

## Diary 10 - 28 September, 2010.

After the last weeks of mostly clear and calm, the weather has become more variable in the latest few days. Yesterday we had a full day of misty rain and today a warm wind was blowing from the West. It seriously stirred up the newly formed ice on Young Sund but has left the ice on the ponds and lakes intact. Days are getting markedly shorter but our nights have been brightened by the recent full moon. It was not bright enough to overwhelm the splendid northern lights we had the other night. It did not last long but it was very nice. The bit of snow that fell a few weeks ago is long gone from the valleys and lowland but seems to stay put on the mountains. Various weather forecasts are hinting at more snow any time soon and we are preparing by taking equipment in from the field and getting ready to clear the runway with new equipment for the bobcat. Wildlife is getting scarcer with the last big flocks of juvenile snow buntings disappearing. The big flocks of pink-footed and barnacle geese are also gone. We often see and hear a few ravens and two gyrfalcons are frequently observed near the station. The musk oxen are gathering in the lower parts and we have had a few taking advantage of the extra nutrient enriched grass near the station buildings... One of the juvenile foxes from a nearby den is also sneaking around the houses in its more and more fluffy coat and nonchalantly leaving its signatures. Some weeks ago it was joined by a dark form (blue fox). Our local white fox chased the blue a little but later it seemed that it was OK with the other one's presence. Although we have had below 0° C for some time we still see mosquitoes. There are also still insects and spiders in the traps in the field, so I will leave the traps out for some longer and dig them out of the snow, if I have to.

That's all for now!

Lars/BioBasis

Out, ZAC...