

# Mindre meddelelser

Iagttagelser godkendt af Sjældenhedsudvalget er mærket med en stjerne \*.

*Records approved by the rarities-committee are marked with asterisks \*.*

## STOR TORNSKADE *Lanius excubitor* PÅ FÆRØERNE

Den 3. maj 1975 blev en Stor Tornskade taget af en Dværgfalk *Falco columbarius* ved Mikkladali, Kalsoy. Fuglen var den 4. oktober 1973 blevet ringmærket med en helgolandring nr. 7.537.656 på Wangerooge i Vesttyskland. Ifølge Salomonsens oversigt i Nordens Fugle i Farver, bd. 7, 1963, er arten tidligere kun blevet registreret 6 gange.

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**Summary:** A Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* was taken by a Merlin *Falco columbarius* on the Faeroese island Kalsoy on 3rd May 1975. The shrike had been ringed on the German island Wangerooge on 4 th October 1973. It is the sixth record of *excubitor* for the Faeroes.

## ENDNU ET TILFÆLDE AF SOLSORT *TURDUS MERULA* SOM VÆRT FOR GØG *CUCULUS CANORUS*

For nylig har Gøtsche (Dansk orn. Foren. Tidsskr. 69, 143, 1975) omtalt et fund af Solsort *Turdus merula* som vært for Gøg *Cuculus canorus* som det første i Danmark. Imidlertid fandt undertegnede i juni 1968 en rede af Solsort med et Gøgeæg i en lille tørvegrav ved Kraghede, Nordjylland. Reden var anbragt ret lavt i en hyldebusk *Sambucus nigra*. Inden ungen nåede at blive flyvefærdig, blev reden flyndret af en ukendt predator.

I det område, hvori denne rede blev fundet, findes en ret tæt bestand af ynglende Solsorte i tørvegrave og langs grøfter bevoftet med vild gulerod *Daucus carota*, mjødurt *Filipendula ulmaria*, hylde og pil *Salix sp.* Som redested anvendes oftest meget lavtsiddende grenkløfter, men også ret ofte grøftekanter eller direkte på jorden. I denne ynglebiotop har jeg ved fund af reder ofte bemærket, at disse er bygget meget løst. Da jordoverfladen endvidere er meget fugtig, kan mudderet, der er benyttet ved

redebygningen, aldrig nå at blive rigtig tørt. Dette er yderligere medvirkende til, at rederne er løse og forsynet med lav kant. Da tørvegravene tillige er den foretrukne biotop for Gøgen i det her beskrevne område, kan det formodes, at fænomenet ikke er så sjældent i tilsvarende biotoper. Lack's (Bird Study 10, 185-202, 1963) forklaring på, hvorfor parasitisme ikke finder sted særligt ofte hos droslere synes således ikke at gælde her p.gr.a. de lave, løse reder.

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**Summary:** One more case of Blackbird *Turdus merula* as a Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* host.

A case of a Cuckoo's egg in a Blackbird's nest at Kraghede, northern Jutland, in June 1968 is described. The nestling was taken by a predator before fledging. Blackbirds nesting in this area often use peat-bogs as a nesting habitat. The nests are usually very loose because the mud used for nest building cannot dry in the moist habitat. Such nests may be used by Cuckoos, since the low edge of the nest does not prevent the young Cuckoo from throwing out the Blackbird's eggs or nestlings (cf. Lack, *op. cit.*).

## USÆDVANLIG SEN FOREKOMST AF TORN-SANGER *SYLVIA COMMUNIS*

I 1974 ringmærkedes ialt 60 redeunger af Tornsanger på Hjelm (56.08 N, 10.48 E). En unge, mærket den 17. juni 1974 med ZM 9515322, ud af et kuld på fem unger, blev genmeldt den 11. februar 1975 fra Æbeltoft (56.12 N, 10.40 E). Fuglen blev fundet død på bunden af en spand, og senere korrespondance med finderen oplyser, at fuglen var intakt ved fundet og blot i begyndende opløsning, og at den omtalte spand først var blevet anbragt udendørs primo december. Da det næppe er sandsynligt, at fuglen er blevet anbragt i spanden af mennesker, kan det antages, at den i hvert fald har været i live primo december.

Rabøl (Danmarks Dyreverden, bind 8, 1970) angiver træktiden for Tornsanger som ult. juli — med. oktober, med yderst få fugle efter den 20. september, og den omtalte genmelding må således karakteriseres som usædvanlig sen.

