

the wandering albatross, *Diomedea exulans*; the mollymawk, which appears to be here *D. chlororhyncha*, though the name is given by the sealers to different species—certainly farther south to *D. melanophrys*; and the piew, *D. fuliginosa*. About two hundred couples of the wandering albatross visit the island. They arrive and alight singly on the upper plateau early in December, and build a circular nest of grass and clay, about a foot high and two feet or so in diameter, in an open space free from tussock-grass, where the bird has room to expand his wonderful wings and rise into the air. The female lays one egg in the middle of January, about the size of a swan's, white with a band of small brick-red spots round the wider end. The great albatross leaves the island in the month of July.

The mollymawk is a smaller bird, and builds a higher and narrower nest, also usually in the open, but sometimes among the brush and tussocks, in which case it has to make for an open space before it can rise in flight. It breeds a little earlier than the wandering albatross, and its eggs were just in season when we were at Tristan. *Diomedea fuliginosa* builds a low nest on the ledges of the cliffs.

The other common sea-birds on Inaccessible are the sea-hen, here probably *Procellaria gigantea*, which is always on the island, and lays two eggs in October on the ground; and a beautiful delicately colored tern, *Sterna cassini*, white and pale gray, with a black head and red coral feet and beak, which breeds in holes in the most inaccessible parts of the cliffs.

Inaccessible, like Tristan, has its island hen, and it is one of my few regrets that we found it impossible to get a specimen of it. It is probably a *Gallinula*, but it is certainly a different species from the Tristan bird. It is only about a fourth the size, and it seems to be markedly different in appearance. The Stoltenhoffs were very familiar with it, and described it as being exactly like a black chicken two days old, the legs and beak black, the beak long and slender, the head small, the wings