

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Yellow-eyed penguin: pp 69-70.



### YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN

**Family** Spheniscidae

**Species** *Megadyptes antipodes*

**Common name** Yellow-eyed Penguin

**Status** Endemic

**Abundance** Uncommon

**Size** 760 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm)

**Habitat** A bird of coastal waters with numerous mainland nesting colonies which are often disturbed by people and predators. This species is sedentary,

not usually straying far from its nesting location.

**New Zealand range** Birds nest from Banks Peninsula right around the coastline to Fiordland. Also around Stewart Island and on Campbell and Auckland Islands.

### **Description**

**Head** Yellowish streaked with black. A broad yellow band passes through the eye and around the crown. **Upperparts** Soft black. **Flippers** Upper surface black edged with white. **Underparts** White. **Eye** Yellow.

### **Conspicuous features**

- Larger than the Fiordland Crested Penguin with which it often overlaps.
- Streaked yellow head and yellow eye.

### **Conspicuous characteristics**

- Birds come ashore to their breeding colonies from early afternoon.
- Upon landing on the beach they often stand for some time before gaining direction.
- When on the water they surface regularly for short intervals.
- Comes ashore on sand rather than rocks.

**Call** A “musical” trumpet, which can be heard from birds at the nesting sites.

**Breeding season** Birds start visiting nesting sites in July with egg laying commencing in September. Fledglings leave the nests during the following April. They breed in loose colonies on vegetated dunes, with nests being built under vegetation and well spaced, but within calling distance of each other. During the breeding season birds return to the nests from early afternoon onwards to relieve their mates or to feed their young. It should be noted that they will not come ashore if humans are in the area.

### **Where to find – South Island**

**South Canterbury** – Oamaru at a viewing hide at Bushy Beach. P. 357

**Otago Peninsula** – Penguin Tours. P. 361.

**Otago Peninsula** – Sandfly Bay a short distance from Dunedin. P. 360

**South Otago** – Nugget Point near Owaka. P. 362.

**Southland** – Jacks Bay to Curio Bay south of Owaka. P. 364.

**Fiordland** – Milford Sound from tourist boats. P. 371.

### **Where to find – Stewart Island**

**Half Moon Bay** – From ferry or tourist boats. 367.

**Paterson Inlet** – From boat to Ulva Island. P. 267.