



Spotted shag



Variable oystercatcher



Black-backed gull



Little blue penguin



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Birds of the coast

All around the island you will see and hear the southern black-backed gulls. They nest close to the tracks during spring and summer and can be easily observed. Little blue penguin nests are well hidden. From the viewing area overlooking Shag Rock, you can see the spotted shags from a distance. Reef herons and variable oyster catchers are often seen near the wharf area.

- ☛ Use this card to identify the birds you can see.
- ☛ Observe their movements.
 - ? *What differences can you notice between the different bird species?*
 - ? *How does this affect the way they move?*
- ☛ Observe feeding techniques of the birds you can see.
 - ? *Which ones gather shell fish?*
 - ? *Which ones are diving for fish?*
 - ? *Which ones drop shellfish on the rocks to break the shell?*
 - ? *What special features do birds have for their particular feeding technique?*
- ☛ If it's nesting time for the birds, look for different types of nests and think about why these sites have been chosen
- ☛ Study the bird bands you have in your kit.
 - ? *Which type of bird could they be used on?*
- ☛ Think about the information that can be gathered through the banding of birds?

Photos: Left: Jeremy Rolfe. Top centre, right: DOC. Bottom right: J. L. Kendrick.

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