



THE GREAT BLUE HERON.

ORDER V.—WADERS.

BIRDS of this Order live near the water, and comprise the Herons, Cranes, Bitterns, Plovers, Snipes, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, and Rails.

The Herons.—The birds of this species have very long and strong bills; legs, very long and slender; middle toe, connected with the outer by a basal web; head, crested; throat, tufted with long feathers.

The Plovers.—The Plovers live on the shore; bodies, round; bills, slender, of variable length; feathers, compact; wings, long and sharp; tail, stiff, short, and broad; legs, slender and delicate, and correspond with the bill and proportions; plumage, brownish-black, with circular spots.

The Snipes.—The Snipes have full and round bodies, large head and eyes, short and rounded wings, and short legs. The tail has twelve feathers.