

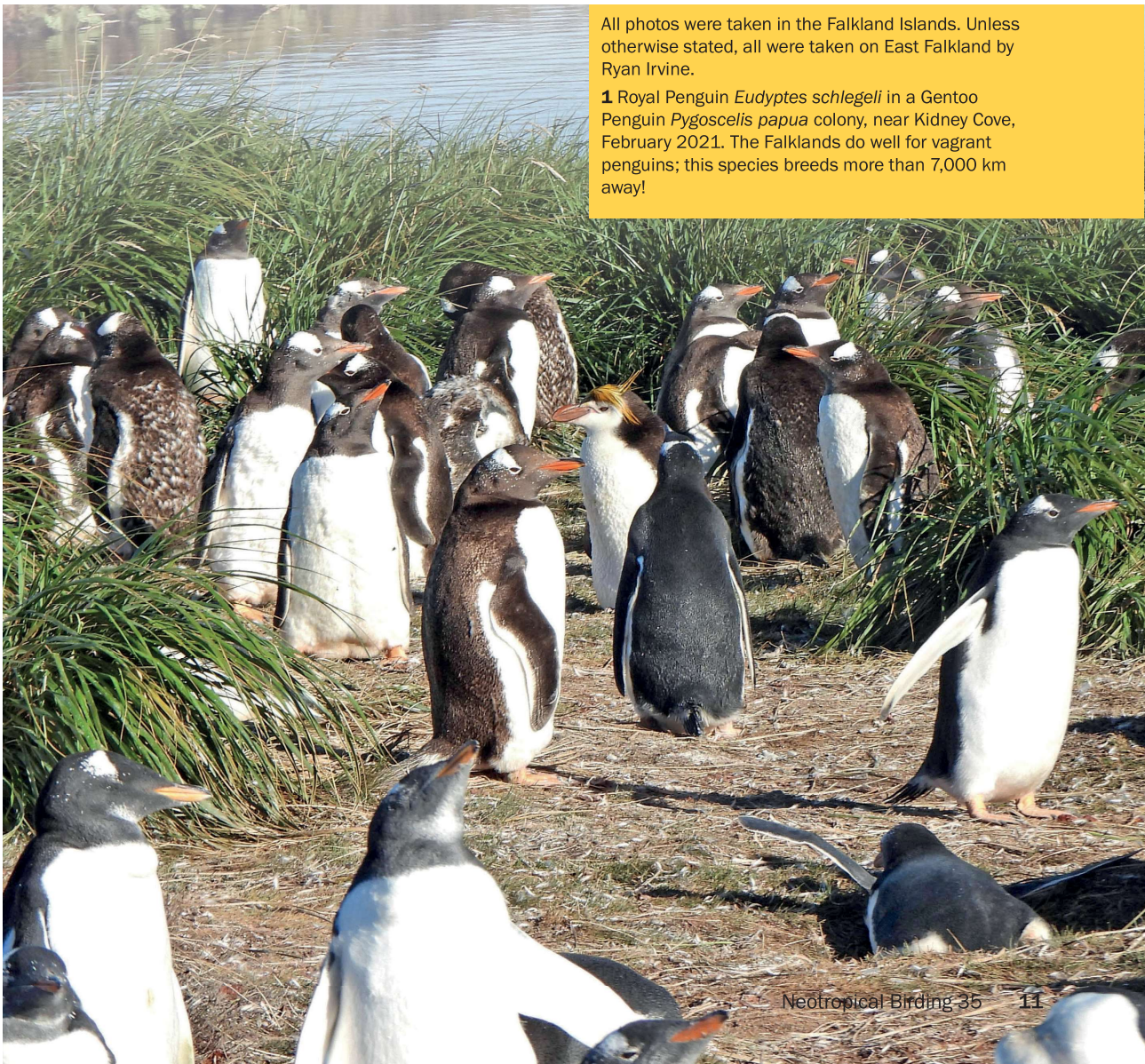
# Vagrancy in the Falkland Islands

Ryan Irvine

Many islands are renowned ‘vagrancy traps’ – locations where vagrant birds pitch up unexpectedly, presenting thrilling birding opportunities. Here a former resident celebrates contributing to the Falklands’ vagrancy track record.

**T**he Falkland Islands (Malvinas) sit at the south-eastern edge of the NBC region, over 500 km from the nearest coastline in mainland South America; the capital, Stanley, is over 750 km from the continental mainland. The Falklands are renowned for being home to

outstanding penguin colonies and amazing seabird spectacles, the latter highlighted in *Neotropical Birding* 31 (Irvine 2022). But the islands are also an unexpected migration—and vagrancy—hotspot, providing welcome landfall for birds that have journeyed way out into the Southern Atlantic.



All photos were taken in the Falkland Islands. Unless otherwise stated, all were taken on East Falkland by Ryan Irvine.

**1** Royal Penguin *Eudyptes schlegeli* in a Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua* colony, near Kidney Cove, February 2021. The Falklands do well for vagrant penguins; this species breeds more than 7,000 km away!