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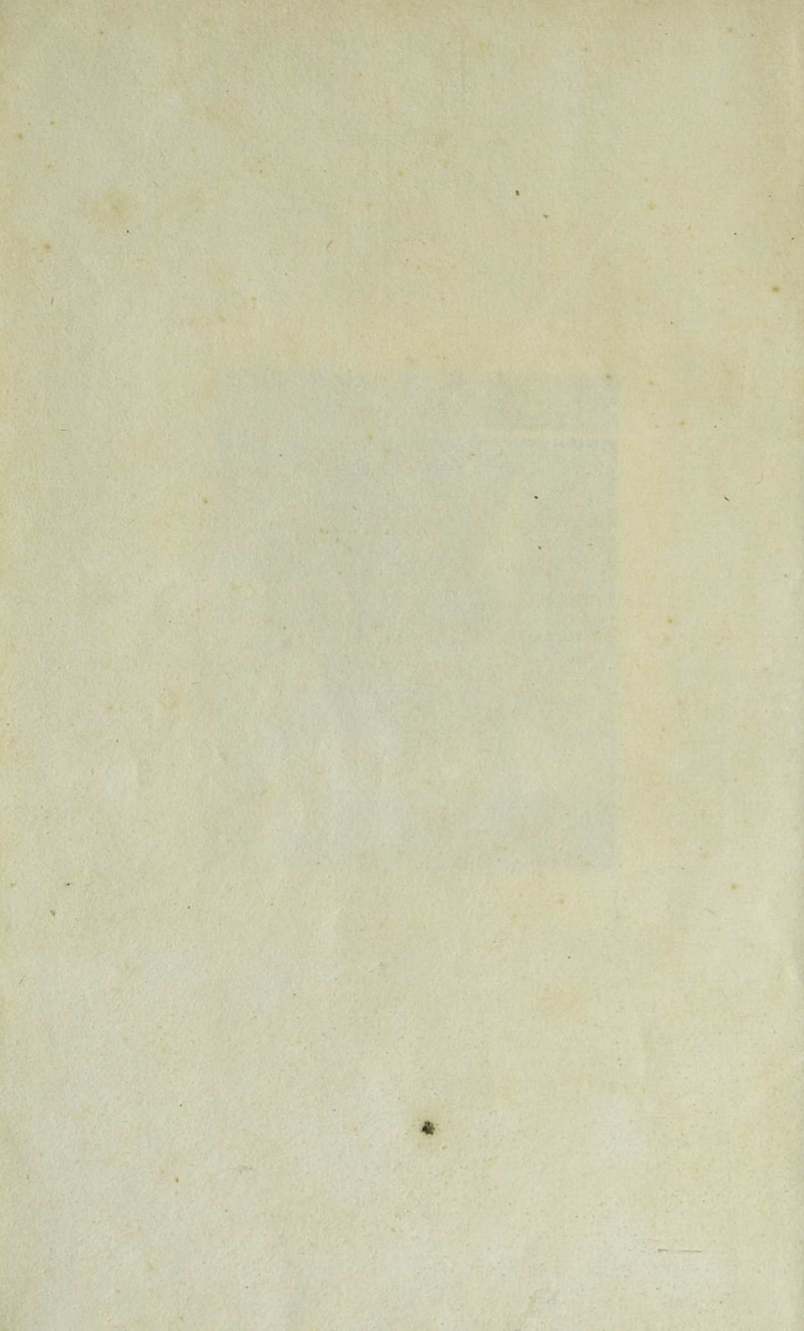
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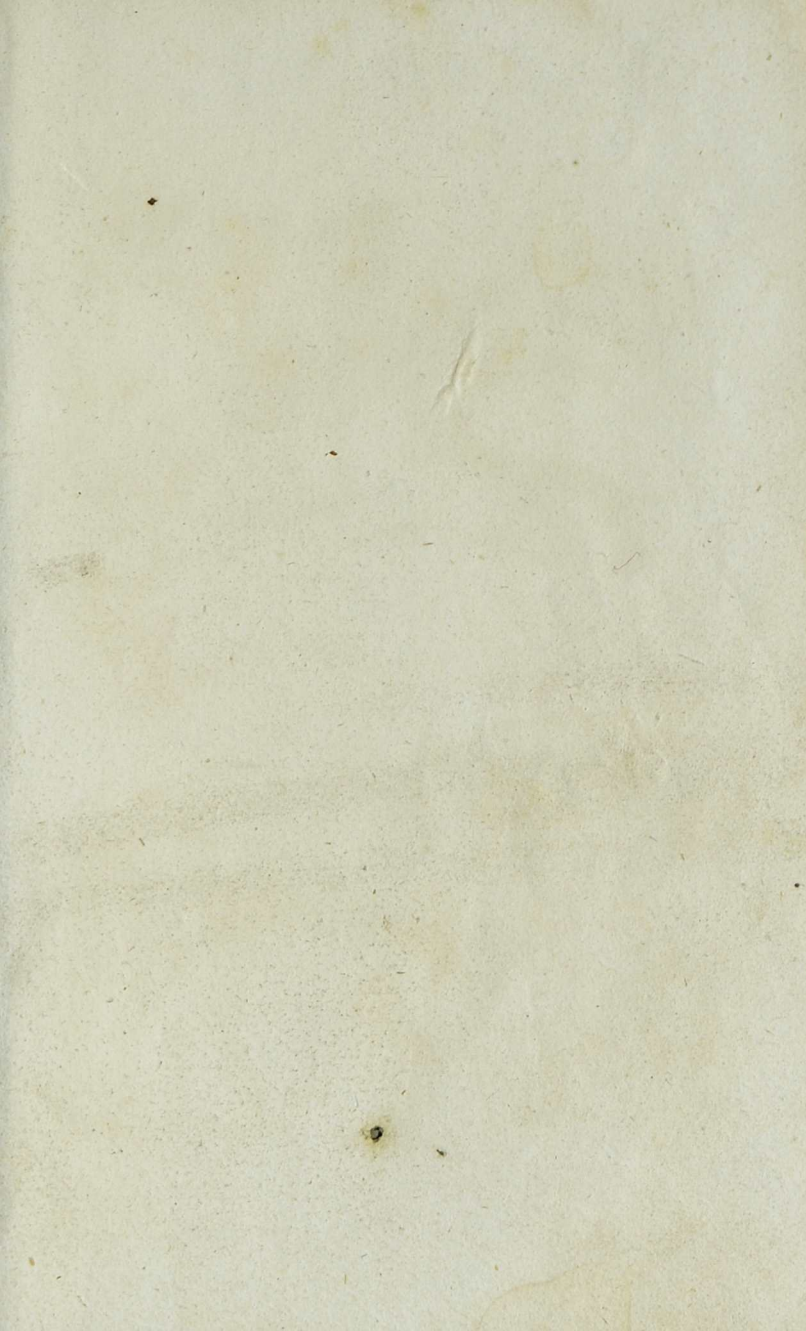
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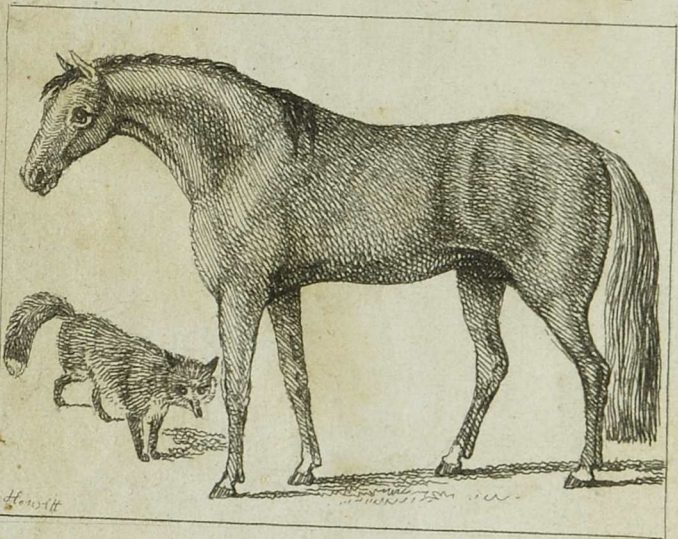




Goat.

Ox.

Sheep.



Fox.

Horse.

FOOTSTEPS

TO THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

BEASTS AND BIRDS.

IN TWO PARTS.

London :

PRINTED FOR HARVEY AND PARTON,
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1822.

INTRODUCTION.

God made all things. What we call the works of Nature are the works of God. It is our duty to study them, since the more we know of them, the more we perceive the wisdom and goodness of their Great Creator; who formed them to suit the modes of life for which they were destined, and bestowed upon them all the comforts of which their nature is capable. We are speaking of *animated nature*, which contains all living creatures; otherwise named the animal kingdom. They are divided into Classes. Birds, Beasts, and Insects, are three of these Classes.

BIRDS have two legs; two wings; and a bill, used by most of them in collecting food, and serving likewise the purpose of hands, in building, &c. They are generally covered with feathers, and are all born from an egg.

BEASTS.—Most of them have their bodies covered with hair: they have four feet, are born alive, and suckle their young.

INSECTS have no bones; but some have a sort of crust on the outside. They all have antennæ, in their perfect state. What you call the horns of a lobster are his antennæ, he being an insect. Most insects are hatched a kind of grub, and change to quite different creatures: it is the case with all flying insects. The butterfly is hatched a caterpillar, the bee a grub; the cockchafer lives underground three years as a grub; the beautiful dragon fly passed his infancy in the water; the

white maggot in a nut will change to a flying insect, and that in a new cheese to a fly. This is a very amusing study. The transformation of the gnat is very curious, and may be observed by setting out a glass of water, for the insect to lay its eggs in.

FISHES form another Class.

REPTILES mean creeping creatures, such as serpents; yet lizards and frogs are taken in among them. Then there are animals which live in shells, which are classed by some writers with worms. Those which dwell in shells enlarge their habitations as they grow, and repair them in case of any injury happening to them. Coral has been the habitation of animals which form their place of abode; but these are not called worms, but polypes.

Whoever studies Natural History finds

an endless source of amusement; such as the Almighty Creator designed for man, when he placed him in Paradise, and brought all the living creatures to Adam, "to see what he would call them," Gen. ii. 19.

re.

FOOTSTEPS

TO

NATURAL HISTORY.

PART I.

*Containing a Description of the most interesting
and remarkable English Beasts and Birds.*

SECTION I.—ENGLISH QUADRUPEDS.

THE HORSE.

THE horse is a noble and most useful creature, and contributes to the pleasure as well as the convenience of mankind. He is a very sagacious animal, and can distinguish the signs of his driver, and

even understand particular words, so as to turn to the right or left, or stop at his command.

There are several varieties of the horse, which, from their make, are adapted to different services: they are the race-horse, the hunter, the road or travelling horse, and the cart-horse. All these, it is supposed, derived their origin from the Arabian horse, which is the most beautiful and the most spirited kind in the world. Their masters never beat them, and if their rider happens to fall, they stand quite still till he mounts again; never offering to kick at him.

The Arabs have neither houses nor stables; but live in tents, taking their horses into them at night; and they lie down in the midst of the children, who make a pillow of their sleek hides. They are careful in stirring, that they may not hurt the little ones, who play with them and caress them, without receiving the least injury.

Horses are found wild in Asia, and are taken by the natives by means of hawks, which fix on their heads, and so distress them by flapping their wings, that they are soon overtaken by their pursuers.

In England also, in the forests of Hampshire, there are wild poneys, which cannot be caught but by hunting them down with dogs. When first taken they are very ungovernable, but afterwards grow gentle and familiar, and may be taught several curious tricks. These Poneys are very strong and hardy.

Horses feed on oats, beans, grass, &c. The female is called a mare; the young ones foals, or colts.

The flesh of the horse is not so valuable as that of some other animals, being only food for dogs; but the skin is made into leather, for collars and harnesses; the hair of the mane is used in making wigs, and for stuffing mattresses, chair-bottoms, &c. and that of the tail is woven into a

kind of cloth, for covering chairs and sofas.

THE OX.

THIS is the general name for animals of the cow kind: they are also called cattle.

Oxen are used in the country for draw- the plough and waggon. They were formerly employed in treading out the corn, instead of its being threshed; and this practice is continued, in some countries, to the present time.

When the services of the ox are over, and it is deprived of life by the hands of the butcher, every part is useful. The flesh supplies us with food, and is called beef; and the blood is used in making a very beautiful blue colour, named Prussian blue, and also in refining sugar. The dung is used in dyeing calico, and is a fine manure for land. The fat is made into candles; and the horn into lanterns,

combs, knife-handles, drinking-cups, &c. Glue is made of the hoofs and parings of the hides; and the bones are made into various articles in imitation of ivory, from which it is sometimes rather difficult to distinguish them.

The milk of cows is excellent food, particularly for children. Cheese is made from milk, and butter from the cream skimmed off of milk. The flesh of calves is delicate food: it is called veal.

The Welch and Scotch oxen are small, and often without horns.

Providence has kindly ordered that cows, the most useful of animals, should bear the seasons of every country in which mankind can live: the same may be said with respect to corn, the support of life.

THE SHEEP.

OF all animals sheep are the most defenceless and innocent, in their present domestic state. They are very timid, and endeavour to fly from their enemies; yet a ewe, which is the female sheep, will face a dog when her lamb is in danger.

Sheep supply us with food: their flesh is mutton. They also furnish us with clothing, the wool being made into cloth, flannel, and worsted for stockings. Their skins are made into parchment, and into leather for covering books; the entrails are twisted into strings, improperly called cat-gut, used for clock-lines, violin-strings, &c. and the dung is spread upon the earth to enrich it.

