colony, and puts them in confusion; by which means it is the better enabled to get at the prey. By thus destroying these insects, which are found sometimes on trees not entirely decayed, it should seem as if Nature had formed this bird for the express purpose of cleansing such trees, as they are generally observed to thrive and flourish after they have left them. They are likewise very useful in destroying ants, on which they feed, as well as on wood-worms and insects. To take ants, they adopt the following curious stratagem: they dart their red tongues into the ant-hill, which the ants, from the resemblance, supposing to be their usual

usual prey, settle upon it in myriads, which is no sooner done than they withdraw their tongues, and devour them.

THE Green Woodpecker is about thirteen inches long, twenty-one inches in breadth, and weighs six ounces and a half. The bill is hard, strong, and shaped like a wedge. Dr. Derham says it has a neat ridge running along the top, which seems as if it was designed by an artist, both for strength and beauty. The back, neck, and lesser coverts of the wings, are green, and the rump is of a pale yellow.

To these may be added, the Lesser Spotted, and Guinea Woodpeckers.





THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

ACCORDING to some naturalists, there are nine different sorts of this bird; but Mr. Edwards describes only the three following; viz. The Greater Bird of Paradise, the King of the Birds of Paradise, and the Golden Bird of Paradise.

THE Bird of Paradise, as described by Moregrave, is about the size of a Swallow. The feathers about the beak are as soft as silk, green and brown above, and black below: the upper part of the neck is of a gold colour; but lower down, it is gold, mixed with green: the long feathers on the sides, near the rife, are of a gold colour, and the other parts are of a whitish yellow.

THE King of the Birds of Paradise, mentioned by Clufius, is the least of the species.

THE Golden Bird of Paradise has a gold-coloured neck and beak; the feet and toes are yellow; breast and back, pale orange colour; and the large feathers on the wings and tail, are of a deep orange colour.

THE idea that these birds have no feet, is proved to be an error by Mr. Ray, who says, their feet are neither small nor weak, but large and long, armed with crooked talons, like birds of prey.

THE great beauty and variety displayed in every part of the Creation, continually affords, to the contemplative mind,

mind, fresh instances of the power, wisdom, and goodness, of the Divine and Almighty Architect.

THE Bird of Paradise, which is a native of the Molucca Islands, exceeds every other bird of the Pie Kind in beauty; a proof, that those groves which produce the richest spices, produce also the finest birds. The inhabitants, sensible of the superiority of these birds, call them, by way of pre-eminence, God's Birds.

THEY migrate with their King (which is superior both in size and plumage) about August, when the stormy season begins, and return when it is over.

THERE are two other Birds of Paradise; one of which is found in the island of Ceylon, but has never yet been described; the other is called the Pied Bird of Paradise, has a blackish bill, like a Duck, and a tail nearly as long as a Magpie.



THE CUCKOO.

THE note of this bird is known to all the world; but its history and nature remain yet undiscovered. Some naturalists have asserted, that it devours its parent, changing its nature with the season, when it becomes a Sparrow-hawk. But these fables are now sufficiently refuted. It however still remains a secret where it resides, and how it subsists in winter.

THE

THE claws and bill of the Cuckoo are much weaker than those of other rapacious birds. It is distinguished from all others, by its note, and the round prominent nostrils on the surface of the bill. The head, the upper part of the body, and the wings, are beautifully striped with tawny colour and transparent black; the legs are very short, clothed with feathers down to the feet; and it has a large mouth, the inside of which is yellowish.

THIS bird is the harbinger of spring, at which time it returns, to glad the husbandman with its wonted note, as a signal that Nature now resumes her vernal beauties. The note, which is a call to Love, is used only by the male, and continues no longer than the pairing season.

THE young are generally nursed by a Water-Wagtail or Hedge Sparrow, their parents always unnaturally deserting them.

THE note of the Cuckoo is pleasant, though uniform; and owes its power of pleasing to that association of ideas which frequently renders things agreeable, that would

otherwise not be so in themselves. Were we to hear the Cuckoo on the approach of winter, we should think it a most lamentable noise; but, hearing it as we do, at the approach of spring, we cannot avoid thinking it the most agreeable, from its being attached to all those enjoyments with which we know Nature is then teeming for our accommodation.

It is about fourteen inches in length, twenty-five in breadth, and weighs five ounces, little more or less.



BIRDS

BIRDS of the SPARROW KIND.

DESCENDING from the larger to the smaller kinds, we come to this Class of Birds, which live chiefly in the neighbourhood of Man, whom they seem to consider as their best friend, filling his groves and fields with harmony, that elevates his heart to share their raptures. All other Birds are either mute or screaming; and it is only this diminutive tribe that have voices equal to their beauty. Great Birds seem to dread the vicinity of Man, while these alone remain in the neighbourhood of cultivation, warbling in hedge-rows, or mixing with the poultry, in the farm-yard.

THEY are remarkably brave; often fighting until one of them yields up its life with the victory. When young, they are fed upon worms and insects; but, when grown up, they feed principally upon grain. As they devour great swarms of pernicious vermin, which destroy the root

before the vegetable is grown, they are particularly useful to the farmer and gardener.

THE best vocal performers of this musical tribe, are, the Nightingale, Thrush, Blackbird, Lark, Redbreast, Blackcap, Wren, Canary-bird, Linnet, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Brambling, Yellow-hammer, and Fiskin.

THIS Class being too extensive to be fully described in so small a volume, we shall select only a few of the most curious. But, in order to compensate for our brevity in this place, we shall annex, at the end of the volume, a particular account of the treatment and food, proper for the different Song-birds peculiar to this island, which, we doubt not, will be a very useful reference to those who delight in keeping these entertaining little warblers.



THE LARGE-CRESTED HUMMING-BIRD.

THE Humming Bird is the smallest of all birds. There are several kinds, from nearly the size of a Wren to the size of a Humble Bee.

THEY only live in warm countries, in the East-Indies and in America (where flowers are constantly growing); their colours are more beautiful than can well be imagined,

and very brilliant or shining; many seem spangled with gold and precious stones, and some have little crests on their heads.

As soon as the sun rises the Humming Birds of different kinds flutter about the flowers, without fixing upon them; their wings move very quickly, and are constantly in motion.

THEY fly like butterflies from flower to flower, and with their little tongues (which are like a tube or pipe, and forked at the end) they suck the honey, which is what they live upon.

THEIR nests are very curious. They generally hang from the end of a branch of an orange or of a citron tree. The hen bird is busy in building it, whilst the cock goes to fetch cotton, and moss, and the finest grass. It is about as large as half an apricot, and warmly lined with cotton; the outside is a bark of gum-trees glued together. They lay two little eggs about the size of peas, and the cock and hen sit by turns; but the hen only leaves the eggs a little while in the morning, to get some honey when the dew

dew is on the flowers. The little ones are hatched in twelve days, and at first are no larger than a great blue fly.

THERE was a gentleman in America who found a nest of little Humming Birds (or Colibris) in a shed, near his house: he put them into a cage, and placed it in his chamber window. The old birds came to feed them every hour in the day; and they soon became so tame, as to live from choice almost constantly in the room with their young ones.

THEY frequently came and settled upon his hand, and he fed them with wine and biscuit and sugar. They flew into and out of the chamber when they wished; but they were always attentive to the gentleman's voice, and came whenever he called them.

ONE night, unfortunately, he forgot to hang up their cage, and the rats came and devoured them. It was a great pity that the gentleman should be so careless. It is very thoughtless to catch birds, and to imprison them in a little

little cage, and to prevent them from flying about as they like in the open air, and from hopping about from bough to bough, and from singing to one another, and from enjoying themselves: but to put them first into so small a prison as a little cage, where they have no room to fly, and can only get what we give them, and cannot escape from cats or rats, that would hurt them, and then to neglect them, is very cruel indeed.

THE Indians frequently dry Humming Birds, and wear them as ornaments. The Peruvians make curious pictures of their feathers.

THE Humming Birds have great courage; they will frequently attack birds twenty times as large as themselves, and letting themselves be carried along by them as they fly, still continue to peck them.

THERE are two kinds of birds that are called Humming Birds; but they differ in this: the beak of the real Humming Bird is straight; that of the Colibri, or the second kind, a little crooked; and its body more taper.

THE



T H E H O P P O E .

THIS very handsome feathered visitant, according to the ingenious Mr. Walcot, in his Synopsis, just published in quarto, answers the following very curious and interesting description.

THE Hoppoe can raise or let fall his crest when he chooses; it begins at the base of his beak, and goes to the
back

back part of his head. The feathers in the crest are in a double row, and they are black and yellow.

IN the middle of the tail is a white spot, like a new moon. The wings and tail are black, with bars of white. It lives on insects, such as ants, and beetles, and caterpillars. It is found in many parts of Europe, and sometimes in England: when it is frightened, it raises its crest.

THE back is spotted with black and white; the legs are short; the outer toe is fixed to the middle toe in part.

THE natural situation of the crest is to fall down backwards.

A HOPPOE that had been caught some time, was very fond of the woman who took care of it; he seemed never happy but when he was with her only. If any strangers came, he was afraid, and raised his crest. Though the windows of the house were often left open, he did not wish to make his escape. One day, however, being
affrighted

affrighted by something new, he flew away; he did not go far; but not being able to find his way back, he went into the window of a convent which was left open, and there he died, because they did not know what was his proper food. Hoppoes may be fed with raw meat, and eggs, and worms.

Its common food is, those insects which are found on the ground; or fly very low, as beetles, ants, worms, dragon-flies, wild bees, and caterpillars. He is generally found in marshy places, where there are many insects. When the waters of the Nile, after overflowing, are returning within their banks, they leave great quantities of mud behind. When the sun warms this mud, it swarms with insects; the Hoppoes then are found on its banks. They feed upon the insects, and follow the waters as they retire.

At Grand Cairo (which is the capital of Egypt) there are many Hoppoes. They build their nests on the tops or terraces of the houses,

IN Egypt they live together in little companies. In most other countries they go only in pairs. In Europe they are only birds of passage, and do not stay all winter.

LIKE Woodpeckers, they lay their eggs in the holes of trees. Their nests are extremely dirty; for the little birds being sunk down so low in the tree, they cannot throw out the dirt.

A HOPPOE that was given to a lady seemed very fond of hearing music, and, whenever she played, would place itself on or near her harpsicord.

THE Egyptians say, that the young Hoppoes are very fond of their parents; that they warm them when they are old under their wings, and, when they are moulting, help them to pull off their feathers.

IN this perhaps the Egyptians may be mistaken; but if it be true, they set us a good example; for we ought to be grateful to our parents, who have been so careful of us.



T H E K I N G F I S H E R .

THIS beautiful bird, which inhabits almost every country, may be said to vie, in elegance of plumage, with the Parrot, the Peacock, or even the splendid shadings of the Humming Bird. It is larger than the Swallow; most'y frequents the banks of rivers, and makes its nest at the root of some decayed tree, which it lines with the down of the willow. They lay from five to nine white eggs
before

before they sit, and hatch twice a year. In this bird we have an instance of parental and conjugal affection, which might shame many of the human race: as a proof of which, that ingenious author, Reaumur, says, that he had a female of this species brought to his house, upwards of three leagues from her nest. - After having admired her beautiful colours, he let her fly again, when the fond creature was observed instantly to return to the nest where she had just before been made a captive; when joining her mate, she began again to lay, though it was the third time, and the season very far advanced. She had seven eggs each time. The fidelity of the male exceeds even that of the Turtle. While the hen is sitting, and during the helpless state of her callous brood, he supplies her with fish, which he takes with the greatest expertness, and in large quantities; insomuch, that at this season, contrary to most other birds, she is fat, and in fine feather.

