



Copa Sitrep # 13
1-10 to 1-17-08

Copa is reaching the midpoint of its high season in this irregular year. The Adélie's have all crèched and are approaching fledging age, some gentoo colonies are crèching while others are just starting to hatch, some skuas are initiating their first nests while others have chicks old enough to band, and the majority of giant petrel chicks have all hatched. While continuing the regular monitoring of these birds, we are also collecting three diet samples a week and deploying satellite transmitters, plus we've also managed to census the Adélie chicks at Copa & Point Thomas and to band and/or resight all of the nesting giant petrel adults in the Copa Rock colony. The busy week was complicated with the high winds, cold temperatures, and the early arrival of the *R/V Yuzhmorgeologiya* (aka Yuzhmo). Fortunately, with the reinforcements it delivered, and a few sunny and calm days thrown in, we were able to get back on schedule by the end of the week.

1. Penguins: All Adélie penguin chicks have crèched this week. The census of all Copa Adélie colonies came to a total of 921 chicks produced. Out of the 100 Adélie Repro nests, 42 chicks successfully crèched. Out of the 40 total known-age Adélie nests, 14 chicks crèched. Four of the 5 satellite tags deployed last week on Adélie's with small chicks have been recovered. Also, the last tag deployed in November (on an incubating female Adélie) was recovered, after the bird's nest failed & it went off to the northeast, to spend the next 5 weeks at sea, east of Clarence Island! 5 more sat. tags were deployed this week on adult Adélie's with crèched chicks. Out of 98 gentoo penguin Repro nests, 64 are still active - 50 of which have produced a total of 74 chicks so far. The first gentoo chicks were banded this week and the first nests crèched on 1/11. Four satellite tags have been deployed on brooding gentoo adults.
2. Penguin Diets: The 5th of 6 sets of Adélie diet samples (5 samples per set) was collected this week. The first sets of gentoo & chinstrap diet samples (5 samples per set) were also collected this week.
3. Skuas: 83 pairs have initiated nests in the study area to date, 15 of which have failed and 12 of which have produced chicks.
4. Giant Petrels: All nests in the Copa Rock colony have had all breeding birds banded and or resighted. Many chicks have hatched in the last week.

Hut Improvements: After 3 months, the window fridge was finally installed in the kitchen!

Weekly Weather: The week was mostly cloudy with steady moderate to high winds and some rain, although we had a few periods of light winds and sunny skies.

End of Sitrep #13

The 2007-08 Copa Field Team

Stefan Kropidowski - Field Team Leader

Angie Kaufman

Małgorzata Korczak

Susan Woods

Wayne Trivelpiece (PI)

Rachael Orben

