

**Seabirds:**

1. Gentoo Penguins are still leaving in the mornings on foraging trips and returning to the breeding colonies in the afternoons. Pair bonds are being established but no nests are being built yet. To date, no gentoo penguins have initiated clutches.
2. Plots to study the reproduction of chinstrap penguins are established. These plots will be checked daily for the rest of the season until the chicks crèche. This allows us to record the timing of breeding across the colony as well as reproductive success. We will begin banding both adults at each nest for the reproductive study this week.
3. The first chinstrap penguin egg was seen on 14 November. To date, no nests in the reproductive study plots have initiated clutches.
4. 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. To date, no known-aged penguins have initiated clutches.
5. Brown skuas are reestablishing pair bonds and have been observed in pairs around Cape Shirreff and at the penguin colonies.

**Pinnipeds:**

6. We have three mother-pup pairs of elephant seals still suckling. To date we have weighed, measured and tagged 16 weaned elephant seal pups. By next week the remaining pups should be weaned and we will report the season mean weaning mass.
7. We recorded the late arrival of a tagged female on 14 November. She has pupped at Cape Shirreff the previous two seasons but did not appear pregnant this year.
8. At the last census of fur seal study beaches on 15 Nov we recorded 207 adult males on territory and no females. Last year on the same date we recorded a total of 11 adult females, 465 adult males on territory and 1 pup.
9. We have recorded 10 tagged known-aged fur seal males to date, one 12-year-old, eight 10-year-olds, and one 8-year-old.
10. In anticipation of our female fur seal attendance study we have tuned all VHF radio transmitters and set up our two receiving stations. We are currently conducting range tests to map out each receiving station's range for recording free-ranging seals carrying transmitters.
11. We had substantial increases in both elephant seals and Weddell seals this past week. In the last weekly census of phocids on the Cape we recorded 42 elephants, 35 Weddells, and one crabeater seal.



**Weather:**

12. Temperatures continue to be below freezing except for the last two days and it has been unusually calm all week. The mean temperature for the week was  $-1.9^{\circ}$  C. The maximum temp for the week was only  $5.7^{\circ}$  C and the low was  $-8.1^{\circ}$  C (the lowest temperature since arriving). Total precipitation this week was 0.3 inches. Most winds this week were from the south. Mean wind speed, however, was only 7.0 mph with a maximum-recorded wind of 33 mph.

**Camp:**

13. Our attempts at drying out the camp and scrubbing mold and mildew from walls, shelves and floors continued this week.

14. Arriving early increases the total season demand for fresh water. Our supply of stored freshwater is limited to sixteen 55-gallon drums of water. Freezing prevents filling the barrels to capacity so they are only completely full when temperatures are above freezing and our rain collection is at full capacity. We started the season with many barrels only half full and two completely empty. We are now on our sixth barrel. We currently have approximately ten empty barrels and six full. Until temperatures rise above freezing and we get some rain we will continue to rely on water stored from last season.

15. The fishing vessel we reported in previous sit reps appears to have left the area, as we have not seen it for sometime now.

---

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

