

17 September 1981

Discussion with Dick Young who visited my office to look at albatross regurgitations that I had brought from FFB in June 1981.

We talked about the possibility that the birds were feeding on dead squid floating at the surface - tears off pieces. How long do squid float? Dick also mentioned that a Malcolm Clark suggested that birds may feed on squid beaks/pieces that have been regurgitated by whales - whales are known to do this.

Dick questioned the conclusiveness that material has ^{in fact} been passed from parent to young, and that possibly the young picked it up directly on the beach.

Wing-flapping may be the result of irritation of the casting in the stomach.

Death of fledging could be obstruction to taking in fresh food from parent - inability to feed.

Dick recommended that the number of beaks in a casting with ^{time at} sea could be used to determine how many dead squids could be expected at any one time over an ocean area. Come up with at least orders of magnitude to see if it sounds "high" or "low".