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## Another Royal Penguin In Tasmania

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On February 23, 1945, a large penguin was reported to have been seen under the landing stage at some granite quarries on the southern side of Coles Bay, a holiday resort on the east coast of Tasmania. My informant told me that at least two persons among a number there at the time had taken a photograph of the bird, and a few weeks later, after making inquiries, I was able to obtain a copy of a photograph (reproduced).

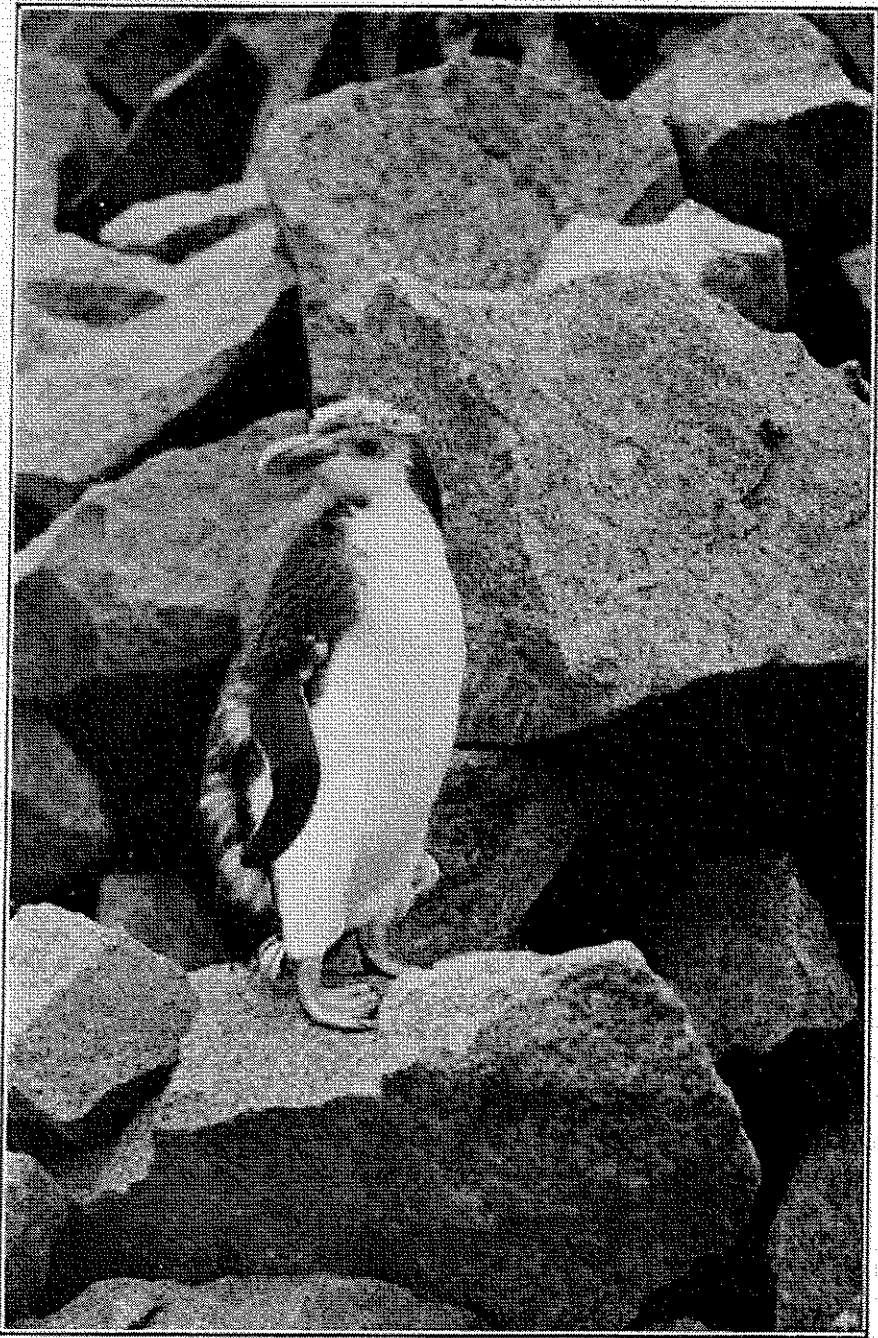
Comparison with previous pictures taken of a penguin at Eaglehawk Neck, aided by reference to ornithologists in Sydney and the description given by a member of the party which observed this bird, confirmed my opinion that it was another Royal Penguin (*Eudyptes schlegeli*)—the second record of the species for Australian waters.

