

OUTLINES
OF
NATURAL HISTORY,

With Coloured Engravings.



BIRDS.

LONDON:
WILLIAM DARTON AND SON,
HOLBORN HILL.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

NH 1235

Drawer 26

c. 1830

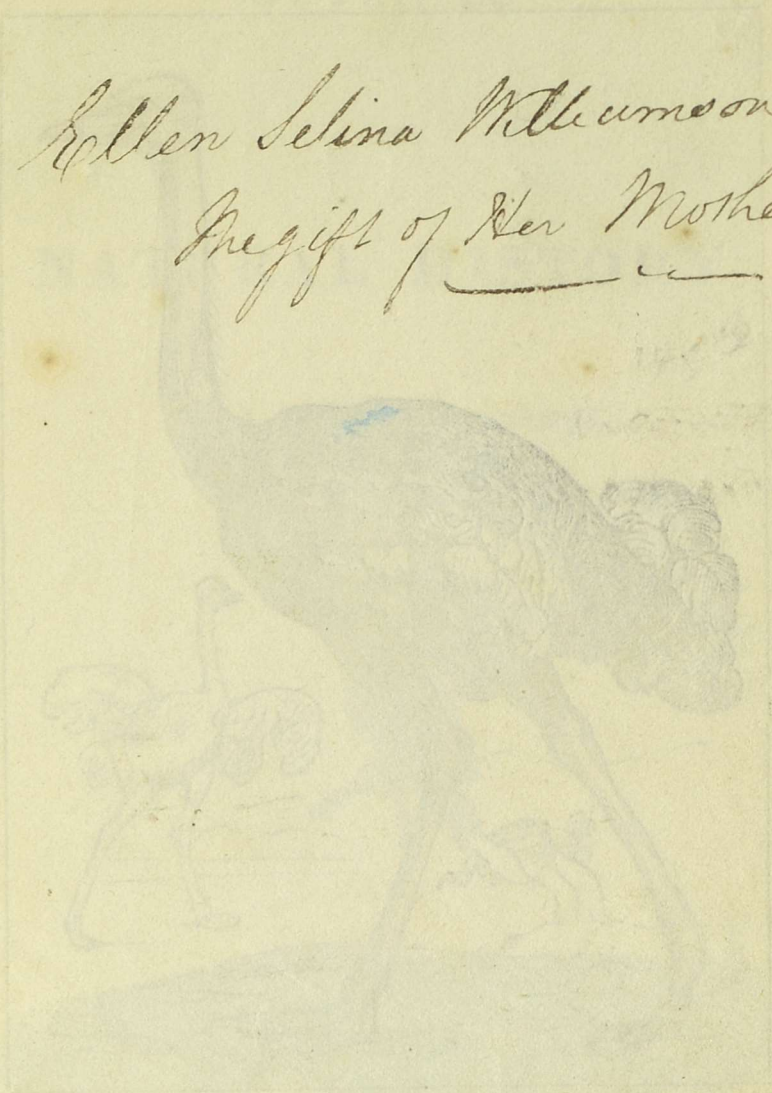
MARJORIE



MOON

Ellen Harvey 1838.

Ellen Selina Williamson
The gift of Her Mother.





THE OSTRICH.

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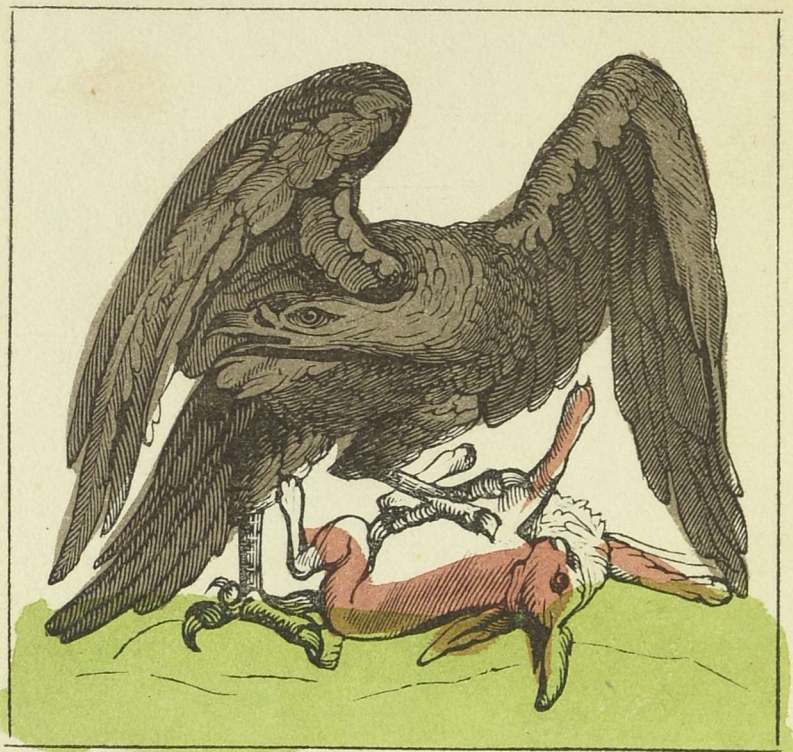


