

ORDER I.—RAPTORES. ROBBERS.

The peculiarities already given of the order *Raptores* are sufficient to define it among the others mentioned, although many additional features might be named. The order embraces three families, which are characterized by Keyserling and Blasius as follows:—

A.—DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY.

Eyes lateral, with lashes, surrounded by a naked or woolly orbital circle; the feathers above, below, and behind the eyes directed backwards, as on the rest of the head; anterior to the eye, the lore imperfectly clothed with a radiating star of bristles, or with scale-like feathers. The inner toe without the nail, shorter, or as long as the outer. Nostrils opening in the cere.

VULTURIDÆ.—Bill contracted or indented on the anterior border of the cere, so that the culmen is bow-shaped, or ascending anterior to it. Eyes lying on a level with the sides of the head. Head sparsely covered with downy feathers only, or partially naked. Claws weak, rather slender, and only moderately curved; the tarsi and bases of the toes reticulated.

FALCONIDÆ.—The bill not contracted, nor the culmen ascending anterior to the cere. Eyes sunken. The head completely covered with compact, perfect feathers. Claws strong.

B.—NOCTURNAL BIRDS OF PREY.

STRIGIDÆ.—Eyes directed forwards; more or less completely surrounded by a crown of radiating bristly feathers. Lores and base of bill densely covered with bristly feathers directed forwards. The nostrils opening on the anterior edge of the cere. The inner toe without its claw longer than the outer, which is versatile. A crown of peculiarly formed feathers on the side of the head and above the throat. Head fully feathered. Plumage very soft and downy.

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