The Grey-headed Albatross (Diomedea chrysostoma).

A third record for Western Australia.

In Volume XX, 1921, of The Rula, Mr. W. H. Alexander, when writing of "The Tabinoros (Peters and Albatrosses) in the Gould Collection at Philadelphia," and after noting that there are two specimens of this bird in the collection, a male and female, both labelled "Australian Sea," the female being the actual type specimen, notes: "These two specimens of Diomedea cuthberti [=chrysostoma] are labelled "Australian Sea." It is evident that Gould used this term rather loosely, and probably any bird obtained between the Cape of Good Hope and the coast of South America might have been so labelled. But in the case of this species Gould specially remarks that he found it commoner in Australian seas than anywhere else. He met with "numbers during a voyage from Launceston to Adelaide, particularly off Cape Jervis and Northumberland land," and again observed them between Sydney and New Zealand (Gould, Handbook, Vol. II, p. 436). In view of these statements we see, I think, justified in assuming that the two specimens in his collection, one of which is the type of Diomedea cuthberti [=chrysostoma], were obtained in Australian waters.
Mathews's latest pronouncement on the subject is difficult to reconcile with the foregoing facts. He writes (Mathews, *Birds of Australia*, Supplement, I, p. 191):—

"This is another bird that Gould said he saw in Australian waters; but no specimens are in his collection. Perhaps he made a mistake in his locality of no. 1 designate as type-locality of *Dioneda culminata* Gould, 1848, the Cape Sessa. If this be correct, Gould’s name becomes a synonym of Forster’s bird. There are only two authentic records, both from West Australia."

Mr. Alexander adds: "As there are, in his opinion, only these two authentic records, Mathews consigns the bird to the appendix; and does not give it a place in his latest Australian list. The two records referred to by Mr. Mathews were (a) a specimen captured alive near Cottesloe in June, 1917, *vide The Emu*, XIX, p. 29, where, however, the place of capture was incorrectly given as Fremantle,* and (b) another specimen obtained on the beach at Cottesloe by Mr. L. Glauert on June 21, 1920.

In connection with this second specimen, Mr. Alexander, writing in *The Emu*, Vol. XXI, p. 298, on "Observations and Records of Australian Sea-birds, 1920-1," said: "It agrees with the bird previously caught there in having a much darker grey head than typical birds though this may be a sign of immaturity. In the Queensland Museum there is a specimen labelled S.E. Queensland which has a white forehead and pale greyish-white colouring on the crown and cheeks. The rest of the head is pale grey, slightly darker in front of the eye. It is unfortunate that no definite particulars of its origins are available." Mathews, however, includes the bird, to which, in *The Austral Avian Record*, III, pt. 2, 1916, he had given sub-specific rank as *Thalasarche chrysotoma alexanderi*, in his and bredal's *Manuel of the Birds of Australia*, Vol. I, 19. In that work the nest, egg and breeding season are stated to be unknown, but I have a note that in Peters's *Checklist of the Birds of the World* it is stated that it breeds on South Georgia, Kerguelen, Marion Is., the Crozets, Campbell Is., and Diego Ramirez Islands, Cape Horn.

On July 8, 1934, Mr. S. R. White, R.A.U., sent me the head and neck of a beautiful specimen which had been washed up on the beach at Busselton, South-west Australia, after a storm. The black patch in front of the eye was very distinct and the remainder of the whole head and neck was a beautiful grey. The bill was entirely worm colour, except that the base and lower edges of the mandible showed a reddish tinge. It is to be regretted that the body was too badly eaten to admit of preservation, but Mr. White noted that "the under parts of the wings were black and grey."—H. M. Whittell, Bridgetown, W.A., 30/8/34.