

Mindre meddelelser

Iagttagelser godkendt af Sjældenhedsudvalget er mærket med en stjerne*.
Records approved by the rarities-committee are marked with asterisks.*

STEPPEØRN *AQUILA NIPALENSIS** SET PÅ LOLLAND

Den 3. marts 1975 blev vi ringet op af gårdejer Hasling i Frejlev på Østlolland. Han fortalte, at han på sin mark havde set en »usædvanlig ørn«, — og det holdt stik. Fuglen var set første gang samme morgen, hvor den gjorde sig til gode med en død pattegris, som var smidt ud nogle dage forinden. Fuglen sås herefter fast hver morgen i 10 dage, hvor den mødte op for at fouragere på ådslet, der lå nogle hundrede meter fra gården.

Vi var straks fra starten klar over, at vi havde med en sjældenhed at gøre, men først efter gentagne iagttagelser og med støtte i de efterhånden ganske mange fotos af ørnen, nåede vi frem til med al rimelig sikkerhed at kunne bestemme den til Steppeørn *Aquila nipalensis*.

Det drejede sig om en stor ørn i klasse med Kongeørn *Aquila chrysaetos*. Vingerne var rektangulære, med let S-formet bagkant og holdtes i glideflugt og kredsflygt vinkelret ud fra kroppen og næsten plane. Halen var en smule kortere end vingebredde. Vingedækfjerene var på både over- og undersiden blegt lysbrunlige, i visse belysninger nærmest gråtonede med enkelte mørke isprængninger. Arm- og håndsvingfjer var mørkebrune, det samme gjaldt styrefjerene. På både vingeover- og underside sås to længdeforløbende, smalle hvidlige bånd fra håndsvingfjer til vingebasis, det forreste placeret midtvejs på vingen, på overgangen mellem forvinge og svingfjer, det bageste langs vingebagkanten. På overgangen mellem hånd- og armsvingfjer fandtes en ret svagt markeret, tværgående, lys stribe, som en bro mellem de to bånd, fortil bredende sig ud i en aflang hvidlig plet af beskeden størrelse og i fortsættelse af det forreste vinge-bånd. Ryggen og issen, bryst- og strubepartiet var ensfarvet lysbrunligt som vingedækfjer. På oversidens haledækfjer fandtes et udbredt lyst parti. På nærmeste hold bemærkedes en påfaldende dyb mundvig med veludtalt vokshud. Næbbet var gult med mørkere spids. Benene var buksebeklædte, fangerne gule.

Det terræn, ørnen holdt til i, er et ret udstrakt åbent markområde med enkelte eng- og mosedrag og kun spredt bevoksning af træer og levende hegn. Ørnen søgte tilsyneladende ikke til den nærliggende Roden Skov, men holdt sig til det åbne terræn og

benyttede den mere fri bevoksning som overnattingssted, en enkelt gang syntes den at have taget til takke med en busk for natten. Om dagen tog den gerne ophold på jorden, på en sten, en stolpe eller en telefonpæl. Men det har jo nok været grisekadaveret mere end terrænets kvaliteter, som tiltalte den og gjorde den så stedfast. Da måltidet slap op, forblev den dog i området i flere dage, og vi så den slå efter harer, én gang med held, men iøvrigt blev der fundet rester efter flere harer i området, velsagtes alle nedlagt af ørnen.

Vejret var i den første periode mest gråt, og fuglen viste ikke megen flugtaktivitet i de dage, men i den sidste periode med mere klart solskin, var den tydeligt livligere og sås flere gange svinge sig op i høj kredsflygt.

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(I august 1974 blev der skudt en ung Steppeørn i nærheden af Oslo (fotos set af red.). Den 5. juni 1974 fandtes en død ung Steppeørn ved jernbanen i Torne Lapmark, og i august samme år sås en ung-fugl flere gange ved Ottenby på Øland (Lars Svensson, *in litt.*). I perioden 5. juni 1974 — 13. marts 1975 har Skandinavien altså haft besøg af 3-4 unge Steppeørne (red.)).

Summary: An immature Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* was watched daily for a period of 10 days in March 1975 on Lolland (Southern Denmark). The eagle was rather stationary around a carcass of a pig, and when there was no more food on the carcass, it started to hunt hares, apparently successfully. A detailed description is given and the observers also supplied some photos which were, however, not suitable for reproduction. The observation is the first accepted record on the Danish list.

