Notes on the bird fauna of Hudson Land and Hold With Hope, Northeast Greenland, 1973

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(Med et dansk resumé: Fugleobservationer fra Hudson Land og Hold With Hope, Nordøstgrønland, 1973)

INTRODUCTION

The following paper is based on ornithological observations made during geological (Quaternary) fieldwork in Hudson Land and on the Hold With Hope peninsula, from mid-July until late August 1973. The approximate boundaries of the area covered, situated between and around 73° 30' and 73° 45' N Lat., are shown in Fig. 1, where also the main routes of travelling are indicated. The base camp was situated at the mouth of Stordalen, the same as used by the Greenland Geological Survey (GGU). All movements within the area of study took place on foot.

THE LANDSCAPE

The general topography (Fig. 1) is one of high or rather high mountains intersected by fiords and valleys, and with extensive coastal areas of lowland character, especially in the east. All parts of the district bear traces of recent or former glacial activity, and furthermore most of the lowland areas have once been situated below sea level.

Tobias Dal and the areas along the outer coast south thereof (Østersletten) are morphologically similar, with an open undulating landscape of a relatively older character than found further west.

Along the inner parts of Mackenzie Bugt, around the old Norwegian radio station Myggbukta, there is an extensive lowland area pitted with lakes and covered by bogs, all dammed by innumerable old beach ridges (Fig. 2).

Further north, in the wide Badlanddal valley, there are huge deposits of silt and sand, truncated by a system of streams and with a scattering of ponds mostly localized to old dead-ice hollows.

Between Loch Fyne and the head of Moskusoxefjord, an important icemarginal zone several thousand years old, the landscape has a very irregular character, with lakes, ponds, ridges, hillocks, old sandurs, silt plains, etc.

The mountain slopes down towards the Badlanddal-Loch Fyne-Moskusoxefjord area are characterized by the presence of moraine ridges and the like, often damming small and elongated bogs.

Finally, the innermost valleys visited, e.g. Stordalen and its tributaries, are completely dominated by glacial and fluvial deposits of varying age.

Vegetation in the district (extensively described and discussed by Gelting 1934) is generally increasing in coverage and luxuriance towards the west, that is away from the barren outer coast towards the more continental interior. Very roughly three zones can be distinguished in the area studied: 1) The easternmost, mainly coastal parts of Hold With Hope, and the coast of Foster Bugt east of Myggbukta; with an often rather sparse vegetation where species kike *Ranunculus glacialis* and *Saxifraga flagellaris* are common. 2) Further west and further inland, with a more continental climate and quicker melting of the winter snow, the vegetation increases in general coverage and number of species. The large plains of silt, sand and gravel, e.g. in Badlanddalen, are characterized by *Dryas octopetala, Papaver radicatum, Cassiope tetragona* and *Salix*. 3) Around eastern Moskusoxefjord, in Stordalen and other western valleys, where *Salix, Betula nana, Vaccinium uliginosum* and *Empetrum nigrum* play an increasing role, the vegetational cover is greater than further east and the late-summer tundra often coloured bluish by fields of *Campanula gieseckiana*.

