

similar peculiarities in structure and habits, render these so called "Quail-Doves" a remarkable outlying group, tending, as their name implies, towards the Quails of order V.

Pigeons are strong and rapid fliers, which fact man has utilized in his wonted aggrandizing manner. He has trained the Carrier Pigeons to convey messages with greater accuracy, and with little less speed than the electric telegraph, and to places wholly inaccessible by that or any other means excepting by this winged messenger.

CLASS B. *Those Birds in which the hind toe is elevated above the front toes.*

These are the Sand and Water birds which are not particularly fliers, nor yet perchers like the succeeding class, but are rather walkers, runners, scratchers, waders, or swimmers. And yet by the curious law of exception, whose rule is everywhere and all embracing, we find in this class the Wild Goose, whose flight is proverbial the world over for its wondrous speed. Outstripping the storm wind, and vying even with the lightning's flash, it reaches at times a speed of from 90 to 100 miles an hour. No wonder the bird chooses its haunts so far apart, when it can traverse the intervening space in so short a time.

ORDER V.—GALLINÆ (fowls,) or as some call them, RASORES (Scratchers.) This latter name is derived from a characteristic habit of scratching for their food. All birds of this order are more or less perfectly terrestrial. The leading idea of their structure is

plumpness, which of course means short and stout. This applies to bill, head, body, wings, and tail. But the latter appendage acquires a marvelous development in the peacock, and the head often develops fleshy processes as can be seen in the comb and wattles of our barnyard fowls.

This order is cosmopolitan, and its chief interest centres in its great economic value. The importance of this feature is readily seen when we reflect that all forms of domestic poultry, hens, turkeys, peacocks, guinea fowl, and the like are *Rasores*; as also are all the principal game birds of every land, quail, grouse, pheasants, partridges, etc.

It is an order also unsurpassed in beauty; witness the gorgeous peacock, and the whole family of magnificent Pheasants.

The five orders so far enumerated have been land or air birds, but we must now leave the land and push boldly out to sea, noticing as we pass, those birds that we find in the shallow water along shore.

ORDER VI.—GRALLATORES, (waders,) literally stilt-walkers, from the chief peculiarity of the order, its long, naked, stilt-like legs.

Of these the great Plover-snipe group of shore waders are the smallest, and are the group to which may be attached the connecting links already mentioned.

They perform extensive migrations during which they appear with great regularity. They are the first group we have met that breed to the far north, *i. e.* in Nova Scotia, Newfound-