

most comical look, as they run off to jostle their way in amongst the old ones. They seemed to run rather better than the adults, but perhaps that was fancy.

Absurd in appearance as these young are, those that are just dropping the down and assuming the white plumage of the adults are far more so. Some are to be seen with the brown down in large irregular patches, and the white feathers showing out between these. In others the down remains only about neck and head, and in the last stage a sort of ruff or collar of brown remains sticking out round the bird's neck, and then, when it cocks up its head, it looks like a small boy in stick-up collars. The manner in which these young ones cock up their heads gives them a peculiar expression of vanity, and as they ran off on their short stumpy legs, I could not resist laughing outright.

At the farthest corner of the breeding space, in the most sheltered spot, was a clump of birds of a hundred or more. The birds were most of them in a slightly stooping posture, and with the lower part of their bodies bulged out in a fold in front. As I came up and bullied these birds with my stick a little they shifted their ground a bit, with an awkward sort of hopping motion, with the feet held close together. It immediately struck me that they were carrying eggs with them, as I had read that King Penguins do. Their gait was quite peculiar, and different from the ordinary one, and evidently laboured and difficult.

I struck one of them with my stick, and after some little provocation she let drop her egg from her pouch, and then at once assumed the running motion. These birds carry their egg in a complete pouch between their legs, and hold it in by keeping their broad web feet tucked close together under it. They make absolutely no nest, nor even a mark from habitually sitting in one place; but simply stand on the rookery floor in the described stooping position, and shift ground a bit from time to time, as occasion requires. I suppose the egg is not dropped till the young one begins to break the shell. Charles Goodridge says that the period of incubation is seven weeks, and that the birds commenced laying in the Crozets in November, and continued to lay, if deprived of their eggs, till March.

The birds with eggs were sitting close together. When, on my frightening them, some were driven against others, savage fights ensued, and blood was drawn freely; the birds whose ground was invaded striking out furiously with their beaks.

Round about the brooding birds were others, I think males, in considerable numbers. These males probably feed the females with which they are paired. There were also some