

to all accounts accessible to me it has always been observed after its emigration to its winter quarters in the more southern regions to be clothed in its more sober white and ash-coloured winter dress, instead of the rich rufous and black tints our specimen possesses so conspicuously.

Might this not suggest to us that when the usual breeding time of the straggling flock came round, although in the middle of our winter, the season did not prevent the change of colour, together with the pairing in the flock !

At first sight the idea might not appear unreasonable that this bird occurs also in the antarctic zone, hybernating in the more temperate regions of the southern hemisphere, but, in that case, the specimen under review would not have been found in full breeding or summer dress.

Having drawn the attention of ornithologists to this interesting stranger, I have no doubt that, as was the case with *Streptilas interpres* (the Turnstone), more light will be thrown upon its occurrence in this part of the world now that this has been proved beyond a doubt.

ART. XVIII.—*On the Occurrence of the Spinous Shark* (*Echinorhinus spinosus*) *in New Zealand Waters.* By T. JEFFERY PARKER, B.Sc.

[Read before the Otago Institute, 10th July, 1883.]

THIS species is stated by Günther* to be confined to the Mediterranean and Atlantic, extending from the coast of England to the Cape of Good Hope. I believe the present specimen to be the first which has been recorded beyond the usual range. It was caught off Dunedin by fishermen in the employment of the Deep Sea Fishing Company during the present month (July).

The fish, which was quite new to the captors, was cut up for bait, only the mutilated remains being brought to Dunedin. Fortunately the teeth were preserved, and the tail was hardly at all injured, so that there was no difficulty in identifying the species.

Echinorhinus belongs to the family *Spinacidae*. I extract the following generic and specific characters from the "Catalogue of Fishes":—

"Genus **Echinorhinus**.

"Two very small dorsal fins, without spine, the first opposite to the ventrals; no anal fin. Skin with scattered large round tubercles. Mouth crescent-shaped, a labial fold round the angle of the mouth. Nostrils midway between the mouth and the end of the snout. Teeth equal in both

* "Catalogue of Fishes," vol. viii., p. 428.

jaws, very oblique, the points being turned outwards; several strong denticulations on each side of the principal point. No *membrana nictitans*. Spiracles small; gill-openings of moderate width.

“*Echinorhinus spinosus*.

“Spiracles behind the eye, behind the vertical from the angle of the mouth. Teeth $\frac{22-26}{22-26}$. Dorsal fins close together. Each tubercle with a small spine in the centre. Brownish-violet, with or without dark spots.”

ART. XIX.—On a *Torpedo* (*T. fusca*, ? *n. sp.*) recently caught near Dunedin.
By T. JEFFERY PARKER, B. Sc. Lond., Professor of Biology in the University of Otago.

[Read before the Otago Institute, 7th May, 1883.]

Plate XXII.

THE specimen upon which the following description is founded was caught at Purakanui, Otago, towards the end of last year. As far as I know it is only the second example of the genus which has been recorded in New Zealand,* the other having been caught at Napier, in 1868, by Captain Fairchild, and named by Professor Hutton† *Torpedo fairchildi*.

The present specimen agrees in most respects with *T. hebetans*,‡ of which I should be disposed to consider it a variety, but for the fact that it differs from that species in at least one character considered by Günther to be of specific importance. I therefore propose to name it provisionally *T. fusca*.

The species of *Torpedo* are divided by Günther into two groups, containing respectively those with fringed and those with unfringed spiracles. My specimen belongs to the latter subdivision, in which only two species, *T. hebetans*, and *T. narce*; are included in the “Catalogue of Fishes.” A query is, however, placed against *T. emarginata* of McCoy,|| indicating that its position as a synonym of *T. hebetans* is doubtful. Hutton’s *T. fairchildi* has also unfringed spiracles, and it is apparently the only new species of *Torpedo* which has been recorded since the publication of the “Catalogue of Fishes.”

* Since this paper was written, two specimens of *Torpedo* have been caught in Napier Harbour, but the description of them (N.Z. Journ. of Sci., July, 1883) is not sufficiently exact to allow of their identification.

† Hutton and Hector, Catalogue of N.Z. Fishes, 1872.

‡ Günther, Catalogue of Fishes, viii., p. 449.

|| Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1841.