

You are not brave like me and mine, but only fit for toil;  
Go forth and shoulder spade and axe, go forth and till the soil!

So speaking, Mi-hu with one hand picked up his armor good,  
And rode away on his capering bay 'neath the boughs of the gay green-wood.

His war-song as he onward rode re-echoed through the grove,  
And the tender voice of his flute of bone responded with notes of love.

### FLYING UNDER WATER.

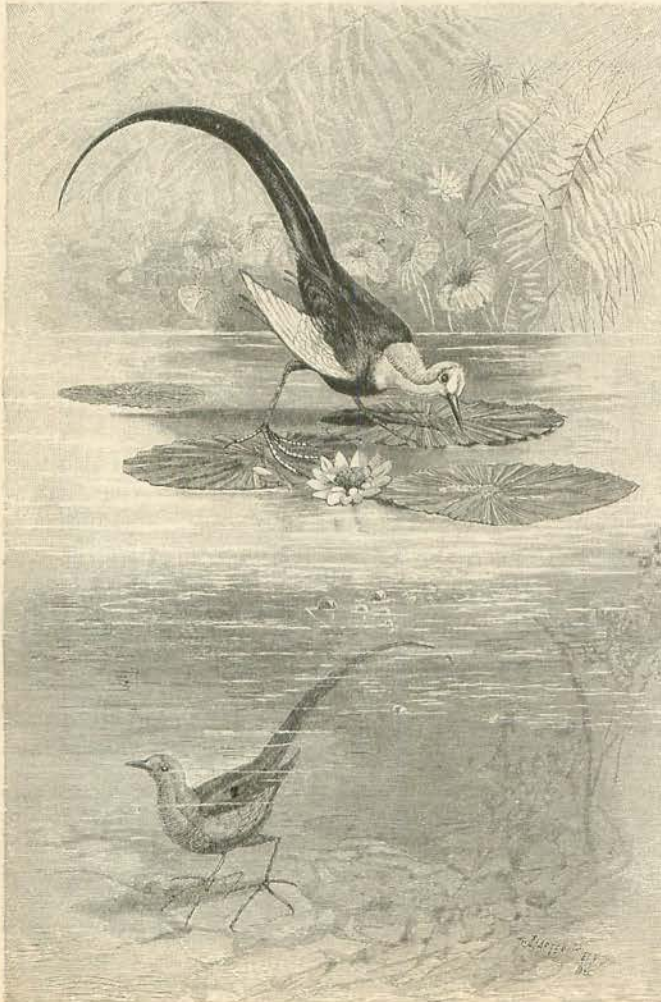
BY JOHN R. CORYELL.

ACCUSTOMED as we are to consider the air as the natural element of the bird, it is somewhat startling to be brought face to face with the statement of a reli-

able naturalist—Prince Charles Bonaparte—that of sea-haunting birds alone there are nearly ten thousand different species, all of which are at home on the water, and many of which are expert divers and wonderful subaquatic swimmers.

The fish out of water, typical as it is of a false position, is in fact no more abnormal than the feather-clad bird which passes the greater part of its active life under the water. It would be natural to suppose that the subaquatic birds would be found exclusively among those having web-feet, but in this as in other respects the bird is contradictory; for just as some of the web-footed birds are scarcely able to swim, and totally unable to dive, so some of the best and most inveterate swimmers and divers are found among the birds whose feet are not webbed.

Indeed one of the most water-loving birds is a dainty little songster belonging to the thrush family, and popularly known as the water-ousel, or dipper. This pretty little bird is found in most parts of the world, and likes best



CHINESE JACANA.



the neighborhood of those merry mountain streams which rush boisterously on to their fate, now leaping headlong over some high rock, now swirling in some deep pool, and now eddying, dancing, plashing down a steep incline. Water-fall, pool, and eddying stream are alike to the water-ousel, which will dash into one or the other with the same ready confidence as the ordinary bird into the air.

In winter, when its watery home is frozen over, it will seek other and milder parts, unless it can be sure of finding holes in the ice, in which case it will not hesitate to remain at home, for it will plunge through a hole into the icy water with no care at all for temperature, and having made its venture successful by the capture of a small fish, will return to the air once more.

