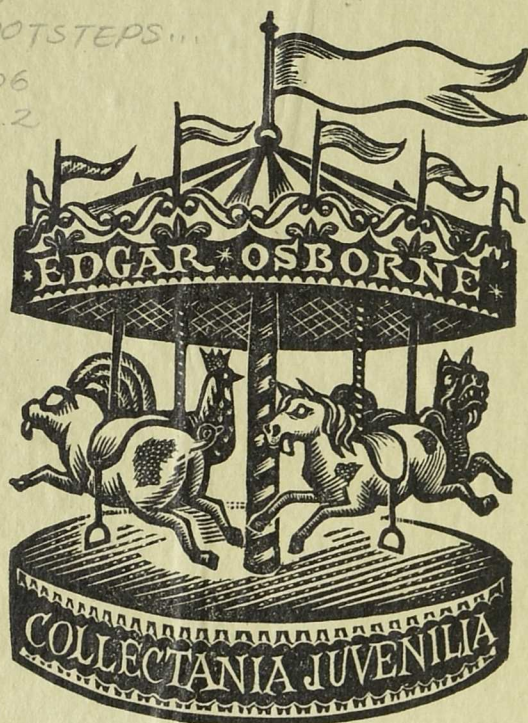


FOOTSTEPS  
TO  
Natural History.

PART II.

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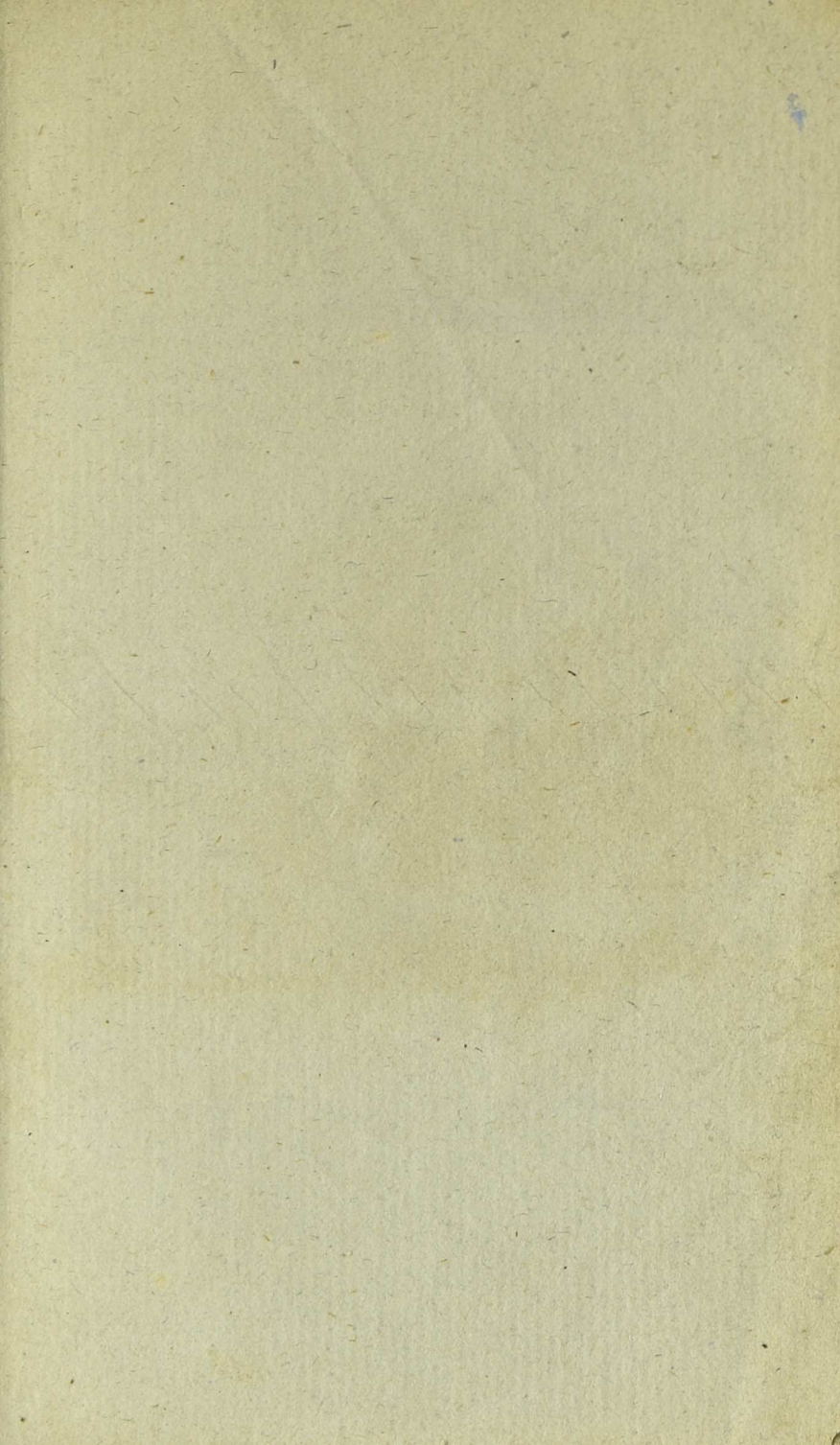
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FOOTSTEPS  
TO THE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
OF  
BEASTS AND BIRDS.



PART II.

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## PART II.

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*Containing a Description of some of the most remarkable and interesting Beasts and Birds found in foreign Countries.*



### THE LION.

THIS noble creature, which is generally termed the King of the Beasts, is a native of only the hottest parts of the globe, particularly Africa, where, in the parched and desert regions, he arrives at his greatest bulk and courage. He is also met with in Persia and India; but the Indian Lions are said to

be weak and timid. An African Lion, of the largest size, has measured above eight feet, from the nose to the beginning of the tail; and from four to five feet in height. He has a very large head, rounded ears, fiery eyes, and his neck and shoulders are covered with long shaggy hair, forming a mane: his long tail is ornamented with a tuft of hair at the end. The general colour is a pale tawny, whiter on the under side of the body. The female is about one fourth smaller than the male, and she is without the mane.