The wool of the Spanish sheep is finer than English wool: it is imported into England for the purpose of mixing with our own, in the manufacturing of broad cloths, which, with the skill of the work-

men, renders them superior to those of any other country in the world.

Sheep know their shepherd, and are easily guided by him; and they remember the pasture where they were first fed. We have heard of one, which was driven with a flock above a hundred miles away from its native spot, and afterwards found its way back again. It was traced through several towns, and had watched near the turnpike-gates till they were opened, when it got through, and went along the same road by which it came, till it reached the very field where it had first lived.

THE FOX.

THIS animal is proverbially cunning; but his cunning is always accompanied by a despicable meanness. He begins by hollowing out a hole, for himself and family, at the entrance of a wood; from thence he hears the cocks of the neighbouring

villages, and, directed by their voices, he roams in silence about their retreats. When he once succeeds in getting into a hen-roost, he puts all the poultry to death, and carries them, one after another, to his kennel. His address is such, that he even surprises the birds which flutter along the hedges. This voracious animal also destroys young rabbits and hares. If he finds a partridge upon her nest, he destroys the bird and the eggs; and, when pressed by hunger, devours frogs, field-mice, insects, fruits, and honey.

THE GOAT.

THIS lively, playful creature, delights to live in the wildest countries. Its hoofs are well calculated for climbing the rocks, being hollow underneath, with sharp edges, like the inside of a spoon, which prevent it from sliding. The tops of the

boughs, or the tender bark of young trees, are its favourite food.

The goat contributes to the comforts of human life in various instances. The suet is in great esteem, making candles of a superior quality: the skin is also useful; that of the kid, or young goat, makes beautiful gloves. The milk is sweet and very nourishing, and is made into butter and cheese. The flesh of the kid is little inferior to venison.

THE HOG.

THE hog is the most filthy of animals, delighting to wallow in the most dirty places, and feeding upon the refuse of the garden, the barn, the kitchen, or even upon the dead carcasses of other animals. It is commonly remarked of this animal, that it is useless during life, and may therefore be compared to a miser, whose

hoarded treasures are of no service, till death has consigned them to a better master.

The male is called a boar, the female a sow, and the young ones pigs. Their flesh is pork, which, when salted and dried, is bacon.

THE CAT.

THOUGH extremely useful in destroying vermin, the cat seems more attached to the house than to the persons who live in it; and frequent instances occur of their returning to the place from whence they have been carried, though many miles distant, and even across rivers, when one might suppose they could have no knowledge of the road, or the way that would lead them to it.

Some people suppose that cats can see in the dark, but it is not so in reality; though it is certain they can see with a

less degree of light than most other animals.

The eyes of kittens remain closed for some days after they are born, which is the case with all animals that lap.

THE DOG.

THE dog is gifted with that sagacity, vigilance, and fidelity, which qualify him to be the guard, the companion, and the friend of man. He will rather die by the side of his master than take a bribe to betray him; and it seems beyond the power even of ill-usage to subdue the faithful and constant qualities which are natural to him.

Our limits do not allow us to enter into a description of the several species of this animal, most of which are useful for particular services. They assist the shepherd in the care of his flock; they guard our houses from the depredations of rob-

bers; and lend us their aid in destroying foxes and rats, as well as in hunting the more innocent hare.

THE ASS.

THIS animal is very useful in the country, and particularly to poor people, as it lives upon the coarsest of food, and is therefore of but little expence to its owner. It will eat thistles, docks, and other plants, which horses will not touch, and is sustained by a smaller quantity of food than any other animal of the same size could live on. Though the ass seems so indifferent as to the quality of what it eats, it is particularly delicate in its choice of water, drinking only at the clearest brooks. Its milk is very sweet and nourishing, and is drank by sick people.

The ass is accused of obstinacy and stupidity. If it possesses the first of these qualities, we attribute it, in a great mea-

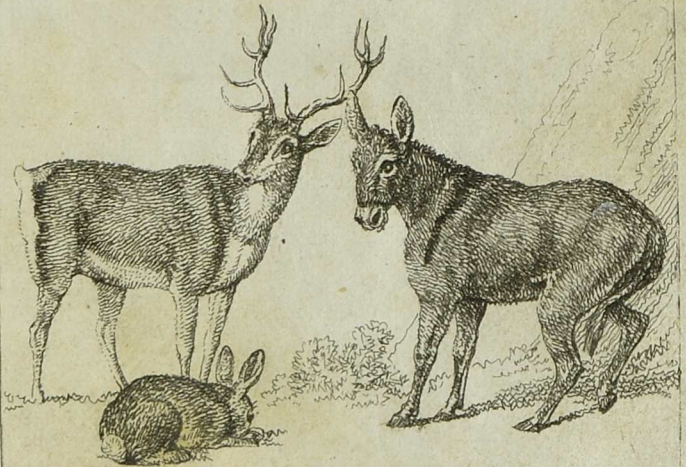


Cat.



Dog.

Hog.



Howell

Deer.

Rabbit.

Ass.

sure, to the ill-treatment which it too often receives in return for its services. That it is more stupid than the generality of brutes we deny, for it knows the roads its master frequents, and the places where he is accustomed to stop, and can distinguish him from other persons, even at a distance. To counterbalance the vices alleged to these animals, it is but fair to state that they are humble, patient, and quiet, remarkably attached to their young, and have a great affection for their masters.

Asses are very sure-footed, and will live and work hard a number of years. Even after they are dead their services are not at an end, for their skins make a very tough leather, which is used for leaves to pocket-books, and for other purposes.

THE FALLOW DEER.

THE fallow deer is similar, in many respects, to the stag or red deer; the principal difference is, that the former is smaller than the latter, and its horns, instead of being round, like those of the stag, are broad and rather flat. Its tail is also longer than the stag's, and the colour of the hair brighter.

The fallow deer is easily tamed, and feeds upon a variety of things which the stag refuses. There are two kinds now common in England, but they both came originally from foreign parts: the beautiful spotted kind is supposed to have been brought from Bengal in the East Indies; and the deep brown sort was introduced by king James the First, out of Norway, a cold country in the north of Europe. He placed them in his chases of Enfield and Epping, and since that time they

have multiplied exceedingly in many parts of this kingdom.

Like the rest of the deer kind, they shed their horns every year. Their flesh is venison: that of England is reckoned superior to any other in the world.

THE SQUIRREL.

THIS lively and provident little creature secures a vast store of nuts, acorns, &c. for winter provision; in summer it feeds on the buds or young shoots of trees, and is particularly fond of the cones which grow on the fir and pine. When it eats or dresses itself it sits upright, covering its body with its tail, and using its fore paws as hands, to convey food to its mouth. The tail is so long and bushy, that it serves as a shade to protect it either from heat or cold: it also answers the purpose of a sail, for in attempting to cross a lake or river, the squirrel places itself upon a

piece of bark, and raising its tail to catch the wind, boldly commits itself to the mercy of the waves. The smallest gust of wind is sufficient to overset a whole fleet of these little adventurers, and in such perilous voyages many hundreds of them are said to perish.

The squirrel makes a nest in the hollow part of a tree, of moss and dry leaves, and has four or five young ones at a time.

THE GUINEA-PIG.

THESE animals are by nature gentle and tame, doing no mischief, and but little good. Their skins are not of much value, and their flesh, though eatable, is far from being good. Some people keep them for the purpose of eating up the refuse of their rabbit-hutches, and it is said that rats avoid the places where they reside.

The female Guinea-pig has from twelve to fourteen young ones every two months,

which she takes but little care of; so that numbers are destroyed by cats, and some even by the male Guinea-pigs. Many of them perish with cold, as they were brought originally from a warmer country, and are very tender.

They are restless, grunting little animals, continually running from corner to corner. Nothing is known of their manners in a wild state. When tame they will eat almost any thing, and are generally kept on bread, grains, and vegetables.

THE RABBIT.

WILD rabbits live in holes in the earth, where they bring forth their young and retire from danger. They breed seven times in the year, and have commonly eight young ones at a time; from which it has been calculated that one pair may increase, in the course of four years, to the amazing number of one million, two hun-

dred, and seventy-four thousand, eight hundred and forty; so that, if they had not many enemies, they would soon overrun the face of the whole country. They are taken for the use of man, and great numbers are devoured by foxes, weasels, hawks, and other animals.

The fur of rabbits forms a principal article in the making of hats; and what is unfit for that purpose, has been found to be as good as down for stuffing beds and bolsters.

Tame rabbits are of different colours, and some are quite white; but wild ones are all of a greyish brown.

THE HARE.

THIS timid, gentle animal, has many enemies: dogs, foxes, and weasels, pursue and devour it; birds of prey often seize it; and cruel men delight to hunt it, more for the sake of amusement than for its flesh,

though it is esteemed a dainty. Unfurnished with claws, fangs, sharp teeth, or even much strength, this poor creature, at first sight, seems left quite defenceless; but, if we examine further, we shall perceive that the good God, who provides for the wants of all his creatures, has bestowed three qualities on the hare, which enable it frequently to escape from the dangers which threaten it. By its watchfulness it is warned of the approach of an enemy; by its swiftness it outstrips the steps of its pursuer; and by its colour, which is like that of the earth, it is often passed by without observation. In cold countries, where the ground is covered with snow for many months together, the poor hares would be deprived of this last advantage, did not God provide for their safety, by changing the colour of their skins to a milk-white during the winter season.

Hares feed upon vegetables, and they do great injury to young trees, by eating

off the bark. Their fur is used in the manufacture of hats.

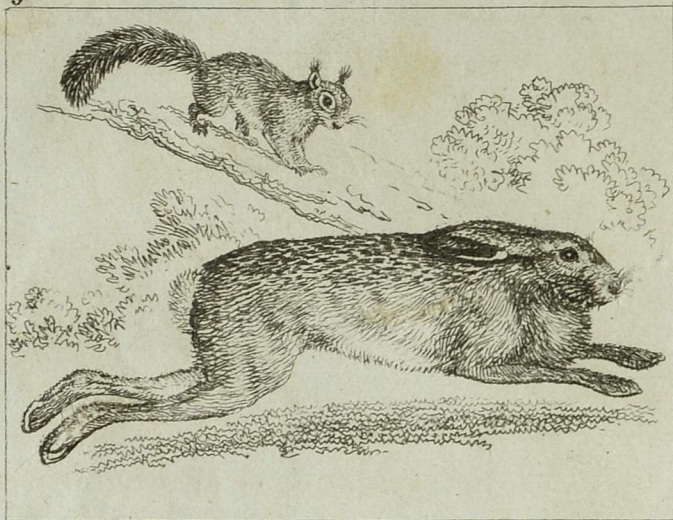
THE RAT.

OUR meat, corn, paper, clothes, furniture, in short, almost every convenience of life, is a prey to this destructive creature; nor does it confine itself to these, for it makes equal havoc among our poultry, rabbits, or young game. The fore teeth of the rat are so strong, that, by their help, it can force its way through the hardest wood or oldest mortar.

Rats increase very fast, but are so unnatural as to devour one another.

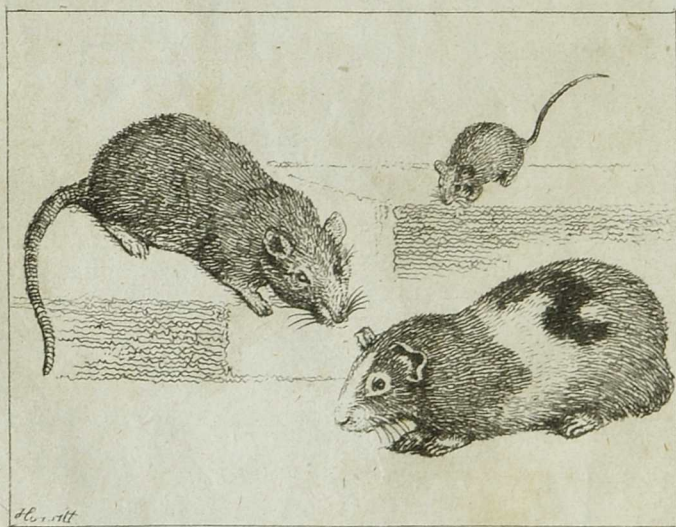
THE MOUSE.

In shape and colour the mouse bears a strong resemblance to the rat, though it is considerably smaller. It is of a more



Squirrel.

Hare.



Rat.

Mouse.

Guinea Pig.

timid nature, but its destructive disposition is similar to that of the rat.

There are some living creatures which, although we are conscious that they cannot injure us, yet excite unpleasant feelings by the apparent deformity of their appearance. The mouse, on the contrary, is much more adapted to be the companion of man, than to be an object of aversion. Some persons are so silly as to be afraid of them; but such fears are only entertained by those who choose to suppress their own reason; for if they allowed themselves to recollect that the little, timid, fearful animal, has much the most cause to dread them, they would be ashamed of their own folly.

The sight and hearing of the mouse are extremely acute, and as soon as it observes the least motion, or hears the slightest noise, it listens attentively, sitting erect on its hinder feet; and if the alarm continues, it runs in haste to its retreat.

This little creature is now known in nearly all parts of the habitable world. It forms its place of concealment in walls, under the floors, or behind the waistcotting of houses; and in this it sometimes stores a considerable magazine of provisions for future subsistence. Its food is various; and, as it is able to pass through a very small hole, there are few places that are secure from its approach.

The increase of these animals is very rapid. The females produce their young ones, generally from five to eight in number, at all times of the year. They provide for their offspring with great care, particularly with regard to the softness and warmth of the nest.

SECTION II.—ENGLISH BIRDS.

THE COCK.

THE common cock is a majestic-looking bird, with beautiful plumage; his wings are short, so that he seldom flies, and when he does, it seems to be with difficulty. He crows in the night as well as in the day, and generally at particular hours; from which he has been termed the villager's clock.

