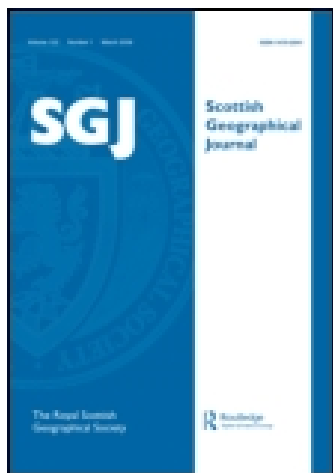


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## SUMMER WORK IN THE SOUTH ORKNEYS.

By J. H. HARVEY PIRIE, B.Sc., M.B.

During the absence of the *Scotia* the hourly meteorological observations and magnetic work were carried on without intermission. Tow-netting, boat-dredging, and trapping were done whenever opportunity offered, but no great additions were made to the fauna collected during the winter.

Bird life was very abundant, and, the nesting season being in full swing, extremely interesting. Two new birds were recorded for the locality:—(1) A yellow-crested penguin, probably *Catarrhactes chrysolophus* (Macaroni penguin), of which four specimens were got. Two were immature birds, got on January 29 and February 6, so it is possible that the species occasionally breeds in the South Orkneys, but on the other hand the bird may have come from the Falkland Islands or South Georgia. In the latter locality this bird is known to be an early

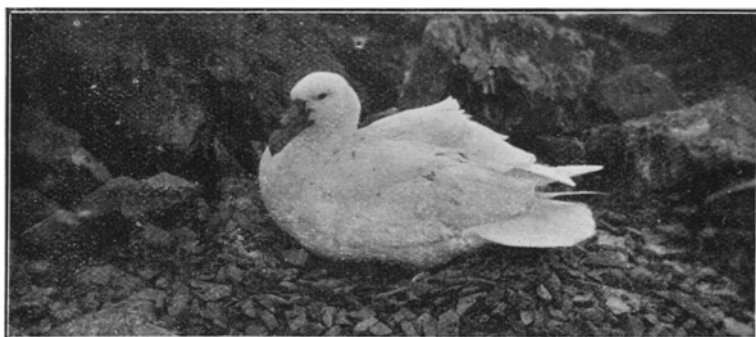


FIG. 9.—Giant Petrel, South Orkneys.

breeder, laying commencing in the last days of October, but even granting this, 500 miles of rough open sea would be a long journey for such a young bird to make. (2) A small petrel (*Oceanites sp.*) of which one specimen only was caught.

The eggs of the well-known Cape Pigeon (*Daption capensis*) were got for the first time. Although known to breed on South Georgia and Kerguelen, the eggs had never hitherto been got. The nest consists of a few small angular fragments of stone on bare ledges of the cliffs. A single egg is laid, pure white, and large in size compared with the bird. Egg-collecting is rather a disagreeable business, as the birds, instead of flying off when approached, remain on the egg and try to warn off the intruder by ejecting at him a noxious, evil-smelling reddish fluid, the partially digested *Euphausiæ* on which they feed. Several of the other petrels have a similar nasty habit—Snowy petrels, Wilson's storm petrels, and, though less markedly, the Giant petrels.

Before laying, the Cape Pigeon sits close on the nest for about a month: the first eggs were got on December 2, and until two or three

days before this the birds had disappeared from the islands altogether for about ten days. The young were not hatched until January 13, giving an incubation period of six weeks.

On this date the first Wilson petrel eggs were got, and they had not hatched any young when we left the Orkneys on February 21. These birds seem habitually to lay too late; for, in the crevices, along with the single fresh egg, two or even three unhatched eggs of previous seasons and occasional dead nestlings were almost always to be found. A more feasible explanation would be that there had been a succession of cold summers, which certainly was the case in 1902-3, whatever it may have been previous to that. Weddell seals were very numerous: over a hundred could often be counted lying on the small raised beach on the west side of Scotia Bay.

Sea leopards came ashore fairly often, but very few Lobodons and only a single Ross seal were seen.



FIG. 10.—Weddell Seal.

The general weather of December, as will be seen from Mr. Mossman's appended meteorological abstract, was not of the character one usually associates with midsummer.

The amount of cloud, for example, 9·3, was greater than in any month except March, while the number of hours of snowfall (212) was in excess of every month except August with 218. As regards sunshine, the total for the month, viz. 73 hours, was actually less than that recorded during September. There was also much drift, and even as late as the 21st the appearance was about as wintry as during any of the six months preceding.

In January the weather showed a considerable improvement on that of December, although there was more cloud and less sunshine. Drift was almost wholly absent, and light winds prevailed. Kite flights for the purpose of investigating the meteorology of higher strata of the atmosphere were tried on four different days during the summer, but unsuccessfully. The kite either would not rise owing to the lightness of the wind, or else carried away during squalls. The infrequency of the

flights is to be regretted, but there were very few days on which they could be attempted. Thus, in December, on thirteen days the wind was too light—the maximum hourly air movement being under thirteen miles per hour. On seven days the wind was certainly too strong, and on some of the remainder pack ice was in the bay, which would have made it impossible to recover the kite in the event of it breaking loose, an accident that happened on three occasions.

#### METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT FOR DECEMBER (SOUTH ORKNEYS).

*Mean Barometric Pressure* (corrected to 32° and mean sea level).—29·201 inches; maximum, 29·866 inches on 14th; minimum, 28·445 inches on 21st; monthly range, 1·421 inches.

*Mean Temperature*.—31°·5; mean of maxima, 34°·0; mean of minima, 29°·4; mean daily range, 4°·6; mean variability, 0°·93; highest observed, 40°·8 on 18th; lowest observed, 25°·4 on 3rd; monthly range, 15°·4.

*Humidity*.—Mean wet bulb, 30°·6; mean relative humidity, 88; mean vapour pressure, 0·156 inch.

*Mean Wind Force*.—1·27 (scale 0-12); corresponding velocity in miles per hour, from anemometer, 9·0. Wind blew from N. 7 hours, N. × E. 2, NNE. 3, NE. × N. 2, NE. 4, NE. × E. 6, ENE. 10, E. × N. 7, E. 20, E. × S. 8, ESE. 21, SE. × E. 17, SE. 73, SE. × S. 38, SSE. 20, S. × E. 4, S. 0, S. × W. 0, SSW. 0, SW. × S. 0, SW. 2, SW. × W. 0, WSW. 3, W. × S. 0, W. 20, W. × N. 11, WNW. 69, NW. × W. 61, NW. 205, NW. × N. 47, NNW. 21, N. × W. 7, and was calm or variable during 56 hours.

Mean amount of cloud (overcast sky or fog = 100) 93; number of hours overcast, 591; number of hours cloudless, 2.

Total bright sunshine, 73·3 hours; sunless days, 6; maximum on one day, 8·9 hours on 18th.

Number of hours during which the following phenomena were observed:—

Snow, . . . . .	212	Silver thaw, . . . . .	2
Snow-drifting, . . . . .	109	Solar halo, . . . . .	1
Hail, . . . . .	3	Lunar halo, . . . . .	0
Rain, . . . . .	28	Squally, . . . . .	101
Sleet, . . . . .	6	Haze, . . . . .	26
Mist, . . . . .	50		

#### LIST OF SOUNDINGS TAKEN ON THE "SCOTIA'S" SECOND VOYAGE.

		Depth in fathoms.	
62° 49' S.	38° 12' W.	.	2394 (no bottom).
64° 38' S.	35° 13' W.	.	2690
65° 59' S.	33° 06' W.	.	2625
66° 14' S.	31° 18' W.	.	2630
66° 43' S.	27° 55' W.	.	2685
72° 18' S.	17° 59' W.	.	1131
73° 30' S.	21° 30' W.	.	159
74° 01' S.	22° 00' W.	.	161
73° 09' S.	23° 53' W.	.	1950
71° 50' S.	23° 30' W.	.	2102
71° 28' S.	22° 32' W.	.	2338

		Depth in fathoms.	
71° 22' S.	18° 15' W.	.	2370
71° 22' S.	16° 34' W.	.	1410
71° 32' S.	17° 15' W.	.	1221
69° 33' S.	15° 19' W.	.	2620
68° 32' S.	10° 52' W.	.	2487
68° 32' S.	12° 49' W.	.	2660
66° 57' S.	11° 13' W.	.	2715
61° 21' S.	13° 02' W.	.	2764
56° 58' S.	10° 03' W.	.	2518
55° 08' S.	9° 50' W.	.	2270
52° 33' S.	9° 47' W.	.	1766 and 1810
51° 07' S.	9° 31' W.	.	2103
48° 00' S.	9° 50' W.	.	1332
48° 06' S.	10° 06' W.	.	1742
45° 56' S.	10° 05' W.	.	1799
41° 30' S.	9° 55' W.	.	1998
Three miles ESE. of Gough Island		.	1322
39° 58' S.	8° 36' W.	.	1807
40° 33' S.	0° 4' 30" E.	.	2543 (no bottom).
40° 08' S.	1° 50' E.	.	2645
39° 27' S.	5° 17' E.	.	2900
39° 25' S.	10° 45' E.	.	2625

## LETTERS FROM MOROCCO.

TANGIERS.<sup>1</sup>*(Continued from page 649.)*

THE native population of Tangiers is very composite, members of nearly all the tribes of the interior being attracted to the town in search of wealth or commerce, as in all the great seaports. The principal native element here is not, as at Fez and Tetuan, descended from the Moors of Andalusia, chased from Spain in the sixteenth century. The latter were badly received by the inhabitants of the town, who belong for the most part to the same races as now inhabit the surrounding country, the Fah'c and Anjera. More civilised than their country neighbours by contact with the Europeans, and softened by the enervating life of Mussulman towns, they have easy and gentle manners. The well-to-do folk are merchants, the others live by small trades, or are mule and donkey keepers; others, again, enter the service of the Europeans, and make excellent cooks and butlers.

The ordinary native dress of Tangiers is much less picturesque than that of Algiers or Tunis, and consists merely of a *djellaba*, a sort of loose

<sup>1</sup> Our attention has been called to an error in the December *Magazine*, p. 647, line 8, where it is stated that the sea at Tangiers retreats 30-40 kilometres at low tide. This statement, inadvertently passed in proof, is obviously due to a slip of the pen, but in the absence of the author, who is abroad, the exact intention cannot be made out.