LONDON:
WILLIAM DARTON AND SON,
HOLBORN HILL.



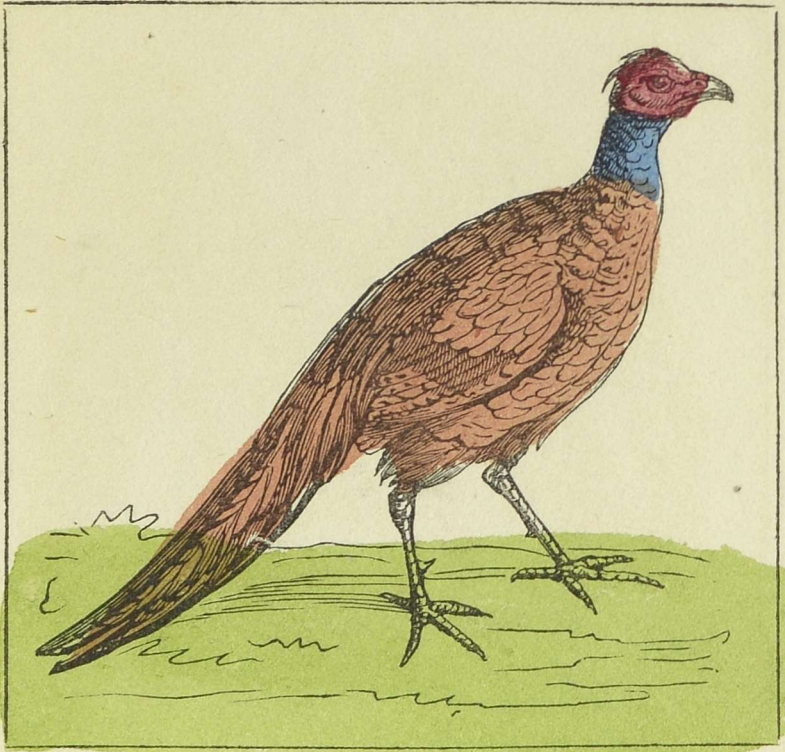
THE EAGLE

The eagle may be considered the king of birds, being larger and stronger than any other. He builds his nest in the tallest trees, in high rocks and lonely towers. He is so powerful as to be able to kill a dog much larger than himself and to carry a lamb up into the air in his talons. This bird is particularly fond of living in the nest to the age of a fifty or hundred years.



