

Tristan people had tried to introduce the bird into their island without success. The only other land bird of the group, a kind of Water Hen (*Gallinula nesiotis*), which is found also on the higher plateau at Tristan Island, and is described by the inhabitants as scarcely able to fly, was not met with. Only very few inhabit the low land under the cliffs at Inaccessible Island, and the exploring parties were unable to land at the only place from which the higher main plateau of the island is to be reached. The Germans said that the Inaccessible Island bird is much smaller than *Gallinula nesiotis*, and differs from it in having finer legs and a longer beak. This is, however, hardly probable, since the Tristan species occurs at Gough Island.

Sitting on the tree tops with the Thrushes were numerous Noddies, of the same two species as those of St. Paul's Rocks. It was strange to see birds which one had met with on the equator living in common with Boobies, here mingling with antarctic forms. The Noddy, however, ranges far north also, occasionally even to Ireland. The whole of the peaty ground underneath the trees in the *Phyllica* woods is bored in all directions with the holes of smaller sea birds, called by the Germans "night birds," a *Prion* and a *Puffinus*. These burrows are about the size of large rats' holes, and they traverse the ground everywhere, twisting and turning, and undermining the surface so that it gives way at almost every step.

The rocks of Inaccessible Island are felspathic basalt (some specimens of this basalt have porphyritic augite), dolerite, augite-andesite, sideromelan, and palagonite.

*Nightingale Island*, the smallest and southernmost island of the group, consists of one large and two small islets, with several rocks immediately adjacent to the coast, and, unlike Tristan and Inaccessible Islands, rises in low cliffs, from the top of which the land slopes upwards, terminating in two peaks, one of which (1100 feet high) is rugged and steep, whilst the other (960 feet high) slopes gently towards the coast all round, except immediately to the southward, where its descent is precipitous. Nightingale Island is one mile long east and west, and three quarters of a mile wide; the other two islets lie to the northward of Nightingale, and are each a third of a mile in length and a sixth in breadth; they were named by the Challenger, "Stoltenkoff" and "Middle" Islands; Stoltenkoff, the farthest from Nightingale, being 325 feet high, with a flat top, and Middle Island 150 feet high, with an undulating top.

Nightingale Island was first landed on by M. d'Etchevery in 1767, who anchored his vessel "l'Etoile du Matin" off it in 33 fathoms, with the centre of the island W.S.W. He described Stoltenkoff Island as having the appearance of a ruined fort, a description which holds good to the present day. Nightingale Island has, so far as is known, never been inhabited, although it has been visited frequently for the purpose of shooting Seals, numbers of which used to frequent the caves hollowed out in its low cliffs; but the reckless manner in which the Seals were slaughtered caused them to desert this breeding place,