

faced Heron and the Tui were all pursued in this manner by the game little drake.

On 20 October, sad to say, the duck reappeared without any ducklings. At no time have we been able to locate the nesting sites.

On all adult birds the metallic green band on the speculum is bright and pronounced. The tail feathers are long, and when viewed directly behind whilst the bird is on the ground, the tail is quite a magnificent fan shape spread wide and evenly. The birds have often been seen on the lawn at night, but rarely have they been seen in the afternoon.

At the time of writing (November 1974), this pair of Teal is living contentedly on the lake.

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A PIGEON AMONG THE SHAGS

On 8 April 1974 we watched a Kereru (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) behaving in an unusual way at Mangere Airport. Blank shots had been fired to scare away scores of White-faced Herons (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) which a very big tide had driven off their normal feeding grounds so that they were resting in flocks around the fringes of the airfield. The shots startled c. 30 Little Shags (*Phalacrocorax brevirostris*) which had been fishing a large pool of impounded sea-water. As the Little Shags flew in the direction of Ihumatao Point, they were joined by a Native Pigeon which, also startled by the shots, flew out from one of the many tall shelterbelts. Pigeon and Shags flew on a wide circuit and when after a mile or two the Shags headed back for the pond, the Pigeon stayed with them, came down to surface level, hovered and appeared to settle on the water, riding high like a skua. Fortunately the water was calm. The Pigeon rose, circled and briefly settled again, clearly puzzled and slow to realise that water was not its element nor were shags its proper company. It appeared to have been mesmerized by the Shags, and its reasoning may have been "if these fellow-fliers can settle here, why can't I?"

Just then some passing S.I. Pied Oystercatchers (*H. o. finschi*) caught its attention and perhaps saved its life. For a short distance it flew with them before breaking away and making its way back to the trees.

During this curious episode of which we had an unimpeded view, we were standing on a stop-bank beside the impounded sea-water. The attempted landings on the water took place at a distance of about 100 metres. Since the Native Pigeon is a very rare bird on the

isthmus just south of Auckland we were careful to make sure that the pigeon which was lured into trying to behave as a shag was indeed *Hemiphaga* and not a Carrier or Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

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UNREPORTED METHOD OF STONE-COLLECTING BY THE ADELIE PENGUIN

The use of stones for nest construction by the Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) is well known. Sladen (1958) determined that both sexes are active in the collection of nest material. Two methods of collection have been reported. Most commonly, birds procure nesting stones from neutral areas away from the territories of breeding birds, or from vacant or abandoned nests (personal observation). A second method described by Levick (1915) is that of stealing from occupied nests. Collecting birds may steal from neighbouring nests or travel considerable distances to adjacent colonies.

In 1971, while studying the incubation behaviour of the Adelie Penguin at Cape Hallett, Antarctica (72° 19' S, 170° 13' E), I observed an unusual method of the collection of nest material. At 1420 local time on 8 November while observing a small colony that contained several banded birds, I noted the approach of a mated female (509-73535) to the perimeter of the colony under observation. A banded unmated male (519-35803) with a nest near the periphery of the colony exhibited an oblique stare bow (Sladen 1958) at the female's approach. The ritualized sequence of events that followed is typical of pair formation in the Adelie Penguin (Penney 1968). The unmated male (519-35803) assumed a prone position on the nest and proceeded to scrape the bowl with his feet. The female remained in close proximity to the nest, but did not initiate a mutual display (Sladen 1958) when the male returned to an upright posture in the nest. Following an abbreviated scraping bout, the male relinquished the nest to the mated female. The female stepped into the nest-bowl and, instead of taking a prone position, picked up a stone from the nest and retreated to her own colony and deposited the stone in the nest occupied by her mate (509-73469). Interestingly, the unmated male (519-35803) discontinued the ritualized sequence of (1) oblique start bow (2) scraping the nest-bowl and (3) relinquishing the nest to the female, after she had made several trips to his nest for stones. Each time she retrieved a stone from the unmated male's nest she deposited it in her own. At no time did the unmated male show aggression toward the stone-stealing