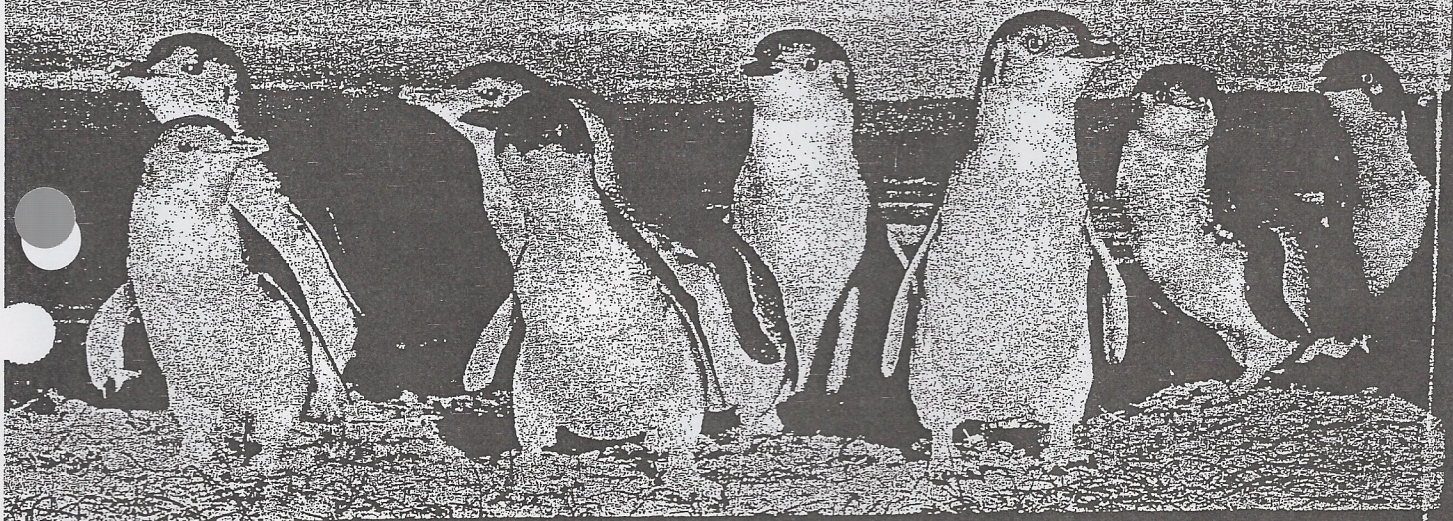


Penguins at the

BY NANCY EVANS

Penguins live in a world of icebergs and blizzards, right? Not in Australia! Here they "hit the beach" and nest in sandy burrows.



The sun is setting on Phillip Island, off the coast of southern Australia.

Imagine you are on a boardwalk above the beach. The only sound you can hear is the pounding of the waves. You and the other people on the boardwalk are waiting, waiting . . .

DAWDLE AND WADDLE

Whoosh! A big wave washes across the beach, and a flock of *little penguins* is tossed out onto

the sand. Yes! Just what everyone has been waiting for.

The penguins chatter as they huddle together. Then they look up and down the beach (see photo above). "Is it safe to cross?" they seem to be wondering. There's no place to hide, if a fox or other enemy is out to get them.

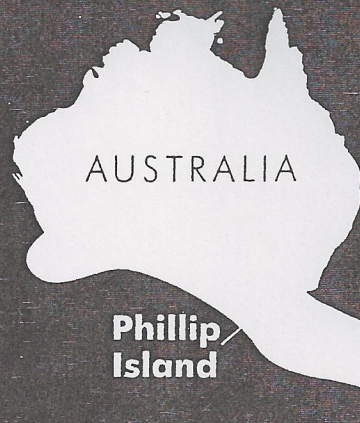
You and the other people stand quietly. A noise or a moving shadow might scare the birds. At last the penguins are ready. They quickly dash across the beach.

HERE THEY COME!

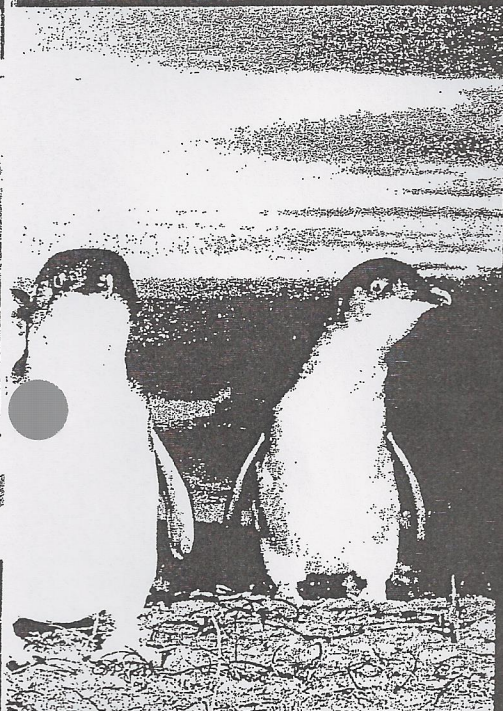
The penguins scurry right under the boardwalk. They come out on the other side and keep waddling away from the water as fast as they can.

The Penguin Parade has begun. After a long day of fishing, as many as 1,800 penguins run across the beach. They all head to their burrows up in the sandy hills. The hungry chicks are waiting there for Mom and Dad to cough up some fish or squid for them.

each?



Little penguins live in the orange area.



FRED BAVENDAM

SMALLEST OF ALL

Little penguins live in southern Australia, New Zealand, and nearby islands. (See map.) These duck-sized birds are the smallest of the 17 species (kinds) of penguins in the world. And they don't have just one name. They're called *little penguins*, *fairy penguins*, *blue penguins*, and even *little blue penguins*.

But no matter what they're called, they're also fun-to-watch penguins!

The little penguin above is peeking out of its nesting place along the shore. Scientists sometimes check the chicks in a nest to see if they're healthy (below). Look at those little flippers!



WAYNE LYNCH