

## Seabirds

1. We concluded collecting Chinstrap penguin fledgling weights on February 26th. We weighed a total of 304 fledglings, of which 91 were banded. Average weight was 3245 g (SD= 354).
2. We conducted the annual chinstrap penguin carcass count on March 1. We searched all of the beaches on the northern and eastern sides of Cape Shirreff and counted all the carcasses we found. We counted 128 carcasses (26 adults, 79 chicks and 23 unidentified). Leopard seal predation was identified as the main source of mortality.
3. We stopped collecting chinstrap radio transmitter data on February 28. These data await analysis.

## Pinnipeds

4. Eighteen attendance mother/pup pairs remain in the study out of the original 31. Leopard seal predation is the likely cause of death for the other 13. Mean number of trips since pupping is 14, and mean trip length this week was 4.05 days, similar to the last several weeks.
5. Young fur seals tagged as pup continue to arrive. To date, with the combined effort of opportunistic and systematic re-sight surveys, we have seen the following percent return for the last ten year classes: (1997) 1.2%; (1998) 0.6%; (1999) 6.2%; (2000) 1.8%; (2001) 4.2%; (2002) 2.0%; (2003) 1.2%; (2004) 0.0%; (2005) 2.4%; (2006) 5.4% (27 individuals); (2007) 1.6% (8 individuals). A total of 133 different known-age individuals have been seen so far. This week one new one-year-old and a new two-year-old were seen for the first time this season.
6. All 500 pairs of pup flipper tags have now been deployed. One hundred and two of these are on pups of tagged females.
7. Our late season pup survival (survival of pups of tagged females as of 24 Feb) is 54% (n = 155).
8. We deployed two over-winter VHF transmitter on female leopard seals this week. Our DCC receiver station was reprogrammed to continue scanning throughout the winter. This will show us how long both tagged female fur seals and leopard seals remain at the Cape.



## Weather

- Precipitation for this week was 0.2 inches, bringing the season total to 4.68. Winds averaged 14.1 mph with a high gust of 44.0 mph. We also had a weekend snow storm, with heavy winds from the west, that left the cape white for a few days. Average temperature for the week was 2.7 degrees Celsius, with a high of 8.3 degrees and a low of 0.3 degrees.

## Camp

- We inventoried several of our buildings and conducted other closing camp activities. After several hours of multi-person investigation into a major power loss to the main camp, the problem was diagnosed and solved in 2 minutes by Jimmy Breeden Jr. We expect the R/V *Yuzhmorgeologia* will arrive this Friday morning to close our camp for the season.

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

