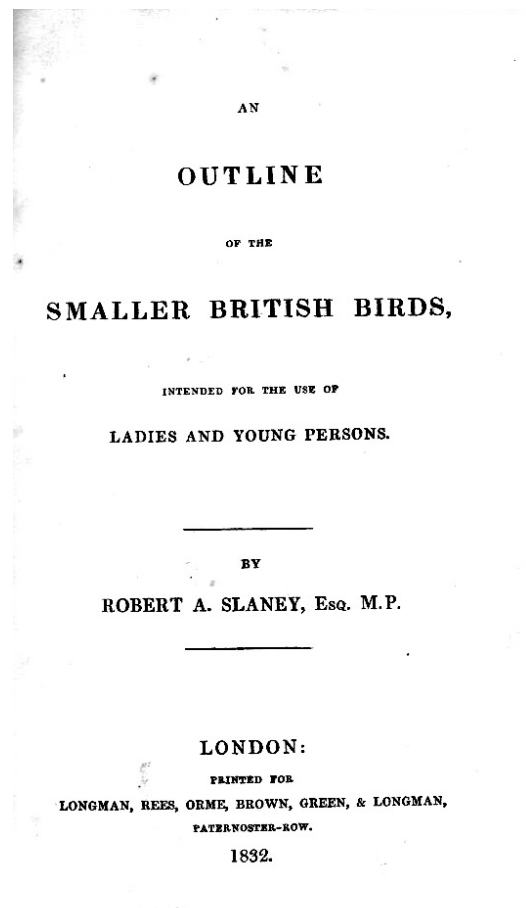


Item 0.5

Slaney, R.A. (1832). *Smaller British Birds*. London



lution to support his uneasy situation four or five hours longer, till the waters had fully retired!"*

The next great family, the *DIVERS*, consist of several species, for the most part local and migratory; as the puffins, auks, and guillemots: they come to rear their young upon our cliffs in particular spots; and leave us early in autumn. The noise of their various cries cannot be conceived by one who has not witnessed their myriads in the breeding season.

Among these may be ranked that dark plunderer, the *CORMORANT*, who remains with us all



CORMORANT.

the year. His wild and suspicious look, sombre plumage, and bold determined flight, mark

* Gilpin's Forest Scenery.

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him from other birds; his upper bill is hooked over the other, so as to hold firmly his slippery prey; and he makes his nest either on the ledges of rocks or in trees; in the latter he often perches. These birds visit large waters in the inland counties, and follow up the course of our larger rivers; they sometimes take a liking to a particular spot, and appear to become attached to it for some time.

In the Severn, a few miles above Shrewsbury, there is an island with some tall trees; about twenty years ago, the persons who lived near perceived that these trees were resorted to by two or three cormorants; they remained about the spot for several months, till towards the breeding season. The cormorants returned the following autumn, bringing with them three or four more (perhaps their progeny), and they gradually increased to the number of sixteen or eighteen, which might be seen about their favourite haunt, taking their airy excursions along the course of the river, and not unfrequently passing near the village and church; at which the ancient rustics of both sexes shook their heads, and said "something would happen!" Foragers or stragglers from this colony visited the waters round in various directions. This dwelling of wild sea plunderers, sixty miles from the ocean, in the midst of an inclosed and