The Breeding Birds of an East Greenland Valley, 1962

By

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(Oxford University Expedition to East Greenland, 1962).

(Med et dansk resumé: Ynglefuglene i en dal i Østgrønland, 1962).

INTRODUCTION

Scoresby Land lies between two of the major fjord systems of East Greenland. In the north is Kong Oscars Fjord, 72° 30′ N., with Alpefjord forming the western boundary. The chief feature of the eastern side is the wide Schuchert Flod. On the south side is Nordvest Fjord, 71° 15′ N., which is the northern arm of Scoresby Sund. This vast network of often ice choked fjords has in the past proved a formidable barrier to the migratory movements of Man and Muskox. Scoresby Sund still forms a natural barrier to many nesting birds which find a variety of snow-free habitats on its flat northern shore in contrast to the ice covered mountains on the south.

Scoresby Land is heavily glaciated and dominated by the Staunings Alper which rise steeply to over 3000 metres. The few lowland coastal areas are richly vegetated, but above 200 metres plant growth becomes more limited and rock cliffs, scree and moraine predominate.

The majority of bird species are restricted to the vegetated and coastal areas and it was in the best of these that the Oxford University Expedition to East Greenland, 1962, set up its main base camp (JOHN and SUGDEN 1962). The expedition's chief objective was the study of various geomorphological features in southern Scoresby Land, and although the site was not chosen for its suitability for ornithology – a subsidiary project – it proved to be ideal for this purpose.

On 19th July, an Icelandair DC 3, flew up the Konglomeratelv valley in S.E. Scoresby Land to drop six parachute loads of food, fuel and equipment. Four members of the expedition arrived here from the Mesters Vig airstrip on 26th July, and a camp was set up which was occupied until 30th August, when it was moved to Syd Kap. On 5th September, all eight members were taken in the 'Entalik' to Scoresbysund where they embarked for Europe on 11th September.

SURVEY AREA

The south-east edge of Scoresby Land closely resembles the low lying expanse of Jameson Land which stretches eastwards across the 3 mile wide estuary of Schuchert Flod. There is a large area below 200 metres which is fairly level with numerous ponds and lakes. It is well vegetated, the dominant species being willow *(Salix arctica)*, birch *(Betula nana)*, bilberry *(Vaccinium uliginosum)* and heather *(Cassiope tetragona)* with cotton grass *(Eriophorum scheucheri)* in the wetter places.

The area chosen for a survey of the breeding birds was the river valley which connects the eastern Holger Danskes Briller lake with the sea at Nordost Bugt. The Konglomeratelv formed the eastern boundary, and the hills about one mile to the west the boundary on that side. This provided a comparatively small area

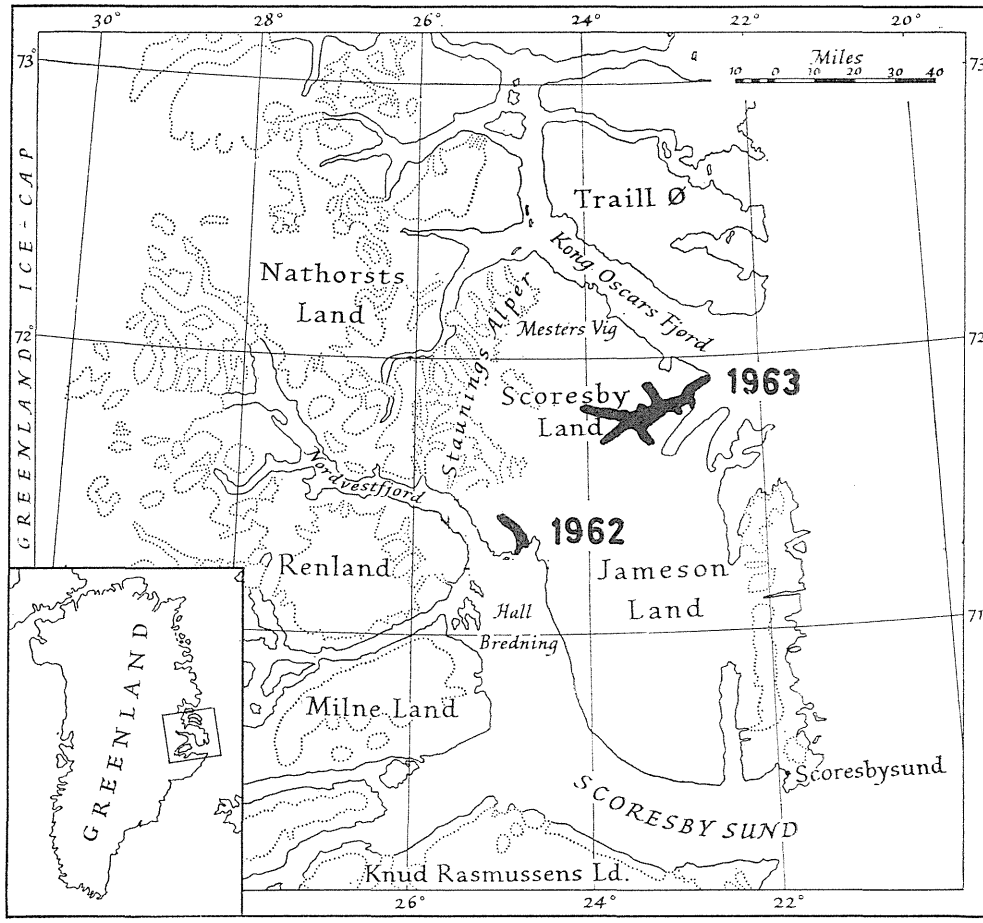

Fig. 1. Map of Scoresby Land and adjacent areas showing the position of the areas investigated in 1962 and 1963. (Copyrigt ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, London).
Kort over Scoresby Land og tilstødende egne visende områderne, som blev undersøgt i 1962 og 1963.

with a wide range of habitats from a large inland lake surrounded by steep cliffs, two kinds of shallow lake, to a river with several tributaries surrounded by various vegetation types both dry and wet. The southern part of the area was coastal with river estuary, merse and sea shore including a beach.

METHOD

By traversing the survey area in different directions and plotting on a sketch map the areas frequented by various birds a fairly complete picture of the resident species was obtained. By revisiting most of the suspected breeding areas it was possible to confirm, or otherwise, the number of birds known to have nested. The survey was carried out largely between 27th July and 11th August, with further visits until early September. The numbers on the map fig. 3 show breeding territories rather than nest sites as, because the summer was well advanced when the survey started, most species had hatched their eggs.

Spring came late to Scoresby Land in 1962, after a winter with more than average snow. At the beginning of July, 40% snow cover was reported at Mesters Vig. At the end of the month, in the coastal area of south Scoresby Land, there were only a few drifts in the shaded gullies but part of the ice foot remained on the shore near the estuary of Konglomeratelv.

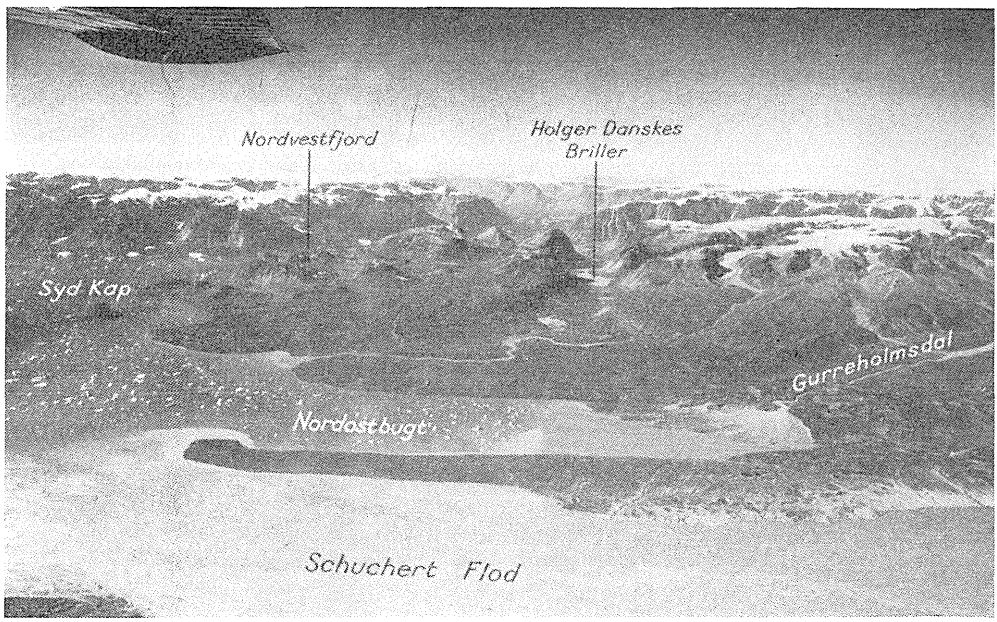

Fig. 2. Aerial photograph looking North-West over the southern part of Scoresby Land, including the investigation area of 1962. (Copyright Geodetic Institute, Denmark).
Luftfotografi over den sydlige del af Scoresby Land med undersøgelsesområdet i 1962.

