

dip under water for their food, a long neck; and as, on account of their great length, they could not conveniently double their legs in flight, their tail is usually extremely short, so as to permit the legs to be stretched out, and act in some degree as steering organs. The body of these birds, generally speaking, in shape, seems to approach that of the *Scratchers*, but is rather longer, and not so plump. The form of some of them is very elegant and graceful; the plumage of others, especially of some of the scolopaceous tribe, is beautifully mottled, but, generally speaking, their colours are not brilliant.

There is one bird* of this Order that is particularly interesting, not only on account of some singularities in its structure, but likewise for its amiable manners: this bird is described and figured by Pison† under the name of *Anhyma*, but it is more commonly known by that of *Kamichi*. It is said to be larger than the peacock, or even the swan. Its wings are armed with two strong spurs, which point outwards when the wing is folded; but its most remarkable feature is the long, slender, cylindrical, and nearly straight horn which arms its forehead. One would suppose a bird so fitted for combats was the terror of the feathered race, delighting in battle and bloodshed, but this is not the case, for it is one of the most gentle and susceptible of birds. It feeds upon grass, and attacks no birds that approach it: at the time of pairing, however, the males contend fiercely and sometimes fatally for the females; but the victory gained, they become patterns of conjugal fidelity, never parting, and, like the turtle, if one outlives the other, the survivor usually is the victim of its grief.‡

Another South American bird of this Order,§ if we may credit the accounts that are given of it, is gifted by its

* *Palamedea cornuta*.

† *Hist. Nat. et Med. Ind. Occid.* 91.

‡ Sonnini, in *N. D. D'H. N.* xviii. 21.

§ *Psophia crepitans*.