

viduals of this species. They are labelled *Sternula nereis*, and measure, total length 10 inches $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines, length of wing 9 inches $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines, bill from gape 1 inch 9 lines, tarsus $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines; colour, above, silver or French-grey, forehead white, back of head and nape of neck black, black streak round the eye, bill and feet yellow: the eggs above noticed were discovered in November.

Since the above was written, through the zeal of a friend residing near the Rakaia, we have received two eggs of this interesting bird; they were found in November, hard set. On comparing them with the egg of *S. minuta*, of Europe, in our own collection, we find them of rather a broader oval in shape, of the same length, with a breadth exceeding that of the European species by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines; but so close is the general resemblance between them, that they might be easily supposed the produce of individuals of the same species. The egg of the Lesser Tern, *S. minuta*, is less eccentric in its colour and marks than those of many other species of the genus.

No. 139.—GRACULUS BREVIROSTRIS, Gould.
Black River-shag.

Breeds on the shores of the lakes in the interior, where these birds congregate in considerable numbers, probably depending on the fresh water Unio, for some portion of their food supply. Like the Rook, and the Heron, of Europe, it builds in company, within the space of a few square yards many nests may be counted; the favourite breeding-place appears to be scrub, on some of the steep and lofty banks of the lake shore. The nest is large, chiefly constructed with sticks procured from the dead scrub, amongst which may be found the dead flower-stalks of *Aciphylla squarrosa*, grass forming the lining material. The eggs, four in number, are greenish-white, with the chalky encrustations characteristic of the Pelicanidæ, elliptically shaped, they vary considerably in size, especially in the measurement through the axis, as from 2 inches 6 lines, to 2 inches $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines, with a breadth of 1 inch 6 lines. When freshly procured from the nest they give out that peculiar odour which distinguishes those of the Procellaridæ, in common with the eggs of the Pelicanidæ, truly "a most ancient and fish-like smell."

No. 142.—DYSFORUS SERRATOR, Banks.
Gannet.

An egg of this bird, in the Colonial Museum, Wellington, gives the following measurements, which correspond very nearly with the size of the English species: length through the axis 3 inches $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines, with a breadth of 1 inch 10 lines. White in colour, with the rough chalky surface which distinguishes the eggs of the Pelicanidæ.

ART. IX.—Description of two Birds new to the Fauna of New Zealand.
By Captain F. W. HUTTON, F.G.S.

[Read before the Auckland Institute, September 20, 1869.]

NYROCA AUSTRALIS, Gould.
White-winged Duck.

I first noticed this bird, about two years ago, on the Whangape Lake, Lower Waikato, and since, on the Waikare Lake, near Rangiriri, and on Rotomahana Lake, where it was abundant in March, 1868. On the lakes of the Lower Waikato it is not uncommon, but is so wary that as yet I have only been able to obtain three specimens, the first of which was kindly

procured for me by A. M. Sheppard, Esq., of Ahiruna. This bird is known to the natives, both of Tarawera and Waikato, by the name of Karakahia. Like all the Pochards, it frequents the lakes only, and is rarely, if ever, seen in the rivers and creeks. I have not yet ascertained where it breeds. The specimen I got from Mr. Sheppard, I sent to W. Buller, Esq., of Whanganui, who identified it with the *Nyroca australis* of Gould's "Birds of Australia."

MALE.—Head and neck, dark reddish-brown; back, brown with the feathers of the upper part tipped with yellowish-brown; breast, white; sides, light-brown; abdomen, brown; wing feathers, white, tipped with brown; under wing-coverts, white; speculum, white; tail, dark-brown; bill, black, with a slate-coloured band near the tip; irides, white; tarsi, grey, front part very light-grey; membranes, black, bordered with light-grey on the side of each toe.

Length, 1 foot 8 inches; bill, from gape to point, 2 inches 2 lines. Wing, from carpal joint to tip 8 inches 3 lines; tarsi, 1 inch 6 lines.

FEMALE.—Head, neck, and breast, reddish-brown, speckled with white on the throat, and black on the breast; upper abdomen, dirty white; wings, same as male; but the white of the primaries is shaded with brown; rest of plumage same as male; bill, greenish-grey, tipped with slate-blue; lower mandible, greyish-blue; irides, light-brown.

Length, 1 foot 7 inches; wing, from carpal joint, 8½ inches; bill, 2 inches; tarsi, 1¾ inches. The wind-pipe of the male is much swollen, but not that of the female.

