

so form a fork ; and, in our domestic poultry, these sets of feathers, when not expanded, fold upon each other. Some of the waders,\* the tail-feathers of which are short, use their long *legs*, like the grasshoppers, as a rudder in flight, stretched out straight behind them.

Many of the web-footed birds,† as the goose and duck tribes, also have these feathers very short, which seems a convenient provision for aquatic birds, but whether their legs assist in directing their course seems not to have been ascertained. Some of them, however, as the pin-tail duck,‡ have the middle feathers of the tail elongated, as they are in many other birds ; in the swallow tribe,§ and the sea-swallow,|| the external feathers of the tail are elongated, as these birds are frequently turning when in the air, and flying backwards and forwards : their Creator has thus equipped them for their ever changing evolutions. Some birds, as the thrushes,¶ magpies,\*\* and other crows, have all the tail feathers long, which gives great power to them in flight.

The tails of quadrupeds, both oviparous and viviparous, appear, in many cases, to act in some degree as a rudder. They are not only useful to those lately mentioned, that, by the assistance of a kind of parachute, leap from tree to tree ; but likewise to the feline race, when they spring upon their prey ; the tail is then extended stiffly in a right line, as if to guide them through the air straight to the object they have been watching from their lair. The long tail also of many lizards may, in their sinuous windings, serve some purpose connected with their locomotion related to the one under discussion, though we have not data sufficient to speak positively on the subject.

\* Grallatores.

† Palmipedes.

‡ *Anas acuta.*

§ *Hirundo.*

|| *Sterna.*

¶ *Turdus.*

\*\* *Corvus Pica.*