SPECIES RECORDED

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *(Gavia immer)*.
Great Northern Divers were seen throughout the summer on the Holger Danskes Briller where there was one pair on 30th July, and 2nd August. On 7th August, one pair disturbed the nesting Red-throated Diver on nearby Loon Lake and later 4 birds were seen at Holger Danskes Briller; 3 were swimming and the 4th flew round twice with a fish in its bill but did not land. There were, again, 4 on 9th and 10th August. The latest record was on 27th August, when 5 were reported.

One pair appeared quite free from domestic duties and there is no evidence that the other pair nested either.

RED-THROATED DIVER *(Gavia stellata)*.
This was the only bird in the census area of which the nest and eggs were seen. This was found on 30th July, on a sand islet in Loon Lake. There were 3 other adults on the lake in addition to the sitting bird.

For further details of the behaviour of this diver family see HALL & ARNOLD 1966.

Another pair of Red-throated Divers could very often be seen on the Holger Danskes Briller or Loon Lake and at the end of the month several were seen in the estuary, 2 on 28th August, and 6 on 29th August.

Outside the survey area the most noteworthy record came from a pond in Gurreholmsdal where a field party found a pair with 2 young on 2nd August.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *(Clangula hyemalis)*.
Several broods were present on the Parachute Ponds and so were probably hatched nearby. On 28th July, 5 young were seen on the north ponds, and on 29th July, families of 8, 5 and 3 young were counted on the biggest of the south ponds. The latest record here was 29th August, when 4 birds were on the south ponds.

On the coast towards Syd Kap on 3rd September, parties of 9 and 4 Long-tailed Ducks were seen at sea.

KING EIDER *(Somateria spectabilis)*.
A family with 5 ducklings were neighbours of the Red-throated Divers at Loon Lake, and were the cause of some excitement when in the vicinity of the divers' nest. The adult duck was chased by one of the divers on 5th August. The young ducks had been found on 2nd August, and were again seen at Loon Lake on 5th, 7th and 9th August.

On 28th July, 6 eiders had been seen off the coast, and on 4th September, a pair with 10 young was seen at sea by the beach.

Outside the survey area families were recorded in Nordvest Fjord by the outlet of the western Holger Danskes Briller.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *(Mergus serrator)*.
A female merganser was seen on the Holger Danskes Briller first on 30th July, and then 9th August, where it fished ardently and flew up and down the lake frequently. Whether or not it had a family was not discovered.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *(Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus)*.
Details of the number of geese seen throughout the summer have been recorded in a special report to the Wildfowl Trust (HALL 1963). In the survey area no goslings were seen, only non-breeding adults which chiefly used 2 lakes during the moulting period. Loon Lake had c. 175 (30th July) and the big Parachute Pond 162 (29th July). The total number of moulting Pinkfeet in the Konglomeratelv valley was c. 350, most of which were just able to fly at the end of July.

Parties of geese were seen in and around the survey area until the expedition left.

BARNACLE GOOSE *(Branta leucopsis)*.
By the end of July, 45 Barnacle goslings and 235 adults had been counted in the survey area. Except for one family they were seen either at the Parachute Ponds, by Konglomeratelv, on the merse or at sea. Once they had regained their flight feathers they moved about but were still seen in the area. On 16th August, there were c. 100 by the Parachute Ponds in the middle of the night.

At the end of August, parties of Barnacles could still be seen nearer Syd Kap by the coast.

GYR FALCON *(Falco rusticolus)*.
A white falcon was noted several times in the survey area. On 5th August, it was twice seen being mobbed by Long-tailed Skuas. One was seen on 9th August, which landed near a whitened patch of cliff overlooking the Holger Danskes Briller. On closer examination, this appeared to be a lookout place rather than an eyrie. A falcon flew over Base camp again later in the month.

PTARMIGAN *(Lagopus mutus)*.
On 30th July, two broods of Ptarmigan were recorded in the survey area. One near the outlet of the Holger Danskes Briller, consisted of a female and 11 young, which could just fly. In Konglomeratelv gorge a female with 5 young were found. Neither family was seen again.

Outside the area a family of a female with 8 young was seen in the Schuchert Flod on 23rd July, and a female with 10 young was at Syd Kap on 27th August, by which time the young were in the 'white trouser' stage of winter plumage.

