ness they reached me in perfect condition on 21st May, 1917, and are now in my collection. The particulars are as follows:—

Set of six eggs found by Mr. Fredk. L. Berney at Torilla, 80 miles north-west of Rockhampton, Queensland; date, 19th March, 1917. Incubation, $\frac{1}{4}$; Colour, pure white. Surface, slightly glossy. Texture.—Finely pitted, with limy nodules irregularly distributed, being much thicker over the basal and zonal portions. Shape, slightly ovate.

Measurements in millimetres:—(1) $32 \times 44$, (2) $32 \times 43$, (3) $31 \times 44$, (4) $33 \times 43$, (5) $32 \times 42$, (6) $33 \times 44$, averaging $32\frac{1}{4} \times 43\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 4 has the fewest limy nodules, and under the lens shows several scratches in the apical portion. No. 5 is the most spherical. No. 6 is somewhat nest-stained, and has several slight longitudinal creases up to 25 mm. in length.

Mr. Berney states:—"The eggs were laid on such grass as was trodden down by the Owls moving about under a clump of big, coarse grass about 4 feet high, situated on half an acre of dry land surrounded by swamp and marsh. Under this grass the Owls had trodden between the tussocks of grass a labyrinth of winding passages or runs, at the end of one of which were placed the six eggs. There is no doubt about the identification. The two old birds were at the nest when it was found."

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**Procellariiformes in Western Australia.**

BY W. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., R.A.O.U.

On 13th May, 1916, four days after a strong westerly storm, I found on the beach at Cottesloe a specimen of the Fleshy-footed Petrel (*Hemipusillus c. carnifex*, Gld.) This bird had previously only been recorded from the south coast of Western Australia, between the Recherche Archipelago and Cape Leeuwin, so that the present record extends the range of the species some 200 miles northwards on the west coast. The specimen was too far gone for preservation, but the skull is now in the Western Australian Museum.

On a voyage from Fremantle to Melbourne in July, 1916, I made the following observations on birds of this group:—On the 15th we were off Cape Leeuwin, coming eastward, at about 8 a.m.; by 10 o'clock we were already being followed by about 30 individuals of *Thalassarche melanophrys*, amongst which were a few *Neolepturus chlororhynchus*. At 11 the former were even more numerous, while the latter had completely disappeared. At 12.30 the first *Diomedea exulans* made its appearance, together with a pair of *Pachyptila fusca*. At 3.45 p.m. a single *Neolepturus chlororhynchus* was observed, and this was the last seen on the voyage. All the way across the Bight *Thalassarche melanophrys* was the predominant species. Usually one or two *Diomedea exulans* were in sight, and in the western part of the Bight
Phoebetria fusca was seen at intervals. On 16th July Daption capense made its appearance, but by this time we were too far from the Western Australian coast to be able to count this as a Western Australian record. On the following day I saw a pair of black Petrels, which I think must have been Procellaria parkinsoni; but, though I watched them for a long time, they did not come very near the ship, and it is possible that they may have been P. conspicillata, and that the distance was too great for me to distinguish the white markings on the head.

The foregoing observations would hardly be worth recording except that they coincide so closely with Dr. Ferguson's notes in The Emu (vol. xv., p. 261), founded on observations made by him in January and August. They thus serve to strengthen the view maintained by Mr. G. M. Mathews that the birds of this order are not great wanderers, as has been generally supposed, but that most of the species, at any rate, occur in definite areas quite as sharply defined as those occupied by land-birds.

This is most strikingly exemplified by the Yellow-nosed Albatross (Nealbatrus chlororhynchus), which is evidently the common form on the west coast from the Leeuwin to north of Perth, a single straggler (the type of Diomedea carteri) having been obtained as far north as Point Coates. Eastward of the Leeuwin, on the south coast, its numbers decrease very rapidly, and it has not yet been noted as far east as Albany. On this part of the coast it is replaced by the Black-browed Albatross (Thalassarche melanophrys), which extends from the Leeuwin eastwards along the coast and right across the Bight.

