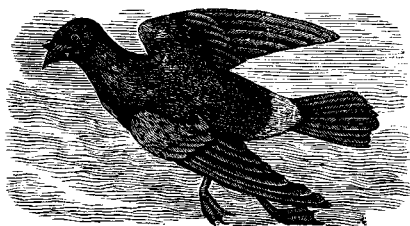


## THE STORMY PETREL.

*Procellaria Pelagica.*

BY W. RAINE, TORONTO, CANADA.

This interesting little bird, though rare in North America, is plentiful on the British side of the Atlantic Ocean. It is supposed to be the smallest web-footed bird known, and seldom comes to shore ex-



STORMY PETREL.

cept during the breeding season, when they resort to such places as the Scilly Islands, in the English Channel, and the islands of the Irish Sea; but their chief nesting places are in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, and St. Kilda and the outer Hebrides.

This bird is well known to sailors by the name of Mother Carey's Chicken, and hated by them because it foretells an approaching storm.

They are mostly seen in stormy weather, because the marine creatures, on which they feed, are tossed to the surface of the chopping waves, and can be easily picked up by the bird as it passes over the waves, pattering the water with its webbed feet, and flapping its wings so as to keep itself just above the surface.

The name Petrel is given to these birds on account of its powers of walking on the water, as is related of St. Peter. This bird seems very happy during rough weather, and many a ship-wrecked sailor, while clinging half locausted to some floating wreckage, has envied this little bird of its powers of flight, as it traverses the rolling, seething billows with wonderful ease.

It feeds on the little fish, crustaceans and molluscs which are found in abundance on the surface of the sea. They always follow the boats crossing the Atlantic, and will keep pace with a ship for days, picking up the refuse food thrown overboard.

In the Scilly Islands, the birds lay their eggs in burrows in the ground, in company with Manx Shearwaters, but in the Orkney and

Shetland Islands they make burrows in a cliff like Sand Martins when a great number meet together in the same cliff. Like the Manx Shearwater, they make a noise in their nest holes which can be distinctly heard by the passengers walking on the cliff-top.

This bird as well as the Fulmar Petrel possesses a singular amount of oil, and both species have the power of throwing it from the mouth when frightened. In St. Kilda the natives catch both Fulmar and Stormy Petrels as they sit closely on their eggs and make them disgorge the oil into a can brought for the purpose, they then let the bird go and catch another, and in this manner gallons of pure oil are collected every season.

The Stormy Petrel only lays one egg, sometimes at the end of a burrow, from one to three feet deep, and other times the egg is laid under stones on the sea beach above high water mark.

A series of thirty eggs before me average in size 1.10 long by .76 broad. They are usually white, with a faint zone of reddish-brown around the larger end of the egg.

The ground color of this bird is sooty black, and the outer edges of the tertials and the upper tail coverts are white. Its length is scarcely six inches.

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## MY HUNT FOR THE BLACK-POLL WARBLER.

*Dendroica Striata.*

BY F. H. CARPENTER, ATTLEBOROUGH, MASS.

The northern journey of the feathered migrants in southern New England is nearly completed, and nesting among those that remain with us has already begun, when the trained ear of the observer will detect faint notes amongst the now dense foliage, that betokens a new arrival.

To the novice, the curious wheezy notes may be mistaken for some tiny quadruped, but if he searches closely he will discover a plump little warbler in a plain suit of grey and black as the author, and the broad, black patch on the crown and head will serve for sufficient identification of the species.