

## Penguins – Spheniscidae

There are 18 species of penguin worldwide, 13 of which have been recorded in New Zealand. Of these, only six breed here: three species on the main islands, and a further three species on the sub-Antarctic islands, although these are regularly recorded on the main islands. Four of the breeding species are endemic to NZ. Sexes have identical plumage and all species have webbed feet, though they use their flippers for propulsion.

Penguin weights vary widely depending on time of year and food availability.

### **Emperor Penguin** *Aptenodytes forsteri* **LCV**

 L 120cm Wt 20–41kg

 *Very large, heavy penguin. Head and nape black, bill dark, long and downcurved with dull orange coloration on inner lower mandible. Dull orange collar becoming large ear-patch. Back and top of flippers dark steely grey. Upper breast dull yellow, fading to white on lower breast and belly. Undersides of flipper white. Feet dark on short, stout legs. Immatures lack yellow coloration and have shorter bill.*

**BREEDING** Coastal Antarctica, often on sea ice. **FEEDING** Fish, cephalopods and crustaceans; pursuit diving typically to 50m, frequently to 150m and on occasion to 500m. Dives may last 20 minutes. **P&R** 300,000. Circumpolar to 60°S. **T&M** No known threats, though climate change may present a challenge. **BV** Chance sighting, sub-Antarctic islands most likely.

### **King Penguin** *Aptenodytes patagonicus* **LCV**

 L 90cm Bill 13cm Wt 9–17kg

 *Large, long-billed, grey and white penguin. Head, nape and throat black with bright orange to orange-yellow collar extending into large ear-patches. Bill, long and slightly down-curved; upper mandible dark, lower is orange with dark tip. Back, tail and top of flipper dark blue-grey with dark margins. Upper breast diffused orange-yellow from collar, lower breast and belly white. Underside of flipper white with dark tip. Feet black on very stout, short legs. Immature duller and has yellow rather than orange coloration.* **BREEDING** Circumpolar on sub-Antarctic islands: in NZ biogeographic region, breeds only on Macquarie I. **FEEDING** Small fish and some cephalopods. Pursuit diver to 25m, exceptionally to 300m. Dives last c. 10 minutes. **P&R** 2 million. Circumpolar between 45°S and 55°S, apart from Pacific section. NZ birds likely from Macquarie I. Regular visitor to NZ sub-Antarctic islands. **T&M** No known threats; population increasing. **BV** Rare vagrant to NZ mainland. Chance sightings, most likely on sub-Antarctic islands.

### **Gentoo Penguin** *Pygoscelis papua* **NTV**

 L 85cm Wt 4.5–8.5kg

 *Medium-sized, black and white penguin with large, red-orange bill. Head, throat and neck black with broad white blaze running up from eye to eye over top of head, narrowing somewhat on crown. Bill large, stout and bright orange-red with dark tip. Back and top of flippers black, undersides white. Feet large and orange-pink, legs short and stocky. Immature duller with smaller white eye-blaze. The fastest underwater swimmer of all penguins.* **BREEDING** Circumpolar on cool temperate and sub-Antarctic islands. **FEEDING** Crustaceans and fish, pursuit diving to 100m. **P&R** 500,000. Circumpolar to about 50°S. **T&M** No known threats. **BV** Chance observation, sub-Antarctic islands most likely.



