

4th January of gannets still diving at dusk is rather surprising and difficult to explain as it has been assumed that gannets spot their prey from the air. Mr. M. Cassie, Fisheries Laboratory, Marine Department, suggests however, that at dusk on moonless nights the phosphorescence of fish may be sufficient to assist gannets to spot their prey.

Only three species—black-backed gulls, white-fronted terns and mutton birds—seemed to be associated with gannet bands fishing at Cape Kidnappers. Of these, white-fronted terns were fishing close to the shore, and black-backed gulls out in deeper waters. The association of muttonbirds appears to be a very loose one as these birds did not come close to the shore. All these birds seemed to be ignored by the gannets though gulls and terns were at times close to fishing gannets.

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SUMMARY.

Two behaviour patterns of the Australasian gannet at sea-diving and formation of "flotillas" are briefly described. On two occasions, social bands amounting to several hundred gannets were observed and a description of their feeding on large shoals of fish is given.

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LATE SHINING CUCKOO RECORD.—On May 24 and 25 a shining cuckoo was heard singing in our garden at Howick. Also on May 24 a neighbour, Mr. J. Gandy, reported that a plump shining cuckoo came to rest on a window sill of their home for a few minutes. This was probably a young bird which perhaps was not strong enough to make the migration and is wintering in New Zealand. The song consisted of the three long notes only and until the sight report came in it was thought that the notes had come from an imitating blackbird.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick.