

- POWLESLAND, R.G. & IMBER, M.J. 1988. OSNZ Beach Patrol Scheme: information and instructions. *Notornis* 35: 143 - 153.
- POWLESLAND, R.G. & PICKARD, C.R. 1992. Seabirds found dead on New Zealand beaches in 1988, and a review of *Puffinus* species recoveries, 1943 to 1988. *Notornis* 39: 27-46.
- TURBOTT, E.G. (Convenor) 1990. Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency, Antarctica 3rd ed. OSNZ & Random Century, Auckland.



Short Note

Extended parental care of the Southern Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)

On 16 June 1996, an adult Southern Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*) was seen to regurgitate food for a juvenile at Days Bay, Wellington. If the juvenile resulted from a clutch laid at the peak of laying in early November (Fordham 1964a) then it was 28-29 weeks old by mid June. Even if it hatched from a very late clutch laid in mid January (Fordham 1964a) then it was 17-18 weeks old. I am not aware that adults have been recorded previously feeding juveniles as old as this.

Fordham (1964b) stated that Black-backed Gull chicks raised on Somes Island, Wellington Harbour, "may accompany their parents for several months after they are able to feed themselves (i.e. shortly after they can fly, at about seven weeks old) and juveniles up to at least six months old are often seen food-begging but always unsuccessfully." Wilkinson & Wilkinson (1952) noted that Black-backed Gulls on Kapiti Island stopped feeding their chicks at about 12 weeks of age. The observation of the Days Bay juvenile receiving food when at least 17 weeks old and possibly as old as 28 weeks of age suggests that a small proportion of juvenile gulls continue to be fed by parents well beyond 10 weeks of age when most start foraging for themselves.

LITERATURE CITED

- FORDHAM, R.A. 1964a. Breeding biology of the Southern Black-backed Gull. I: Pre-egg and egg stage. *Notornis* 11: 3-34.
- FORDHAM, R.A. 1964b. Breeding biology of the Southern Black-backed Gull. II: Incubation and the chick stage. *Notornis* 11:110-126.
- WILKINSON, A.S.; WILKINSON, A. 1952. Kapiti Bird Sanctuary. Masterton: Masterton Printing Co.

KEYWORDS: Southern Black-backed Gull, *Larus dominicanus*, Wellington, parental care

RALPH G. POWLESLAND, 64 Roseneath Terrace, Wellington 1, New Zealand

Received 26 September 1996, revised & accepted 6 November 1996