

am sure of eight, but I think there were ten. When they had all landed and flocked round her, she headed down through the bush with them, gently quacking all the time. I thought she would take them on to the open bush road, but instead she kept on a parallel with the road about half a chain in the bush. The nearest creek would be ten chains away and in the direction she was travelling there would fifteen or twenty chains to the first water. I tried to follow them as they made their way through the bush, but did not want to excite the old bird so moved away and left them to it. In a matter of ten minutes they had covered about five chains, over roots, under logs, and so on, so that they would soon cover a fair distance even in such rough going.

I do not know whether or not she carried any down from the tree to start them off. I had a close look round the punga and on the ground, but could not find any that had been injured in the fall. Although so small they must be very 'tough'. One seldom has the opportunity of seeing such things happen and it is a very pleasant way of getting to know the ways of the birds.

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RELATIONSHIPS OF WANDERING ALBATROSS WITH BLACK-BACKED GULLS AND NELLIES IN LAMBTON HARBOUR

A nervous reaction of the Wandering Albatross (*D. exulans*) to Black-backed Gulls (*L. dominicanus*) is described in *Notornis* Vol. 5, 132; but it is apparent from further studies about the docks at Lambton Harbour, Wellington, that the Wandering Albatross is not as a rule disturbed by the presence of Black-backed Gulls, only evincing nervousness occasionally. This is shown by the following records.

First, an albatross and several gulls were observed resting together on the water on 25/3/54. The gulls, picking up food while swimming about, were chased by the albatross. In addition, an old albatross was seen swimming about on 7/7/54 amid a crowd of gulls; the two species associated amicably. A young adult albatross was seen on 14/3/55 to take wing and fly into a large party of feeding gulls, and again during May 1955 a bird was seen on the water with gulls swimming nearby and showing no nervous reaction, with some more in flight close by.

A second example of nervousness was seen, however, during April 1954. An albatross was seen sitting on the water close to a ship which was casting out slops. The albatross kept away from the slops until a crowd of gulls hovering over it settled on the water. The albatross then dashed amongst them to get its share of something to eat.

In *Notornis* 5, 132, I also mentioned the domination of a Nelly (*M. giganteus*) by a Wandering Albatross. More recently, on 11/4/54, I watched a young adult albatross which found a Nelly feeding on a piece of floating discarded fat. The albatross drove the Nelly off and swallowed the fat. However, its domination of the Nelly was not complete, as the latter swam around nearby with wings outspread while the albatross fed. This albatross later chased some more Nellies off some other carrion. Finally, on 27/5/54, three Nellies and one albatross were seen clustered round something edible floating in the water. The albatross left after it had failed to drive the Nellies away. They were then joined by a second albatross, but it likewise could not displace them.

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