causes great havoc among the young turtles as they are escaping from their nests and going down the beach to the sea; two species of *Sula*, at least two petrels, and the pretty tropic-bird (*Phaëton æthereus*), which here, as apparently all through the Atlantic, has the tail-feathers pure white. Several of these birds breed upon an outlying islet, called Boatswain-bird Island.

Between Christmas and midsummer, Ascension is constantly visited, for the purpose of breeding, by the common green turtle (*Chelone midas*). During that time each female is supposed to make three or four nests. The beaches in some of the bays, particularly on the west side of the island, are composed of a rough, calcareous sand, made up entirely of small, smooth, rounded pieces of shell. The female turtle scrambles about 100 yards or so above high-water mark, where she digs a pit, eight or ten feet across by a foot or two deep, and buries in it fifty or sixty eggs, which she carefully covers over with sand. She then returns to the water till another batch of eggs is mature, when she repeats the process in another place. The young come out of the eggs in about a couple of months, and, scrambling through the sand, make their way at once to the water. The females are taken by the usual operation of turning, as they are going back to the sea, and are placed in ponds into which the tide flows below the fort at George Town. There are always a large number of the strange-looking creatures in the ponds, whence they are regularly supplied to passing men-of-war. No small turtles are ever seen. The weight of a good-sized turtle is from four to five hundred-weight. I do not think they are by any means so delicate for table use as the much smaller ones in the West Indies.

Fish are abundant round the island, and of many kinds—mullet, rock-cod, cavallas, and others. They are apparently good, for tropical fish, but of little account to those accustomed to the northern turbot and haddock. The wild quadrupeds and decapods, which may here be classed together, as their