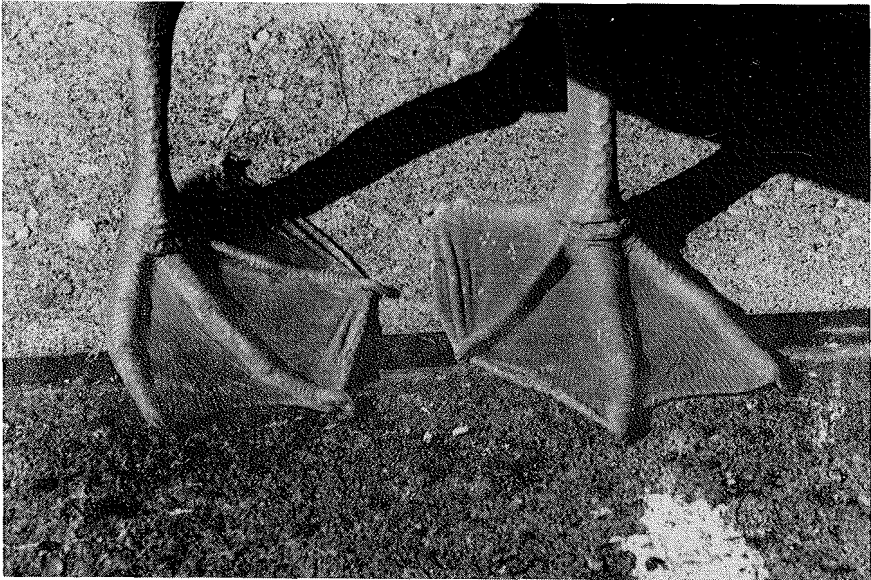


## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE FEET?



All members of the traditional bird Order Pelecaniformes -- the pelicans, boobies, gannets, cormorants, anhingas, frigatebirds, and tropicbirds -- are characterized by having "totipalmate feet." That is, unlike any other birds, all four toes on each foot are connected by webs. In spite of this similarity among these birds, recent DNA evidence separates the pelicans from these other birds and allies them with the Shoebill, a strange big-billed, stork-like bird from Africa that does not have totipalmate feet. By the way, these are the feet of the American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) that is featured on the front cover of this issue.--JAJ.