

food. Their tracks of course, are numerous; and, were the mud to be suddenly hardened into stone, they would scarcely be distinguished from some of the tracks on the sandstone in the immediate vicinity. Indeed, in one instance, the process was well nigh completed: for the water had fallen several feet and left the mud with the tracks exposed for some weeks to the sun in a dry season; so that it was almost as hard as stone; and had I taken a cast of the impressions, as I might have done, I am sure it would easily have passed for the tracks in sandstone.\* I merely took a sketch of a few of the impressions, which is given in Fig. 14. I could not, however, but feel, that I was witnessing a repetition of the very process by which the tracks in the stone were produced.

Fig. 12, is a sketch of two steps of the common goose, (*Anas Canadensis*) on mud. The length of the foot is four inches, and of the step, seven inches. The space beneath the web connecting the toes, is quite obvious on the mud; it being sunk below the general level, but not so deep as the toes. The entire absence of any such appearance in the fossil tracks, makes it almost certain, that none of them were produced by web-footed birds. The lateral distance of the successive tracks in Fig. 12, to the right and left of the central line of the bird's course, is much greater than that of any of the fossil tracks of the same size.

Fig. 13, exhibits the tracks of a bird, probably of the genus *Tetrao*, which I met with last summer; but I caught only a glimpse of it. The length of the foot, not including the hind toe, is one inch and a half, and of the step, five inches.

Fig. 14, has already been referred to, as exhibiting the steps of a small species of snipe, wanting in the hind toe. Its foot is only an inch long, and its step two and a half inches. The same tracks are shown in Fig. 11, laid off from the same scale as the fossil impressions in the first two figures, in order to exhibit their relative size in respect to the fossil foot marks.

Fig. 20, shows a case of the tracks of the domestic hen (*Phasianus gallus*) in mud. The foot, without including the hind toe, is nearly three inches long; the length of the step, six inches. This is the ordinary distance between the tracks of this species. Only the alternate track shows the hind toe; owing to the foot's not sinking deep enough in all cases.

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\* Such tracks as are the subjects of this paper.