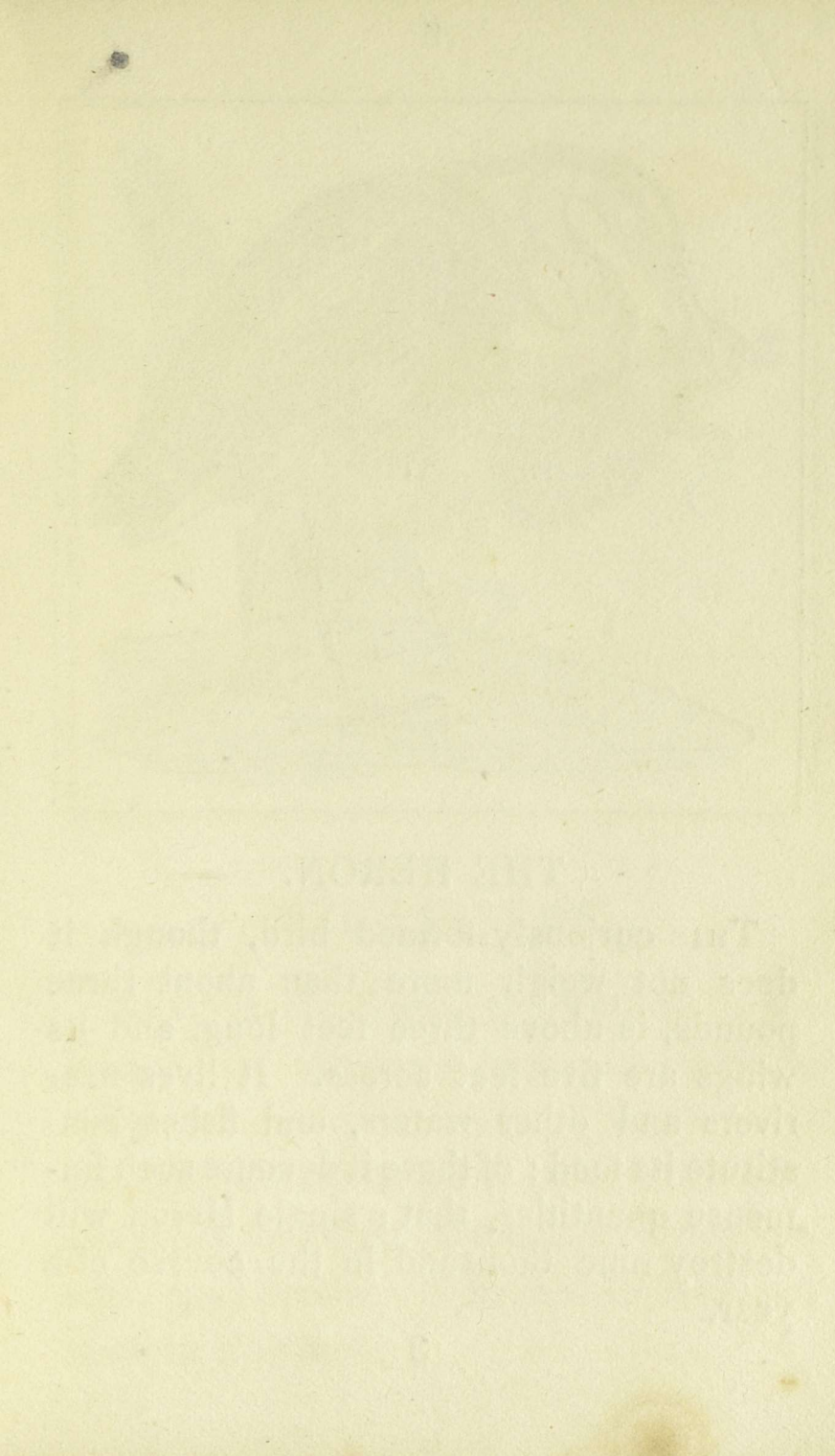
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THE PHEASANT.

THE Pheasant is one of the most beautiful birds in existence, both in the elegance of its form and the rich colours of its plumage. The handsomest kind is the Golden Pheasant of China. This bird feeds principally upon grain and insects; its flesh is considered delicious eating.





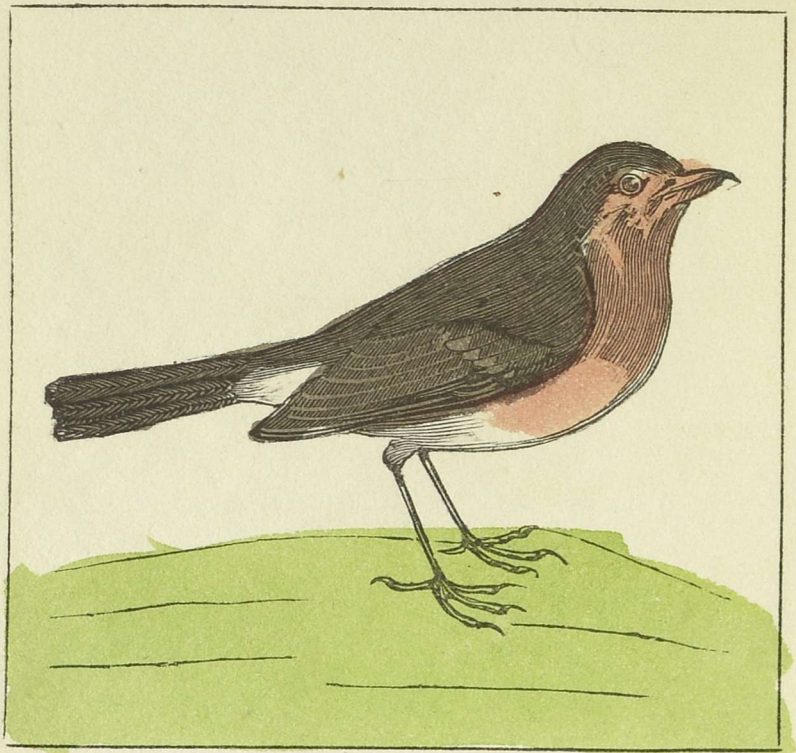
THE HERON.

