SHORT NOTES

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VARIATION IN HATCHING TO FLYING PERIOD OF NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL CHICKS

NORTH ROAD, CLEVEDON

10/10/76, nest 2 eggs.
15/10/76, 3 eggs.
14/11/76, 3 very small chicks, estimated to be 2 days old at most.
10/12/76, 3 chicks, all flying well.

It may be presumed that the third egg was laid on the 11/10/76 and that incubation began in 12/10/76. If the chicks were actually two days old when found on 14/11/76 the hatching to flying period was approximately 32 days.

MAXINE E. McKENZIE

POLLEN ISLAND, UPPER WAITEMATA HARBOUR

3/11/74, nest 3 eggs.
4/12/74, 1 chick present, banded BG-51425. It could flutter only short distances so this could be taken as its flying date. The eggs were not chipped on the afternoon of 3/11/74. In other cases in this paper hatching has taken up to three days so if in this case it took place on 4, 5 or 6/11/74 the hatching to flying period would be 28, 29 or 30 days.

SYLVIA M. REED

MATAITAI, CLEVEDON

13/10/49, nest 3 eggs, 1 chipped.
14/10/49, 2 chicks had hatched.
15/10/49, third egg hatched but chick died.
19/11/49, 1 chick missing. The other, when chased, fluttered c 10 m, just clear of the ground, then froze and allowed itself to be picked up.
24/11/49, flew low and straight several times for up to 90 m at a time. Assumed to have first flown on 20/11/49 or 21/11/49 at 37 or 38 days. *Ref. Notornis* 4: 24.

H. R. McKENZIE

MATAITAI, CLEVEDON

1/11/50, nest 3 eggs.
28/11/50, 2 tiny live chicks seen and 1 dead.
26/12/50, chicks banded, D5901 and D5902 at 28 or 29 days of age.
3, 6, 10, 13/1/51, not flying. Colour bands read.
17/1/51, D5901 flying, but not readily, at 51 or 52 days.

17/1/51, D5092 could flutter a few yards in weak flight in either 51 or 52 days from hatching.
Ref. Notornis 5: 16, 17.
(This long period could not have been due to weakness as D5092 was caught and rebanded by Sylvia M. Reed 26 years later).

H. R. McKENZIE

MATAITAI, CLEVEDON

25/12/50, nest 3 eggs.
13/1/51, 2 eggs chipping, 1 whole. The whole one later proved to have a large dead chick in it.
15/1/51, 1 chick 4 m from nest. 1 egg with cracks and two small holes in it.
16/1/51, 2 chicks gone from nest.
7/2/51, banded surviving chick, D5903. It was 46 days old when banded and showed no signs of flying. It was strong and healthy and could run as fast as the others had done but was not seen again on further visits. It was certainly not injured when banded. It was thought that a dog which prowled the flats may have killed it. This bird would probably have flown in about 50 days.
Ref. Notornis 5: 16, 17.

H. R. McKENZIE

Summary: Hence we have approximate periods of hatching to flying of 28-30, 32, 37-38, 50 and 51-52 days.

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SEA BIRD OBSERVATIONS OFF THE WEST COAST OF THE SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1975

From 29 October until 1 November 1975 I was a fisheries observer on board the deep-sea trawler *Shinkai Maru* which was engaged in exploratory fishing for the Japan Marine Fishery Resource Research Centre (JAMARC) off Greymouth, around 42°15′S and 170°40′ E, approximately 45 km from shore, mostly at depths between 200 and 500 m. Air temperatures ranged between 14.8 and 15.5°C, sea surface temperatures between 13.9 and 14.0°C, barometric pressure between 1007.0 and 1022.8 mb, and winds were mostly from the westerly quarter with speeds between force 3 and 7 (Beaufort scale).

During daytime the vessel was followed by 1000-1500 birds which fed on frequently discarded fish offal. This aggregation of birds consisted of the following ten species:

Royal Albatross	*Diomedea epomophora*
Wandering Albatross	*Diomedea exulans*
White-capped Mollymawk	*Diomedea cauta cauta*