Fra Storbritannien kendes fem vinterforekomster (Brit. Birds 60: 138-139, 302, 1967): fire fra december og en fra januar. En af decemberfuglene havde en beskadiget vinge, mens en anden fanget og ringmærket den 10. december 1966 blot vejede 12,6 gram og syntes udmattet.

Om det danske fund har været et forsøg på overvintring, som det f.eks. kendes fra Munken *Sylvia atricapilla*, kan ikke afgøres. Mere sandsynligt er det dog, at der har været tale om en syg eller skadet fugl, som ikke har været i stand til at trække bort om efteråret.

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**Summary:** A Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* ringed as a nestling on 17th June 1974 on the island of Hjelm (56.08 N, 10.48 E), was found dead on 11th February 1975, in Ebeltoft (56.12 N, 10.40 E). Certain circumstances indicate that the bird must have been alive at least primo December. Winter records of this species have not been known from Denmark until now, but five records from December-January are known from Great Britain.

AN OBSERVATION OF IVORY GULL  
*PAGOPHILA EBURNEA* MIGRATION  
ALONG THE EAST GREENLAND  
CURRENT

The movements of the high arctic Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea* between breeding seasons are not known with any great accuracy. It is generally assumed that breeding birds and juveniles, after leaving the vicinity of the breeding colonies in late August, September or October, more or less disperse southwards over the vast pack-ice areas, where most of the nonbreeding immatures also spend the summer. Here they concentrate during the winter in more open parts of the ice and along its edge, and sizeable numbers regularly reach as far south as the Labrador Sea and Newfoundland. As a vagrant it occurs now and then along most boreal coasts of the northern hemisphere, see Bent (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 113, 1921), Pleske (Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., vol. 6, nr. 3, 1928), Snyder (Arctic Birds of Canada, Toronto 1957), Lövenskiöld (Norsk Polarinst. Skr., 129, 1964), Salomonsen (Fuglene på Grønland, København 1967) and Dementiew & Gladkov (Birds of the Soviet Union, vol. 3, Jerusalem 1969).

Whereas some observations seem to indicate that a more pronounced and concentrated northward migration may, at least sometimes, occur in spring (e.g., Salomonsen 1967 *op. cit.*), few if any such records, or observations interpretable as such, are known from the autumn. Therefore, the occurrence of a concentrated southward passage along the north central part of the East Greenland Current in early September 1975 may be of some interest.

After leaving Daneborg in the late evening of 31.8. the ship »Nella Dan«, with the author on-board, spent the two days of 1.9. and 2.9. getting out through the approximately 200 km wide ice belt, cruising roughly in the area between 74° 30'N

and 73° 30'N, the coast, and 12° 30'W. During both days the ship was constantly surrounded by Ivory Gulls, occurring in flocks of up to 20 birds, and there was a very clear tendency for these flocks to arrive at the ship from the north and, after having circled around or settled on the ice for a while, disappear southwards. As new birds very often arrived before earlier arrivals had left, as at least some birds may have reappeared, and as observations were not carried out around the clock, it was very difficult to estimate the number of gulls passing the ship. However, a very careful approximation gives an absolute minimum of 500 birds actually seen during these two days, whereas the likely total of birds passing lies between 1000 and 1500. Of those observed roughly 75% were adults, the rest being a mixture of juveniles and immatures.

The sizeable number of birds seen as well as their tendency to arrive from the north and continue towards the south indicate that a concentrated migratory movement was witnessed, and this interpretation is further enhanced when comparison is made with observations during the inward passage through the ice belt some ten days earlier. This also took place during two days (20 – 21.8.), on about the same latitude and under the same, rather severe ice conditions. But a total of only 50-75 Ivory Gulls were seen then, and no tendency for these birds to arrive from or disappear towards any special direction was noted. As many as around 80% were adults.

The literature from East Greenland and surrounding seas seems to record only one occurrence of Ivory Gulls which may be comparable to the one described above. On 28.8. 1900 Kolthoff (Kungl. Svenska Vetensk. Akad. Handl. Ny Följd, Bd. 36, nr. 9, 1903) met with large numbers, including juveniles, close to the ice edge between Greenland and Jan Mayen. He shot 19 of them and took the appearance of juveniles in that place and at that time as proof of them to have left the breeding areas as soon as they were able to fly. Although he doesn't say this himself, it is not unlikely that Kolthoff really witnessed a rather concentrated passage.

