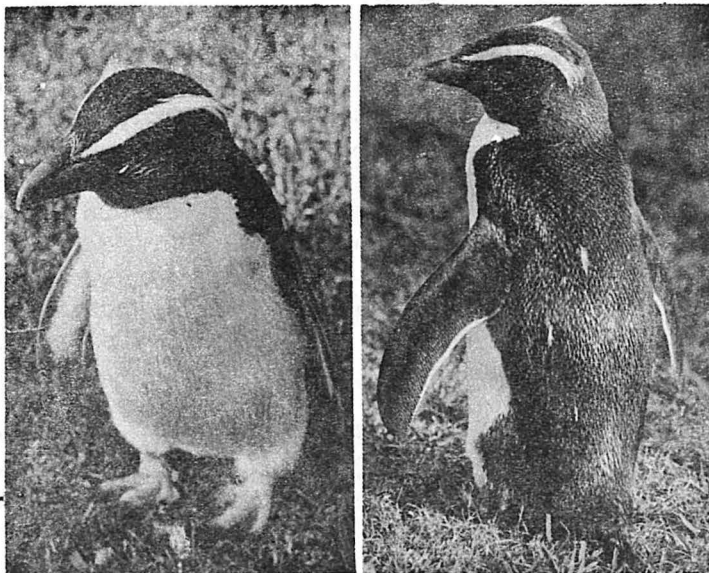


CRESTED PENGUIN

On Sunday, June 22, 1969, a Crested Penguin (Eudyptes chrysocome moseleyi) was found and placed in the care of Cadet Fauna Warden Mr. R. Gardiner. This penguin, an apparent straggler to our coast, was found by a relative of Mr. Gardiner at Long Point, Warnbro Sound, in a very exhausted and poor physical condition. It could not stand nor walk.



The particular species of the Crested Penguin, also known as the Rock-hopper Penguin, breeds at St. Paul and New Amsterdam Islands in the southern Indian Ocean, according to the handbook "Birds of Western Australia" by Serventy and Whittell. Specimens have been observed north to Rottnest Island and Scarborough and east to Esperance. There are a number of closely allied Crested Penguins which breed on the Sub-Arctic Islands and range northward after the breeding season is over. The penguin found at Long Point belongs to the only species so far recorded in Western Australia. In south-western Australia two others are occasionally stragglers. The more common is the Thick-billed Penguin, breeding in the New Zealand area, and the other is the Royal Penguin which breeds on Macquarie Island. A possible additional visitor to Western Australia is the Macaroni Penguin, a south Indian Ocean species, breeding at Prince Edward, Marion, Kerguelen and Heard Islands. Our Crested Penguin can be distinguished from the Macaroni and Royal by the fact that in these two latter species the yellow crests over the eyes are united in front across the forehead, whereas they are separated in both the Crested and Thick-billed. The Royal differs from all of the others in having the entire under parts, including the throat, white; all the other penguins with crests have the throat black or greyish. There is more difficulty in distinguishing the Crested from the Thick-billed, though in Western Australia the question is more academic than practical as it is unlikely that the Thick-billed Penguin will wander so far west against the prevailing winds and ocean

currents.

Mr. Gardiner cared for the penguin for the first two weeks, during which time it recovered sufficiently to resume walking. During this time it had to be hand-fed with white bait, cod liver oil, chopped fresh fish fillets and Pentavite. All food had to be submerged in sea water before being fed to the bird. After this period, Miss L. Nicholls took the bird into her care, as it was thought that the penguin was suffering from a fungal infection of the respiratory tract. The treatment given to the penguin cured it from this normally fatal condition. During the treatment period the penguin was kept in a clean large cardboard box. After the first week it received a daily hosing down to induce it to resume preening. By July 21, the penguin had completely recovered.

It is planned to fly the Crested Penguin in a special box to Albany. There it will be taken on board a Cheynes Beach Whale Chaser and released in the waters off Albany. By releasing the Crested Penguin in that area, it is thought that it would be past its main obstacle of Cape Leeuwin, and that it should have a better chance of catching up with other migrating Crested Penguins. A close watch will be kept on the weather before its release, to ensure that the penguin has at least a few days of fine and mild conditions, enabling it to readjust better to its natural environment.