

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

The Invasion of Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca) in Denmark in 1961–62.

In this century invasions of Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) have been very rare in Denmark. In 1961–62 at least 13 specimens were seen. Ten of the birds were observed in Zealand in winter and spring. Three were seen in Jutland (The Skaw) in April 1962.

LITTERATUR

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- JESPERSEN, P., 1938: De forskellige uglers udbredelse og forekomst i Danmark. II. Ikke yng-
lende arter. – Dansk Ornith. Foren. Tidsskr. **38**: 16.
- NAGELL, B. & FRYCKLUND, I., 1965: Invasionen av fjälluggla (*Nyctea scandiaca*) i södra Skandinavien vintrarna 1960–63 samt något om artens beteende på övervintringslokalerna. – Vår Fågelvärld **24**: 26.

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Notes on Birds seen in the Faeroe Islands in May and June 1965

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(Med et dansk resumé: Iagttagelser på Færoerne, maj–juni 1965.)

The following observations were recorded during the course of a survey of the Faeroese breeding population of the Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). The observations were only incidental to the main field work and for this reason no useful visits were made to the large seabird cliffs.

Notes are given for the 48 species encountered on and around Oystercatcher breeding grounds. Sea-birds such as the auks, petrels, gannets and cormorants are excluded since their breeding haunts

were seldom visited. The Oystercatcher is also omitted since the results of the survey are to be published later in Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift.

Duration of Visit: May 22–June 10.

Itinerary: May 22–26, Tórshavn area and south Streymoy. – May 27–June 2, Sandoy. – June 4–7, Eysturoy – the areas around Eiði, Fuglafjørður and Toftavatn. – June 8, Nólsoy – northwestern area only. – June 9–10, Vágur – Miðvágur and Sörvágur areas.

Place Names: from 1:200,000 map of the Faeroes published by Geodætisk Institut of Denmark.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*).

Sandoy, May 29, one on sea at Sandur in immature or winter plumage.

RED-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*).

Sandoy, May 27, pair in breeding plumage asleep on Sandsvatn. — Eysturoy, June 7, one in breeding plumage on Toftavatn.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*).

Eysturoy, June 5, one in breeding plumage in the Sundini fjord near Eiði.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Sandoy, Gróthúsvatn, two males on May 28 and another near Tindur on May 30. Halsavatn, five males on June 2.

Eysturoy, Eiðisvatn, a male on June 5. Toftavatn, two males and a female with brood on June 7.

Vágar, Sörvágsvatn, four males and a female on June 9, and a female with brood.

TEAL (*Anas crecca*).

Sandoy, May 27, a male on Sandsvatn. — Eysturoy, June 4, a male on Eiðisvatn.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*).

Sandoy, a pair on Sandsvatn on May 27. — Eysturoy, a pair on Eiðisvatn on June 5.

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*).

Sandoy, May 28, a pair on a moorland pool near Söltuvík.

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*).

Sandoy, May 27, eight on Sandsvatn. — Eysturoy, June 4, four on Eiðisvatn. — Vágar, June 9, a male in the fjord at Miðvágur and another on Sörvágsvatn.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*).

Sandoy, May 27, thirteen on Sandsvatn. — Eysturoy, June 4, five on Eiðisvatn; June 7, four on Toftavatn.

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*).

Sandoy, May 27, a male on Sandsvatn. — Eysturoy, June 5, three in Sundini fjord near Eiði. — Streymoy, June 9, eight in fjord near Vestmanna.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*).

Common everywhere, especially around harbours. A nest with 4 eggs on June 5 near Eiði. After this date females disappeared rapidly from the flocks as laying began in full swing.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*).

Sandoy, Sandsvatn, two or three pairs on May 27; Stórávatn, a pair and a female on May 29; Lítlavatn, a pair and a male on May 31.

Eysturoy, two pairs at Eiðisvatn on June 4 and 5; Toftavatn, a pair on June 7.

Vágar, Sörvágsvatn, two males and three females on June 9.

GREY LAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*).

Sandoy, May 28, six swimming on Gróthúsvatn in the evening had gone by the following morning. Eysturoy, June 5, a flock of 18 feeding beside the large lake south of Eiði.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Vágar, June 9, one at Sörvágsvatn hunting from telephone poles beside the lake; observed clearly.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Sandoy, Sandur, up to three displaying near this village from May 28 to June 1.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Streymoy, May 24, a nest at Glyvursnes with 4 eggs.

