

SHORT NOTE

A second Magellanic Penguin in New Zealand

A second Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) was recovered in similar circumstances to the Magellanic Penguin found in 1972 (Robertson *et al.* 1972).

The bird was found on the afternoon of 18 March 1990 at Harwood Flat in Otago Harbour. Apart from appearing exhausted and superficially undernourished, it was in good health.

The penguin was part way through its moult. It was too large to be either a Jackass Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) or a Galapagos Penguin (*S. mendiculus*). Its moult condition suggested that it was a juvenile (the absence of a clear stripe across its chest), leaving the possibility that it was a Magellanic or a Peruvian Penguin (*S. humboldti*.)

Murphy (1936) wrote: "I know of no certain means of distinguishing between first-year examples of *humboldti* and *magellanicus* although the former have longer and narrower bills."

Measurements of Magellanic and Peruvian Penguins (Murphy 1936 and Boswell & McIver 1975) suggest that weights and measurements of male Magellanic and female Peruvian overlap.

A week after capture the bird weighed 3.9 kg and 7 days later it weighed 4.6 kg. Three weeks after capture it weighed 4.7 kg and appeared to be contented and plump.

As with the earlier find of a Magellanic Penguin, this bird obviously had been held as a pet. It readily took food from the hand, greeted its handler with a variety of calls in the early morning, and took fish from a dish, or if fish was dropped on the ground picked it up and ate it.

Four weeks after recovery the bird had not completed its moult, a small area behind and on its head having still to lose feathers. However, the moult was sufficiently advanced to make positive that this was a Magellanic Penguin with a broad dark stripe under its neck and a narrower dark stripe across its chest.

Measurements (mm) were as follows (those in parentheses from Boswell & McIver 1975):

Length of bill from culmen	54.8	(males, mean 53.7, range 45-57.3)
Bill height (culmen)	22.2	(males, mean 23.7, range 21-25.2)
Bill width (culmen)	17.8	
Bill height (gonys)	17.4	
Bill width (gonys)	7.2	
Weight (completion of moult)	3.9 kg	(males, mean 3.8, range 2.9-4.8kg)

LITERATURE CITED

- BOSWALL, J; McIVER, D, 1975. The Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*). Pages 271-308 in (B. Stonehouse, ed.) The Biology of Penguins. London: Macmillan.
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