The Lion reigns the undoubted lord of the wilderness:—at his tremendous roar, which resembles distant thunder, all other animals tremble. Horses and Oxen fall into cold sweats, and crouch to the ground in the greatest agony. His scent is indifferent, and he hunts by the eye alone; following secretly, till he approaches near enough to seize his prey with two or three bounds or leaps. He strikes with his paw with such force as to  
—beat



beat down a large animal; and such is his strength, that he can with ease carry off an Ox or a Buffalo. The Lion seldom kills more than will serve his present necessities: when satiated, he often suffers men and animals to pass him in safety. His courage is tempered with mercy, and he has been known to spare the weaker animals, as beneath his attention.

The Lion is a long-lived animal: it has been known to reach the age of sixty or seventy years in confinement.

In the scorching deserts of Africa, where there are neither rivers nor springs, the Pelican makes her nest; and, in order to cool her young ones, and accustom them to an element out of which they are afterwards to procure their food, brings from afar, in her large pouch, sufficient water to fill the nest. The Lion, and other wild beasts, approach and quench their thirst, yet never injure the unfledged birds; as if they knew that their destruction would put a stop to these grateful supplies.



### THE TIGER.

THE Tiger has been accounted the most beautiful, as well as the most terrible of animals. Its whole body is marked with long black stripes, which, contrasted with a ground of tawny or orange colour, or with pure white in the face and flanks, produce a very striking effect. Its tail is one third shorter than its body, and has black rings. This animal seems to be confined to the hottest parts of Asia, especially India and the Indian islands.

The Tiger is the only beast of prey which, in size and strength, can dispute with the Lion.

The



The kind called the Royal Tiger is, indeed, sometimes found superior in bulk to the Lion, having been measured fifteen feet from the nose to the end of the tail.

The disposition of the Tiger seems to be peculiarly ferocious and cruel; he is scarcely capable of being tamed, and cannot be trusted by his keepers. He watches under thickets for his prey, and seizes the victim with a sudden spring, accompanied by a most hideous roar. If he misses his first aim, however, he generally retreats; and a slight resistance will often drive him away. There have been many instances of Tigers making prey of the human species: one has been known to leap over a garden wall, and snatch a person from the midst of a company; carrying him off in his mouth, and repassing the wall with the greatest ease.

The Tigress produces three or four young at a litter, and is extremely furious in their defence.



## THE ELEPHANT.

EVERY part of the world has animals of its own, and it is for very wise purposes that the Creator has placed them in one country, rather than in another.

The Elephant, which is a native both of Africa and Asia, appears like a moving mountain, and its bones are like pillars. Its head is joined to a very short neck, and armed with two tusks, strong enough to tear up trees or throw them down. These tusks are ivory, and are a very valuable commodity. A longer neck could not support the weight of the head, nor hold it up. But to make  
amends



amends for the short neck, his trunk is very long. He uses it as a hand to convey food to his mouth, without being obliged to stoop for it. He moves, bends, and turns it all ways at his pleasure, and makes use of it as an organ of smell. His eyes are small in proportion to the size of his body, but they are bright and full of fire. In a state of independence, it is neither sanguinary nor fierce, but of a mild nature, and never makes use of its weapons but in its own defence. When irritated, it seizes its enemy with its trunk, flings it like a stone at him, and then treads him to death. The Elephant eats about one hundred pounds weight of grass in a day; but its body being of an enormous weight, it crushes and destroys with its feet more than it consumes in food.

The instances related of the sensibility, intelligence, and sagacity of this animal are wonderful. They are usually much attached to their keepers; but if affronted by them will often severely revenge themselves.



## THE ARABIAN CAMEL.

THE riches of the Arabian has consisted in the number of his Camels, from the time of Job to the present day. Without them great part of Africa would be wretched; their whole commerce being carried on through dry and burning tracts, impassable but by beasts which Providence has formed expressly for the scorched deserts. The soles of their feet are adapted to the sands they are to pass over, their toughness and spongy softness preventing them from cracking. They will travel many days without any other sustenance than a few dates, or some small balls of  
barley.



barley or bean meal, with the few prickly and withered herbs they pick up in the desert; and they are enabled to abstain entirely from drink for a long period, by means of a peculiar bag, or stomach, with which they are furnished for holding water alone. This they fill when they come to a drinking-place; and it will keep in an uncorrupted state, so that travellers, when pressed with want of water, have killed their Camels for the sake of the supply this receptacle affords. They can scent water at a great distance, and will redouble their speed on approaching it.

The Camel is trained from its youth to carry burdens, and to kneel at the word of command to receive its load. A large one will carry 1000 or 1200 pounds, with which it will travel thirty miles a day. They rise from the ground, when loaded as much as they can bear, and will not permit more to be laid on. Nor can they be made to quicken their pace by blows, but they go freely, if cheered by good usage or the sound of music.



*London. Published by W<sup>m</sup>. Darton and Jos<sup>ph</sup>. Harvey 1<sup>st</sup> May 1806.*

## THE ZEBRA.

THIS elegant animal is about the size of a common Mule; its head is well shaped, and it has ears of a moderate size. But it is peculiarly distinguished by its colours, its whole body being beautifully striped with lines of brown, on a very pale buff ground. It has a short erect mane; and its tail is like that of an Ass, with a tuft of hair at the end.

The Zebra is extremely swift, and, though taken at an early age, cannot be tamed so as to be made useful. It is a native of all the hotter parts of Africa, from Congo to the Cape of Good Hope.

