

the crocodile and the monitor. The serrated beak of the mergansers is not very unlike that of the common pterodactyle,* though that of the species described by Professor Goldfuss has a few very long dispersed teeth, of different lengths, like those of the crocodile.† The animals of the last named genus, in the structure of their heart, approximate most nearly to birds, and in their general organization are at the head of the Class of Reptiles.‡

From these statements, it seems as if the Class just mentioned sent forth several branches towards the Birds; but, all circumstances considered, the pterodactyle, especially if it has feathers, or rather plumiform scales, appears to come the nearest to them, and to prove that the *feathers* of the *Bird* are a transition from the *scales* of the *Reptile*

AVES. (*Birds.*)

Animal, vertebrated, oviparous, biped.

Anterior extremities, organized for flight.

Integument, plumose.

Eggs, usually hatched by incubation.

Lungs, fixed.

Respiration and circulation, double.

Blood, red, warm.

Ornithologists appear, at present, undecided as to the division of this great and interesting Class into *Orders*, as the following synoptical table of systems, differing in this respect, will show:—

* Pt. antiquus.

† Isis. ubi supr. t. vi. f. vii.

‡ For these observations. with respect to the crocodile, I am indebted to Mr. Owen.