

Turbott, 1956) and were busy flying from the rock ledges to the sea and back, carrying bunches of seaweed. They were nest building, and no eggs had been laid at that time. During the writer's second visit, admittedly eight years later, but at exactly the same time of year, all adult birds were found to have lost their breeding plumage and had reached the stage referred to as "Post-nuptial plumage" by Turbott (1956). The majority were feeding flying chicks, with only a small number of nests still containing nearly fully fledged chicks. Assuming that the incubation and fledging periods are the same with Blue Shags as with the nominate race, i.e. over 4, but under 5 weeks for incubation, and 9 weeks from hatching to flying (Turbott, 1956), eggs in the Perpendicular Point colony must have been laid during early April, and possibly even in March, 1969, whereas August would have been the laying month in 1961. During the latter visit, therefore, breeding was found to be at least four months (and possibly five) earlier when compared with 1961.

Much more information is needed to find the reasons for the seemingly erratic breeding behaviour of *Stictocarbo* sub-species, and any reasons suggested on present knowledge are only guesses. A straightforward study of this particular aspect of behaviour by keeping several colonies under close observation for a series of consecutive years should prove a most rewarding project.

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SHORT NOTES

GIANT PETREL FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN

On 21/5/69 Mr. Paul McIlraith picked up a battered and maggotty Giant Petrel in dark plumage on the beach at Little Rakaia, South Canterbury. It carried a band which read OIS MUSEUM PARIS, C.F. 7.106.

Advice has now been received that it was banded by M. Prevost on 23/2/69 at Ile de l'est, Baie Naufrage, Crozet Archipelago, which lies about 51°E, 46°S. Thus it had taken less than three months to reach New Zealand. It is now a skeleton Av. 22997 in the Canterbury Museum.

— RON SCARLETT



AN UNUSUAL FEEDING HABIT OF A SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN

Recently, in a small tributary of the Pelorus River, I observed, on three occasions, a South Island Robin *Petroica a. australis* taking small aquatic insects from shallow water. On one of these occasions I identified a stick caddis *Pseudonema* which the Robin worked on for some time before shaking the case free and eating the larva.

— C. R. VEITCH