

Philippines. These birds were tame, and were knocked down with sticks and caught by the hand. They had full-fledged young running about.

A Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*), a widely spread species, the well-known "Wideawake" of Ascension Island, was exceedingly abundant. The stretches of flat ground above the shore line covered with grass were absolutely full of the brown fledged young of this bird. Eggs were already very scarce. A Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), the same bird as that at St. Paul's Rocks and Inaccessible Island, so far off in the Atlantic, makes here a rude nest of twigs and grass amongst the low bushes, but often nests also on the ground. There were plenty of eggs of this bird, as it was not so advanced in breeding as the tern.

Two species of Gannets, *Sula leucogaster* and *Sula cyanops*, were nesting on the ground, and especially on a plot of ground quite flat and bare of vegetation; probably the site of the dwellings of the men employed in 1844 in putting up the beacon on Raine Island. *Sula leucogaster*, the Booby of St. Paul's Rocks, makes a slight nest of green twigs and grass on the ground. *Sula cyanops* makes a circular hole in the earth, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. This species is nearly white, with the naked parts about the head of a dull blue, and with a bright yellow iris, which gives the bird a ferocious look as it ruffles its feathers and croaks at an intruder. It would almost seem that the colour of the eye has arisen through natural selection, the savage appearance which it gives to the bird being probably a safeguard against attack. A third smaller species of Gannet (*Sula piscatrix*) has red feet, which distinguish it at once from the other two. I saw one or two of its nests made in the bushes, like those of the noddies, raised six inches from the ground.

There remain to be mentioned the "Frigate Birds" (*Tachypetes minor*). Their nests were nearly all confined to a small area near the cleared patch already referred to. They are like those of *Sula piscatrix*, raised on the bushes, and are compact platform-like masses of twigs and grass matted together with dung, about eight inches in diameter. There were no eggs of the birds in the nests, but mostly far advanced young, which were covered with frills of a rusty coloured down. The old birds soared overhead, and could only be obtained by being shot; whereas the gannets were easily knocked over on the nests with sticks. It is curious to see the Frigate Birds, the nesting-place of which is usually on high cliffs, as at Fernando Noronha, here, through the entire security of the locality, nesting on the ground. The main body of the Frigate birds remained during our stay soaring high up in the air, with