SEVERAL writers have confounded the Halcyon with the King Fisher. The Halcyon, it is said, breeds in May, in the banks of streams, near the sea; after the first hatch is reared, it returns to lay again in the same nest. Pliny
and

and Aristotle say, that the Halcyon is common in the seas of Sicily; that it sits only a few days, in the depth of winter, in a nest that swims on the sea; during which time, it is said, the mariner may sail with the greatest safety. But another author, with more probability, says, that the little Halcyon bird is found on the shores and rocks up the Mediterranean, near Sicily; that, at the latter end of summer, she builds a nest, with fish bones and sea weeds, so curious and impregnable, as to swim and hatch her young on the sea, which at that time is particularly calm and serene. This has given rise to a proverbial saying, when we allude to any particular period of our lives, wherein we have experienced uninterrupted happiness, which are called *Halcyon Days*.

THERE are many kinds of this Bird, which live in several parts of Europe, and in Bengal, on the banks of the river Ganges, and in Persia.

THERE are some kinds of King-Fishers in Egypt, and some at Surinam, and other parts of America.

HE balances himself upon his wings above the water at a certain distance ; and as soon as he sees a little fish swimming near the top, he darts instantly upon it, and brings it up in his feet.

HE balances himself upon his wings above the water at a certain distance ; and as soon as he sees a little fish swimming near the top, he darts instantly upon it, and brings it up in his feet.

THOUGH the King-Fisher be a very pretty bird, his nest is dirty ; for as he feeds upon fish, we find in it a great quantity of bones, and of scales, which makes it smell very disagreeably.

THE King-Fisher has a very large stomach, like other birds of prey ; and, like them, he throws up, in little round pellets, those parts of his food which he cannot digest, such as the scales of the fish, &c.

IT is very strange that a bird, whose wings are so small in proportion, should fly so swiftly : if a fish chance to
fall

fall out of his beak, from the branch upon which he is perched, he will sometimes catch it before it reaches the water.

HE darts down so rapidly, that his fall has been compared to the fall of lead.

IN warmer climates there are many species of the King-Fisher; here we have but one: yet he can bear the cold very well; for in the winter, he is seen sometimes to plunge under the ice after his prey; notwithstanding which, they perish in the winter.



BIRDS of the CRANE KIND.

THIS Class is inferior to every other in building their nests, being less curious than those of the Sparrow Kind; the method they use to obtain their food, is also less ingenious than those of the Falcon Kind: the Pie Kind excel them in cunning; while the Poultry Kind are more prolific. None of this kind being, therefore, protected by Man, they lead a precarious life in fens and marshes, where they feed upon fish and insects; for which purpose Nature has provided them with long necks, to enable them to dive for their prey, and long legs, to keep their bodies dry and clean.

Those only which feed on insects are eatable.



T H E S T O R K.

THIS bird is similar to the Crane, but more remarkable, both in figure and disposition. The feathers are white and brown; and the nails are flat, like those of a Man. It makes no other noise, but that of clacking its under bill against the upper. Contrary to the general disposition of Nature, it has as much, if not more, filial affection towards its parents, than paternal affection for its

its offspring ; for, when the old ones are so far advanced in years, as to be incapable of providing for themselves, the young ones will serve them with food in the hour of necessity, cover and cherish them with their wings, and even carry them on their backs to a great distance. What an example is this of filial piety ! Who can observe this affectionate bird, feeding and defending its aged and helpless parent, till Death relieves them from their anxiety, without exclaiming, *O ye children, imitate this amiable example ; let not a simple bird upbraid and condemn you ; but, on the contrary, let it recall to your mind the anxious days and sleepless nights they have endured, in nursing, protecting, and promoting your welfare ; and you will not fail to imitate the Stork, in soothing their decline of life, with the lenients of your love, care, obedience, and gratitude.*

THE offspring both of the human and the animal race, come into the world feeble and helpless ; and if the parental affection were not exceedingly forcible, they must perish in their weak and forlorn condition ; and the creation would thus speedily be brought to an end. There is not the same reason for the return of affection in the offspring, and

and therefore we rarely find it in the animal world: soon as the young is able to provide for itself, a mutual forgetfulness generally ensues, and the parent grows as regardless of its offspring as the offspring of its parent.

THE Stork is a bird of passage, and is spoken of as such in Scripture: See Jerem. viii. 7. "The Stork knoweth her appointed time," &c. Some say, that when they go away, the Stork which comes last to the place of rendezvous, is killed on the spot. They go away in the night to the southern countries.

THE Stork has a very long beak, and long red legs. It feeds upon serpents, frogs, and insects: as it seeks for these in watery places, nature has provided it with long legs; and as it flies away, as well as the Crane and Heron, to its nest with its prey; therefore the bill is strong and jagged, the sharp hooks of which enable it to detain its prey, which it might otherwise be difficult to hold. The Abbé La Pluche says, "A friend of mine, who has an estate at Abbeville, bounded by a river plentifully stored with eels, saw a Heron one day carry off one of
the

the largest of those creatures into his hernery, in spite of the efforts and undulations of the eel to oppose his flight." Thus we see the wise Provider has not given those creatures such bills for nought: the Storks dig with theirs into the earth for serpents and adders, which, however large, they convey to their young, to whom the poison of those animals is perfectly inoffensive. The plumage of the Stork would be quite white, if it was not that the extremity of its wings are black, and also some small part of its head and thighs. It lays but four eggs, and sits for the space of thirty days.

THE Dutch are very solicitous for the preservation of the Stork in every part of their republic. This bird seems to have taken refuge among their towns; and builds on the tops of their houses without any molestation. There it is seen resting familiarly in their streets, and protected as well by the laws as by the affections of the people.



T H E H E R O N .

THIS bird may be distinguished from the Crane and Stork, by its smaller size; by the bill, which is much longer in proportion; and also by the middle claw of each foot, which are toothed like a saw, to enable it to seize, and more securely hold, its slippery prey.

BRISON

BRISON has enumerated no less than forty-seven sorts of this tribe, all differing in figure, size, and plumage; but they all seem possessed of the same manners, and have one general character of cowardice, rapacity and indolence, yet insatiable hunger. Other birds grow fat by an abundant supply of food; but these, though excessively voracious and destructive, are ever found to be lean and hungry.

IN proportion to its bulk, the common Heron is remarkably light, and seldom exceeds three pounds and an half in weight; though its length is three feet, and its breadth upwards of five feet. Its body is very small, and its skin remarkably thin: the bill is five inches long, from the point to the base: but, notwithstanding it is thus formidably armed, it is so cowardly as to fly at the approach of a sparrow-hawk. It must be capable of enduring a long abstinence, as its food, which is fish and frogs, cannot be readily procured at all times. It however commits great devastation in our ponds; for, though nature has not furnished it with webs to swim, she has given it very long legs to wade after its prey. The smaller fry are his chief subsistence; and as these are pursued by their larger fellows

lows of the deep, they are obliged to take refuge in shallow waters, where they find the Heron a still more formidable enemy.

THE Heron wades as far as he can go into the water, where he impatiently waits the approach of his prey; which he darts upon with unerring aim, as soon as it appears in sight. In this manner he is said to destroy more in one week, than an otter in three months. And Mr. Willoughby assures us it sometimes seizes fish of a tolerable size: "I have an Heron, says he, that had been shot, that had seventeen carps in his belly at once, which he will digest in six or seven hours, and then to fishing again. I have seen a carp taken out of a heron's belly, nine inches and an half long. Several gentlemen who kept tame herons, to try what quantity one of them would eat in a day, have put several smaller roach and dace in a tub, and they have found him eat fifty in a day, one day with another. In this manner a single heron will destroy fifteen thousand carp in a single half year."

THOUGH

THOUGH the Heron lives chiefly among pools and marshes, it builds on the tops of the highest trees, and sometimes on cliffs hanging over the sea. The nest is composed of sticks, lined with wool; and the female lays four large eggs of a pale green colour. Such, however, is the indolence of the nature of this bird, that it never takes the trouble of building a nest for itself, if it can procure one deserted by the Owl or Crow. Indeed it usually enlarges it, and lines it withinside; and, if the original possessor happens to renew his claim, the usurper treats him very roughly, and drives him away for his impertinence.

THE Heron was formerly much esteemed as food, and made a favourite dish at the table of the great; but now it is thought detestable eating. It is said to be very long-lived; and Mr. Keyser's account says sixty years is no very uncommon age.



THE EGRET, OR GREAT WHITE HERON.

THE length of this bird, from the bill to the claws, is four feet and a half, and to the end of the tail, three feet and a quarter; and the weight about two pounds and a half. It is entirely white, which distinguishes it from the common Heron, which is rather larger; has a longer tail, and no crest; and is seldom seen in England.

THE Lesser White Heron only differs in size, and by having a crest.

THE Little White Heron, according to Catesby, has a crooked red bill, with a yellow iris on the eyes, a white body, and green feet.

To the above may also be added, the Yellow and Green Heron, found near Marfeilles; the bill of which is black above, yellow below, and about three inches long; the iris, as well as that part of the neck next the chin, are white; but the rest of the neck, top of the head, the breast, and belly, are variegated with brown lines; the feathers on the back are black; the wings are yellowish, spotted with black; and the tail is stuck with feathers greatly resembling hair. The thighs are of an ash colour; and the feet are black, with yellow claws.

THE CRESTED HERON.

THE bill of this elegant species is about six inches long, very strong, and sharp-pointed; the colour dusky above, and yellow beneath: the space round the eyes,
between

between them and the bill, are covered with a bare greenish skin: the forehead and crown of the head are white; the hind-part being adorned with a beautiful pendant crest of black feathers. The hind-part of the neck, and the coverts of the wings, are grey: the back is clad with down, and covered with the scapular feathers: the fore-part of the neck is white, elegantly spotted with a double row of black. The feathers, which are low and narrow, fall loose over the breast; the scapulars are grey, streaked with white. The ridge of the wing, and the breast, belly, and thighs, are white; the latter dashed with yellow. The tail, which consists of twelve feathers, is ash-coloured; and the legs are of a dirty green.





THE BITTERN.

THIS bird principally differs from the Heron in its colour, which is usually of a palish yellow, spotted and barred with black. It has two kinds of notes; the one croaking, when it is disturbed; the other bellowing, which it commences in the spring, and ends in autumn. The latter is indeed like the roaring of a bull, but hollower and louder, and is heard at the distance of a mile.

FROM

From the loudness and solemnity of this note, many have imagined that the bird made use of external instruments to produce it, and that so small a body could never eject such a quantity of note. The common people are of opinion that it thrusts its bill into a reed; which, like a pipe, assists in swelling the note above its natural pitch. Thompson the poet, and many others, suppose the Bittern puts its head under water, and then violently blowing, produces that noise. The fact is, its windpipe is fitted to produce the sound for which it is remarkable; the lower part of it dividing into the lungs, is supplied with a thin loose membrane, which can be filled with a large body of air, and exploded at pleasure. It is certain that the Bittern is frequently heard where there are neither reeds nor waters to assist its sonorous invitations.

THIS is a very retired bird, concealing itself in the midst of reeds and rushes in marshy places. Though it is of the Heron kind, it is neither so destructive nor so voracious; and though it so nearly resembles the Heron in figure, it differs from it greatly in its manners and its appetites. The food of the Bittern is chiefly frogs: it

builds its nest with the leaves of water-plants, and lays six or seven eggs of an ash-green colour. The Heron feeds its young for several days; the Bittern conducts its little ones to their food in about three days. The flesh of the Bittern has much the same flavour as that of the hare, and is free from the fishiness of that of the heron: it is therefore eagerly sought after by the fowler; and as it is with difficulty provoked to flight, and has a dull and flagging pace when on the wing, it does not often escape him. Towards the end of autumn, however, it seems to have shook off its wonted indolence, and is seen rising in a spiral ascent till it is quite lost from the view, making at the same time a very singular noise. Thus it often happens that the same animal assumes different desires at different times; and though the Bittern has acquired the name of the Star-reaching bird among the Latins, the Greeks have thought it merited the epithet of lazy.

