



Copa Sitrep # 12
1-4-08 to 1-10-08

Adélie penguin chicks are forming crèches in all the colonies now and a handful of fully feathered chicks are wandering around the outskirts of the colonies. We are approaching the peak of our workload at Copa, as we begin to get into the thick of penguin diet sampling and satellite transmitter deployments, along with upcoming chick censuses and banding. All this is coming at a time when we are losing one of our most productive workers in the camp, Jefferson, who leaves us to return home on 1/11. Fortunately, reinforcements arrive on 1/14.

1. Penguins: 15 out of 100 Adélie penguin Repro nests remain active, plus 16 that have crèched. Out of the 57 Adélie chicks that hatched in our study, 43 remain, 26 of which have crèched. 5 satellite transmitters were deployed on brooding adult Adélies this week, so we can follow them on their foraging trips. It has been 3 weeks since radio transmitters were deployed on the Adélie breeders & their chicks have begun to crèche -- all are still transmitting, providing us with their times at-sea (i.e., their foraging trip durations) vs. their times on land – these data will be analyzed to determine if these times are different than past years & perhaps in correlation to food resources & availability. 70 out of our 98 gentoo penguin Repro nests remain active (26 of which are relays) and have produced 65 chicks to date. The oldest gentoo chicks are now 3-4 weeks old, although some of our latest relays occurred just last week.
2. Penguin Diets: The 4th set of Adélie penguin diet samples was collected this week. More information on this at a later date.
3. Skuas: A total of 65 pairs have initiated nests throughout the study area, 10 of which have since failed. The first chicks to hatch will be approaching banding age in the next week.
4. Giant Petrels: The first chicks were seen on 1/7. All but 4 adults in the Copa Rock colony have had their bands read, out of the 24 remaining active nests. All of our planned adult banding expeditions this week have been canceled, unfortunately, due to high winds and storms.

Weekly Weather: All conditions were experienced this week - from a calm and sunny 50 degrees to a 36-hour, below-freezing blizzard, and everything in-between. Winds were fairly calm this week, with an estimated high of 40-knot gusts.

End of Sitrep #12

The 2007-08 Copa Field Team
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