

covered with guano, with little pools of filthy green water. The birds nested under big stones, wherever there was place for them; most of the nests were, however, quite in the open. The nests were formed of small stones and shells of a *Balanus*, of which there were heaps washed up by the surf, and of old bits of wood, nails, and bits of rope, picked up about the ruins of a hut which were rotting on the island, together with an old sail, some boat's spars, and bags of guano, evidently left behind by guano-seekers. The object of thus making the nest is no doubt to some extent to secure drainage in case of rain, and to keep the eggs out of water washing over the rocks; but the birds evidently have a sort of magpie-like delight in curiosities: *Spheniscus magellanicus*, at the Falkland Islands, similarly collects variously coloured pebbles at the mouth of its burrow. Two pairs of the birds had built inside the ruins of the hut.

All the birds fought furiously, and were very hard to kill. They make a noise very like the braying of donkeys, hence their name; they do not hop, but run or waddle. They do not leap out of the water like the crested penguins when swimming, but merely come to the surface and sit there like ducks for a while, and dive again. We dragged off a number in the boat for stuffing, and took young and eggs; the old ones fought hard in the boat and tried to bite one another's eyes out.

There was a large flock of terns on the rock, rendering it quite white on one part, but they were not nesting. There were plenty of shags' nests, some few with young ones, but most of them were already relinquished: they were built on a higher standing-piece of the rock, and were large round deep nests made of dried seaweed.

There is a great fishery at the Cape of a fish called "Snook," a sort of Barracuda, which is salted and dried, and sent mainly to Mauritius for sale. The Snook boats were always to be seen about in the bay. The fish are caught with a hook and line, whilst the boat is in motion. The fishermen are especially careful not to get bitten by the fish as they haul them in; wounds caused by their bites are said to fester in a violent manner as if specially poisoned.

From a scientific point of view, the most interesting fish which is caught at the Cape is a large Myxinoid (*Bdellostoma*) allied to the lamprey. Two or three of these were caught with a hand line and fish bait from our ship whilst at anchor at Simons Bay, and they are not at all uncommon, though so very rare in European museums. The specimens caught were nearly three feet in length. They swallowed the bait far down, and astonished the sailors by the immense quantity of