

NVNN
ZCZC 117 01621
AAHQ16 FAME 100700
MP363
M43/126 10/09/86

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1986

DESPITE AN ADMONITION TO LINGER, AUGUST HAS HURRIED PAST WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A REARWARD GLANCE. THE MONTH HAS NOT BEEN UNEVENTFUL THOUGH, BOTH FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE RESIDENTS AND THE TEAM.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF DAYLIGHT HOURS SEEMS TO HAVE SIGNIFIED THE ADVENT OF SUMMER. ALTHOUGH THE ODD SNOW STORM AND COLD SPELL HAS CAST SOME DOUBT ON THIS, THE BUDDING OF THE ACAENA AND THE GLUMEY APPEARANCE OF THE GRASSES INDICATES THAT WHETHER IT IS COLD OR NOT, SPRING IS HERE TO STAY. THE ARRIVAL OF THE GREY HEADED AND SOOTY ALBATROSSES, THE SCREAMING OF SKUAS ABOUT BASE AND THE COOING OF PRIONS IN THEIR BURROWS IS ALSO A WELCOME SIGN OF THE APPROACHING SUMMER SEASON. EVEN THE INSECTS SEEM TO BE AWARE OF THE INCHOATE SPRING WITH MUCH BUGGERY IN THE BOGS, ON ROCKS AND FOR THAT MATTER ANY AVAILABLE SURFACE. THE ALBATROSS CHICKS ARE STARTING TO LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT WITH DARK BROWN FEATHERS VISIBLE BENEATH THEIR WHITE DOWN EACH TIME THE WIND GUSTS. ONE OF THE CHICKS CLOSE TO LONG RIDGE SEEMS TO PREFER ITS ORIGINAL COLOUR AS ITS NEW FEATHERS ARE SILVERY-GREY INSTEAD OF BROWN. MANY OF THE GENTOO PENGUIN S CHICKS ARE FAIRLY LARGE AND AT LAST THESE BIRDS MAY BE APPROACHED WITHOUT THE FEAR THAT THEY WILL DESERT THEIR NESTS.

THE START OF THE MONTH SAW THE ISLAND ON A TEN DAY HIGH, PROVIDING NEIL AND MARK WITH BALMY WEATHER FOR THEIR ROUND ISLAND TRIP. THE SAME TRIP SAW MARK SMOKING TEA BAGS, AND NEIL RETURNED REPORTING A BLACK KING PENGUIN (USUALLY THESE BIRDS HAVE WHITE CHESTS), WHICH SET US WONDERING AS TO WHAT HE HAD BEEN UPTO AT KILDALKEY. HIS SUBSEQUENT SUCCESS AT A GAMBLING EVENING AND A NOTICE REPORTING THE LOSS OF AN ATTRACTIVE BIRD AT KILDALKEY CONFIRMED OUR WORST SUSPICIONS AND CONVERTED US ALL INTO AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGISTS. ROB S BIRTHDAY WENT WELL, BUT INVOLVED THE USUAL BATTLE OF GETTING TO BOLUG AGAINST THE WEST WIND. HAVING STRUGGLED ALL THE WAY UP WE TOASTED HIM AT MIDNIGHT AND THEN PROCEEDED TO DISTURB HIS ASCENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE CAMERA BAG THAT HE RECEIVED HAD ANDRIES CURSING OVER THE SEWING MACHINE FOR MANY HOURS THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE SECOND BIRTHDAY OF THE MONTH WAS MARK S. BEING A RATHER QUIET AFFAIR IN THE DINING ROOM EVERYONE TURNED IN EARLY SAVE FOR MARK AND ANDRIES WHO SOLVED THE WORLD S PROBLEMS OVER A BOTTLE OF SHERRY UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING.

THE SECOND HALF OF THE MONTH INVOLVED THE ARDUOUS TASK OF PREPARING FOR THE RELIEF. MUCH CLEANING, TIDYING AND SCRUBBING WAS DONE TO HAVE THE BASE AND SURROUNDING AREA CLEAN BY THE 25TH. THIS WAS DONE WITH AN OMNIPRESENT UNDERTONE OF ANTICIPATION WITH ANDRE PROVIDING THE ENTERTAINMENT BY TURNING ON THE LIQUIDISER WITH THE TOP OFF. NEEDLESS TO SAY HE COVERED HIMSELF AND MOST OF THE KITCHEN WITH MILKSHAKE. ANDRE ALSO ORGANIZED A ROULETTE EVENING TO CONCLUDE OUR WINTER STAY AND THIS COINCIDED WITH THE EVE OF HIS BIRTHDAY. EVERYONE DONNED THEIR TUXEDOS (OR AS CLOSE AS THEY COULD COME) AND ENTERED THE PADDY PALACE CASINO AND BAR LATE IN THE EVENING TO COMMENCE THE BETTING. THE BETTING WAS RATHER SLOW AT THE START, SAVE FOR NEIL WHO VIRTUALLY CLEARED THE BANK OUT ON THE FIRST COUPLE OF SPINS, BUT BY THE END OF THE EVENING OR SHOULD I SAY MOURNING, THE HARD CORE GAMBLERS, INCLUDING ANDRE NOW A YEAR OLDER WERE PLAYING (LOSING) FOR HUGE STAKES.

THE 26TH SAW THE ARRIVAL OF A SPATE OF FLU GERMS, THE REST OF OUR TEAM AND ALL THE RELIEF PERSONNEL AS WELL AS MUCH AWAITED LETTERS AND PARCELS. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME ALL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED EXCEPT THE FLU GERMS TO MARION, ESPECIALLY OUR NEWLY ARRIVED COMPATRIOTS. I HOPE THAT EVERYONE S STAY IS AN ENJOYABLE ONE ,AS I AM SURE IT CAN ONLY BE.

WELL, SO MUCH FOR AUGUST AND NOW FOR THE WEATHER:-

MEAN TEMP 4,0 DEG C
MAX TEMP 13,1 DEG C
MIN TEMP -3,0 DEG C

RAINFALL 152 MM

MAX WIND 209 KM/H

MET DATA:- A.J. VAN ZYL
NEWSLETTER S.L. CHOWN