The female, or hen, makes a nest which is by no means curious; she sits upon her eggs about three weeks, and is very careful of her young when they are hatched. She scratches the ground for worms, and shows them to her chickens; she attends them with the greatest anxiety, and defends them against dogs and men, with a

courage, indeed a kind of fury, which she possesses at no other time.

Fowls live upon grain, insects, and even meat; and swallow small stones, which help them to digest their food.

THE GUINEA-FOWL.

THE plumage of the Guinea-fowl is very remarkable, being of a bluish grey, stud-ded with an amazing number of small white spots. Its wings are short, and its tail falls like that of a partridge, so that it seems rather hump-backed; but it appears so only from the form in which the feathers lie.

These are very quarrelsome birds, and generally make themselves masters of the poultry-yard: in their attacks they are so nimble, so violent, and so persevering, that they often beat a turkey-cock, though he is so much superior in size. They are

besides, very ill-natured, and frequently kill young chickens.

THE PEACOCK.

IN the elegance of its shape, and the richness of its plumage, the peacock excels every other bird. The head, which is of a beautiful blue, is adorned with a crest of twenty-four feathers, of a green colour, glossed with gold; the neck and breast of the male are of a blue, which sometimes seems enriched with shades of green and purple. The back is green, inlaid with gold and the feathers lie one over another like shells. Above the tail is a train of long and beautiful feathers, adorned with those large spots commonly called the eyes, which are painted, as it were, with several shades of green and gold, and of blue, deepening into a rich violet; these appear still more striking,

because the colour in the middle is a fine velvet black. The true tail is hid beneath the train, and consists of eighteen brown feathers.

The peacock has the power of spreading his train, which he generally takes the advantage of doing when the sun shines; and then, by giving it a quivering motion, he displays all its beauties to the greatest advantage.

The colours of the peahen are not so beautiful as those of the male bird, though her neck is of a fine changeable green, tinged with gold. She sits twenty-seven or thirty days, is very shy, and if disturbed will forsake her eggs. The little ones, for some time after they are hatched, let their wings hang, and do not know how to use them; the mother carries them upon her back, one by one, to the branch of the tree where they are to roost; in the morning she flies down before them, and encourages them to follow, and thus teaches them to begin to use their wings.

THE TURKEY.

THE turkey has rather a curious appearance, from the wattles, or loose warty skin, with which the head and forepart of the neck are covered. The breast of the male has a tuft of black hair when he is three years old, and his legs are each furnished with a spur, or rather a blunt knob. The female has not the spur; sometimes the tuft of black hair appears on the breast, but it is not so long as that on the breast of the male.

When the turkey is enraged, the skin of the head and neck becomes of a deep crimson colour, he bristles up his feathers, and struts about with his tail spread, and his wings rustling upon the ground: he first makes a kind of stifled hissing noise, and then a louder gobbling cry, which he often repeats. The sight

of a piece of red cloth highly offends him.

The hen turkey lays from twelve to fifteen eggs, and has the same care and anxiety for her little ones as the common hen.

THE SWALLOW.

SWALLOWS are inoffensive, harmless, and sociable birds; they fly together in considerable flocks, and in some degree perform the kind offices of social life, by assisting each other to build their nests. These are formed, with considerable care, of mud mixed with straw and hair, and lined with feathers, to enable their infant brood to lie soft and at their ease.

The plumage of the swallow, though not beautiful in itself, is glossed with different shades, so as to show a change of colours in different points of view. Its flight is very rapid, yet easy: indeed this

seems its natural state, as it eats, drinks, and even feeds its young upon the wing. It lives on flies, gnats, and other insects, which it takes in the air.

What becomes of swallows in the winter is not certainly known; but it is probable that they retire to warmer countries, in search of their natural food.

THE WATER-WAGTAIL.

THESE little birds frequent the sides of brooks, and are almost constantly running. When they fly they make a twittering noise. They continue in England all the year, but in winter remove from the north to the south.

Their nests are on the ground, and the female lays four or five eggs, spotted with brown. When the young are hatched she attends them with the greatest care, and, even for three weeks or a month after they are able to fly, supplies them

plentifully with insects and ants' eggs, on which they feed.

THE NIGHTINGALE.

THE nightingale is a solitary bird, and never unites in flocks, like many of the smaller birds; but hides itself in the thickest part of the bushes, and sings generally in the night. Its food consists of insects, worms, the eggs of ants, and berries of various kinds.

Nightingales begin to build their nests about the beginning of May. They are composed of leaves, rushes, blades of grass, very coarse on the outside; with small roots, horse-hair, and a kind of down in the inside. The female lays five eggs, sits very close, and only leaves her nest in the evening, when pressed by hunger. Whilst she is absent the cock seems to watch the nest, and when the young are hatched he assists in the care

of them: during that time he is seldom heard to sing.

The song of the nightingale is superior to that of all other birds; and it is truly astonishing, that though it is so small as not to weigh half an ounce, it can fill the whole compass of a mile with its song. He begins with a slow and gentle warbling, as though he were trying his powers; by degrees his notes rise, and he becomes more animated and loud; sometimes they are so plaintive, and die away so gently, at others so full and expressive, that it is impossible to conceive sounds more sweet or interesting.

The nightingale is frequently caught and tamed, for the sake of its song; and in confinement it will sing seven or eight months in the year. Its plumage is not beautiful; the upper part of the body being of a reddish brown; the throat, breast, and stomach of a whitish grey.

THE PHEASANT.

PHEASANTS delight in woods, in low situations: they roost on the tops of trees, with their heads under one of their wings. They breed once a year, and are sometimes kept in a tame state. The hen builds a nest of straw, leaves, &c. which, though coarsely made, she prefers to any other that may have been provided for her: however neat and more curious it may be than her own, she would pull it to pieces, and with the materials make one for herself.

The pheasant is nearly as large as the common cock, and his plumage is more beautiful.

THE PARTRIDGE.

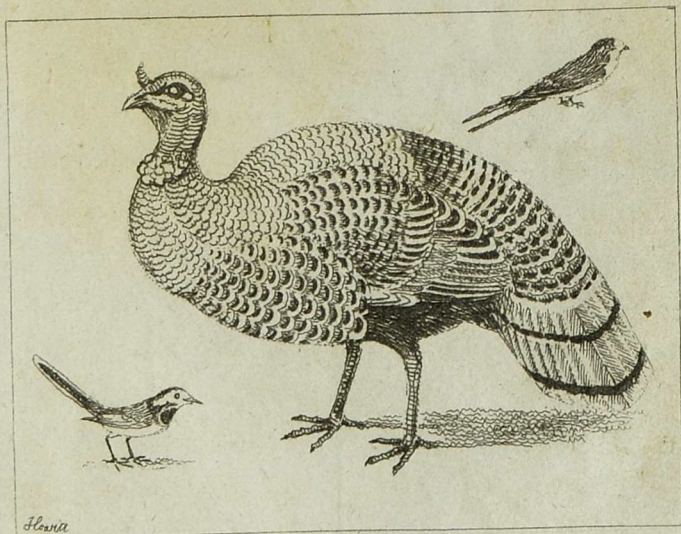
THE partridge makes an artless nest, of grass, straw, or a few leaves collected to-



Cock.

Peacock.

Guinea Fowl.

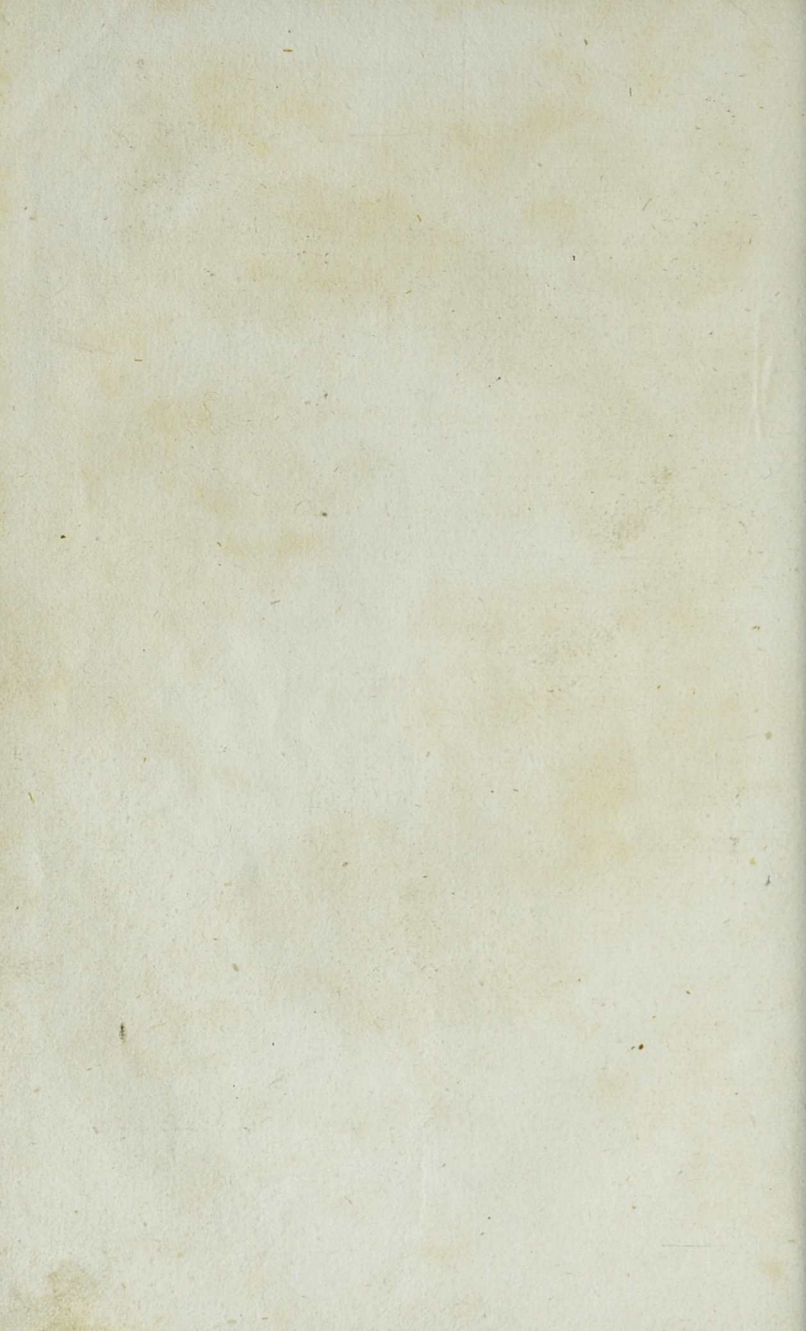


Howell

Wagtail.

Turkey.

Swallow.



gether, often in a hollow left by the foot of a horse or cow. The young ones run about as soon as they are hatched, sometimes with part of the shell upon their backs. They feed on all kinds of grain, but the eggs of ants are their favourite food. The male assists the female in the care of their young, and will expose himself to danger to protect them.

THE MAGPIE.

THIS arch bird lives upon worms, insects, small birds, and carrion; and if it has procured more food than it can eat at one time, it endeavours to hide the rest for a future meal. It builds a very curious nest, which it covers on the outside with thorns, leaving but a small hole to get in at.

Magpies are easily tamed and learnt to talk.

THE OWL.

OWLS, like cats, can see with very little light; and as the light of the day is too powerful for their eyes, they are seldom seen at that time. The little birds do not like the owl, because in the evening he flies after them, and would kill them if he could. When they find him out in the day, they get together in great numbers, and fly about him and tease him; for they are not afraid of him then, because he is sleepy, and cannot bear the glare of the light.

Owls are birds of prey, and live upon frogs, mice, moles, and small birds.

THE RAVEN.

RAVENS are found in almost every climate of the world. They fly in pairs, and will

destroy other birds, if they can take them unawares. Sometimes they are grey, sometimes white, but this is not very common; in general they are jet black.

A raven may be taught to catch birds like a hawk, to fetch and carry like a spaniel, and to speak like a parrot; and some have been taught to sing like a man. When ravens are tamed they become very great thieves, and not only take every thing they may want to eat, but are very apt to fly away with any glittering things they may find; as money, rings, or tea-spoons. They build their nests in trees, or the holes in rocks, and lay five or six eggs: they generally use the same nest, repairing it every year. They do not like that any other bird should live near them, and even drive away their young as soon as they can provide for themselves.

The raven is a long-lived bird, and is supposed sometimes to live a hundred years.