THIS curiously-formed bird, though it does not weigh more than about three pounds, is above three feet long, and its wings are five feet across. It lives near rivers and other waters, and fishes constitute its food : of these it devours such immense quantities, that a single Heron will destroy nine thousand in the course of a year.



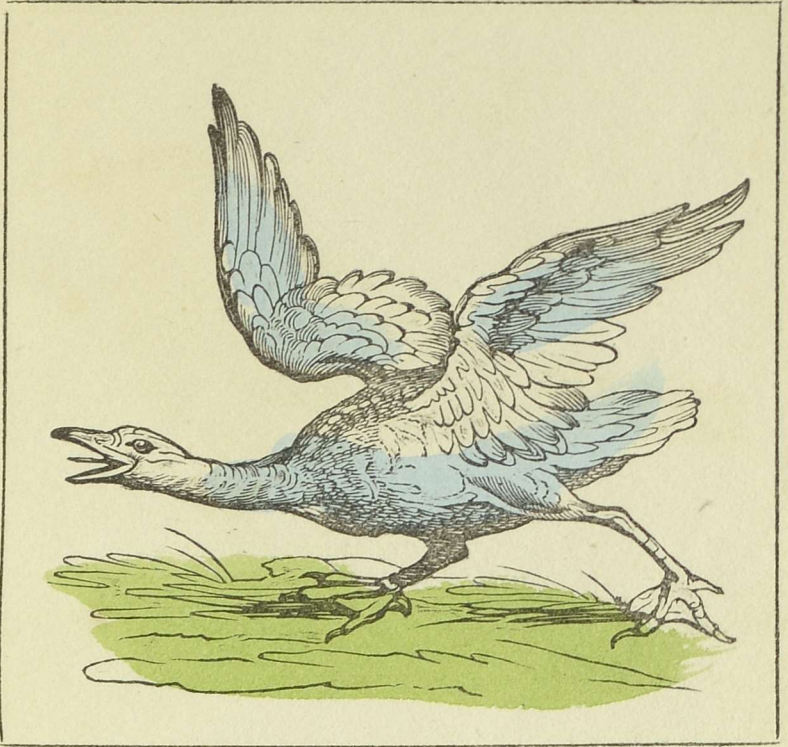
THE VULTURE.

NEXT to the Eagle, the Vulture is the largest and strongest bird. It is filthy, idle, and rapacious. It will seize as its prey any animal which it is able to subdue; but its favourite food is carrion and other dead bodies. Vultures are not found at all in England.



