

## Plate IV.

Lower or outer surface of specimens represented in plate III; one-third natural size.

## Plate V.

Upper or inner surface of specimens represented in plate III; one-third natural size.

## Plate VI.

The lower surface of the anterior end of the plastron figured in the preceding plates; natural size; to show the sulci of the intergular and gular shields, details of sculpture, etc.

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CORY'S LEAST BITTERN (*Botaurus neoxenus*, Cory).

By W. L. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

Many years ago, in the time of the early settlement of the township of Peel, the writer remembers to have seen a specimen of a bird which he has never since seen alive. It was at the time of the spring migration, and the bird, probably wearied with a long flight, was able to fly but a short distance at a time, so that being pursued it was finally captured in a pool of water into which it fluttered in its efforts to escape. When dissected it proved to be a female. It evidently belonged to the family of the Waders, or Shore birds, as it had a long neck and bill and long legs, with a slender body, but some of the colouring of its plumage was very beautiful.

Many years afterwards, when visiting the museum in the University of Toronto, a specimen of the Least Bittern *Botaurus exilis* was identified as similar in size and form, but lacking in some of the handsome hues of the Peel specimen. When again in Toronto, in the spring of 1891, the writer noticed at the store of Thurson & Spanner a mounted specimen of a Least Bittern, which had been collected the season before in the Toronto marsh. In the published "Transactions of the Canadian Institute" for 1890-91, is the following reference to this bird, which was then regarded as the first specimen of the Florida Dwarf Bittern or, as it had been previously called, Cory's Least Bittern, unknown to science, that had been taken in Ontario. Mr.