Sandoy, May 27–29, up to 9 on the beach at Sandur or at Sandsvatn; Halsavatn, a pair on June 2.

Nólsoy, June 8, two on the shore at Boðin.

Eysturoy, June 4, four at Eiðisvatn.

Vágar, June 9, two at Sörvágsvatn.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

Widely distributed up to at least 450 metres, but not common; less plentiful than Snipe and far less evident than Whimbrel; all birds appeared to be intermediate in breeding plumage between the northern and southern races.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).

Streymoy, May 24, a pair at Glyvursnes on stony ground above the clifftops and amongst breeding gulls and Oystercatchers, almost as if on a possible breeding ground.

Sandoy, May 27, five at Sandsvatn on the lake shore.

Eysturoy, June 4, five at Eiðisvatn on the lake shore.

SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Numerous in all suitable haunts and often confiding; breeds close to farms, villages and on the edge of Tórshavn itself; May 29, a day-old chick found on Sandoy.

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*).

Sandoy, May 28, two flying over Sandsvatn calling — seen clearly.

WHIMBEL (*Numenius phaeopus*).

Very common everywhere, at least up to 350 metres; breeds close about human habitations and on the edge of Tórshavn; some 15 to 20 pairs on Kollur hill at Eiði, north Eysturoy.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*).

Sandoy, May 27, one in breeding plumage on the shore of Sandsvatn.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*).

Sandoy, Sandsvatn, about 10 in small groups around the lake, May 27–31; Lítla Vatn, one on May 31.

Eysturoy, Eiðisvatn, about 10 on June 4; on June 5 two at the larger lake south of Eiði were displaying and uttering song and territorial calls; two on fjord shore near Eiði also on June 5. – Toftavatn, June 7, two giving some breeding season calls.

Vágar, June 9, one at Sörvágsvatn.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).

Sandoy, May 27, one in breeding plumage at Sandsvatn.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*).

Sandoy, May 27–31, up to 40 each day in breeding plumage. – Nólsoy, June 8, five on shore in breeding plumage. – Eysturoy, June 4, eleven at Eiðisvatn. – Vágar, June 9, three at Sörvágsvatn.

SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).

Sandoy, May 27, four in breeding plumage at Sandsvatn. – Eysturoy, June 4, two in breeding plumage at Eiðisvatn. – Vágar, June 9, one at Sörvágsvatn.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*).

Sandoy, May 30, two pairs on Sandsvatn near Sandur had apparently newly arrived that day – a pair still there next morning; none had been seen on this lake, nor on Gróthúsvatn, during the previous two days.

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

Quite common on Sandoy in Sandur–Söltuvík area preparing to breed, May 27–31; on Vágar an isolated pair with a nest (2 eggs) beside the lake at south-east end of Sörvágsvatn on June 9; preparing to breed on Kollur hill near Eiði in north Eysturoy.

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*).

Sandoy, a small breeding colony of ca. 10 pairs on high moorlands just south of Eiríksfjall. A nest with 2 eggs on May 28. Frequently seen flying elsewhere over Sandoy, and scattered sightings from south Streymoy.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).

Very uncommon in the areas visited; only occasional ones and twos seen.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*).

Numerous – the dominant gull everywhere; nests with incomplete clutches on May 24.

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*).

Uncommon, far outnumbered by *L. fuscus*; seen usually only in twos and threes.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*).

Streymoy, May 24, a small breeding colony at Glyvursnes – several nests with eggs found.

Eysturoy, June 7, three pairs nesting on Toftavatn amongst the small colony of *L. ridibundus*.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*).

Eysturoy, Toftavatn, a colony of 20–25 pairs nesting on rocks and islets in the lake – many

incubating eggs on June 7. – Eiðisvatn, eight birds on the lake shore on June 5.

Nólsoy, Tjørnunes, 7 pairs nesting on the seashore rocks amongst a big colony of *Sterna paradisaea*; most clutches were hatching on June 8.

Sandoy, Sandsvatn, one on May 27; three at a high moorland pool near Tindur on May 30.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Present by May 22 but apparently only very recently arrived. Common around most coasts. On Nólsoy two large colonies found but no eggs laid up to June 8: 1) just south of Nólsoy village on the hillside, 2) on seashore rocks at Tjørnunes.