The combination of a favourable continen-

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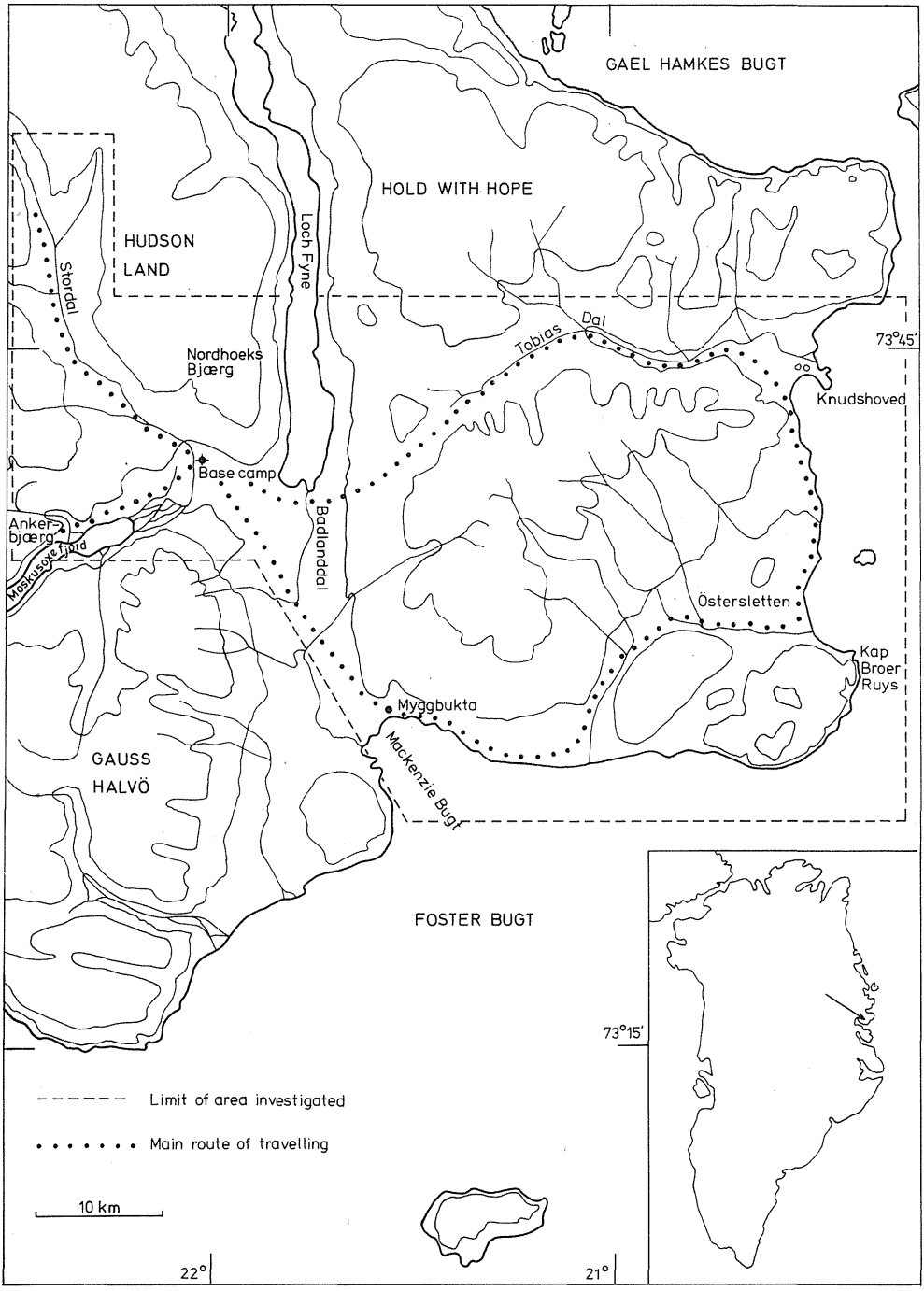

Fig. 1. Map of the region between Foster Bugt and Gael Hamkes Bugt, with altitude contours for 100 and 500 m, and with the area investigated and the main routes of travelling indicated. Based on the Geodetic Institute map 73 Ø 1 in 1 : 250 000 and published with permission no. A 595/75.

Kort over området mellem Foster Bugt og Gael Hamkes Bugt, med 100 og 500 m – højdekurverne, med undersøgelsesområdet og med de vigtigste rejseruter indtegnede. Tegnet på basis af Geodætisk Instituts kort 73 Ø 1 (1 : 250.000), reproduceret med Geodætisk Instituts tilladelse (A 595/75).

tal climate in most parts of the district, with a landscape of often very open character but where earlier glacial and marine activity have resulted in great morphological differences, is obviously the reason why bird life in this part of East Greenland is as rich as it is — much richer than in the areas immediately to the south, where the mountainous character of the landscape is more pronounced.

EARLIER ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES

The first systematic ornithological observations in these very parts of Northeast Greenland were carried out by the Second German North Pole Expedition 1869 - 70 (Finsch 1874). Later on several important observations or more thorough studies have been published, by Nathorst (1900), Kolthoff (1903), Løppenthin (1932), Schaaning (1933), Pedersen (1934) and Bird & Bird (1941). The last mentioned of these works gives a reasonable review of the earlier ones.

