

Gannet Fact Sheet 7

Aggressive behaviour on the nest

Interestingly a female Gannet will not react if a male approaches her nest but she will aggressively defend it if another female approaches!

Confrontations often happen between birds of the same sex. If a female is confronted by an aggressive male that is defending his own nest then she will lower her head, exposing the back of her neck and the male will then take the females neck in his beak and fling her out of the nest!

Fights are most common between males that are occupying nests for the first time and these can be quite extreme and are often followed by gestures that can also be seen outside of the breeding season. To show ownership of a nesting site by pointing their head towards their neighbours with their beak pointing downwards and wings slightly outstretched.