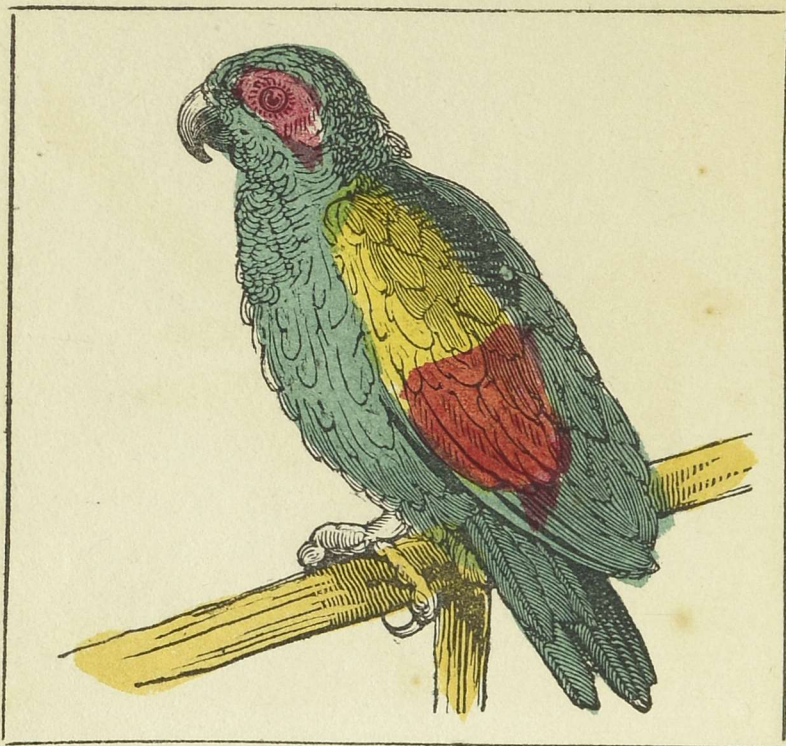
THE ROBIN.

This little bird, which, on account of the colour of its breast, is likewise called the Redbreast, is much admired both for its beauty and its song, but still more for its attachment to the human race. In warm weather he delights us with his notes, and when the frost and snow of winter set in, he comes to our houses, hops about the room, and picks up the crumbs, and makes himself completely one of the family.



THE GOOSE.

THE GOOSE is an awkward and silly bird, but it is very useful to us, for not only is its flesh excellent eating, but the quills from which pens are generally made are obtained from some of its feathers, and the others are used to fill the inside of the feather beds on which we sleep. The part of England in which geese are found in the greatest abundance is the county of Lincoln.



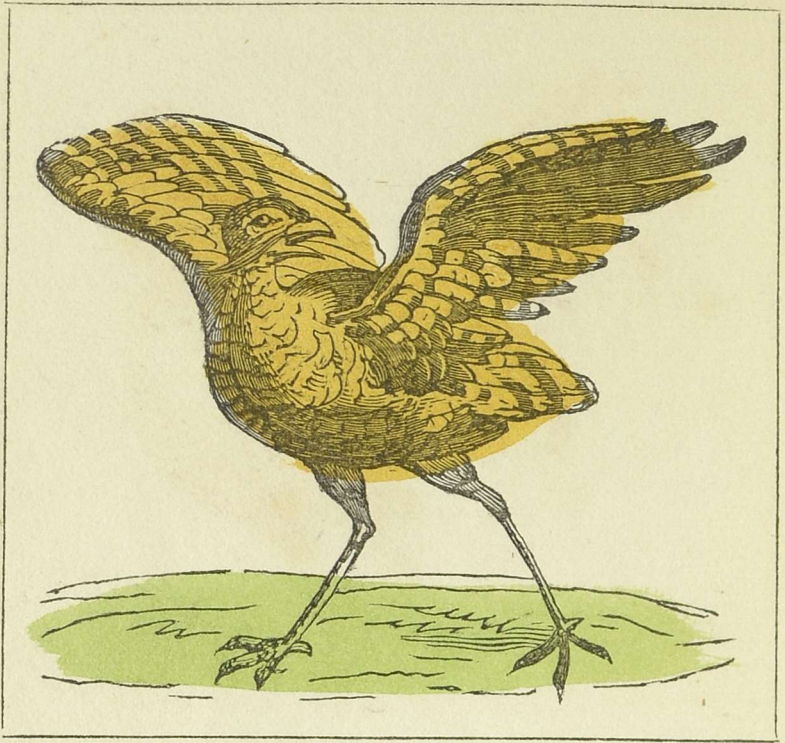
THE PARROT.

THE Parrot is a foreign bird ; we have none in England, but such as are brought from other countries. There are several species of Parrots, all of them remarkable for the beauty and richness of their plumage. But the most curious quality of the Parrot is its power of learning to repeat words which it hears by rote, with such distinctness as perfectly to resemble the human voice.



