

LITERATURE CITED

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SHORT NOTE

SPOTTED SHAGS NEST AT WELLINGTON

During the summer of 1972, an unusually large number of Spotted Shags (*Stictocarbo punctatus*) were observed feeding and roosting in several coastal situations around Wellington.

On 21 October 1972, Mr Tudor Atkinson of York Bay was passing a small island on the south side of Somes Island in his boat when he noticed a colony of Spotted Shags on a cliff face. Seven were sitting on nests. On 27 October, I visited the colony with Mr Atkinson and on this occasion 13 birds were present and three nests contained chicks a few weeks old. It was not possible to determine whether the four remaining nests contained eggs or chicks, as the parent birds were sitting too closely.

This is the first time that Spotted Shags have been known to breed in the Wellington area and it is to be hoped that the colony will become permanently established and will not be interfered with by people passing it in boats.

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