

entrapping his game, and his patience is equal to his craft. Some have doubted whether this animal can *fascinate* poultry, as has been often asserted, but I know one instance which fully confirms it. A friend of mine one night hearing a noise, upon looking out in its direction, saw a fox under the hen-roost, peering up at the hens, which both he and his wife, who told me the story, saw, as they did also the fox running away, in spite of their shouting, with one in his mouth. Indeed, on any other principle, we cannot account for his depopulating the hen-roosts in the night.

The *birds* are less noted, than even the quadrupeds, for their stratagems, or any remarkable means of providing food for themselves or their young. Those of prey boldly attack and seize their destined food wherever they find it; the owls, indeed, like the cats, their analogues, seem to use artifice as much as strength to attract the mice. The carrion-feeders, as the vultures and crows, soon discover the carcasses of dead animals.* Some of the sea birds, especially the gulls, indicate the approach of bad weather, by leaving the coast, and seeking the interior; and, during the intense frosts of a severe winter, the web-footed birds and waders, quitting their summer stations in the more northern regions, fly to the south, and seek the unfrozen springs and waters of the inland districts, where they find a supply of food. All these physical actions seem to arise from a physical cause, and are easily to be accounted for, without having recourse to any other.

With regard to the cold-blooded animals, the fishes and reptiles, we know but little of their habits in this respect, or of any particular stratagems to which they have recourse to procure their food. Some of the predaceous fishes, as the pike and perch, appear to lie in wait in deep water, and so dart upon their prey; others, as the shark, with open mouth

* Roget, B. T. ii. 407.