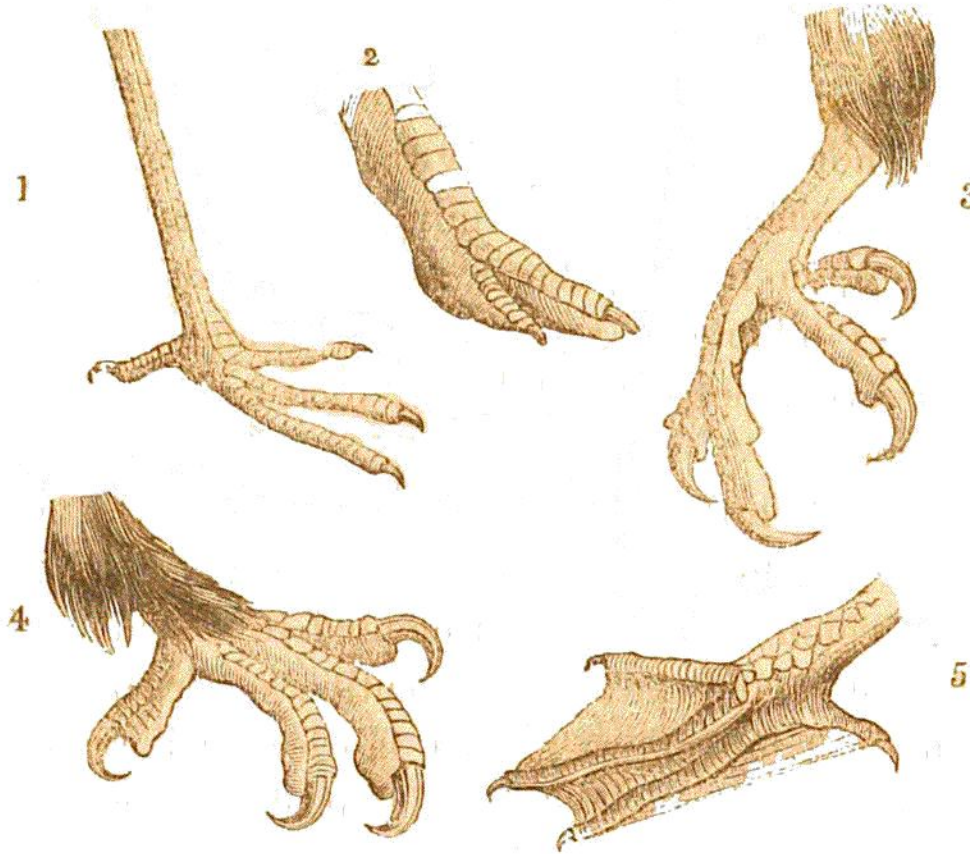


lacerate and tear its prey, (Fig. 4.) The feet of aquatic birds are formed like a paddle or oar, to



TAB. 22.—DIFFERENT FORMS OF FEET IN BIRDS.

Fig. 1. Foot of the heron; Fig. 2. Of the ostrich; Fig. 3. Of the parrot;
Fig. 4. Of the eagle; Fig. 5. Of the pelican.

enable them to make their way through the water (Fig. 5); those of birds that frequent marshes have a great expansion, like a tripod, that they may move over the unstable surface of the morass (Fig. 1); while in species destined to inhabit sandy deserts, as the ostrich (Fig. 2), the feet present a corresponding change of structure.

We perceive, therefore, that every vertebrated animal has a solid and durable skeleton, or osseous