

Hab. MEXICO, Mazatlan ³.—SEAS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ³, northward along the Pacific Coast of North America to Washington Territory ^{3 4}.

This Petrel is easily recognized by its large size and silvery-grey plumage, resembling that of the Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus gracilis*).

The species is found in the Cape seas and also in the Antarctic pack-ice, where Hanson procured several specimens which were swimming about in search of food. It is believed to breed in Kerguelen, but the eggs have not yet been obtained.

Fam. DIOMEDEIDÆ.

The characters for the determination of the Albatrosses as distinct from other Petrels are thus given by Salvin in the 'Catalogue of Birds':—Nostrils lateral, separated by the wide culmen, each in a separate horny sheath opening forwards; margin of the sternum uneven, the sternum itself short compared with its width; no pterygoid processes; manubrium of furcula very short; coracoids short, very wide at the base and widely divergent; first primary the longest.

The Albatrosses are distributed over the entire Southern Hemisphere, retiring to rocky islands to nest. In the Pacific they extend as far north as Japan and the Hawaiian Islands. Only three genera are known—*Diomedea*, *Thalassogeron*, and *Phæbetria*, and a single species of two of them has occurred within our limits.

DIOMEDEA.

Diomedea, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 214 (1766); Salvin, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 440 (1896).

The typical Albatrosses have no such groove along the sides of the culmen as is found in the Sooty Albatross (*Phæbetria fuliginosa*), and the tail is short and rounded. The bill is, as it were, divided into sections or horny layers, and thus in *Diomedea* the base of the "culminicorn," or upper sheath, is wide, joining the proximal end of the dorsal edge of the "latericorn," or lateral plate of the culmen.

The species are nine in number, and are principally inhabitants of the Southern Hemisphere, though they are seen occasionally north of the Equator. Two species, *D. nigripes* and *D. albatrus*, are inhabitants of the Northern Pacific, and the former has been noticed near the Revillagigedo Islands.

1. *Diomedea nigripes*.

Diomedea nigripes, Audubon, Orn. Biogr. v. p. 327 ¹; Salv. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxv. p. 445 ²; Anthony, Auk, xv. p. 317 ³; Oates, Cat. Eggs Brit. Mus. i. p. 163 ⁴.

Fuliginoso-brunnea, facie laterali et corpore subtus toto pallidioribus, magis cinerascens; pileo albicanti-brunneo variegato, plumis pallidius marginatis; regione anteoculari nigricante; fronte basali, loris, et genis anticis cinerascens-albis, mento clariore cinereo; subalaribus et axillaribus saturate brunneis; rostro