RINGED PLOVER *(Charadrius hiaticula)*. Ringed Plover, which are one of the hardiest residents, were mostly confined to the northern part of the survey area round the Holger Danskes Briller where the vegetation was more sparse and

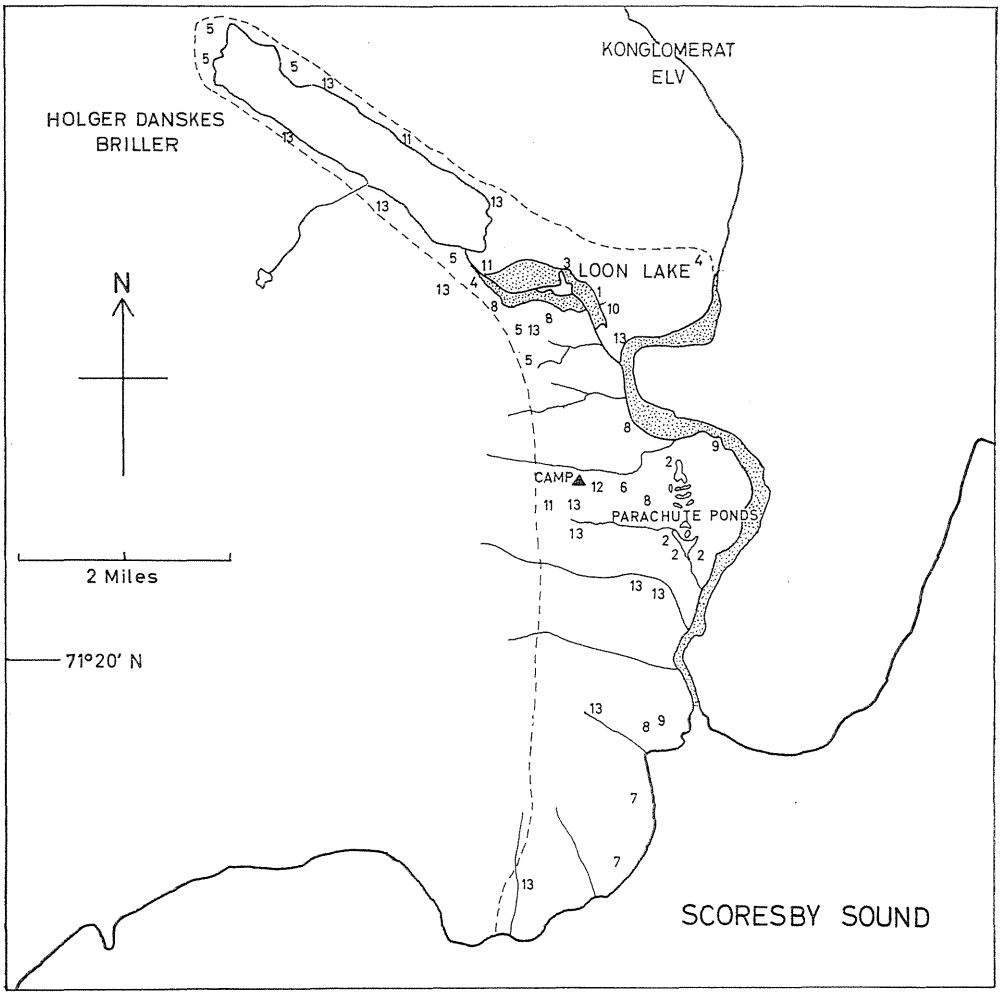

Fig. 3. Map of the area investigated in 1962. Figures show distribution of breeding birds.
Kort over undersøgelsesområdet i 1962. Tallene viser fuglenes fordeling.

1. *Gavia stellata*
2. *Clangula hyemalis*
3. *Somateria spectabilis*
4. *Lagopus mutus*
5. *Charadrius hiaticula*
6. *Pluvialis apricaria*
7. *Calidris canutus*
8. *Calidris alpina*
9. *Stercorarius longicaudus*
10. *Sterna paradisaea*
11. *Oenanthe oenanthe*
12. *Calcarius laponicus*
13. *Plectrophenax nivalis*

where there were more suitable nesting places where gravel and moraine were exposed. Here they were quite common. A young one was seen on the northern side of the lake on 2nd August, as were several pairs of adults.

The latest record was at Loon Lake on 30th August (2 birds), when most of the population had long since moved out.

Nearly all the lakes on the plateau south of the Holger Danskes Briller had pairs of Ringed Plover – some of these were above 600 metres above sea-level.

In west Schuchert 2 young chicks were found on 24th July.

GOLDEN PLOVER *(Pluvialis apricaria)*.
This was one of the species not recorded in 1961 in Jameson Land (MARRIS and OGILVIE 1962). One pair was encountered as soon as the expedition reached their Base camp and may have bred between there and the Parachute Ponds. Although the nest was not found the adults were much in evidence and 2 young birds were reported on 14th August, and 3 on 20th August.

On 4th August, 4 adults had been seen. One pair used to visit the camp at night and on 29th July, were observed close to the tents calling to each other at 3.45 a.m.

What is particularly interesting is that the black/brown underparts of the breeding dress covered the belly but did not extend up to the breast or cheeks. These latter parts were yellowish brown.

