

are sharp, curved, and compressed. Short colic cæca are present.¹ There is no *expansor secundariorum* muscle. The termination of the tendon of the *tensor patagii brevis* is never quite simple, and may become very complicated. There is no accessory head to the *semi-tendinosus*. The *ambiens* muscle (only absent in *Pelecanoïdes*) always crosses the knee. The number of cervico-dorsal vertebræ is not less than twenty-two. The clavicles have only a very small symphysial process. The leg is shorter than the wing. The tarsus is not larger than the mid-toe (except in *Procellaria*), and is shorter than the ulna. It is never twice as long as the femur. The tibia is only a little, or not at all, longer than the humerus or manus. The basal phalanx of the middle toe is shorter than the two next joints. Basipterygoid facets may or may not be present, and the same is true of the uncinatæ bone. The humerus, radius, and ulna have a shape different from that of the Oceanitidæ. The form of the nostrils, and of the posterior margin of the sternum, varies extensively. The *gluteus primus* is always very small, and there is a peculiarly formed patagial slip derived from the *biceps* muscle.

“Thus in spite of the general superficial resemblance of the Oceanitidæ to the smaller forms of Procellariidæ, with which all ornithologists previous to Garrod had confounded them, the differences between the two families are, it will be seen, numerous and important. The special points of resemblance which the Oceanitidæ have with such Procellarian genera as *Procellaria* and *Cymochorea*—such as the general small size, style of coloration, form of skull, comparative simplicity of the *tensor patagii* arrangement, simple sternum and syrinx (the last three peculiarities being also common to *Pelecanoïdes*)—may best be explained by supposing that these small Procellarian forms are on the whole less specialised than the larger ones (Fulmars, Albatrosses, Shearwaters, &c.), and so retain more of the characters possessed by the primitive and now extinct common form from which both the Procellariidæ and Oceanitidæ must have been derived.”

The Oceanitidæ are a small and on the whole compact group, with but few differences of importance between the four genera contained in it. These genera are *Garrodia*, *Oceanites*, *Pelagodroma*, and *Fregetta*.

“The Procellariidæ, comprising as they do by far the greater number of species and genera of the group, show much more divergence *inter se* than is the case with the Oceanitidæ.”

They are divided into two groups, of which the Diomedicæ or Albatrosses, containing the three genera, *Diomedea*, *Thalassiarche*, and *Phæbetria*, are the more aberrant, and present the following peculiarities:—

¹ *Halocyptena* is apparently an exception to this rule, but as *Cymochorea* has only one cæcum, there is nothing surprising in the reduction being carried a step further. As therefore all the congeners of *Halocyptena* have cæca, it may be safely assumed that their disappearance in it has been very recent, and has occurred since it acquired the rest of its Procellarian characters. This loss of cæca therefore by it does not in any way really approximate it to the Oceanitidæ.