

The holes of the larger petrel are like rabbit-burrows, and those of the other two birds are smaller. They have the entrances usually more or less concealed, and it is odd to hear the chirping of the birds, old and young, muffled by the layer of soil above them, all among one's feet. According to the Stoltenhoffs, the petrels come to the land in large numbers in the beginning of September, having previously been at sea, fishing, when they pair and prepare the burrows for their nests. They disappear for a time in the beginning of October, and return early in November, when the female at once lays a single long-shaped white egg, about the size of a duck's, in the burrow. The young are hatched in the beginning of December. The full-grown bird has a rank taste, which is even communicated to the egg, but the young are good eating. The smaller petrel, a bluish-gray bird, is not much larger than *Thalassidroma Wilsoni*; it breeds in company with the *Prion*, in old holes of the larger petrel or in smaller special burrows. The smaller petrel and the *Prion* fly chiefly at night or very early morning, and are called, at Tristan, "night-birds." The egg of the *Prion* is white, and about the size of a house-pigeon's.

After passing the wood the ground becomes more level, and here the Stoltenhoffs had made a clearing for a potato plot and a vegetable garden. It was a bad season for vegetables, but our blue-jackets carried off a boat-load of cabbages and radishes before the establishment was broken up. They likewise rifled a little hut in the garden, where a large supply of fresh penguins' eggs was stored. Many thrushes and finches were perching on the low trees about, and they were so tame that we had no difficulty in knocking down several with our sticks, to get uninjured specimens for stuffing. Both birds are constantly on the island. The thrush builds in the tussock-grass, a couple of feet from the ground, in the beginning of October, and lays usually two eggs—brown spots on a pale greenish ground, very like those of the common blackbird; the finch builds in the