

CATALOGUE
OF THE
FOSSIL BIRDS

IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD, S.W.

BY
RICHARD LYDEKKER, B.A.

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straight sternal articulation, the inner lip of which is but little developed, and large subclavicular process and perforation.

The wing-bones are elongated, the ulna being longer than the humerus. The latter is elongated and curved, with a small proximal and a large distal extremity; its long delto-pectoral crest forms a regular curve, with the surface for the pectoralis major indicated by a nearly straight line extending from the upper to the lower extremity; the border of the subtrochanteric fossa is very thick, and nearly the whole of the fossa is occupied by the pneumatic foramen. The long surface for the brachialis anticus occupies nearly the middle of the bone, and there is a small ectepicondylar tuberosity.

Family STRIGIDÆ.

All the genera are included in this family.

Genus **STRIX**, Linn.¹

The tarso-metatarsus is long and slender, with a deep excavation for the extensor hallucis, no bony bridge over the hollow for the extensor communis digitorum, and short trochleæ. The femur is of moderate length, with the intermuscular ridge joining only the inner trochlear ridge.

The species are of comparatively small size.

Strix melitensis, Lydekker, n. sp.

Founded upon the femur, which is slightly longer and more slender than that of *S. flammea*. The corresponding bone of *Syrnium aluco* is stouter and much more curved, with the great trochanter inclined more inwardly, and the intermuscular ridge less developed.

Hab. Europe (Malta).

49322*. The left femur, with the extremities slightly imperfect; from the cavern-deposits of Malta. The type; the length is 0,054, and the width of the shaft 0,004; the corresponding dimensions of the femur of *Strix flammea* being 0,052 and 0,005.

Presented by Admiral Spratt, C.B., 1874.

¹ Syst. Nat. ed. 12, vol. i. p. 131 (1766).