

REPORT

The Shackleton Scholarship Fund allowed me to attend the 12th Congress of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE). This congress taking place at the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA between the 9th and the 14th of August 2008 has grouped together more than 1,000 participants coming from 45 different countries everywhere around the World. In addition to seven plenary sessions, a total of 108 short oral presentations were given in 6 parallel concurrent oral sessions. 468 other scientists also presented their work in posters during 3 poster sessions.

I myself presented a poster entitled "**Embryos may use different vocalisations according to hatching order but do not adapt this behaviour to sibling presence**" about part of our field work on rockhopper penguins that we did at New Island in collaboration with Laurent Demongin and Petra Quillfeldt (see abstract bellow). During discussions about this work and more largely about the crested penguins and the Falkland Islands, I explained the important issue of the decreasing penguin populations and then the necessity to study and protect these species. I also established good contacts for future collaborations.

I attended a lot of **very interesting talks** about recent and exciting studies in behavioural ecology, especially on birds species. I also discussed with several scientists about ecology, behavioural studies and especially about my own work. Other specialists of penguins were present at the meeting and it was particularly exciting to discuss with them about their own work experience.

Abstract. When they are still in eggs, nestlings use vocalisations to solicit heat from incubating parent. These vocalisations are important for nestling within multi-sibling broods. Rockhopper penguins *Eudyptes chrysocome chrysocome* lay two eggs. The second-laid egg (B-egg) hatches before the first-laid (A-egg). In the context of sibling competition, this reversed hatching asynchrony combined with an initial size dimorphism leads to an almost certain death for A-embryos/chicks. We therefore expect that hatching A-embryos perform more frequent and definite vocalisations than B-embryos in order to compensate this disadvantage, especially if they have a sibling.