

## **Diary 17 – 18 August 2014**

During the past few weeks a slow migration south has been observed here in Zackenberg. Snow buntings have replaced knots and sanderlings. Flocks of pink-footed goose and Barnacle goose have started to gather and prepare for their flight south. On the station, the population has dropped from more than twenty people to eleven since last Tuesday. This Tuesday only a handful of people will be left on the station, missing the last Twin Otter migration south for two weeks.

Since the middle of July, I have been collecting insects and other terrestrial arthropods day and night, in Zackenberg and in a very interesting valley called Blæsedalen, outside Daneborg. As this is my first summer in an high-arctic environment, I did not expect butterflies and flies to be on their wings more than four meters above the ground in the middle of August, none the less this is what they are doing on sunny days with no wind and temperatures crawling towards ten degrees. In general, the insects do not seem to worry about the fact that the sun already has dropped below the horizon for two hours during the night.

Friday night we experienced an outburst from a glacier-lake near A.P. Olsen Land, resulting in enormous masses of water and mud running through the Zackenberg River. This nearly annual event has sent the only GeoBasis-assistant left on the station, Lau, on a permanent task of measuring the event and constantly taking samples from the river.

Zackenberg Logistics do also follow the outburst closely, watching for large stones and whole brink-sides on the opposite side of the station being eaten by the strong forces of the water-masses. Right now, it is only a matter of time before a very large stone on the size of a small car will drop into the river.

During this week, we have had prominent visit from the Government of Greenland represented by the Department of Climate and Environment. With a delegation on roughly the same size as the station itself this was a major contribution to life on the station and a hot conversation topic during the past week.

The new supplies for the station that were flown in from the ship last week included a lot of Ribena, which invited Helle to do some experiments on how to consume Ribena in other ways than drinking it. Mixing Ribena in rye-bread was not highly appreciated by everyone.

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