TURNSTONE *(Arenaria interpres)*.
The first Turnstone seen in the survey area was on 28th July, when one attacked an Arctic Skua by the merse at the mouth of Konglomeratelv. Although this aggressive behaviour suggested that it was defending a breeding territory it was not seen again here. The only other Turnstones recorded were on the shore later in the summer – 13 on 16th August, and 3 on 28th August.

Earlier Turnstones were seen at Mesters Vig (3), Kortedal (1) and later at Syd Kap (2) and Hurry Fjord (1).

KNOT *(Calidris canutus)*.
At least 2 pairs of Knot are thought to have nested in the survey area near Nordost Bugt. Here on 28th July, one circled round calling and another did the broken wing trick.

Two days earlier, on the edge of the Karstrygge, a Knot with 3 young was seen and between Gurreholmsdal and Konglomeratelv one did the broken wing trick and another had at least one young one.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *(Calidris maritima)*.
Three records of Purple Sandpipers were made only one being from the census area: 20th August Nordvest Fjord camp beach 2; 27th August Holger Danskes Briller fan 2; 7th September Hurry Fjord, Kap Hope 2.

On the first and third occasions they were noticeably tame as they picked their way along the beach and some film was taken of those in Nordvest Fjord.

DUNLIN *(Calidris alpina arctica)*.
Dunlin were found in the wetter parts of the census area and, from their behaviour, bred there without revealing their actual nest site. In about 5 places they raised the alarm as if guarding a territory, one of which was in the area patrolled by the Golden Plover by the Parachute Ponds. Here a young one was reported on 3rd August.

A single bird was seen on the 13th August, by one of the ponds on the upland plateau west of the survey area.

SANDERLING *(Crocethia alba)*.
Although Sanderling were seen in a number of localities in the survey area they were mostly in their feeding places such as Loon Lake and Parachute Ponds where they were quite numerous at times. Possible breeding birds were seen by the Merse and near the Parachute Ponds but, unfortunately, no evidence that they nested was obtained.

The latest record was on 30th August, when there were 9 by the Estuary.

On the upland plateau 2 were seen on 12th August, and 1 on 14th August.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *(Phalaropus lobatus)*.
A male Red-necked Phalarope was present on the Parachute Ponds when the expedition reached the survey area – 26th July – and fussed about in the same place until 29th July. It was not seen after that nor were any others recorded in the survey area. Elsewhere, a male was seen on a pond below the Karstrygge cliffs on 26th July; and on the upland plateau south of the area on 12th August, a party of 6 birds were seen feeding at the edge of a lake. From field notes Dr. BANNERMAN has identified these as being 5 juvenile females and 1 adult female. Nearby, in some cotton grass, was another adult female. On 15th August, a juvenile was seen on another small lake.

2 unidentified Phalaropes were seen swimming on Nordvest Fjord on 19th August.

ARCTIC SKUA *(Stercorarius parasiticus)*.
Light phase Arctic Skuas were identified in the survey area mostly by the Estuary where there were 2 on 28th July, and 4th August. There were also 2 by the Parachute Ponds on 28th July. Arctic Skuas were noted long after the Long-tailed Skuas had departed – 2 being by the shore towards Syd Kap on 3rd and 4th September.