An extensive modern work from an area close to that of the present study is that by Rosenberg *et al.* (1970) from the Daneborg district, some 50 km to the north. The latest information from the area of the present study is that presented by Marris & Webbe (1969), from a visit in 1966.

OBSERVATIONS

The scientific names used are according to Salomonsen (1967). One exception is the Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus,* where present British practice is followed. Only in a few obvious cases have subspecies names been used.

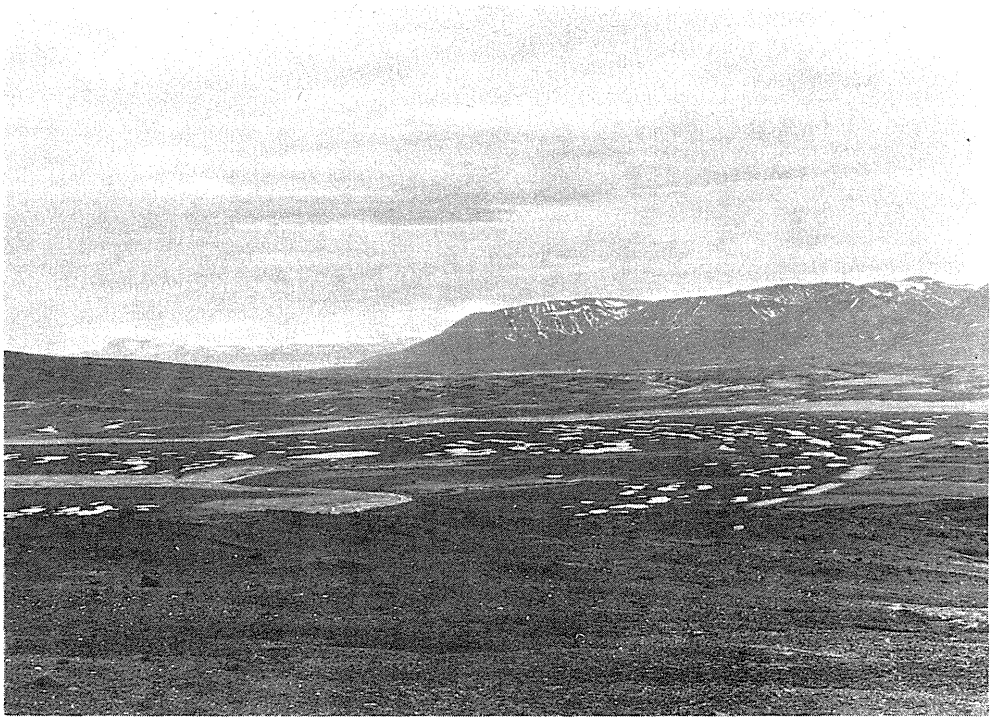

Fig. 2. Looking west across the southern part of Badlanddalen, with Gieseckes Bjerg and Kejser Franz Josephs Fjord in the background. The picture shows the extensive lowland north of Mackenzie Bugt, close to Myggbukta, with its many small lakes dammed by old beach ridges. An important moulting and post-breeding convergation area for geese, as well as an excellent habitat for waders.
Blik mod vest tværs over den sydlige del af Badlanddalen, med Gieseckes Bjerg og Kejser Franz Josephs Fjord i baggrunden. Det udstrakte lavland nord for Mackenzie Bugten, nær Myggebugten, med dets mange små søer, opdæmmede af gamle strandvolde ses. Et vigtigt fældningsområde for gæs, ligesom mange gæs samles her efter yngletiden. Et ypperligt vadefugleterræn.

