

GLOSSARY.

Nearly all the terms used in describing a bird may be more easily and clearly understood by examining the accompanying figure than from a written description: a few, however, may require a word of explanation.

Mandibles. — Some authors use the word *maxilla* for the upper half of the bill, and *mandible* for the lower. I prefer, however, to describe the two halves of the bill as upper and lower mandible.

Culmen. — The ridge of the upper mandible.

Gonys. — Lower outline (middle) of under mandible.

Unguis. — The nail on the end of the upper mandible; very pronounced in several families of water birds, — Ducks, Pelicans, and Petrels.

Axillars or Axillary Plumes. — Several elongated feathers at the junction of the wing and body. (Lat. *axilla*, the arm-pit.)

Speculum. — A wing band or patch (usually of a different color from the rest of the wing), formed by the terminal portion of the secondaries; very noticeable in the Ducks.

Tarsus. — Extends from the root of the toes to the end of the tibia (what *appears* to be the bend of the leg or knee; but which is, in reality, the heel joint).

Superciliary Stripe. — Stripe over the eye.