

There seems to be little doubt that penguins properly belong to the sea, which they inhabit within moderate distances of the shore, and they only come to the land to breed and moult, and for the young to develop sufficiently to become independent. But all this takes so long that the birds are practically the greater part of their time about the shore. We have seen no reason as yet to question the old notion that their presence is an indication that land is not very far off.

*Eudyptes chrysocoma* is the only species found in the Tristan d'Acunha group. The males and females are of equal size, but the males may be readily distinguished by their stouter beaks. From the middle of April till the last week in July there are no penguins on Inaccessible Island. In the end of July the males begin to come ashore, at first in twos and threes, and then in larger numbers, all fat, and in the best plumage and condition. They lie lazily about the shore for a day or two, and then begin to prepare the nests. The females arrive in the middle of August, and repair at once to the tussock-brake. A fortnight later they lay two, rarely three, eggs, pale-blue, very round in shape, and about the size of a turkey's egg. It is singular that one of the two eggs is almost constantly considerably larger than the other. The young are hatched in six weeks. One or other of the old birds now spends most of its time at sea, fishing, and the young are fed, as in most sea-birds, from the crop of the parents. In December young and old leave the land, and remain at sea for about a fortnight, after which the moulting season commences. They now spread themselves along the shore and about the cliffs, often climbing, in their uncouth way, into places which one would have imagined inaccessible to them. Early in April they all take their departure. The Stoltenhoffs witnessed this exodus on two occasions, and they say that on both it took place in a single night. In the evening the penguins were with them, in the morning they were gone.

There are three species of albatross on Inaccessible Island: