NOTES ON THE SPECIALIZED USE OF THE BASTARD WING.

BY Wm. Hubbell Fisher.

Plate VIII.

In a book entitled 'The Structure and Life of Birds,' by F. M. Headley, M. A., F. Z. S., published by Macmillan & Co., London and New York, 1895, the author states that he saw a pigeon "when checking his speed in air, lift the bastard wing so that daylight was visible between it and the long feathers, this petty appendage jutting out and impudently spoiling the beautiful line of the front margin of the wing from tip to tip." He further says that "this curious phenomenon may be seen if you stand at the British Museum (the Antiquarian Department at Bloomsbury), as the pigeons which are usually feeding in large numbers in the front fly up and settle overhead on the pediment." He adds that "in Muybridge's photographs of the Cockatoo, on the wing, both bastard wings may be seen to be slightly raised, for what purpose it is hard to say. In the pigeon, they project during a vigorous stroke, but I have seen no other bird use them either for stopping or striking." On page 254 of his work, figure 65, Mr. Headley
Fig. 1. Pigeon showing bastard wing in flight.

Fig. 2. Stork showing bastard wing in flight.

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