So fond is it of the water that it will build its nest as near to it as possible, and one instance is recorded of a pair which actually built behind a water-fall, taking advantage of the space made by the shoot of the water over the top of the rock.

Although the ousel uses its feet while swimming, its progress is chiefly due to the wings, which are moved exactly as if flying in the air. The wings are admirably adapted to this use, being almost as broad as long, and of comparatively great power. The tail is very short, and the body is covered with soft thick down, which, as in

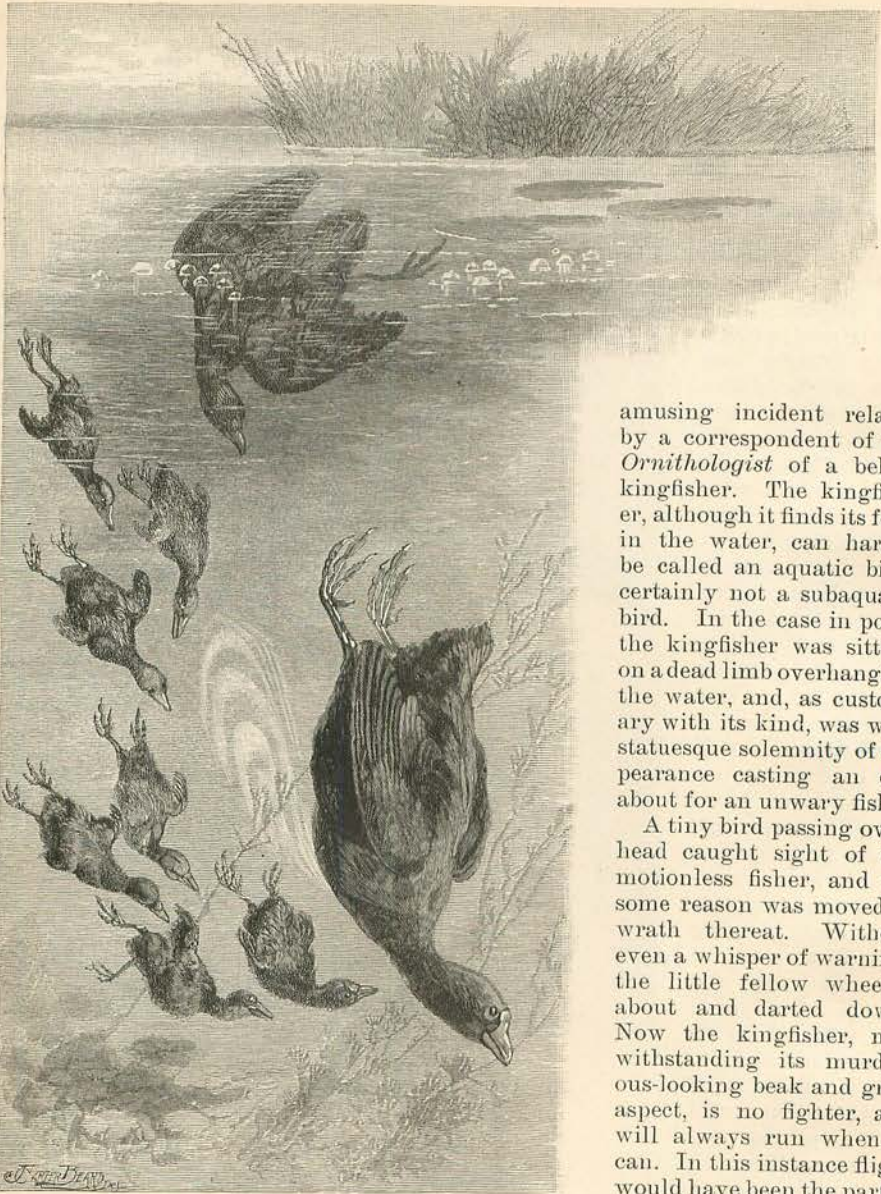


THE BIRD THAT LIVES IN WATER-FALLS.

the true aquatic birds, affords an impervious shield against the water.

