

flight, taking the prey by a pounce or swoop, and being less decidedly aquatic in habits than the rest of the order—at least with some exception in the family representing the second tendency. We can hardly fail to be led in pursuit of such characters to the *Pelecanidae*, which are remarkable for the length and power of their wings, swim less than any of the other birds organised for aquatic life, and seize their prey either like the *Atagen*, or Frigate bird (the most peculiarly *Raptorial* of the family), by a swoop from the surface of the water, or, like the Gannett and Pelican, by a sudden stroke from above. If we inquire what family of swimming birds deviates least in figure and flight from the most typical birds, forming a link of connection between the *Insessorial* and *Natatorial* orders, and impressing us with the activity and gracefulness of its movements and its union of aerial with aquatic modes of life, we immediately think of *Laridae*—the Gulls, Terns, and Petrels as certainly occupying the second place. It needs no array of evidence to prove that *Anatidae*, including swans, geese, and ducks in all their variety, represent the nutritive tendency, and are analogous with the poultry among the orders of birds. They constitute the largest and most characteristic of the *Natatorial* groups—Mr. Swainson's typical family. The lengthened bill and neck, generally elongated figure, and frequently anomalous feet of the Divers (*Colymbidae*), point out their position as representing the fourth tendency in analogy with wading birds; and finally, the entire unfitness for living out of water or moving much in any other element, with the manifestly low structure as compared with the rest of the order, and with almost all other birds, proves that we are right in assigning the fifth place to *Alcidae*, the Auks and Penguins.

It remains to be considered whether, even in the comparatively small and deviative family of the *Pelecanidae*, an examination of the generic forms will not enable us to mark out sub-families however limited in number of species, again indicating the same tendencies. And here I would name the Frigate birds (*Atageninae*) as displaying the *raptorial* tendency; the *Phaetoninae* or Tropic birds, whose graceful figure, little removed from that of *Insessorial* birds, has caused them to be placed among the Gulls, notwithstanding the beak and the feet showing its connection with the Pelicans, will naturally take the second place.

The bird which has given occasion to these observations, with the larger nearly-related genus *Graculus*, the Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax*