

The Breeding Birds of Ørsteds Dal, East Greenland, 1963

By

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(Med et dansk resumé: *Ynglefuglene i Ørsteds Dal, Østgrønland, 1963*).

INTRODUCTION

The 1963 British East Greenland Expedition was a combined ornithological and botanical expedition primarily concerned with catching and ringing Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) in Jameson Land. It arrived at Mesters Vig airstrip on 28th June, and reached the first target area – Ørsteds Dal – nine days later. Of the eight members of the party, four had travelled through Jameson Land in 1961, and they in particular, welcomed the opportunity of visiting the same area, this time some-

what earlier in the summer. The records of the birds seen in Ørsteds Dal and subsidiary valleys were collected from 6.–21. July, supplemented by additional observations made during August, when the expedition returned from ringing geese in southern Jameson Land. The numbers on the map Fig. 2 refer to nesting sites where eggs or very young birds were actually seen. The territories of birds probably breeding are not marked.

SURVEY AREA

Ørsteds Dal is the largest valley draining northern Jameson Land. The main river, which rises about 71° 30' N., flows North and then East for some 40 miles to the entrance of Fleming Fjord. The central section of the valley which is about 4 miles wide, is flat, well vegetated and contains numerous ponds which provide good feeding and moulting grounds for large

numbers of birds during the summer. The surrounding marshy areas furnish several species with suitable nesting sites and the rocky side valleys are utilised by birds requiring a drier habitat. The whole valley and its tributaries are virtually snow free in the summer and appear to thaw out earlier than the neighbouring valleys to the north.

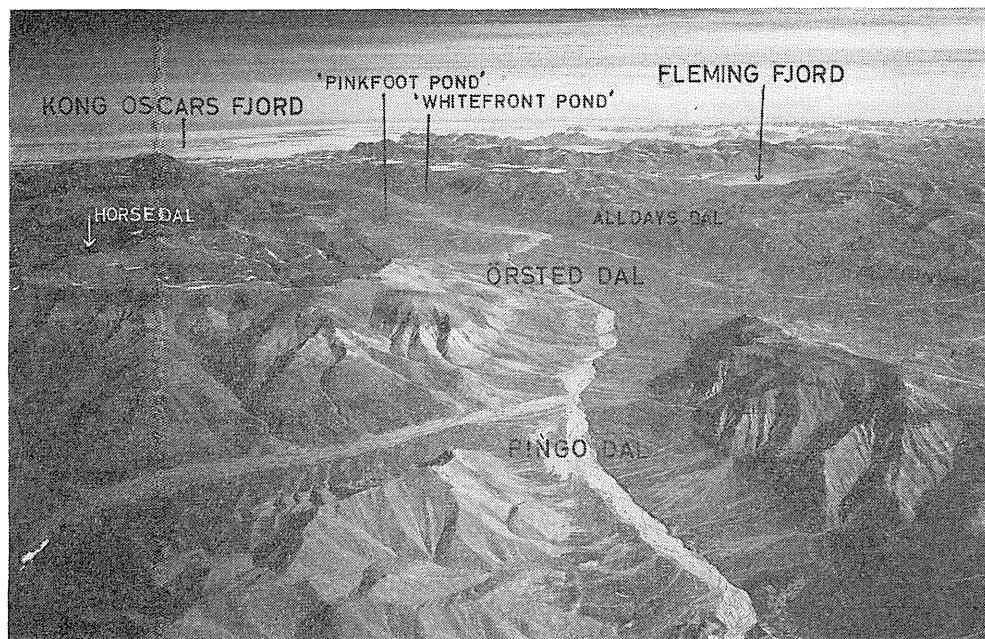


Fig. 1. Aerial photograph from Pingodal looking East over central and lower Ørsted's Dal. (COPYRIGHT GEODETIC INSTITUTE, DENMARK).

Luftfotografi over Pingodal og den centrale og nedre del af Ørsted's Dal.

BIRDS SEEN IN ØRSTEDS DAL

Breeding.

