

The family of *Gallinulidæ* is remarkably widely spread, and one of these birds is in several instances the inhabitant of some isolated island group; several occur thus in the Pacific. This is curious, since one would at first perhaps think these birds bad flyers, but they are not, and are not uncommonly met with on the wing at sea far from land, just as we met with Water-rails between Bermuda and Halifax.

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, even occasionally 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*.

The burrows that these birds make are of about the size of large rats' holes. They traverse the ground everywhere, twisting and turning, and undermining the ground, so that it gives way at almost every step. A further account of these birds and their habits will be found in the account of Kerguelen's Land, in which island they abound.

I went along the beach, and through a second wood towards the waterfall, where was the hut of the Germans, and their potato ground. A flock of thirty or forty predatory gulls (*Stercorarius Antarcticus*), were quarrelling and fighting over the bodies of penguins, the skins of which had been taken in considerable numbers by our various parties on shore. The Skua is a gull which has acquired a sharp curved beak, and sharp claws at the tips of its webbed toes. The birds are thoroughly predaceous in their habits, quartering their ground on the look-out for carrion, and assembling in numbers where there is anything killed, in the same curious way as vultures.

They steal eggs and young birds from the penguins when they get a chance, but their principal food here appears to be the night birds, especially the *Prions*, which they drag from their holes, or pounce on as they come out of them. The place was strewed with the skeletons of *Prions*, with the meat torn off them by these gulls, which leave behind the bones and feathers.

The Antarctic Skua is very similar in appearance to the large northern Skua, of which a figure is given opposite in default of better. The two species were at first considered by naturalists to be identical; they differ, however, especially in the structure of the bill. The Skua is of a dark brown colour, not unlike