

metatarsus is perhaps the most characteristic part of the skeleton of a bird." Prof. Cope finds that this extinct species of bird, which used to inhabit our western coast in Tertiary times, and to which he has given the generic designation of *Cyphornis*, bears greater resemblance to the steganopodes or pelicans, than to any other family. "The anterior aspect of the bone," Cope says. (*loc. cit.* p. 451), "is almost exactly like that of *Pelecanus*, but the posterior aspect resembles that of none of the order in the absence of the tendinous groove." When compared with cretaceous birds, Prof. Cope finds but "one point of resemblance" and that with the extinct form *Hesperornis*, viz: in "the ridge-like elevation of the anterior part of the external tibial facet, which is in both genera connected with the intercondylar tuberosity." The affinities of this bird, Prof. Cope holds, "are more clearly with the *Steganopodes*, combined with affinities to more primitive birds, and having a simple hypotarsal structure." *Cyphornis magnus*, Cope, is the name ascribed to this extinct bird, which in Tertiary times—at a period probably intermediate between the Eocene and Oligocene—frequented the shores of Vancouver Island.

"As regards its habits, it may be said that the pneumatic character of its foot bone renders it improbable that it depended on this member for habitual locomotion on land. In all the birds of terrestrial habit which I have examined," he continues, "and of which I can give information the tarsometatarsus is either filled with cancellous tissue, dense or open, or the walls of the shaft are thick as in the Emu. The presumed affinity with the *Steganopodes* indicates natatory habits and probable capacity for flight. Should this power have been developed in *Cyphornis magnus*, it will have been much the largest bird of flight thus far known."

On plate XX, which accompanies the text of this fascicle, Prof. Cope figures four aspects of this bone and in the latter expresses the hope that additional material will be forthcoming from which to make more detailed and more perfect descriptions of this extinct bird.

H. M. AMI.