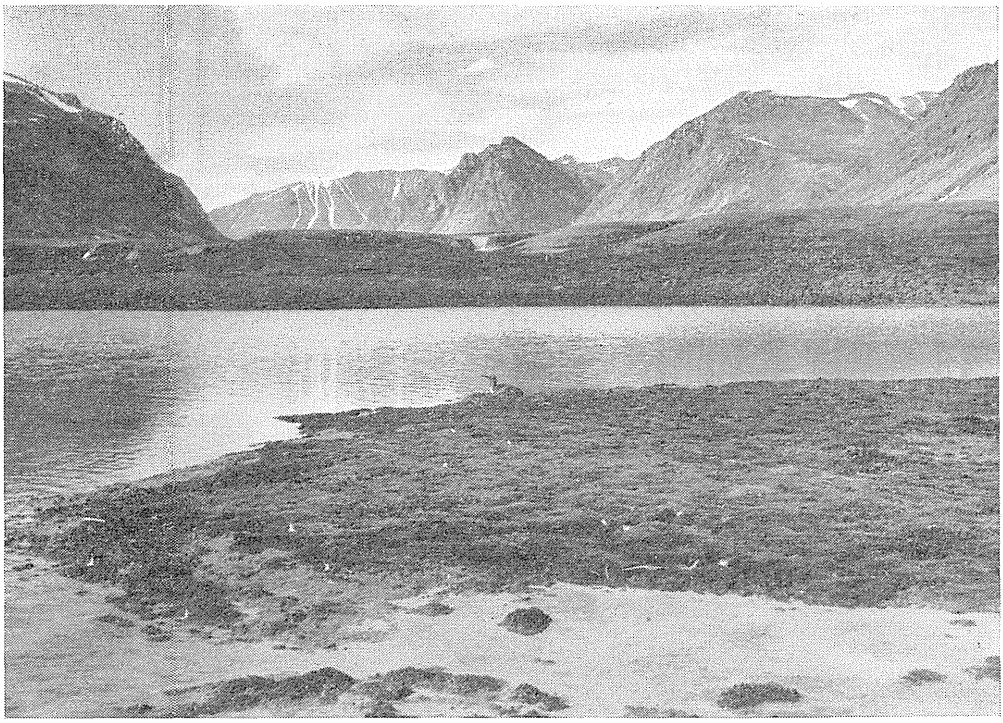

Fig. 4. A Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)* brooding two young on an islet in Loon Lake, East of Holger Danskes Briller. A pair of King Eiders *(Somateria spectabilis)* and Arctic Terns *(Sterna paradisaea)* also bred near here and Meadow Pipits *(Anthus pratensis)* were seen on the north side of the lake. (Photo A. B. HALL). *Rødstrubet Lom* (Gavia stellata) *rugende på to unger på en lille ø i Loon Lake øst for Holger Danskes Briller. Et par af Kongeederfugl* (Somateria spectabilis) *og Havterner* (Sterna paradisaea) *ynglede i nærheden, og nord for søen sås Engpibere* (Anthus pratensis).

LONG-TAILED SKUA *(Stercorarius longicaudus)*.
At least two pairs of Long-tailed Skuas successfully reared one offspring each in the survey area. One chick was found on 28th July, by Konglomeratelv and was in the locality on 3rd and 4th August, by which time it was a strong runner. The other, when quite small, was found on a raised beach near the merse on 1st August. On 16th August, two pairs of skuas accompanied by flying youngsters, were met with on the east side of the river. These were not necessarily those noted, but if they were, they were not far from their nesting territories across Konglomeratelv.

Non-breeding birds abounded in the camp area and by the ponds and estuary. On the east side of the river mouth a flock of 60 was counted on 4th August.

GLAUCOUS GULL *(Larus hyperboreus)*.
Gulls were seen in the coastal area usually standing near the tide line of the Konglomeratelv estuary. The largest number here being 28 on 4th August. A pair often frequented the Holger Danskes Briller.

2 adults and 1 full winged 'brown gull' were seen by the shore on 29th August.

Glaucous Gulls were also seen along the coast of Nordvest Fjord.

ARCTIC TERN *(Sterna paradisaea)*.
Terns sometimes flew up the valley presumably to feed in the shallow water of Loon Lake where they were sometimes seen. It was here on an islet that a single tern chick was found on 2nd August. Two days later 3 adults appeared to be on guard dive-bombing intruders. By 26th August, the islet was deserted but a juvenile accompanied by 2 adults was seen at the Parachute Ponds.

Terns were also recorded at Nordost Bugt, Konglomeratelv estuary, Syd Kap and Nordvest Fjord.

LITTLE AUK *(Plotus alle)*.
Although no auks were recorded in the census area some were seen not far away. 2 birds flew up Nordvest Fjord on 19th August, and a small number were seen from 'Entalik' in the open water of Hall Bredning on 5th September.

SNOWY OWL *(Nyctea scandiaca)*.
This was another species not noted in the census area but reported from the Karstrygge, a few miles to the north, where 3 were seen.

RAVEN *(Corvus corax)*.
Ravens frequented the survey area throughout the summer and must have nested in or near it, perhaps on the cliffs surrounding the Holger Danskes Briller where they were seen several times. 3 birds which visited the camp on 3rd August, may all have been young birds, and on 9th August, at the north end of the Holger Danskes Briller, there were 3 Ravens, 2 of which may have been juveniles.

Ravens were also seen at Mesters Vig (2), Erzberg (2), Nordost Bugt (2), Nordvest Fjord (2) and Syd Kap, where there were up to 9 on 27th August.

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *(Oenanthe oenanthe)*.
Wheatears are thought to have bred in at least 3 localities in the survey area. A female was seen behind Base camp on 29th July, and young were seen later nearby. At the outlet of the Holger Danskes Briller, there were 5 birds on 30th July, and there was a family party on the north shore of the lake on 2nd August.

Later in the summer families of Wheatears were found elsewhere in the survey area – Loon Lake – and also recorded on the upland plateau, by several of the ponds, and several places along Nordvest Fjord. At Syd Kap, at the beginning of September, there were a number of Wheatears – possibly on passage.

On 8th September, at Scoresbysund settlement, a solitary Wheatear trying to sing perched by the old hospital.

