

of birds allied to the Heron, in the Country of the Iguanodon (see *Foss. Til. For.* pl. 8.). But as the Stonesfield slate contained thin and delicate bones, also referred to Birds, and which the sagacity of the late Mr. Miller proved to belong to Pterodactyles, or flying reptiles, doubts were raised as to the correctness of my determination of the Tilgate specimens; and a distinguished palæontologist declared that there was no certain evidence of the fossil remains of Birds in any strata more ancient than the Tertiary; for the existence of Ornitholites in Chalk was then unknown. On the last visit of the late Baron Cuvier to England, I submitted my supposed Birds' bones from Tilgate Forest, to the examination of that illustrious philosopher, who unhesitatingly confirmed my opinion that the bones belonged to some wader; and probably to a species of *Ardea*, or *Heron*. Subsequently, Professor Owen had the kindness to examine the specimens in my possession, and arrived at the same conclusion. Unfortunately, no perfect bone has been discovered, and but one example possesses very decided characters; this is a portion of a shank-bone, in which the position of the hind-toe is indicated by an oval cicatrix, and demonstrates the order of birds to which the bone belongs. On this interesting relic, which is accurately figured in *Lign.* 149, Professor Owen favoured me with the following remarks:—

“This fragment is undoubtedly the distal extremity of the left tarso-metatarsal bone of a Bird. The oval spot (*a*)