THIS bird is called the Mire-drum in the north of England.

THE Little Bittern of Brasil is smaller than the common pigeon, but the length of its neck is about seven inches.

inches. The skin at the base of the bill is yellowish. The upper part of the head is of the colour of steel, interspersed with palish brown feathers. The neck, breast, and belly, are whitish; but the back is a mixture of black and brown. The long feathers of the wings are greenish, with a white spot at the extremity of each. The other parts are beautifully variegated with black, brown, and ash-colour; and the feet are of a blossom-colour. The bill is long, straight, and black at the point; the iris of the eyes is of a gold-colour; and the tail does not extend beyond the wings.





THE SPOON-BILL, OR SHOVELLER.

WHO can behold this strange and singular bird, without adoring the wisdom of the Great Creator of the Universe! The bill of this bird alone, is a convincing proof of the great care of Providence to preserve his creatures. This bill is about eight inches long, and of equal breadth and flatness from one end to the other; but, contrary to that of all other birds, instead of being widest at the base, and

and narrowest at the point, it is exactly the reverse, swelling into a broad rounded end, like the bowl of a spoon, from which it derives its name. It is, however, not hollow, like a spoon; but, whether closed or open, it has a very singular appearance.

THIS bird is as white as snow, and, from its cleanliness, looks wonderfully pretty. It is common in Europe, and frequents the waters.

THE bill is most peculiarly formed for the necessities of this bird; as feeding principally on frogs, which, by their cunning and activity, avoid the birds with pointed bills, the Spoon-bill, by being notched and toothed all round, is better adapted, not only to take these animals, but also to prevent their escape after they are caught.

WHEN it stands erect, the Spoon-bill is about a yard in height; the body is small; but it is the length of the legs and neck which give it this stature.

THE Spoon-bill of America is of a beautiful rose-colour, or a delightful crimfon. Beauty of plumage seems to be the prerogative of all the birds of that continent.

A BIRD so oddly fashioned as the Spoon-bill, might be expected to possess some very peculiar appetites; but it seems to lead a life entirely resembling all those of the Crane kind. In Europe it breeds in high trees, in company with the Heron, and in a nest formed of the same materials: it lays four or five eggs, which are white, powdered with a few pale spots.





THE FLAMINGO.

THIS bird is another instance of the care of the Creator, in providing for every creature according to their respective necessities. Thus we see the Flamingo, which lives about the shallow shores of the sea, and the mouths of rivers, provided with a most uncommon length of neck and legs; the latter of which are so long, that, when walking in the water, it appears as if swimming;

and the head, which is almost constantly under water, in search of food, makes the bird seem no larger than a Goose, the body being then only perceptible. But how great is the astonishment of the spectator, when, on coming out of the water, it presents itself, in height of legs and neck, like an Ostrich! Its height is not only superior to that of any other bird, but its beauty is scarcely to be equalled. The body is snow-white; the wings are of so bright a scarlet, as to dazzle the sight; and the long feathers are of the deepest black: the beak is blue, except at the tip, which is black, and so singular in shape, as to appear broken: the legs and thighs, which are not much thicker than a man's finger, are about two feet eight inches in length; and the neck nearly three feet more; the toes are webbed, like those of the Duck, which enables it to swim for the preservation of its life, which would be otherwise sometimes in danger, by the sudden rise of wind and water, while standing to a great depth, in search of prey, by carrying it out to sea, where it might perish for want of subsistence.

A DISH of Flamingos' tongues, Dampier says, is a feast for an Emperor.

FLAMINGOS always go in flocks, and are formed in vast numbers in Canada. Their nests are formed of mud, resembling very much our chimney pots. When the female lays her eggs, she sits astride the nest, with her legs hanging in the water.

“THOSE who admire,” says a learned writer, “the wonderful means by which the God of Nature has contrived, that those animals, which He has endued with a lesser principle than reason, should provide themselves with food, and secure their existence, during a life in which they are liable to innumerable accidents, would add a great deal to the measure of their surprise, did they comprehend the variety of those means.”



THE AVOSETTA, OR SCOOPER.

THE Avosetta is distinguished from all other birds, by the bill, which turns up instead of down, being about three inches and a half in length, compressed very thin, and of a flexible substance, resembling whalebone. The tongue is short; the head, and greatest part of the body, is black: the tail consists of twelve white feathers; the legs are very long, of a fine blue, and featherless higher than

than the knee; the webs are dusky, and very deeply indented.

NATURE has so peculiarly formed the bill of this bird, to enable it to scoop out of the sand the worms and insects, on which it feeds. It lays but two eggs, which are about the size of those of the Pigeon, of a white colour, tinged with green, and spotted with black.

THESE birds are frequently seen, in the winter, on the eastern shores of the kingdom; in Gloucestershire, at the mouth of the Severn; and sometimes on the lakes of Shropshire. They have a lively chirping note, and very frequently wade in the waters.





THE CURLEW.

THIS bird is, in length, from the top of the bill to the end of the claws, twenty-nine inches; and the breadth, between the extreme points of the wings, when extended, is three feet four inches: the bill, which is nearly six inches long, is narrow, a little crooked, and of a dark brown colour; the legs are long, bare, and of a dusky blue,

blue, with a thick membrane meeting at the first joint, and marked with irregular brown spots.

THIS bird is of a greyish colour, and the flesh very rank and fishy, notwithstanding the English proverb in its favour. They frequent our coasts in large flocks, in the winter time, walking on the sands, in search of their prey, which consists of crabs, and other marine insects. In the summer, they retire to the mountainous parts of the country, where they pair and breed.

THE Lesser Curlew, called also the Wimbrel, greatly resembles this bird; the chief difference being in the size, this weighing only twelve ounces, whereas the other weighs twenty-seven ounces.



Of WATER FOWL in general.

THE principal distinction between Land and Water Fowl, is, that the toes of the latter are webbed for swimming. Those who observe the feet or toes of a Duck, will easily conceive how admirably they are formed to move in that watery element, to which they are mostly destined. What Man performs by art, when he closes his fingers in swimming, the Water Fowl is supplied by Nature to perform. The toes are so contrived, that, as they strike backward, the broadest hollow surface beats the water ; but, as they draw them in again, their front surface contracts, so as not to impede their progressive motion.

THE legs of the Water Fowl are generally very short, which causes them to walk with much difficulty ; they, therefore, seldom breed far from the sides of waters, where they usually resort.

THOSE

THOSE of this Class, which have long legs, are ranked among the Crane Kind; such as the Flamingo, Avocetta, &c. which, although their feet are webbed for swimming, they seldom make use of for that purpose; a proof that their webbed feet are given them for the purpose of preventing their sinking in the muddy shores, which they frequent in search of their prey.

WE shall select a few of those most worthy the notice of our readers, taking the Pelican as the first subject of description.





T H E P E L I C A N .

TRAVELLERS, and those who are fond of the marvellous, have related strange things of this bird, which have been credulously received by others, and drawn into example; especially the tales they have told respecting the bird's remarkable regard for its young. Separate from fable, there is sufficient in the Pelican to attract our most serious notice, and to claim our best reflections.

T H E

THE beak of the Pelican is peculiar and uncommon, as we shall soon shew: for the rest, it is in almost all respects like a swan; the body is as large, the neck is nearly as long; the legs are as short as in that bird, and the feet are black, very broad, and webbed in the same manner. The bird is also throughout of a whitish colour, though not of the pure white of the swan, except that the tips of some of the feathers near the beak and wings are black. The bird is so bulky and unwieldy, that it is fit only for the waters, though its feet being not placed so backward as in the swan, and some others, it walks better. Its note is very loud and strange for a bird: its voice, say some, resembles the braying of an ass; while others rejoin, that there requires some fancy to make out the resemblance. Bochart remarks, that as the Psalmist in Psal. cii. 6. compares himself to two birds, with respect to his moaning and lamentation, there must be something querulous and lamentable in the notes of these birds: and the Pelican, adds this great man, is a bird of horrid voice, which very much resembles the lamentation of a man grievously complaining. “By reason of the voice of
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my groaning—my bones, &c. I am like a Pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.”

THE beak of the Pelican is very large and long: it is above a foot in length, and of the thickness of a child's arm at the bottom: the colour is bluish and yellowish, and the point is very sharp. The upper chap of it is formed as in all other birds; but the lower is unlike every thing in nature: it is not composed of one solid piece, as in all other birds; but is made of two long and flat ribs, with a tough membrane connected to one and to the other; this is also extended to the throat, and is not tight, but very broad and loose, so that it can contain a vast quantity of any kind of provision.

THIS bird frequents the waters both fresh and salt, and feeds voraciously on fishes and water insects: but though it frequents those places, its favourite residence is in remote uncultivated forests and wildernesses, where it can remain quite undisturbed: its wings are long, and it easily flies backward and forward. In these places it builds, and there it breeds up its young; so that the Pelican of the wilderness.

wilderness or desert, is no improper phrase: though some small dabblers in natural knowledge have thought so, and on that account objected to the sacred Scriptures. Now the Pelican is to carry food for a numerous brood, as ravenous as herself, to these remote places: and this vast bag which nature hath given her at the throat, is the contrivance for the carrying of it. Who can refuse to see in this the wisdom and goodness of the all-wise Creator! In this bag she stores what she has caught, and flying away to the distant place of her residence, this anxious and laborious parent feeds her young from that repository. If some person in early time, quite unacquainted with the history of the bird, saw her alight in the midst of a desert, among a brood of ravenous young ones, and feed them from this bag, it would not be unnatural for him to suppose, however strange the thing must be in itself, that it was with her own blood she fed them. Thus arose, from a mistake, the story of this wonder, which faithful ignorance has propagated through so many ages, and which moralists and poets have from the earliest times drawn into an emblem of paternal affection. Though certainly, without any reference to things false and marvellous,

vellous, there is sufficient instruction for parents, from the labour, diligence, and amazing storge which God hath planted in this Pelican of the wildernews!

In the year 1745, there was a Pelican shewn in London, brought by Captain Pelly from the Cape of Good Hope, where they are larger than any where else; and of which I find the following account in Edwards's History of Birds. "From the point of the bill to the angle of the mouth is twenty inches of our English measure, which is six inches more than any natural historian has found it: the Academy of Paris having measured one which was about fourteen inches, Paris measure, I suppose; and our countryman Willoughby measured one, brought from Russia, which he makes fourteen inches English. I thought it something incredible in Willoughby's description, that a man should put his head into the pouch under the bill, till I saw it performed in this bird by its keeper, and I am sure a second man's head might have been put in with it at the same time." He also observes, that the skin round the eye is bare of feathers, and the pouch, when dry, appears of the consistence and colour of a blown dry ox's bladder,

bladder, having fibres running its whole length, and blood-vessels crossing them, and proceeding from the sides of the lower part of the bill, which opens into this pouch its whole length. Some writers say, it lives to sixty or seventy years, and inhabits the greatest part of the old world, being found in many climates both north and south, as well as the intermediate latitudes.

FATHER Morolla, in his voyage to Congo, informs us, that in his journey to Singa, he observed certain large white birds, with long beaks, necks and feet, which, whenever they heard the least sound of an instrument, began immediately to dance and leap about the rivers, where they always reside, and of which they are great lovers: this, he said, he took a great pleasure to contemplate, and continued often upon the banks of the rivers to observe.