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)
 King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)
 Pink-footed Goose (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*)
 Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)
 Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
 Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
 Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina arctica*)
 Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)
 Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)
 Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)
 Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)
 Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)
 Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Others.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)
 European Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
 Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*)
 Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)
 Raven (*Corvus corax*)
 Greenland Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)
 Arctic Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*)
Birds seen elsewhere.
 Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)
 Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*)
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)
 Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)
 Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)
 Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*)
 Little Auk (*Plutus alle*)

DISCUSSION

It was soon quite obvious that 1963, unlike 1961, (MARRIS and OGILVIE 1962), was going to be a good breeding year for most bird species in this section of Greenland. There was a marked increase in the number of lemmings seen and winter nest remains were frequently encountered. Their mammal predators were apparently taking advantage of this as not only were foxes often seen but three litters of cubs were found as well as another occupied earth in Ørstedes Dal. Four ermines were also seen during the summer.

Birds dependent on the lemming for their chief food supply were particularly noticeable in their nesting activity. In 1961, no skuas had been seen with either eggs or young and few birds were even paired, whereas this summer, not only did 12 pairs of Long-tailed Skuas and 1 pair of Arctic Skuas definitely breed in and around Ørstedes Dal but several other pairs also behaved as if guarding nesting territories. Elsewhere, at least 4 pairs of breeding skuas were noted. Similarly, Snowy Owls, which had only been seen singly in 1961, were this year found breeding. Two pairs had nests and no single birds were recorded.

Geese were perhaps the most prominent group of birds to have had an improved breeding season in Ørstedes Dal compared with 1961. From the large number of Barnacle goslings seen, 112 were ringed

compared with 23 recorded in 1961. No Pink-footed Geese appeared to have bred in this valley in 1961, but this year, one nest was found with eggs and several family parties of goslings were seen, particularly at the lower end of Ørstedes Dal.

Goslings recorded:

<i>Ørstedes Dal</i>	<i>Barnacles</i>	<i>Pinkfeet</i>
1961	23	0
1963	172	25

Once again Ptarmigan were not recorded in Ørstedes Dal itself but this species was seen elsewhere in Jameson Land, this year in larger numbers than in 1961. The following table includes those broods seen in Scoresby Land during 1962 (HALL 1966).

	1961 <i>Jameson Land</i>	1962 <i>Scoresby Land</i>	1963 <i>Jameson Land</i>
Total number of broods	1	4	6
Total number of young	3	34	45
Average number of young per brood . . .	3	8.5	7.5

The only other species which had a noticeably improved breeding season in 1963, was the Turnstone. Three pairs definitely bred in Ørstedes Dal this summer and several other pairs behaved noisily suggesting nesting. This behaviour was not noticeable two years ago.

SPECIES

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*).

The only Great Northern Diver positively identified was on the pond at the head of Pingodal where an adult bird spent the afternoon of 9th August. This pond is more than 500 metres above sea level.

RED-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*).

Though there was no evidence that Red-throated Divers nested in Ørstedes Dal this year, adult birds

were seen at Pinkfoot Pond* (one pair), Dolerite Point Ponds* (one pair) and a single bird on Primula Pond.*

These are all fresh water ponds.

EUROPEAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*).

On 12th July, a single one year old cock Wigeon in partial eclipse plumage was seen at Primula

*) Unofficial names.

pond.* Its sides were mostly grey with few brown feathers and the secondary coverts were grey. Head, neck and breast feathers were all rusty coloured and the crest was also rusty coloured though paler.

The bird accompanied three duck King Eiders and all four birds were seen again the following day preening on the shore of the pond, where a grey and white vermiculate feather was collected.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*).

A Long-tailed Duck's nest with 4 eggs was found near Primula Pond* on 13th July, and a family of 6 ducklings on the Dolerite Point Ponds* on 20th July. Adult ducks were also seen on Primula Pond* (12 on 12th) and Whitefront Pond* (10 on 18th) and in central Ørstedes Dal.

Outside the survey area Long-tailed Ducks were recorded in Fleming Fjord where there were broods of 4, 7 and 3 ducklings, and on the ponds in the lower Fegins Elv valley where broods of 7, 7 and 1 were counted. The average number of young per brood was 5.

