

had come on shore, full of the hardships they had suffered in getting through the rookery, and looking forward with no pleasure to the prospect of going back again through it.

Two spaniels had been brought on shore and were taken through the rookery, by being partly carried, partly dragged. One of these was lost on the way back; he would not face the penguins and could not be carried all the way, so got left behind, and I fear must have died and been eaten by Skuas.

Poor old "Boss," Lieutenant Channer's pet, though one-eyed and too old to be much good for shooting, was a favourite, and we were all very sorry for him. Three volunteers charged back into the rookery in search, but it was of no use. He was frightened to death and would not answer to a call.

The dogs brought to Inaccessible Island by the two Germans ran wild in the penguin rookery, notwithstanding their exertions to keep them at home, and finally the dogs had to be shot. They fed themselves on the eggs and young.

After getting through the rookery on to the rocks, it was amusing to see the party arrive singly and in twos at all sorts of points of the edge of the rookery and on the verge of the cliff, having lost their direction, and often to their disgust having to turn back through the edge of the rookery again to reach some spot where they could get down to the sea.

The penguins were having their evening bath and pluming themselves on our arrival. The number of birds here must be enormous. At least one-fourth of the surface of the island and small outliers, for these also are rookeries, must be covered by them; taking thus a space a quarter of a mile square, and allowing two only to a square yard, there would be nearly 400,000 penguins.

The rookery has evidently once been larger than at present, since a good part of the tall grass, now not occupied by birds, had old deserted nests amongst it. Probably the number of birds varies considerably each season.

One of the most remarkable facts about the penguins is that they are migratory; they leave Inaccessible Island, as the Germans told us, in the middle of April after moulting, and return, the males in the last week of July, the females about August 12th; and I do not think it possible that the Germans could have been mistaken. Whither can they go, and by what means can they find their way back? The question with regard to birds that fly is difficult enough, but it may always be supposed that they steer their course by landmarks seen at great distances from great heights, or that they follow definite lines of land. In the present case the birds can have absolutely no landmarks, since from sea level Tristan da Cunha is