

Seabirds:

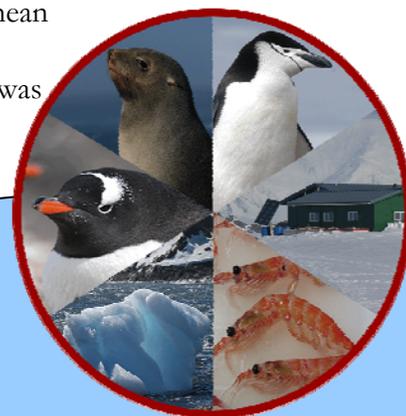
1. Forty percent of gentoo penguins in the reproductive study have laid partial clutches, 40% have laid complete clutches, 18% of nests have yet to be initiated and 2% have failed.
2. We continue to monitor known-age penguins that were banded here as chicks and have now returned to breed. We continue to read bands to locate these known-aged birds and their nests. Ten known-age gentoo penguins have laid partial clutches, nine have complete clutches and three have failed.
3. The first chinstrap penguin egg was seen on 12 November. To date, four nests in the reproductive study plots have initiated clutches and one known-aged chinstrap penguin has initiated a clutch.
4. Brown skuas are still reestablishing pair bonds and have been observed in pairs around Cape Shirreff and at the penguin colonies.
5. An emperor penguin has been consistently seen on Playa Media Luna over the course of this week. This penguin has been exciting to see since emperor penguins are rare visitors to Cape Shirreff.

Pinnipeds:

5. Since our first breeding elephant seal census on 5 November, 11 pups weaned, reducing the mom and pups pairs from 16 to five. So far there are 23 weaned elephant seals pups that have been tagged and sampled for a genetics survey. By next week the remaining pups should be weaned and we will report the season mean weaning mass.
6. We have weighed, measured and tagged the four weaned elephant seal pups. All have been weighed within 24 hours of weaning. Mass has ranged from 92-161 kilograms. We collected small samples of tissue from tagging for DNA analysis them as well.
7. Adult male fur seals are continuing to arrive every day. Even though the snow is melting fast, all the beaches have considerable ice berms that in some areas will prevent females from gaining access to areas above the high tide mark unless we get warmer weather in the next two weeks. As of 13 November, there are 323 adult males on territory, five females, and no pups yet within the U.S. AMLR study site.
8. At the last weekly phocid census of Cape Shirreff we recorded 31 Weddell seals, including five pups, and 63 elephant seals. We have tagged two male Weddell pups, one adult male, and four adult Weddell females. We also tagged one small female leopard seal.

Weather:

9. This week we have had some snow but also two to three days of rain. The mean temperature for the week was -0.1° C (warmer compared to the -1.9° C temperature from the same week last year), the low was -4.2° C and the high was $+2.3^{\circ}$ C. The mean wind chill for the week was -6° C. We had a total cumulative precipitation for the week of 0.07 inches. Maximum wind speed



was 50 mph and mean wind speed was 17.7 mph with prevailing winds from the west and northwest. The mean solar radiation was 15079 W/m².

Camp:

10. Our camp is running smoothly and all power and communication system are in operation. We have a daily radio schedule with Palmer station (at 09:00 local time) and we download email twice daily around 12:00 and 23:00 GMT. We also provided Palmer Station with the camp email address and the emergency satellite phone number today.

11. We fixed the INMARSAT antenna to the roof of the hut and finalized our email system, which runs really smoothly now. This keeps us in contact with NOAA in La Jolla and allows them to address our questions, and for us to follow the tracking of the overwinter instrumented animals that are now coming back to the island.

12. We have been working on optimizing the laboratory for fecal parasite analysis by setting up a station with a compound microscope. The hematology machine is also ready to run blood samples.

13. We set up the shower room which is running just perfectly. Even though the ice in the water barrels is melting outside we moved one 55 gallon barrel into our hut.

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