ÆSTRELATA GOULDII, n. s.

Procellaria macroptera, Gould, *nee* A. Smith.

This bird I first noticed in May, 1866, off Tasmania, and thought, at the time, that it would be an undescribed species; but I was never able to examine a specimen until a few months ago, when one was left at the Museum of the Auckland Institute, the donor's name not being known. It is very common on the Tasmanian and New Zealand coasts, and is, undoubtedly, the bird that Mr. Gould refers to as "the dark Petrel with a grey face," which he shot off the coast of Tasmania, and which he suggests might be the *Procellaria macroptera*, of Dr. A. Smith. According to that author, however, the bird he called *P. macroptera*, has no grey face, but a white circle round the eye, and reddish-brown legs and feet, in all of which respects it differs from the present bird, as well, probably, as in its dimensions, although more specimens will have to be measured before this can be determined.

Considering, therefore, this bird to be a new species, I have named it after Mr. John Gould, to whose labours we are so largely indebted for our knowledge of the Petrels of the Southern Seas.

Description.

Upper parts with wings and tail sooty-black, some of the wing coverts with brownish tips; under parts, dark-brown; forehead, cheeks, and chin silvery-grey, shading off gradually into the black before reaching the eye.

Tail rather long, cuneate; wings, when folded, reaching about half-an-inch beyond the tip.

Legs and bill black.

Length, from tip of bill to end of tail	16.75 inches
Bill, from gape to point	1.6 "
Wing, from carpal joint to tip	13.5 "
Tail	5.0 "
Tarsus	1.6 "

NOTE.—*Dimensions of P. MACROPTERA*, Smith.

Length from tip of bill to end of tail . . .	17·0 inches.
Bill, from gape to point	1·75 ”
Wing, from carpal joint to tip	13·75 ”
Tail	6·0 ”
Tarsus	1·5 ”

ART. X.—*On the introduction of the PHEASANT into the Province of Auckland.*
By Captain F. W. HUTTON, F.G.S.

[Read before the Auckland Institute, June 7, 1869.]

EXACT information, as to the date of the introduction of plants and animals into a country, together with the numbers introduced, and the place where they were first turned out, will be of great value, in future years, to all naturalists studying the difficult subjects of the diffusion and replacement of species; and for this reason I have here placed on record all the information that I have been able to collect with reference to the first introduction of the Pheasant into this province; and I hope that any person who is in possession of more complete information, or who may know, with tolerable accuracy, the date of the first appearance of the bird in any part of the province, will kindly inform me.

In 1851, Mr. Thomas Henderson imported some Chinese Pheasants (*Phasianus torquatus*) direct from China, in the barque “Glencoe.” Two dozen were shipped, but only seven reached Auckland alive, five of which were cocks. These were turned out near Mr. Henderson’s mill at Waitakerei. About the same time, or a little before, some English pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) were liberated at Mongonui by Mr. Walter Brodie.

In 1856, Mr. Thomas Henderson imported some more Chinese Pheasants in the schooner “Gazelle,” of which six only arrived alive. They were also turned out at Waitakerei.

These thirteen birds, most of them cocks, appear to have been the whole of the Chinese Pheasants imported into the province. For several years they were never seen, but gradually became more and more abundant in the neighbourhood of Auckland, and in the year 1865 they were so common as to be shot in considerable quantities. They seem to have made their first appearance in the Waikato in 1864 or 1865.

They are now extremely abundant from Auckland southwards, all through the Waikato and Thames districts, and have been seen near Lake Taupo. North of Auckland they have not spread so rapidly. They are tolerably abundant at Mahurangi, but are scarce further north. They have this year been seen at Whangarei.

The English Pheasants, although they appear to have multiplied freely at Mongonui, have not spread much, as they have not yet reached the Bay of Islands. Chinese Pheasants have been turned out at Tauranga, Tolago Bay, Napier, Raglan, Kawau, and Bay of Islands, within the last three years.

I may also add that, in 1862, Mr. William Hay turned out at Papakura two brace of Californian Quail (*Ortyx Californica*), these are now in thousands, and have spread for many miles. *O. Californica* has also been turned out at Hokianga, Kawau, Auckland, and Waikato.

NOTE by Mr. T. KIRK.—*P. torquatus*, first seen at Owaha in 1866. Not observed north of the Arapoua (Kaipara) in 1868, although a few birds were seen on the Oruawharo, possibly liberated from a cattle station on that river.