

GANNETS AND CORMORANTS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CANADIAN FORMS.

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The following notes are mostly about the Solan-geese or Common Gannet (*Sula bassana*, L.) and several species of Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax*), with brief references to allied species.

The Toti-palmate order of birds, which embraces the Pelicans (*Pelecanus*), the Darters (*Plofus*), the Frigates (*Tachypetes*), the Tropic Birds (*Phaëthon*), the Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax*), and the Gannets (*Sula*), are distinguished from all other birds, by having, as the name implies, the feet completely webbed. Ducks, gulls and murres have only two webs to each foot; the toti-palmates have three. This is occasioned by the hallux, or hind toe, being located semi-laterally, which admits of three webs to each foot. Another distinguishing character is the possession of a gular-pouch which in the Pelicans and Frigates is enormously expanded; is rudimentary and unfeathered in the Gannets, Cormorants and Darters; and rudimentary and feathered in the Tropic Birds.

The Pelicans (*Pelecanus*) like the Cormorants and Gannets are gregarious, resembling in their habits the former in being both marine and inland birds, while the latter are solely marine.

There are two North American species: the White Pelican (*P. erythrorhynchos*) and the Brown Pelican (*P. fuscus*), and some consider that there is a third, the California Brown Pelican (*P. californicus*). I remember seeing a fine White Pelican in captivity, whilst passing through the prairies. A nicely mounted specimen of the Brown Pelican, an adult male, is to be seen in the museum of the Geological and Natural History Survey, Ottawa, which was shot on the eastern end of Pictou Island, Nova Scotia, by Mr. J. W. Hogg, on 15th May, 1892.

An examination of a specimen of this species to which I had access, showed in brief as follows: The plumage variegated and dark, a whitish spotted band from the top of the head down each side of the neck, the bill very large and long in proportion to the head, and terminating in a hook, the gular-pouch of enormous size.