

DIOMEDEA CHLORORHYNCHOS, *Lath.*

Yellow-billed Albatros.

Diomedea chlororhynchos, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. ii. p. 790.—Gmel. Edit. Lin. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 568.—Linn. Trans., vol. xii. p. 490.—Temm. Pl. Col. 468.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 609.

Yellow-nosed Albatros, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. v. p. 309. pl. xcix.—Ib. Gen. Hist., vol. x. p. 52. pl. clxix.—Steph. Cont. of Shaw's Gen. Zool., vol. xiii. p. 262.

Diomedea chrysostoma, Forst. Drawings, and Lichtenstein's Edit. of Forster's MSS., p. 24.

Wool-wool, Aborigines of the lowland districts of Western Australia.

THIS species came under my observation for the first time on the 24th of July 1838, in Lat. 30° 38' S. and Long. 20° 43' W. ; from which period until we reached New South Wales scarcely a day passed without the ship being visited by it ; upon some occasions it appeared in considerable numbers, many of which were apparently birds of one year old, or at most two years of age, which may be easily distinguished from the adults, especially while flying, by the darker colouring of their wings, back and tail, and by the culmen of the bill being less distinctly marked with yellow.

I have seen this species fairly dive after its prey ; not merely immerse itself for an instant, but having perceived an object near the surface, plunge down after it, and, after swimming under water for two or three yards, bring it up.

The Yellow-billed Albatros is plentiful off the Cape of Good Hope, and in all the intermediate seas between that point and Van Diemen's Land ; I also observed it off Capes Howe and Northumberland on the southern coast of Australia, and Mr. Gilbert states that he saw it flying about Rottneest Island on the western coast.

In its flight and general economy it greatly resembles the *D. melanophrys*, with which it is often in company.

Spot before and line above the eye washed with grey ; head, neck, all the under surface, rump, upper tail-coverts and under surface of the wing snow-white ; back and wings brownish black ; tail brownish slate-colour, with white shafts ; culmen from near the base to the point bright orange-yellow ; remainder of the bill black ; irides greyish brown ; feet bluish white.

The Plate represents an adult male and female about two-thirds of the natural size.