LET the atheist then, who doubts or disbelieves the being of God, or the creation of this world by omnipotent wisdom, let him only turn his eyes upon this extraordinary bird, and ask his own heart, whether he can really

really believe such a creature the work of chance! Let the parent contemplate the Pelican, and, from its admirable regard to its young, and the surprising provision made by Providence for their support, learn the power and the excellence of parental storge; and blush to be exceeded by an irrational creature! And from the view, let the Christian learn dependence upon his God, who, having so wisely and wonderfully provided for the nourishment and preservation of the animal world, will undoubtedly take due care of their temporal as well as eternal welfare, who with the humility, cheerfulness, love, and submission of children, submit themselves to the will of their Father and God.

THE flesh of this bird however smells very rancid, and tastes worse than it smells. The native Americans kill vast numbers: not to eat, for they are not even fit for the banquet of a savage; but to convert their large bags into purses and tobacco-pouches. They also dress the skin with salt and ashes, rubbing it well with oil, and then forming it to their purpose. It thus becomes so soft and pliant, that the Spanish women sometimes adorn it with gold, and convert it into workbags.

THE



T H E F U L M A R.

THIS bird is found in the island of St. Kilda, where it supplies the inhabitants with oil for their lamps, down for their beds, a balsam for their wounds, a delicacy for their tables, and a medicine for their diseases. It likewise denotes a change of wind.

T H I S

THIS bird is larger than the common Gull; the bill is very strong, yellow, and hooked at the end. Instead of a black toe, it has a kind of straight span. It feeds on the blubber of fat Whales, and on forrel. It will leap and prey on a newly caught Whale, even while alive; and is so voracious, as to eat until it is obliged, through repletion, to disgorge its food.

WHALES are frequently discovered by means of these birds, which collect together in vast numbers, and follow them, in hopes of prey, as Sharks follow ships that have disease on board, with the same expectation. The blubber on which they feed is what furnishes them with the oil above mentioned. They seem, therefore, as if created for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of that part of the globe with a commodity so essential to light them in those regions, which could not otherwise be cheered from the wintry gloom.

THE WATER-RAIL.

THE body of this bird is long and slender, with short concave wings. It is less fond of flying than running; which it does very swiftly along the edges of brooks covered with bushes; and, as it runs, frequently flirts up its tail: in flying it hangs down its legs.

Its weight is four ounces and a half. The length of this bird to the end of the tail is twelve inches; the breadth sixteen inches, and the weight four ounces. The bill is slender, slightly incurvated, and one inch three quarters in length; the upper chap is black, edged with red; the lower, orange-coloured; and the irides red: the head, the hind-part of the neck, the back, and coverts of the wings and tail, are black, edged with an olive-brown; the base of the wing is white; the throat, breast, and belly, are ash-coloured; the sides under the wings are finely varied with black and white bars. The tail, which is very short, consists of twelve black feathers; and the ends of the two middle ones are tipped with rust-colour. The legs are of a dusky flesh-colour, placed far behind. The toes are very long.

THE



THE GULL AND PETREL.

OF these birds, the larger sort are most shy, and live at the greatest distance, while the smaller sort reside wherever they can take their prey. They are principally distinguished by an angular knob on the lower chap of the bill, which the Petrels have not. The Sea Swallow, which is also of this species, has a straight, slender, sharp-pointed bill. In their abodes and appetites, however, they

they all agree, hovering over rivers, and preying on the smaller fish, as well as following the ploughman into the fallow fields, to pick up insects. When they can find no other subsistence, they will feed on carrion. They are to be found in the greatest abundance on our boldest rocky shores, where they find a retreat for their young, in the cavities with which those rocks abound. Like all birds of the Rapacious Kind, the Gull lays but few eggs. It builds its nest, of long grass and sea weeds, on the ledges of rocks. The flesh of this species of birds, is black and stringy, and generally of a fishy taste; but that of the Gull is something better. Of these, the poor inhabitants make their scanty and wretched meals. Strangers to almost any other food, salted Gull proves to them the greatest dainty. Thus we perceive, that necessity can even create a comfort, by giving a relish to the coarsest diet.





THE TAME DUCK.

THIS is the most easily reared of all our domestic birds, the very instinct of the young leading them directly to their favourite element; nay, even when hatched by a Hen, which sometimes happens, they seek the water, contrary to every admonition of the foster-parent.

OF

OF the Tame Duck, there are no less than ten different varieties; but Brisson reckons upwards of twenty sorts of the Wild Duck. The common species of Tame Duck take their origin from the Mallard.

Ducks require very little charge in keeping, living chiefly on lost corn, snails, &c. for which reason they are very useful in gardens. When they sit, they require no attendance, except sprinkling a little barley, or refuse corn near them, which will prevent their straying.

OF the Duck species, there are also the Eider, Wild, Velvet, Tufted, Pin-tail, Grey-headed, White-bellied, Barbary, Madagascar, and Bahama Ducks.



THE WILD DUCK.

THE difference between Wild Ducks, arises principally from their size, and the nature of the place they feed in. Sea Ducks, which frequent the salt-water, and often dive, have a broad bill pointing upwards, a large hind-toe, and a long blunt tail. Pond Ducks have a straight and narrow bill, a small hind toe, and a sharp-pointed train. Our decoy-men give the former the appellation of foreign Ducks; the latter are supposed to be natives of England.

ALL the varieties of Wild Ducks live in the manner of our domestic Ducks, keeping together in flocks in the winter, and flying in pairs in summer, rearing their young by the water-side, and leading them to their food as soon as they escape the shell. They usually build their nests among heath or rushes, at no great distance from the water; and lay twelve, fourteen, or more eggs, before they sit. But, though this is their general method, their dangerous situation on the ground sometimes obliges them to change

their

their manner of living; and their aukward nests are frequently seen exalted on the tops of trees. This must be attended with great difficulty, as the bill of a Duck is but ill-formed for building a nest, or furnishing it with such materials as to give it sufficient stability to stand the weather. The nest thus elevated generally consists of long grass, mixed with heath, and lined with the bird's own feathers. But, in proportion as the climate is colder, the nest is more artificially made, and has a warmer lining. In the Arctic regions, all the birds of this kind take incredible pains to protect their eggs from the weather. The Gull and the Penguin tribe seem to disregard the most intense cold in those regions; but the Duck forms itself a hole to lay in, shelters the approach, lines it with a layer of grass and clay, another of moss within that, and then a warm coat of down or feathers.

As these birds possess the faculties of flying and swimming, they are principally birds of passage, and probably perform their journeys across the ocean as well on the water as in the air. Those which visit this country on the approach of winter, are neither so fat nor so well

tasted as those that remain with us the whole year: their flesh is often lean, and generally fishy. This flavour it has perhaps contracted in the journey; their food in the lakes of Lapland, from whence they descend, being generally of the insect kind.

WHEN they arrive among us, they fly about in flocks in search of a proper residence for the winter. In the choice of this they have two objects in view; to be near their food, though remote from interruption. They prefer a lake in the neighbourhood of a marsh, where there is also a cover of woods, and where insects are the most plentiful. Lakes which have a marsh on one side, and a wood on the other, generally abound with wild fowl.

WILD Ducks, when flying in the air, are often lured down from their heights by the loud voice of the Mallard from below: all the stragglers attend to this call; and, in the course of ten or fifteen days, a lake that was quite naked before, becomes black with water-fowl; they having deserted their Lapland retreats, to visit these Ducks, which reside continually among us.

THEY

THEY usually make choice of that part of the lake, where they are inaccessible to the approach of the fowler, in which they all appear huddled together, and are extremely loud and busy. Where they sit and cabal thus, there is no food for them, as they generally choose the middle of the lake; and what can employ them all the day, it is not easy to conjecture. They frequently go off privately by night to feed in the adjacent meadows and ditches, which they are afraid to approach by day. In these nocturnal adventures they are often taken; for, though timorous, they are easily deceived, and many of them are caught in springs. The greatest quantities, however, are taken in decoys, which are well known in the neighbourhood of London, though very little used in the remoter parts of the country.

THE general season for catching fowl in decoys is from the latter end of October to the beginning of February. By an act of George the Second, a penalty of five shillings is incurred for every bird destroyed at any other season.

THE decoys in Lincolnshire are usually let at a certain annual rent, from five pounds to thirty pounds a year. By these the markets of London are principally supplied with wild fowl. Upwards of thirty thousand of Ducks, Wigeon, and Teal, have been sent up in one season, from ten decoys in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet.



BIRDS of the PARROT KIND.

THE Parrot is the best known among us of all foreign birds, as it unites the greatest beauty with the greatest docility.

THE ease with which this bird is taught to speak is surprising. A Parrot, belonging to a distiller, who had suffered pretty largely in his circumstances from an informer who lived opposite him, was taught to pronounce the ninth commandment, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour*, with a very clear, loud, articulate voice. The bird was generally placed in its cage over against the informer's house, and delighted the whole neighbourhood with its persevering exhortations.

THE Parrot, though common enough in Europe, will not, however, breed here. The climate is too cold for its warm constitution; and though it bears our winter when arrived at maturity, yet it always seems sensible of

its rigour, and loses both its spirit and appetite during the colder part of the season.

THIS sagacity, which Parrots shew in a domestic state, seems also natural to them in their native residence among the woods. They live together in flocks, and mutually assist each other against other animals, either by their courage or their notes of warning. They generally breed in hollow trees, where they make a round hole, and do not line their nest within.

THEY lay two or three eggs; and probably the smaller kind may lay more; for it is a rule that generally holds through nature, that the smallest animals are always the most prolific.

LATHAM enumerates near a hundred and fifty different species of this bird.



T H E M A C C A W.

T H E Maccau is the largest species of the Parrot kind, some being as large as a Capon; the common Parrot holds the middle rank; and the Lawrey and the Paroquets are the smallest, some of them not exceeding the size of a common sparrow.

THE Cock Maccaw's head, neck, breast, belly, and under part of the tail are a fine scarlet, as are also some of the covert feathers of the wings; the back, rest of the wings, and upper part of the tail, are of a rich blue. The beak is of a light ash colour, the upper mandible tipped with black: the Legs and feet are of a dark ash colour.

The Hen Maccaw from Jamaica, and other parts of the West Indies, is in length, from the tip of its bill to the end of the tail, thirty inches; the body equals that of a well-fed Capon; the bill hooked, and in that measure that it makes an exact semicircle, a full palm long; the top of the head, the neck, back, wings, and upper side of the tail, of a very pleasant blue or azure colour; the throat, breast, belly, thighs, rump, and tail, underneath, all of a saffron colour. The tail is about eighteen inches long; the legs very short, thick, and of a dusky or dark colour; as are also the feet; the toes long, armed with great, crooked, black talons. It differs from the cock, which is of a beautiful scarlet and blue colour. These Maccaws are the largest of all the Parrot kind, and bear a good

a good price, being commonly sold for ten guineas. This bird seems to be the same with that Aldrovandus calls the greatest Blue and Yellow Maccow: and likewise the Maccaw called Ararauna by the Brasilians, described by Margravius.

T H E L A W R E Y.

IS the most beautiful bird of all the Parrot kind: the top of its head is of a fine purple; the wings of a curious green, as are also the thighs; it has a half circle of bright yellow under the throat; the neck, back, belly and tail, are of a lovely scarlet; the legs of a lead-colour; and the tip of the tail black. The Lawrey is as big as the large Common Parrot.

T H E Y E L L O W L A W R E Y, O R P A R O Q U E E T.

