

presence of vast numbers of large land-crabs that inhabit burrows all over the islands and would very likely destroy eggs and young of such a bird as *Oceanodroma*"².

Another species which has white upper tail-coverts, and probably occurs within Central-American waters, is *O. macrodactyla* of Bryant, of Guadalupe Island. This is larger than *O. kœdingi*, with broad black tips to the white upper tail-coverts, and exhibits on the wing a very conspicuous light brown patch, consisting of the median and greater wing-coverts. Long. tota circa 8·3, alæ 6·6, caudæ 3·5, culm. 0·7, tarsi 0·9.

2. *Oceanodroma melania*.

Procellaria melania, Bp. Compt. Rend. xxxviii. p. 662¹.

Thalassidroma melania, Bp. Consp. Av. ii. p. 196².

Cymochorea melania, Coues, Pr. Acad. Philad. 1864, p. 76³; Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. v. p. 534, note⁴; Baird, Brewer, & Ridgway, Water-Birds N. Amer. ii. p. 411⁵.

Oceanodroma melania, A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, 2nd ed. p. 37⁶; Salv. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 353⁷; Nelson, N. Amer. Fauna, no. 14, p. 28⁸; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 149, t. 11. fig. 3⁹.

Oceanodroma townsendi, Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. xvi. p. 687¹⁰.

Fuliginoso-nigra, schistaceo distincte adumbrata; remigibus et rectricibus nigerrimis; tectricibus medianis et majoribus apicem versus pallide brunnescentibus, his marginaliter graduatim albicanti-brunneis; secundariis nonnullis intimis extus et ad apicem pallide brunnescentibus; corpore subtus paullo brunnescentiore, gutture colloque vix schistaceo adumbratis; subalaribus majoribus vix rufescenti-brunneo lavatis. Long. tota circa 8·4, alæ 6·8, caudæ 3·3, culm. 0·5, tarsi 1·2.

♀ mari similis. Long. tota circa 8·5, alæ 6·8. (Descr. maris et feminæ ex San Benito Is. Mus. Brit.)

Hab. SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, north to Southern California⁶; LOWER CALIFORNIA, Cape San Lucas (*Xantus*^{3 5}), San Benito Is. (*Anthony*⁹).—COASTS OF WESTERN MEXICO², Acapulco (*Townsend*¹⁰), off San Blas to the Tres Marias (*Nelson*⁸).

The type of this species was redescribed by Salvin in the 'Catalogue of Birds.' *O. melania* is one of the larger species of Black Petrel, and the specimens in the Rothschild Museum have wings from 6·7 to 7·25 inches in expanse.

Mr. Nelson writes:—"Common between Isabel and Tres Marias. Black Petrels were by far the most numerous of the Petrels seen, and outnumbered all the others by two to one. Three, possibly four, other species were seen on the way to and from the islands, but this was the only one secured. They circled about in all directions, sometimes coming very near, but nothing peculiar in their habits was observed. They were quick to see little fragments of fat thrown overboard while we were skinning other waterfowl, and when the morsels were small enough ate them greedily"⁸.

Eggs from San Benito in our own collection and in the British Museum, secured by Mr. Anthony, are broad and oval, closely approaching the elliptical form; they are smooth and without any gloss, plain white, and have no traces of markings⁹.