

The Darters (*Plotus*) unlike all other genera of the order are not maritime in their habits. If we are to see them in their native haunts they must be followed to almost impenetrable swamps in the tropics. These birds have long slender necks, with numerous cervical vertebræ, so that they sometimes receive the name of Snake-birds. There are only a few species of Darters, one of which *Plotus anhinga* belongs to North America,

The Frigates (*Tachypetes*) like the Pelicans have the gular-pouch of great size. There is one well defined species *Tachypetes aquilus*. This bird has the feet very small, and the wings of great size and strength, so that it is not only marine in its habits, but pelagic. It is a poor swimmer, can hardly walk, and cannot dive at all, but its power of flight is astonishing.

Of Tropic birds (*Phaëthon*) there are three known species: *P. flavirostris*, *P. æthereus*, and *P. rubricauda*, the two first mentioned of which are North American. The following is an examination of a specimen of the Yellow-billed Tropic Bird (*P. flavirostris*). It had a yellow bill and black toes: the bill being very like that of a tern and was not hooked. The rudimentary gular-pouch was covered with feathers, instead of being naked as is generally the case with toti-palmate birds, and the nostrils were open, which is an uncommon feature in other birds of the order. The middle feathers of the tails were of great length. The general colour of the plumage was white, nicely contrasted with black.

Of Gannets there are now recognised six distinct species indigenous to North America. These are the White Gannet or Solan-goose (*Sula bassana*), the Brown Gannet or Booby (*S. leucogastra* or *S. sula*), the Blue-faced Booby (*S. cyanops*), the Red-footed Booby (*S. piscator*), the Blue-footed Booby (*S. gossi*), and Brewster's Booby (*S. brewsteri*).

The first time I ever saw a Gannet was when a boy at a small inland town about eight miles from the sea, on the east side of Scotland. Some fifty miles from this town at the Bass Rock, in the Frith of Forth, the White Gannets congregate in prodigious numbers: indeed this species which is otherwise called the Solan goose, receives its specific name *bassana* from the Bass Rock. The bird I saw was in the hands of a fish-monger, or cadger as that functionary is designated in some parts of Scotland, and it