at a distance of many yards, must also be endowed with acute powers of vision; nor can it be less perfect in the Shrike, who sallies forth from his chosen branch to secure with unerring aim the passing fly or beetle. The Vulture, provided with organs of equal if not even greater power, descries from an enormous distance a dying camel, a stranded sheep, or any other earthly creature which has met with misfortune, and by his peculiar motions gives the cue to others of its kind from still greater distances and various points of the compass; for "wheresoever the carcase is, there will the Eagles be gathered together."

The sense of smell is most acute in the *Anatidæ* or Duck tribe, but, according to my experience, seems to be entirely wanting in the Raptores (Vultures, Eagles, &c.).

That of hearing would appear to be most perfect in the Owls, as testified by their highly developed auditory conch; at the same time it is by no means wanting in many other families of birds.

Neither can the sense of feeling be absent from the probing bill of the Woodcock and the members of the Scolopacidæ generally.

Should any of my readers wish to enrich their knowledge in this direction, I must refer them to the works of the writers mentioned above. In 'The Birds of Great Britain' my chief aim has been to give a faithful representation of the various species, and to record, in addition to the notes of others, such observations as my lengthened study in this branch of science has enabled me to make.

the

been

aw of

well

short

end.

force

d of a

heavy

this is

present

ing the

The following arrangement will give a general view of 'The Birds of Great Britain,' with some additional information respecting them obtained during the progress of the work, and notices of those species which have occurred in the British Islands, but which are not, in my opinion, entitled to a place in our fauna and consequently have not been figured.

The Vultures, a family of birds whose proper home is the warmer countries of the world, are but feebly represented in the British Islands, where, indeed, the appearance of the two species which have occurred therein must be regarded as purely accidental, our islands being fortunately exempt from those visitations which render the presence of these useful scavengers a matter of great importance. The family comprises about twenty-four species, divided among ten or twelve genera, the greater part of which inhabit Eastern Europe, Africa, and India; the remainder frequent America, and extend their range from the United States to Chile.