IS of the bigness of a Lark; hath a very hooked bill, of a grey colour: its legs and feet are of an ash colour; it hath a very long tail, reaching about ten inches beyond the ends of the wings; both the belly underneath, and also

the head, neck, and back above, are of a beautiful reddish colour; but the breast and lower feathers of the tale are of a pale rose colour, which tail-feathers end in a lovely blue, or colour mingled of white and green. The wings are chiefly green, but interwoven with red feathers, the one half whereof is so variegated on each side with yellow and rose colour, that exposed to the sun it represents a thousand varieties of shining colours, and can hardly be expressed by a painter; so that this bird deserves to be highly prized by great persons. These Paroquets are brought from the East Indies, &c. and are found chiefly in the midland Countries. They roost and build on the highest trees; they fly in companies, and with great noise, as doth the whole tribe of Parrots: they also learn to pronounce some words, if they be kept tame.





THE GREEN PAROQUET.

THE top of the head and the throat of the small Green Paroquet are red ; as is likewise part of the tail ; the pinions of the wings and rump bluish, all the rest of the feathers of this bird of a deep green ; the bill hooked, and of a pale yellowish colour.

THE

THE GREEN PARROT.

THE top and sides of the head, and rump, of the Green Parrot, are of a fine yellow, or gold colour, intermixed with red; the shoulders of the wings a fine scarlet; the first, second, and third rows of covert feathers of the wings, are of a beautiful green; the large quill-feathers of a deep blue, with white edges; the outer edges of four feathers in the tail, the same colour with those on the wing.





THE JACANA.

THOUGH this able centinel is last in our description of birds, before we treat of the little engaging English Wablers, it is not the least worthy the young Naturalist's admiration. The Jacana is found in most of the tropical climates, but is most common in South America. It is remarkable for the length of its toes, and for the wings being armed with sharp spurs. There are about ten species, differing

differing in size from that of a common fowl to that of a Water-rail. They vary also in their plumage, some being brown, some black, and some variable. The faithful Jacana is a most useful bird at Carthagena in South America. The natives, who keep poultry in great numbers, have one of these tame, who attends the flock as a shepherd, to defend them from birds of prey. Though not larger than a dunghill cock, the Jacana is able, by means of the spurs on his wings, to keep off birds as large as the Carrion Vulture, and even that bird himself; and it never deserts its charge, but assiduously takes care to bring the whole flock home safe at night. It feeds on vegetables, and cannot run but by the help of its wings.



S I N G I N G B I R D S.

THE pen of the moralist cannot be better employed than in recommending this beautiful and entertaining tribe of the feathered race, to the protection of the fairer sex. How pleasing the plumage of some! how delightful the notes of others! While we behold their variegated tints with admiration, and listen in raptures to their melody, a compassionate sensation is naturally awakened in the susceptible mind, and a wish excited to make some return for the satisfaction we receive from them. And as this can only be done by an attention to their little wants, the hand of pity should be held out to them through every stage of their existence, and every means used to lighten their captivity!

To whom does this pleasing task so peculiarly belong as to the fairest part of the creation! Their hearts, more susceptible of the tender impulse than that of man, whose duty calls him to the hardier cares of life, are better fitted for the benevolent purpose, and enter more readily into an attachment of this nature than he can.

WHAT

WHAT pleasure does it not afford to rear the callow
 nursing from its nest ; to choofe for it the fitteft food ;
 to fetch it water from the pureft fpring ; and provide
 for it the downy bed ! To view its increafing growth ; to
 mark the brightening fhades of its diftending feathers ; to
 hear the firft effays of its infant throat ; and to watch
 every progrefive improvement till it arrives at a ftate of
 maturity, and is able to reward us with a fong, is an em-
 ployment at once pleafing and humane.

WE would therefore here embrace the opportunity of
 recommending an attention to this valuable clafs of the te-
 nants of the woods to our fair countrywomen, efpecially to
 our young readers ; affuring them that they will not only
 render themfelves beloved and refpected by fuch an exertion
 of their compaffion, but will receive that heartfeft grati-
 fication, which results from the performance of every hu-
 mane action.



T H E B L A C K B I R D .

EVERY part of England is delighted with the harmonious notes of the Blackbird; it is undoubtedly a native of this Island, and is accounted the largest Song-bird found therein.

THE cock is generally the blackest while young, and the circle about its eye is yellow, and his bill is black; not

not turning perfectly yellow, till he is a year old. The bill of an old cock is of a deep yellow; and his feathers, which were at first of a dark ruflet, or brown, with ash-coloured bellies, turn coal-black.

THE hen is distinguished principally by having the tip and upper part of her bill black, the rest of it and her mouth being yellow, like the cock's.

THIS bird is remarkable for its early going to nest, which is before the trees shoot their leaves, or the frost is gone; for the Blackbird has young ones generally by the middle of March.

THE nest is built with much art, out of moss, slender twigs, bents and fibres of roots, all very strongly knit and cemented together on both sides with clay, with a lining made of small straws, bents, hair, or any soft matter that the bird can pick up. Its cavity generally measures two inches and an half in depth, of an oblong figure, being at top about four inches diameter one way, and five the other; so that it is easily discovered, especially as it

is generally exposed in a hedge near the ground, and so early, before the bushes are clothed with leaves.

THE bird itself measures eleven inches from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail; the bill being one inch, and the tail four inches long; and she lays either four or five eggs, of a bluish green colour, full of dusky spots.

THE young ones may be taken at ten days; and if kept clean in their nests, and well fed with any lean fresh meat (every two hours or thereabout) minced very fine with bread, a little moist, they will thrive. When they grow too big for the nest, or it grows foul, put them into a cage or basket upon clean straw; and when able to feed themselves, separate them and feed them with any sort of fresh meat, raw or dressed, provided it be neither stale nor sour, setting them water when fully grown, to wash and prune their feathers.

THIS bird answers best when brought up from the nest; the old ones, if caught, being unwilling to be tamed,

as it is a solitary bird, and used in the fields to feed upon berries and insects.

The cock brought up in a cage whistles and sings all the spring and summer-season, in a very pleasant natural note, and when taught will whistle and play a tune to a pipe with great exactness.





THE THRUSH OR THROSTLE.

THE Thrush, commonly called the Throstle beyond Trent, and by others distinguished from other birds of the Thrush kind, by the name of the Song-Thrush, is a curious bird, both for the great variety of its notes, and for singing nine months in the year.

THIS bird builds in woods and orchards, and sometimes in a thick hedge, near the ground. Its nest is compacted

of

of fine soft green moss, interwoven with dead grass, hay, &c. without; and curiously plaistered with cow-dung only, within; measuring two inches and a half in depth in the hollow, and four inches at the top of the inside diameter. She lays five or six eggs of a bluish green, with small black spots at the big end, upon the bare plaister of cow dung; which are generally hatched about the tenth of April.

THE young ones are to be taken at about twelve days old, or sooner in mild, open weather. Keep them warm and clean, feed them every two hours in the day with a mixture of raw meat cut small, bread a little moist, and bruised hemp-feed. Take their dung away every time they are fed, and in general keep them neat, clean and warm; so that if their nest grows foul, remove them into a basket of clean straw; and when they are well feathered, put them into a large cage with two or three perches in it, and with dry moss or straw at the bottom.

WHEN grown up, feed them with any kind of fresh flesh meat, raw, boiled, or roasted, mixed with bread; this agrees with them best; but they may be brought to live entirely

on

on bread and hemp-feed. They must have a pan of fresh water twice a week to wash themselves, or they will not thrive, and will have the cramp. When this happens, put fern or clean straw at the bottom of the cage; feed them with Nightingale's meat as they lie, and turn up the fern or straw, when you feed them.

THE colour and shape of the cock and hen are so alike, that it is difficult to discover the sex by those external marks: only in this as well as in all other birds, we must observe, that the cock's feathers excel the hen's in beauty, sleekness, and brightness; but the surest distinction is that fine song, which the cock sends forth from his perch, especially after moulting.

THE length of a full grown bird is nine inches, including a tail three inches and a half long, and a bill one inch. The tail and bill always lie out of the nest when the hen sits.

IF this bird be taken ill, treat him as you do a Black-bird,



THE STARLING.

THE Starling is not reckoned amongst song-birds for its natural notes, but from its aptness to learn to whistle and pipe either from instruments or birds. It is also capable of being taught to speak as well as most Parrots, and to crow like a dunghill-cock.

THIS

THIS bird frequents towers, old ruins, pigeon-houses, and other out-houses, and trees, in all which places we find their nests. She lays four or five eggs, lightly tintured with a greenish blue, and are hatched about the middle of May.

THE young birds may be taken at ten days old, but must be kept very clean and warm, and fed as directed for the Blackbird. Every time you feed, or take them in hand, talk, whistle or pipe to them, what you would have them learn; they will presently begin to repeat your lesson, without your flitting their tongue, which is of no service.

WHEN able to feed themselves, put them in a large wicker-cage, with clean straw or moss at the bottom, and sometimes a pan of clean water, big enough for them to wash themselves in it, in hot weather, and feed them as the Black-bird or the Wood Lark.

This bird is naturally hardy and healthful, provided he be kept upon good meat and drink, and clean; but the want of any of these requisites will subject him to the
cramp

cramp, give him fits, and bring other disorders and death upon him. When any of these diseases seize him, his best remedy is a spider or a meal-worm, two or three times a week.

A nestling cock is known by a black streak under his tongue. After moulting, he is distinguished by the beauty of his colours, by a cast of green, red, purple, &c. on his breast; a pale yellow bill; the blue and purple gloss on his black feathered body; tipped with yellow on his head and neck, and with white on his belly, &c. all which spots and colours are brighter than those of the hen.

WHEN full grown, this bird is nine inches long, including a tail of three inches, and a bill one inch and a quarter.





T H E S K Y L A R K .

THIS Sky-Lark is stout and lavish in song, so as to be accounted too loud and harsh. It is also long lived and healthy, living fifteen or twenty years, with proper care; and singing all that time, at least eight months in the year. He is so apt to take the notes of all birds, that he is a perfect mocking-bird; therefore to prevent his rambling in his song, you must bring him up from the nest under some fine Song-Lark.

T H I S

THIS bird puts up with very ordinary conveniencies for a nest, which is made of a few bents, or such like materials, deposited in a hole or small cleft of the earth, in a corn-field, in pasture-ground, or in marshes and amongst heath, &c. She lays four or five earth-coloured eggs, full of brownish eggs.

THE young ones appear in the beginning of May, sometimes a little sooner, and must be taken in eight or nine days. If they have been disturbed, or it happens to prove drippy weather, they will quit their nests in seven days: for the feathers of all birds grow quickest in wet weather, which enables them to fly sooner. They breed three or four times a year, but the first are best.

LAY them on clean hay in a little basket, well covered and tied close, and feed them once in two hours, in the day time, with white bread and milk boiled thick as a poultice, mixed with about a third part of rape-seed soaked, boiled and well bruised; or with sheep's-heart or other fresh meat, minced very fine, giving five or six bits to each bird, and keep them very clean.

IN a week's time they will be fit for a cage, which must be large, and not less than a foot square, and its bottom covered with short hay fresh every day. Now their food must be, a hard egg gretted or chopped very fine, an equal quantity of hemp-seed bruised, and a little bread grated amongst it. When they grow stronger and are able to crack the seed, give it whole, with a few crumbs of bread amongst it, and treat them sometimes with a little of the fresh meat. Instead of hay, sift fine dry gravel on the bottom of the cage, fresh every second day; and give them a turf of three-leaved grass twice a week to perch upon.

AFTER they have moulted, you need only give them egg, bread, and whole hemp-seed, every other day, and a fresh turf once a week. Should he droop, scour, or have loose dung, grate a small matter of old cheese in his meat, or give him three or four wood-lice a day, or a spider or two; and tinge his water with a blade of saffron, or a slice of stick liquorice.

THE cock and hen are so near alike in their appearance, that it is difficult to assign any real distinguishing marks. Neither the cottle-crown, nor the long heel, nor the two white feathers in the tail, can be depended upon for a cock bird. The most certain distinction is to choose the biggest and longest bodied bird, which is always a cock. But at about a month old, it is easy to discover the distinction of the sex, by the cock's recording his notes low and inwardly, but very distinctly. In old birds the lightest coloured bird is always a cock, browner on the back, yellower on the throat and breast, and whiter on the belly.

