

plenty of adhering earth beaten and packed together, and are not so straight in the sides as those of the Mollymauks, but more conical, with broad bases. The female Albatross is sprinkled with grey on the back, and is thus darker than the male, which is of a splendid snow-white colour, with the least possible grey speckling, and was now, of course, seen in his full glory and best breeding plumage; the tails and the wings of both birds are dark. The Albatrosses met with at sea are most frequently birds in young plumage or bad condition, and have a rather dirty draggled look. The brooding birds are very striking objects, sitting raised up on the nest, commonly with the male birds beside them. They sit close on the nest when approached, and snap their bills savagely together, thus making a rather loud noise, and will lay hold of a stick with their bills when it is pushed against them, but need a good deal of bullying with the stick before they stand up in the nest and let the intruder see whether they have an egg there or not. Then the egg is seen to appear slowly out of a sort of feather pouch, in which it is held during incubation. Only one egg is laid, which is about five inches long, as big as a swan's, and white with specks of red at the large end. In most of the nests there were fresh eggs; in some, however, nearly full grown young birds. The old birds never attempted to fly, though persistently ill-treated, but merely waddled heavily over the ground; the old males tried to run away when frightened, but never even raised their wings. It is amusing to watch the process of courtship: the male standing by the female on the nest raises his wings, spreads his tail and raises it, throws up his head with the bill in the air, or stretches it straight out forwards as far as he can, and then utters a curious cry, like that of the Mollymauk, but in a much lower key, as would be expected from his larger larynx. Whilst uttering the cry, the bird sways his neck up and down; the female responds with a similar note, and they bring the tips of their bills lovingly together. This sort of thing goes on for half an hour or so at a time. Occasionally an Albatross sailed round and alighted upon the grass, but none were seen to take wing.

There were numerous nests of the Skua about amongst the herbage in dry places. The nests of these birds are never built near together; thus they always have a wide range of hunting ground round their nest. The Skuas in Marion Island were extremely bold and savage, as they were also in Kerguelen Island.

Three kinds of Penguins were abundant on the island. One kind (*Aptenodytes* [*Pygosceles*] *taniatus*), called by the sealers the "Johnny," the "Gentoo" of the Falkland Islands, is much larger than the Crested Penguin, in fact, nearly as big as the King Penguin. The beak is bright red, long and sharp-pointed, the back dark, the breast white; the colour of the back is continued on to the head, but a white patch on the top of the head in contrast with the dark colouring is the marked feature about the bird. These Penguins were nowhere met with nesting, but were often associated with the King Penguins. They were usually to be met with here and in Kerguelen Island in parties of a dozen or twenty or thirty on the grass, close to the shore, and were