

observation up to the present time (8/3/74) and on one occasion, three apparently successful copulations occurred in the three hour period. The submissive attitude of the female during mating was in sharp contrast to her aggressive behaviour toward the male prior to this period. Slight variations were apparent during the different matings and the following notes, based on observations by Society members, describe the usual sequence.

The male approaches at right angles to the female and with his bill, taps on the centre of her back. This tapping may extend to stroking. She responds by crouching low — her feet tucked up under her belly and her neck and bill extended anteriorly along the ground. Latterly a single tap on the back will evoke this response. The male then mounts and, lacking the stabilizing role of wing movements, often grasps the female's lower neck or back feathers while treading. The bill is also used at this point to thrust through the feathers on each side of the hen in sharp probing movements. The female, who has her eyes closed throughout, has her plumage all awry through the treading, but does not appear to lose many feathers. The male then lowers himself posteriorly, his feet sliding down the hen's flanks. The female simultaneously elevates her cloaca and copulation occurs for a brief moment at this point. There is no post-copulatory contact — the male wanders off while the female continues to remain prostrate for up to five minutes.

Mating displays do not occur, but this is hardly surprising considering the poor vision and lack of suitable display apparatus (wings, external tail, colour flashes, etc.) in this species. On several occasions however, the mating has been preceded by apparent excitement on the part of the male (e.g. calling, or the irregular behaviour often exhibited when rain falls on the roof).

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AVIFAUNA OF CAPE BIRD, ANTARCTICA

Cape Bird (lat. 77° 13' S, long. 166° 30' E) is on the northern end of Ross Island in McMurdo Sound. This coastal area may be ice and snow free for several weeks in the summer. Sea-ice conditions are variable. Pack-ice is common and fast-ice may be present for up to five months of the year. During the summer season a 20 metre wide pebble beach is exposed. Behind this are moraines deposited by the Mt Bird ice cap. The University of Canterbury Antarctic Research Unit has maintained a station at Cape Bird since the summer of 1966-67. I was at the station from 11 November 1971 to 30

January 1972, 31 October to 6 December 1972 and 23 November 1973 to 2 February 1974. During this time I kept a record of my bird observations.

Adelie Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) and McCormick Skuas (*Stercorarius skua maccormicki*) breed at Cape Bird and were recorded throughout my presence there. I recorded the following casual visitors to the Cape Bird area.

Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*):

13/11/71 Two adults ashore for a few hours, remaining in the same area until moving off to sea.

14/11/71 Six adults ashore and behaving similarly.

15/11/71 One adult on south-moving pack-ice.

18/11/72 Two adults on north-moving pack-ice.

27/11 & 2/12/73 One juvenile on south-moving pack-ice.

These birds probably came from the nearby breeding colonies of Beaufort Island and Cape Crozier.

Snow Petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*):

14/11/71 Two flying south together.

15/11/71 One flying south.

23/11/71 Large numbers (20-50).

30/11/71 Seen in groups of two and three throughout the day.

10 & 12/11/72 One flying south.

13/11/72 Two flying up and down the beach.

22/11/72 One flying south.

24/11/72 Two flying south together.

26/11/72 Four flying south together.

25/11/73 Three flying south singly.

26/11/73 Two flying south together.

This was the most commonly observed vagrant. It was most often seen flying just over and parallel to the beach, although at no stage did it land at Cape Bird.

Wilson's Storm Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*):

21 & 23/12/71 One flying north along the moraines.

15/12/73 One flying south along the beach.

18/12/73 Three flying south, 90-180 metres offshore.

20/12/73 Four flying north along the beach.

This bird also did not land in the area although it was observed flying along the beach.

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