THE





## THE KANGUROO.

THIS curious creature is a native of New Holland, and was discovered, in 1770, by Sir Joseph Banks, who accompanied Captain Cook in a voyage round the world. It is about as large as a sheep; the fore legs are very short, the hind legs very long, and it hops upon them like a bird, balancing itself with a vast tail. The dimensions of a full grown one are about eight feet from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, of which the tail itself is three feet.

The Kangaroo feeds upon vegetables, principally grass. They go in herds of thirty

or forty together, stationing one of the number upon the watch; for they are very timid, and at the least alarm spring away in vast bounds, flying over bushes seven or eight feet in height. They use their fore feet only for digging, or bringing food to their mouth. Their tail, which is their weapon of defence, is capable of giving a very hard blow.

The female brings but one young at a time, which is extremely small, and immediately fastens itself to the teat in the pouch with which she is furnished. There it continues till grown of considerable size; and it takes occasional refuge in the pouch, after it is accustomed to go abroad, and when grown so large that its head and fore feet hang out.

The Kanguroos have bred in this country, and seem likely to become naturalized to the climate. Their flesh is good to eat, but is rather coarse.





## THE PORCUPINE.

THIS animal has a formidable appearance, from the sharp quills with which the upper part of its body is covered; but it is of a harmless nature, and only uses its quills in the way of defence against an enemy. When attacked, it retires and runs its nose into a corner, bristles up its quills, and opposes them to its assailant, making at the same time a snorting noise.

The supposition that the Porcupine has the power of darting its quills to a distance against its enemies, is erroneous. It may, indeed, by shaking its skin, when the quills are

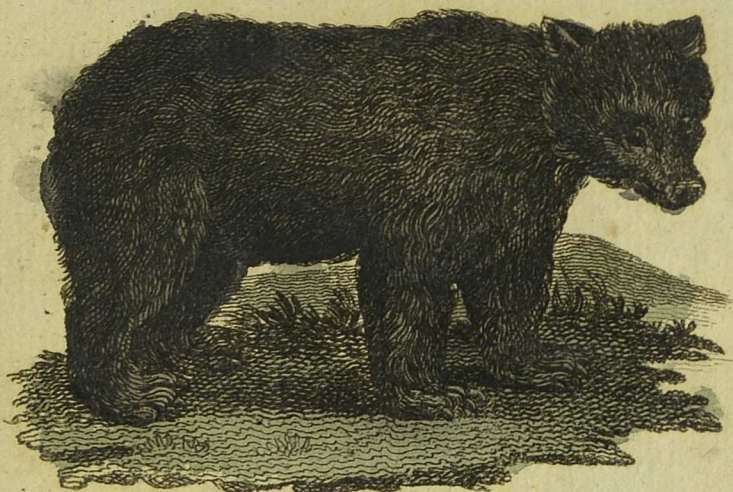
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are loose at the time of casting them, occasionally throw them out with some degree of violence, and this may have given rise to the idea that they had the power of shooting them out at pleasure. The quills are from nine to fifteen inches in length; they are variegated with alternate black and white rings, and are attached by a small root.

The Porcupine is a native of Africa and India, and also of the warmer parts of Europe, as Italy and Sicily; but into these places, it is supposed, it has been formerly imported. The Italian Porcupines have shorter quills than those of Asia and Africa.

This animal inhabits holes under ground, which it forms into several separate apartments, leaving only a single entrance. It sleeps much by day, and feeds in the night. It lives upon roots, fruits, and vegetables; and its flesh is eaten, being a very luscious food.





## THE BEAR.

THE Bear is a native of most of the northern countries of Europe and Asia. ~~his~~ is a savage, solitary animal, inhabiting ~~the~~ recesses of thick forests, or the caverns in mountains. Sometimes he takes up his abode in the hollow of a large tree, for he is expert in climbing. In fighting, Bears strike with their fore feet like a Cat; and rising on their hind feet, hug or squeeze their antagonist till they have stifled him. They seldom use their teeth in battle, but generally bite a hole in their prey, and suck their blood. They often make havoc among the fields of peas and other cultivated

cultivated vegetables, and will sometimes plunder the ricks in the farm yards: and, as they are very fond of honey, they frequently rob the nests of wild bees in the woods. They will likewise catch fish, and for that purpose frequent the banks of rivers.

Bears retire to their dens in the winter; but, as they lay up no store of provisions, they have no other nourishment during that time than what they get by sucking their feet, where the fat lodges in great abundance. They are very fat when they enter their retreats, but come out lean and ravenous.

Those who lead these animals about the streets, to divert the people by their awkward imitation of dancing, do not deserve encouragement, as they exercise great cruelty in teaching them to perform these tricks. The animal goes through its exercises unwillingly, and with many growls and angry murmurs; and, as its obedience is all the effect of severity, its tameness is never to be trusted without caution.





### THE REIN-DEER.

THE Rein-Deer may be reckoned the most useful of all the Deer kind, as it is absolutely necessary to the existence of a whole nation. It is confined to the very northern regions, and cannot live in the temperate. It inhabits Norway, Lapland, Siberia, Greenland, and other cold countries.

The general colour of the Rein-Deer is brown above and white beneath, but it becomes grey or white with age. Its horns are large: a pair has been known to measure three feet nine inches in length, and to weigh nine pounds and a half.

This

This animal exists both in a wild and domestic state. It is used by many of the northern tribes as a beast of draught; but the Laplanders have also derived great part of their sustenance from it. They keep herds of Rein-Deer as other people do of Sheep or Cows; and some of the richest among them possess as many as five hundred. These, during the winter, are kept in the low grounds, where their chief food is a kind of moss, which they dig up from beneath the snow. In the summer they are driven up to the mountains to pasture, as the multitude of insects renders it impossible for them to live in the plains. Hence they are brought down to the herdsman's cottage, morning and evening, to be milked, a fire being first kindled, to drive off the insects by its smoke. Their milk is thinner than that of the Cow, but sweeter and more nourishing: a cheese is made from it, which is a principal article of the Laplander's food. They also eat the flesh, make clothing and bedding of the skin,  
bowstrings



bowstrings and thread of the tendons, glue of the horns, and spoons of the bones; so that the Rein-Deer is almost every thing to them, and admirably supplies their wants, in a region which yields scarcely any thing else for human use. It is, besides, their means of conveyance from place to place. They train it from an early age to the sledge, from which a trace is brought under the belly, and fastened to the fore part of the sledge. The person who sits in it holds a cord tied to the animal's horns, with which he guides it. It is only in winter, and over the frozen snow, that this mode of carriage can be used. They travel with amazing swiftness, and will go thirty miles on a stretch without the least inconvenience. They are sometimes urged twice that distance on a stage; but this exertion often proves fatal to them.

