

Animal Facts:

Penguins

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There are 17 or 18 different species of penguin, most of them living in huge colonies called rookeries along the coast of Antarctica and nearby islands.



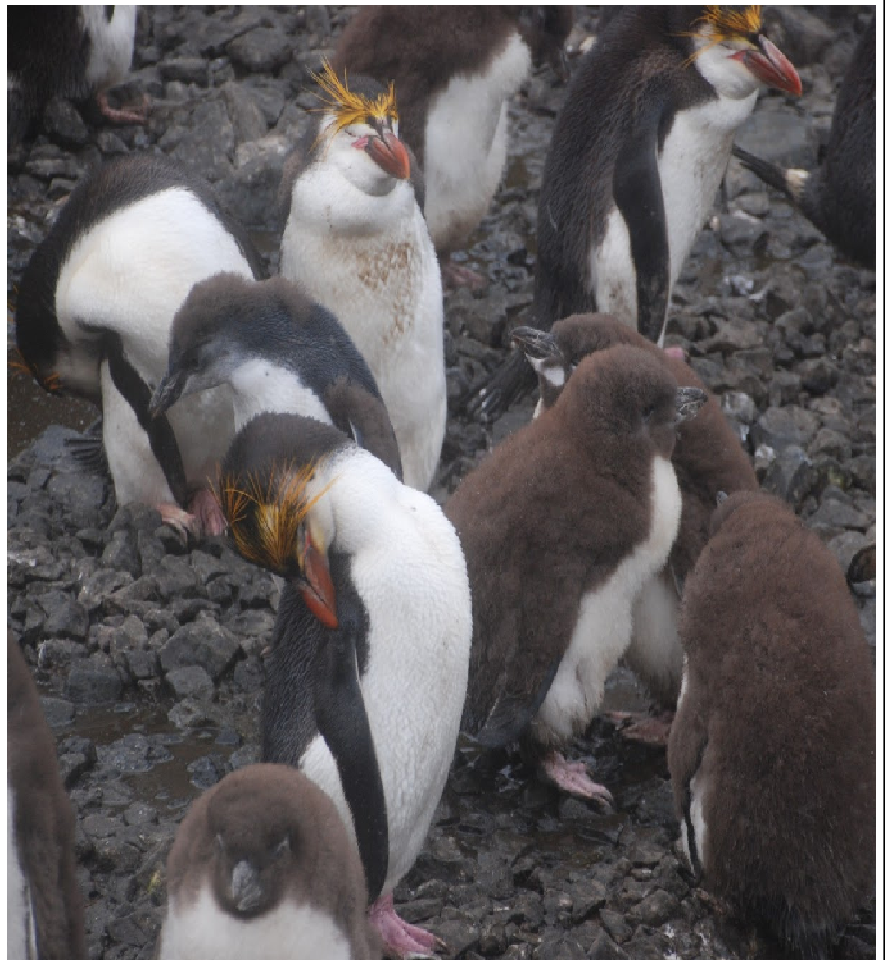
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Penguins are superb swimmers, using their wings as flippers to push them through the water, and steering with their webbed feet.



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Penguins have coats waterproofed with oil and thick fat so they can survive in temperatures as low as -60°C



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The smallest
is the fairy
penguin, at
40 cm high.



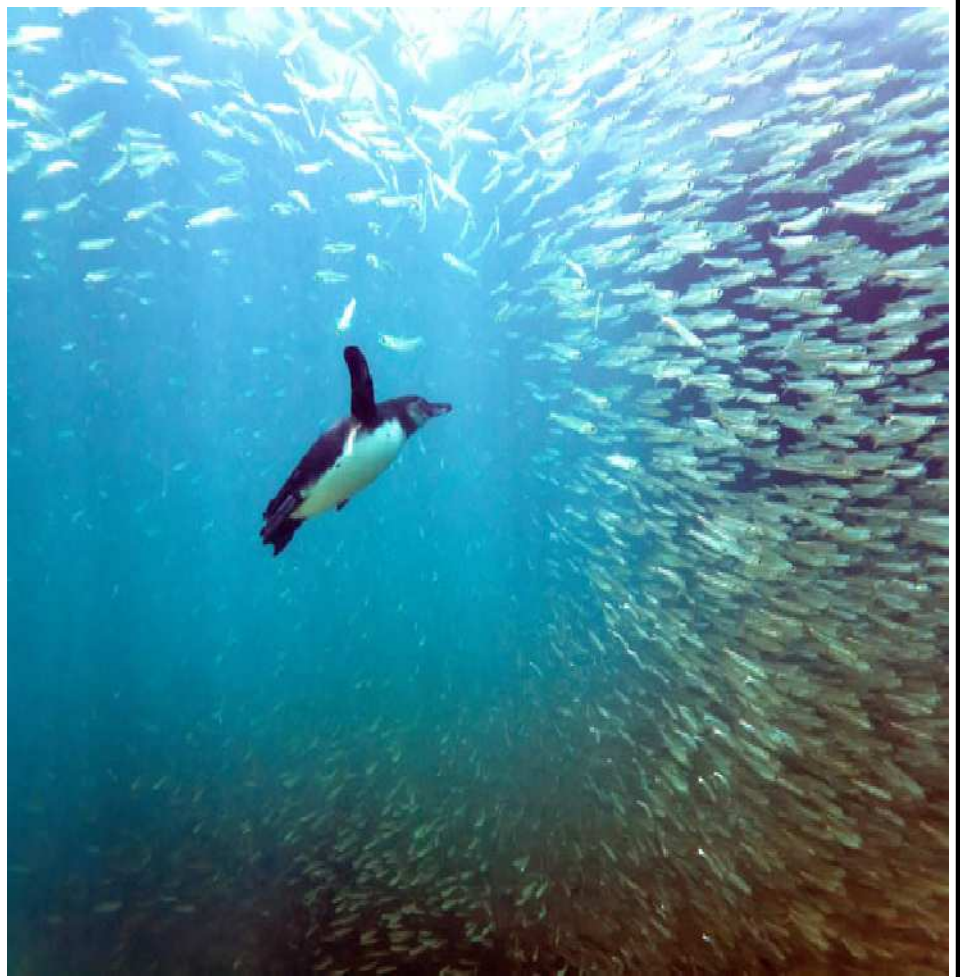
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The emperor
penguin is the
biggest
swimming bird,
at up to 1.2 m
tall and
weighing over
40 kg - twice
the weight of
any flying bird.



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Emperor penguins can dive briefly to depths of 250 m or more chasing fish, their main diet.



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Penguins can leap high out of the water to land on an ice bank, but on land they can only waddle clumsily or toboggan on their bellies.



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Adélie penguins waddle more than 320 km across the ice every year to reach their breeding ground.



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When crossing the ice, Adélie penguins steer by the sun. They lose their way when the sun goes down.



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The male emperor penguin keeps the female's egg warm on his feet until it hatches.