The Mutton-Birds appear to furnish a similar instance, as the Wedge-tailed Petrel (Thyellodroma pacifica) ranges from North-West Australia down to the islands off Fremantle, whilst the Fleshy-footed Petrel (Hemipuffinus carneipes) is found along the south coast as noted above, and my record at the beginning of this paper shows that it straggles far enough north to overlap the range of the other species.

If other travellers will record their observations in The Emu we may be able to map out the distribution of some of the other species.*

* Since writing the foregoing I have crossed the Bight between Adelaide and Fremantle twice more—at the beginning of April and in the middle of May, 1917. On both occasions Diomedea exulans was observed right across the Bight, but at the latter date it was much more numerous, and was seen also off the south coast of Western Australia. On the former trip Thalassarche melanophrys was seen off the coast of South Australia and the south coast of Western Australia, but not on the voyage across the Bight; on the latter it was very plentiful right across the Bight. On the earlier voyage Thalassogeron chlororhynchus was seen between Albany and Cape Leeuwin; on the later one only one bird was seen, close to Port Adelaide. Phoebetria fusca was seen across the Bight on both voyages, but was much more plentiful on the later one, whilst on the latter Phoebetria palpebrata was also met with, one being seen in the western part of the Bight and several in the eastern part. No Cape Pigeons (Daption capense) were seen in April, but one was observed in the western part of the Bight on 19th May.—W. B. A.
of the Procellariiformes which had been recorded in various works as occurring in Western Australia, and stated that I thought a number of them must have been placed on the list hypothetically, and not because of any actual specimen or definite record being forthcoming. I there gave a list of the species of which there were actual specimens in the Western Australian Museum, and admitted also Daption capense and Diomedea exulans, though stating that I considered these required confirmation. That confirmation has now been obtained by the observations of Dr. Ferguson and myself, and we have both also recorded two species which I then rejected—Thalassarche melanophrys and Phoebetria fusca. Since I wrote that article I have discovered that in Grey's "Travels in North-West and Western Australia," published in 1847, there is an appendix containing a list of Western Australian birds, prefaced by the statement that "the following is an enumeration of the species which have come under the notice of Mr. Gould as inhabiting the Western coast." Among the "Natatores" are seven species of Procellariiformes—viz., Diomedea exulans, D. melanophrys, D. chlororhynchos, D. fuliginosa, Procellaria gigantea, Puffinus brevicaudus, and P. chlororhynchos. The only name in this list which calls for comment is Puffinus brevicaudus, which was at that time a nomen nudum, as no species was described under this name until 1847, when the bird was figured and described in Gould's "Birds of Australia." Gould refers to his own mention of the name in the Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. xiii., p. 365, 1844. On the same page as this second reference to P. brevicaudus there is a description of P. carneipes, a new species from "the small islands of Cape Leeuwin." I think, therefore, that in 1841 Gould was under the impression that the Western Australian bird was the same as that from Bass Strait, and that the reference to P. brevicaudus in the list should be taken as referring to P. carneipes.

In 1847, in his preface to "The Birds of Australia," Gould gave a list of all the species, with crosses showing in which States they were found, and in this list no less than 23 species of Procellariiformes are marked as occurring in Western Australia. As Gould had not visited Australia in the interval, I think we must assume that most of the 16 species which he then added to the list of birds he had given six years previously were added for the reasons I have already suggested, and not because he had received specimens from Western Australia. The subsequent authors to whose lists I referred in my previous article evidently followed Gould's lead.

A PAIR of White-naped Honey-eaters (Melithreptus lunulatus) have built a nest near the top of a eucalyptus tree in the flight aviary in the Melbourne Zoo. The nest is about 30 feet from the ground. The hen bird is now sitting on her eggs.—W. H. D. LE SOUÈF. Melbourne.