BLÅSTJERT *TARSIGER CYANURUS** FANGET PÅ SALTHOLM

Om morgenen den 22. maj 1976 var jeg som sædvanlig i færd med at indfangе rastende småfugle til ringmærkning i et hegn på Saltholm. Fangsten ad-

skilte sig ikke væsentligt fra andre dage i denne periode, og totalt fangedes blot 54 fugle, hvoraf de 53 var følgende arter: Rødstjert *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, Blåhals, han, *Luscinia svecica*, Rørsanger *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, Munk *Sylvia atricapilla*, Havesanger *Sylvia borin*, Tornsanger *Sylvia communis*, Gærdesanger *Sylvia curruca*, Løvsanger *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Broget Fluesnapper *Ficedula hypoleuca* og Rødrygget Tornskade *Lanius collurio*.

Een fugl kunne jeg ikke umiddelbart bestemme, da den viste sig i hegnet. Den var meget sky og viste sig kun i få sekunder ad gangen, og den opholdt sig næsten hele tiden i bunden af hegnet. Jeg var klar over, at det var en fugl, jeg ikke tidligere havde set, og da jeg en gang opfattede en lys ring omkring øjet, troede jeg en overgang, at det drejede sig om en Brun Fluesnapper *Muscicapa latirostris*.

Jeg gik naturligvis straks igang med at forsøge at fange fuglen, men det viste sig vanskeligere end ventet. Gang på gang smuttede den uden om eller under nettet, men efter at jeg fik nettet sat helt ned til jordoverfladen, lykkedes det at få fuglen i hånden.

Den var ret uanselig, af størrelse omtrent som en Rødstjert, men uden mange farver. Det viste sig til min overraskelse, at overgumpen var tydeligt lyseblå, noget jeg ikke havde bemærket før. Desuden var nogle fjer på siden af brystet smukt orangefarvede, hvilket man heller ikke kunne se, når vingen var lukket.

Tilfældigvis var der netop denne dag nogle svenske ornithologer på øen for at filme fuglelivet, og jeg vidste, at en af dem, Mikael Kristersson, havde en felthåndbog med på turen. Det lykkedes mig at finde M.K., og sammen studerende vi nu fuglen grundigt.

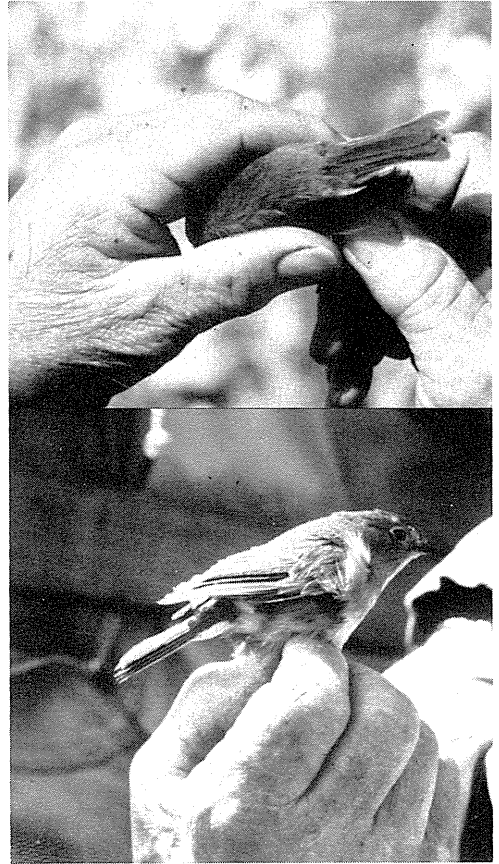
Hele oversiden var jævnt ensfarvet gråbrun med undtagelse af overgumpen og den inderste trediedel af halefjerrenes yderfaner, som var lyseblå. Undersiden var grålig på strube og bryst og mere renhvid på bugen. Som før nævnt fandtes der på siderne af brystet nogle stærkt orangefarvede fjer, som kun kunne ses, når vingen blev løftet. Om øjet en tydelig hvidlig ring, der var det mest markante kendetegn i felten.