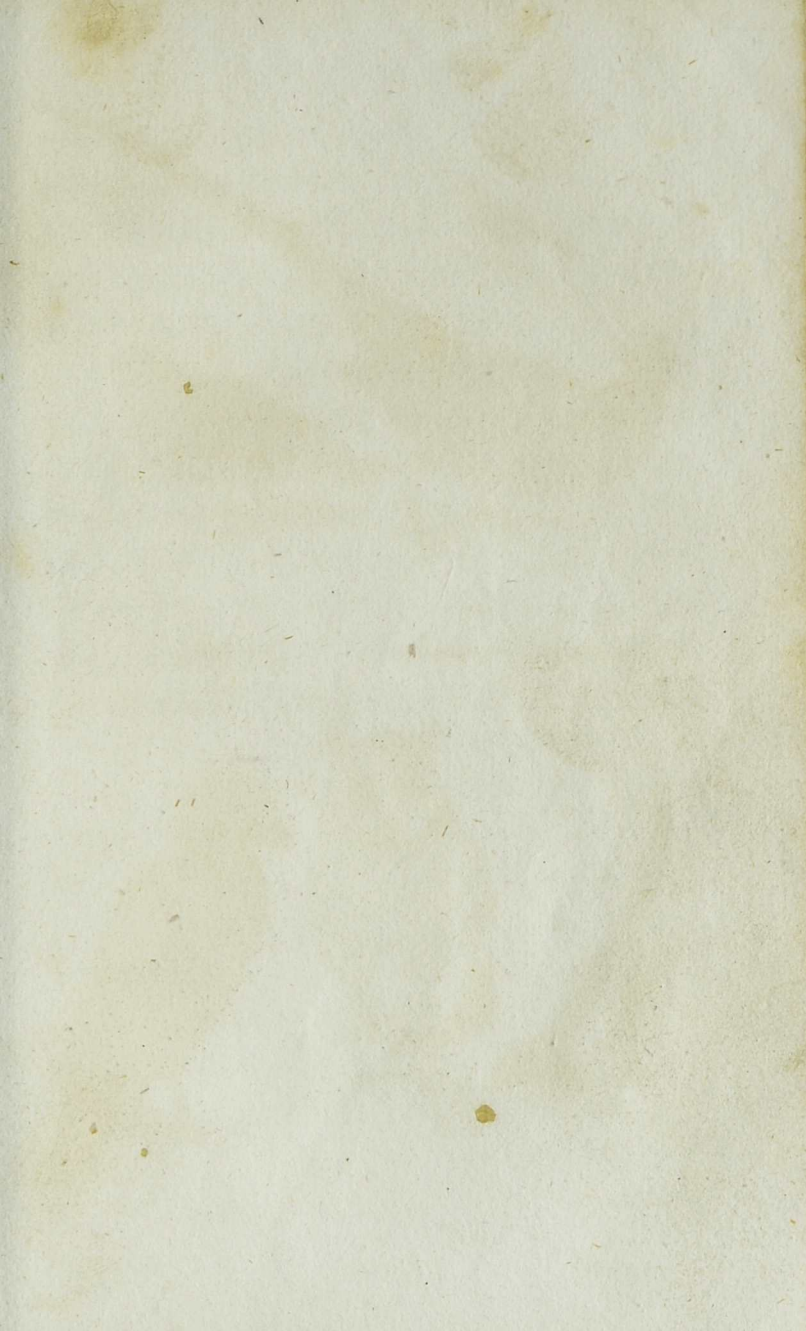
THE BLACKBIRD.

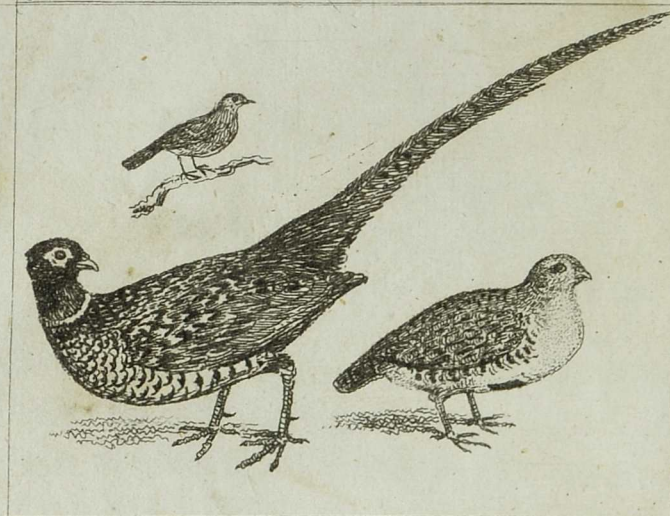
THE blackbird is the largest song-bird found in England, and one of the first that proclaims the welcome spring by its harmonious voice. The cock, when kept in a cage, sings very delightfully all the spring and summer-time; and, besides his own pleasant natural note, may be taught to whistle a tune.

The female lays five or six bluish eggs: the male supplies her with food while she is sitting.

THE CUCKOO.

THE cuckoo is a bird of passage; that is, when winter is coming on, it flies across the seas to a warmer country, and returns early in the next spring. It is silent for some time after its first coming; but its

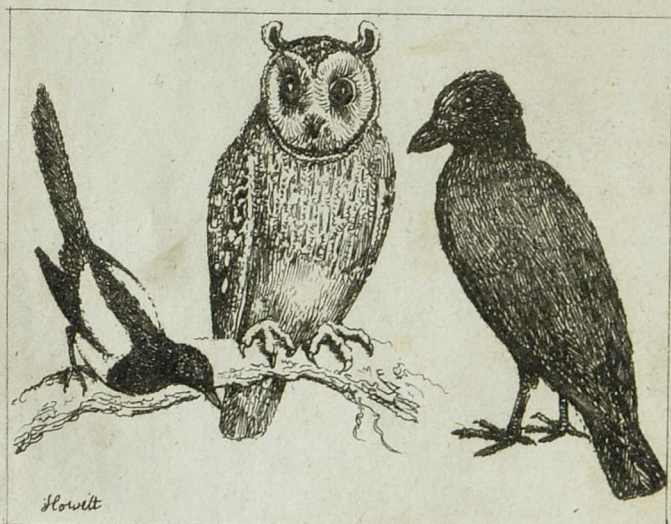




Nightingale.

Pheasant.

Partridge.



Magpye.

Owl.

Raven.

well-known cry of *cuckoo*, from which it takes its name, is generally heard about the middle of April, and ceases the latter end of June. In the beginning of July it leaves this country.

The hen cuckoo builds no nest, but lays her solitary egg in that of another bird, by which it is hatched. The nest she most commonly chooses for this purpose is the hedge-sparrow's. When the young cuckoo is hatched, it throws all the eggs, and even its fellow-nestlings, out of the nest; and in this manner secures to itself the sole care of its foster parent.

Cuckoos feed upon insects and birds' eggs, but never upon birds; indeed they are fearful, and fly from the small birds, which continually pursue and tease them.

THE GOOSE.

There are several kinds of Geese, and most of them are wild: their feathers are generally white, or white and grey. Wild Geese, and all wild of the same kind,

THE SPARROW-HAWK.

THIS bold and spirited bird is very numerous in England, and many other parts of the world. The female builds her nest in hollow trees, high rocks, or lofty ruins, or makes use of an old crow's nest. She generally lays four or five eggs.

The sparrow-hawk makes great havock among pigeons, poultry, and small birds of every kind, which it will attack and carry off in the most daring manner. It may be easily trained to hunt partridges and quails.

THE GOOSE.

THERE are several kinds of Geese, and most of them are wild: their feathers are generally white, or white and grey. Wild geese, and all wild fowl of the same kind,

are marked in the same manner; yet all domestic birds of the same kind become in time differently marked, and no two are exactly alike, so that every man may know his own from those of other people.

The tame goose breeds but once a year, and while she is sitting, the male, or gander, visits her twice or three times a day, and sometimes takes her place; after she has hatched, he walks about with her and the goslings, and seems as if he would attack any thing that might come near them.

The feet of geese, and of all waterfowl, have a kind of thick skin between the toes, which assists them in swimming. These are called web-footed birds.

The quills out of the wings of the goose are what we use for pens: the smaller feathers are put into our beds and pillows.

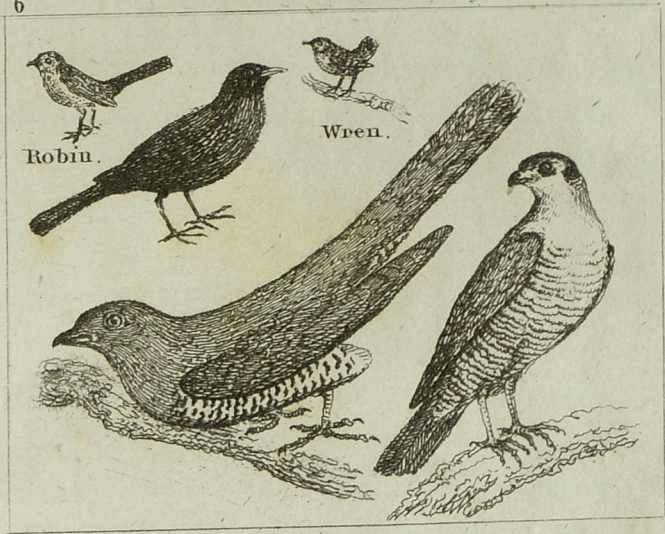
THE DUCK.

THE duck is a water-fowl smaller than the goose, and with more beautiful plumage. The head of the male, or drake, is of a deep shining green, the upper part of the breast of a purplish red, and it has a rich purple mark on the wing, which, when viewed in different directions, varies to a beautiful green.

In the spring the duck lays from ten to sixteen eggs, and the young ones run into the water soon after they are hatched.

THE PIGEON.

It has been observed, that pigeons are not our servants, like dogs and horses; nor our prisoners, like some kinds of poultry; but that they rather seem to be our voluntary companions and occasional guests, so long as they are provided with the conveniences



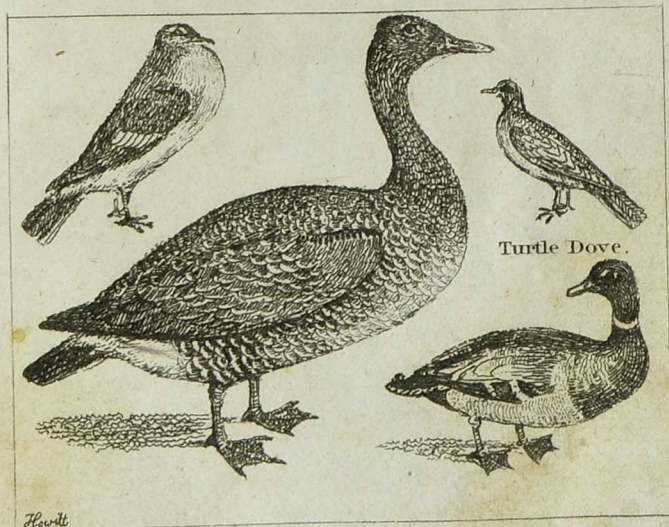
Robin.

Wren.

Blackbird.

Cuckoo.

Sparrow Hawk.



Turtle Dove.

Hewitt

Pigeon.

Goose.

Duck.

they like: though some prefer the dusty holes in decayed walls, to the neatest boxes we can furnish them with. They begin to lay at nine months old, and it has been calculated that in four years, one thousand eight hundred might be produced from a single pair; though they sit upon only two eggs each time. The cock and hen sit by turns, one calling to the other by a gentle cooing, whenever it wishes to leave the nest in search of food. The young pigeons are generally a cock and a hen; their parents first swallow the grain they intend to feed them with, and after it is a little softened in their first stomach, they throw it back through their beaks into the mouths of their young.

THE TURTLE-DOVE.

THE turtle-dove is a shy bird, and retires to breed in thick gloomy woods, generally

amongst oak-trees. During the breeding season they are found in several parts of the west of England; in summer they frequent the pea-fields in Kent, in flocks, as soon as the peas begin to ripen, and destroy great numbers; in autumn they leave the kingdom.

The female lays two eggs, and is supposed to breed but once in the season. The constancy of the dove is justly celebrated; if it loses its mate, it is said never to pair again.

THE GOLDFINCH.

THIS lively little bird interests us as much by the agreeableness of its song, and the docility of its character, as by its beautiful plumage. Its bill is white, tipped with black, and surrounded with rich scarlet feathers; its cheeks are white, the top of its head black, and its back is brown. The quill feathers are black, marked in

the middle with a beautiful yellow, and tipped with white; the tail is black, with white spots near the end.

Goldfinches build an extremely neat nest, generally on the slender branches of fruit-trees, but sometimes in bushes, and commonly have two broods in the year. They live upon several kinds of seed, and are particularly fond of those of the thistle. In a cage they are fed on canary, flax, or hemp seed. They are so familiar, that some have been taught to dance, to fire a cannon, to open a box in which their food is kept, and to draw up a little bucket of water.

THE REDBREAST.

THE general plumage of the redbreast is of a kind of olive colour, but the throat and breast are of a deep orange red. It builds its nest near the ground, upon the roots of young trees, or in the most con-

cealed holes in walls. It is made of moss, leaves, and horse-hair, and lined with feathers: they often cover it with leaves, a narrow entrance being left under the heap, which the female conceals with a leaf when she goes out. She lays from five to seven eggs, and while she is sitting, the cock warbles in the woods his melodious song, which is esteemed by many to be little inferior to the nightingale's. He sings very early in the morning, and late in the evening.

The redbreast, in summer, prefers a solitary life, and feeds on worms, insects, and ant's eggs; but in winter, when food is scarce in the woods, it haunts the dwelling of the cottager, and partakes of his humble fare. This familiarity has occasioned it every where to be distinguished by a familiar name: the Danes call it Tommi Liden; the people of Norway, Peter Ronsmad; the Germans, Thomas Gierdet; and with us it is called Robin Redbreast.

THE WREN.

THE Wren is a sprightly little bird, frequenting villages and the neighbourhood of towns, at the approach of winter, and chanting, especially towards the evening, its pleasing, animated song. He sometimes shows himself, for a moment, on a heap of dry wood; the next instant enters it, and disappears. For a moment he is seen on the edge of the thatch, but quickly conceals himself under it, or in a hole in the wall. As soon as he comes out he frisks among the branches of the neighbouring bushes, always raising his little tail.

In the spring the Wren frequents woods, where it builds its curious nest, under thick and leafy branches, at a little distance from the ground. It is in the form of a sugar-loaf; the outside is composed of moss, and it is lined in the inside with hair, wool, or feathers: a little hole is left on

one side for an entrance. The female lays from ten to eighteen eggs, of a dingy white, spotted at the larger end with red: if she perceives that her nest is discovered, she immediately forsakes it.

PART II.

Containing a Description of some of the most remarkable and interesting Beasts and Birds found in foreign countries.

