

## PUFFINUS SPHENURUS, *Gould.*

### Wedge-tailed Petrel.

*Puffinus sphenurus*, Gould in Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist., vol. xiii. p. 366.

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This species was procured by Mr. Gilbert on the Houtmann's Abrolhos, off the western coast of Australia; he also observed it on all the neighbouring sandy islands, but on none was it more abundant than on West Wallaby Island, which appears to be one of its chief breeding-places, and where it burrows to a considerable distance before depositing its single egg. As I did not observe this species in any of my voyages near the south-eastern coast of Australia, I conclude that it does not visit the seas washing those shores.

Its single white egg two inches and three-quarters long by one and three-quarters wide.

All the upper surface dark chocolate-brown, which gradually deepens into black on the primaries and tail; feathers of the scapularies, which are very broad in form, washed with lighter brown at their tips; face and throat dark brownish grey, the remainder of the under surface greyish brown; bill reddish fleshy brown, darker on the culmen and tip; legs and feet yellowish flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size, the hinder representing a somewhat immature bird.