

# A Dwarf Egg of the Emperor Penguin

By G. M. BUDD\*

The dimensions of normal eggs of the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri* Gray) have been published by previous authors (Table 1). Only one dwarf egg has been reported for this species: in this note a second one is described. This second egg, which was collected by the writer, has been presented to the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, by the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs.

The egg was found at the Auster rookery (67° 23' South, 64° 02' East), 35 miles north-east of Mawson, on August 6, 1959. It was warm, having just been dropped by an incubating Emperor, and was addled. Its length was 7.5 cm., diameter 5.9 cm., and weight 105 gm.

TABLE 1

Species	Author	Number of Eggs	Length		Diameter	
			Mean	Range	Mean	Range
Emperor Penguin	Wilson	18 normal	12.0 cm	13.1-10.7cm	8.2cm	8.6-7.5cm
	Etchécopar & Prévost	51 normal	12.4	13.7-10.9	8.5	9.1-6.3
	"	1 dwarf	8.4		5.9	
	Budd	1 dwarf	7.5		5.9	
King Penguin	Wilson	12 normal	10.1	10.6-9.6	7.4	7.8-7.0
	Stonehouse	69 normal	10.5	11.7-8.6	7.6	8.6-6.4

The Emperor Penguin's incubating urge is so strong that in the absence of an egg or chick it will accept a wide variety of substitutes, ranging from lumps of ice to cameras. This raises the possibility that this egg was laid by another species in a previous season; but this is ruled out by the rookery's location, on sea ice many miles from any other species' breeding grounds.

Fig. 1 shows this dwarf egg and a normal egg of the Emperor Penguin. The chalky nodules on the dwarf egg are common among normal eggs, but are rarely so numerous.

My thanks are due to Mr. Alan Campbell-Drury, photographic officer of the Antarctic Division, who prepared the photograph.

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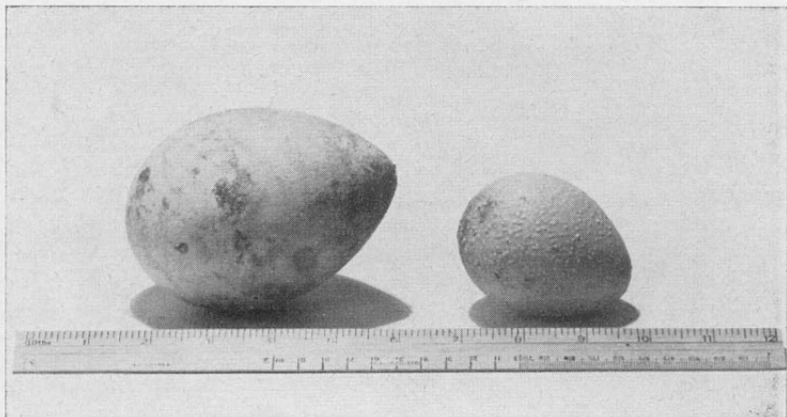


FIG. 1.—Normal and dwarf eggs of the Emperor Penguin.

ANARE photo

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## Some Notes on Immature Emperor Penguins

By G. M. BUDD\*

The period between December and March, in which the young disperse and the older birds moult, is the least known part of the life cycle of the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri* Gray). During this period many rookery sites have been replaced by open water owing to the dispersal of the sea ice, and the remainder cannot be visited because of the dangerous condition of the sea ice. As a result, knowledge of this part of the Emperor's life cycle is meagre, and is largely derived from random observations. The following notes may therefore be of some interest.

Emperor Penguins are common visitors to the ANARE station, Mawson (lat. 67° 36' S., long. 62° 53' E.), during the summer months, and in February it is common to see several moulting on the continental ice nearby. In 1959, two rather unusual Emperors were seen there in December.

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