

GENERAL NOTES

Range of the Ringed Penguin, *Pygoscelis antarctica*.—In the January, 1949, issue of 'The Auk,' Mr. Malcolm Davis draws attention to Peter I. Island as a new locality of the Ringed Penguin. As a member of the U. S. Navy Second Antarctic Development Project, 1947–1948, Mr. Davis landed at Framnes Head, Peter I. Island, on February 15, 1948, and found two specimens of the Ringed Penguin, which did not appear to have been breeding and were brought to The National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C.

However, as I wrote Mr. Davis some time ago, but after his note for 'The Auk' had been printed, the Ringed Penguin has been reported from Peter I. Island before, and in February, 1948, it was actually breeding there, but only a single pair.

The first landing at Peter I. Island was carried out during the second Norvegia expedition, on February 2, 1929, and the zoologist and scientific leader of the expedition, Dr. O. Olstad, has given a brief account of the birds of the island (Norsk Geogr. Tidsskr. 2, Oslo, 1929); he found the Adelie Penguin, *Pygoscelis adeliae*, breeding, and observed the Ringed Penguin. This information is repeated in a report of 1945 by the present author ('Antarctic and Sub-antarctic Birds' [Oslo], reviewed in The Auk, 64: 476–477).

The Norwegian Brategg expedition of 1947–1948 visited Peter I. Island from February 8 to 13, 1948, and missed the U. S. S. Edisto and Mr. Davis by two days only and less than 200 miles. On Framnes Head, I banded 51 Adelie Penguins (26 adults and 25 chicks) and four Ringed Penguins (2 adults and 2 chicks).

From this, and from additional specimens collected, and observations made during two days ashore, I estimate the number of Adelie Penguins as 18 or 20 pairs with young. Of the Ringed Penguin, a pair and two chicks were banded, but in addition at least one unmated adult was seen.

It was interesting to note that the Adelie chicks were full-grown and fully feathered, yet some of them still had some down adhering to the upper parts (head, neck, back, and flippers). The two Ringed Penguin chicks were only about half-grown, and still in their second down, gray or grayish brown.

Murphy ('Oceanic Birds of South America,' 1: 412–413) says ". . . chicks hatched about the end of the first week in January at the South Orkneys were beginning to show the chin-strap of their first contour plumage by February 11," and, as their rate of growth is more rapid than that of the nearest relatives, ". . . were thus quite as advanced as their cousins of the other species."

The Ringed Penguin chicks of Peter I. Island may have hatched about January 20, a rather late date for such a highly polar region.

As the two specimens captured by Mr. Davis were not banded, it is possible that one or two of the Ringed Penguins observed and banded by me may have lost the ring. But is it also possible that more than one unmated bird has been present; yet I never saw simultaneously more than three specimens ashore. At least it is to be hoped that one parent, if not both, remained for the upbringing of the young. The nest was situated amidst the major part of the Adelie rookery which consisted of three distinct groups, one of these consisting of two pairs, another of four, and the third comprising the rest.

To conclude, I may mention that the Ringed Penguin was observed at sea once only, at the ice-edge in position 66° 25' S. lat., 89° 55' W. long.—two birds on December 19, 1947.—HOLGER HOLGERSEN, *Stavanger Museum, Stavanger, Norway*.