

NORTHERN PUFFIN.

Mormon glacialis, *Leach*.

Le Macareux glacial.

To a superficial observer the *Mormon glacialis* would appear to present but little difference from the common species, so plentiful during the breeding-season on many of the rocky coasts of our island; but on a comparison of the two species we feel convinced that our readers will coincide in our opinion, of their being specifically distinct. Its larger size and more powerful bill, which is of a uniform rich orange colour, together with the greater length of the fleshy appendages over the eyes, will at once serve to distinguish this species from its near ally the *Mormon fratercula*.

The Northern Puffin, as its name implies, is almost strictly confined to the ice-bound regions of the arctic circle, over the whole of which we have reason to believe it is distributed, numerous specimens having been from time to time brought home from Spitzbergen and Kamtschatka by our navigators on their return from exploring the boreal regions.

It occurs but rarely in the temperate latitudes, hence both the coasts of America and Europe are only occasionally visited by it; the northern shores of Russia, Lapland, &c. being among the only places in our quarter of the globe where it may be looked for with certainty.

The sexes do not appear to differ in the colouring of their plumage, which may be thus described:

Crown of the head and occiput light brownish grey tinged with lilac; collar surrounding the neck, all the upper surface, wings, and tail brownish black tinged with blue; primaries blackish brown very slightly margined with paler brown; sides of the face and all the under surface white; bill bright orange red; corrugated skin at the angle of the mouth gamboge yellow; irides orange red; irides and horny appendages grey; legs and feet orange with the webs paler and the claws yellowish brown.

We have figured an adult of the natural size.