In Northeast Greenland the Ivory Gull has so far been found breeding in only very few localities (Manniche, A.L.V., Meddr. Grønland, Bd. 45, nr. 1, 1910; Salomonsen, F., Dansk orn. Foren. Tidsskr. 55: 177-180, 1961); for negative information, see Pedersen (Meddr. Grønland, Bd. 128, nr. 2, 1942) and Meltofte (Meddr. Grønland, Bd. 191, nr. 9, 1975), but for good reasons it can be suspected of doing so in several more, so far unknown, places between e.g. Germania Land and Peary Land. The actual number of pairs breeding along this coast (or inland from it) is, however, totally unknown.

The birds seen on southward passage during the two September days in 1975 do, according to their recorded age ratios, represent a sizeable number of adult pairs – around or between 180-560. It also seems reasonable to suppose that neither did all Ivory Gulls passing south along the East Greenland Current this autumn across the approximate

latitude 74° N during these two very days, nor were all gulls actually doing so visible from the ship (the ice belt, as mentioned, being about 200 km wide). This makes the number of adult pairs which have to be counted with even larger, not to say much larger, and probably too large to represent only birds breeding in northeastern Greenland.

It is a well known fact that in some other species, like Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia*, Little Auk *Plutus alle* and Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*, the Svalbard populations or part thereof migrate south along the East Greenland Current to winter quarters off Southwest Greenland (e.g., Salomonsen 1967 *op. cit.* and Salomonsen, F., *Møddr. Grønland*, Bd. 191, nr. 2, 1971). A similar migration route for Ivory Gulls does not seem unlikely, and one recovery, of a bird ringed at Station Nord and found in Franz Josephs Land one year later (Salomonsen *in litt.*), indicates that the Northeast Greenland population of this species is not isolated from those further east. Another recovery, of a bird ringed off Labrador and shot about one year later at Kap Tobin by Scoresbysund (Salomonsen 1967 *op. cit.*), shows that also Ivory Gulls moving along the east coast of Greenland may use the Labrador Sea, an area much frequented by the species, as a winter quarter. This supports an analogy with the three species mentioned above.

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**Dansk resumé:** Observation af Ismågetræk langs den østgrønlandske havstrøm.

Der vides meget lidt om Ismågens *Pagophila eburnea* opholdssteder udenfor ynglesæsonen, og iagttagelser af direkte træk er sjældne. De følgende observationer fra den østgrønlandske havstrøm har derfor en vis interesse.

Den 1. og 2. september 1975 iagttog forfatteren betydelige mængder Ismåger under en sejlads med »Nella Dan« gennem det 200 km brede pakisbælte udfor Daneborg. Ismågerne optrådte i flokke på op til 20 fugle; flokkene viste en klar tendens til at ankomme fra nord og forsvinde mod syd. Dette, samt det store antal involverede fugle (mindst 500 observeredes, men sandsynligvis passerede 1000 - 1500 skibet; cirka 75% var adulte), såvel som kontrasten til observationerne under sejladsen ind til kysten 10 dage tidligere (da kun 50 - 75 Ismåger sås og disse ikke viste nogen tendens til en bestemt bevægelsesretning), gør at forekomsten tolkes som regulært træk.

Man kan gå ud fra, at Ismåger også passerede mod syd andre dage end netop disse to, og det er

også naturligt at antage at kun en del af de fugle, der passerede disse to dage, blev tiltrukket af og observeret fra skibet, idet pakisbæltets bredde var ca. 200 km. Med den iagttagne aldersfordeling skønnes det, at de fra skibet registrerede Ismåger repræsenterer ca. 180 - 560 adulte par, og som nævnt er der gode grunde til at antage, at det sande antal sydtrækkende fugle har været betydeligt større.

Arten er kun kendt som ynglende på få lokaliteter i Nordøstgrønland, og selv om der kan tænkes at være adskillige ukendte ynglepladser endnu i denne del af Grønland, tyder det betydelige antal iagttagne fugle på, at ikke blot grønlandske ynglefugle var involverede. Ringfund har vist, at den nordøstgrønlandske Ismågepopulation ikke er isoleret fra østligere populationer, og at fugle, der bevæger sig langs den grønlandske østkyst, kan benytte Labradorhavet som vinterkvarter. Det ser derfor ud som om, at der er en analogi mellem Ismågens træk og trækket af Svalbardbestandene af Kortnæbbet Lomvie *Uria lomvia*, Søkonge *Plutus alle* og Gråmåge *Larus hyperboreus*, som via den østgrønlandske havstrøm trækker til vinterkvarterer i Davisstrædet.