Efter at have undersøgt mulighederne i felthåndbogen, blev vi enige om, at det ikke kunne være tale om andet end en Blåstjert hun. Senere litteraturstudier har bekræftet dette, men for en sikkerheds skyld blev fuglen naturligvis fotograferet, se fig. 1.

Fuglen blev herefter ringmærket og sluppet fri.

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(Nominatracen, som der her må være tale om, yngler i taigazonen i Sibirien, fra Ural i vest til



Blåstjerten *Tarsiger cyanurus* fra Saltholm den 22. maj 1976. Den blå overgump og de orange fjer på brystetsiden (trukket frem for fotograferingen) er svære at se på denne sort-hvide kopi, som er lavet efter et farvebillede. Foto: Mikael Kristersson.

Red-flanked Bluetail Tarsiger cyanurus, Saltholm (Copenhagen), 22nd May 1976. The blue rump and orange breast feathers are hardly visible on this black-and-white print made from a colour picture.

Stillehavet i øst, incl. det nordlige Japan, Manchuriet og det nordlige Mongoliet. Den overvintrer fra det sydlige Kina og Taiwan til hele Indokina og Assam. Vest for Ural er Blåstjerten yderst spredt forekommende, og den vestligste forpost findes i det østlige Finland, hvor den er meget fåtallig. Tilfældige gæster er truffet i flere europæiske lande, bl.a. England. RED.).

Summary: A female Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* was caught on the island Saltholm near Copenhagen on 22nd May 1976. The bird was colour-photographed, ringed and released. It is the first Danish record of the species.

FIELD NOTES ON BIRDS IN THULE
DISTRICT, GREENLAND, 1975

During the period 13 May — 22 July 1975 I travelled in Thule District together with the eskimoese. The purpose of this journey was to make preliminary investigations for a planned walrus expedition in the area in the summer of 1976.

During these investigations I made the following field observations on birds in the area between Thule Air Base (76°31' N) and Littleton Island (78°24' N). See sketch map for places mentioned in the text.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

1 ad. seen flying near Igdlut, McCormick Fjord, 17 July.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

One pair observed swimming in the lake near Taserssuit, McCormick Fjord, 17 July.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A large breeding site observed on the west side of Agpat (= Saunders Island, Salomonsen (Fuglene på Grønland, 1967) only mentions one colony in Thule District, viz. on Saunders Island, probably the same one found of the author, RED.). Often seen in the inner waters and in the fjords when the wind was brisk.

Greater Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens atlanticus*

3 ad. flying north at the ice edge 15 kms SSW of Neqe, 13 June. One 23 June 13 ad. were seen flying to the NW near Kap Robertson.

On 25 June, on Mc Gary Island, 6 pairs of breeding Snow Geese (1 nest with 1 egg, 1 with 3 eggs, 2 with 4 eggs, 1 with 5 eggs, 1 with 6 eggs). In addition, about 30 non-breeding (sudad.) Snow Geese remained on and around the island.

On 17 July, near Taserssuit, McCormick Fjord, 64 Snow Geese with moulting primaries were observed. These birds were extremely wary and had a flight distance of 200-300 m. The habitat was very luxuriant, and on the large swampy-sandy flat areas along the lake shores, large quantities of moulted feathers from this year and earlier ones were found. The vegetation was dominated by sedge. In the same locality 3 additional pairs of Snow Geese were seen, each pair with 4 very small goslings, and finally an old Snow Goose nest was found about 400 m from the lake shore.

It should also be noted that all the adult Snow Geese observed were strongly mottled with red-brown on the forehead, cheeks, and throat, and sometimes also on the anterior side of the neck right down to the breast. This colouration is due to some dissolved ferri-compounds with which these body parts come into touch during foraging in shallow waters.

Blue Goose *Anser caerulescens caerulescens*

Together with the about 30 non-breeding (subad.) Snow Geese on Mc Gary Island, 1 Blue Goose ad. was seen. This colour phase of Lesser Snow Goose has not earlier been reported from Greenland (see photo).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Generally occurring and often seen throughout the area. Largest flock (18-20 ad. males and females) observed near Taserssuit, McCormick Fjord, 17 July.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Very common and breeding especially on small islets in the area, e.g. on Ederfugleøerne, Manson Islands, Three Sister Bess, and Uijo.

