

that the so-called bird-tracks of the Connecticut sandstone were mostly made by *Bathygnathus*, a reptile to which I have already alluded. One fact, however, of comparatively recent discovery I must not omit to mention. Among the lithographic schists of Solenhofen, in Bavaria, have been exhumed the remains of a vertebrate possessing some of the characteristics of both birds and reptiles. The tail, which is somewhat elongated, after the fashion of the reptiles of the same age, is seven inches in length, and consists of twenty vertebræ, but is furnished with a

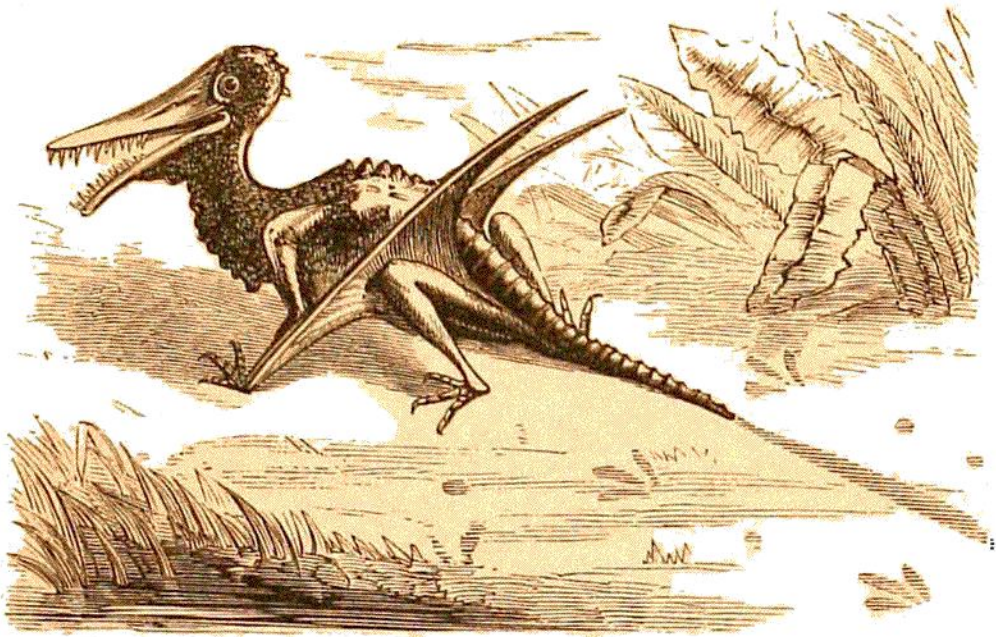


Fig. 74. Ramphorhynchus (restored). One quarter natural size.

row of quills along each side. The metacarpal bones are four in number, instead of two or three, as in birds, and the pelvis is also decidedly reptilian. Whether bird or reptile, paleontologists have well hesitated to decide. Professor Dana is fully convinced that we ought to regard it as a "herpetoid" bird, exhibiting a transition from the lower to the upper type, a composite type destined in the next period to be decomposed into two distinct class types. Even if we regard the *Archæopteryx* as more bird than reptile, and admit that beings of this structure may have