

would be first, whilst if we adhere to the commonly adopted descending order, the Insessores must be first as the truest and highest expression of the Bird-type. To the modern practise of making the Insessores or *Passeres*, as they are often called, follow the Raptores, interrupting the series of the more deviative forms of birds, there are very strong objections, and I cannot see how it can be supposed to be natural. Dr. George Gray's plan of making the Goat-suckers follow the owls may seem plausible because each family being the lowest in its own series, the one among Raptores, the other in the Insectorial suborder Fissirostres, and both being night-flying birds, with the kind of plumage belonging to that character, there is a certain analogy between them, and the same might be as justly said if the Hawks had been placed last amongst Raptores, and the Dentirostral Insessores had followed. Such relations of analogy may be found in abundance and are very interesting, but they should not be allowed to turn us from that true series in which groups of the same degree are placed in the order of the faculties and natural characteristics specially developed in each. I have on other occasions endeavored to show what this true series is, and to trace it out in particular cases, at present I only compare with it the methods most deserving of notice, so far as to establish the proper position of the order of birds which I would on this occasion specially examine. Belon's series was, after the Raptores, the Waders, then the Swimmers, and then the remaining birds in a great miscellaneous assemblage. Had he discriminated the Climbers and the Game and Poultry from the Insessores, and introduced them between Raptores and Grallatores he would have excelled any series since proposed. Willughby did not approach the merit of Belon who had preceded him by more than a hundred years, and though his work is still valuable to the student of ornithology, his method requires no notice. Linnæus had six orders, which, if we sent back many members of his Picae, which is an arbitrary unmeaning collection, to Passeres (Insessores of the best later authorities) and made the remaining Picae represent Scansores, would give what I take to be the true list of orders, but the series is decidedly unnatural, as he makes Anseres (Natatores, Swimming birds), the 3rd order, followed by Grallae (Grallatores), then Gallinae (Rasores, Game and Poultry). Had he made this latter exchange places with the Swimmers his series would have been a good one though we might wish to place Insessores first instead of last. Latham improved in some respects the Linnæan