



Join in the Jamboree



Humboldt Penguin

26th July to 2nd August 2008

www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree

The Humboldt Penguin Subcamp have sponsored Dotty at Colchester Zoo!

All About Humboldt Penguins

What is a Humboldt Penguin?

Like all penguins, the Humboldt is a flightless bird that spends its life both in the water and on land. On land, penguins waddle, hop and walk very clumsily but in the water they are very graceful, fast and agile, which helps them catch their food.

What does a Humboldt Penguin look like?



Humboldt Penguins grow upto 65-70cm (25-27inches) tall and weigh upto 4kg (8.8lbs). They have a broad black band running as an up turned horseshoe on their fronts and some black spots on their chest - these spots can help identify them apart.

What do they eat?

Mainly small fish such as anchovy and sardines. They also eat squid and small crustaceans. In captivity each penguin eats about 0.5 kilos of fish a day.

Where do they live?

Humboldts Penguins live on rocky shores and islands along the coast of Peru and Chile in South America. This makes them warm weather lovers but it can give them problems with being too hot in the summer . Like all penguins they have a layer of blubber which keeps them warm in the water, but due to living in the warmer climate, Humbodts have developed short feathers which helps to kepp their temperature down.

Why are they endangered?

Over many years these penguins have been hunted for meat and oil from their blubber and also eggs are collected for food or egg collectors. They are also disturbed when breeding by people collecting their dropping which make very good fertiliser. Humboldts Penguins are sought afetr by private collectors and zoo's although many present day zoo's only have Penguins which have been captive bred. More recently they are regularly caught in fishing nets, and on long line fishing gear. Being aquatic birds they are badly affected by oil spills and over-fishing of their feeding areas. There are currently around 6,000 pairs of penguins at the moment and their numbers are under threat.



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