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Penguins- Emperor penguin

Penguins are among the most popular of all birds. They only live in and around the South Pole and the continent of Antarctica. No wild penguins live at the North Pole. There are 17 different kinds of penguins in all, and none of them can fly. Penguins have to be able to survive in the some of the Earth's coldest and windiest conditions. They are great swimmers and have thick layers of fat to protect them from the bitter cold. Even in their freezing cold habitats, penguins still have to watch out for predators such as killer whales and seals. The largest penguin is called the Emperor Penguin, and the smallest kind of penguin is the little blue penguin.

The Emperor Penguin is also the heaviest penguin, with some individuals recorded at nearly 100 pounds. Adults have a black head, back, tail, and black wings. The underparts are dingy white. The sides of the neck are marked with a large golden or yellow stripe. In addition, there is a varying amount of gold on the upper breast. Like most penguins, the Emperor Penguin has thick, waterproof feathers that cover the entire body except for the bill and feet. Emperor penguins normally live about 20 years in the wild, though some individuals have been recorded at 40 years of age.

Their diet consists of crustaceans, krill and small fish. Emperor Penguins will dive to depths of 800 feet in search of food. Most dives last 3-6 minutes.

Their predators are Sharks, Leopard Seals, Orcas. Chicks are vulnerable to predation from South Polar Skuas.

Female Emperor Penguins lay a single egg in May or June. After the egg has been laid, the female must immediately feed in the ocean. First the egg is carefully transported to the male, who will incubate the egg for up to 65 days. During this time, he will not eat a single meal.