

inhabitants sometimes go to the top, and they represent the mountain as a cone of ashes, with a lake on the summit. The upper terrace is covered with long, coarse grass, with a tangled brush of *Phytica* in the shelter of the ravines.

Two species of albatross breed on the higher parts of the island, *Diomedea exulans* and *D. chlororhynchus*, the former even beyond the summer limit of the snow. A few years ago there were large flocks of goats on the upper terraces, but latterly, from some unknown cause, they have entirely disappeared, and not even the remains of one of them can be found. With the exception of the goat and the pig, and the rat and the mouse, which are known to have been recently introduced, there are no land quadrupeds at large on the island; and the land birds, so far as we know, are confined to three species—a thrush, *Nesocichla eremita*; a bunting referred by Captain Carmichael to *Emberiza Brasiliensis*; and a singular bird called by the settlers the “island hen,” which was at one time very common, but which is now almost extinct. This is a water-hen, *Gallinula nesiotis* (Sclater, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1861), very nearly allied to our common English moor-hen (*Gallinula chloropus*), which it resembles closely in general appearance and coloring, with, however, several satisfactory specific differences. The wings of the Tristan species are much shorter, and the primary feathers, and indeed all the feathers of the wing, are so short and soft as to be useless for the purposes of flight. The breast-bone is short and weak, and the crest low, while, on the other hand, the pelvis and the bones of the lower extremity are large and powerful, and the muscles attached to them strong and full. The island hen runs with great rapidity; it is an inquisitive creature, and comes out of its cover in the long grass when it hears a noise. It is excellent eating, a good quality which has led to its extermination. Mr. Moseley collected between twenty and thirty plants on Tristan, perhaps the most interesting a geranium (*Pelargonium australe*, Var.), a species which ex-