

of the leg) $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; a femur, or thigh-bone, 14 inches long, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in circumference; and parts of skeletons belonging to thirty individuals. The natives believe that similar birds are still in existence; but although from the state of the bones it is probable that their extinction, like that of the Dodo, is comparatively of recent date (see *Wond.* p. 116.), no evidence has at present been obtained to prove that they have ever been contemporary with the aboriginal inhabitants of New Zealand.

ON COLLECTING THE FOSSIL REMAINS OF BIRDS.
—Notwithstanding the extreme rarity of fossils of this class, the student should not be discouraged in his search for the remains of Birds in the secondary rocks. That far more instructive specimens than any that have fallen under my observation, may be discovered in the Wealden strata by diligent research, there can be no reasonable doubt. It is also very probable that the Stonesfield slate, which abounds in remains of terrestrial plants and animals, will be found to contain Ornitholites. It is important for the collector to bear in mind, that when only a fragment of the shaft of a bone remains imbedded in the stone, if the imprint of the other portions be preserved, he may obtain a knowledge of the form of the extremities; in the same manner

Mantell, of Wellington, New Zealand, informs me that he has obtained bones that were dug up by a native in sinking a potatoe-pit.