

Diary 4 – 23 May 2014

Spring in Zackenberg

For the last three weeks we have seen all kinds of weather and now it seems like that finally spring is here. There has been three days with lots of snow and very limited visibility. It has been cold and some days with fog. Sometimes I thought it was autumn and not spring. In the last couple of days it has been clear sky and very warm. Spring is finally here.

Apparently the geese already knew that because they started to arrive in bigger flocks last Sunday. They are fighting with the muskox to stay in the snow free areas. Now that the geese are here the peace and quiet is gone. It has been very quiet out in the big landscape and since the geese arrived, I really notice how much noise they are making all the time.

The snow is starting to melt more and more. The melt off were paused after the snow fall in the beginning of May where approx. 10 cm of snow covered the whole valley. I have been measuring snow depths in two transect through the valley and this year there is really a thick snow cover on the Aucella hill side. There are snow depths up to 3 meters. Besides snow monitoring I have been maintaining the flux systems that are up and running. The Argo has been out on an adventure to A.P. Olsen glacier. Jørgen and I (the only two persons at the station at this time) drove to the glacier where I had to empty the camera that's taking pictures of the dammed lake. The lake is 50 km away and it's a long way in an Argo. On the way back we offloaded the climate mast in Store Sødal and it was nice to see that both the mast and camera had been functioning all winter.

Besides driving to A. P. Olsen, Jørgen has spent a lot of time fixing broken snow mobiles and four times had to clean the air strip for snow. He was not a happy camper when he was moving snow on the air strip for the fourth time this season.



The station 'cat' at Zackenberg. Photo: Maria Rask Mylius.

We now have a cat on the station. Or at least a fox that's acting like a cat. A fox has been staying under House 9 and several times we have seen it looking through the windows from the terrace. It seems like it's very interested in what's going on around dinner time. One day it had found a dead bird and it were throwing it around and playing with it, just like a cat would do. It seems like it has been a good winter for the fox. I have seen five dead muskoxen close

to the station area (three adults and two calves). The surviving muskoxen are starting to come closer to the station area where all the snow free patches are.

Tomorrow Jørgen will be leaving and I'll be greeting Lars and Henrik who is arriving.

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