

UNUSUALLY COLOURED PENGUINS AT MARION ISLAND, 1993-1994

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Unusually coloured penguins sighted at sub-Antarctic Marion Island (46° 50'S, 37° 45'E) in the southern Indian Ocean are reported for the period April 1993 to May 1994. Previous reports of unusually coloured penguins at Marion Island deal mostly with whitefaced Macaroni Penguins *Eudyptes chrysolophus* (Voous 1960, Van Zinderen Bakker, Jr 1971, Williams & Burger, 1978, Berruti 1981, Cooper 1984, Gartshore 1987). Because whitefaced Macaroni Penguins are seen annually at Marion Island in small numbers, new records are not reported here in detail, following Cooper (1984).

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

An isabelline King Penguin was seen at Kildalkey Bay on 23 October 1993 (Fig. 1). All the normally black parts of the body, including the feet, were pale brown. The colour of the beak and the orange colour of the neck and chest were normal. On 1 November 1993 an isabelline King Penguin, possibly the same bird, was seen at Blue Petrel Bay. Presumably what was the same individual was observed later that day coming ashore 2 km away at Sealer's Beach. Gartshore (1987) illustrated an isabelline King Penguin at Macaroni Bay in 1986. On 15 and 17 January 1994 a moulting King Penguin with white feet and small white spots on its back was observed at Sea Elephant Bay (Fig. 2).

Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*

A partially albinistic Rockhopper Penguin with its flippers and lower part of its back coloured white

was observed near Trypot Beach on 20 November 1993 (Fig. 3). Its tail feathers and rest of the body, including face and head plumes, were normally coloured. This individual was regularly observed but did not appear to breed.

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

At Kildalkey Bay a partially albinistic Macaroni Penguin, with the lower part of its back and flippers white, was found breeding on 24 November 1993. Its tail feathers were black. A similar-looking bird was observed moulting at Swartkop Point on 11 March 1994 (Fig. 4). A Macaroni Penguin with its whole back white was observed three times at Swartkop Point on 8 December 1993, 23 January 1994 and 11 March 1994 (Fig. 5). The face and head plumes, flippers and tail were normally coloured. Between the white back and the normal white chest on both sides there was a black line. The bird was not observed breeding but was moulting when last seen. Probably the most interesting individual observed was an albino Macaroni Penguin at Goodhope Bay (Fig. 6). The bird was white all over except for the head plumes which were normally coloured. It was observed on 22 February and again on 9 March 1993 while moulting. It was not observed to be breeding.

A total of 17 sightings of whitefaced Macaroni Penguins, all thought to be of different birds, was made during 1993/94 at seven breeding colonies. Twelve birds were observed breeding, as has been previously reported (Berruti 1981, Cooper 1984).



Figure 1

Isabelline King Penguin, Kildalkey Bay.



Figure 2

White-spotted King Penguin, Sea Elephant Bay



Figure 3

Partially albinistic Rockhopper Penguin, near Trypot Beach.



Figure 4

Partially albinistic Macaroni Penguin moulting at Swartkop Point.



Figure 5

Partially albinistic Macaroni Penguin, Swartkop Point.



Figure 6

Albino Macaroni Penguin, Goodhope Bay.

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