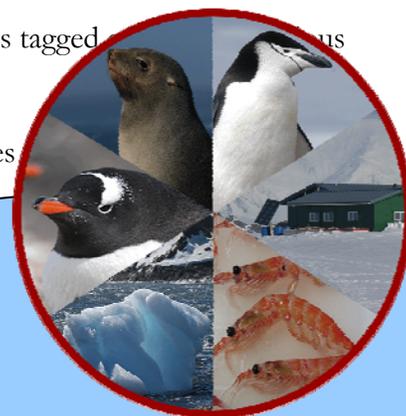


Seabirds:

1. Gentoo chicks are starting to crèche; our first crèched nest was on 13 January. The failure rate of the gentoo reproductive study nests has remained the same since last week at 24%, 20% are brooding one chick, 36% are brooding two chicks, and 20% are crèched. In the chinstrap penguin reproductive study 26% of nests have one chick, 41% have two chicks, and 33% have failed.
2. Of the nests of known-age chinstrap penguins, 32% have one chick, 22% have two chicks, and 46% have failed. This week the failure rate of known-age gentoo penguin nests has increased from 38% to 41% and 15% have crèched.
3. We are continuing to weigh chinstrap and gentoo chicks of all reproductive study and known-age breeder nests. The mass, taken when chicks are 21 days old, is used as a measure of chick condition before they crèche.
4. We continued diet sampling on chinstraps and gentoos this week. We followed adults returning from foraging trips back to their nests to verify that they were breeders and captured them before they feed their chicks. Samples were collected using the wet-offloading technique. Data on total mass of stomach contents, diet composition, and length and sex frequency of krill were recorded for each stomach sample.
5. On 17 January we retrieved all three time-depth recorders and six satellite transmitters from adult chinstraps.
6. Most of the skua chicks are nearly done hatching. Currently, five pairs have failed, six pairs have one chick, six pairs have two chicks, and two pairs are still incubating eggs.
7. It has been another exciting week with another rare visitor to Cape Shirreff. During nest checks on 17 January we spotted a South American negrito, which is a small passerine not normally seen in Antarctica.

Pinnipeds:

8. We recovered three of our GPS/time depth recorder (GPS-TDR) instruments from females that lost their pups and re-deployed two of them. We currently have five GPS instruments at sea collecting data on foraging locations.
9. As of today 28 of our 29 attendance study females have completed six trips to sea. Eight attendance females have lost their pups (likely to leopard seal predation), but only one before completing six trips.
10. We continued identifying the sex and collecting the DNA of tagged females' pups. We have identified the sex and collected DNA on 68.5% of tagged females' pups. Mortality rate since the arrival of leopard seals has increased to 9.7%.
11. Daily tag re-sights continued this week. We have re-sighted only 90 fur seals tagged in previous years.
12. Fur seal diet sampling continued this week with the collection of ten more scats, bringing our total to 50. As in previous years, we transferred scat samples (n=50) to the ship, where running water facilitates analysis.



13. We also transferred all the overwinter instruments that we have retrieved so far to the ship, so that they can be sent back to La Jolla and all the data that they have collected can be analyzed.
14. On the last phocid census on 15 January we observed 138 southern elephant seals, 26 Weddell seals, and 17 leopard seals.

Weather:

15. The weather this week on Cape Shirreff has been mostly nice, and gave us couple very nice and sunny days. We had a high of 10.1°C and a low of -0.7°C. The mean temperature was 2.0°C. Mean wind speed for the week was 13 mph and the max. gust was 42.0 mph. Most wind this week was from the east and west. We had 0.07 inches of precipitation this week.

Camp:

16. It was another good week for the camp and camp personnel! On Sunday, 16 January, the R/V *Moana Wave* arrived with our resupply and new campmates. The offload went really well, the weather was nice, and we were able to bring everything ashore in 3-4h. We had the chance to meet several friends and colleagues from NOAA that we haven't seen in several months.
17. The quadcopter team has finally arrived! We are all really excited to have Wayne Perryman, Don LeRoi, Steve Gardner and Nancy Ash here with us. They are a great addition to the camp and incredibly nice people to have around. We celebrated their arrival with a nice dinner, served by Ray, of pasta and a fresh SALAD! It has been a while since our last salad.
18. We are getting ready for phocid captures, and have been spending some time in the laboratory getting all the drugs and supplies ready. We have a nice laboratory here at Cape Shirreff: small, but really efficient. Many evenings are spent working in the lab processing, cataloging, and storing all the samples that we collect during the day. We are also running some parasitology projects, looking at the different parasites that potentially affect seals at the Cape.
19. With the resupply we also received lot of personal presents from family, friends and significant others back home. It was really exciting to receive packages after all this time and made everyone happy!

Submitted by AMLR staff currently residing at the Cape Shirreff field station, Livingston Island.

