

MAGELLANIC PENGUIN

Spheniscus magellanicus

Order: Spheniciformes Family: Sphenicidae

Facts

Range: coastal Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands. Migrating north to Brazil.

Size: 61-74cm (24-30in)

Weight: 2.7-6.5kg (5.9-14.3lb)

Diet: krill, cuttlefish sardines

No. Of eggs: 2

Incubation : 39-42 days

Caregiver : both parents incubate and care for young

Sexual maturity: male 5 yrs female 4 yrs

Breeding monogamous

Life span: 30 years

IUCN: near threatened

The Magellanic Penguin is a temperate climate species preferring temperatures in the 70s. It is also the only migratory penguin swimming north to Brazil during the non-breeding season. They are distinguished by the double black strap on their breast. They can dive up to 250 feet and swim up to 15 mi./h. Like its close relative the African penguin the Magellanic penguin is threatened by oil spills overfishing and climate change. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has a colony of 11 Magellanic penguins on exhibit. Four of these penguins were transferred from a rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro Brazil. The exhibit is covered in a fine mesh to exclude mosquitoes and other biting insects which may transmit diseases like malaria. The pool is kept at a constant 67°.