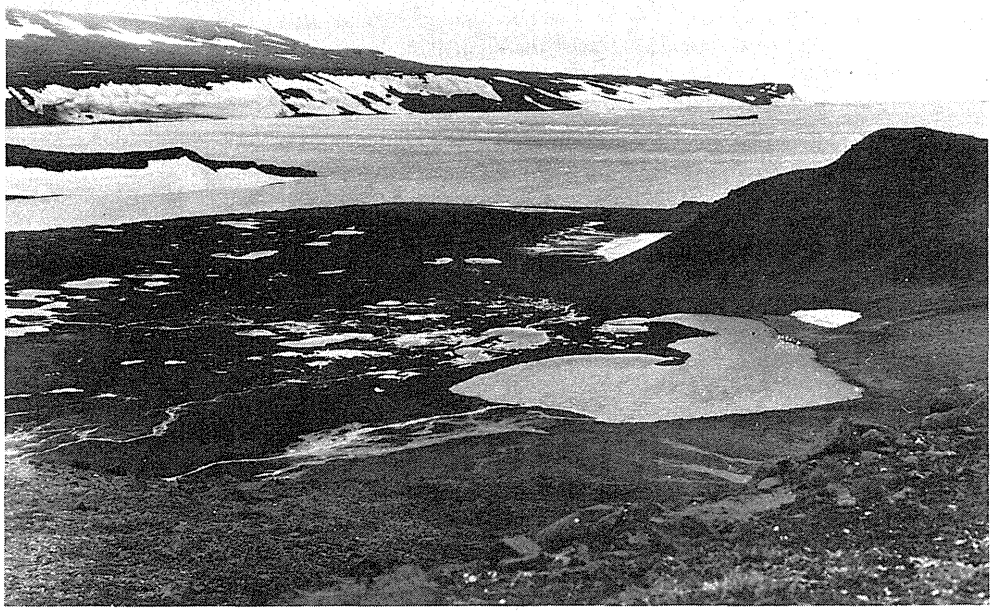

Fig. 3. Part of the delta at the mouth of Tobias Dal, with Home Foreland and Kap Kraus in the background. Like Myggbukta an important convergation area for geese.
En del af deltaet ved mundingen af Tobias Dal, med Home Foreland og Kap Kraus i baggrunden. Ligesom Myggebugten et vigtigt gåseområde.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*
Found almost everywhere. One bird was lying on eggs at the mouth of Stordalen 16.7., and a pair with one young probably about two weeks old was seen in the central part of the same valley 13.8.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*
The characteristic call of this species was heard from the base camp at the mouth of Stordalen 26.8. and 27.8., however without any bird being seen.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
Single birds and flocks of up to about 50 were seen in Loch Fyne, in Tobias Dal, along the coast between Knudshoved and Kap Broer Ruys and at Myggbukta. No ducklings were seen.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*
Flocks of up to about 40 birds, like some single individuals, were observed in Loch Fyne (among them one flock of 30 males), along the coast between Knudshoved and Kap Broer Ruys, in Foster Bugt and at Myggbukta. No ducklings were seen.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*
In southern Loch Fyne 8 birds 17.7., at Knudshoved 2 29.7. and at Myggbukta 3 6.8. All females and no ducklings were seen.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*
Four adult birds belonging to this subspecies were seen together with some Pink-footed Geese on the southern slope of Nordhoeks Bjerg 24.8.

The only earlier record from this very area is one by Kolthoff (1903) at Mackenzie Bugt, often regarded as uncertain (e.g. Løppenthin 1932). The species has, however, been observed in the southern parts of the fiord region (Pedersen 1930, Hall & Waddingham 1966).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*
A common bird in the area, found from the outer coast to the valleys of the interior.

Adults with goslings were seen at southern Loch Fyne (10 pairs 18.7.), in central Tobias Dal (8 pairs 25.7.), in the delta at the mouth of Tobias Dal (1 pair 29.7.), at Myggbukta (several pairs in early August), in the central parts of Stordalen (several pairs 13.8.) and around the mouth of the same valley (2 pairs 27.8.).

Rather large numbers of adult birds were seen around southern Loch Fyne (about 100 in late July), in the delta at the mouth of Tobias Dal (210 29.7.; see Fig. 3), along the coast between Knudshoved and Kap Broer Ruys (about 150 31.7.; see Fig. 4), on Østersletten (more than 200 3.8.), at Myggbukta (much more than 350 6.8.; see Fig. 2) and in the central parts of Stordalen (more than 100 13.8.).