	Number of young per brood						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number of broods	1	-	1	1	-	1	3 = 7
Total young	1	-	3	4	-	6	21 = 35

Drake birds were seen at Primula Pond*; and at Whitefront Pond* where there was only one which was the only drake seen in full summer plumage with the long tail feathers. Drakes at Primula Pond* were only partially in summer plumage and called frequently. All adult birds seen were able to fly.

KING EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*).

The only King Eider with young seen in the survey area was a family of 7 ducklings at Sporfeld on 19th August, but previously, adult birds had been noted inland at Primula Pond* (4 on 12th July), and Whitefront Pond* (4 on 18th July).

In southern Jameson Land, broods of 5 and 4 were recorded on 31st July, and 1st August, on freshwater ponds.

	Number of young per brood						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Number of broods	-	-	-	1	1	-	1 = 3
Total young	-	-	-	4	5	-	7 = 16
	<i>Mean brood size = 5.3</i>						

GREENLAND WHITEFRONTED GOOSE

(*Anser albifrons flavirostris*).

A single flightless bird was seen on 18th July, by the ponds on the south side of central Ørstedes Dal (Whitefront Pond*) by itself. When disturbed, it swam in the company of 75 adult Pinkfeet which remained separate from a Barnacle flock.

The bill, legs and feet were the same shade of yellow. The breast bars were medium in density; not as heavily marked as this race can be.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*).

This was a species which did not appear to have bred in Ørstedes Dal in 1961, but did so with considerable success this year. A nest with 5 eggs was found on 7th July, on an islet in Pinkfoot Pond* which had hatched by 9th July. On the same pond a family containing 2 goslings was also seen on 7th July.

Once goose catching operations had begun it was not easy to get accurate figures for brood sizes and so only 8 families are shown below, one of which was in the Fegins Elv valley.

	Number of young per brood				
	1	2	3	4	5
Number of broods	1	1	4	1	1 = 8
Total young	1	2	12	4	5 = 24
	<i>Mean brood size = 3</i>				

Flocks of non-breeding Pinkfeet were centred round Primula Pond* (c. 150 on 12th July) and Whitefront Pond* (75 on 18th July) which are the largest ponds in Ørstedes Dal. (TAYLOR 1953).

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*).

Barnacle geese had a successful breeding season in Ørstedes Dal, where goslings were found in several areas between Primula Pond* and the estuary. Brood sizes were noted when undisturbed families were found and the following table includes 2 broods from Pingels Dal and 2 from Tern Tarn* in the Fegins Elv valley.

	Number of young per brood				
	1	2	3	4	5
Number of broods	4	2	4	2	1 = 13
Total young	4	4	12	8	5 = 33
	<i>Mean brood size = 2.5</i>				

In addition to the breeding birds, large numbers of non-breeders were found, not only in Ørstedes Dal but in several other places in Jameson Land.

PTARMIGAN (*Lagopus mutus*).

Ptarmigan were not encountered inside the survey area but were seen elsewhere. Adults were noted in Upper Oksedal and Upper Kolldal in early July. Families were seen later in the summer in Pingels Dal, and Kolldal, where 5 coveys were noted at the end of August.

	Number of young per brood									
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Number of broods	2	1	-	1	-	1	1	=	6	
Total young	10	6	-	8	-	10	11	=	45	
	Mean brood size = 7.5									