Like all other birds which either casually or habitually resort to the water, the ousel seems to regard that element as its safest retreat in time of danger. Even the little birds which have never before ventured from the nest, and which are quite unable to fly, have been known, when alarmed during the absence of the parents, to rush pell-mell to the nearest water, and with extraordinary facility





STAGICOLA, OR GALLINULE (WATER-HEN), DIVING WITH BROOD TO FEEDING-GROUND.

to run along the bed of the stream many yards before seeking the air. Allowing everything to the overpowering force of instinct, there still remains something to wonder at in the feeling of confidence which can inspire the fledglings to take so anxiously to the water.

This trust in the water as a safe refuge is shown by an interesting and somewhat

amusing incident related by a correspondent of the *Ornithologist* of a belted kingfisher. The kingfisher, although it finds its food in the water, can hardly be called an aquatic bird, certainly not a subaquatic bird. In the case in point the kingfisher was sitting on a dead limb overhanging the water, and, as customary with its kind, was with statuesque solemnity of appearance casting an eye about for an unwary fish.

A tiny bird passing overhead caught sight of the motionless fisher, and for some reason was moved to wrath thereat. Without even a whisper of warning, the little fellow wheeled about and darted down. Now the kingfisher, notwithstanding its murderous-looking beak and grim aspect, is no fighter, and will always run when it can. In this instance flight would have been the part of wisdom, even had the fisher had courage to equal its fierce appearance, for the assailant was that active

little warrior the kingbird, from whose petulant pugnacity even the eagle is willing to find refuge in flight into the thin ether of high altitude.

The roving eye of the fisher had seen and recognized the passing bird, and therefore the assault was half expected. The moment the assailant wheeled about, the fisher darted from the limb. Like a sun-



beam reflected by a mirror, the kingbird flashed around and was down on the fisher. Vainly the harassed bird tried to evade its tormentor, the little bully seemed to be on every side at once. It took the fisher but a few minutes to learn that in the air it was quite at the mercy of its foe, and it therefore made a sudden dive and plunged beneath the water.

This attempt to escape seemed to strike the kingbird as little less than insulting, for with increased anger it pounced upon the fisher the moment it reappeared at the surface of the water. Time and again the unhappy victim dived and came up, only to be met by the fierce little persecutor with renewed energy. It seemed as if the end could only be the exhaustion and death of the fisher. On a sudden, however, animated either by instinct or rea-

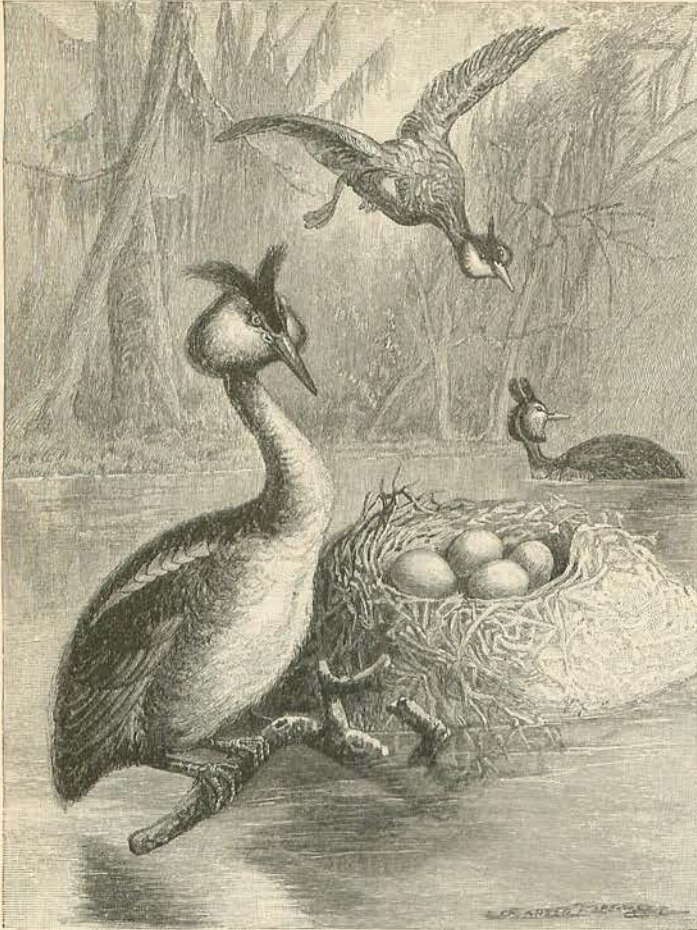
son, it ceased trying to escape, and rested quietly on the water, floating duck-like. Every time the kingbird swooped at it, the fisher would dive under water for a moment, reappearing at once in the same place. This was such easy work for the kingfisher that after repeated unsuccessful efforts even the obstinacy of the kingbird had to give way, and it flew angrily off, whereupon the kingfisher rose out of the water and leisurely took its flight to the lookout on the limb.