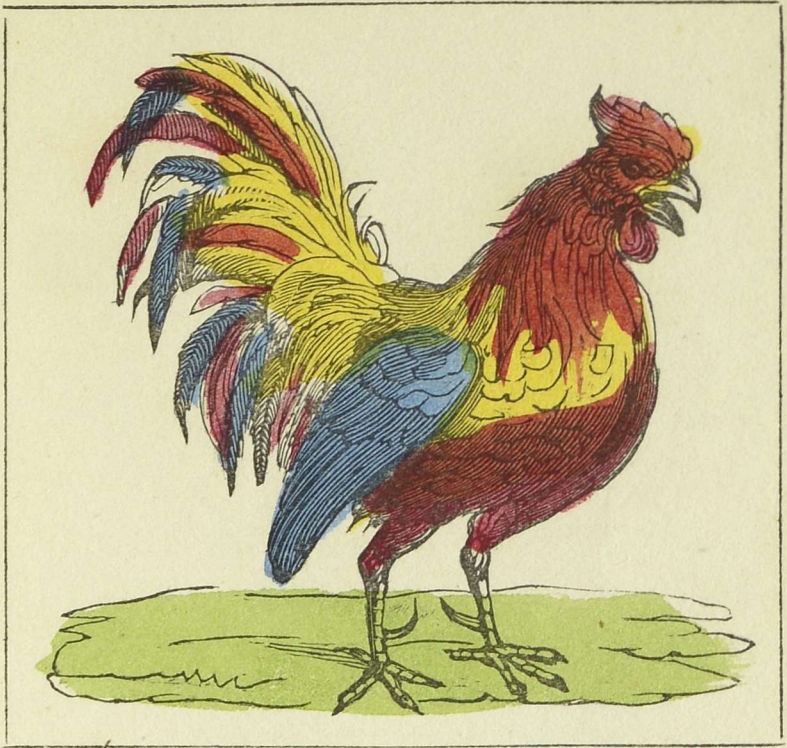
THE MAGPIE.

The Magpie is very common among us. It is a lively and handsomely-formed bird, and its colours are very beautifully varied. It is crafty, saucy, and particularly prone to thieving, and hiding what it has stolen. The Magpie builds a more complete nest than any other bird with which we are acquainted.



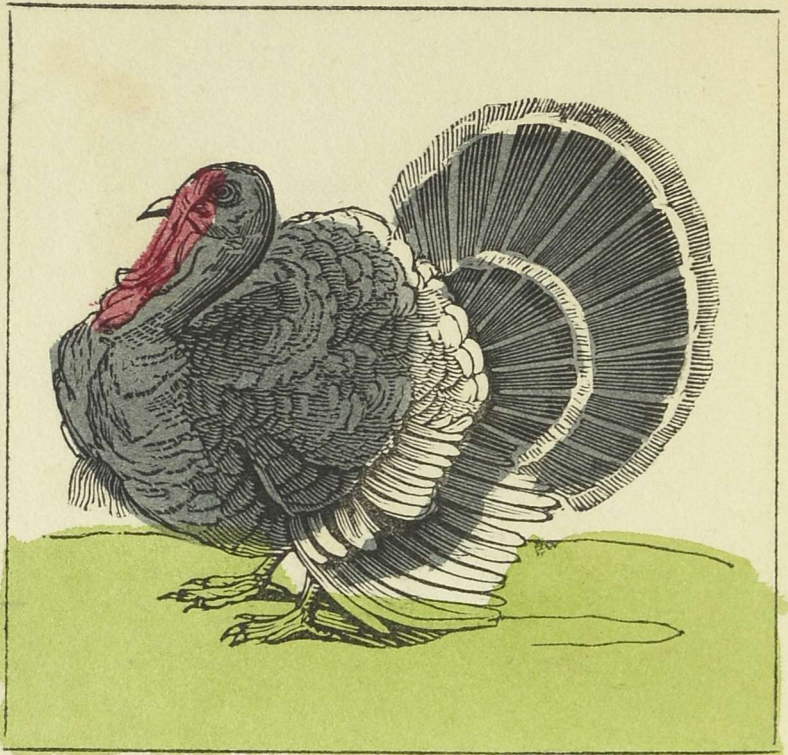
THE BUSTARD.

THE Bustard is one of the largest land fowls known in England, sometimes weighing upwards of twenty-five pounds, and being four feet in length, and nine in breadth. Though so big, Bustards are generally very timid; they carefully shun mankind, and whole herds of them will take flight from the smallest dog. They fly slowly, but run rapidly.



THE COCK.