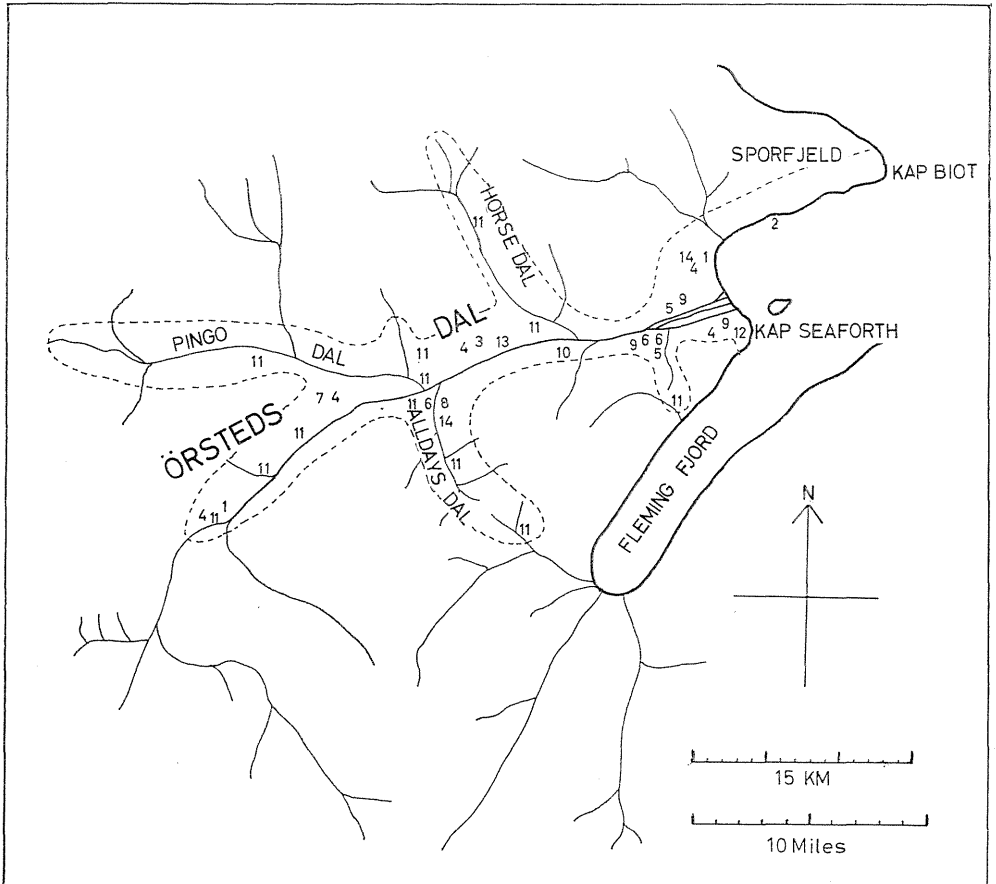


Fig. 2. Map of the area investigated in 1963. Figures show distribution of breeding birds. Kort over undersøgelsesområdet i 1963. Tallene viser fuglenes fordeling.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | 8. <i>Calidris alpina</i> |
| 2. <i>Somateria spectabilis</i> | 9. <i>Crocutia alba</i> |
| 3. <i>Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus</i> | 10. <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> |
| 4. <i>Branta leucopsis</i> | 11. <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> |
| 5. <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | 12. <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> |
| 6. <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | 13. <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> |
| 7. <i>Calidris canutus</i> | 14. <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> |

Fig. 3. Pinkfoot Pond, Ørstedes Dal, and the entrance to Horsedal. The nest of a Pinkfooted Goose (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*) with 5 eggs was found on an islet here on 7 July and another pair had 2 goslings. At least two pairs of Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) bred nearby. (Photo by R. MARRIS).



Pinkfoot Pond, Ørstedes Dal, og indgangen til Horsedal. Yngleplads for Kortnæbbet Gås (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*) og Bramgås (*Branta leucopsis*).

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Ringed Plover were encountered wherever suitable nesting places were available which, in Ørstedes Dal, are mostly where the tributary streams fan out when the valley floor is reached, leaving extensive areas of exposed gravel. The only nest found was, however, in the centre of the main valley where there was a clutch of 4 eggs on 21st July. On the following day a single young bird was noted above Whitefront Pond.*

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).

Several pairs of Turnstones made themselves heard in the southern part of central Ørstedes Dal and behaved as if guarding a nesting territory. Two families of newly hatched young were found near Whitefront Pond* on 18th July, containing at least 2 and 3 chicks. On 5th August, 2 well feathered young birds were seen in the entrance of the Alldays Dal gorge.

A single bird on passage visited the pond at the head of Pingodal on 15th August.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*).

Whimbrels were not recorded in Ørstedes Dal but were seen and heard in the lower Fegins Elv region of southern Jameson Land. They were seen on several occasions by different members of the expedition.

