

challenged by men who should know the truth on account of experience, but who do not know because of defective observations and interests.

I trust that I may be able to show that the subject is exceedingly interesting from different standpoints, and yet little can be explained in one paper in proportion to what is to be known and which should be known by every man who has interest enough in sport to take a gun in hand and go in pursuit of game. It is the intention of this paper to deal almost entirely with the orders, as time and space do not permit of an investigation of individual species.

I. SYSTEMATIC TREATMENT.

The systematic or Alphabetical standpoint is that which names our subjects, classifies them into Orders, Families, Genera, and species, according to their diversity of form, coloration or habitat; traces the general relations of all forms to each other, and is the centre of the investigations of the evolutionists.

In dealing with our game birds from this standpoint of view, therefore, we first perceive that they are grouped into three orders, with a total local representation of 78 species, viz.:

Anseres, including ducks, geese, and swans, with 37 representative species.

Limicolae, including snipe, sandpipers, and plovers, with 36 representative species.

Gallinae, including grouse, quail and turkeys, with 7 local species.

A comparison of the three orders shows that the order *Anseres* are all birds adapted to aquatic life, the *Gallinae* for life on dry land, while *Limicolae* form the connecting link, being adapted for a sub-aquatic life.

Let us make a systematic comparison of the structures of the three orders to show adaptation to conditions.

1. *Anseres*.—Feet webbed; adapted for swimming; tarsus short and thick; bill stout, flat or round with teeth or toothed ridges to assist in securing submerged food, the ridges acting as strainers or gutters to allow the water to escape; sternum flat,