MEADOW PIPIT *(Anthus pratensis)*.
On 7th August, a bird suspected of being a Meadow Pipit was seen by Loon Lake. This area was visited several more times where it was seen at close quarters on 11th and 17th August. Unfortunately, being much less tame than the buntings and Wheatears, an attempt to film it was only partially successful. It was usually found on the bilberry covered side of the valley where, when it was disturbed, its plaintive call would attract young Wheatears which chased it until it landed. There were 3 birds by Loon Lake on 9th August, and on 29th August, one was seen flying seawards not far from the estuary.

Near Syd Kap, Meadow Pipits – one but sometimes two – were recorded, – 31st August, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd September. On 9th September, a single bird was seen below the old hospital at Scoresbysund.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *(Carduelis hornemanni)*.
This bird was not encountered in the survey area until 9th August, when a flock of 13 were near Loon Lake. Smaller numbers were seen here on the following 2 days. The only other record from the survey area was on 4th September, when there was a single bird by the Estuary.

Elsewhere, there was a pair on the limestone cliffs near Gurreholmsdal (26th July), one on the upland plateau (14th August), one at Nordvest Fjord camp (26th August), and at Syd Kap several in early September.

LAPLAND BUNTING *(Calcarius lapponicus)*.
A pair of these birds greeted the expedition on their arrival at the parachute drop on 26th July, and a young one was almost trodden on that evening. This was particularly interesting in that this was a species not recorded in Jameson Land in 1961 (MARRIS and OGILVIE 1962). No more young were discovered and this one became very friendly. When older (c. 9th August), it would visit the camp, usually at meal times, perching on tents and rucksacks, chirping to itself and pecking at reindeer antlers, boots and other objects.

SNOW BUNTING *(Plectrophenax nivalis)*.
These, as was expected, were found feeding families in several parts of the survey area; the more rocky parts such as stream banks being most favoured. At least a dozen pairs must have reared young which were seen until almost the end of August, though by then the majority had departed.

Snow Buntings were seen in small numbers on the upland plateau, Nordvest Fjord, and in early September, there were quite a number in the vicinity of Syd Kap.

DISCUSSION

The climate of Greenland, which is dominated by the effects produced by its gigantic icecap, has been undergoing a warming up phase in common with other parts of the Arctic. This trend is now thought to have eased and a gradual cooling period to have already begun.

This gradual amelioration has benefited several forms of life by extending their range northwards, including several bird species. As most of the birds found in Central East Greenland are migratory, the factors dominating an extension of their northern limit are those connected with suitable nesting sites and food supply. The latter must be available, for the larger birds, for at least two months if it is to cover the period from nest building until the young are fledged. Different species are going to adapt themselves to changes in their environment, at various speeds, depending on the time in which their habitats react to climatic change. Plants react comparatively slowly so that birds relying on vegetation for nesting or food, or in insects requiring this cover, will show a slower advance than birds relying on aquatic life for food.

Two passerine birds known to be spreading North up the East coast of Greenland (SALOMONSEN 1950), were encountered by the 1962 expedition in Southern Scoresby Land. Both of these utilise plants and insects for food and

Table 1. Northward advance of Meadow Pipits in East Greenland 1903–1962.
Engpiberens spredning mod nord i Østgrønland 1903–1962.

Year *År*	Place *Sted*	Authority *Kilde*	Latitude *Breddegrad*
1903	Angmagssalik	SALOMONSEN 1950	65° 35′ N.
	Sermilik Fjord	,, ,,	66° 0′ N.
1908	Angmagssalik	,, ,,	65° 35′ N.
1912	,,	,, ,,	65° 35′ N.
1913	,,	,, ,,	65° 35′ N.
1923	,,	,, ,,	65° 35′ N.
1931	Suportup Kangerdlua	,, ,,	
1932	Tugtilik	,, ,,	66° 20′ N.
1933	Kap I. A. D. Jensen	,, ,,	68° 11′ N.
1933	Kap Dalton	BERTRAM et al. 1934, SALOMONSEN 1950	69° 25′ N.
1934	Scoresby Sund	SALOMONSEN 1950	70° 28′ N.
1958	Rypefjord	LARSEN 1955–59	71° 0′ N.
1962	Holger Danskes Briller	The author	71° 23′ N.

Table 2. Northern Limit of Lapland Buntings breeding in East Greenland 1929–62.
Nordgrænsen for Laplandsværlingens yngleudbredelse i Østgrønland 1929–62.

Year *År*	Place *Sted*	Authority *Kilde*	Latitude *Breddegrad*
1929	Kap Hope	SALOMONSEN 1950	70° 27′ N.
1933	Constable Pynt	BERTRAM et al. 1934, SALOMONSEN 1950	70° 46′ N.
1962	Holger Danskes Briller	The author	71° 22′ N.

require vegetative cover for nesting. Meadow Pipits *(Anthus pratensis)* are thought to have colonised East Greenland at the beginning of this century and, subsequently, spread northwards during the climatic 'warm' phase (Table 1). The birds observed in 1962 constitute the most northerly yet recorded.

