

book *Birds and Their Attributes*, and by Friedmann, who in his recently-published *The Cowbirds*, 1929, discusses the subject at length.

The King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonica*).—During the spring of 1928 I had the privilege of spending a few days at the home of Mr. E. Cawood, of Apollo Bay, Victoria. One night, while we were discussing the birds of the district, the conversation veered round to the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*). I mentioned that I had often found this bird washed up at Warrnambool, and that I had also had the good fortune to find a specimen of the Crested Penguin (*Eudyptes cristatus*) on one occasion. (See *The South Australian Ornithologist*, Vol. IX., p. 276.)

Mr. Cawood then remarked, "I found the King Penguin washed up here once." I looked and uttered my surprise. "Yes," my informant went on, "the King Penguin—a big bird with yellow on the front of the neck." I interrupted, "You mean yellow on the head," as I imagined he was probably referring to one of the Crested Penguins. "No," he said, "yellow on the neck. It was the same as a pair they used to have years ago at the entrance to the Aquarium in Melbourne." On further questioning I elicited the fact that the date of the find was about 10 or 12 years ago. The value and scientific interest of such a specimen not being known, the bird was left to rot on the beach.

Personally, I have little doubt that the bird found by Mr. Cawood was the King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonica*). The nearest breeding-place of this species is Macquarie Island, one of the sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand. Three out of four species of Crested Penguins (*Eudyptes* sp.) which breed on this same group of islands have already been recorded as more or less occasional stragglers to Australia. The magnificent Emperor Penguin (*A. forsteri*) is confined to Antarctic seas and breeds on the ice-barrier, but the King Penguin has a more northerly range, and its appearance on our shores at rare intervals should occasion no great surprise. However, up to date the only Australian record of this fine bird is one from Tasmania some years ago.

Of course, a hearsay account like the above cannot be regarded as an official record of a species. Nevertheless, it makes one realise dimly the vast number of rare and valuable specimens of seabirds that decompose on our coast every year and are lost owing to the scarcity of beach-patrollers sufficiently interested to send them to a museum for identification.—C. S. SULLIVAN, R.A.O.U., Moree, N.S.W.