

series, placing the Waders in their proper relations, but he multiplied orders unnecessarily from six to nine, and inserted the Passeres (Insessores) next to Picae, which he retained in the Linnaean sense, an arrangement totally inadmissible. The great Cuvier adopted the six true orders, only leaving Insessores in the second instead of the first place, and to him we owe the suborders of Insessores, excepting that later writers generally, and I believe justly, reject his Syndactyli, for which I have substituted Serratirostris, occupying the second position. Since Cuvier's time the Waders have always retained their position immediately before the Swimmers. They appear to represent the suctorial or extractive form of nutrition, with a figure elongated in the beak and limbs, and with the habit of frequenting chiefly marshes and sea-shores. I shall next endeavour to determine the proper limits of the Grallatores.

From its striking external characters it is an order the true members of which would pretty readily find their place, but these same characters, attracting attention wherever they occur, might easily cause families representing the Grallatorial tendency but really belonging to other parts of the system to be hastily placed in this order, and it is not without considerable care that we can keep it free from such intrusions. I shall enumerate the principal instances in which an error of this kind has been committed in order to illustrate the principles upon which our judgment must be formed in such cases.

The secretary bird (*Gypso geranus*) is a bird of prey, remarkable for the length of its legs, and possessing in the spur on its wing another character which may be accounted Grallatorial. It is probable that this genus itself constitutes a family and represents the Grallatorial tendency among Raptores, being thus next in affinity to the Vultures, amongst which it has often been placed, and which constitute the Rasorial family in the same order. It is not unnatural that when first made known it should have been mistaken for a Wader, but with our present knowledge of its structure and mode of life, there is no difficulty in referring it to the order Raptores. Cuvier placed the Ostrich and its allies, forming the family Struthionidae, amongst the Waders, notwithstanding the important external and anatomical characters which connect these birds with the Rasores; and it appears as if hesitation as to which characters should be deemed most important had led others to the compromise of elevating the family to the rank of a separate order placed between Rasores and Grallatores. I have