The first record of the species in Australian waters was made by Hindwood and Sharland, published in *The Emu*, vol. XLIV, October 1944. It is a coincidence that in this case the bird was first seen, at Eaglehawk Neck, on almost the same day of the year—February 22 (1944).

Mr. B. Coultman Smith, Hobart, who told me of the Coles Bay bird, has given me some notes about the discovery—

The party which discovered the bird consisted of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. White, Captain and Mrs. E. Boyes, Chief Petty-Officer and Mrs. A. Coole. Photographs were taken by C.P.O. Coole and Mr. White. The bird was lifted on to the blocks of granite to be photographed. It made a loud 'squarking,' when disturbed, but otherwise was docile.

The bird appeared to be moulting, as there were lots of loose feathers about, and the appearance of the bird itself suggested this. The bird stood upright, and was about 2 ft. 6 in. high. It had yellow crest feathers and beak, and its breast was white and throat a greyish-white. Where the feathers had moulted, the underparts were a dark shiny bluish colour. The feet were yellowish, a little deeper colour than the crest and beak. It was seen shortly after it had been handled to go into the water and swim off.



Royal Penguin (moulting) at Coles Bay, Tasmania.

Photo. by A. Coole.

I endeavoured to procure the skin of this bird, as there are no examples of the species in the Tasmanian Museum. A report was received from Coles Bay that the bird had been shot by a fisherman; there was considerable popular outcry against this, and the Animals and Birds Protection Board sent its chief inspector to investigate. However, he was unable to trace the dead bird, and, due to the time that had elapsed since the shooting occurred, he could not obtain anything definite on which to present a charge.

Examples of crested penguins are frequently seen on the east coast, but not always reported, or, if the observation is recorded, it is usually delayed too long to enable one to follow it up. Penguin occurrences have been reported at Eaglehawk Neck, Rheban, Coles Bay, and Bicheno. They have referred mostly to *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* (Thick-billed Penguin). It is possible, however, that some may be *E. schlegeli*, as in few instances have skins been collected or live birds examined by experienced observers. The records relate to summer and autumn, when, apparently, the birds come ashore to moult. No doubt penguins also come to land on the southern and western coasts, but records from these parts are lacking owing to the absence of observers.

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**Greenfinch in Tasmania.**—A specimen of the English Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) was taken at Marrawah, in the north-west of Tasmania, on October 7, 1945, and presented to me by Mr. A. W. Swindells of Hobart. This, as far as I can determine, is the first record of this alien in Tasmania. An informant says the bird has been nesting in pine trees on his property at Marrawah for the past three or four years. At present the species seems to be confined to that remote locality.—MICHAEL SHARLAND, Hobart, Tas., 9/10/45.

**Glossy Ibis in Tasmania.**—The Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), a particularly rare bird in Tasmania, was observed on a marsh near St. Helens, in the north-east of Tasmania, on January 12, 1945. There are extremely few authentic records for this State. It has been reported also near Cressy, but not in recent years. Although Littler (*Birds of Tasmania*) records it in his list, he apparently failed to find any exact data relating to its visits. "At the most," he says, "they are but rare and accidental visitors, in all probability blown out of their course." The appearance of the bird at St. Helens coincided with a period of harsh drought in parts of the Australian mainland, and this bird is more likely to have come across Bass Strait voluntarily, in search of food. It did not stay long.—MICHAEL SHARLAND, Hobart, Tas., 9/10/45.