

*Order 3.*—We seem to enter this order—which from the swiftness of the few animals that compose it, is called the Order of *Courasers*\*—by one of the most singular birds that is at present known; I mean the *Apteryx australis* of Dr. Shaw. As far as can be judged from the only known specimen, which was brought from New Zealand in 1812, one would think this bird *osculant* between the *Waders* and the present Order. Its legs, indeed, seem those of a gallinaceous bird, with a tendency, as Mr. Yarrel remarks, to the spurs of that tribe,† but its beak is related to that of the *Ibis*, and the lateral skin of the toes is notched as in the *Phalaropes*. The wings are shorter than in any other known bird, quite concealed by the feathers, and terminate in a *claw*; a circumstance which seems to indicate an approximation to some quadruped form. These wings, though useless for flight, were doubtless given by its Creator to this animal to answer some purpose in its economy, either as a weapon or a prehensive organ. With the birds of the Order in which it is placed it agrees in its general form and plumage, but in stature it falls below them, being of the size of a small turkey. It is called by the natives *Kivi*.

There is another insular bird, the *Dodo*, noticed in a former chapter,‡ which, though classed with *this*, to judge from its figure, seems to connect the Ostrich with the *next* Order, the *Scratchers*;§ but if we suppose the Order to form a *circle*, these birds will meet, one still being conterminous to the Order above it, and the other to that below it. These two birds have *four* toes. Mr. W. S. Mac Leay,|| as well as several other zoologists, is of opinion that the Ostrich Family, meaning the typical members of it, both in their *internal* as well as their *external* structure, approach

\* *Cursores*.

† See Zool. Trans. i. i. t. x. 74.

‡ Vol. i. p. 94.

§ Vigors, in Linn. Trans. xiv. 485.

|| Hor. Ent. 266. Linn. Trans. xvi. 43.