The total number of Pink-footed Geese actually seen in the area visited exceeds 1700, and this is quite obviously a low minimum figure for the numbers dwelling there. The distributional pattern seems very similar to that of the Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (see further discussion under that species).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*
Like the Pink-footed Goose a common bird and seen almost everywhere, from the outer coast to the innermost valleys visited.

Adults with goslings were seen at southern Loch Fyne (2 pairs 18.7.), Knudshoved (1 or 2 pairs 28.7.), Myggbukta (several pairs with well flying juveniles in early August), in the central parts of Stordalen (several pairs 13.8.) and around the mouth of the same valley (27 adults with 6 juveniles 17.8.).

Rather large flocks of adult Barnacle Geese were seen at the southeastern end of Loch Fyne (150 24.7.), in central Tobias Dal (60 26.7.), in the delta at the mouth of the same valley (150 29.7.), along the coast between Knudshoved and Kap Broer Ruys (165 31.7.), at Myggbukta (much more than 150 6.8.), in the central parts of Stordalen (140 13.8.) and, seen from the air, on the watershed south of Ulvedal in the interior of Gauss Halvø (150 28.8.).

When the possible double-counts have been excluded, the total number of Barnacle Geese seen in the area visited comes to roughly 1500, which quite evidently is a low minimum figure for the total number present in the area.

The observations agree well with Pedersen's (1934 p. 10) opinion that rather large numbers of geese were to be found in the eastern parts of Hudson Land (in which he included the Hold With Hope peninsula), with Jennov's (1963) suggestion that large numbers occur in the by ornithologists relatively seldom visited interior and also with the observations made by Marris & Webbe (1969). Geese of both species occur commonly throughout the district, although specific habitat selection (as pointed out by Marris & Webbe, *op. cit.*) can sometimes be very pronounced.

The occurrence of large numbers of geese, Barnacle Geese as well as Pink-footed, in the Myggbukta area, where around 1000 birds of the two species were seen in early August (although only about 500 could be identified as to species at one and the same time), is also interesting. Probably this very suitable area, with its bogs and innumerable lakes, serves as a moulting ground (many primaries found) as well as a post-breeding convergation area. Large numbers of geese were found here by Kolthoff (1903), but they were not mentioned by the authors working here during the 1930's (e.g. Bird & Bird 1941), so it is not unlikely that the existence of the Myggbukta station and the hunting pressure connected with it led to the geese abandoning this otherwise excellent area — and that they have reestablished themselves there since the closure of the station in 1958.

Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus*
One bird, of pure *candicans* type, chased four Pink-footed Geese with unknown result, at the base camp outside Stordalen 25.8. Another falcon of the same species, but of *obsoletus* type, was seen over Østersletten 3.8.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*
One female with young in central Tobias Dal 26.7., one male at Knudshoved 28.7. and one pair without any young at Myggbukta 6.8.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
This species was noted as a common breeder in the whole area, from the valleys of the interior to the outer coast. Several pairs apparently having young were observed at Loch Fyne around 20.7.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Found to be a very common breeder in the area between Loch Fyne and Moskusoxefjord. Many pairs, with young actually seen or supposed to be present, were encountered there between 16 - 24.7. At southern Loch Fyne one flying juvenile was noted already 19.7., but this must have been an exception, as

Fig. 4. The barren coastal plain, characterized by low beach ridges, inside Kap Broer Ruys — which is seen in the background. A breeding place for Ringed Plovers *Charadrius hiaticula* and low numbers of Sanderlings *Calidris alba* and also to some extent a grazing area for geese.
Den vegetationsfattige kystslette, karakteriseret ved lave strandvolde, indenfor Kap Broer Ruys, som ses i baggrunden. Yngleområde for Stor Præstekrave og i ringe antal Sandløber, samt i en vis udstrækning græsningsområde for gæs.

judged from the otherwise general occurrence at that time of young clearly less than ten days old.

The species was also found breeding with some pairs in Tobias Dal, although it was much less common there than further west. There was no indication of it breeding along the outer coast, where it was observed only as a migrant, and generally a gradual but very clear decline in numbers of breeding Turnstones could be noted when moving from west to east in the district.

Migration through the area was well under way already by 20.7., and the passage was quite strong during the first week of August.