ROCK DOVE (*Columba livia*).

South Streymoy: May 22, several pairs (ca. 3–5) seen along the coastal fringe between Hvítanes and Tórshavn; May 24, one seen between Tórshavn and Glyvursnes; May 25, several (ca. 3–5) in the lower Havnardalur Valley near Tórshavn.

Sandoy, May 27–June 2, seen regularly at Dalur, up to ca. 5, feeding in village fields; seen elsewhere on this island.

WOOD PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*).

Sandoy, May 27, two in a field near the small plantation of conifer trees at the northern end of Sandsvatn; one in a field at Sandur village on May 31. All birds clearly identified.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*).

Eysturoy, June 7, two on telephone wires at Toftir village.

RAVEN (*Corvus corax*).

Frequently seen over all the higher ground.

HOODED CROW (*Corvus corone*).

Common everywhere in pairs and family parties.

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Apparently uncommon, with less than 10 records; mainly on seacliffs and stony shores; a nest with young in a wall at Bøur on Vágar on June 10.

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*).

Tórshavn, two males singing in the tree plantation each day during late May.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).

Tórshavn, two males singing in the above wood in late May; on May 23 one male was collecting worms in a nearby garden, presumably to feed a mate or nestlings.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

Widely but thinly distributed over most ground up to 300 metres at least; one singing at ca. 450 metres on Sandoy, near Tindur.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).

Uncommon – surprisingly few observed.

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*).

Uncommon – a very few records, though perhaps not many suitable places visited.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Very numerous, breeding in most of the areas visited; very plentiful in Tórshavn, on Sandoy and Eysturoy; common on Vágur and Nólsoy; breeding commonly in south Eysturoy and at Eiði and Fuglafjörður.

On Sandoy and Nólsoy, abundant in places and more or less ubiquitous (in rocky cliffs up to 150

metres at least), but most frequently nests in low stone banks and walls in fields and beside the roads; 11 nests with young in one sample length of 200 metres near Sandur, some nests being only 10 metres apart. Frequently utilises the many nesting boxes provided.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).

Widely distributed; plentiful in Tórshavn; on Sandoy it is present in Sandur and at Skálavík; breeds at Fuglafjörður on Eysturoy; at Miðvágur on Vágur; but none observed on Nólsoy.

DANSK RESUMÉ

Iagttagelser på Færøerne, maj—juni 1965.

Forfatteren besøgte Færøerne fra 22. maj til 10. juni for at studere Strandskadens (*Haematopus ostralegus*) ynglebestande. Et arbejde om dette emne vil fremkomme senere. I øvrigt blev der gjort en række iagttagelser over andre arter, som bringes i oversigten (søfugle ikke medtaget). Følgende arter, som er fåtallige ynglefugle på Færøerne, blev truffet: Rødstrubet Lom (*Gavia stellata*), Nordisk Lappedykker (*Podiceps auritus*), Gråand (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Toppet Skallesluger (*Mergus serrator*), Vibe (*Vanellus vanellus*), Stor Præstekrave (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Rødben (*Tringa totanus*) mange set på Sandoy og Eysturoy, Almindelig Ryle (*Calidris alpina*), Odinshane (*Phalaropus lobatus*), Stormmåge (*Larus canus*), Hættemåge (*Larus ridibundus*) kolonier

ved Toftavatn og Eiðisvatn på Eysturoy, samt på Nólsoy, desuden set på Sandoy; Klippedue (*Columba livia*) ofte iagttaget; Vindrossel (*Turdus iliacus*) og Solsort (*Turdus merula*) i Tórshavn Plantage.

Følgende arter, som er sjældne ynglefugle eller fåtallige sommergæster på Færøerne blev iagttaget: Islom (*Gavia immer*), Krikand (*Anas crecca*), Pibeand (*Anas penelope*), Spidsand (*Anas acuta*), Bjergand (*Aythya marila*), Troldand (*Aythya fuligula*), Sortand (*Melanitta nigra*), Grågås (*Anser anser*), Tårnfalk (*Falco tinnunculus*), Stenvender (*Arenaria interpres*), Stor Regnspove (*Numenius arquata*), Stor Kobber-snepe (*Limosa limosa*), Islandsk Ryle (*Calidris canutus*), Sandløber (*Crocethia alba*), Ringdue (*Columba palumbus*) og Landsvale (*Hirundo rustica*).

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