

Polish ornithologists field work 2014



Our team from Department of Vertebrate Ecology and Zoology, University of Gdańsk (Dorota Kidawa, Mateusz Barcikowski, Lech Iliszko, Lech Stempniewicz) has been working at Gnallberget, Hornsund in July 2014. We realized three main tasks within the frame of the GLAERE project.

1/ study on foraging areas of kittiwakes from Gnallberget colony. We used miniature GPS loggers deployed on birds allowing us to collect series of GPS positions of foraging individual kittiwakes. We have collected large amount of data showing that birds use bimodal foraging strategy, visiting glacial bays, mainly in Burgerbukta and Breepolen during the short-distance flights, and shelf edge south of Sorkapland during the long-distance foraging trips. Individual birds flew as far as over 500km.



2/ collection of food samples delivered by parent kittiwakes to their nestlings. The samples are not elaborated yet.

3/ census of marine birds and mammals feeding in Burgerbukta providing a few categories of sea icing, weather conditions and distance from glacier fronts, including four glacier bays



(Pajerlbreen, Muhlbacherbreen, Kvalfangarbreen and Wibebreen). Regular countings revealed numerous kittiwakes, black guillemots and ivory gulls foraging there, as well as ring seals, bearded seals, belugas and even polar bears. The census data are not elaborated yet.