Knot *Calidris canutus*
A not uncommon species, found breeding or very probably breeding at the following localities: southeast of Loch Fyne (pull. 17.7.), in a small valley west of Tobias Dal (2 or 3 birds whose behaviour indicated the presence of young 25.7.), in Tobias Dal (2 birds probably with young 26.7.), and also on Østersletten (1 bird probably with young 2.8.). In central Badlanddalen one adult bird, ringed with an obviously rather new ring (shining in the sunlight) was seen 8.8., together with 2 juveniles that were able to fly.

Although the species probably bred in the whole area visited, except for the most exposed parts along the outer coast, its frequency clearly declined from west to east — as was the case with the Turnstone.

Migrant flocks were seen along Foster Bugt during the intense wader passage in the first week of August.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*
One bird was seen some km north of Kap Broer Ruys 31.7.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina arctica*
This bird was met with in the whole area visited and was not uncommon around southern Loch Fyne in mid-July. Later and in other parts of the district only few birds were seen, a fact probably explained by the old

birds' habit of leaving the breeding area already in late July (e.g. Salomonsen 1967). At Myggbukta, where Bird & Bird (1941) found it an extremely common breeder, we only saw single birds in early August and no real indication of breeding. This may be compared with the case of the Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius,* a species also known (Bird & Bird *op. cit.*) to breed commonly at Myggbukta, but which also leaves very early and of which we did not see a single bird there in early August.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
The species was common in the central parts of the area visited, that is on the tundras between Moskusoxefjord, Loch Fyne and Mackenzie Bugt. Pairs with young were seen at the mouth of Stordalen 16.7. and at Loch Fyne 17.7. (our arrival in the area took place 15.7.), and later breeding was also noted at Myggbukta (1 adult with 3 juveniles just able to fly on 7.8.).

Along the outer coast the Sanderling did occur as a probable breeder, but its numbers were much lower than in the areas further west — showing it to have about the same distributional pattern as the Turnstone and the Knot.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*
One bird seen along the coast north of Kap Broer Ruys 31.7. Earlier noted twice by Bird & Bird (1941) from Myggbukta in 1937.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
One or two pairs were found along southernmost Loch Fyne in late July, one pair probably with young at Myggbukta 8.8., and a few single birds were seen elsewhere. Except for one bird of intermediate colour, all of 10 birds seen belonged to the light phase, which is in agreement with the general experience of earlier authors (e.g. Bird & Bird 1941, Rosenberg *et al.* 1970).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*
One pair with a nest containing 2 eggs was found at southern Loch Fyne 18.7., and another pair strongly behaved as if young were present at the mouth of Stordalen 22.7.

Elsewhere many birds, often in groups larger than 10, were seen. Some flocks of obviously migrating birds were flying south along the outer coast of Hold With Hope during the last days of July. The species was still common, e.g. around Myggbukta, during the first days of August, but then numbers rapidly declined. Although the area was not left until 28.8. no Long-tailed Skuas were seen later than 20.8., when 2 birds were encountered at Moskusoxefjord after ten days without any observations. No juveniles were seen.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*
Single adult birds or groups of up to 5 were seen at different places. Stationary pairs at suitable breeding localities (cliffs) were found along the coast south of Knudshoved (1 pair 31.7.) and in the canyon of Ankerbjergelv at eastern Moskusoxefjord (2 pairs 18.8.). However, no signs of eggs or young could be seen, and in all probability such did not exist. No juvenile or immature birds were encountered, and the total number of gulls noted amounted to only 18. Although this probably is too low a figure for the number of gulls actually seen (some single birds may have passed without this being recorded), there is no doubt that for the area studied the opinion of Pedersen (1934) and Bird & Bird (1941) that this gull was a common breeder does not apply today. One very likely reason for this is that the intensive trapping and hunting activities of the early half of this century have now come to a complete end, and thus a large and continuous supply of food for a scavenger like the Glaucous Gull has disappeared — with a declining population as a result.

