

to indicate that they are entitled to that distinction;\* and, by his placing the latter immediately after the Birds, this appears to be Baron Cuvier's opinion. Any one, indeed, that looks either at the common,† or the hawk's bill, turtles,‡ or a good figure of them,§ will see in them a striking resemblance of some sea-bird, especially a penguin; the anterior elongated paddles imitating the *wings*, and the posterior dilated ones the *webbed feet* of such birds. There are other Reptiles, however, that dispute this claim with the Chelonians. Amongst the rest is a remarkable fossil genus, regarded as extinct, which Cuvier has arranged with the *dragon* of modern Herpetologists, under the name of *Pterodactyle*.|| The carpal and metacarpal bones, and the phalanges of the fourth toe of the anterior leg are excessively elongated, to which it is conjectured a membrane was attached, forming a wing for flight. M. Sömmering classes this remarkable animal with the *Mammalians*, supposing its affinity to be with the *Cheiropterans*, or Bats; and Dr. Wagler considers it as forming, with the *Echidna* and *Ornithorhynchus*, an osculant Class, which he distinguishes by the ancient name of *Griffins*.¶ But the wing in its structure appears to approach nearer to that of *birds*, and therefore Blainville seems right in considering it as a Saurian genus leading to them.\*\* Professor Goldfuss, in his description of a new species,†† mentions having found upon it some impressions, looking like those of feathers; and, though he thinks it flies like a bird, seems to regard it as between

\* Mac Leay, Hor. Entomol. 263.

† T. Mydas.

‡ T. Caretta.

§ N. D. D'H. N. xxxiv. t. R. 8. f. i. 2.

|| Pterodactylus. Ornithocephalus. Sömm.

¶ Gryphi. Gray's Synops. Rept. 78.

\*\* N. D. D'H. N. xxviii. 226. . .

†† Pt. crassirostris. Isis. Heft. v. 553.