

14. *Æstrelata brevirostris*, Less.

Procellaria brevirostris, Less., Man. d'Orn., vol. ii. p. 611.

Æstrelata brevirostris, Salv., Orn. Misc., vol. ii. p. 235; Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, p. 738; Sharpe, Zool. Kerg., Birds, p. 24.

Æstrelata kidderi, Coues, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 2, p. 28.

[*α*. Young. Kerguelen.]

The species included in Cabanis and Reichenow's paper on the Birds collected by the "Gazelle" (J. f. Orn., 1876, p. 329), under the name *Procellaria mollis*, belongs here. Last year I examined in Berlin the specimen brought home by the "Gazelle," and found it to be of this species.

The Challenger specimen is quite young, but interesting, as showing that these birds moult at once from the downy plumage into the feathering of the adult bird.

15. *Prion desolatus*, Gm.

Procellaria desolata, Gm., Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 562.

Prion desolatus, Gray, H. list., vol. iii. p. 108; Sharpe, Zool. Kerg., Birds, p. 37 (excl. syn.); Salv., Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, p. 738.

Pseudoprion desolatus, Coues, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 2, p. 32.

[*α*. Male. Betsy Cove, Kerguelen.

Obtained January 11, 1874. Eyes black.

b-e. Males. Betsy Cove, Kerguelen. Eyes black.

f. Female. Ice Barrier.

Obtained on February 14, 1874.

g, h. Females. Betsy Cove, Kerguelen.

We found nests of this species under almost every tuft of *Azorella* at Kerguelen. They contained one egg.]

Of the eight specimens of this species brought home by the Expedition, five are males and three females. They thus offer an opportunity of testing the view advanced by Mr Sharpe as to the supposed sexual difference in the size of the bill existing in these birds.¹

In these specimens there is no tangible difference between the bills of the sexes; and as the opposite sexes of *Prion banksi*, as shown by the two Challenger specimens, are also alike as regards the size of the bills, doubts may fairly be raised whether the great difference observable in the size of the bills in these birds is a sexual character at all.

¹ Latham seems to have been the first author who mentioned this supposed sexual difference in *Prion*. After describing *Prion vittatus* (Syn., vol. iii. p. 414), he adds:—"The female has the same plumage; but the bill, though greatly exceeding that of any other Petrel, is scarcely more than half the breadth of that of the male."