

**Seabirds:**

1. In the fifth week since gentoo penguin peak hatch, 24% of the reproduction study plots have failed and 76% have crèched. Peak crèche for gentoo penguins occurred on 19 January. In the fourth week since peak chinstrap penguin hatch 2% of the chinstrap penguin reproduction plots have crèched, 24% have one chick, 37% have two chicks and 37% have failed.
2. We continue to monitor known-age penguins. Of the 35 known-age gentoo penguins that initiated clutches, 11% have at least one chick, 49% have crèched and 40% have failed. Of the 73 known-age chinstraps that have initiated clutches, 49% have at least one chick and 51% have failed.
3. On 17 January we retrieved six satellite transmitters and three time depth recorders (TDRs) from chinstrap penguins that were brooding chicks. These data await analysis.
4. To date, we have collected 25 diet samples from chinstrap penguins and 15 from gentoo penguins. Chinstrap penguin diet samples have consisted almost entirely of Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) with trace amounts of fish. Gentoo penguin diet samples were a mix of Antarctic krill and fish with one octopus found. To date, average krill length found in both species is 42.11 mm with the diet samples consisting of 32% females, 43% males, and 25% juveniles.
5. Of the 27 pairs of brown skuas that we are monitoring, one nest still has eggs, six nests have failed, nine pairs have two chicks and three pairs have one chick. Eight of the pairs never initiated a nest.
6. We have had yet another avian visitor to the cape. On 20 January and 21 January we observed a juvenile macaroni penguin.

**Pinnipeds:**

7. We recovered five GPS/time depth recorder (GPS-TDR) instruments that were monitoring foraging locations since mid-December. We are redeploying these instruments and we have five instruments at any given time at sea collecting data of foraging locations, depth of dive and temperature at depth.
8. All of our 29 attendance study females have completed at least six trips to sea. Two females (6.7%) lost their pups before completing their sixth trip. Mean trip duration for the first six trips to sea was 2.2 days (s.d.: 0.93, n=178, range: 0.35-5.94).
9. We have retrieved five of our eleven Mark 9 time depth recorders deployed on female fur seals. They were removed from females that had lost their pups. All successfully recorded all dive behavior and temperature for at least the first six trips to sea.
10. Daily tag re-sights continued this week. We have re-sighted 90 fur seals tagged as pups in previous years. This is 7% higher than for the same time last year. As of today we have seen three yearlings and two 2-year-old fur seals. The three most represented year classes in our tag returns are 1999-2000, 2001-2002 and 2006-2007. No tags have ever been observed from the 2004 year class.
11. Fur seal diet sampling continued this week with the collection of ten more scats, bringing our total to 60. All scats were predominantly krill.



12. We have tagged nine leopard seals this year so far. We have recorded an additional 22 tagged from previous years, bringing the total tags observed to 31 and we are still seeing untagged animals on our study beaches.

**Weather:**

13. We had a high of 6.6° C and a low of -0.8° C this week. The average temperature was 1.8° C (based on measuring temperature every 15 minutes). Mean wind speed for the week was 8.4 mph and the max. gust was 42.0 mph. Easterlies dominated the winds most of the week.

**Camp:**

14. This week went by fast. The weather has been mostly nice. This was perfect for the “qudracopter” team to be able to fly their instrument. They were able to collect a lot of images that cover almost 75% of the all penguin colonies. The images are of a really good resolution which will allow an accurate animal count.

15. We did the first leopard seal capture of the season. It went well; we deployed a TDR (time depth recorder) and a radio transmitter. It was a good start of the leopard seal season for us, we are now looking for another one, weather permitting.

16. We have enjoyed our new campmates’ presence. It is nice to have new faces around. The neighbors, as we call them, are really good neighbors! They have been of great help in the camp maintenance, looking at the electrical system, helping with the meal rotation cooking wonderful dinners, and brought lot of good laughter to camp. Camp morale is high!

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