THIS bird at full growth is six inches three quarters long, including the tail, which is three inches, and the bill three quarters of an inch.





THE WOOD-LARK.

THE Wood-Lark is accounted the best song-bird in this kingdom, being possessed of the most soft and delightful notes, even to vie with the Nightingale in singing; with which the Wood-Lark will strive both in the cage and in the field for mastery. It sings nine months in the year.

IT is a bird very beautiful in shape and feathers, being a little less and shorter than the Sky-Lark; and the

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feathers

feathers are of a pale yellow hair-colour, faintly spotted with black upon the breast and belly, black and a reddish yellow mixed together on the back and head, with a white line encircling the head, like a crown, from eye to eye.

THOUGH this is a very tender bird, it breeds as soon as the Blackbird. It builds at the foot of a bush or hedge, or under some dry turf, making its nest out of withered grass, fibrous roots, and such coarse materials, with only a few horse hairs at the bottom within, having scarce any hollow or sides, and the bottom almost upon a level with the top; and laying four pale bloom coloured eggs, beautifully mottled and clouded with red, yellow, &c.

THE young ones are ready to fly about the middle of March, and must not be taken till they be well feathered, because they are subject to the cramp, and a scouring if taken sooner, which commonly proves mortal. Put them in a basket upon hay, and tie them down close, so that they may be kept clean and warm. Feed them with a mixture of sheep's heart, or other clean, raw flesh meat, boiled hard egg, hemp-seed bruised or grated, and moistened
with

with clean water. Give them five or six small bits every two hours, so that care be taken not to load their stomachs, and that their meat be always sweet. But the best way to take them, is not out of the nest, they being so tender and difficult to rear, for they die either with cramp, scouring, or moulting; but when they have fled two or three months.

THE cock is best known by its size and song, for it is the biggest and largest-bodied bird, and the strength of his song always puts the sex out of all doubt.

BRANCHERS of this kind are the birds hatched in the spring, and are taken in June or July, in the manner of Sky-Larks, by a net and a hawk. They frequent gravel-pits, heath, and common land, and pasture-fields. These birds soon take to the cage.

ABOUT Michaelmas another flight of them appears, which are accounted better birds for use; for they being kept well all the winter, will gratify their benefactor with a nine months song. These are caught with clap-nets,

and a call-bird, and a brace-bird, on high ground, and in a cart-way, or on a spot of earth fresh turned up.

IN January there may be another taking of Wood-Larks, near a wood side, in pasture ground, facing the rising sun. These are both stouter and louder than those taken in September, will sing in a few days after they are taken, but do not continue their song so many months. They are also taken with the clap net, and a call-bird, and a brace-bird.

AFTER this season there should be none taken, because these birds presently go to nest, and couple; so that though the cock, which has coupled with his hen and is taken, may sing as soon as he is caged, on account of his rankness, his song will soon fall off.

GIVE this bird no turf or grass; but in all other cases, order him as the Sky-Lark. Put fine red gravel often in his cage; and if it droops, strew some mould full of ants at the bottom of the cage, or give him two or three meal-worms, or hog-lice, in a day, with a little saffron or liquorice

quorice sometimes in his water. Grated chalk or cheese among his meat or gravel, will help a looseness.

In its wild state it feeds upon beetles, caterpillars, and other insects. Apparently sensible of its own melodious song, it will never imitate the note of another bird, unless it be brought up from the nest: then indeed it sometimes submits to learn the song of another.





THE BULLFINCH.

THE Bullfinch, which is known in different parts of this island by the several names of Nope, Thickbill, and Hoop, is a native of England, and takes its name with us from its large black head. It is in great esteem both for its beauty and singing; for though its wild note be of the hooping sort, having no song of its own, both the cock and the hen may be taught, by a pipe, or whistle, to excel
all

all small birds in singing, if taught when young; and also to talk, beginning with them at about six days after taken.

THIS bird builds its nest in an orchard, wood, or park, where there are plenty of trees, or upon heaths, in a very ordinary manner and with little art. Her eggs are bluish, with faint reddish spots, and one large dark brown spot at the biggest end, and are no more than four or five in number; and are seldom hatched before the end of May, or the beginning of June; but this the hen repeats two or three times in a summer.

Do not take the young birds till they are well feathered, twelve or fourteen days old; feed them every two hours, a little at a time, with rape-feed soaked in clean water for eight or ten hours, then scalded, strained and bruised, mixed with an equal quantity of white bread soaked in fair water, and boiled with a little milk to a thick consistency, and made fresh every day; otherwise it will sour and spoil the birds.

WHEN they can feed themselves, break them by degrees, and as soon as possible, from this soft food, and use them to rape and canary seed, using most of the rape, as for Linnets. Some try them with Wood-Larks meat, and fine hemp-seed, when ill. Do not forget to supply them with water when grown up; and if they chance to droop, put a blade of saffron into the water.

WHEN young, the surest way to distinguish the cock and hen is, when about three weeks old, to pull off a few feathers from their breasts, and when those feathers sprout again, in about ten or twelve days, the cocks shall be of a curious red, the hens of a palish brown.

WHEN grown up, the cock has a flatter crown, and excels the hen in the beauty of his colours, his breast being of a fine scarlet or crimson, and the feathers on his crown and about his bill of a brighter black than those of the hen. Their size is no more than six inches from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, of which the tail is two inches.

THEY

THEY are so pernicious to fruit-trees, by destroying their tender buds, that in some parts of England a reward is given by the church-wardens for every one that is killed. This may be assigned as one reason of their scarcity; for they are certainly less common than most other singing-birds that breed among us.

THE CANARY BIRD.

BY the name it appears that these birds came originally from the Canary islands; but we have them only from Germany, where they are bred in great numbers, and sold into different parts of Europe. When they were first brought into Europe, is not certainly known; but it is certain that about a century ago they were sold at very high prices, and kept only for the amusement of the great. They have since been greatly multiplied, and their price is diminished in proportion.

In its native regions, the Canary-bird is of a dusky grey colour, and so different from those usually seen in

Europe, that doubts have arisen whether it be of the same species. With us they have that variety of colouring usual in all domestic fowls; some being white, others mottled, and others beautifully shaded with green; but in this country they are more esteemed for their note than their beauty, having a high piercing pipe, continuing for some time in one breath without intermission, then gradually raising it higher and higher, with infinite variety. It is certainly one of the Finch tribe.

NEXT to the Nightingale, the Canary bird is considered as the most celebrated songster: it is also reared with less difficulty than any of the soft-billed birds, and continues its song throughout the year; consequently it is rather the most common in our houses.

IN choosing the Canary bird, those are the best in health that appear lively and bold, standing upright upon the perch like a sparrow-hawk, without being intimidated at every thing that stirs. In observing him he should not be approached too near, lest a motion of the hand should disturb him; which, for a short time, will make him appear
sprightly

sprightly and in health; but if he is observed at a proper distance, it may soon be discovered whether it is the effect of fear, or the natural spirit of the bird. If he stands up boldly, without crouching or shrinking his feathers, and his eyes look chearful, and not drowfy, there is little doubt of his being a healthy bird; but if, on the contrary, he is apt to put his head under his wing, and stand all of an heap, he is certainly difordered.

IN choosng a Canary bird, the melody of the song should also be attended to: some of them will open with the notes of the Nightingale, running through a variety of that bird's modulations, and with the song of the Tit-lark. Others begin like the Sky-Lark, and, by a soft melodious turn, fall into the notes of the Nightingale. These, however, are lessons taught the Canary bird in its domestic state; but its natural note is loud, shrill, and piercing. Each of these songs have their admirers, but the second is most generally esteemed.

THOUGH they sometimee breed all the year round, they most usua'y begin to pair in April, and to breed in June

and August. The best breed is said to be produced between the English and French birds.

THESE birds will produce with the Goldfinch and Linnet; and the offspring is called a mule-bird, because, like that animal, it proves barren.





THE GOLDFINCH.

THE Goldfinch (by some called Thistlefinch, because in winter it lives on thistle-seeds) is a native of England, and found and esteemed every where in this island, both for its singing and beauty, being the finest feathered of all cage birds, and so long-lived, that Mr. Willoughby mentions one that lived twenty-three years. It flies in flocks, and in its wild state delights to feed upon seeds of thistles, teasel, hemp, dock, &c.

IT

It begins to build in April, and its nest is very curious. The outside is made of very fine moss, curiously interwoven with other soft matter; the inside is lined with the finest down, wool, &c. Its situation is generally out of sight, and hard to come at, pretty high on the branches of an apple tree, where the bloom and leaves intercept the sight; though these nests are sometimes found in the elder tree, and in thorns and hedges.

THE Goldfinch brings six or seven young ones at a time, and that three or four times in a summer, which, being tender, must not be taken till ready almost to fly. Their meat must be white bread, soaked in fair water, then strained and boiled in a little milk to the consistence of hasty-pudding, adding to it a little flour of Canary-feed. They must be fed every two hours at least, daily, giving them two or three small bits at a time, and no more, they being very tender; and this meat must be fresh made every day. In about a month begin to break them of this meat, by giving them a little Canary-feed, besides the soft meat; and when they are found to feed pretty freely upon the feed, keep them constantly to that diet.

THESE

THESE birds are to be taken almost at any season with lime-twigs or the clap-net. To improve their song, bring them up under the Canary-Bird, the Wood-Lark, or any other fine singing-bird.

THE cock bird, bred from the nest, will breed with a hen Canary-bird, and produces a bird between both kinds, partaking of the song and colours of both.

THIS bird is of so mild and gentle, or rather contented nature, that, when taken, it will fall to its meat and drink, and be thoroughly reconciled to its cage and company. It is much admired when sent to the Canaries.

THE Goldfinch may be taught to draw the water it is to drink, and there are cages made for that purpose; and to lift up the lid of a small box with its bill, to get to the meat, &c. and fix a glass to the back of the bucket-board; and this beauty will sit upon his perch, admiring itself, and rectifying every disorder in his plume, by placing every feather in the nicest order.

If at any time this bird droops, put a blade of saffron in its water; if it scours, crumble a little dry chalk in his cage, or amongst his feed, or stick a bit between the wires, and hang a little groundsel fresh every day for him to pick; or give it a little lettuce-feed or thistle-feed; and always keep the bottom of the cage strewed with red sand or gravel, for that will qualify and take the oil of the feeds off the stomach.





THE NIGHTINGALE.

THE Nightingale is accounted the best of song-birds, and is both large and strong. Though this bird does not appear at large in this Island during the winter, we find them building their nests amongst us in the beginning of April, in a close, thick quickset hedge, pretty low, a little above the edge of the bank, and most commonly where briars, thorns, bushes, &c. grow very thick; and they

they make them of leaves of trees, straws and moss, in a very different manner from all others.

SHE lays four or five eggs of a brown nutmeg colour: and the young ones, which are hatched toward the latter end of May, ought to be well fledged before taken: if they prove fullen, open their mouths, give them two or three small pieces at a time, and in a few days they will come to, and feed themselves. When you take them, put the nest into a little basket, and keep them covered up warm, or the cold will kill them. Feed them every two hours by day, with two or three small bits at a time, of sheep's-heart, or other fresh meat raw, well cleaned and freed from fat, strings, skin and sinews, and chopped very fine, mixed with hen's eggs hard-boiled. In a few days they will take their meat off from the stick themselves; then you may cage them in the Nightingale's back-cage, with straw or dry moss at the bottom. When they come to be large, add some ant's mould, and learn them to feed upon meal-worms, spiders, ants, and other insects, which are good for them in sickness.

