



It is high time to give you some information about the past activities achieved during the austral summer as well as to give you some news about the future ones.

Most of the field work has been done during October 2007 and January 2008, that is to say spring and beginning of summer in Argentina. Our general coordinator, Annick Morgenthaler, went for her 4th season to Puerto Deseado in Patagonia.

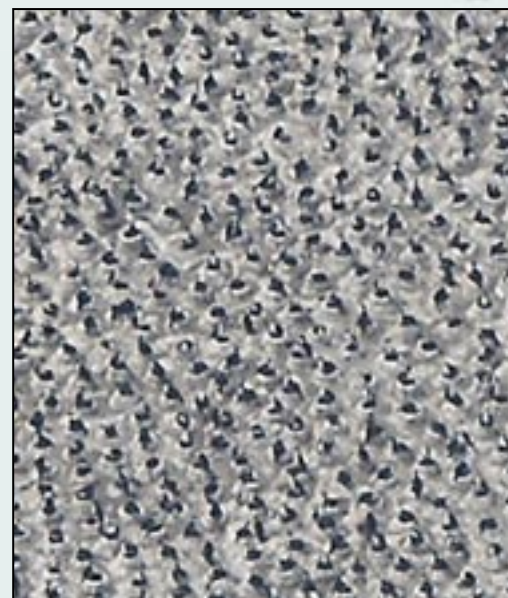


As soon as the **Magellanic penguins'** nests were occupied and most of the eggs laid, 75 nests were randomly selected on three different islands. They were marked in order to follow and estimate the reproductive success (number of chicks grown per couple). Every nest has been monitored 5 times during the reproduction season. All the visits to the islands have been done by kayak, except a few done by boat. This year, the Magellanic penguins have been more successful than last year, since they grew in average 0.8 chicks per couple, compares to 0.5 last year (see table). These yearly differences are probably due to the variability of food on offer (small fish and squid) during the first weeks of life of the chicks, when they need to be regulary fed.

For the second time, the census and the reproductive success of the small colony of **Rock Hoppers** on "Isla Pinguinos" located 25 km off Puerto Deseado have also been done thanks to the counting of the couples at the beginning of the season and then the counting of the young chicks at the end of the season. The number of couples has slightly increased this year, from 509 to 544 couples. As for the reproductive success, it is steady : 0.7 chicks grown per couple.



This year, for the first time, Patagonia Incognita also made a census of a large colony of **Imperial Cormorans** located next to "Isla Pinguinos". A distinctive feature of this species is to nest on very flat islands and to form large and very dense colonies (see picture on the left). The only way to count the number of couples making up the colony without disturbance is to shoot aerial pictures over the colony....which has been done ! After a short flight of 45 minutes, few hours were spent in front of the computer to count the 8716 nests occupied from the colony. It is the largest colony of Argentina.



	Magellanic Penguin Reprod. success	Rockhopper P. Reprod. success	Rockhopper P. Census (couples)
2006-2007	0.5	0.7	509
2007-2008	0.8	0.7	544



The list of bird species of Ria Deseado Natural Reserve has been completed through observations done this season. The reserve has now 102 species. This list is available as of now on our internet site in the "Projects" page (pdf format).

Courses of ornithology proposed by Patagonia Incognita for teenagers of the local NGO "Fundacion Conociendo Nuestra Casa" (FCNC) started rather slowly: only one course and one outing took place with some of the youngsters. Spring and summer there (October-January) correspond to the end of the school year, the beginning of the summer holiday and the end of the year parties. This means that during this period FCNC and the youngsters were not available. It will be for another time.



Regarding the next season and futures projects of the association, one can say it has the wind in its sails, since our general coordinator moves to Patagonia to live there from October. Following this decision, bigger projects and especially projects taking place all through the year become conceivable.

Therefore, the project to study the size of population of **Commersons Dolphins** by photo-identification will finally be initialized. This project, joined by the Foundation Temaiken based in Buenos Aires, has been put together and the fund raising search has recently started. You will find the description of the project on our internet site under the projects page.



Finally, we would like to warmly thank our members, donors, our local partners (especially Javier Fernandez, nature guide of Darwin Expeditions), as well as those who supported us through the association's activities.

Agenda

**Tuesday 26th August
At 8. 00 PM
General Assembly**

Book already this date,
we will give you more details on
the assembly and its place soon.

Contact

Patagonia Incognita
5 rue des Amis
1201 Geneva
Switzerland
info@patagonia-incognita.org
www.patagonia-incognita.org