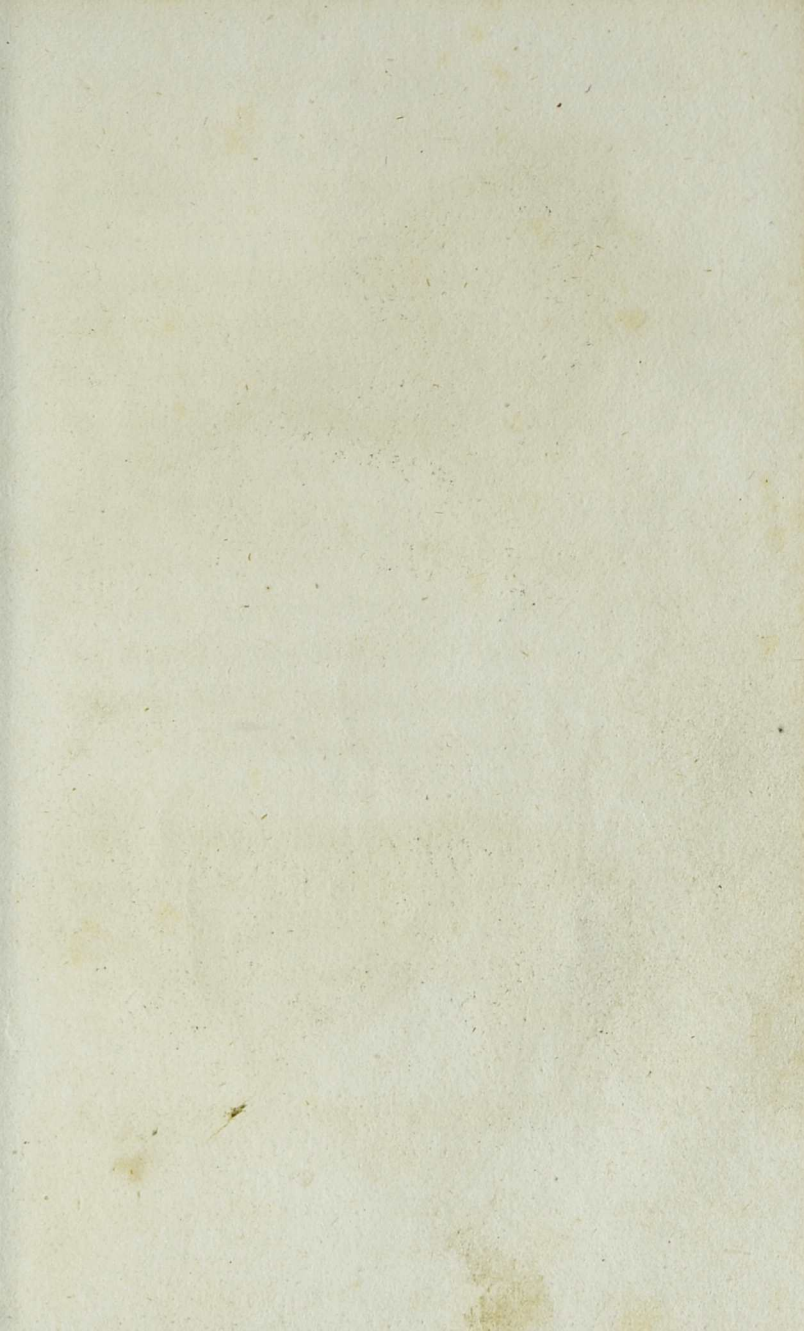
SECTION I.—FOREIGN QUADRUPEDS.

THE LION.

THIS noble creature, which is generally termed the King of the Beasts, is a native of only the hottest parts of the globe, particularly Africa; where, in the parched and desert regions, he arrives at his greatest bulk and courage. He is also met with in Persia and India; but the Indian lions are said to be weak and timid. An African lion, of the largest size, has measured above eight feet, from the nose to the beginning of the tail; and from four to five feet in height. He has a very large head, rounded ears, fiery

eyes, and his neck and shoulders are covered with long shaggy hair, forming a mane: his long tail is ornamented with a tuft of hair at the end. The general colour is a pale tawny, whiter on the under side of the body. The female is about one fourth smaller than the male, and she is without the mane.

The lion reigns the undoubted lord of the wilderness: at his tremendous roar, which resembles distant thunder, all other animals tremble. Horses and oxen fall into cold sweats, and crouch to the ground in the greatest agony. His scent is indifferent, and he hunts by the eye alone; following secretly, till he approaches near enough to seize his prey with two or three bounds or leaps. He strikes with his paw with such force as to beat down a large animal; and such is his strength, that he can with ease carry off an ox or a buffalo. The lion seldom kills more than will serve his present necessities: when satiated, he often suffers men and animals





Lion.



Tiger.

to pass him in safety. His courage is tempered with mercy; and he has been known to spare the weaker animals, as beneath his attention.

The lion is a long-lived animal: it has even reached the age of sixty or seventy years in confinement.

In the scorching deserts of Africa, where there are neither rivers nor springs, the pelican makes her nest; and, in order to cool her young ones, and accustom them to an element out of which they are afterwards to procure their food, brings from afar, in her large pouch, sufficient water to fill the nest. The lion, and other wild beasts, approach and quench their thirst, yet never injure the unfledged birds; as if they knew that their destruction would put a stop to these grateful supplies.



THE TIGER.

THE tiger has been accounted the most beautiful, as well as the most terrible of animals. Its whole body is marked with long black stripes, which, contrasted with a ground of tawny or orange colour, or with pure white in the face and flanks, produce a very striking effect. Its tail is one third shorter than its body, and has black rings. This animal seems to be confined to the hottest parts of Asia, especially India and the Indian islands.

The tiger is the only beast of prey which, in size and strength, can dispute with the lion. The kind called the royal tiger is, indeed, sometimes found superior in bulk to the lion, having been measured fifteen feet from the nose to the end of the tail.

The disposition of the tiger seems to be peculiarly ferocious and cruel; he is scarcely capable of being tamed, and can-

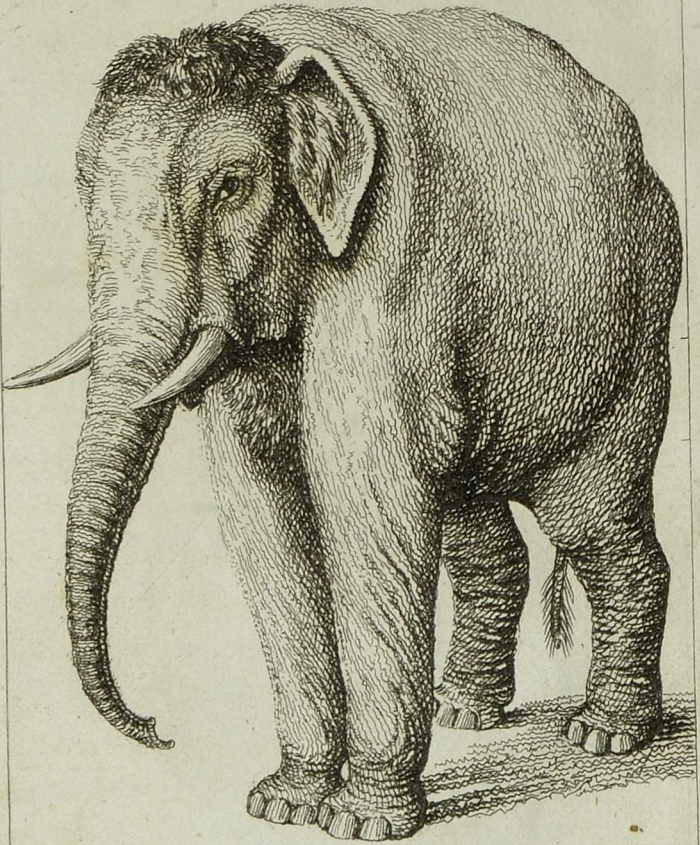
not be trusted by his keepers. He watches under thickets for his prey, and seizes the victim with a sudden spring, accompanied by a most hideous roar. If he misses his first aim, however, he generally retreats; and a slight resistance will often drive him away. There have been many instances of tigers making prey of the human species: one has been known to leap over a garden wall, and snatch a person from the midst of a company; carrying him off in his mouth, and repassing the wall with the greatest ease.

The tigress produces three or four young at a litter, and is extremely furious in their defence.

THE ELEPHANT.

EVERY part of the world has animals of its own, and it is for very wise purposes, that the Creator has placed them in one country, rather than in another.

The elephant, which is a native both of Africa and Asia, appears like a moving mountain, and its bones are like pillars. Its head is joined to a very short neck, and armed with two tusks, strong enough to tear up trees or throw them down. These tusks are ivory, and are a very valuable commodity. A longer neck could not support the weight of the head, nor hold it up. But, to make amends for the short neck, his trunk is very long. He uses it as a hand to convey food to his mouth, without being obliged to stoop for it. He moves, bends, and turns it all ways at his pleasure, and makes use of it as an organ of smell. His eyes are small in proportion to the size of his body, but they are bright and full of fire. In a state of independence, the elephant is neither sanguinary nor fierce, but of a mild nature, and never makes use of its weapons but in its own defence. When irritated, it seizes its enemy with its trunk, flings it like a stone at him, and then



Rosell

Elephant.

treads him to death. An elephant eats about one hundred pounds weight of grass in a day; but its body being of an enormous weight, it crushes and destroys with its feet more than it consumes in food.

The instances related of the sensibility, intelligence, and sagacity of this animal, are wonderful. They are usually much attached to their keepers; but if affronted by them, will often severely revenge themselves.

THE ARABIAN CAMEL.

THE riches of the Arabian have consisted in the number of his camels, from the time of Job to the present day. Without them great part of Africa would be wretched; their whole commerce being carried on through dry and burning tracts, impassable but by beasts which Providence has formed expressly for the scorched deserts. The soles of their feet

are adapted to the sands they are to pass over, their toughness and spongy softness preventing them from cracking. They will travel many days without any other sustenance than a few dates, or some small balls of barley or bean meal, with the few prickly and withered herbs they pick up in the desert; and they are enabled to abstain entirely from drink for a long period, by means of a peculiar bag, or stomach, with which they are furnished for holding water alone. This they fill when they come to a drinking-place; and it will keep in an uncorrupted state, so that travellers, when pressed with want of water, have killed their camels for the sake of the supply this receptacle affords. They can scent water at a great distance, and will redouble their speed on approaching it.

The camel is trained, from its youth, to carry burdens, and to kneel, at the word of command, to receive its load. A large one will carry one thousand, or one thou-

sand two hundred pounds, with which it will travel thirty miles a day. They rise from the ground, when loaded as much as they can bear, and will not permit more to be laid on. Nor can they be made to quicken their pace by blows, but go freely, if cheered by good usage or the sound of music.

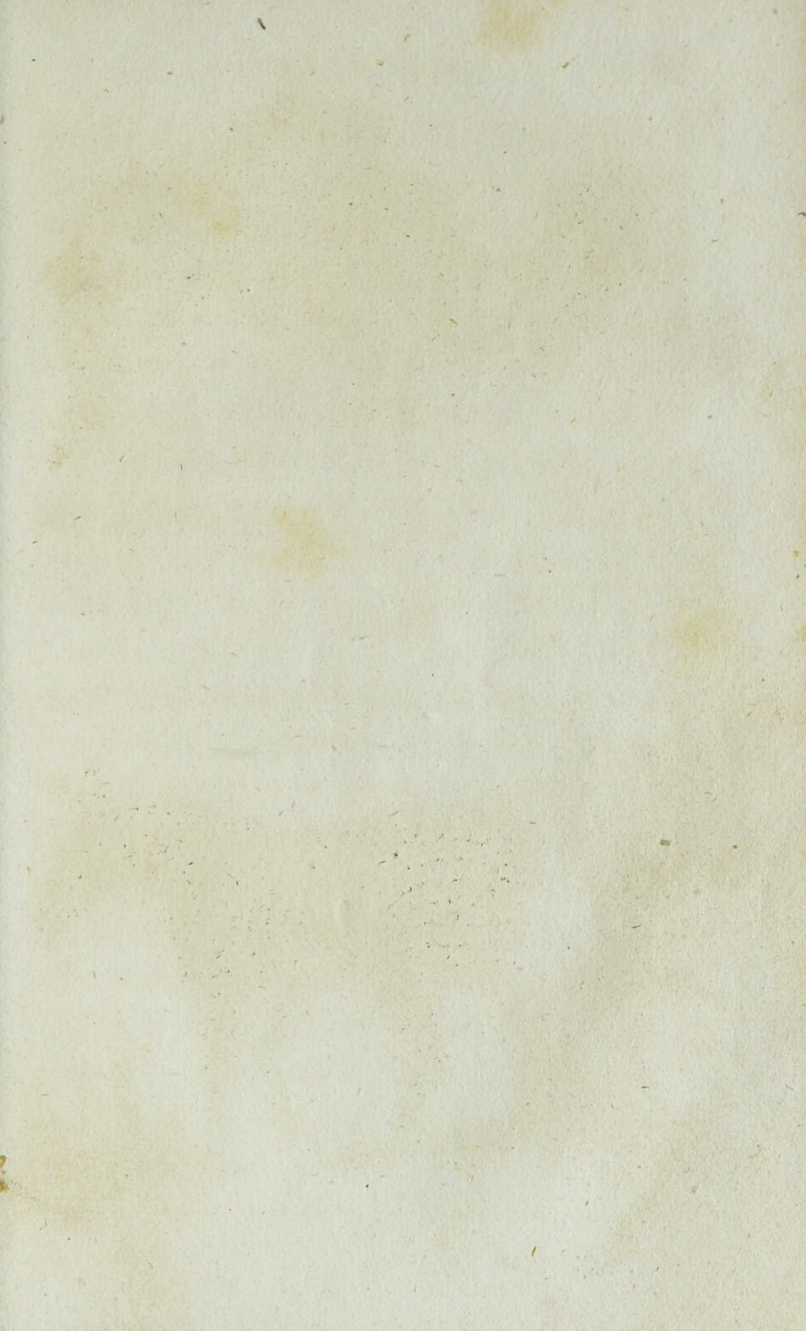
THE ZEBRA.

