

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CRESTED PENGUIN
(*EUDYPTES CHRYSOCOME*) IN AUSTRALIA,

with Notes on its Range, and on the History of its Original Discovery.

BY

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(Plates x.-xi.)

Early in December, 1917, a Crested Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*, Forster) was taken alive in Broken Bay, New South Wales, this being the first recorded occurrence of the species in this State. Mr. C. F. Rane, who resides at Balmain, has supplied me with the following graphic account of the incident:—

“I captured the bird at Ettalong Beach on 5th December, 1917, whilst fishing from the rocks at the southern end of the Beach, nearest to Barrenjoey, I do not know the name of the headland. While looking towards Ettalong Village, I saw, what appeared to me to be, a Mollyhawk, some two or three hundred yards along the beach, riding on the breakers. At the same time the bird gave a call resembling the screech of a goose. I then answered it, imitating the call. The bird then made one dive and came up within ten feet of where I stood. A heavy sea then caught the bird and swept it in close to the beach. I jumped into the water between the bird and the open. It then made a dive for the open water, but came straight at me. I made a clutch and caught it by the neck, and after keeping it for a few days, I sent it to the Zoological Gardens at Taronga Park.”

Mr. A. S. Le Souef, Director of the Gardens, informed me that the Penguin appeared to be in good health when received, and lived contentedly enough in the Seal Pond. After about ten days it showed signs of moping and would not eat. It died a few days afterwards, and the body was sent to the Australian Museum. The skin is preserved there, and the following is a description:—

Immature male. The whole upper surface dark brown, the centre of the feathers bluish-black. A few shreds of down adhering below the neck. Superciliary stripe extending from culmicorn over the eye, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length, whitish to behind eye, then pale sulphur-yellow. Chin and upper throat light brown, lower neck and rest of under surface white. Wings, brownish, tipped with white except at the extremities. Under surface of wings white with an irregular black margin. Feet, fleshy-white; toes, black; bill, reddish horn colour. Total length 27 inches. Wing, 7 in.; foot (bare to end of middle toe), $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.; middle toe, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in.; bill, 2 in.; latericorn, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; lower mandible, $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. (Plate x., fig. 1).

Some earlier records of the occurrence of this species in Tasmania and Australia are as follows:—

Gould says¹:—“For a fine example of this singular Penguin I am indebted to my friend, Ronald C. Gunn, Esq., of Launceston, Van Diemen’s Land, who informed me that it had been washed on shore on the northern coast of that Island after a heavy gale. It is less plentiful in

¹ Gould—Birds of Australia (folio), 1848.