

PSG 36th Annual Meeting
February 18-26, 2009
Hakodate, Japan

Like all other PSG meetings, the annual meeting in Hakodate, Japan was a huge success, thanks in no small part to the herculean efforts of the local planning committee. Over 171 participants from 11 countries attended 95 papers and viewed 37 posters. Many meeting participants also chose to partake in the two special dinners arranged by the local planning committee in addition to the annual banquet, where attendees were taught and then danced the local traditional squid dance. Field trips to view local birds and troops of Japanese monkeys were booked full and enjoyed by all who attended.

Many western scientists received their indoctrination to Japan's karaoke culture, much to the amusement and enjoyment of their fellow would-be singers. Although the vocal talent was largely lacking, participants and attendees were, for the most part, laughing with each other rather than at each other.

Dr. Haruo Ogi, a founding member of PSG, was the recipient of the PSG Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dr. Yutaka Watanuki (who was also the local planning committee chair) received PSG's 2009 Special Achievement Award. Both awards were well-deserved by the recipients.

We raised over \$1440 U.S. in the silent auction. The proceeds will be used for providing travel awards for students wishing to attend future PSG meetings.

The meeting was preceded by a special symposium that was open to the public, titled: Ocean Environment Through a Seabird's View. Plenary Speaker Rory Stark opened the meeting with his paper "Linking Energy with Strategy: a Penguin Perspective on Foraging", which also kicked off the symposium "Working Beneath the Surface: New Approaches in Examining the Interplay of Biomechanics, Physiology, and Behavioural Ecology in Diving Seabirds".

Other plenary speakers included Dr. Hiroshi Hasegawa (Population Monitoring and Conservation of the Short-tailed Albatross on Torishima, Japan), and Dr. Haruo Ogi (Pelagic Seabird's Biology: A Short Story of many Past Studies).