

PROCELLARIA GLACIALOIDES, *Smith.*

Silvery-grey Petrel.

Procellaria Glacialoides, Smith, Zool. of South Africa, Aves, pl. 51.—Forst. Drawings, No. 91.—List of Birds in Brit. Mus. Coll., part iii. p. 162.

DURING my voyages to and from Australia I saw numerous examples of this bird, both in the Atlantic and Pacific. I first met with it off the Cape of Good Hope, and it was frequently seen from thence across the South Indian Ocean to New South Wales; I subsequently observed it between Sydney and Cape Horn; it was numerous off the Falkland islands, and I possess specimens killed on the shores of New Zealand. One of the finest specimens I possess was captured by me with a hook and line, and thus afforded Mrs. Gould an opportunity of making the accompanying beautiful drawing from life. It was a species which particularly interested me while at sea, as much for its familiar habits as for its peculiar actions and mode of flight: with the exception of the Cape Petrel (*Daption Capensis*), no species was more readily taken with a baited hook. In its structure it is also most closely allied to that species; like that bird it has very broad primaries, giving an appearance of great breadth to the end of the wing, has the same number of feathers (14) in the tail, and the nostrils placed in a single tube.

Dr. Smith, who was the first to discriminate the characters which distinguish this species, remarks that, "In many respects it has a strong resemblance to the *Procellaria glacialis* of authors; the length of the bill, however, is not only greater, but the thickness is also different, being inferior to that of *P. glacialis*, and neither are ever otherwise in any individual of the Cape species . . . It often hunts for its food in the neighbourhood of the South African coasts, and even frequently enters the bays, apparently for the same purpose. It flies higher above the surface of the water than the smaller species, rests more frequently, and seems well-disposed to feed upon dead animal matter, when such can be procured."

All the upper surface and tail delicate silvery grey; outer webs, shafts, a line along the inner webs, and the tips of the primaries and the outer webs of the secondaries slaty black; face and all the under surface pure silky white; irides brownish black; nostrils, culmen, and a portion of the base of the upper mandible bluish lead-colour; tips of both mandibles fleshy horn-colour, deepening into black at their points; remainder of the bill pinky flesh-colour; legs and feet grey, washed with pink on the tarsi and blotched with slaty black on the joints.

The figures represent the two sexes of the natural size.