The wild Rein-Deer are killed for the sake of their tongues alone, which are a great delicacy.



## THE BEAVER.

THE accounts of the labours of Beavers, when collected into a state of society, are wonderful, almost beyond belief; but the following particulars, being collected from the most respectable sources of information, may be considered as authentic.

For the purpose of building, they choose a level piece of ground, with a small rivulet running through it, which they form into a pond by making a bank across. This they effect, by driving into the ground stakes five or six feet long, placed in rows, which they fasten together with pliant twigs, in the manner



ner in which baskets are made, and plaster up the cracks with clay. The length of these banks is sometimes not less than a hundred feet, and their breadth, at the base, ten or twelve feet; and they go sloping, and insensibly narrowing towards the top, till they become no more than two feet. Their cabins or huts are built upon piles, on the edge of the pond, and are either oval or round, with vaulted tops. They are eight feet in height above the surface of the water, and consist of two or three stories. The walls are two feet thick, and are made of earth, stones, and sticks, laid together with great solidity; and they are as neatly plastered within, as if with a trowel. In making these works, they employ to advantage their very strong and sharp fore teeth, with which they cut down trees expeditiously, taking care that they shall fall towards the water, that they may be easily floated to the places where they are wanted. Some have supposed that they use their tail as a wheel barrow,

to

to carry their mortar or clay, and afterwards for a trowel to plaster it on; but this has been found to be an error, their teeth and fore paws being their only instruments.

A settlement consists of from ten to twenty-five cabins, and there is generally an equal number of males and females. Each family has its store of winter provisions, consisting of the boughs and bark of trees, which they lodge under water, and fetch into their apartments as their wants require. In the spring they quit their huts and resort to the woods, and do not assemble again till the next autumn, when they begin with repairing their works.

The Beaver is a native of the northern parts of Europe and Asia, and also of North America. Its length, from nose to tail, is about three feet; and its tail is nearly a foot in length, of an oval form, nearly flat, and is covered with scales resembling those of a fish. Its fur, which is remarkably soft and fine, is the principal material of which the finest hats are made.

THE





## THE OSTRICH.

THE Ostrich is allowed to be the largest of birds, and in appearance bears some resemblance to the Camel. It generally measures seven feet from the top of its head to the ground, and its wings are each three feet in length.

The plumage of the Ostrich is generally a mixture of white and black, but the feathers of the wings and tail are perfectly white, and are held in such high estimation, that the creature is hunted merely for the sake of them.

This bird is a native of the sultry re-  
gions

gions of Africa, and was never known to breed out of that clime. The natives assert that it never drinks; but it has a most voracious appetite, and will devour leather, glass, iron, stones, tin, lead, or any other substance that may come in its way.

Of all creatures that make use of their legs, the Ostrich is the swiftest; his wings as well as his legs keep in motion, like two oars, to waft him along; and if he kept straight forward, instead of taking a circular direction, he would easily outstrip his pursuers. ~~When the poor animal is completely~~ exhausted, he darts his head down into the sand, as if he thought that by burying his head, the rest of his body, of course, must be concealed.

The Ostrich has been represented as wanting natural affection; but this accusation is unfounded, as both the male and female are careful in sitting upon their eggs, and attentive to their young after they are hatched.





### THE CASSOWARY.

THIS bird has been said to possess the head of a warrior, the eye of a Lion, the defence of a Porcupine, and the swiftness of a horse. The head, though small and bare of feathers, is armed with a kind of helmet, which is black in front and yellow behind; it is composed of a horny substance, and consists of several plates one over another: this helmet gives the wearer a very fierce appearance. The eye is a bright yellow, large, and fiery, encircled with small hairs, which answer the purpose of a lid.

The wings, when deprived of their fea-

thers, are not more than three inches in length; but they are furnished with five large prickles, like the quills of a Porcupine.

Though nature seems to have furnished this bird with formidable weapons of defence, that might terrify others, it is of a very timid nature itself, and never attacks any other animals: when attacked, it depends more upon its swiftness than strength; and it is generally able to outrun its pursuers. Its method of running is very peculiar, as it seems to kick up behind with one leg, whilst with the other it makes a sort of leap.

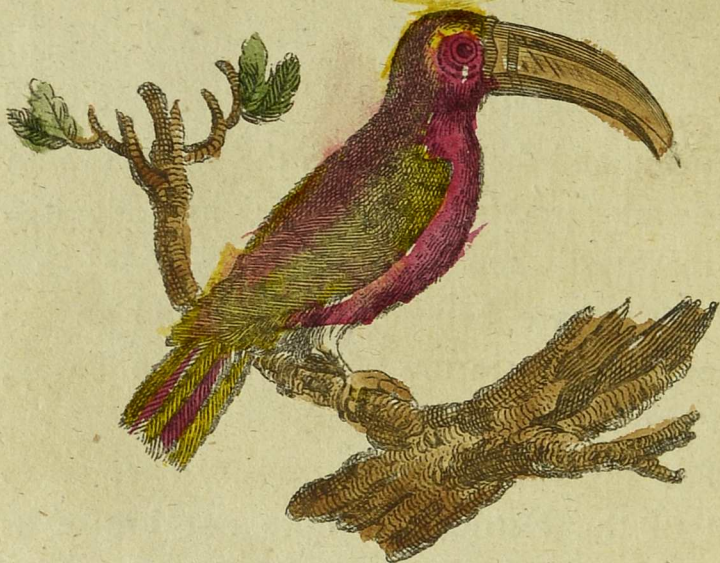
The body of the Cassowary is nearly as large as that of the Ostrich; and its height is about five feet and a half. This bird has no tail, but the feathers which grow out from the bottom of the back are fourteen inches long, and hang downwards. The rest of the body is covered with brownish black feathers, two of which grow from one stem. On each side of the beak hang two fleshy substances, somewhat resembling the gills of a Cock;



a Cock; and the skin upon the breast is both bare and hard, because it rests its body upon that part when it lies down.

