

A writer in the *Toronto Globe* of the 11th instant, condemns the system of Professors Agassiz & Gould, and expresses the greatest alarm lest the publication of it in Canada might be injurious to the cause of Natural History.

We have however so much confidence in the great name of AGASSIZ, that we feel justified in stating that the study of no one of his works will retard the student, and that we believe our anonymous reviewer in the *Globe* stands much in need of a small book, such as the "Outlines of Comparative Physiology and Anatomy," from which the system in question was taken. The five orders of Vigors are the following:—

1. *Raptores*.—Birds of Prey.
2. *Insectores*.—Perching Birds.
3. *Rasores*.—Scraping Birds.
4. *Grallatores*.—Wading Birds.
5. *Natatores*.—Swimming Birds.

In the system of Agassiz & Gould, the *Insectores* appear to include (1.) Birds of Prey, (2.) The Perching Birds of other authors, and (3.) The Scraping Birds; while their order of *Scansores* or Climbing Birds is considered by Vigors as a tribe only of the *Insectores*.

In this Journal only species and genera will be described for the present. The student should procure specimens and study them, and acquire as soon as possible an extensive knowledge of species. He should also make observations upon the food, periods of migration, construction of nests, habits, instincts, &c., and commit the same to writing.

In the next article we shall give an account of the common Robin, with the technical description, by way of note, from Audubon's Synopsis of the Birds of America.

ARTICLE XXI.—On the Robin, or Migratory Thrush, (*Turdus migratorius*.)

GENUS TURDUS, (Linn.)

GENERIC CHARACTERS.—Bill of moderate length, rather stout, straight, compressed towards the end, and acute; upper mandible slightly notched near the tip; nostrils ovoid, partly concealed by the feathers; tarsus longer than the middle toe, wings of moderate length, first quill very small, the third and fourth longest, tail rather long, nearly even.

TURDUS MIGRATORIUS, (Linn.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Dark greyish, beneath reddish, head and tail black, the latter with the two exterior feathers white at the tip; male, 10.14; female, 9.13. Inhabits the United States and British Provinces, to the Arctic regions.

The Robin, the most common species of the family of Thrushes, is a fine lively bird to be seen everywhere in this country throughout the spring.