The Chinese jacana, or water-pheasant, has a much more cunning device than this, however, and one to which it usually resorts when pursued. The jacana is a more unaquatic bird in appearance than the ousel, as its toes are peculiarly long and slender, and seemingly exaggeratedly unfit for use in the water. In



EPISODE IN THE DAILY LIFE OF A KINGFISHER.





THE CRESTED GREBE AND ITS FLOATING NEST.

truth the feet are not intended for sub-aquatic use, the wings being the motive power under the water.

The jacana frequents ponds covered by the broad leaves of the lotus or the water-lily, and on the undulating green carpet thus spread over the water it walks securely, owing to the great extent of surface covered by its long and slender toes. When it desires food to be found only in the water, the bright-plumaged creature slips off its floating platform, and is at home in the clear water. When alarmed, its dive from the lotus leaves is almost noiseless, and it makes its way under water to where the plants grow thickest. It then thrusts its bill out of water until the nostrils are exposed, and thus in perfect hiding it remains until the danger is past.

How does the jacana know that it may with almost certain impunity thrust its beak out of water? If the knowledge is such as comes naturally to it as a water-bird, why should not all water-birds have the same knowledge? The water-hen, for example, yields to no bird as a diver and swimmer, and yet it is so far from practising the simple device of the jacana in time of danger that in default it has frequently been known to bring about its own death by suicide. Many a sportsman who has wounded a water-hen has been surprised to see it sink out of sight and never come up again. The reason is that, when wounded, the water-hen dives down and grasps a tough weed in its beak, and holds to it so tenaciously that it will drown rather than rise to the surface and be captured.

However, the water-hen may be forgiven this piece of stupidity because of its general intelligence and its possession of many interesting qualities. Its sagacity, for example, is well shown in its selection of a site for its nest. Unlike many aquatic birds, such as the jacana, it does not build a floating home, but seeks a spot on land as near as possible to the water. In fixing upon such a place it must take into consideration tides and freshets, and so accurate is it that it is seldom overtaken by disaster from those causes. Selby mentions an instance when the sudden and unusual rising of the water in a pond threatened the submerging of a nest containing nearly hatched eggs. The parents



for a moment were in the greatest consternation, but, soon recovering themselves, held a consultation, and as a result began raising the nest by building underneath it.

In its appearance the water-hen is a fair sample of bird contradiction. On land, with its sharp beak, long toes, moderately long legs set well forward on the body, it is chicken-like, walking gracefully and quickly. In the water it sinks low, and sits with all the ease and undulating grace of a duck. It walks on the floating leaves as readily as the jacana, but from a different cause. The jacana has very long and slender toes, while the water-hen has toes which, though long, are by comparison with the jacana's short. To compensate, however, the water-hen has broad or palmated toes, thus making its feet what might be called half-webbed. This structure of the feet also enables the bird to walk easily over soft ooze, which is usually rich in its peculiar food.

Very similar to the water-hen in many of its characteristics is the crested grebe, though totally unlike that little bird in appearance. It is an exceedingly pert-looking bird, particularly in courting-time, when it is adorned with a high ruff or collar and a pair of feathery horns, the latter feature giving it a comical expression of surprise.

As a diver and subaquatic swimmer the grebe has few if any superiors. At the least alarm it is gone like a flash, and is unlikely to be seen again except by the most practised eyes, for, like the jacana, it thrusts only its beak above water

when it wants air, and then once more sinking under the surface, darts away until it finds a safe harbor. It is said that it will readily traverse two hundred feet in half a minute.