In the northern part of the district should be mentioned Knorr Islands, Mc Gary Island, and Littleton Island. To the latter localities, every year around midsummer, the eskimoese make egg collecting trips. This year collecting took place in the days June 23-26. A number of 12 boats participated, each collecting on average about 300-400 eggs. If it is supposed that a normal clutch numbers 4 eggs, there would this year have been at least 900-1200 nests in these localities.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

5-7 ad. males and females observed at the ice edge SSW of Neqe ultimo May — primo June. On 1 July two large flocks (about 200) were seen near Igdlularssuit. These flocks consisted almost exclusively of adult males.

Near Taserssuit, McCormick Fjord, on 17 July, one pair with 7 large young was seen swimming near the lake shore.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

An ad. pair was observed at the ice edge about 15 kms SSW of Neqe. Observations on this species in Thule District have not been published earlier, but the eskimoese nevertheless knew what bird it could be and were able to identify it by means of field glasses.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus candicans*

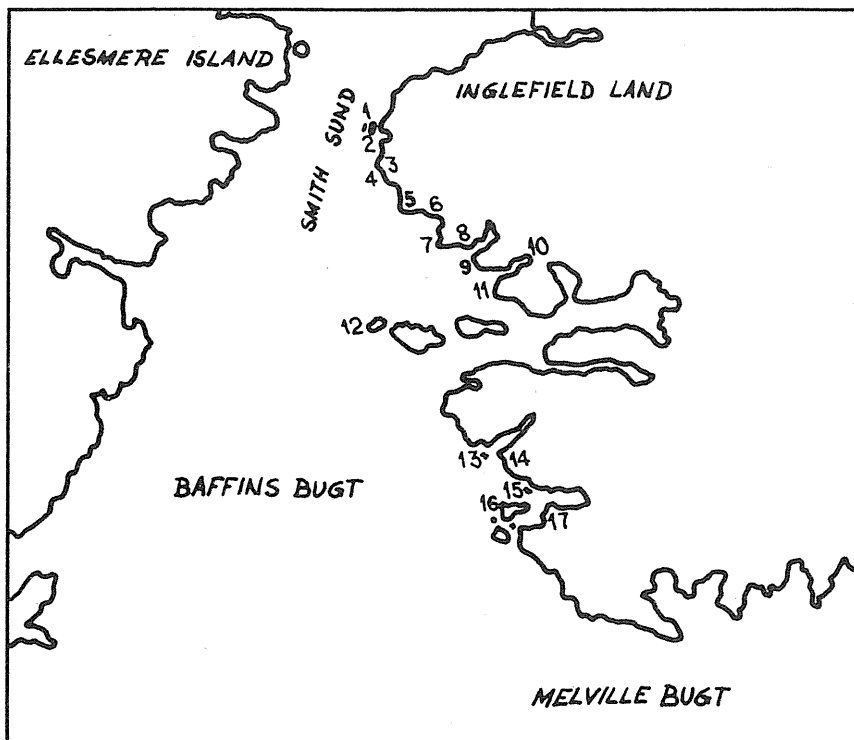
One ad. pair observed near Kangeq on 23 May. Hunted Little Auks *Plotus alle*. One adult observed a few times near Igdlularssuit 12-13 July. Caught Little Auks and remained in a definite rocky area, but no nest was found.

Ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus*

Near Moriussaq, on 18 May, two adult birds were seen in the mountains behind the settlement. The eskimoese stated that it was common in the northernmost part of the district.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

One ad. observed on the coast near Kangeq on 5



Sketch map of Thule District (approx. 1:3.600.000). The reference numbers represent the following localities: 1) McGary Island and Littleton Island; 2) Knorr Islands; 3) Etah; 4) Uijo; 5) Pirorâfik; 6) Neqe; 7) Cape Robertson; 8) Igdlularssuit; 9) Kangeq; 10) Cape Cleveland; 11) Taserssuit; 12) Agparssuit; 13) Three Sister Bess; 14) Moriussaq; 15) Agpat; 16) Ederfugleøer; 17) Manson Isles.

Kort over Thule Distrikt. Numrene henviser til ovennævnte lokaliteter.