A great and almost total dominance of adult gulls within the fiord area has recently been noted by Rosenberg *et al.* (1970) for the Daneborg district, and also by the present author from the Kong Oscars Fjord and Vega Sund district (Hjort in prep.). This could be regarded as an indication that the environment in the fiord area proper is not a very rich one for this species today.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Solitary pairs were found breeding on the shores of southern Loch Fyne (one nest with 2 eggs 20.7.) and along the coast between Knudshoved and Kap Broer Ruys. Although it was not visited, binocular studies of the small island Ternholmen off Myggbukta showed that it probably still has a sizeable breeding population (cf. Kolthoff 1901, Løppenthin 1932, Bird & Bird 1941). Occasional birds were seen in other parts of the district.

Four Arctic Terns feeding along the Storelv river on 22.7., some km upstream from the sandur at Moskusoxefjord, were seen attacking some musk oxen *Ovibos moschatus*

wading this river, for no obvious reason as they clearly had no nest or young nearby. The fierce birds highly irritated the oxes and forced one big bull to run madly around in the stream, trying in vain to hit the birds with his horns.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*
Single birds seen at Loch Fyne 18.7., the mouth of Stordalen 23.7., in central Tobias Dal 25.7., on the coast of Foster Bugt 4.8., in central Stordalen 12.8. and at the head of Moskusoxefjord 18.8. No indications of breeding.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Single birds or two together seen on Østersletten, at Foster Bugt, around Myggbukta, at the mouth of Stordalen and at easternmost Moskusoxefjord. No reliable indications of breeding were found and the total number of observations during the whole period was only 11 — representing perhaps only half that number of birds, as several were clearly seen more than once.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*
Found obviously breeding east of southernmost Loch Fyne (2 pairs 18 - 19.7.). One juvenile bird seen at Knudshoved 28.7., one or two families were encountered in central Stordalen 12.8. and 2 juvenile birds were seen north of easternmost Moskusoxefjord 21.8. In addition there was a total of 6 adult birds from various parts of the area.

The two pairs at Loch Fyne can rather safely be regarded as breeding there, and the family(ies) in central Stordalen probably bred where they were found. The juveniles at Knudshoved and Moskusoxefjord may, however, very well have been on passage. Bird & Bird (1941) noted the species as a common breeder in the district.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis flammea hornemanni*
A mixed party with adults and juveniles, about 35 birds strong, was seen in central Stordalen 13.8., and a flock of 5 birds flew past on the southern slope of Nordhoeks Bjerg 24.8.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Seen everywhere. From mid-August onwards in flocks.

Migration
Except for a few flocks of migrating Long-tailed Skuas, and the strong possibility that some of the Wheatears seen during August were migrants, only wader migration was witnessed during the period spent in the area.

This was already under way around 20.7. and successively increased in intensity towards early August. During especially the first week of that month very intense migration was noted, along the outer coast of Hold With Hope, as well as along the north to south running and topographically very distinct Loch Fyne — Badlanddalen — Mackenzie Bugt basin. The latter one is known also from earlier times as a well frequented path of migration; used by e.g. Greenland falcons — which however unfortunately for many years flew this way towards premature death at the Myggbukta station (cf. Bird & Bird 1941).

The species noted were Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Knot and Dunlin, with total numbers decreasing in about the same order. Flocks were usually of less than 10 birds and more often than not had a mixed composition of species — Turnstone, Knot and Ringed Plover being a common combination. As is normal mostly adults took part in this early passage, but small numbers of juveniles were included from early August onwards.

Although migrating flocks were seen and heard at all hours, there was a distinct maximum in the intensity of passage during the night hours, with a clearly distinguishable "take-off" between 20 - 22 hrs. GMT, that is roughly 18.30 - 20.30 local time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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DANSK RESUME

Fugleobservationer fra Hudson Land og Hold With Hope, Nordøstgrønland, 1973
Under kvartærgeologisk feltarbejde i Hudson Land

og på Hold With Hope fra midten af juli og til slutningen af august 1973 gjordes en del ornitologiske iagttagelser. Det relativt sene tidspunkt på sommeren gjorde det kun for visse arter muligt at få oplysninger om yngleforløb, ligesom det kvartærgeologiske arbejde umuliggjorde undersøgelser over populationstætheder o. lign. Denne artikel er derfor i det væsentlige faunistisk.