Lapland Buntings *(Calcarius lapponicus)* have been seen north of Scoresby Land but breeding records north of Angmagssalik are sparse, (Table 2), and so it was interesting to find this bird by our Base camp with at least one young on 26th July.

Meadow Pipits are thought to have visited Greenland originally by having overshot Iceland on their spring migration and established themselves in suitable areas. Likewise the Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)*. Golden Plovers have been observed in Greenland since 1780, and although they have been recorded in increasingly large numbers, they have never been established as a breeding species. Adult Golden Plover accompanied by young were seen on 14th August, (JOHN and SUGDEN) and 20th August, (ARNOLD) where adults only had been present since 26th July. The parent birds entirely lacked the black cheeks and throat of *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* which is the race to which the Greenland birds are ascribed and more closely resembled the southern race – *P. a. apricaria* (BANNERMAN 1953–62).

None of these three species can be generally distributed at the present time north of Scoresby Sund as they were not recorded by Danish and British field parties which were active in Jameson Land in 1961. No footprints of a Whooper Swan *(Cygnus cygnus)* which had been measured in the sand of lower Ørsteds Dal in 1961, were seen in Scoresby Land.

No mention has yet been made of a group of birds which should figure on all worthwhile birding expeditions, namely, "the ones that got away". These were present in numbers sufficient to maintain an active interest in ornithology throughout the camp, and I, personally, am pleased to have seen several. Notable among these were those of snipe-like appearance.

Only a small part of this vast coast can be systematically covered in a single summer – much may be missed; and as East Greenland is so sparsely inhabited, evidence in support of changes in distribution is bound to be meagre. It is only by recording such clues as the 1962 expedition found that the pattern can be completed and it will be interesting to see if, in the future, the northward advance of some species continues, or if the climatic 'cool phase' causes withdrawal of these birds to the Low Arctic whence they came.

SUMMARY

A survey of the breeding birds of a valley in South-east Scoresby Land was carried out between 26th July, and 5th September, 1962. The results are shown on a map accompanied by notes on each species.

a. Number of species breeding in census area	13
b. Number of species probably breeding in/near census area	4
c. Number of other species seen in census area	10
d. Number of other species seen near census area	2
Total	29

The significance of the occurrence of Golden Plover, Meadow Pipit and Lapland Bunting is discussed and previous records reviewed.

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DANSK RESUMÉ

Ynglefuglene i en dal i Østgrønland, 1962.

Oxford University Expedition to East Greenland, 1962 havde hovedlejr i den sydlige del af Scoresbyland mellem Holger Danskes Briller og Konglomeratelvens udløb, på sydsiden af elven (JOHN & SUGDEN 1962). I perioden 27. juli–11. august kortlagde man dalens ynglefugle, og supplerende observationer blev gjort indtil begyndelsen af september. 13 arters yngleterritorier er vist på kortet fig. 3. Yderligere iagttoges 14 arter, hvoraf 4 muligvis har ynglet i eller nær området. I andre områder iagttoges desuden 2 arter.

Området rummede forskellige biotoper, bl. a. områder med en usædvanlig rig vegetation. Her fandtes de interessanteste arter. Et par Laplandsværlinger *(Calcarius lapponicus)* blev fundet den 26. juli med en enkelt ungfugl, og disse iagttoges et stykke ind i august. Et par Hjejler *(Pluvialis apricaria)* iagttoges flere gange, og den 14. august blev to ungfugle set, hvilket tyder på, at arten har ynglet i området. Den 4. august blev 4 ad. set.

Engpiberen *(Anthus pratensis)* blev først fundet nord for floden den 7. august, og den 9. august iagttoges 3 fugle. Senere sås kun enlige fugle her, men ved Kap Syd sås op til 2 fugle. Den 9. september sås en fugl ved det gamle hospital i Scoresbysund.

De tre navnte arter har siden begyndelsen af århundredet bredt sig nordpå (Tabel 1 og 2) (SALOMONSEN 1950). Spredningen skyldes formodentlig, at klimaet er blevet mildere, men den varme periode er måske allerede forbi (LAMB 1962). Af publicerede data fremgår det, at ekspeditionens iagttagelser i 1962 af Engpibere og ynglende Laplandsværlinger er de hidtil nordligste recorder fra Østgrønland, og det bliver interessant at se, om arterne vil brede sig længere nordpå, eller om klimaforholdene vil tvinge dem til at rykke mod syd igen.

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