Its eggs are between a green and an ash colour; they measure fifteen inches one way, and about twelve the other.

The appetite of the Cassowary is equal to that of the Ostrich; it does not bruise its food with its beak, but will swallow glass, iron, and very large stones. It is a native of the island of Java, in the East Indies.



### THE TOUCAN.

THE Toucan is an American bird, about the size of a Magpie; and is remarkable for having an extremely large bill, which is considerably longer than the whole of its body, and notched at the edges like a saw. Though apparently formidable, it is of too thin a substance to do material harm, being very light, and not much thicker than parchment.

It scoops out its nest in the hole of some tree; but its tongue is supposed to assist in the work, and, by pressing hard against the bill, to give it additional strength. This enormous

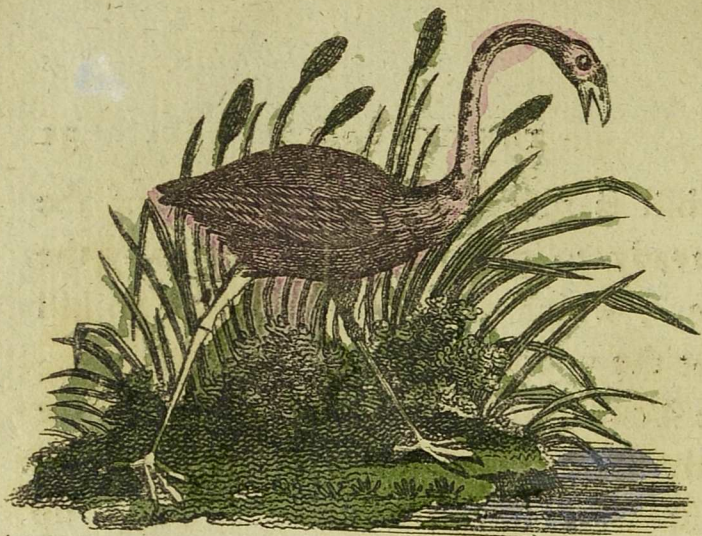


mous bill is placed at the entrance of the nest, ready to peck at and drive away the Monkeys, which often come in order to kill and eat the young ones.

The Toucans frequent moist places, where the palm-trees grow, the fruit of which is their food. They are easily brought up tame, and swallow whole every thing that is given them, their beaks being too slight to break any thing.

Their manner of feeding is singular: they take their food with the point of the beak, throw it up into the air, and receive it into their throats as it is falling.

These birds fly awkwardly, on account of their large beak and small wings; and their legs are so short that they cannot well walk, but are obliged to hop. Their plumage is very beautiful: the feathers of the breast form a part of the Indian's dress, and the flesh is considered as delicate food.



## THE FLAMINGO.

THIS singular bird, though formerly well known in Europe, is now only prevalent along the American and African coasts.

It is the most remarkable of the Crane kind; the tallest, the bulkiest, and the most beautiful. The body, which is of a bright scarlet, is no bigger than that of a Swan, but its legs and neck are of such an extraordinary length, that, when it stands erect, it is upwards of six feet high. The bill is formed like a bow, partly red and partly black, and is above seven inches long; the legs and thighs are extremely small; and the



the toes are united by a membrane, like those of a Goose.

These birds generally reside near salt-water lakes or marshes, and form themselves into a rank along their sides, which often extends near half a mile; being red, they look at a distance like a company of soldiers. One of the party stands as centinel, to give instant notice if any danger should approach, which he does by a shrill loud noise, equal to the largest trumpet in sound.

They make their nests in marshy places, of heaps of mud and weeds, about twenty inches high. In shape they resemble a sugar-loaf with the top broken off, which is hollowed like a basin. The birds sit on them, and their legs hang down on each side, like the legs of a man astride upon a cask. They seldom lay more than two eggs; the young ones are a long time before they can fly, but are soon able to run with great swiftness.

The chief food of these birds is fish; and the rough edges of their bills enable them to hold their slippery prey.



## THE PENGUIN.

THE wings of the Penguin kind are not adapted for flying, nor their feet for walking; for above the knee is hid within the body, and nothing appears but two short legs or feet, which seem to spring from under the tail. But they are admirably formed for the water, in which they almost constantly reside; as they never visit the shore but when they come to breed. Whilst they swim, their heads and necks only appear out of the water; and they row themselves along with their finny wings, as though they were oars. Their bodies are so closely covered with



with feathers, that no wet can get to them; besides, they are very fat, and by these means they are preserved from cold.

The Crested Penguins are called by the sailors Jumping Jacks, and Hopping Penguins, because they frequently leap three or four feet out of the water.

The Patagonian Penguin is the largest that is known, being nearly the size of a Goose; its short wings, which are covered with stiff feathers, hang uselessly by its sides, and it is totally incapable of flying. The feathers on the breast are delicately white, except a line of black, which runs across the crop: the hinder parts of the head, and the back, are perfectly black. They walk erect, with their wings drooping like two arms; and, at a distance, they look like so many children with white aprons tied round their waists.

The Penguin makes no nest, but lays a single egg in a hollow which it scratches in the ground. They live upon fish.



