

seemed that an excellent opportunity would be afforded for obtaining material to fill up the blank that thus existed in our knowledge of the Petrels. At the suggestion of my lamented predecessor Prof. A. H. Garrod, at that time Prosector to the Zoological Society, the naturalist staff was requested to pay special attention to forming a collection of these oceanic birds in spirit, so as to be available for anatomical examination. The result was a very considerable collection indeed of the birds in question, all excellently preserved, and including nearly all the most important and interesting of the known genera. These were handed over, when the collections were being broken up for working out, to Professor Garrod for examination. Unfortunately he had hardly commenced to work seriously on them before he was struck down by the lingering illness which eventually proved fatal to him. During that time, whenever well enough to do so, he continued to work away at his favourite subject, and many of his drawings made then, chiefly relating to the conformation of the syrinx in these birds, are now before me. An unfinished MS. paper of his written about that time, treating on the anatomy of the Diving Petrel (*Pelecanoïdes*)—a form the Procellarian affinities of which were then doubtful—was sufficiently complete and important to justify, in the writer's opinion, its publication in the reprint of Professor Garrod's papers which has since been edited by him.

Succeeding to Professor Garrod's position at the Zoological Gardens early in 1880, I applied immediately to the late Professor Sir Wyville Thomson to be allowed to retain so much of the material collected by the Challenger as was likely to prove of service to me in my researches on the anatomy of birds, and I especially asked to be allowed to retain the collection of Petrels, with the object of drawing up a report thereon for the present series of papers. I must take this opportunity to record my best thanks to Sir Wyville Thomson for the very ready way in which he acceded to both my requests. Having commenced work on the specimens of Petrels collected by the Challenger it seemed desirable to make my report on the structure of that group as perfect and complete as possible, and during the past two years I have therefore taken every opportunity of acquiring specimens of them fit for dissection. By these means I have been enabled to examine several species and genera of these birds not represented in the Challenger collection, though that collection has formed the groundwork of my investigations.

I herewith give a complete list of those species that I have been enabled to examine in the flesh. All not otherwise indicated were collected by H.M.S. Challenger. And I must take this opportunity to thank my friend Mr. Osbert Salvin, F.R.S., who reported on the collection of Tubinares made in skins during the voyage,¹ for his kind assistance in naming the spirit-specimens under my charge, as well as for much subsequent assistance in points of nomenclature, and for valuable material that would not have otherwise been available.

¹ Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger, vol. ii. part viii. pp. 140-149 (Report on the Birds—XI. On the Procellariidæ collected during the Expedition). Also Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, pp. 735-740.