

skull. The tern then fell dazed onto the rocks below, with the gull following it and there it continually pecked the tern in the head region, eventually drawing blood. Picking up the almost dead bird by the neck, the gull flew back to its nesting area and here further pecking at the head region occurred. When the tern showed no further life, the gull ripped the breast wide open, extracting large portions of the flesh which were fed to the chick. After consuming all the offered food, the chick was then allowed to pick at the remains. Whether or not this method of attack was the same for the more agile adult terns, it is difficult to say, as no such attack was witnessed.

The second point of interest is the comparative indifference shown by the other terns in the whole affair. Only a single pair of adult terns expressed their annoyance by repeatedly swooping low over the gull during the attack.

Thirdly, the 8 young birds killed, which had been previously banded, were all reared in the midst of the small gull and tern colony next to which the Black-backed Gulls nested. Whether or not the other young terns were also from this particular colony, it is hard to tell, but from the evidence of the 8 banded birds, it is highly probable that this is so.

Another characteristic of this predation was the fact that all the dead terns were brought back to the flat rock-shelf in front of the nesting area. Here the remains of all the terns were found and in no other area were other remains found.

Finally it appears relevant to mention that no cases of Black-backed Gulls robbing tern nests of eggs were found or reported seen. All broken shells of tern eggs examined indicated the hatching of a chick, while the odd infertile egg found, usually some distance away from a nest, showed no sign of having been probed by some other bird.

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RED-BILLED GULLS NESTING IN CLEFTS AND CAVES

Soon after my arrival at Campbell Island in October, 1962, I began banding Red-billed Gulls (*L. scopulinus*) at the jetty and around the hostel, using traps and mist-nets. At the beginning of December their numbers began to decrease till only a few juveniles remained.

On 30/12/62 a trip was made to Middle and Northwest Bays, one of the areas where these gulls are known to nest. About thirty gulls were counted between the two bays. As we traversed the area the gulls uttering their usual cries attacked us in the manner to which I was accustomed on The Brothers' Islands, but nowhere in the open could I see any nests. Walking a little further I noticed a Red-billed Gull emerge from a cleft in the rocks. Here I found a nest containing two chicks about a week old.

On the return trip from Complex Point and Northwest Bay, I inspected all clefts and small caves along the route and so found seven more nests; two with two chicks each, three with two eggs each, and two partly built.

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