

considered this subject in a former paper, in which I have shown that the family Struthionidae represents the Grallatores in the order Rasores, and I have endeavoured to bring together the subfamilies, several of which had been allowed to remain in very unsuitable places. Among these was Psophinae, the Trumpeter birds representing the Rasores in the family, but which even Dr. George Gray regards as a subfamily of Ardeidae. Cuvier likewise retained among the Grallatores the Flamingo (*Phaenicopterus*), whose long legs undoubtedly give it the aspect of a wader, so that one might plausibly maintain that it is the representative of the Natatores among Grallatores were it not that the Duck-like beak and the internal structure corresponding with the Duck family, prove that it is really but a long-legged form of Anatidae representing in that great family the Grallatorian type. Dr. G. Gray has rightly perceived its family connection, but has placed it first among the subfamilies of Anatidae, in order to meet the last of the Grallatores. I must, nevertheless, presume to think that its relation to the Grallatores is strictly one of analogy and implying no immediate affinity should not affect its position. Dr. Gray makes the Rallidae (the Rail and Water hen family) as the last of the Grallatores join the Anatidae which he makes the first family of Natatores. The real connection I should maintain to be that the Rallidae represent the Rasorial tendency among Grallatores, the Anatidae among Natatores, each being the third family in its order, whilst *Phaenicopterinae* is the Grallatorian subfamily amongst Anatidae, and the coots which Dr. Gray places immediately before it, form the Natatorial representative among the subfamilies of Rallidae. This is a striking example of the way in which those analogies which so beautifully bind together the order of Nature may mislead us if we confound them with direct affinities. I cannot venture on this criticism which I submit to the judgment of the reflecting and candid reader, without, at the same time, bearing my humble testimony to the great value of Dr. Gray's work which displays not only the great knowledge which his position and resources might lead us to expect but an amount of skill and judgment rarely equalled, and which have materially contributed to advance the attractive branch of science to which he has devoted himself. His great work has for some years been my frequent companion in the museum and the study, and I gratefully acknowledge both the pleasure and the assistance which I have derived from it. I will now attempt a statement of the families