June. Near Taserssuit one adult was seen on 17 July, strongly feigning injury in a flat, sandy-stony area near the lake shore. No nest was found.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Two flocks of totally 30 ad. observed migrating along the ice edge SW of Neqe ultimo May. On 6 June, near Cape Cleveland, I saw a Turnstone ad. being chased and caught in the air by a Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* and later devoured on the ice. One adult bird observed on 17 July near Taserssuit.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

8 adult birds seen migrating northwards along the ice edge SW of Neqe on 27 May.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

3-5 adult birds observed at the ice edge ultimo May. 3-4 pairs seen near Taserssuit on 17 July. Some specimens of the latter locality were rather aggressive within certain restricted areas.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

20-30 adults observed at the ice edge and in the

drift ice on 25 May — 4 June. Later on seen occasionally in the fjords.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very common in the area. Breeds in smaller colonies (5-10 pairs) or solitarily in close vicinity of the breeding sites of Little Auk. General field observations and investigation of pellets showed that they lived almost exclusively on Little Auks in this period. Egg-laying started about 10 June this year, and according to the eskimoes this date is rather fixed from one year to another.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Common throughout the district. Many bred on the west side of Agpat. Arrived at the breeding area on 20 May — 1 June.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

4 ad. observed near Igdlularssuit, first time on 1 July. Near Taserssuit there were 4-5 pairs on 17 July, and the same day a nest with 3 eggs was found near the cape Igdlut, McCormick Fjord.

Little Auk *Plotus alle*

Typical bird of the northern part of the area. Large continuous Little Auks cliffs from Kangeq to Etah with millions of breeding pairs. Arrive at breeding sites about 10-15 May.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia*

Ten thousands breed on the cliffs on the west side of Agpat. The first arrived in large numbers at this locality about 15 May.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Common breeder throughout the district. Large breeding areas with many hundreds of pairs occur on the west side Agpat. Smaller colony observed near Kap Morrison on 5 June and a very large one (several thousands of birds) near Pitorafik on 23 June.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

On 12 June about 100 m up the Little Auk cliffs near Igdlularssuit 6 burrows were observed, each 10-15 cm in diameter and about 40 cm deep. They were dug into the turf in a luxuriant and relatively stonefree area. I believe that these burrows were dug by Puffins, but the eskimoes say that they have never seen any Puffin in this locality. They state that is is a scarce breeding bird at Agparssuit. (Salomonsen (pers. comm.) strongly doubts the possibility of the Puffin breeding in this area. RED.).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Not very frequent in the district. Generally seen near the Little Auks cliffs.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*

On 1 July one ad. female was observed at the expedition house in Neqe.

An adult Blue Goose *Anser caerulescens caerulescens* in company with an adult Greater Snow Goose *Anser c. atlanticus*. McGary Island, 25 June 1975. Photo Therese Kristensen.

En gammel Blågås Anser caerulescens caerulescens sammen med en gammel Stor Snegås Anser c. atlanticus på McGary Island, 25. juni 1975.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One ad. male was observed 15 May on the scree below the bird cliffs near the west point of Agpat.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Near Moriussaq, on 20 May, one ad. female was seen foraging in a small snowfree area.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Very common throughout the district. The first nest (5 eggs) was found on 9 June, and the first fully fledged young was seen on 3 July.

Dansk resumé: Meddelelsen beskriver iagttagelser af fugle i Thule Distrikt i perioden 13. maj — 22. juli 1975. Af de 28 arter bør især nævnes ynglefund af Snegås *Anser caerulescens atlanticus*, hvoraf der blev fundet 6 reder med fra 1 til 6 æg plus 3 par med gæslinger. Desuden sås en Blågås (se foto), som er en farvefase af Lille Snegås *A. c. caerulescens* og som ikke tidligere har været rapporteret fra Grønland. Der iagttoges et par Toppet Skallesluger *Mergus serrator*, som skulle være ukendt i Thule, men som de lokale eskimoer dog kunne genkende. Et par Jagtfulke *Falco rusticolus* levede af Søkonger *Plotus alle*, som ynglede i millionvis. Også Gråmågerne *Larus hyperboreus* syntes for en stor del at ernære sig af Søkonger. Kun få vadefugle blev iagttaget. Nogle huller i græstørven ved Igdlularssuit tolkes af forfatteren som gamle redehuller af Lunde *Fratercula arctica*, hvilket bestrides af Salomonsen (mundtl. medd.), og de lokale eskimoer mener heller ikke, at arten yngler her. Den eneste almindelige småfugl var Snespurv *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

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