

This bird inhabits New Zealand, as well as several of the Friendly Islands, and we believe New-Holland; is apt to vary in the colour of the extremities, as well as size, in different places: those from Kerguelen's Land have brown legs, and black toes; in some the legs are white, or pale blue; and in one from Staaten Land, the legs were black, and the bill in some specimens pale brown.

These birds haunt the sea shores in flocks, and feed on shell-fish and carrion;\* as to the use of them for food there are various opinions; some put the flesh in competition with that of a Duck, while others tell us, that it is worse than carrion, and has such an offensive smell, that they could not venture to taste of it, even at a time when they were not easily disgusted.† We may therefore conclude, that those who praised it as a delicacy, were at least very hungry.

\* *Forst. Voy.* i. 518.

† *Cook's Last Voy.* i. 88. *Forst. Voy.* ii. 205.