

nur etwa zehn Minuten lang, während der maximalen Verfinsterung etwas flauer. Während der Finsternis kamen Flüge zum Nachtquartier in Fliederbüschen vor. Zur Zeit der maximalen Verfinsterung wurden 10—15 Min. lang keine Flüge unternommen.

6. Von den ausserhalb des Beobachtungsorts nistenden Vögeln wurden während der Sonnenfinsternis im Fluge nur *Grus grus*, *Corvus corone*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Delichon urbica* und *Apus apus* angetroffen, und zwar die beiden letztgenannten während der maximalen Verfinsterung, und die übrigen 20—30 Min. vorher und 10—30 Min. danach.

7. Beim trüben Wetter in Nastola war der Einfluss der Sonnenfinsternis auf den Vogelgesang stärker als bei klarem Wetter in Siuntio, wo die Verfinsterung um 1—2 % grösser war.

A nest probably common to two pairs of Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

MATTI HELMINEN

There is a small ternery on a rocky islet in Lake Suininki, Kuusamo (66° 8' N, 29° 40' E). At the water level on June 29—30, 1958, the length of the islet was about 20 m and the breadth about 8 m. Approximately 75 per cent of the total area of the islet was bare rock.

On June 29, I counted at least 18 birds belonging to the ternery, in all probability representing 9 pairs. The islet was easy to explore completely because of its small area, but I was able to find only 8 nests on it. There were 4 nests with 3 eggs, 2 nests with 2 eggs, one with one egg and one nest with 6 eggs. Each nest was located on a site covered with low vegetation.

The clutch of 6 eggs was probably laid by two females. It was not possible to distinguish the eggs laid by each bird. Two of the eggs were distinctly shorter (31.5 x 39.5 mm and 31.5 x 40.5 mm) than the others (31—33 x 41.5—44.5 mm; regrettably, the measurements are only accurate to within 0.5 mm because of inadequate equipment). These two shorter eggs may have been the last ones laid by the females.

Another possible explanation for the common nest might be that one of the females had rolled the eggs from a too closely situated nest of a neighbouring pair into its own nest. For instance, NYSTRÖM (1925) has explained the origin of a nest with eggs of Turnstone and Common Tern observed by him in this way. Rolling of the eggs seems

improbable in the case described in this paper. There was no empty nest site, at least in the immediate vicinity of the nest. In addition, it may be pointed out that in the preliminary experiments of Mr. Sakari Petro, M.A., (personal communication) the Common Tern has not rolled eggs placed in the vicinity of its nest.

On June 30, I observed two birds fighting on this nest. When I left the islet the birds quite soon returned and started to incubate. The bird incubating the clutch of 6 eggs, however, was driven off after a few seconds by another individual. After a short flight one bird, probably the latter, turned back to the nest and began to incubate. The bird driven off landed near the common nest on a site without a nest and adopted a position typical in incubation. The birds in the other nests continued to incubate undisturbed.

Miss Helena Luukkonen, who, at my request, kindly followed the fortunes of the terns, observed that two of the eggs in the common nest did not hatch. This may have been due partly to the irregular incubation because of fighting and partly because one bird can hardly cover so many eggs at once.

LEVERKUHNS (1891) has mentioned that extraordinary eggs in nests are common, especially in large terneries. Laying in a strange nest is probably caused by the density of nests. LEVERKUHNS (op. cit.) has also stated that the Common Tern generally accepts 2—3 extraordinary eggs placed in its nest. According to KOSKIMIES (1953) the laying in common nests in dense waterfowl communities is due to mistaken identification by females on the point of laying. According to my observations it seems probable that two pairs of Common Tern had really adopted the same nest site at Suininki. This assumption is supported by the fact the both females had laid the complete clutch in the nest. When there is only one extra egg in a nest it can be explained as laid erroneously in a neighbouring nest. Such nests of Common Terns maybe not infrequent. On the other hand, it must be pointed out that quite probably a female may exceptionally lay 4 eggs in a nest.

The ternery of Suininki is also of faunistic interest being situated close to the northern limit of the species. WAARAMÄKI (1945) mentions that the Common Tern »used to breed at Lake Suininki but has recently completely vanished from there owing to plundering by man» (originally Finnish). This statement refers to the same rocky islet. From 1934 to 1943, Waaramäki was not able to find any Common

Terns breeding there. The absence of the ternery has fortunately only been temporary, because the Common Terns have already been breeding again for some years on the islet, according to the local inhabitants.

References: KOSKIMIES, J., 1953, Vieraita munia vesilintujen pesissä. *Molekyyli* 9, 3: 2—3. — LEVERKUHN, P., 1891, *Fremde Eier im Nest*. Berlin. 212 pp. — NYSTRÖM, E. W., 1925, Studier över roskarlen (*Arenaria interpres* L.) vid boplatsen. *Ornis Fenn.* 2: 97—99. — WAARAMÄKI, T., 1945, Eräitä lintutietoja Kuusamosta vuosilta 1934—36, 1937—39 ja 1941—43. *Ibid.* 22: 17—21.

Selostus: Kahden kalatiiraparin todennäköinen yhteispesä.

Kirjoituksessa kuvataan 6-munainen kalatiiran pesä Kuusamon Suininkijärven Kovalahdessa olevalla kallioluodolla. Pesä oli todennäköisesti syntynyt siten, että 2 naarasta oli muninut samaan pesään. Kaikkiaan pesi luodolla 1958 9 paria kalatiiroja. Yhdyskunta on sama, jonka WAARAMÄKI (1945) mainitsee hävinneen.



Beobachtungen über die Einwirkung des Nachwinters auf den Vogelzug an der Ostküste des Bottnischen Meerbusens.

VEIJO TÖRNROOS

Obwohl im Jahre 1958 der Mai bei uns ungewöhnlich kalt und regnerisch war, so war bis zum 15. V doch der Schnee schon bis hinauf nach Ylitornio und Pudasjärvi im freien Gelände weggeschmolzen. Wie weit der Vogelzug bereits vorgeschritten war, dürfte daraus ersichtlich sein, dass *Philomachus pugnax* am 15. V in Enontekiö und vielerorts in Kuusamo (P. Vähäsarja u.a.) angetroffen wurde, *Tringa nebularia* am 15. V u.a. in Rovaniemi (O. Kivilahti) und Kuusamo (P. Mäkelä), und dass *Hirundo rustica* südlich von der Linie Kuivaniemi—Pudasjärvi eingezogen war.

Am 17. V drehte sich der Wind nach Norden. Am 18.—19. V schneite und regnete es in ganz Nordfinnland, stellenweise auch noch am 20. V. Am 21.—22. V drang wieder Warmluft ein, die Regen und Nebel mit sich brachte. Erst dann schmolz im Küstenbereich des Bottnischen Meerbusens der in den vorausgegangenen Tagen gefallene Schnee. In Kuusamo und Rovaniemi ging auch noch am 21. V schnee-