*London. Published by W<sup>m</sup>. Darton and Jos<sup>ph</sup>. Harvey, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1806.*

## THE NUMIDIAN CRANE.

THIS bird, from the elegance of its appearance, and its singular carriage, is also called the Demoiselle, which signifies “the young Lady.” It walks very gracefully, and sometimes skips or leaps, as though trying to dance: The top of its head and fore part of its neck are adorned with long silky feathers, of a beautiful black; and it has a tuft of long white feathers behind each eye, which hang downwards in an elegant manner.

They are found in many parts of Africa and Asia: they frequent marshes, and feed upon fish.





## THE PARROT.

OF all foreign birds, the Parrot is to us best known; and though they are natives of the hottest countries, as South America, Africa, and the East and West Indies, yet they will live a great number of years in a cage, in our variable climate.

In their native woods they live upon the fruit and seeds of trees; but when kept tame they will eat almost any thing. They are fond of meat, but it is very hurtful to them; bringing on a disorder which makes them gnaw and pull out their feathers.

The toes of the Parrot answer the purpose  
of

of hands; for with them they generally take up their food, and convey it to their mouth, supporting themselves in the mean time upon one leg. As their legs are not formed for hopping from bough to bough, they climb up a tree by the help of their toes and beak, and, in this manner, attain any height they please. They generally build their nests at the ends of the slender twigs of a tree, for  
of the Monkeys.

Parrots are easily taught to speak, and can imitate almost any sound they hear.

We select the following anecdote from Goldsmith's Natural History. "A distiller, who had been greatly injured by the malevolence of an informer, who lived opposite to him, taught his Parrot the ninth commandment: 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour;' which the bird was continually repeating, to the great mortification of the informer, as well as entertainment of the neighbours, who were acquainted with his ungenerous conduct."





## THE BIRD OF PARADISE.

THE great beauty of this bird's plumage, and the deformity of its legs, have been the means of giving rise to a variety of fabulous tales. The native inhabitants of the Molucca Islands, which are in Asia, perceiving the eagerness with which the Europeans purchased this favourite bird, resolved to make it appear different from any other of the feathered race; and, by cutting off the legs with some ingenuity, asserted that it lived wholly in the air: and this improbable invention was actually believed.

There are two kinds of these birds; one about

about the size of a Pigeon, and the other not larger than a Lark. The throat and neck are of a pale gold colour, and the hinder part of the head is of a shining green; the body and wings are a beautiful brown, intermixed with purple and gold; the upper part of the tail feathers is a pale yellow, but the under ones, which are longer, are a delicate white. What render them still more remarkable, are two long feathers, which spring from the upper part of the tail: these are usually three feet in length; the shaft, or stem, is black and naked, but the feathered part at the end is changeable, like the neck of the Drake.

Birds of Paradise feed much upon butterflies; and, like Swallows, are almost constantly flying. They are so extremely light, from the great quantity of their feathers, that their flight is liable to be affected by the winds; on this account, perhaps, they choose for their abode those countries in which high winds are not frequent.





### THE PELICAN.

THIS bird is larger than a Swan, and has a very remarkable pouch, or bag, under his bill, in which he can carry a number of fishes. His wings are very wide, and he can fly very well; he falls like lead, in a moment, upon his prey, and the violence of his fall disturbs the water so much, that the fish is stunned, and cannot escape. This is his way of fishing when he is alone; but when they fish in company they form a large circle, and then come nearer together, making the circle less and less; and so inclose the fish, and take them with very little trouble.

The

The Pelican's pouch, it is said, will contain fifteen quarts of water, and is so large, that a man can put his arm into it up to his elbow; they use it to bring water, as well as fish, for their young ones. The inside of it is not warm, like the stomach, and does not spoil the fish. The Pelican has the power of wrinkling up this bag into the hollow of the under jaw; it is not covered with feathers, but with a very soft smooth down, and when empty is scarcely perceptible; but when the Pelican has been successful in fishing, it is astonishing to see to what a size it will extend.

Pelicans are found mostly in warm countries. There are many in Africa; and in some parts of Asia and America.

The native Americans kill them in vast numbers, though they are very coarse food; but their pouches, when dried, are made into bags or purses, and frequently embroidered for the use of the women.





## THE VULTURE.

DIFFERENT kinds of Vultures are to be found in most parts of the world, but there are none in England. They are birds of prey, and feed upon serpents, the eggs of crocodiles and alligators, and dead carcasses, which they can smell a great way off.

These birds, though of a cruel and ravenous nature, are very serviceable at Grand Cairo in Egypt, as they eat up all the dead carcasses and filth of the city, the smell of which would otherwise be very hurtful to the health of the people who live in that hot country. In the river Nile, which is also

also in Egypt, there are many crocodiles, which come out of the water to lay their eggs, which they bury in the ground. The Vultures sit upon the trees, and watch the crocodiles, and, as soon as they are gone into the river, they fly down and scratch up the eggs and eat them. For these reasons, the people of Egypt will not suffer a single Vulture to be killed.

The Vulture may be easily distinguished from every species of the eagle kind by the nakedness of their heads and necks, which are without feathers, and only covered with a very slight down, or a few scattered hairs; their eyes, likewise, are more prominent; and their claws are shorter, and not so much hooked; their beaks are straight at the beginning, but hooked towards the point.

Vultures, at least those of Europe, seldom lay more than two eggs at a time, and that only once a year; they make their nests in the most inaccessible cliffs, and in places so remote, that it is difficult to find them out.

The



The King of the Vultures is the most elegant bird of this kind; its size exceeds that of a Turkey-Cock. It is a native of South America. His head and neck are covered with a flesh-coloured skin; behind the head it is of a deep red, and round his neck he has a loose ruff of feathers, in which he is fond of hiding his head.

Though the appearance of the King of the Vultures differs from the rest of that tribe, its habits and disposition are much the same: it lives chiefly upon lizards and serpents, but does not refuse carrion when it comes in its way.