30th July	-	West of Fegins Elv	-	2
31st July	-	East of Fegins Elv	-	1
1st August	-	East of Fegins Elv	-	
1st August	-	West of Fegins Elv	-	3

Lack of opportunity prevented a thorough search of the area frequented by a pair of birds on the west bank of the river which may possibly have been a nesting territory. This pair of birds may represent

the most northerly record for the species at 71° 03' N.

On 30th July, a bird was seen chasing a Long-tailed Skua.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).

Knots seemed to favour the northern side of Ørstedes Dal between Primula Pond* and the Pingodal river. It was in this area that 2 pairs were seen doing the broken wing trick on 13th July, and on 14th July, a nest with 2 eggs was found. There were at least 10 adults on this south facing slope, which is dry and free draining, on 14th July.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina arctica*).

Dunlin were common in suitable localities though only one nest was found. This was on 9th July, in a small boggy area near the Alldays Dal hut when it contained 4 eggs. Several more visits were subsequently paid to this nest:

Date	Eggs	Young
9th July	4	-
11th July	4	-
15th July	2	2
16th July	0	2

As there were no eggs in the nest on 16th, it is probable that all 4 hatched successfully and that 2 of the chicks escaped detection.

Elsewhere an active young Dunlin was seen with a parent bird on 27th July, near the top of Pingels Dal.

The display trilling was quite often seen when one bird would fly with bee-like wing beats, calling

at the same time. This would cease and the two birds would have a short chase.

In August, no Dunlins were seen in Ørstedes Dal.

SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).

Territory guarding and injury feigning was noted among Sanderling at several places in Ørstedes Dal in July. On 19th July, a nest with 4 eggs, one of which was chipping, was found near Whitefront Pond*. On 20th July, two families of 2 and 4 young were seen, one on either side of the main river near the estuary where they were most common.

Outside the survey area a family of 2 young was found in upper Fegins Elv on 28th July.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*).

This was another species which, though present in some numbers, did not reveal either eggs or young to prove breeding. There were 5 at Primula Pond*, one at Pinkfoot Pond* and several on and around Whitefront Pond* during July.

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

An Arctic Skua was first seen on 14th July, and again on 15th July, in central Ørstedes Dal. The next day a pair was seen near the river opposite Horsedal and on 17th July, a young one was found nearby. The adults were of different plumage phases – one pale and one intermediate.

Arctic Skuas, all intermediate phase, were otherwise only seen in southern Jameson Land except for 1 or 2 seen on passage by the Mesters Vig airstrip on 30th August.

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).

Long-tailed Skuas were particularly notable for the large number of breeding pairs seen in Ørstedes

Date	Place	Number of Eggs.	Young	Remarks
July	6 Ovre Horsedal	2	–	
July	7 Nedre Horsedal	–	2	
July	8 Mid Alldays	1	–	Chipping on 8th. Hatched by 9th.
July	9 Rhaetelv	1	–	
July	11 Alldays End	–	1	Dead lemming nearby
July	13 Primula Pond	–	1	
July	13 Ørstedes Plain	–	1	
July	14 Ørstedes Plain	2	–	
July	15 Low raised beach	2	–	
July	15 Owl river	2	–	
July	21 Fleming Fjord	1	–	Egg chipping pass
August 21	Mid Pingodal	–	1	Young flying

Table 1.
Long-tailed Skuas nesting in Ørstedes Dal, 1963.
Lille Kjøve i Ørstedes Dal, 1963.

Dal. In 1961, parties of non-breeding birds were encountered but there was no sign of nesting, whereas this summer the position was reversed, with no non-breeding flocks and 12 definite breeding pairs and a number of others which defended territories aggressively – at least 5 (Table 1).

The wide variation in hatching date is perhaps of interest as in Horsedal, where a nest at the upper end had 2 eggs on 6th July, one at the lower end contained 2 young on 7th July. The last nest with an egg was on 21st July, when one was found which was chipping. A single egg chipping on 8th July, had hatched by the 9th (Table 1).



Fig. 4. The ponds at Dolorite Point, lower Ørstedes Dal, and the mountains at the south side of the river. Two pairs of Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) nested near here, and a pair of Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). A pair of Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) was also seen on the pond on 20 July.

(Photo by R. MARRIS).