It is a devoted parent, and wonderful stories are told of its performances when the safety of the young birds is threatened. One such story is told which is worth repeating, though the authority for it is not so good that anybody need feel obliged to accept it.

The nest of the grebe is a shapeless mass of weeds, and is usually found floating on the surface of the water near the margin of the pond. A casual observer would never notice it, or at least would not suspect that such a damp, soggy heap could contain eggs in the course of hatch-



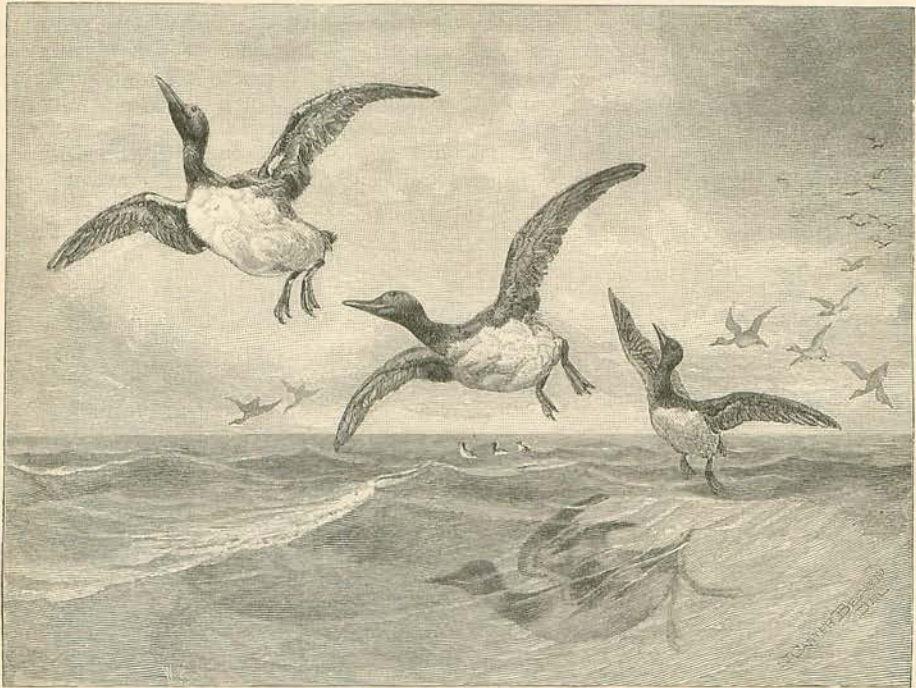
SNAKE-BIRD FEEDING HER YOUNG.



ing, and seemingly the bird feels secure in the deceptive appearance of the nest, except at such times as she may be caught sitting on it. Then, however, according to the story, she recognizes the fact that her presence has betrayed her nest, and she will not leave it. She quickly thrusts one foot over the side, and using it as a paddle, sends the nest to some secure hiding-place in the weeds on the opposite

were going to disappear bodily, and come up again in a twinkling with a fish in the bill.

The diver is one of the few birds which, though no walker, is yet a strong flier, as well as expert swimmer. It seems to avoid flying as much as possible, however, and experiences some difficulty in getting under way in the air. This disinclination to fly is shown when it launches



GUILLEMOT.

shore. It will thus be seen that the grebe on its nest is the prototype of the steam-boat.

Another bird which is notable for thrusting its head only out of water is the snake-bird, or darter, of Florida. It has a very long neck, which, when the bird is swimming, is seen undulating in a most snake-like manner on the surface of the water. It is a good swimmer and diver, though not as expert as several other subaquatic birds.

