

Ugebrev 2 – den 20. juni 2009

Fox pups and bird nests

The week 8 to 14 June was the week when the bird census began this season, earlier than usual, due to the very low amount of snow that we had this winter.

The first couple of days were great with sunshine, and although a bit chilly, it was enjoyed by all. Later in the week the clouds came in – the chilliness stayed though.

Apart from the regulars, we've had some feathered visitors: A Canada goose and a pectoral sandpiper. Snow buttercup, alpine chickweed, Arctic bell-heather and Arctic poppy has started to flower – as has the very popular and well-known scirpoid sedge! Also, the rare *Polygonum boreale* (in Danish: Polar-Jakobsstige) has set flowers now.

Arctic foxes have pups in several dens now.

Jeroen Reneerkens and the FFs have – astonishingly – found a number of sanderling nests and a red knot nest. Creating much jubilation and amazement in the local community!

Lars Holst Hansen – the deputy scientific leader and BioBasis officer extraordinaire – has followed the plant plots right from the beginning, and he tells great tales about the advancement of flowers this season. Even greater appreciation is going his way for organising the photo nights.

Julie Falk tirelessly attempts to empty the entire catchment area of Zackenbergelven, by taking 1 litre samples of river water every morning and evening. So far, we can't really see the impact, but we'll be patient, and – as they say – "good things come to those who wait".

Guisella Gacitúa waits and waits for the missing part for her instruments. Some good things must come her way soon! Cake, most likely.

Charlotte Sigsgaard is packing up, and is about to leave on Tuesday. She looks like she's got everything under control. Has she got everything packed? Pass port, tickets, keys ... I'm sure she has.

Spanggård is leaving in Tuesday as well, leaving behind a smooth runway and a newly trained logistician – Jakob (no, it's with a k, I checked!) who will take over as station manager, for the next couple of weeks. Jakob seems capable, so Spanggård can sleep well knowing the station is in good hands.

Dina has now amazed and delighted us all with starters, main courses and desserts to a degree beyond most people's wildest dreams. Well, possibly Guisella dreamt something similar on the cake front....

So the station is doing well, and we're looking forward to next week and our new best friends: Lea, Kisser, Kirsten, Lenze and Michael.

Cheers,

Jannik