

became, therefore, a fact of great interest and importance in the physical history of the globe. After selecting the bones which appeared to belong to pterodactyles, several remained which bore so striking a resemblance to those of *waders*, that I ventured to describe them as such in my work on the Fossils of Tilgate Forest; and this opinion was corroborated by Baron Cuvier, to whom I showed the specimens on his last visit to England. Subsequently, I have obtained the inferior portion of a leg-bone (*tarso-metatarsal*), in which the oval cicatrix, or articulation for the hind toe, is distinctly visible, and proves unquestionably that the bone belonged to some kind of wader, perhaps a heron; the position of the hind toe in birds, varying in accordance with the habits and economy of the respective orders (page 136). These are the most ancient remains of birds that have hitherto been discovered.*

63. THE COUNTRY OF THE IGUANODON.—By this survey of the strata and organic remains of the wealden, we have acquired data from which, by the principles of induction, already explained (page 347), we may obtain secure conclusions as to the nature of the country from whence those spoils were derived, of the animals by which it was inhabited, and of the vegetables that covered its surface.

* See a Memoir "On the Bones of Birds discovered in the Strata of Tilgate Forest," by the author: Geological Transactions, 1838.