

Little Penguin

Eudyptula minor



Range: Australia New Zealand

Size: ♂: 33-45 cm(13-14 in)

♀: 33-45 cm(13-14 in)

Weight: ♂: 0.9-1.1 kg (2-2.2 lb)

♀: 0.9-1.1 kg (2-2.2 lb)

Wing: flipper shape wing

Habitat: Marine, rocky shore

Incubation: 32-35 days

Eggs: 2

Fledge: 5 weeks

Sexual maturity ♂-24-36 mth

♀-24-36 mth

Nest: burrow

Social: gregarious

Breeding: monogamous

Movement: sedentary

Food: squid, fish

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: Captive: 6.6 years

Wild: 7 years

Order: Sphenisciformes Family: Spheniscidae

The smallest of the penguins the Little penguin grows to just about a foot tall. Other names this species is known as Little blue, Blue, Fairy and Fairy blue penguin. Native to Australia and New Zealand the Little penguin will stay in the same colony throughout its life. Breeding pairs will nest in a burrow and both parents incubate the egg and care for the chicks.

The most nocturnal of all the penguins it spends the day at sea and comes to shore in the evening. These nightly marches of penguins coming in from the sea has become a tourist attraction. The Little penguin makes a variety of sounds including cackling, braying, hissing, mooing and even meowing.

Little penguins have a very short reproductive lifespan. In the wild they live to an average age of 7 years. Combined with a sexual

maturity of up to 3 years the breeding lifespan is only 3 to four years. However this species can have a second and even third clutch during a single breeding season. A breeding pair has been recorded successfully raising six chicks in one year but this is extremely rare.