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Snares crested penguin – pp. 31-32.

Snares Crested Penguin *Eudyptes robustus* Oliver 1953, Endemic
1935 The Snares

Andreas Reischek (1888) on the 23rd January 1888 saw – “Thousands of penguins (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* and *E. chrysocomus*) were on the rocks, standing like regiments of soldiers. It was amusing to see Captain Fairchild, who delights in such sport, tumbling them into sacks, to be taken on board for museum purposes.” This penguin has a very confusing taxonomic history. A melanistic penguin described as *Eudyptes atratus* Finsch 1875, was attributed variously to Erect-crested Penguin (Oliver 1953; 1955; Stonehouse 1971) and Snares Crested Penguin (Fleming 1948; Kinsky 1970). Sir R.A. Falla (1935) first distinguished the Snares Crested Penguin as being different from the Fiordland Crested Penguin (Stonehouse 1971).

Oliver (1953) named the Snares Penguin, after identifying the black *E. atratus* as being *E. sclateri*. The type specimen was collected in 1892 from the Snares, No. 1209.6 in the Canterbury Museum. Oliver (1953) also said that Buller's (1873: P.344, colour plate) *E. chrysocomus* was actually a Snares Penguin.

In 1976, Oliver's name *E. robustus* was finally ascribed to this species. Taylor (2000) said that the taxonomic status of birds breeding on the Snares Western Chain should be investigated, as they nested six weeks after the penguins on the main islands. Recently Christidis & Boles (2008) lumped the Snares and Fiordland Penguins based on DNA sequence data. Tavares & Baker (2008) found them to be sister-species using barcode data.