THE Cock, which figures in all our poultry-yards, and whose flesh is welcome at our tables, is a fine looking, audacious bird. The tuft at top of his head is termed a *comb*, and the noise which he makes is called crowing. He always begins to crow as soon as it is day-light. The female of the Cock is called a hen.



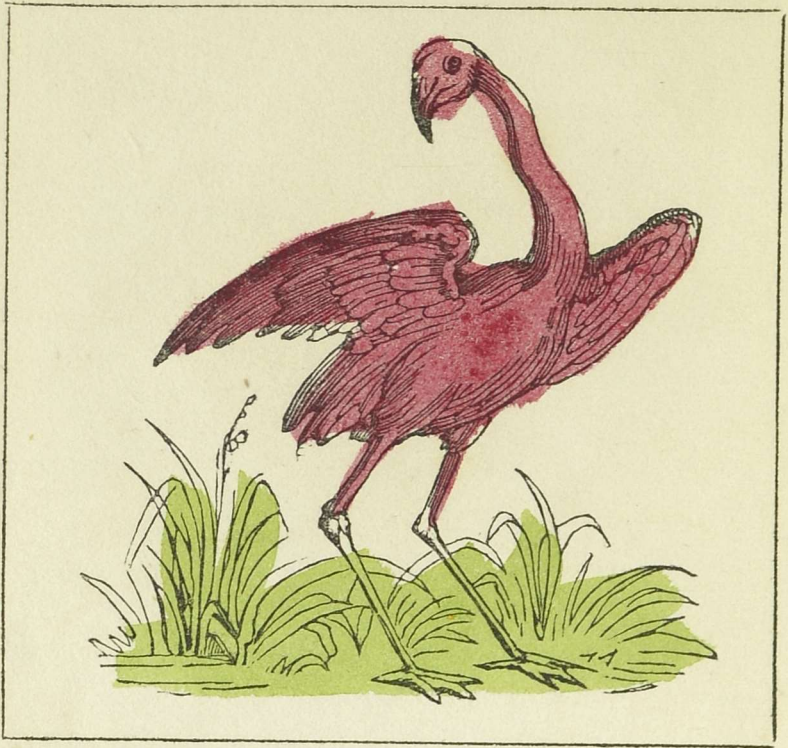
THE TURKEY.

THE Turkey is an ill-shaped, strutting bird; it is extremely quarrelsome with those of its own species, but so cowardly, that even the common cock can put it to flight. When dead, however, it makes a delicious dish at our meals, and its eggs are a great delicacy. Turkeys were first brought to England from America, in the reign of Henry the Eighth.



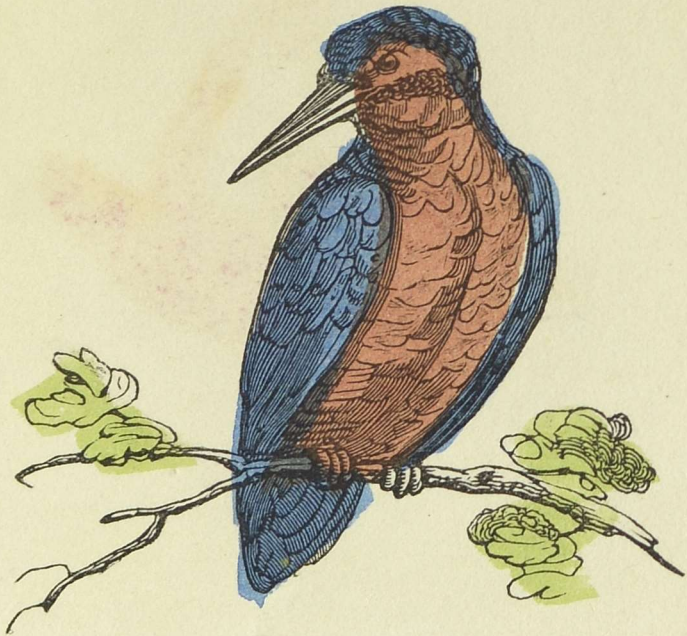
THE PEACOCK.

No bird can boast such handsome feathers as those which adorn the Peacock, particularly in its tail, which, when erected, forms a fan of the most resplendent colours, blue, green, and gold. He is not a little vain of his beauty, and is continually spreading his tail to display it, but his voice is remarkably shrill and disagreeable. His feathers are sometimes used for the coverings of muffs.



