

to the right, (scarcely visible in the drawing,) corresponding exactly to the step of a bird, but not to that of a quadruped. The thumb, or short toe, also, is on opposite sides in the two tracks, proving the animal that made them to have been a biped; for had they been produced by the two right or the two left feet of a quadruped, the short toe would have been on the same side in both tracks.

I am aware, that these impressions do not correspond to the foot of any existing bird; at least, I cannot find any one of this description in the ornithological works within my reach. Four toed birds are, indeed, the most common, but in no instance do they all point forward.\* Yet, since peculiarities of structure occur in most other animals, found petrified deep in the secondary rocks, ought we to be surprised to find them in the birds of early times? And can any one suppose, that the slight addition of a short inner toe; ought to exclude the animal, when the proof of its being a biped is so clear, from the class of birds?

*O. minimus.* Three toed; destitute of a hairy heel; foot from half an inch to an inch and a half long; toes spreading widely; nearly of equal length; step three to five inches; quite common at the Horse Race. Generally, the foot is rather over an inch long, but one very distinct specimen is only half an inch.

Fig. 9 exhibits a succession of tracks of this species, four inches apart, found at the Horse Race.

It will probably be suggested, as I have already intimated in one case, that all the smaller tracks were made by the young of the larger species of birds; and although I doubt very much whether this is the fact to any great extent, yet it will be seen, that I have regarded no track as a distinct species, that does not differ from the others, by some other peculiarity than the size, except perhaps *O. ingens* and *O. diversus*, about which I have already remarked. And besides the peculiarities that have been named, there are others, which will be obvious to a practiced eye, but which it is not easy to express in language.

Naturalists may perhaps doubt as to the nature of the appendage that produced the radiating impression in some of the species that have been described. Yet it is well known that some species of living birds have the tarsus very low down covered with hair like

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\* In some drawings of the feet of the genus *Paradisea*, especially that in Rees' Cyclopaedia, it would seem as if all the toes were directed forward; but ornithologists inform us, that this is not the case. See Dictionnaire Classique d'Histoire Naturelle, Art. *Paradisea*.