## HUMMING BIRDS.

OF these curious little creatures there are several kinds; some are nearly the size of a Wren, and others not larger than a humble bee. Their colours are more beautiful than can well be imagined, and very brilliant; many seem spangled with gold and precious stones, and some have little crests on their heads.

They are very tender, and only live in warm countries, as in the East Indies and America, where flowers are constantly growing. They fly, like butterflies, from flower to flower, and with their little tongues, which are like a tube



tube or pipe, and forked at the end, they suck the honey, and that is what they live upon.

Their nests are very curious. They generally hang from the end of a branch of an orange or a citron tree. The hen bird is busy in building it, whilst the cock goes to fetch cotton and moss, and the finest grass. It is about as large as half an apricot, and warmly lined with cotton. They lay two little eggs, about the size of peas, and the cock and hen sit by turns; but the hen only leaves the eggs a little while in the morning, to get some honey while the dew is on the flowers. The little ones are hatched in twelve days, and at first are no larger than a blue-bottle fly.

Humming Birds have great courage; they frequently attack birds twenty times their own size, and suffering themselves to be carried along by them as they fly, still continue to peck them.

There was a gentleman in America, who found a nest of little Humming Birds: he  
put

put them into a cage, and placed it in his chamber window. The old birds came to feed them every hour in the day; and they soon became so tame, as to live almost constantly in the room with their young ones.

They frequently came and settled upon his hand, and he fed them with wine, biscuit, and sugar.

One night, unfortunately, he forgot to hang up their cage, and the rats came and devoured them. It was a great pity that the gentleman should have been so careless.

It is very thoughtless to catch birds, to imprison them in a little cage, and prevent them from flying about as they like in the open air; but to put them first into so small a prison, where they have no room to fly, and can only get what we give them, and cannot escape from Cats or Rats that would hurt them, and then to neglect them, is very cruel indeed.

CONCLUSION.



## CONCLUSION.

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GOD made all things.—What we call the works of Nature are the works of God. It is our duty to study them, since the more we know of them, the more we perceive the wisdom and goodness of their Great Creator; who formed them to suit the modes of life for which they were destined, and bestowed upon them all the comforts of which their nature is capable. We are speaking of *animated nature*, which contains all living creatures; otherwise named the animal kingdom. They are divided into Classes.—Birds, Beasts, and Insects, are three of these Classes.

BIRDS have two legs; two wings; and a bill, used by most of them in collecting food, and serving likewise the purpose of hands, in building, &c. They are generally covered with feathers, and all are born from an egg.

BEASTS.—Most of them have their bodies covered with hair: they have four feet, are born alive, and suckle their young.

INSECTS have no bones; but some have a sort of crust on the outside; they all have antennæ, in their perfect state: what you call the horns of a lobster are his antennæ, he being an insect. Most insects are hatched a kind of grub, and change to quite different creatures; it is the case with all flying insects. The butterfly is hatched a caterpillar, the bee a grub; the cockchaffer lives under ground three years as a grub; the beautiful dragon-fly passed his infancy in the water; the white maggot in a nut will change  
to



to a flying insect, and that in new cheese to a fly. This is a very amusing study\*. The transformation of the gnat is very curious, and may be observed by setting out a glass of water, for the insect to lay its eggs in.

FISHES form another Class.

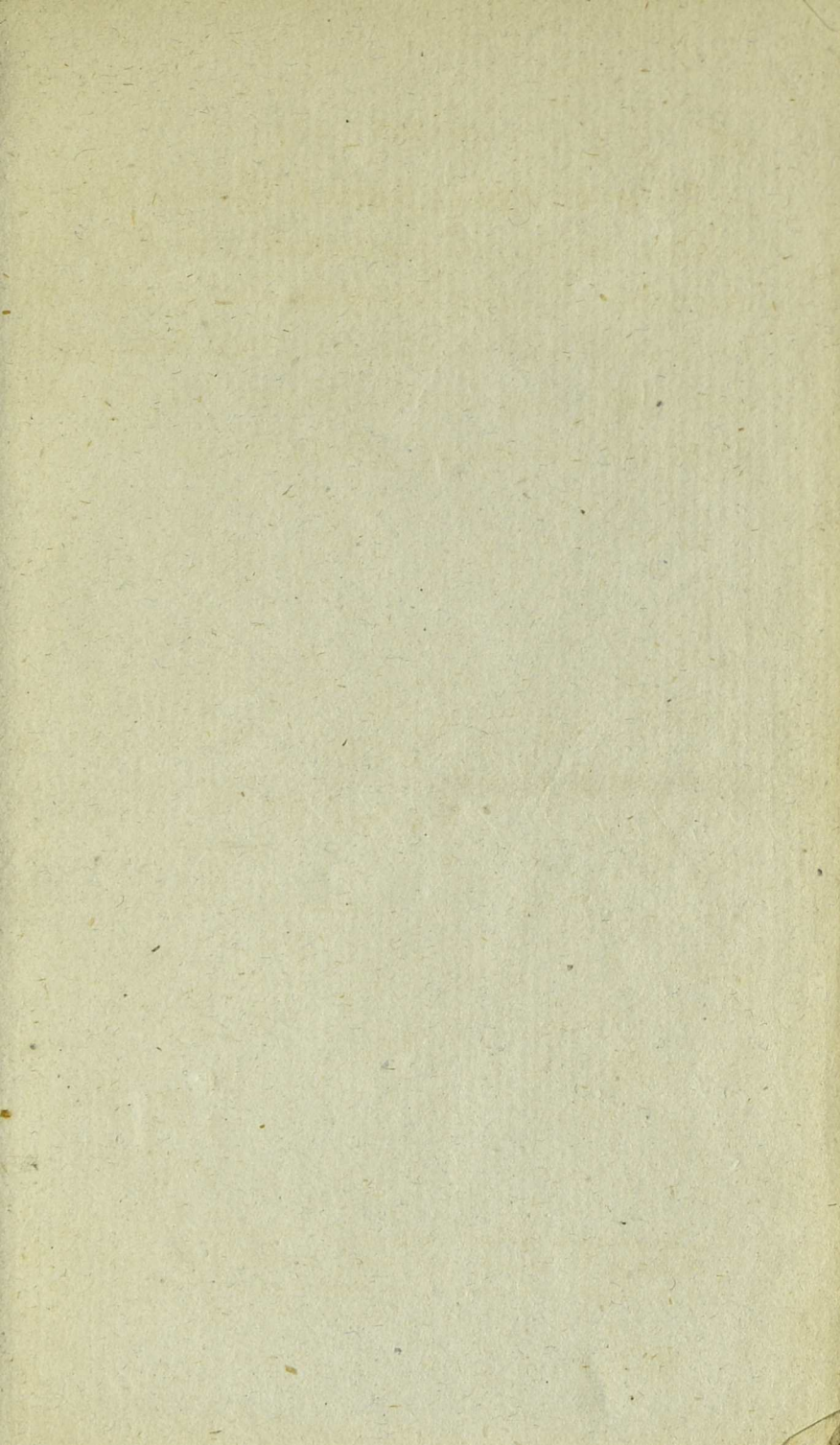
REPTILES mean creeping creatures, such as serpents; yet lizards and frogs are taken in among them. Then there are animals which live in shells, which are classed by some writers with worms.—Those which dwell in shells enlarge their habitations as they grow, and repair them in case of any injury happening to them. Coral has been the habitation of animals which form their place of abode; but these are not called worms, but polypes.

