

3. *Oceanodroma socorroensis*.

Oceanodroma socorroensis, Towns. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 134¹; Salv. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 352²; Anthony, Auk, 1895, p. 387³; 1898, p. 38⁴; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 149, t. 11. fig. 6⁵.

Oceanodroma townsendi (nec Ridgw.), Anthony, Auk, 1894, p. 321⁶.

O. melaniæ similis, sed minor, plaga brunnea alari paullo magis extensa, tectricibus medianis anticis quoque brunnescentibus; supracaudalibus lateralibus sæpius cinerascens, interdum albidis; subalaribus rufescenti-brunneis, marginalibus nigerrimis: rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota circa 7·8, alæ 5·9, caudæ 2·95, culm. 0·61, tarsi 0·8.

♀ mari similis. Long. tota 7·5, alæ 5·85. (Descr. maris et feminae ex San Benito Is. Mus. Brit.)

Hab. CALIFORNIA, as far north as the Santa Barbara Channel, San Diego³, San Benito Is. (*Anthony*⁵); REVILLAGIGEDO Is., Socorro I. (*Townsend*^{1 2}).

This species is described as similar to *O. homochroa*, but with the wings longer, and the tail shorter and less deeply forked, the tarsus and toes shorter, the sides of the rump whitish, and with no white on the under surface of the wings. The dimensions are given as follows:—Wing 5·50, tail 2·75 (forked for 0·50), culmen 0·55, tarsi and toes 0·85¹.

Only one specimen was secured and a few others seen, but Mr. Townsend found the hills at the western end of Socorro Island literally honeycombed with the burrows of some creature which he believed to be this Petrel. The most diligent search did not reveal any small mammal on the island, and lizards could not have excavated these burrows¹.

This is a smaller bird than *O. melania*, which otherwise it closely resembles. The light patches of whitish or grey appear to be by no means a constant character, as Mr. Anthony has already remarked. The type-specimen has whitish patches on the sides of the rump (*i. e.* the lateral upper tail-coverts), but in over one hundred skins he has found only about 3 per cent. so marked. A few were nearly as white on the rump as *O. leucorrhoa*; but the largest part of the series, fully 95 per cent., had sooty-black coverts above and below. Two or more species, he adds, might be made, but unfortunately the light-rumped birds are found in the same burrows with the dark ones.

Specimens of *O. socorroensis* have also been obtained off San Diego, California, so that the species is now included in the avifauna of the United States³. Mr. Anthony has also found it nesting on the San Benito Islands, between Guadalupe I. and the Cerros Is., and has presented specimens of both birds and eggs to the British Museum. He says that it is found on the open sea, in small companies of not more than three together⁶.

The eggs are elliptical in shape, white, marked with pink specks and dots at the broader end. In one egg these form a cap, in the other an indistinct zone, a few specks being also scattered over the shell⁵.