Søerne ved Dolorite Point i den nedre del af Ørstedes Dal, og fjeldene syd for floden. To par Bramgås (Branta leucopsis) ynglede i nærheden, og desuden et par Havlit (Clangula hyemalis). Den 20. juli sås et par Rødstrubet Lom (Gavia stellata).

Fig. 5. Lower Ørsted's Dal looking North-East. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) and Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*) frequented this part of Ørsted's Dal but seldom revealed either eggs or young. (Photo by R. MARRIS).

Nedre del af Ørsted's Dal, udsigt mod nordøst. I dette område iagttoges Almindelig Ryle (Calidris alpina) og Selning (Crocethia alba).



Number of eggs per clutch	1	2
Number of clutches	3	4 = 7
Total eggs	3	8 = 11
Mean clutch size	1.6	
Number of young per brood	1	2
Number of broods	4	1 = 5
Total young	4	2 = 6
Mean brood size	1.2	

Brood sizes may well have been a little bigger as very young birds are difficult to find once they have left the nest.

Outside the survey area a nest with one egg was found on 6th July, and single flying young were seen on 28th July and 2nd August, in Fegins Elv and on 3rd August, in Pingels Dal.

A dead lemming was found near one very young bird.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*).

The only young gulls seen were 2 near Kap Seaforth in the latter part of August, with a party of adult birds.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*).

This species was not noted in the survey area but was seen by the shore of Hall Bredning on 1st August, when two members of the expedition visited the base camp of the Trinity College, Dublin expedition.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Terns were not seen in the survey area but were recorded elsewhere. On some of the ponds in the Fegins Elv valley, which contained numerous islets, Terns were behaving noisily and may have had nests on 31st July, when at least a dozen pairs

were noted. These ponds are about eight miles from the sea.

At a pond higher up the valley 3 adults were noted on 28th July.

Terns were also seen feeding in Mesters Vig at the end of August.

LITTLE AUK (*Plutus alle*).

This species which was not seen in the survey area was represented elsewhere by a dead specimen by the river in central Fegins Elv. This was about 15 miles inland from Hall Bredning. It was in full summer plumage.

SNOWY OWL (*Nyctea scardiaca*).

One pair of Snowy Owls nested in the survey area though with what ultimate success was, unfortunately, never discovered. The nest was found on a low knoll on the raised beach area north of the river in central Ørsted's Dal on 8th July, not long after one of the 5 eggs had hatched. There was another chick the following day but on 15th July, the nest contained 2 young and 1 egg.

Date	Eggs	Young
8th July	4	1
9th July	3	2
15th July	1	2

A pair of Snowy Owls nested at the top of a rock cliff in the gorge midway up Pingels Dal, where there was a well grown young bird and an egg (addled) on 26th July. When the nest was revisited on 4th August, it was empty.

RAVEN (*Corvus corax*).

Ravens were only seen and heard in the survey area at the entrance to Horsedal where there were 4 on 7th July.

Elsewhere they were seen at the head of Pingodal and near Mesters Vig airfield.

GREENLAND WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). Wheatears were much more scarce than expected. Single birds were seen in Alldays Dal and near Primula Pond* on 11th and 12th July.

Between 8th and 21st August, parties of 1–9 Wheatears, including fully grown young, were seen in upper Pingodal which is high barren country above 500 metres. As the numbers varied from day to day, it is hard to say whether these birds were all migratory or if some were near their breeding grounds.

From 24th–29th August, Wheatears were seen over all the country covered in early July. They were in family groups, but without any grey cocks, moving south.

ARCTIC REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*).

The only place in the survey area where Redpolls were present was at the top of the cliff above the

Snow Bunting's nest in Alldays Dal. Here several birds were seen on 8th July, and 15th July.

In upper Pingodal, small parties including young, were noted on several occasions during August.

LAPLAND BUNTING (*Calcarius lapponicus*).

This was another species not recorded in the survey area but seen elsewhere. On 28th July, a female Lapland Bunting was watched for several minutes near an exceptionally rich patch of willow in a sheltered gully on the west side of central Fegins Elv.