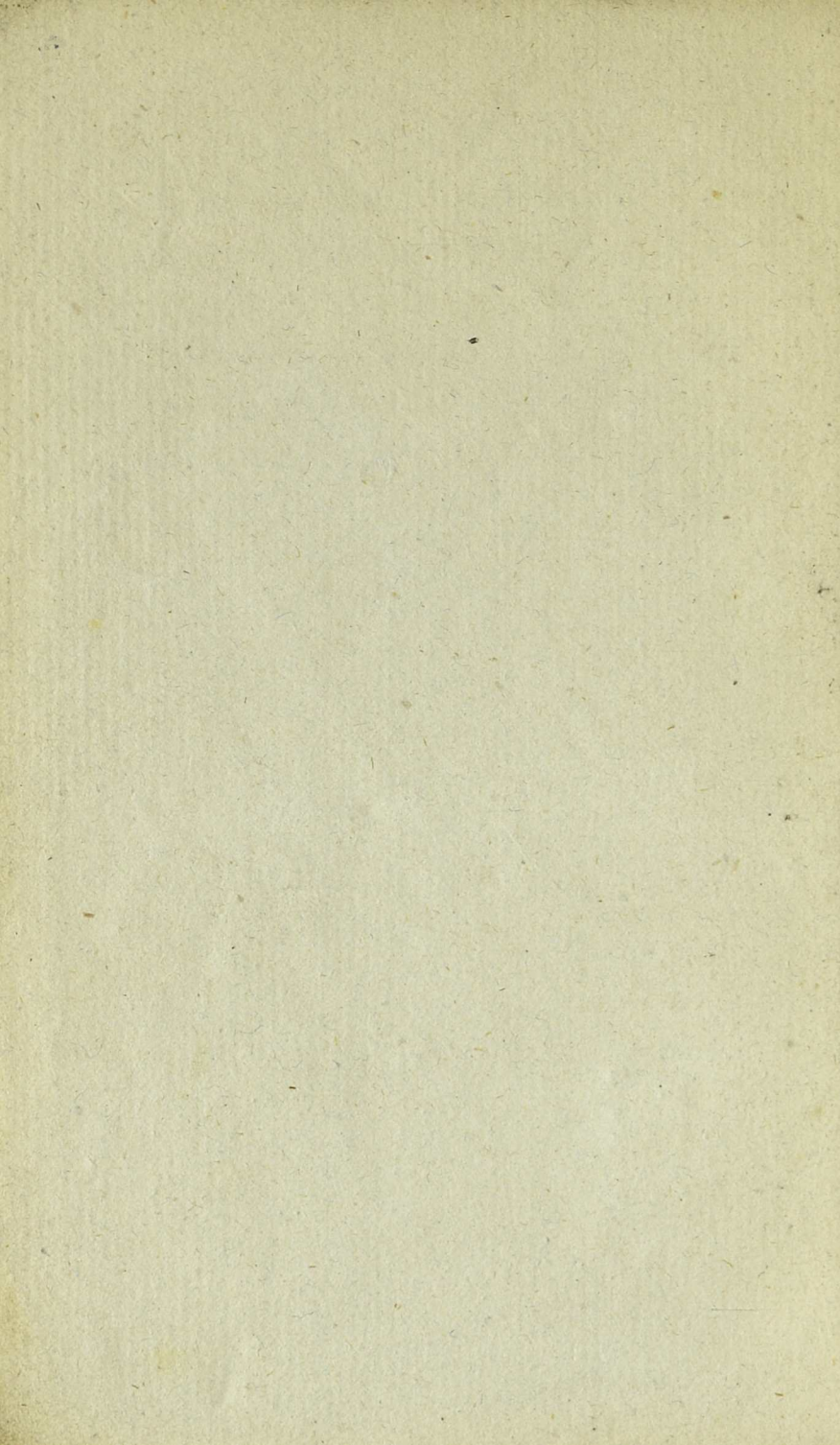
\* A short History of Insects, sold by J. Harris, St. Paul's Church-yard; and White, Fleet-street; will enable youth to pursue the study with ease.

Whoever studies Natural History finds an endless source of amusement; such as the Almighty Creator designed for man, when he placed him in Paradise, and brought all the living creatures to Adam, "to see what he would call them." Gen. ii. 19.

FINIS.









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