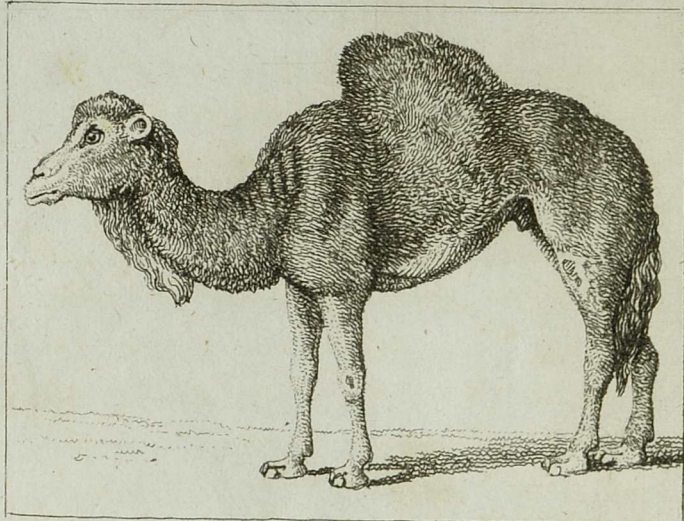
THIS elegant animal is about the size of a common mule: its head is well shaped, and it has ears of a moderate size. But it is peculiarly distinguished by its colours, its whole body being beautifully striped with lines of brown, on a very pale buff ground. It has a short erect mane; and its tail is like that of an ass, with a tuft of hair at the end.

The Zebra is extremely swift; and, though taken at an early age, cannot be tamed so as to be made useful. It is a

native of all the hotter parts of Africa, from Congo to the Cape of Good Hope.

Several zebras have at different times been brought into England. A female one was deposited in the Tower, in June, 1803. It was brought from the Cape of Good Hope by lieutenant-general Dundas. This animal was more docile than the generality of zebras that have been brought into Europe; and when in good-humour was tolerably obedient to the commands of her keeper, the servant of the general who attended her during the voyage. This man, with great dexterity, could spring on her back, and she would carry him a hundred and fifty, or two hundred yards; but by the time she had done this, she always became restive, and, with almost equal dexterity, he was obliged to dismount. Sometimes, when irritated, she plunged at the keeper, and attempted to kick him. She one day seized him by the coat with her mouth, and threw him upon the ground; and,





Camel.



Kangaroo.

Zebra.

had not the man been extremely active in rising and getting out of her reach, would certainly have destroyed him.

THE KANGUROO.

THIS curious creature is a native of New Holland, and was discovered, in 1770, by Sir Joseph Banks, who accompanied Captain Cook in a voyage round the world. It is about as large as a sheep; the fore legs are very short, the hind legs very long, and it hops upon them like a bird, balancing itself with a vast tail. The dimensions of a full-grown one are about eight feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, of which the tail itself is three feet.

The kangaroo feeds upon vegetables, principally grass. They go in herds of thirty or forty together, stationing one of the number upon the watch; for they are

very timid, and at the least alarm spring away in vast bounds, flying over bushes seven or eight feet in height. They use their fore feet only for digging, or bringing food to their mouth. Their tail, which is their weapon of defence, is capable of giving a very hard blow.

The female brings but a single young one at a time, which is extremely small, and immediately fastens itself to the teat in the pouch with which she is furnished. There it continues till grown of considerable size; and it takes occasional refuge in the pouch, after it is accustomed to go abroad, and when grown so large that its head and fore feet hang out.

The Kanguroos have bred in this country, and seem likely to become naturalized to the climate. Their flesh is good to eat, but is rather coarse.

THE PORCUPINE.

THIS animal has a formidable appearance, from the sharp quills with which the upper part of its body is covered; but it is of a harmless nature, and only uses its quills in the way of defence against an enemy. When attacked, it retires and runs its nose into a corner, bristles up its quills, and opposes them to its assailant, making at the same time a snorting noise.

The supposition that the porcupine has the power of darting its quills to a distance against its enemies, is erroneous. It may, indeed, by shaking its skin, when the quills are loose at the time of casting them, occasionally throw them out with some degree of violence, and this may have given rise to the idea that they had the power of shooting them out at pleasure. The quills are from nine to fifteen inches in length: they are variegated with

alternate black and white rings, and are attached by a small root.

The porcupine is a native of Africa and India, and also of the warmer parts of Europe, as Italy and Sicily; but into these places, it is supposed, it has been formerly imported. The Italian porcupines have shorter quills than those of Asia and Africa.

This animal inhabits holes underground, which it forms into several separate apartments, leaving only a single entrance. It sleeps much by day, and feeds in the night. It lives upon roots, fruits, and vegetables; and its flesh is eaten, being a very luscious food.

THE BEAR.

THE bear is a native of most of the northern countries of Europe and Asia. He is a savage, solitary animal, inhabiting the recesses of thick forests, or the caverns in

mountains. Sometimes he takes up his abode in the hollow of a large tree, for he is expert in climbing. In fighting, bears strike with their fore feet like a cat; and rising on their hind feet, hug or squeeze their antagonist till they have stifled him. They seldom use their teeth in battle, except to bite a hole in their prey, that they may suck their blood. They often make havoc among the fields of peas and other cultivated vegetables, and will sometimes plunder the ricks in farm-yards: and, as they are very fond of honey, they frequently rob the nests of wild bees in the woods. They will likewise catch fish, and for that purpose frequent the banks of rivers.

Bears retire to their dens in the winter; but, as they lay up no store of provisions, they have no other nourishment during that time than what they get by sucking their feet, where the fat lodges in great abundance. They are very fat

when they enter their retreats, but come out lean and ravenous.

Those who lead these animals about the streets, to divert the people by their awkward imitation of dancing, do not deserve encouragement, as they exercise great cruelty in teaching them to perform these tricks. The animal goes through its exercises unwillingly, and with many growls and angry murmurs; and, as its obedience is all the effect of severity, its tameness is never to be trusted without caution.

THE REIN-DEER.

THE rein-deer may be reckoned the most useful of all the deer kind, as it is absolutely necessary to the existence of a whole nation. It is confined to the very northern regions, and cannot live in the temperate. It inhabits Norway, Lapland,

Siberia, Greenland, and other cold countries.

The general colour of the rein-deer is brown above and white beneath, but it becomes grey or white with age. Its horns are large: a pair has been known to measure three feet nine inches in length, and to weigh nine pounds and a half.

This animal exists both in a wild and domestic state. It is used by many of the northern tribes as a beast of draught; but the Laplanders have also derived great part of their sustenance from it. They keep herds of rein-deer, as other people do of sheep and cows; and some of the richest among them possess as many as five hundred. These, during the winter, are kept in the low grounds, where their food is a kind of moss, which they dig up from beneath the snow. In the summer they are driven up to the mountains to pasture, as the multitude of insects renders it impossible for them to

live in the plains. Hence they are brought down to the herdsman's cottage, morning and evening, to be milked, a fire being first kindled, to drive off the insects by its smoke. Their milk is thinner than that of the cow, but sweeter and more nourishing: a cheese is made from it, which is a principal article of the Laplander's food. They also eat the flesh, make clothing and bedding of the skin, bowstrings and thread of the tendons, glue of the horns, and spoons of the bones; so that the rein-deer is almost every thing to them, and admirably supplies their wants, in a region which yields scarcely any thing else for human use. It is, besides, their means of conveyance from place to place. They train it from an early age to the sledge, from which a trace is brought under the belly, and fastened to the fore part of the sledge. The person who sits in it holds a cord tied to the animal's horns, with which he guides it. It is only in winter,

and over the frozen snow, that this mode of carriage can be used. They travel with amazing swiftness, and will go thirty miles on a stretch without the least inconvenience. They are sometimes urged twice that distance on a stage; but this exertion often proves fatal to them.

The wild rein-deer are killed for the sake of their tongues alone, which are a great delicacy.

THE BEAVER.

THE accounts of the labours of Beavers, when collected into a state of society, are wonderful, almost beyond belief; but the following particulars, being collected from the most respectable sources of information, may be considered as authentic.

For the purpose of building, they choose a level piece of ground, with a small rivulet running through it, which they form into a pond, by making a bank

across. This they effect, by driving into the ground stakes five or six feet long, placed in rows, which they fasten together with pliant twigs, in the manner in which baskets are made, and plaster up the cracks with clay. The length of these banks is sometimes not less than a hundred feet, and their breadth, at the base, ten or twelve feet; and they go sloping and insensibly narrowing towards the top, till they become no more than two feet. Their cabins or huts are built upon piles, on the edge of the pond, and are either oval or round, with vaulted tops. They are eight feet in height above the surface of the water, and consist of two or three stories. The walls are two feet thick, and are made of earth, stones, and sticks, laid together with great solidity; and they are as neatly plastered within, as if with a trowel. In making these works, they employ to advantage their very strong and sharp fore teeth, with which

they cut down trees expeditiously, taking care that they shall fall towards the water, that they may be easily floated to the places where they are wanted. Some writers have stated that the beaver uses its tail as a wheel-barrow, to carry mortar or clay, and afterwards for a trowel to plaster it on; but others consider this to be a mistake, and are of opinion that the teeth and fore-paws are its only instruments.

A settlement consists of from ten to twenty-five cabins, and there is generally an equal number of males and females. Each family has its store of winter provisions, consisting of the boughs and bark of trees, which they lodge under water, and fetch into their apartments as their wants require. In the spring they quit their huts and resort to the woods, and do not assemble again till the next autumn, when they begin with repairing their works.

The beaver is a native of the northern

parts of Europe and Asia, and also of North America. Its length, from nose to tail, is about three feet; and its tail is nearly a foot in length, of an oval form, nearly flat, and is covered with scales resembling those of a fish. Its fur, which is remarkably soft and fine, is the principal material of which the finest hats are made.



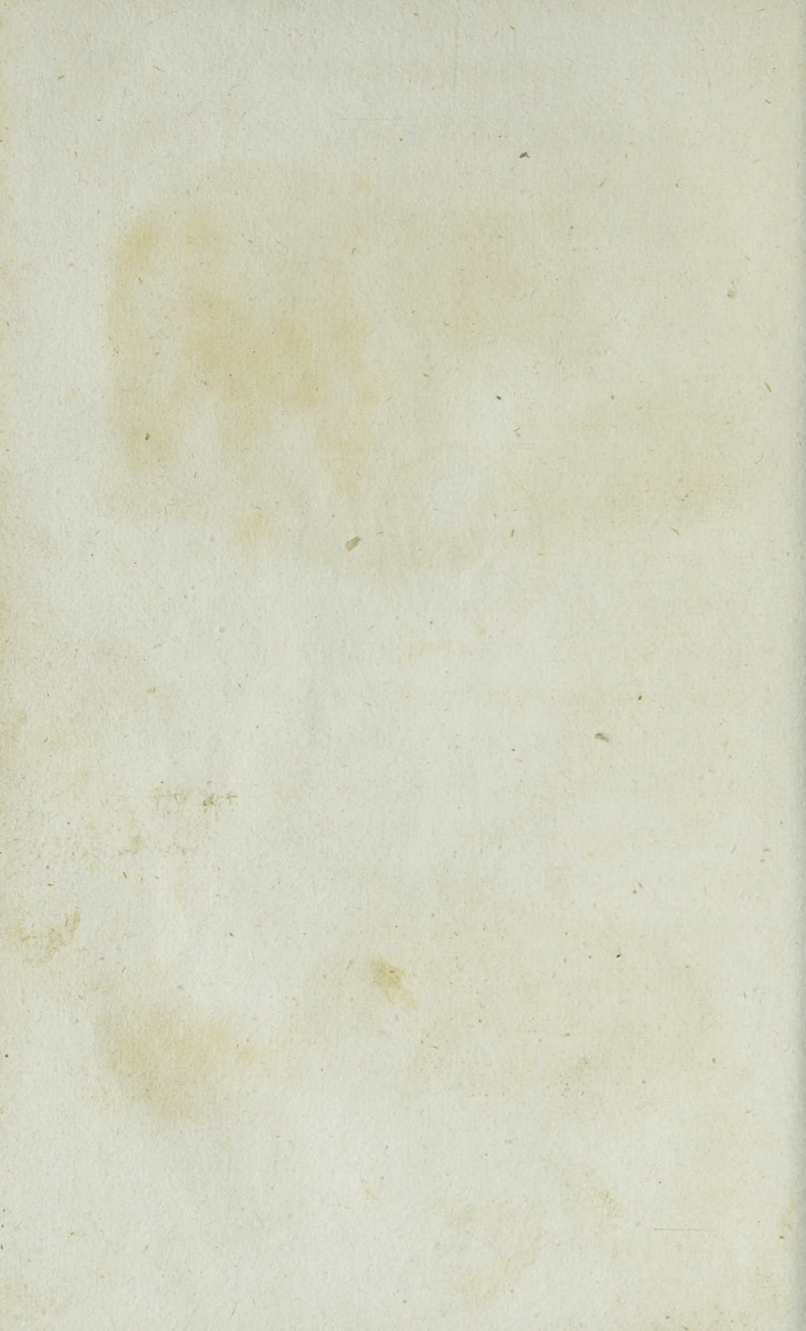
Porcupine.

Bear.



Rein Deer.

Beaver.