One of its notable characteristics is the manner of feeding its young. It catches and swallows an abundance of fish, and then goes home and opens its mouth. The little ones in turn thrust their heads down the long neck, looking as if they

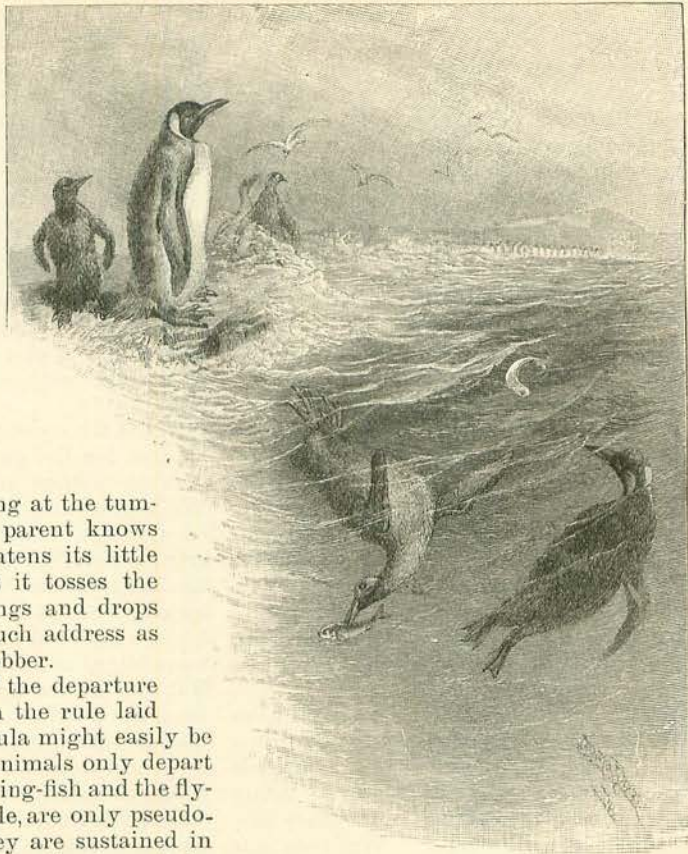
thrust themselves off the high cliffs whereon it has been nesting.

The same plan of launching itself off a high cliff is practised by the guillemot, which is also, though incorrectly, sometimes called a loon. The guillemot, however, is a more picturesque object at times when it shoots off in this manner than the diver, inasmuch as it in this way takes its little one for the first time to its watery home. Having hatched its one egg on the bare surface of a high cliff, the guillemot guards the chick tenderly until it is old enough to take to the water. Then it coaxes the little one to mount upon its back, and there cling firmly. The parent then waddles to the edge of the cliff, and with outstretched neck and spread wings



cleaves the air until it has reached a point beyond the breakers. There it stops, gives its body a quick jerk, and thus tosses the baby from its perch, and sends it rolling over and over down into the water, into which it dives at once with as much ease as its parent. This first journey of the young guillemot is usually a very exciting one, for the rapacious gulls are always on the lookout for this time, and are in waiting at the tumbling-off place. The parent knows the danger that threatens its little one, and the moment it tosses the baby off closes its wings and drops by its side with so much address as usually to baffle the robber.

Similar instances of the departure of other animals from the rule laid down in the old formula might easily be cited, although some animals only depart in appearance. The flying-fish and the flying-dragon, for example, are only pseudo-fliers, inasmuch as they are sustained in the air merely by an application of the parachute principle. The walking fishes, on the other hand, do really desert the water for long periods of time, traversing considerable distances in the mean while. The whale, whose nearest terrestrial relation now living is by some supposed to



THE KING-PENGUIN—MOST GROTESQUE BIRD IN THE WORLD—NO WINGS OR FEATHERS.

be the hog, is an exclusive water-dweller, unlike the seals, which always go ashore to rear their young.

## NORWAY AND ITS PEOPLE.

BY BJÖRNSTJERNE BJÖRNSSON.

Third Paper.

**T**HE contrast between the inland and the coast population of Norway becomes apparent in a most characteristic manner in the politics of the country. But for the people of the west coast the Norwegians would not have engaged in so many contests with bureaucracy and monarchy; but for the people of the Uplands (the central districts of Norway around Lake Mjösen) and of Thrøndelagen (the Trondhjem district) these contests would have been deficient in plan and

probably wanting in success. Without the west coast we should have had no extension of the franchise, and would not have been on the way to universal suffrage; and without the Uplands and Thrøndelagen we should now have had a hierarchy supported by a fully organized state Church. Some day the Uplands and Thrøndelagen will force the Church to separate itself wholly from the state, and compel it either to surrender its dogmatic intolerance or to lose the intelligent