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

Before the survey area had been reached, 2 Snow Buntings' nests with 2 and 6 eggs had been found in Oksedal (2nd) and Kolldal (5th July). In Ørstedes Dal, Snow Buntings were commonest in the smaller side valleys such as Alldays Dal, where a nest with c. 5 eggs was found on 8th July. Eggs were still present on 11th July, but had hatched by 15th July. Nearby, a fledged young bird was



Fig. 6. Long-tailed Skuas (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) nested at intervals near the river in central Ørstedes Dal and Knot (*Calidris canutus*) were noticeable on the south facing slopes. Lemmings, foxes and muskoxen (foreground) were often seen. (Photo by N. LEROUX).

Lille Kjøve (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) ynglede med mellemrum nær floden i den centrale del af Ørstedes Dal, og Islandske Ryle (*Calidris canutus*) var karakterfugl på de sydvendte skråninger. Lemminger, ræve og moskusokser (forgrunden) sås ofte.

seen being fed by the male on 15th July, where it had also been seen the previous day. Fledged young were about on 20th July, at Dolerite Point.

On 8th August, the first real flock of 15 birds was seen. Before this, family parties had been

recorded and after this date, flocks of up to 60 were noted.

16th August, was the date when Snow-Buntings were first heard giving their "twittering" winter call and 24th August, when adult birds in winter plumage were first noted.

SUMMARY

The birds found breeding in Ørstedes Dal in northern Jameson Land were recorded between 6th–21st July, 1963, and the approximate nesting sites are shown on a sketch map. Notes on these and other species seen elsewhere in Jameson Land during the summer are also given.

a. Number of species breeding in census area	14
b. Number of other species seen in census area	7
c. Number of species seen elsewhere	6
d. Number of species seen dead elsewhere	1
Total	<u>28</u>

A comparison is made between the lack of breeding success in 1961 and the success in 1963, of several species in this valley. Birds of prey and geese are the most notable.

Records of 3 unusual species are given – European Wigeon, Greenland White-fronted Goose and Whimbrel.

Breeding birds in Ørstedes Dal, 1961 and 1963, *Ynglefuglene i Ørstedes Dal, 1961 og 1963.*

	Adult		Eggs/Young	
	1961	1963	1961	1963
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Somateriy spectabilis</i>	X	X		X
<i>Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus</i>	X	X		X
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	X	X		X
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Calidris alpina arctica</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Crocethia alba</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		X		X
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	X	X		X
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	X	X		X
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	X	X		X
<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	X	X	X	
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	X	X	X	X
Species total,	14	15	8	14
<i>arter ialt</i>				

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This survey could not have been carried out without the assistance given us by the other members of the expedition who recorded much of the data which is included here. To: G. ARGENT, R. A.

CHALLENGER, M. HALLIDAY, N. LEROUX, D. MARRIS, Dr. R. MARRIS (leader) – we would like to extend our thanks.

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APPENDIX

Migration, 1963: Pingodal/Schuchert Col.

It can be seen from the map of East Greenland that the wide, deep valley of the Schuchert Flod, with a smaller valley to the north, almost cuts low lying Jameson Land, in the east, from the mountains of Scoresby Land to the west. It might be expected that this north/south valley would provide a sheltered short-cut for birds migrating along the coast of Kong Oscars Fjord from further north to Scoresby Sund and the south.

For 12 days, from 8–20th August, migration records were maintained at a hut overlooking the Schuchert Flod (71° 50' North, 24° 20' West) and at a

nearby lake (Lomssøen) at the head of Pingodal, which were both at a height above sea-level of about 510 metres.

There was an irregular movement of birds past these two places, in a southerly direction, depending on the weather. Morning observations produced considerably more records than evening ones when very often there was nothing to be seen, particularly at the lake. Passerines predominated at the hut and waders at Lomssøen, with peak movements at both places during the few days prior to 17th August, when fog brought visibility down to a few metres.

OBSERVATIONS

Position: 71° 50' N., 24° 20' W.
Altitude: 510 metres.
Date: August, 1963.

8th–11th; *Weather*: Mostly dry, sunny and calm.
Hut

Wheatears: In family parties, frequent.

Redpolls: 2 on 8th, frequent on 9th.

