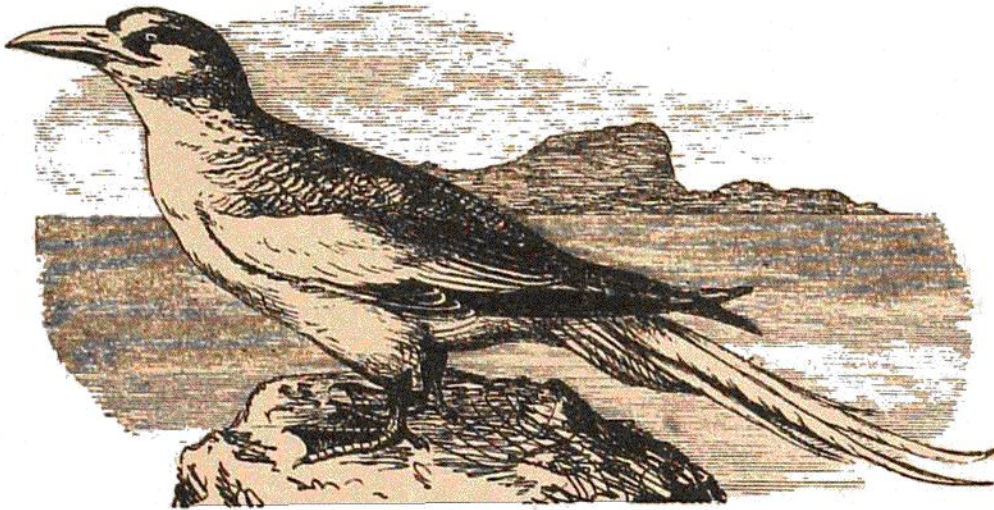


Some of the most conspicuous of the present land-birds of Bermuda, such as the "Red bird," or Cardinal, have been introduced for ornamental effect. The birds most interesting to us were the "Boatswain birds" (*Phaethon flavirostris*), since we now met them in numbers for the first time, though we afterwards became so familiar with them amongst the Pacific Islands and elsewhere. The birds are white, a little smaller than our commonest English gull, and shaped more like a sea swallow or tern, though allied to the gannets and cormorants; in their tails are two long narrow feathers of a reddish tint, which, as the bird flies, are kept extended behind, and give it a curious appearance.



BOATSWAIN BIRD.

The birds breed, more or less gregariously, in holes in the rock formed by the weathering out of softer layers. It is easy to secure them in the hole by clapping a cap over its mouth, and often both male and female can be caught together. It is however quite a different matter to get hold of them for stuffing: their bills are very sharp and strong, and they fight furiously, screaming all the while. Only one egg is laid, and it is of a dark red colour, like that of the Kestrel. Rats abound in the islands, and I saw one hunting about the holes evidently on the look-out for eggs or young. These must be the only enemies the birds have except man, and they would find no difficulty in driving the rats off, but I saw several eggs broken and sucked, no doubt in their absence.

On one of the islands I saw a pair of crows, but they were very scarce, since blood-money to the extent of two shillings a head had been put upon their heads by the Government.

Crabs abound at Bermuda: a species of *Grapsus*, a crab which will be frequently referred to by me, climbs the mangrove