Arter som regelmæssigt observeredes og som med sikkerhed eller meget stor sandsynlighed konstateredes ynglende i området var: *Gavia stellata, Clangula hyemalis, Somateria mollissima, Somateria spectabilis. Anser brachyrhynchus, Branta leucopsis, Lagopus mutus, Charadrius hiaticula, Arenaria interpres, Calidris canutus, Calidris alpina arctica, Calidris alba, Stercorarius parasiticus, Stercorarius longicaudus, Larus hyperboreus, Sterna paradisaea, Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa, Carduelis flammea hornemanni* og *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Enkelte iagttagelser blev gjort af: *Gavia immer, Anser albifrons flavirostris, Falco rusticolus* (både *candicans* og *obsoletus* typen), *Calidris maritima, Stercorarius skua, Nyctea scandiaca* og *Corvus corax*.

Gæs (Kortnæbbet Gås og Bramgås) iagttoges almindeligt i hele området fra de indre dale mod vest og til yderkysten på Hold With Hope. Ialt iagttoges 1700 respektivt 1500 individer af de to arter, hovedparten ikke-ynglende individer. De vigtigste lokaliteter for ikke-ynglende gæs var sydenden af Loch Fyne, kysten nord for Kap Broer Ruys samt området omkring Myggebugten.

Ynglende vadefugle var talrigest i lavlandet mellem Mackenziebugten, Loch Fyne og Moskusoksefjorden. De dominerende arter i undersøgelsesperioden var Stor Præstekrave, Stenvender og Sandløber (Almindelig Ryle og Thorshane *Phalaropus fulicarius* er formentlig hyppigere forekommende end iagttagelserne i denne artikel giver udtryk for, grundet deres tidlige træk væk fra ynglepladserne; specielt gælder dette Thorshanen, der slet ikke observeredes). Vadefuglehyppigheden aftog gradvist mod øst (muligvis dog ikke for Stor Præstekrave) hvilket formentlig skyldes, at klimaet er mere ugunstigt ved kysten, blandt andet derigennem at sneen ligger længere.

Sammenlignet med det billede som den tidligere litteratur om området, især fra 1930'erne, giver, synes bestandene af Gråmåge og muligvis også Ravn at være mindsket. Dette kan eventuelt forklares ved at ophøret af den menneskelige fangstaktivitet har mindsket fødeudbuddet for disse arter. Men det må ikke glemmes, at fangstmændene bekæmpede sidstnævnte art med gift, og at dens populationsniveau derigennem holdtes relativt lavt, selv da fødeudbuddet ellers var godt.

Områdets tilsyneladende største koncentration af gæs, ved Myggebugten, nævnes ikke i litteraturen fra 1930'erne (men derimod i litteraturen fra omkring århundredskiftet, da der ingen fangstmænd var), og det er ikke usandsynligt, at gæssene er vendt tilbage til dette, udfra et næringssynspunkt meget gunstige område, efter at stationen i Myggebugten lukkedes i 1958.

Nogle sydtrækkende flokke af Lille Kjove sås langs yderkysten af Hold With Hope i slutningen af juli og en del eksemplarer af Digesmutte i august var formodentlig rastende fugle. Herudover sås der af trækfugle kun vadefugle. Vadertrækket begyndte omkring 20. juli og øgede i intensitet til første uge af august, da der var en tydelig kulmination.

Som normalt på dette tidspunkt drejede det sig hovedsageligt om gamle fugle, men fra og med begyndelsen af august iagttoges også ungfugle. Arterne var: Stenvender, Stor Præstekrave, Sandløber, Islandsk Ryle og Almindelig Ryle, med totalantallene faldende i nogenlunde samme rækkefølge. Flokkene var oftest på ca. 10 fugle og bestod som regel af flere arter. Trækket fandt sted døgnet rundt, men med et tydeligt maksimum om natten — svarende til at trækket startede mellem kl. ca. 18.30 og 20.30, lokal tid. Som ledelinier fungerede både yderkysten og det meget tydeligt nord-syd orienterede bækken Loch Fyne — Badlanddalen — Mackenziebugten.

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