Snow Buntings: 3 families of 4, 8 and 6 on 11th.

Lake:

Great Northern Diver and 7 Sanderling on 9th, otherwise no birds at all.

12th–16th; *Weather*: Colder; more cloudy and wind usually North, with drizzle at times.

Hut

Wheatears: None on 12th, then small parties of 2–6.

Redpolls: About 5 on 13th and 15th.

Snow Buntings: 2 flocks of about 25 on 15th, otherwise only pairs.

Ringed Plover: The only birds seen near the hut were 2 on 16th.

Lake

Snow Buntings: About 60 in 1 flock on 16th.

Ringed Plover: Small numbers of adults and juveniles, up to 7, present every day.

Sanderling: 2 on 14th.

Turnstone: 1 on 15th.

17th–19th; *Weather*: Fog every morning usually lifted later. Wind S.W. at first then strong N.E. with rain.

Hut

Wheatears: 5 on 18th, 1 on 19th.

Snow Buntings: Up to 5 on 18th.

Lake

Snow Buntings: 3 on 17th, about 30 on 18th. No waders in this period.

20th; *Weather*: Low cloud with rain which cleared during the morning. Light S.W. wind.

Hut

Wheatears: Up to 5.

Redpolls: 3.

Lake

Ringed Plover: A single juvenile in the afternoon.

21st; The weather was again foggy.

DANSK RESUMÉ

Ynglefuglene i Ørsted's Dal, Østgrønland, 1963.

En otte-mands ekspedition, som besøgte Ørsted's Dal i Østgrønland fra den 6. til den 21. juli 1963 med hovedformålet at ringmærke Bramgæs (*Branta leucopsis*), foretog også iagttagelser over andre fugle i området. 14 arter fandtes ynglende eller sås sammen med ungfugle. 7 andre arter iagttoges i dalen, og yderligere 6 arter blev iagttaget andre steder i Jameson Land i løbet af sommeren.

Det var tydeligt, at 1963 var et langt bedre yngleår end 1961, da fire af ekspeditionens medlemmer havde besøgt området. Lemmingerne og disses vinterreder sås mange steder, og i Ørsted's Dal fandt man fire rævegrave, hvoraf i hvert fald de tre indeholdt unger.

I 1961 sås flere flokke af ikke ynglende Lille Kjove (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), og der sås ikke tegn på ynglen. I 1963 fandtes mindst 12 par Lille Kjove og 1 par Almindelig Kjove (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) med æg eller unger, og adskillige andre par viste territorial adfærd i dalen.

I 1963 fandtes to par ynglende Sneugler (*Nyctea scandiaca*), hvorimod man kun iagttog enkelte fugle i 1961.

Både Bramgæs og Kortnæbbet Gås (*Anser fabalis*

brachyrhynchus) havde langt bedre yngleår i 1963 end i 1961. Ifølge MARRIS & OGIIVIE (1962) sås følgende antal gæslinger de to år:

Bramgås 1961: 23 1963: 172

Kortnæbbet Gås 1961: 0 1963: 25

Der iagttoges flere unge Fjelddryper (*Lagopus mutus*) i 1963 end i 1961, intet af årene dog i selve Ørsted's Dal.

I 1963 ynglede med sikkerhed 3 par Stenvendere (*Arenaria interpres*), og muligvis ynglede flere par. I 1961 sås ingen tegn på ynglen.

I 1963 iagttoges flere arter, som er usædvanlige for området. Den 12. juli sås en et-årig han Pibeand (*Anas penelope*) sammen med tre Kongeederfugle (*Somateria spectabilis*) på en sø i Ørsted's Dal.

Den 18. juli iagttoges en afslået Blisgås (*Anser albifrons*) sammen med en flok Kortnæbbede Gæs i Ørsted's Dal.

Den 28. juli iagttoges ved Fegins Elv i den sydlige del af Jameson Land en hun Laplandsværpling (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Længere nede ad elven sås op til 3 Lille Spove (*Numenius phaeopus*). Under et kort besøg i Trinity College, Dublin, ekspeditionens hovedlejr sås en Sabinemåge (*Xema sabini*).

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