

scientificism. The pilgrim to the "Palace Beautiful" of birds must at the gates face the "loud-mouthed lions" of classification, and maybe here he will, as in the old story, find little more than terrible sounds.

Though a lover of Nature and her order, I have little partiality for classification of her musty remains, and almost feel tempted to say, "Do not mind such things, but go out into the woods and learn and love." Yet all study, to be successful, must be systematic, so we will begin with the outlines of Dr. Coues' Classification of Birds:

CLASS AVES OR BIRDS.

1. *Sub class—Insectores* (sedeo—I sit)
—Aerial Birds or Perchers.

Order—*Passeres*—Sparrow-like birds.

" —*Picariæ*—Outcasts from other orders, as wood-peckers, etc.

" —*Psittaci*—Parrots.

" —*Raptores*—Birds of Prey.

" —*Columbæ*—Pigeons.

2. *Sub class—Cursoræ* (curro [curs] I run)—Ground Birds or Runners

Order—*Gallinæ*—Barn fowl, etc.

" —*Grallatores*—Wading Birds.

3. *Sub class—Natatores* (natator—a swimmer)—Water Birds or Swimmers.

Order—*Lamellirostres*—Ducks, etc.

" —*Steganopodes*—Cormorants, etc.

" —*Longepennes*—Gulls.

" —*Pygopodes*—Divers.

First you decide to which sub-class your specimen belongs. If the first, it will most likely be a bird with short legs and neck, loose plumage and the hind toe set on a level with the front ones (unless it be a pigeon or a vulture). If of the second, it will most likely have long neck and legs, with the hind toe absent or set higher on the leg than the front ones, and either some bare skin about the head or the leg bare for a space above what is

known as the knee joint (really the heel). If your bird belongs to the third it will have webbed feet.*

Having settled the question of sub-class, the reader will go further and decide the order from the following descriptions:

Order 1—Passeres.—(Passer, a sparrow)—Three toes in front and one behind; no signs of a web; hind toe on a level with the others, and longer than the shortest front toe; hind claw at least as big as middle claw; bill without a cere, i.e., a soft skin round the nostrils and covering the basal half of the bill. This order contains fully one-half of our birds. It includes those which shew the highest organization and all our fine songsters. Most of them are sparrow-like birds, but the order also includes the crows. The raven is its largest member.

Order 2—Picariæ—(picus, a wood-pecker).—Agree mainly in disagreeing with the members of all other orders. They have either a long bill or scarcely any bill at all. In this we find the wood-peckers, cuckoos, swifts, night-hawks, kingfishers and humming-birds, the last being the smallest known birds.

Order 3—Psittaci—(Psittacus, a parrot)—Large hooked bill; toes, two before and two behind; the only North American species being the Carolina parrot, which never comes to Canada.

Order 4—Raptores—(Latin for robbers)—Strong, sharp, hooked bill and claws; nostrils in a cere; great power of flight; mostly large birds; many have slightly webbed toes. Includes the owls, hawks, eagles and vultures. The largest bird that flies is a vulture, the condor of the Andes. The vultures have the hind toe slightly raised

* These definitions are not universally applicable, but the Canadian will find them practical in almost every case.