



Copa Sitrep # 7
11/30/07 – 12/6/07

Warm temperatures and high winds have resulted in rapid melting of the snow this week. We've lost at least 3 ft in as many days and hiking continues to be frustratingly slow as we plunge through the snow layer to discover small hidden lakes and streams. We were able to launch one of our canoes for the first time this week at Ecology Glacier, but our Demay/Patelnia work is still dependent on an unfriendly tide schedule for now. This week, so they could finish all the necessary chinstrap & skua work from Demay to Patelnia, and not have to worry about catching the tide to get back to Copa, Angie and Jeff spent a night at the Polish refuge at Demay. Although the melting snow is causing a small amount of nest failures, we have gone through our first week without massive losses of penguin nests in any part of the colony. The remaining Adélie nests are beginning to approach the peak hatch date this weekend

1. Penguins: 39 out of 100 monitored Adélie penguin nests remain active and chicks are being seen and heard throughout the colonies now.

We are still waiting for a single gentoo pair to lay eggs, but of the other 97 monitored pairs, 53 remain active. The peak gentoo clutch initiation was on 11/19.

Chinstrap Egg 1 and Egg 2 measurements were taken at Patelnia and Demay on Thursday (50 nests with 2 eggs (i.e., completed clutches) are randomly selected & both eggs are measured & weighed).

2. Skuas: Although a few skuas are nesting, the majority of our usual study area is still barren of bird life.

2. Giant Petrels: We conducted the Giant Petrel nest census for Copa this week and found 233 active nests. We will be censusing the small colony at Point Thomas this weekend.

Hut Improvements: We have broken out the Christmas decorations and are slowly turning Copa into a holiday wonderland. Our missing "fridge" has finally emerged from the melting snow, so we hope to mount that outside the kitchen window soon.

End of Sitrep #7

The 2007-08 Copa Field Team

Stefan Kropidlowski - Field Team Leader

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