

oars for swimming; and in some each toe has a margin of membrane, which is usually notched, these last are called lobed feet.

But the absence of the fore-leg in birds is admirably compensated by the *beak*; with this they generally *collect*, as well as devour their food. Some, indeed, employ their *tongue* in this service. Of this description is the woodpecker\* and the humming bird;† the former using it to catch insects,‡ and the latter to imbibe the nectar of flowers, for which purpose these little gems amongst the birds have a long slender tongue, somewhat resembling that of a butterfly, and moved by an apparatus, in some degree, like that of the woodpecker.§ The beak of birds is uniformly constructed with respect to their food, and varies *ad infinitum*. Perhaps in none is it more remarkable than in those of Cuvier's two last orders, the waders and web-footed birds. These, especially the last, can use their legs only for locomotion, either on shore or in the water, and therefore, their beaks have the whole function, not only of taking, but of *hunting* for food devolved upon them, and accordingly are fitted for it by their structure.|| Generally speaking, they may be stated to be of two kinds. Beaks for catching *worms*, and beaks for catching *fishes*; of the first description are those of the woodcock,¶ snipes,\*\* and numerous other waders; and of the last, amongst the most remarkable, are those of the spoonbill†† and pelican.‡‡ The former—which the French, perhaps with more propriety, call the spatula-bill,§§ as its beak resembles a spatula rather than a spoon—dabble with their bill in the mud, for which

\* Picus. † Trochilus. ‡ See Dr. Roget, B. T. ii. 132.

§ See Vieillot. N. D. D'Hist. Nat. vii. 342, t. B. 38.

|| Roget, B. T. ii. 391.

¶ Scolopax rusticola.

\*\* Sc. gallinago, and gallinula.

†† Platalea leucorodia.

‡‡ Pelecanus Onocrotalus.

§§ Spatule.