



## Copa Sitrep # 10

12/21/07 – 12/27/07

Christmas week at Copa brought mild weather which continued the rapid snow melt. With great joy we stowed the snowshoes this week and hope not to see them again for the rest of the season. The hiking conditions have greatly improved, although we do have some treacherous mud areas to contend with until the moraines dry out. With the opening up of the high country, the skuas have returned in abundance and numerous pairs have now been seen staking out breeding territories. There are a few Adélie penguin chicks that are over 1-month old now, but no crèches have yet formed.

1. Penguins: 34 out of 100 Adélie Repro Study nests remain active and have produced 57 chicks to date, 45 of which have survived. Out of 40 initiated known-age Adélie Repro Study nests, 11 remain and have produced 14 chicks. The nest success rate for 3 weeks after the mean C1 hatch date is 27.5% for known-age nests and 34% for the randomly chosen Repro Study nests. Eleven Adélie penguin 21-Day chick weights have been taken so far.

Gentoo chicks are finally hatching across the Copa Beach colonies and the Ipanema Beach colonies will shortly be approaching their own 21-day weight dates. Out of 98 gentoo Repro Study nests, 54 have failed and, of those, 24 have re-laid for a total of 70 active nests. To date, the Repro nests have produced 40 chicks, 35 of which are still alive. Out of 83 known-age gentoo nests, 59 remain active (including 5 relays) and have produced 25 chicks, 23 of which have survived to date. The current nest survivorship for known-age gentoo penguin nests is 71%.

Our trip to Patelnia and Demay this week revealed colonies full of peeping chinstrap penguin chicks.

We had a second juvenile macaroni penguin visit our camp this week.

2. Penguin Diets: Last weekend we began our yearly diet sampling of the Adélie penguins, selecting 5 adults coming in to feed chicks. They are captured with a net & then “stomach pumped” using the wet-offload technique, to collect the stomach contents for analysis & measurements. More details on this in later sitreps.

3. Skuas: All skua surveys were completed. A total of 28 skua nests have been initiated so far across the west side of Admiralty Bay (not including Copa or Pt. Thomas), and 2 have hatched chicks, the first on 12/26 at Patelnia.

4. Txs: The last 3 radio transmitters were deployed on Adélie Penguins on 12/22.

5. Seals: All seal censuses were completed. No further data available.

End of Sitrep #10

The 2007-08 Copa Field Team  
Stefan Kropidlowski - Field Team Leader  
Jefferson Hinke  
Angie Kaufman  
Małgorzata Korczak

