However, as many completely differentiated birds in all probability existed even in the Triassic epoch, and as we possess hardly any knowledge of the terrestrial reptiles of that period, it may be regarded as certain that we have no knowledge of the animals which linked reptiles and birds together historically and genetically, and that the *Dinosauria*, with *Compsognathus*, *Archæopteryx*, and the struthious birds, only help us to form a reasonable conception of what these intermediate forms may have been.

In conclusion, I think I have shown cause for the assertion that the facts of palæontology, so far as birds and reptiles are concerned, are not opposed to the doctrine of evolution, but, on the contrary, are quite such as that doctrine would lead us to expect; for they enable us to form a conception of the manner in which birds may have been evolved from reptiles, and thereby justify us in maintaining the superiority of the hypothesis that birds have been so originated to all hypotheses which are devoid of an equivalent basis of fact.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Occurrence of Tinnunculus cenchris *in Britain.*

By W. S. Dallas, F.L.S.

This Museum has just been fortunate enough to obtain a fine specimen, killed within a few miles of York, of a species of Falcon, the occurrence of which in this country has, I believe, never before been authentically recorded,—namely, the little Kestrel of South-eastern Europe, *Tinnunculus cenchris* (Naum.). The specimen, which is a mature but apparently not an old male, was presented to the Museum by Mr. John Harrison, of Wilstrop Hall, near Green Hammerton, who shot it upon his farm at that place, after having observed it for some little time flying about. The date, he thinks, was about the middle of last November; but of this he took no note, as he at first thought that the bird was merely a small and curious variety of the common Kestrel. It, however, presents all the distinctive characters of *Tinnunculus cenchris*, among which the yellowish-white claws may be mentioned as affording an easy means of identifying the bird.

Mr. Graham, of York, to whose intervention the Museum is indebted for the acquisition of this interesting specimen, has informed me that, on a recent excursion of his, he saw another example of this species, in the possession of the Rev. Charles Hudson, of Trowell, near Nottingham. On my writing to that gentleman, he kindly informed me that the specimen of the "small Kestrel" had been in his possession for about eight years, and that he purchased it from a joiner named Brown, formerly living at Thorpe Hall, near Bridlington, who was an enthusiastic collector of birds, and in the habit of preparing them for people in that neighbourhood. Brown's account of the bird, which he denominated the "American Falcon,"

was that it was shot between Bridlington and Bridlington Quay, one Sunday morning, by a man who sold it to him for eighteen pence. Mr. Hudson purchased it for half a sovereign.

Museum, York, June 24, 1868.

Lithodomous Annelids.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Gentlemen,—As I am anxious to put on record all the cases which I can ascertain of the occurrence of Lithodomous Annelids or worms, allow me to mention that I find that Dr. Ed. Grube, in his "Beschreibungen neuer oder wenig bekannter Anneliden," published in the 'Archiv für Naturgesch.' vol. xxi. 1855, has described, under the name of *Heterocirrus saxicola*, an Annelid which perforates limestone, and belongs to the same family (though differing in important generic features) as *Leucodore*, Johnston (*Polydora*, Bosc). The Annelid was found at Villa Franca.

I also find that that most accurate and talented investigator, M. Lacaze-Duthiers, in his researches on the Gephyrean *Bonellia*, observed that this animal inhabited cracks in rocks, and by preference *calcareous* rocks; further, he noted, in the case of *calcareous* rocks, that the rock was to a certain extent excavated, thus fitting to the body of the worm. It is almost impossible to assign any but a chemical means of excavation to *Bonellia*.

I am, Gentlemen,
Truly yours,
E. Ray Lankester.

Oxford, June 4th.

On some Species of Oliva.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Gentlemen,—I have but just now seen Mr. Marrat's reply to my observations on this subject. In considering the value of the species in question, I weighed the matter as far as it was possible to do it without seeing the specimens. Whether my conclusions are wrong or not, it is not for me to say.

As regards the apparent inaccuracies in my paper pointed out by Mr. Marrat, he will, I think, find, on referring to it again, that they are explained by the context.

With respect to my observation as to the fallibility of colour as a guide for distinguishing species, I cannot help thinking that Mr. Marrat's reply tends rather to prove its truth than otherwise.

As far as I am concerned, the question as to the specific value of Mr. Marrat's species will rest here.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.
Thomas Graham Ponton.

Clifton, Bristol, June 26, 1868.