

Characteristics of Form or Habit, That Will Determine to What Order or Family Birds Belong.

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

ORDER 1. DIVING BIRDS—Pygopodes.

GREBES; Podicipidæ:—Form, duck-like; bill pointed and never flattened; no tail; legs at extreme end of body; each flattened toe with an individual web; wings small. Flies rapidly, but patters along the water before taking wing. Expert divers, using wings as well as feet, to propel them, under water.

LOONS. Family *Gaviidæ*:—Larger than Grebes; bill, long, heavy and pointed; tail very short; feet webbed like a duck's, but legs thin and deep; form and habits, grebe-like.

AUKS, MURRES, PUFFINS. Family *Alcidæ*:—Bills very variable; tail short; usually takes flight when alarmed, instead of diving as do grebes and loons. With the exception of puffins, which stand on their feet, all birds of this order sit upon their whole leg and tail. They are awkward on land; some can hardly walk.

