

thologists have agreed upon a common nomenclature which briefly describes the leading peculiarities of each member of the feathered kingdom, and that the kingdom itself has been divided in such fashion that it is an easy matter to place each subject of it in his own particular portion of it. Thus with birds we have divisions into orders, sub-orders, families and sub-families, as with man we have races, nations, tribes and families. Let us take a single illustration of the utility of this. If I tell you that some good-looking fellow or other is Yorkshire Smith, you know at once that he is of the Smith family, the Yorkshire tribe, the English nation, and the Caucasian race. So with birds. The order containing the most numerous members is that of *Insectivores*, the *Perchers*. One of its sub-orders is that of *Oscines*, the *Singers*. One of its families is that of *Turdide*, the *Thrushes*, and its sub-family is that of *Mimide*, the *Mockers*. A well-known member of this sub-family is *Turdus felivox*, the Cat Bird. Now, what is suggested by these apparently hard names, which, after all, are just as simple as Jones or Brown, when, with a little mental labor, you become acquainted with them? The student knows at once that this bird has a voice like a cat, is a mocking bird, is a thrush, that thrushes are singers, and that singers are perchers. Without seeing the bird, he could tell you the formation of its feet, give a good guess at its general appearance, pronounce pretty correctly as to its food, its habits, its nests, and upon everything but its exact color and peculiarities. He would find, on reference to books, that it is also termed *Turdus lividus*, and in this manner he would be able to determine its color. In other words, the German student of Ornithology would, from these two names, be able to inform you that the American Cat Bird imitates the songs of other birds, and is himself a singer, that he feeds upon insects and their larvae, that he

lives upon trees, that he nests in bushes near the ground, that the nest contains from four to six eggs, that they are of a bluish green color, and that the bird himself is of ashy hue; and could tell you nearly as much about our lively little friend as the American student who had listened to his cheerful notes, and watched his merry gambols in forest glades or garden shrubbery. I have mentioned one of the leading orders into which birds are divided, and I will now enumerate them according to the arrangement most commonly observed. The plan ordinarily followed places *Raptores*, the *Robbers*, or *Birds of Prey*, at the head of the list, and this term covers eagles, hawks, buzzards, owls, &c. Then we have *Scansores*, the *Climbers*, such as the cuckoos and woodpeckers. Then follow *Insectivores*, the *Perchers*, including nearly the whole of our small birds. Another order is that of *Rasores*, the *Scratchers*, under which are ranged our domestic fowls, as well as doves, grouse, partridges and turkeys. *Grallatores*, the *Waders*, come next, and are the herons, bitterns, plovers, snipes, sandpipers, rails, &c. Then we have *Natatores*, or *Swimmers*, such as ducks, geese, gulls, grebes and loons. Some give another division, the *Runners*, and describe the *Swimmers* as the *Palm* or *Hand-footed* or *Webbed*. Again we have an addition of the *Screamers*. But the more common classification—and it seems to admirably answer the intended purpose—is that which I have described. So much by way of preliminary observation. In this neighborhood we have few birds of prey, a comparatively small number of scratchers, waders and swimmers, some climbers, and many perchers. Upon the present occasion I shall confine myself to a notice of some of the representatives of the divisions affording us most material. Firstly, let us look at our *Climbers*. A peculiar characteristic of this order is the fact that the toes are in pairs, two toes being in front and two