

10. *The vent feathers and under-tail coverts*, that extend from the anus or vent to the tail underneath. These feathers are much longer in some tribes of Birds than others. Those that have a constant habit of flirting by their tails—like, for example, the *Tallus Carolinus*, and several species of small shore Birds—have the vent feathers unusually well developed.

The *tail feathers* are various in size and numbers, and are generally the most ornamental part of a Bird. The tail performs the most necessary office in the navigation of the Bird through the air; in fact, it is the rudder by which the course of the Bird is determined, and acts in concert with the will of the Bird as freely as a ship obeys her helm.

11. *Loral space*.—The space between the bill and eye.

12. *Frons*.—The forehead.

13. *Corona*.—Crown of the head.

14. *Occiput*.—The hind part of the head.

15. *Flexure*.—Bend of the wing.

16. *Tarsi*.—Shanks of legs.

17. *Tibia*.—Thigh.

The *upper and lower bills* are called the *superior and inferior maxilla*, or upper and lower *mandibles*.

Iris—irides.—The colored circle surrounding the pupil of the eye.

Mentum.—The chin.

Guttur.—The throat.

Collum.—The neck.

Pectus.—The breast.

In measurement, the *total length* means from point of the bill to the end of middle tail feathers. *Length of the wings* means from the *bend* of the wing to the end of the longest quill feather."

The *mirror, speculum* or *Beauty spot*, is a space on the wings of some species with brighter colours than the other parts of the wing.

The length of the wing is generally measured from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, and the two dimension are simply expressed in figures thus, $24\frac{1}{2}$, $38\frac{1}{2}$; the first indicating the length from the bill to the tail, and the latter the length of the expanded wings.

The above are nearly all the technical terms used in describing birds, and after a few attempts at their application to specimens, they will become fixed in the memory, and give no further trouble. There are many systems of classification proposed by various authors, and to reconcile them all with each other would be impossible; in fact most of them are considered by the best naturalists to be defective, and need not be studied until after some knowledge of the species, and genera has been acquired.

Linnaeus, in his *Systema Naturæ*, divides the class of Birds into six orders. Blumenbach makes nine orders. Cuvier makes six. M. Vieillot, a celebrated French Ornithologist, five. Mr. N. A. Vigors, five. M. C. J. Temminck, in his *Manuel d'Ornithologie*, sixteen; and Professors Agassiz & Gould, in the system published in the second article of this Journal, only four orders.