SECTION 2.—FOREIGN BIRDS.

THE OSTRICH.

THE ostrich is allowed to be the largest of birds, and in appearance bears some resemblance to the camel. It generally measures seven feet from the top of its head to the ground, and its wings are each three feet in length.

The plumage of the ostrich is principally a mixture of white and black; but the feathers of the wings and tail are perfectly white, and are held in such high estimation, that the creature is hunted merely for the sake of them.

This bird is a native of the sultry regions of Africa, and was never known to breed out of that clime. The natives as-

sert that it never drinks; but it has a most voracious appetite, and will devour leather, glass, iron, stones, tin, lead, or any other substance that may come in its way.

Of all the creatures that make use of their legs, the ostrich is the swiftest: his wings as well as his legs keep in motion, like two oars, to waft him along; and if he kept straight forward, instead of taking a circular direction, he would easily outstrip his pursuers. When the poor animal is completely exhausted, he darts his head down into the sand, as if he thought that by burying his head, the rest of his body, of course, must be concealed.

The ostrich has been represented as wanting natural affection; but this accusation is unfounded, as both the male and female are careful in sitting upon their eggs, and attentive to their young after they are hatched.

THE CASSOWARY.

THIS bird has been said to possess the head of a warrior, the eye of a lion, the defence of a porcupine, and the swiftness of a horse. The head, though small and bare of feathers, is armed with a kind of helmet, which is black in front and yellow behind; it is composed of a horny substance, and consists of several plates one over another: this helmet gives the wearer a very fierce appearance. The eye is a bright yellow, large, and fiery, encircled with small hairs, which answer the purpose of a lid.

The wings, when deprived of their feathers, are not more than three inches in length; but they are furnished with five large prickles, like the quills of a porcupine.

Though nature seems to have pro-

vided this bird with formidable weapons of defence, that might terrify others, it is of a very timid nature itself, and never attacks any other animals: when attacked, it depends more upon its swiftness than strength; and it is generally able to outrun its pursuers. Its method of running is very peculiar, as it seems to kick up behind with one leg, whilst with the other it makes a sort of leap.

The body of the cassowary is nearly as large as that of the ostrich; and its height is about five feet and a half. This bird has no tail; but the feathers which grow out from the bottom of the back are fourteen inches long, and hang downwards. The rest of the body is covered with brownish black feathers, two of which grow from one stem.

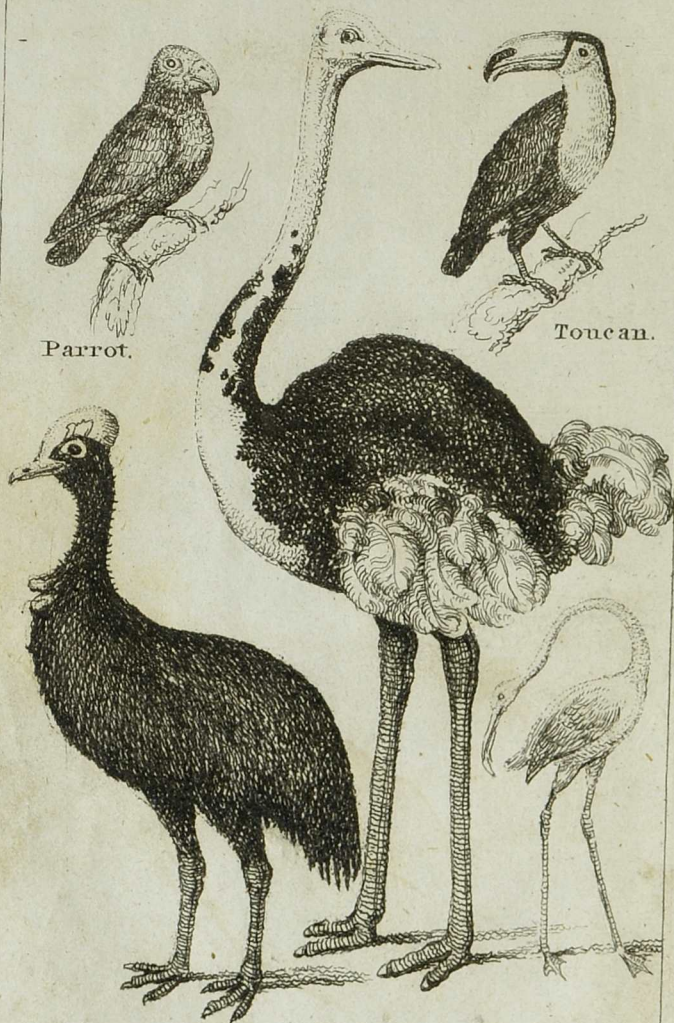
On each side of the beak hang two fleshy substances, somewhat resembling the gills of a cock; and the skin upon the breast is both bare and hard, because it



Parrot.



Toucan.



Cassowary



Ostrich.

Flamingo.

Howell

rests its body upon that part when it lies down.

Its eggs are between a green and an ash colour; they measure fifteen inches one way, and about twelve the other.

The appetite of the cassowary is equal to that of the ostrich: it does not bruise its food with its beak, but will swallow glass, iron, and very large stones. It is a native of the island of Java, in the East Indies.

THE TOUCAN.

THE toucan is an American bird, about the size of a magpie; and is remarkable for having an extremely large bill, which is considerably longer than the whole of its body, and notched at the edges like a saw. Though apparently formidable, it is of too thin a substance to do material

harm, being very light, and not much thicker than parchment.

It scoops out its nest in the hole of some tree; but its tongue is supposed to assist in the work, and, by pressing hard against the bill, to give it additional strength. This enormous bill is placed at the entrance of the nest, ready to peck at and drive away the monkeys, which often come in order to kill and eat the young ones.

Toucans frequent moist places, where the palm-trees grow, the fruit of which is their food. They are easily brought up tame, and swallow whole every thing that is given them, their beaks being too slight to break any thing.

Their manner of feeding is singular; they take their food with the point of the beak, throw it up into the air, and receive it into their throats as it is falling.

These birds fly awkwardly, on account of their large beak and small wings; and their legs are so short that they cannot

well walk, but are obliged to hop. Their plumage is very beautiful: the feathers of the breast form a part of the Indian's dress, and the flesh is considered as delicate food.

THE FLAMINGO.

THIS singular bird, though formerly well known in Europe, is now only prevalent along the American and African coasts.

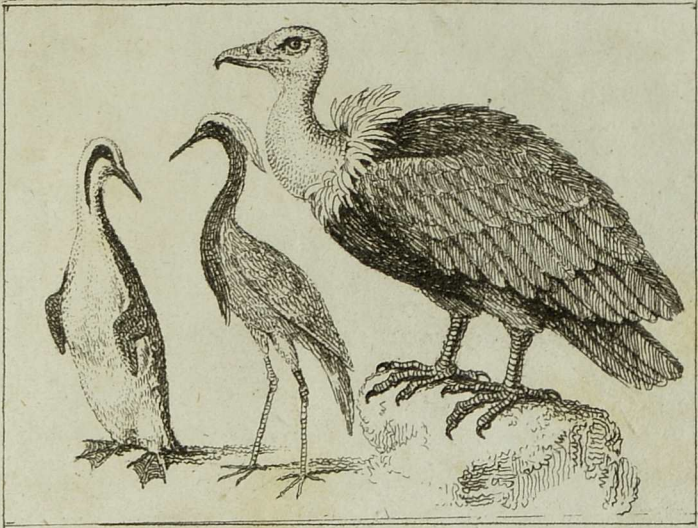
It is the most remarkable of the crane kind; the tallest, the bulkiest, and the most beautiful. The body, which is of a bright scarlet, is no bigger than that of a swan; but its legs and neck are of such an extraordinary length, that, when it stands erect, it is upwards of six feet high. The bill is formed like a bow, partly red and partly black, and is above seven inches long; the legs and thighs are extremely small; and the toes are

united by a membrane, like those of a goose.

These birds generally reside near salt-water lakes or marshes, and form themselves into a rank along the sides, which often extends near half a mile: being red, they look at a distance like a company of soldiers. One of the party stands as sentinel, to give instant notice if any danger should approach, which he does by a shrill, loud noise, equal to the largest trumpet in sound.

They make their nests in marshy places, of heaps of mud and weeds, about twenty inches high. In shape they resemble a sugar-loaf with the top broken off, which is hollowed like a basin. The birds can sit on them, and their legs hang down on each side, like the legs of a man astride upon a cask. They seldom lay more than two eggs; the young ones are a long time before they can fly, but are soon able to run with great swiftness.

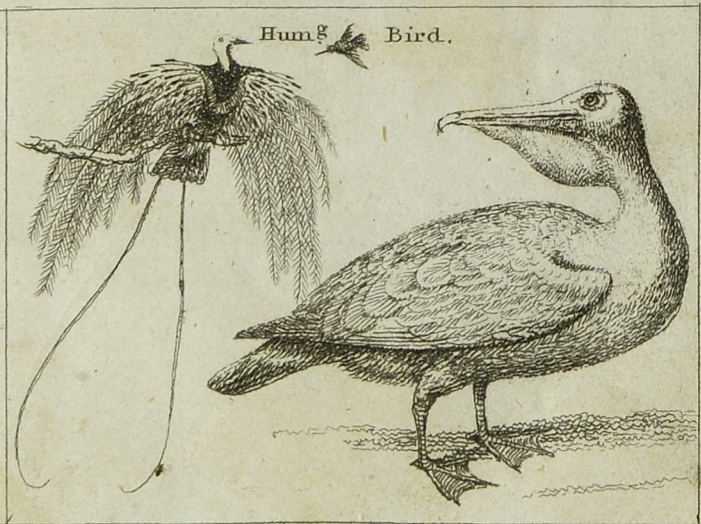
The chief food of these birds is fish;



Penguin.

Demoiselle Crane.

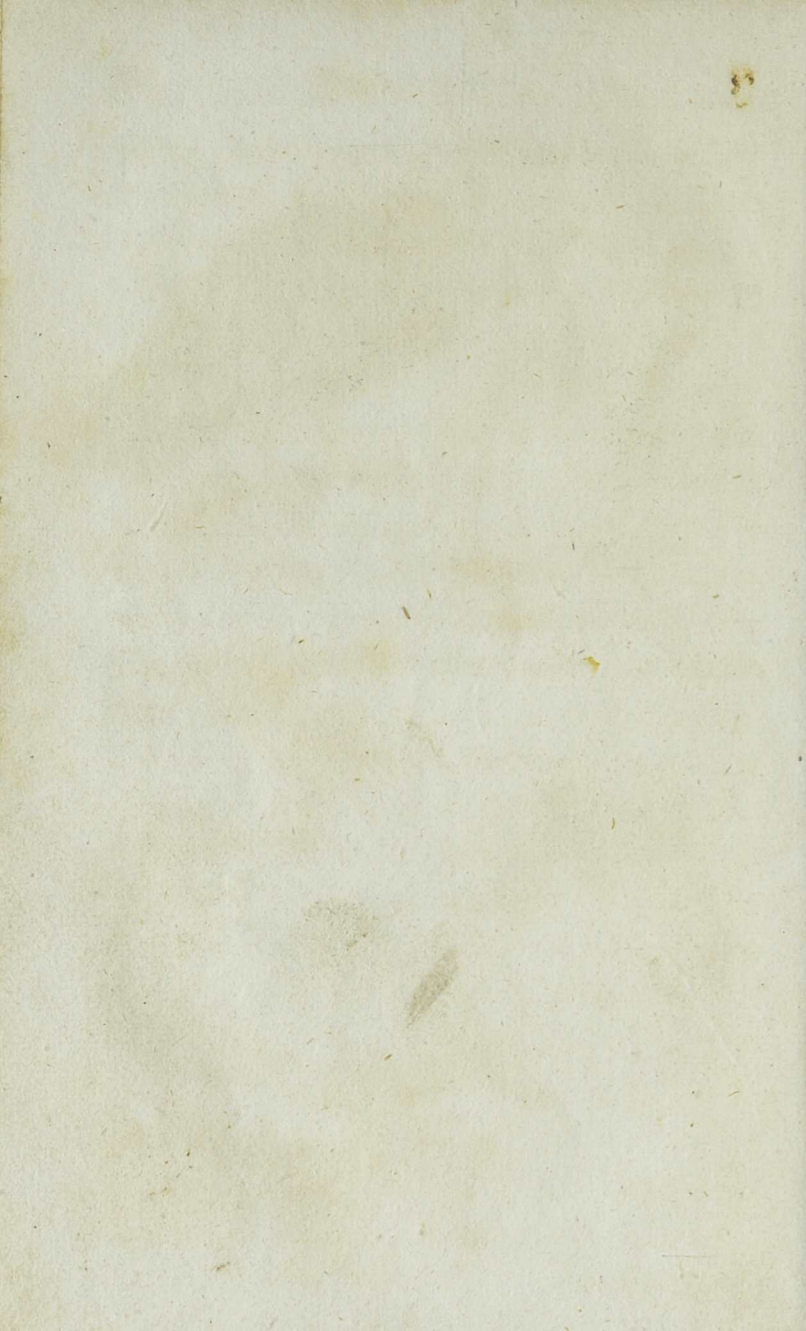
Vulture.



Humg Bird.

Bird of Paradise.

Pelican



and the rough edges of their bills enable them to hold their slippery prey.

THE PENGUIN.

THE wings of the penguin kind are not adapted for flying, nor their feet for walking; for the part above the knee is hid within the body, and nothing appears but two short legs or feet, which seem to spring from under the tail. But they are admirably formed for the water, in which they almost constantly reside; as they never visit the shore but when they come to breed. Whilst they swim, their heads and necks only appear out of the water; and they row themselves along with their finny wings, as though they were oars. Their bodies are so closely covered with feathers, that no wet can get to them; besides, they are very fat, and by these means they are preserved from cold.

The crested penguins are called, by the

sailors, Jumping Jacks, and Hopping Penguins, because they frequently leap three or four feet out of the water.

The Patagonian penguin is the largest that is known, being nearly the size of a goose: its short wings, which are covered with stiff feathers, hang uselessly by its sides, and it is totally incapable of flying. The feathers on the breast are delicately white, except a line of black, which runs across the crop: the hinder parts of the head, and the back, are perfectly black. They walk erect, with their wings drooping like two arms; and, at a distance, they look like so many children with white aprons tied round their waists.

The penguin makes no nest, but lays a single egg, in a hollow which it scratches in the ground. They live upon fish.

THE NUMIDIAN CRANE.

THIS bird, from the elegance of its appearance, and its singular carriage, is also called the *Demoiselle*, which signifies, "the young lady." It walks very gracefully, and sometimes skips or leaps, as though trying to dance. The top of its head, and fore part of its neck, are adorned with long white feathers behind each eye, which hang downwards in an elegant manner.

They are found in many parts of Africa and Asia: they frequent marshes and feed upon fish.

THE PARROT.

OF all foreign birds, the parrot is to us best known; and though they are natives of the hottest countries, as South Ame-

rica, Africa, and the East and West Indies, yet they will live a great number of years in a cage, in our variable climate.

In their native woods they live upon the fruit and seeds of trees; but when kept tame they will eat almost any thing. They are fond of meat, but it is very hurtful to them; bringing on a disorder which makes them gnaw and pull out their feathers.

The toes of the parrot answer the purpose of hands; for with them they generally take up their food, and convey it to their mouth, supporting themselves in the mean time upon one leg. As their legs are not formed for hopping from bough to bough, they climb up a tree by the help of their toes and beak, and, in this manner, attain any height they please. They generally build their nests at the ends of the slender twigs of a tree, for fear of the monkeys.

Parrots are easily taught to speak, and will imitate almost any sound they hear.

We select the following anecdote from Goldsmith's Natural History. "A distiller, who had been greatly injured by the malevolence of an informer, who lived opposite to him, taught his parrot the ninth commandment: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour;' which the bird was continually repeating, to the great mortification of the informer, as well as entertainment of the neighbours, who were acquainted with his ungenerous conduct."

THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

THE great beauty of this bird's plumage, and the deformity of its legs, have been the means of giving rise to a variety of fabulous tales. The native inhabitants of the Molucca Islands, which are in Asia, perceiving the eagerness with which the Europeans purchased this favourite bird,

resolved to make it appear different from any other of the feathered race; and, by cutting off the legs with some ingenuity, asserted that it lived wholly in the air: and this improbable invention was actually believed.

There are two kinds of these birds; one about the size of a pigeon, and the other not larger than a lark. The throat and neck are of a pale gold colour, and the hinder part of the head is of a shining green; the body and wings are a beautiful brown, intermixed with purple and gold; the upper part of the tail feathers is a pale yellow, but the under ones, which are longer, are a delicate white. What render them still more remarkable, are two long feathers, which spring from the upper part of the tail: these are usually three feet in length; the shaft, or stem, is black and naked, but the feathered part at the end is changeable, like the neck of the drake.

Birds of Paradise feed much upon but-

terflies; and, like swallows, are almost constantly flying. They are so extremely light, from the great quantity of their feathers, that their flight is liable to be affected by the winds; on this account, perhaps, they choose for their abode those countries in which high winds are not frequent.

THE PELICAN.

THIS bird is larger than a swan, and has a very remarkable pouch, or bag, under his bill, in which he can carry a number of fishes. His wings are very wide, and he can fly very well; he falls like lead, in a moment, upon his prey, and the violence of his fall disturbs the water so much, that the fish is stunned and cannot escape. This is his way of fishing when he is alone; but when they fish in company, they form a large circle, and then come nearer together, making the circle less

and less; and so enclose the fish, and take them with very little trouble. The pelican's pouch, it is said, will contain fifteen quarts of water, and is so large, that a man can put his arm into it up to the elbow; they use it to bring water, as well as fish, for their young ones. The inside of it is not warm, like the stomach, and does not spoil the fish. The pelican has the power of wrinkling up this bag into the hollow of the under jaw: it is not covered with feathers, but with a very soft, smooth down, and when empty is scarcely perceptible; but when the pelican has been successful in fishing, it is astonishing to see to what a size it will extend.

Pelicans are found mostly in warm countries. There are many in Africa, and in some parts of Asia and America.

The native Americans kill them in vast numbers, though they are very coarse food; but their pouches, when dried, are made into bags or purses, and frequently embroidered for the use of the women.

THE VULTURE.

DIFFERENT kinds of vultures are to be found in most parts of the world, but there are none in England. They are birds of prey, and feed upon serpents, the eggs of crocodiles and alligators, and dead carcasses, which they can smell a great way off.

These birds, though of a cruel and ravenous nature, are very serviceable at Grand Cairo in Egypt, as they eat up all the dead carcasses and filth of the city, the smell of which would otherwise be very hurtful to the health of the people who live in that hot country. In the river Nile, which is also in Egypt, there are many crocodiles, that come out of the water to lay their eggs, which they bury in the ground. The vultures sit upon the trees, and watch the crocodiles, and, as soon as they are gone into the river, they fly down

and scratch up the eggs and eat them. For these reasons, the people of Egypt will not suffer a single vulture to be killed.

The vultures may be easily distinguished from every species of the eagle kind, by the nakedness of their heads and necks, which are without feathers, and only covered with a very slight down, or a few scattered hairs; their eyes, likewise, are more prominent, and their claws are shorter, and not so much hooked; their beaks are straight at the beginning, but hooked towards the point.

Vultures, at least those of Europe, seldom lay more than two eggs at a time, and that only once a year; they make their nests in the most inaccessible cliffs, and in places so remote, that it is difficult to find them out.

The king of the vultures is the most elegant bird of this kind; and in size exceeds that of a turkey-cock. He is a native of South America. His head and neck are co-

vered with a flesh-coloured skin; behind the head it is of a deep red, and round his neck he has a loose ruff of feathers, in which he is fond of hiding his head.

Though the appearance of the king of the vultures differs from the rest of that tribe, its habits and disposition are much the same: it lives chiefly upon lizards and serpents, but does not refuse carrion when it comes in its way.

HUMMING BIRDS.

OF these curious little creatures there are several kinds: some are nearly the size of a wren, and others not larger than a humble bee. Their colours are more beautiful than can well be imagined, and very brilliant; many seem spangled with gold and precious stones, and some have crests on their heads.

They are very tender, and only live in warm countries, as in the East Indies and America, where flowers are constantly growing. 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, and that is what they live upon.

Their nests are very curious: they generally hang from the end of a branch of an orange or 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. 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 while the dew is on the flowers. The little ones are hatched in twelve days, and at first are no larger than a blue-bottle fly.

Humming birds have great courage: they frequently attack birds twenty times their own size, and, suffering themselves to be carried along by them as they fly, still continue to peck them.

There was a gentleman in America, who found a nest of little humming birds; 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 almost constantly in the room with their young ones.

They frequently came and settled upon his hand, and he fed them with wine, biscuit, and sugar.

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 have been so careless. It is very thoughtless to catch birds, to imprison them in a little cage, and prevent them from flying about as they like in the open air; but to put them first into

so small a prison, 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.

CONCLUSION.

IN the introduction to this little book, we briefly informed our young readers, that what is termed *animated nature*, or the *animal kingdom*, has been divided into classes; and as they have now read the descriptions of several animals belonging to the two principal of these classes, and no doubt have derived pleasure from they accounts given of their modes of life, and how they become serviceable to man, they are still desirous of knowing more, and sincerely wish to be further acquainted with this branch of *natural history*. But as this cannot be effected without a considerable degree of attention, we request our young friends to read, very carefully, this concluding part of the book. And if they

should not be able to understand it upon reading it the first time, we beg they will peruse it again and again; for they must remember, that knowledge is not to be acquired without exertion; while, on the contrary, close perseverance and study will enable them to surmount the greatest difficulties. And when we inform them, that a very learned man, named Linnæus, (who has written a great deal upon animals and vegetables,) was so studious and attentive when a boy, as soon to be able to understand every thing relating to them, we think nothing more need be said, to incite them to a similar endeavour.

The term *animated nature* is applied to every thing that breathes, or has the power of moving from place to place; as men, beasts, birds, fishes, insects, &c. When the Almighty, who created all things, made beings which should be able to move, he contrived for them a different structure from beings which are fixed; such as trees, plants, &c. which are

called *vegetables*. But, notwithstanding this, there still exists a great similarity between animals and vegetables. Every little boy knows that trees will not live, except they are planted in the ground; and that if placed there, they derive such nutriment and support from the earth, as to spread forth their branches, be covered with leaves, and bear fruit. Now, as it is impossible for animals, or beings which move, to have any root in the ground, the same Almighty Creator has provided them with a stomach; and in like manner as there is a constant supply of nutriment to be derived from the earth, for the support of a tree, so, by frequently eating, and filling up the cavity of the stomach, sufficient nourishment is given to the body of an animal; for to this stomach are connected a great number of intestines or passages, which lead to other passages or veins, even to the ends of the fingers. And thus it is with brutes as with human beings; and there is a similarity in the

whole of animated nature, from the largest to the smallest.

Having explained what is meant by the term *animated nature*, we must now inform our little readers of its divisions into *classes* and *orders*. Linnæus has divided it into six classes, thus:

1. QUADRUPEDS, of which there are already known to man, about two hundred and thirty species.

2. BIRDS, of which there are about one thousand species.

3. AMPHIBIOUS ANIMALS, of which there are about one hundred species.

4. FISHES, about five hundred species.

5. INSECTS, of which there are two thousand species.

6. WORMS, of which there are eight hundred species.

The *first* class of animated beings, called QUADRUPEDS, comprehends all those that suckle their young, and have warm and red blood flowing in their veins. Their bodies are generally covered with

hair, in quantity proportioned to the climate they inhabit. Beneath this covering is a skin of various thickness, enclosing a frame or skeleton of bones, acted upon by a system of muscles and tendons, which are put in motion by nerves, communicating with the organ of sense and the will of the animal. They have *blood* for life; *bones* for strength; *muscles* for motion; and *nerves* for sensation. This class is also divided into *seven orders*, which are chiefly regulated by the number and position of the teeth.

The *second* class, BIRDS, constitute those covered with feathers, and which have two wings to fly with, a tail to direct their flight, and a hard, bony bill. Their bones are hollow and light, and they are, in every respect, made for piercing their way through the air with the least resistance. At certain seasons of the year, many tribes of this class migrate, or fly from one country to another; and no less than nineteen tribes arrive in this country

in the spring, and leave it in autumn; and ten other arrive in autumn and leave in spring. There are *six orders* of birds, which are principally founded in their habits of life, and in the resemblance of their external parts, particularly of their bills. There are four orders of *land-birds*, and two of *water-birds*.

The *third* class are called AMPHIBIOUS ANIMALS, from the circumstance of their being able to live, occasionally, either on land or in water. They have a naked and scaly body, pointed teeth, and no fins. There are *four orders* in this class, which includes reptiles and serpents; such as the crocodile, tortoise, lizard, frog, rattlesnake, viper, &c. Towards this class of animals mankind generally hold great hatred, knowing them, in many instances, to possess poisonous qualities, and also from their general ugly appearance. They inhabit retired watery places, where they prey upon fish, and upon one another. Although voracious when eating their

food, no species of animal can exist so long without nourishment. Their bodies are generally protected by a hard horny shield or covering, and their eyes are large and bright. They are also tenacious of life, and have been known to move about with the loss of their head or heart; and when their feet or tail are destroyed, others will grow in their place. Their young are produced from eggs, which are hatched by the heat of the sun.

The *fourth class* of animated beings are FISHES; and although inhabitants of a different element from man, are equally wonderful and interesting, in their forms and habits, as the other classes. There are *four orders*, which are principally distinguished by their fins. They are well adapted to the element in which they are placed, and will overtake the fastest-sailing vessels. To preserve them from cold and putrefaction, they are enveloped in a

fat and oily substance. They breathe by means of their gills; and swim with the assistance of their fins and tail. Their sight is also very perfect; and their organ of hearing is very simple, and mostly placed on the sides of the skull. Their food is various; some feeding on mud and aquatic plants, while others devour insects, worms, or the spawn of other fish, and sometimes prey upon their own kind.

The *fifth class* are INSECTS, and, on account of their great variety of form and habit, are much entitled to our wonder and admiration. There are *seven orders*, and every insect is furnished with a head, antennæ or horns, and feet. All insects, likewise, have six or more feet. Their skin is extremely hard, and serves them instead of bones, of which they have none. Some insects are small to our eyes, but if viewed through a microscope, such beauty, symmetry, and variety are seen, as

to astonish the beholder. The head, the trunk, the feelers, the breast, the limbs, the tail, and the wings, are all objects worthy of notice.

WORMS form the *sixth* and last class: they are divided into *five orders*. Some of them have no head, and most of them no feet. Others possess eyes and ears, while some enjoy only the sense of taste and touch.

Our readers are now made acquainted with the *classes* and *orders*; and as this little book is only intended as a "foot-step," we must refer them to larger works for further information; assuring them that the study of natural history is one of the most instructive and pleasing sciences to which they can direct their attention. It will not merely afford them entertainment, but it will exalt their notions of the Almighty Ruler of the universe, whose parental care is observable

in the preservation of the smallest and most insignificant insect; and it will, we hope, induce them, from such an example, to treat with kindness every living thing with which they are entrusted.

THE END.

