

Articles

Jackass Penguins breeding in captivity at Hong Kong

Four pairs of Jackass Penguins *Spheniscus demersus* started to breed successfully during 1979 in the Wave Cove at Ocean Park, Hong Kong. Two pairs were introduced into the display in January 1977 and two further pairs a year later. Wave Cove water temperatures varied from 16 to 31°C, and air temperatures varied from 16 to 32°C during 1977-1978.

The penguins have been paired up ever since their arrival at Wave Cove and readily occupied the four nest sites made for them (Figs 1 & 2). Individual daily intake of fish varied from 225 to 680 g. The highest intake occurred before moulting. The penguins normally moulted every six months, in March and August.

The following is the breeding history of each pair from the time of introduction :

Pair A

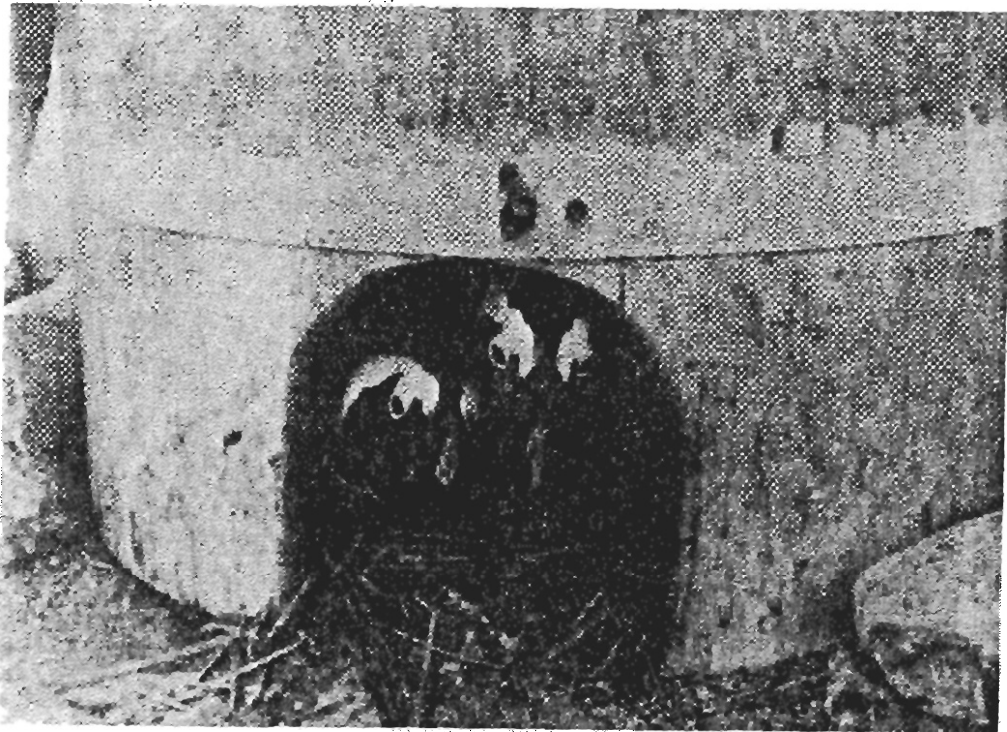
2 March 1977) Laid two eggs each time. Desertion of eggs
26 May 1977) occurred after about two months.
10 Jan 1978) Eggs were rotten and appeared unfertilized.
25 May 1978)
21 Oct 1978 Laid two eggs. Chicks were heard calling on
3 Dec. 1978, but were found dead on 8 Dec. 1978.
Incubation period about 33 days.
7 Jan 1979 Laid first egg.
11 Jan 1979 Laid second egg, laying interval 4 days.
14 Feb 1979 One chick present, remaining egg still in the
nest, probably not fertilized. Incubation
period 34 or 38 days.

Pair B

13 June 1977) Laid two eggs each time. Desertion of eggs
30 Dec 1977) occurred usually after about two months. Eggs
26 March 1978) were rotten and unfertilized.
13 June 1978)
8 Jan 1979 Laid egg.
22 Jan 1979 Laid egg.
25 Feb 1979 One chick present, the other egg still in the
nest. Incubation period about 34 days.

Pair C

31 Oct 1978 Laid two eggs.
4 Dec 1978 Two chicks present. Incubation period about
34 days.



Figures 1 & 2
Jackass Penguins at their nest sites in
Wave Cove, Ocean Park, Hong Kong

Pair D

31 March 1978)
13 April 1978) Laid one egg each time. All were found to be
19 May 1978) rotten and unfertilized.
24 July 1978)

31 Dec 1978 Laid first egg.
4 Jan 1979 Laid second egg, laying interval 4 days.
7 Feb 1979 One chick and one egg, probably not fertilized,
in the nest. Incubation period about 34 days.

The chicks of Pair C were successfully reared to fledging by their parents, and a colour photograph (taken in February 1979) shows them to have lost most of their down. By March 1979 the chicks were downless (Fig. 3). This gives a chick-rearing period of about three months.

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Figure 3

Downless Jackass Penguin chick reared in
Wave Cove , Ocean Park, Hong Kong during early 1979