

pletely baring the bone; treat the other leg in a like manner, leaving both turned out as they were skinned. Place the finger under the rump near the tail, then with the scalpel cut through the backbone just in front of the coccygus entirely through the flesh to the skin,—the finger beneath is a guide to prevent cutting the skin. This may be done very quickly after long practice, and there is no danger of severing the skin if proper care be used. Put on a fresh supply of plaster. Now grasp the end of the backbone firmly between the thumb and forefinger, and with the other hand pull the skin down on all sides towards the head, until the joint of the wing, where the last bone, or humerus is joined to the body, appears; sever the bones at this joint, and draw the skin down over the neck and head. When the ears appear, with the thumb nail remove the skin that adheres closely to the skull without breaking it, pull down to the eyes, then cut the skin off close to the eyelids, taking care not to cut or injure them, but be sure and cut close enough to remove the nictating membrane, as it will otherwise cause trouble. Skin well down to the base of the bill. Remove the eye with the point of the knife by trusting it down at the side between the eye and the socket, then with a motion upward it can be removed without breaking; cut off enough of the back part of the skull to remove the brains easily. Proceed to skin the wings; draw them out until the forearm appears, to which the secondaries are attached; with the thumb nail detach them by pressing downward forcibly. Remove the muscles and tendons—as explained on the leg—to the joint, where the forearm joins the humerus, then divide, removing the humerus entirely.

Now open the drawer containing the

arsenic, and with a small flat piece of wood cover the skin completely with it; be sure that the cavities from which the brains and eyes were removed are filled. Take up the skin and shake it gently. The arsenic that remains adhering to it is sufficient to preserve it, provided the skin is damp enough; if not, it may be moistened slightly. Now fill the eye-holes with cotton, tie the wing-bones with thread, as near together as the back of the bird was broad, then turn the skin back into its former position. Smooth the feathers of the head and wings with the fingers. With a few strokes of the feather duster, holding the skin up by the bill, remove the plaster and arsenic that may be adhering to the feathers. After smoothing the feathers carefully, place the skin upon its back. With the fingers take up a small roll of hemp or cotton, as large round and as long as the neck of the body that was taken out, and place in the neck of the skin, taking care that the throat is well filled out; then by grasping the neck on each side with the thumb and finger, the hemp or cotton may be held in place, and the tweezers withdrawn. After placing the wings in the same position as the bird would have them when at rest, with the bones of the forearm pushed well into the skin,—so that they may lie down on each side, and not cross each other,—with a needle and thread sew through the skin and the first quill of the primaries by pushing the needle through the skin on the inside and through the quill opposite, but be sure that the wing is in the proper place. If it is too far forward, the feathers of the sides of the breast, that ought to lie smoothly over the bend of the wing, will be forced up and backward. If the wing is placed too far back, there will be a bald spot upon the side of the neck,—caused by the wing-coverts,