

data from Johnstone (1977) indicate that the other species recorded now occur as occasional stragglers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I. J. Skira and H. D. Burton assisted in obtaining and processing data collected to March 1975. P. J. Ormay, N. P. Brothers, R. J. Tomkins and Dr G. W. Johnstone contributed the data of the 1975-76 summer, and Drs P. J. Fullagar and G. F. van Tets identified the remains of petrels collected during the 1975-76 summer. Dr G. W. Johnstone criticised a draft of the paper.

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SHORT NOTE

DO OYSTERCATCHERS HAVE A COLOUR BAR ?

About three years ago, on Surat Beach, near Pounaweia, South Otago, Mr Les Lockerbie noticed a group of 20-30 South Island Pied Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*) that had formed a circle around one of their number, an albino. The normally coloured birds screeched and squawked, and jumped up and down in a very excited manner. Then they flew off down the beach, leaving the albino to follow. When it reached them, the ring was again formed around it, and the excited behaviour was repeated. Then the birds flew up the beach with the albino again following, and the ring was formed for a third time and the squawking and jumping repeated. The albino was not molested physically. (Reported by Mr Lockerbie, 27 October 1979).

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