THE cock is distinguished by its deeper and brighter colour, in grown birds: in nestlings, when he has eaten he gets upon the perch, and immediately begins to tune to himself, which is seldom or never done by the hen.

To find out its nest, observe where the cock sings; if he continues long in a place, the hen is not far off, and the nest is within a stone's throw; if there be young ones, the cock will stroll, but then the hen may be heard to sweet and cur: and if you cannot find it by searching, stick two or three meal-worms upon the thorns, near where you have observed the cock most frequent, and if you keep close and still, he will come and carry them to his brood, which makes such a noise, when fed by the old ones, as to give a certain mark to discover their nest. When you have found the nest, and they are not fledged enough, do not touch them; for if you do, the old ones will entice them out sooner than common.

To preserve this valuable bird in health, nothing is more conducive, than to keep them and their cages clean
and

and neat, with dry gravel twice a week at the bottom. He is particularly subject to sickness in autumn: if he grows fat and foggy, and falls off from his stomach, then give him three times a week two or three meal-worms, or worms taken out of a pigeon's house, or two or three spiders a day, which will purge and cleanse him well; but when his fat falls, keep him warm, and give him a little saffron in his water.

SHOULD they grow very lean and poor, give figs chopped small amongst their meat till they have recovered their flesh.

THIS bird is subject to the gout, after two or three years continuance in a cage. Anoint their feet with fresh butter, and it will cure them in three or four days. The same remedy will cure them of breakings-out about the eyes and nib.

IF they grow melancholy, sweeten the water with white sugar-candy; and if that does not restore them, add to their constant meat three or four meal-worms a day, and a few
ants

ants and ants eggs, and some of their mould at the bottom of the cage, amongst which strew a hard egg chopped very small, and put a blade or two of saffron in their water.

THIS bird is sometimes troubled with a straitness or strangling of the breast, occasioned chiefly by a bad dressing of his victuals. He shews his complaint by gaping, and an unusual beating and panting of his breast. Take him out gently, and open his bill with a quill, and pick out the string, piece of flesh, &c. that shall be found to hang about his tongue or throat, then give him some white sugar-candy in his water, or else dissolve it and moisten his meat, which is a present remedy for any thing that is amiss.

IF they dung a little looser than common, give a little hemp-feed bruised or ground very well, about the quantity that will lie on a silver groat, and mix it well with a sheep's heart and an egg.

THEIR common food in summer is sheep's heart raw, chopped very fine, and an egg boiled so hard as to be
grated ;

grated; sprinkle it with a little water, and mix it, till it becomes as thick almost as a falve, but moist; make no more at a time than will last the day. In winter parboil the heart, mix it with the egg, and moisten the mixture with a little of the heart liquor, suffering no fat to go in.

If you would take branchers and old Nightingales, you must lay out for the branchers in July and the beginning of August, for old Nightingales in the latter end of March or beginning of April. Those taken in March or before the twelfth of April, are accounted the best birds; because the cocks after that time, being matched with their hens, are so rank, that they can seldom be preservd.

THE manner of taking them, is to find out their haunts, which is usually on the side of a chalk or sandy hill; in a wood, coppice, or quickset hedge: then set a trap, or lime-twigs, as best suits your convenience.

If you would take these birds with lime-twigs, place them

them upon the hedge near where they sing, with meal-worms fastened to proper places to entice them.

THE bird being caught, tie the tip of his wings with thread, not too hard, but so as to prevent his beating himself against the top and wires of the cage; and in two hours cram him with three, four, or five pieces as big as peas, made of sheep's heart and egg shred small and fine, and mingled with a few ants or meal-worms; opening his bill with a stick made thin at one end, and taking care that the meat be not too dry. Repeat this every two hours at farthest; and when come home, put the birds in a Nightingale's back cage, or throw a cloth over one side of another cage.

WHEN you have crammed your prey thus for a day and a half, offer them a little meat in a pan, and stick it full of ants: if the ants are picked out, add more ants about half an hour after, and so continue to entice them till they begin to feed, still keeping their wings tied.

A KINDLY bird will sing in a week's time ; and when they become easy, contented and familiar, hang them up any where, and loose their wings. Birds that are long a feeding, and do not sweet and cur for eight or ten days, seldom are good. Remember, when a bird is first taken, that you clean his vent from feathers, by pulling or cutting them off ; for, should the vent be clogged up, he will certainly die.





THE ROBIN RED-BREAST.

THE Robin Red-Breast takes its name from its remarkable red breast. It builds its nest in barns, outhouses, banks, and hedges, tops of houses and old ruins, and sometimes in woods; of very coarse materials, as, dry green moss mixed with coarse wool, small dried sticks, straws, dried leaves, peeling from young trees, and other dried stuff, with a few horse-hairs within; hardly one inch deep, and about three inches wide.

THIS

THIS bird is six inches long, including the bill, a little more than half an inch in length, and the tail two inches and a half. She mostly lays five or six, but seldom less than four eggs, of a cream colour, sprinkled all over with fine reddish yellow spots, so thick at the blunt end, as to appear almost all in one.

THESE eggs are hatched about the end of April, and again in May and June. Do not let them pass above twelve days old before you take them, because they will grow fullen. Keep them warm in a little basket with hay at the bottom; feed them with the Wood-Lark's or Nightingale's meat, taking care not to overcharge their stomachs, which are very tender. When you cage them, let the wires be somewhat closer than the Nightingale's cage, with moss at the bottom; and in all respects keep and order them like the Nightingale.

WHEN they are cramped, or giddy, to which Robins are very subject, give them a meal-worm or spider now and then for the cramp, and six or seven earwigs a week
for

for the giddiness. But if you would prevent these disorders, the only way is to keep them warm and clean; for nothing will bring them sooner than cold and a dirty cage. If the feet be clogged with dung, their nails, and even their feet will rot off. If the appetite falls off, give now and then six or seven hog-lice, which are found about rotten wood. Never let there be a want of fresh water; in which, once a week, put a blade of saffron, and a slice of stick-liquorice, which will cheer his spirits and strengthen his song.

OLD ones and branchers are taken and ordered as the Nightingale.

THE Robin naturally is a solitary bird, and loves to feed singly upon worms, and other insects, ants, and their eggs, &c. But when the cold pinches them, and the earth affords them none of this sort of meat, it becomes bold, sociable, and familiar with men; will enter their houses, and feed upon crumbs of bread, and what else they can pick up.

THE red on the cock's breast is deeper, and goes farther upon the head than the hen's; his legs are also darker; there are generally a few hairs on each side of his bill; the upper part of his body is of a darker olive; but the bright red of his breast is the distinction most to be depended on.





THE CHAFFINCH.

THE Chaffinch is a native of England, and a stout, hardy, and common bird, of the size of a Bullfinch. This bird builds its nest near the top of a high hedge, or on the branches within a tree, in the prettiest manner of all small birds: this nest measures in the cavity one inch three quarters deep; the diameter, two inches and an half; the outside made of green moss, small sticks, withered grass, horse and cow hair, wool, feathers, &c. the inside of feathers

thers, hair, wool, &c. yet the bird itself is six inches long from the end of the bill to the tip of the tail, of which the tail is two inches and an half; and she lays four or five eggs in that little space, which are whitish, with a few reddish brown spots, and a few small specks or streaks of the same colour at the biggest end.

THESE eggs seldom produce more than four birds, which are fit to be taken in ten days; they are hardy, easy to be raised, and fed like the Goldfinch. But they being very plentiful, and easily taken at their watering-place in June and July, few take the trouble of bringing them up from the nest; though that is the way to have the best singers, if brought up under other birds, called Sweet-Song Chaffinch.

THE Chaffinch is lavish in its song; and, when brought up from the nest, or branchers, will sing six or seven months in the year, whereas the wild sing not above three; but the greatest part of these birds will not answer the trouble and expence in keeping them. There is a cruel method, directed by some writers, to teach this bird

to

to sing when grown up; but as I apprehend no humane person would put it in practice, I shall not mention it. The Essex birds are accounted the best singers, and they commonly sing what is called Whitford tune, and Chopping Lim.

THE cock bird at ten or twelve days old is distinguished from the hen by having much more white in his wing, particularly on his pinion; his breast redder, and all his feathers higher and brighter than the hen's. An old cock's head is bluish, the back a reddish brown, with a mixture of ash-colour or green, the breast a fine purple red, and the belly under the tail white. The hen's feathers are grey on the breast.



THE



THE GREENFINCH.

THE Greenfinch's nest is large, one inch and a quarter deep, and four wide ; its outside made of hay, grafs, stubble, &c. the middle-part of mofs ; the infide of soft feathers, wool, hair, &c. built in hedges ; the bird being from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail fix inches and an half, of which the bill is half an inch, and the tail two inches and a quarter.

THEY

THEY have five or six young ones at a sitting, about the middle of May, which may be taken at ten days old. Feed them as you do Linnets, or Finches, and keep them clean, and they will thrive. When drooping, treat them as you do the Chaffinch, and you may catch them in the same manner.

THE Cock's head and back are green, with grey edges to the feathers; the middle of the back hath something of a chefnut-colour intermixed; the fore-part of his head, neck, breast, and quite down to his belly and rump, are of a deep yellowish green, the lower-part of the belly inclining to whitish; the edges of the outermost quill-feathers, and the feathers along the ridge of the wing, are of a bright yellow. Thus, if we regard its colours, this cock is as finely feathered as most birds, and makes as pretty a shew in an aviary; but I cannot recommend his ability in singing in cages; indeed it it is kept to ring bells, in a cage contrived for that purpose: though by chance some brought up from the nest will learn to pipe, whistle, and sing the note of other birds.



THE WREN.

THE Wren is the smallest of song-birds, (four inches and a half, including bill and tail) but has a very loud and fine song. She builds her nest in the form of a sugar-loaf, without of moss, within of hair, wool, or feathers, with a hole in the middle of the side, for a passage into it; commonly in woods and hedges, and sometimes about the walls of houses.

SHE

SHE lays fifteen or sixteen small white eggs, sprinkled with small pale red spots; but she does not hatch above half that number, which must be well feathered before you take them.

MR. Ray observes, that it is one of those daily miracles which we take no notice of, that a Wren should produce so many young, and feed them all without passing over a single one, and that too in total darkness.

FEED them as young Nightingales, giving them often one or two small bits at a time. When fit for a cage, let it be large, with very close wires, and on one side in the form of a squirrel-house, lined with rabbit-skin, or something warm. Keep them constantly on Nightingale's food, clean and warm. When sick, give them two or three flies, or a small spider or two, but be very sparing of insects.

THE cock has a dark brown back and head, a whitish breast and belly, and tail and wings variegated with bright yellow and blackish lines. The hen is all over reddish,

except the black and reddish lines across her tail and wings. It is not easy to distinguish the sex when young ; but the bird with the largest eye is generally the cock. It commonly creeps about hedges and pits, mostly frequents farmyards, and perches upon a barn or tree ; takes short flights, and may be easily tired and run down.





T H E C O M M O N L I N N E T .

TH E Common Linnet is thought to excel all small birds in its singing; his note is curious, and he can take off the pipe, whistle, and song of any other fine bird.

TH I S bird builds commonly in a thick bush or hedge; sometimes in the thorn, both black and white, and sometimes amongst furze and broom.

ITS nest is made of bents, dried weeds, and other stubby matter for the outside, the bottom being all matted together; the inside is neatly compacted of fine soft wool, mixed with the cotton or down gathered from dried plants, with a few horse-hairs; its depth, one inch within, and three in diameter.

THE bird, including bill and tail, is five inches and a half long, of which the bill is half an inch, the tail two inches and a quarter.

THE Linnet lays four or five eggs, and has her first brood about the beginning of May. They may be taken at ten days old, or sooner; then is the time to put them to learn under another bird. But they must be kept very warm, and feed them as directed in the Bullfinch's meat. When able to feed themselves, give them a little scalded rape-feed; and when they have thus fed a week, you may give them a little of the Wood-Lark's victuals, or some soft victuals, till they are able to crack their seed, which will be when about six or seven weeks old.

THE cock is distinguished by having a browner back than the hen, and by the white of his wings. Take the Linnet, when the wing-feathers are grown, and stretch out his wing, and if you find the second, third, or fourth feather, white up to the quill, it is a certain mark of a cock bird.

BOTH the branchers and flight-birds must be put into a starge-cage fit for the purpose, and fed with some of the seed found on the land where they were taken, with a small mixture of hemp-feed bruised. Let them stand in a window, or other convenient place, where they shall not be disturbed, for three or four days; then cage them up in back-cages, if you have them, and feed them with rape, mixed with a small matter of canary, and a few corns of hemp. If drooping, give them a little lettuce-feed or beat-leaf, and put a small piece of liquorice, or a blade of saffron in their water, and now and then a little seeded chickweed. If scowered, give them a little chalk, a little bruised hemp-feed, and now and then a stalk of plantane-feed, if green; if not, give the leaves shred small. If the end of the rump be swelled, when it is ripe, open it

with a needle, and anoint the part with fresh butter, and nurse them as above directed.

THIS is the most general singing bird in our country, and will live twelve or fourteen months in confinement.

S T A N Z A S

On the DEATH of a favourite LINNET.

BY DR. TROTTER.

COME, ye Nine, and join the numbers
 Where your penfive sister weeps;
 See, alas! in death's cold slumbers,
 Celia's hapless Linnet sleeps.

As he left his cage, a stranger
 To the sweet's of being free,
 Puffs entrapp'd the thoughtless ranger—
 Fatal chance of liberty!

Deem

Deem not, Celia, crime was in it
Thus to mourn at such an end;
She who feels not for a Linnet,
Ne'er could weep for love or friend.

All ye Fair who rove for pleasure,
Think of danger while you can;
If cats destroy a feather'd treasure,
Trust not fickle, faithless Man!



WATER

WATER FOWL OMITTED.

DIVERS, MEWS, AND GULLS.

DIVERS, or Duckers, in general have strait narrow sharp bills, little heads, and small wings. The feet are placed backward near the tail, that they may swim and dive more expeditiously. The legs are broad and flat, and the nails broad like those of men. The toes have membranes on their sides, which are only pretty much extended in some, but in others they are connected together.

THE Greater ash-coloured Diver, or Ducker, has a crest on the head; and another greater crested Diver has not only a crest, but seems to have horns, consisting of feathers placed on the top of the head and upper part of neck, which are black above and ruddy below. The chin and space about the eyes is white, and near it there is a reddish colour. The breast and belly are whitish, tinged with red; and the wings are brown, except the lesser quill feathers, which are light. The back is blackish,
mixed

mixed with ash-coloured feathers. There is a Mexican bird described by Hernandez much like this, only there is a greater crest on the head.

THE Didapper, or Dipper, or Dobchick, or Ducker, or Small Loon, is of the shape of a Teal, only it is one-third part less. It is brown on the back, on the belly of a silver colour, but the chin is white. The breast is of a darker colour than the belly; and when the gizzard was opened, it was found full of grass and herbs; though, as Bellonius informs us, it is fond of fish. These three Divers have little or no tail.

THE North American Horned Dobchick is of the size of a Teal, with small wings and large legs, and feet in proportion to its body. The bill is an inch and a quarter long, and the wings inclosed is six inches. The bill is sharp-pointed; with a white tip, and the nostrils are placed in furrows. There is a red skin from the corner of the mouth to the eye, of a red colour; and the head is covered with long black feathers of a shining green gloss. Behind the head there is a line of long loose yellowish orange feathers,

feathers, which hang a little downward, and form a sort of a crest. The hinder part of the back and neck are of a blackish brown, and the forepart of the neck and beginning of the breast are of a reddish orange, which turns a little white on the breast. The whole belly is of a glossy white, with a mixture of dirty orange near it. It seems to have no tail; the legs are placed at the end of the body; and the thighs are so bound within the skin, that they cannot be moved backwards and forwards. The legs are flat and broad; the three toes have stiff webs; besides there are nails on these last like those of a man. This bird was brought from Hudson's Bay.

THE Greatest-tailed Diver, or Loon, is of the size of a goose; but the shape of the body is longer. The tail is round, the head small, and the colour on the upper part is brown, or of a dark ash-colour, with white spots, which are thin on the neck, but more numerous on the back. All the feathers are marked with two white spots, or lines, near the point. The throat, and lower part of the neck, are hoary, and the breast and belly white. One of these birds had a black head and neck, on the middle of which
was

was a white ring, near an inch broad, made up of small white spots. Mr. Ray is apt to think this was the cock. They are sometimes seen in England in very hard winters.

THE Newfoundland Diver, or Loon, is a very large bird; for when the wings are extended, they are four feet in breadth. It has a black sharp bill, white at the point, and near five inches long. The head and neck are of a dusky brown, and there is a white spot under its bill, and a white ring round the neck, below which it is of a greenish colour. The prime feathers of each wing are black, except the outward edges, which are white; the breast and belly are much of the same colour, and the covert feathers of the wings and back are irregularly spotted with white. The outer toe is near five inches long, there being four in all, and the feet are webbed like others of this kind. They have been seen chiefly about Newfoundland, where they live altogether upon fish.

THE Black and White Diver, with a short sharp bill. The bill is short, and a little bent; but the upper part is all black, except a transverse white line; and the chin, throat,

throat, and breast, are white as far as the middle of the belly. It is web-footed, and has a tail; but the picture, from whence this description was taken, has no hinder toe.

THE Greater Diver of Aldrovandus, which is frequently seen in foreign countries, differs very little from the Diver, except in the size, which is twice as big, and therefore it does not want a particular description.

THE Arctic Diver, called by Wormius a Lumme, is of the size of a Duck, and differs from the greatest-tailed Diver in having more spots on the neck, and fewer on the back. Likewise, there are two spots on each feather of the former, but only one in this; besides, it has a square black spot under the neck, which is variegated with white and black feathers, that run round it like a girdle.

THE American Arctic bird is rather bigger than a tame pigeon, and has a bill compressed sideways, and hooked at the point, with a nail at the end of it, which is separated from the other part by a cross furrow. The top of the head is blackish, and the sides of the head, under the
eyes,

eyes, the throat, neck all round, and the breast and belly are white; but the legs and lower belly are of a light ash. The shafts of a few of the outermost prime quills of the wings are white, and the wings are very long and narrow when spread. The tail feathers are shortest on the sides, and gradually increase in length to the two middlemost, which are vastly longer, and resemble those of the Man of War bird. The legs seem to be weak, and are bare of feathers above the knees, being of a bright yellow colour. The feet are black, and the three forward toes are webbed as in Ducks. The hinder toe is very small, and the bottom of the feet are as rough as a fish-skin. This bird was brought from Hudson's Bay, and Mr. Edwards takes it to be of a distinct species.

THE Lumme, or Lumb, of Captain Marten, has a longish bill, which is pretty strong and crooked; and the feet are black, with three black toes and nails; the legs are also black and short. It is quite black on the upper parts; but below on the belly, as far as the neck, it is as white as snow. The cry is very unpleasant, nearly resembling that of a Raven, and it is of the size of a common Duck. There
have

have been small fish and prawns found in their crops, mixed with sandy stones. They love their young ones so well, that they will be killed rather than leave them: and they fly in great flocks, and have pointed wings like Swallows. The upper part of the bill crosses the under, as in the Cross-bill, though not so much. It is a fleshy bird, but it is very dry and tough, and therefore not very agreeable eating.

THE Greater Diver of Gefner is larger than a Goose, and white underneath, but ash-coloured and black above. Johnson has seen this bird in England; and though there are no spots on the back, he thinks it to be of the same species as the greatest tailed Diver.

THE Rathsher, or Alderman, so called by Captain Marten, is a sort of a Gull or Mew, and is a very stately handsome bird. The bill is sharp, narrow, and thin; and there are only three toes joined together with a black skin, for there are none behind. The legs are not very long; but they are of a black colour, as well as the eyes. This bird is so white, that it cannot be distinguished from the snow

know when it sits upon it; and the tail is pretty long and broad, like a fan. The note or cry is like the word Kar; it spreads the wings and tail out when it flies. It is very fond of fish, though it does not much care for wetting its feet. It has been seen to feed on the dung of a Sea Horse, and will rest upon its body while that animal is living. This bird is not very shy, for a man may come so near it as to knock it on the head with a long stick.

THE Dung-Hunter, called by Marten the Sruntgager, has a bill blunt at the fore-part, and a little crooked and thick. It has but three claws, which are united by a black membrane or skin. The legs are not very long, and the tail, which is like a fan, has one feather standing out longer than the rest, by which it may be known from all other birds about Spitzbergen. The top of the head is black as well as the eyes, and about the neck there is a dark yellowish ring or circle. The wings and back are brown, and the belly white. It is as big as the common Mew, and flies after that called Kutgegehef, and torments it so long, that it voids its dung, upon which this bird feeds. It also feeds upon the fat of the Whale. The

place where its nest is built is not very high. Its cry sounds like *I, ga*, and its flesh is very indifferent eating.

THE Burghermafter of Marten has a crooked, yellow, narrow, thick bill, whose under-chap is somewhat knobby at the end, infomuch that it looks almost as if it had a cherry in its mouth. The nostrils are longish, and it has a red ring about the eyes. It has but three claws, which are grey, as are also the legs, which are not quite so long as those of a Stork, and yet the body is almost as big. The tail is white and broad like a fan, that is, when it is flying. The wings and back are of a pale colour; but the tip of the wings and the whole body is white. It builds its nest very high in the clefts of the rocks, and is commonly seen upon dead Whales, where it is easily shot. It feeds upon the fat of the Whale, and its cry is nearly like that of a Raven. It also preys upon young Lambs, catching them like Hawks. These birds generally fly single, unless they meet with a dead carcase of a Sea-horse or Whale. It delights in resting on the water, but does not dive very much, if at all.

THE Great Black-and-White Gull is the largest of all this kind ; for it weighs about seventy-six ounces ; and its length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, is two feet two inches ; but its breadth, when the wings are extended, is five feet seven inches. Its bill is three inches long, with a knob underneath the lower chap, and is of a yellow colour, flat on the sides, and a little crooked at the end. There are two spots on the knob on each side, the lower of which is black, and the upper tinged with red. The head is large and white, as well as the neck, breast, belly and tail ; but the middle of the back, and points and quill feathers of the wings are black. The legs and feet are white, and the nails are black. One of these birds, when it was opened, had the fish called a Sea-sparrow in its stomach.

THE Great Grey Gull weighs about twelve or fourteen ounces ; and is, from the tip of the bill to the extremity of the tail, twenty inches long ; and the wings, when they are extended, four feet. The bill is black, and near three inches long, with the upper jaw somewhat longer than the under, and bending downwards over it. The lower has a rising towards the extremity, and the

eyes are grey; the nostrils are oblong, the head very large, and the neck extremely short. The upper side of the back and neck are grey, intermixed with whitish brown; and the back feathers are black in the middle, and ash-coloured towards the edges. The wing feathers are dark brown, mixed with black; and the throat, breast, belly and thighs are white, as well as the rump, with a few brown spots interspersed. The tail is five or six inches long, and the outermost tips of the feathers on the upper sides are joined by a sort of cross-bars near two inches broad. The under part is variegated with a few dusky lines, and the legs and feet are orange colour, with black claws.



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