

that we are indebted for nearly our whole existing knowledge of the important subject of the pterylosis of birds. In his classical, though posthumous, *Pterylographie* the *Nasutæ* seu *Tubinares* form the second group of his order *Natatores*, and the pterylosis of the group is described at some length. Further details of Nitzsch's observations are recorded below (*infra*, p. 14) in the space devoted to the consideration of the pterylographical characters of these birds. So far as I am aware nothing else was contributed by Nitzsch to our knowledge of this group.

In the same year as that in which the *Pterylographie* appeared, Rudolph Wagner, a disciple of Nitzsch's, contributed to the tenth volume of Naumann's *Vögel Deutschlands*¹ some remarks on the anatomical structure of three genera of *Tubinares* included in that work, namely, *Procellaria*, *Fulmarus*, and *Puffinus*. These consisted of short notes on the skeleton and the thoracic and abdominal viscera, and, as far as they go, are accurate enough. The general similarity in structure of the members of this group examined, as well as of *Diomedea*, is noted, as well as many points of resemblance to the *Laridæ*, and particularly *Lestris*.

In the year 1844 MM. Hombron and Jacquinot communicated to the Academy of Sciences in Paris a paper entitled "Remarques sur quelques points de l'anatomie et de la physiologie des Procellariidées, et essai d'une nouvelle classification de ces oiseaux." An abstract, by the authors, is published in the *Comptes Rendus* for that year.² The material for their paper was obtained, I may remark, during the expedition of the French ships "Astrolabe" and "Zélée," commonly known as the *Voyage au Pôle Sud*. Basing their classification on the form and structure of the beak, palate, and tongue, they divide up the group as follows:—

1. Borders of mandibles excavated by a longitudinal furrow dividing them into inner and outer cutting surfaces. Tongue small, one-third the length of beak, sagittate, posteriorly and laterally denticulate.

Three genera—*Diomedea*; *Puffinus*, subdivided into *Puffinus* proper (*anglorum*, *obscurus*, *fuliginosus*?, &c.) and *Priofinus* (*cinereus*, *æquinoctialis*, *arcticus*?); and *Thalassidroma* (*pelagica*, *leachii* [= *leucorrhœa*], *oceanica*, *fregetta* [= *grallaria*], *marina*).

2. Edges of upper mandible with transverse lamellæ. Tongue as long as the beak, large and thick, only free at the apex.

One genus, *Prion*, divided into five sub-genera—*Prion s.s.*, *Daption*, *Fulmarus*, *Ossi-fraga*, and *Priocella* (for *Priocella garnoti* = *Thalassæca glacialis* of this paper).

3. Mandibles simple, with no double cutting-edges or transverse lamellæ, but with two slight, elongated "teeth"; palate smooth or nearly so; tongue of intermediate length.

One genus, *Procellaria*, separated into two groups, one with the beak quite short (*nivea*, *desolata*, *brevirostris*), the other with it long (*antarctica*, *lessoni*, *hæsitata*, Forst. [= *Adamastor cinereus*]).

¹ *Loc. cit.*, pp. 555–556, 587–588, 614–617.

² *Loc. cit.*, tom. xviii. pp. 353–358.