

placed upon rocks, but a few were on the tops of stunted sage or on greasewood bushes<sup>6</sup>. The eggs are very similar to those of the European Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*<sup>10</sup>).

## Order TUBINARES.

The Petrels form a well-defined group of sea-birds, placed by authors variously in proximity to the Storks, Penguins, Gulls, &c. Whatever characters the Petrels possess in common with any of the above-named birds, the fact remains that they are not really closely allied to any of them, but form a group by themselves, the peculiar position of the nostrils, which are tubular with an anterior opening, sufficiently distinguishing them. The bill shows several discontinuous areas, consisting of horny plates separated by deep grooves.

The Petrels are practically cosmopolitan in range, being found very far to the north, and also occurring nearly as far south as man has yet penetrated. They include species no larger than a Swallow, as well as Albatrosses, with a spread of wing greater than that of any other bird. Altogether about 110 species are known. These birds being ocean-wanderers, we also include in our enumeration such as have been recorded from the Revillagigedo and other islands off the coast of Mexico and Central America.

Four distinct families of Tubinares were recognized by Salvin in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' viz. the true Petrels (Procellariidæ), the Shearwaters (Puffinidæ), the Diving Petrels (Pelecanoididæ), and the Albatrosses (Diomedeidæ). Of these the Pelecanoididæ alone do not come within the scope of the present work.

## Fam. PROCELLARIIDÆ.

In this family the nostrils are united externally above the culmen; the margin of the sternum is even; no pterygoid processes are present; the manubrium of the furcula is long; the coracoids are long, comparatively narrow across the base and slightly divergent; the second primary is the longest. (*Cf.* Salvin, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 342.)

The Procellariidæ include two subfamilies—the Procellariinæ and the Oceanitinæ.

### Subfam. PROCELLARIINÆ.

This subfamily contains the birds usually called "Storm"-Petrels, most of which are scarcely larger than Swallows. Salvin has enumerated their characters as follows (Cat. Birds, xxv. p. 343):—"Leg-bones shorter than the wing-bones; tarsus never twice as long as the femur; basal phalanx of the middle toe shorter than the next two joints; keel of the sternum entirely ossified; tarsi covered in front with hexagonal scutes; claws sharp and compressed; outer toe shorter than the middle toe; secondaries at least thirteen in number."