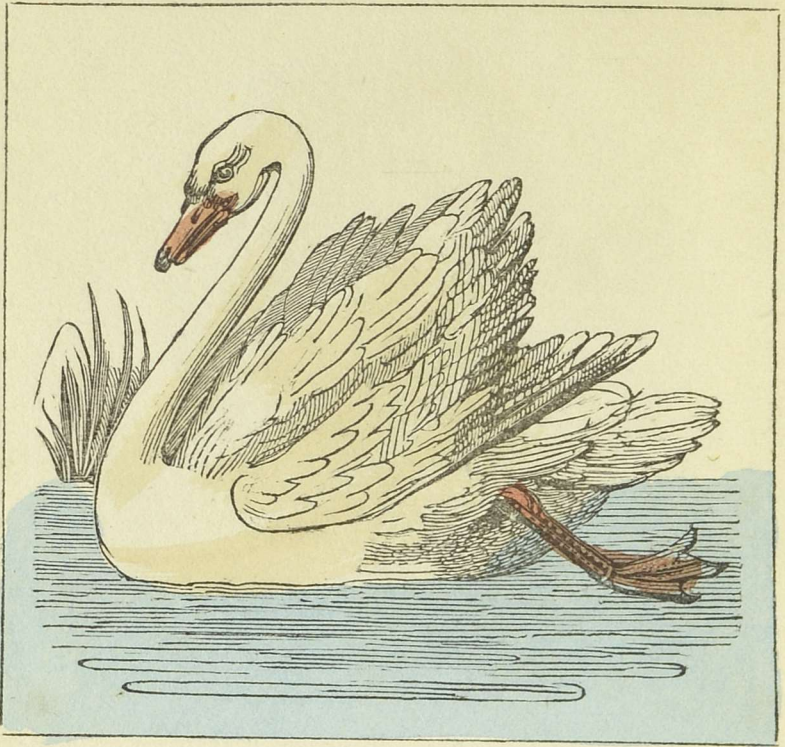
THE FLAMINGO.

THE Flamingo is a foreign bird, which is found chiefly in Africa and America, but sometimes in the South of Europe. Its body is shaped like that of a goose, but its legs are so long, that when it stands erect, it is more than six feet in height. It lives upon water-insects, and small fish. Its colour is a beautiful scarlet.



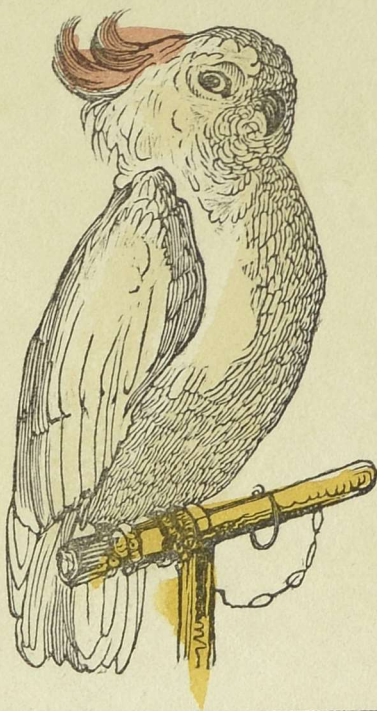
THE KINGFISHER.

THE Kingfisher is of a rather inelegant shape, but in its plumage it is decidedly one of the most beautiful of British birds. It feeds upon small fish, and will sit for hours without moving by the side of the water, watching for some prey to present itself. Its wings are shorter than those of any other bird of the same size, but it flies, notwithstanding, with great rapidity.



THE SWAN.

THE Swan has a clumsy appearance on land, but in the water its form and movements are peculiarly elegant and majestic. It glides along with the utmost grace and ease, and its proudly arched neck attracts the admiration of every beholder. It lives to a great age. Its quills are sometimes made into pens, and its down is used in manufacturing muffs and tippets.



THE COCKATOO.

THE Cockatoo is a beautiful bird of the parrot species, but it has its head adorned with a crest of long feathers, which other parrots have not. This crest he can raise or lower at pleasure. He is capable of being taught words and sentences, and will utter them with great fluency. This bird is a native of the Molucca islands, and other parts of the East Indies.

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