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UTGIVEN AV ORNITOLOGISKA FÖRENINGEN I FINLAND

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Notes on the Birds of Hailuoto (Karlö) 65° lat. Finland.

By E. C. STUART BAKER O.B.E.; F.Z.S. etc.

In company with General Betham I paid a visit to this most interesting island during the second and third week in June, having previously visited it during the end of May in 1928. At that time, although it was not a late year, the Passerine birds, except a few *Fringilla cœlebs* and *Turdus musicus*, had not begun to breed and the Limicolæ, except *Numenius arquatus*, had not even begun to think of nesting. A few Ruffs were displaying at Liminka on the adjoining mainland but none were visible in Karlö. Geese, *Anser anser*, were breeding and their eggs had been first seen on the 12 th of May and twice we saw Cranes, *Grus grus*, though we either failed to find their nests or they had not then laid. *Dafila acuta* and *Anas platyrhyncha* had full clutches of eggs, incubated in some cases, by the 18 th May. The Deering ducks were paired but in no cases had nests.

This year, 1929, though the ice and snow had persisted until much later, it was curious to note that the Passerine birds on Karlö were much earlier in their breeding, possibly due to the fact that although the winter had been colder with heavier frost there had been much less snow.

The following are notes on some of the birds we saw, or expected to see, in Hailuoto.

Corvus c. corax. Not seen. We came across the remains of a dead bird at Hanhinen.

Corvus c. cornix. Very common. We found c/2 fresh and c/4 fresh eggs on the 10 th and 16 th June, but in other nests the young had already hatched and were well advanced.

Pica pica fennorum. Only one seen.

Carduelis l. linaria. Not very common. We only found one nest with eggs (5) but I saw several old nests and two empty new ones on the 9 th and 13 th respectively.

Loxia c. curvirostra. Very common. We constantly saw flocks in many parts of the island. The Young were fully fledged and were flying with their parents when we arrived on June 8:th. In 1928 the birds were in flocks in the last week in May and they must be very early breeders.

Fringilla cœlebs. Very common. We found young nearly fully fledged on the 8:th June and of all the nests we saw only one had fresh eggs, the others all contained either young birds or much incubated eggs. In 1928 no nests contained more than three eggs at the end of May and many were empty or only partly built.

Fringilla montifringilla. We were surprised to find this bird quite rare and we saw only one empty nest.

Turdus musicus. This bird was much less numerous than in 1928. By the 8:th June they had incubated eggs or young and we only saw two nests with fresh eggs, 5 and 6 respectively.

Turdus pilaris. Less common than the preceding and we found no nests.

Emberiza c. citrinella. This Bunting was very common and we found fresh eggs up to the time we left the island on the 20:th June.

Emberiza hortulana. Equally common but, apparently an earlier breeder than *citrinella*. We saw c/3 incubated eggs on the 9:th June and young birds in other nests. Three seems to be the normal clutch of eggs in Hailuoto.

Emberiza aureola. I heard repeatedly a Bunting calling which was new to me and on several occasions saw *Emberiza aureola* as it flitted from one bush to another. It was undoubtedly breeding though we found no nest. In Sandman's beautiful collection of eggs there is a clutch of six marked „*Emberiza hortulana* ? *E. aureola*“, which is undoubtedly the latter birds', taken in Karlö.

Anthus pratensis. Common. We found numerous nests.

Anthus t. trivialis. Less common. We saw no nests.

Anthus rufogularis. We found one nest with five young on the 8:th June. The parent bird came within a couple of yards of me, showing its under plumage very distinctly and I have no doubt

about its identification, the deep colour of the chin and breast very conspicuous.

Parus a. ater. General Betham found a nest containing six young and two addled eggs on the 18:th.

Muscicapa s. striata. This little Flycatcher was very common breeding every where. We found nests under the eaves of buildings, in wood stacks, in an old nest of *Turdus musicus* and, less often, in trees close to buildings. Fresh eggs were seen up to the time we left Hailuoto and some birds even then had incomplet clutches.

Sylvia c. communis. We constantly heard this bird singing and it certainly breeds.

Sylvia c. curruca. Not uncommon; we took one nest with 6 slightly incubated eggs and saw two others, each with a single egg and a third with two eggs.

Acrocephalus s. schænobaenus. Was very common, singing lustily in the Willows, but had not begun to breed.

Prunella m. modularis. We heard this bird calling occasionally and once caught a glimpse of one as she flew from the debris of a fallen tree. She almost certainly had a nest but we failed to find it.

Cuculus c. canorus. Common. We heard it calling every day wherever we went.

Haliaeetus a. albicilla. This Eagle was seen twice at opposite ends of the island and probably were two different birds.

Buteo? I found a nest, evidently of a *Buteo* of some kind, in which young had been reared the previous year.

Anser anser. Possibly common, but we found no traces of nests in 1929 and but few in 1928. In Liminka in 1928 we saw the birds literally in hundreds when they came to graze in the open after six p. m.

Anas p. platyrhyncha. Very common. The earliest duck to breed and we saw few nests with eggs, nearly all having been hatched. There were numerous broods of young seen from a day old up to about three weeks.

Anas c. crecca. We only saw about three pairs and no nests.

Anas penelope. Not a common bird. We only found two nests, one of which was in a rather unusual place, an immense open plain with no cover of any kind so that the nest was conspicuous from a considerable distance.

Anas a. acuta. A very common duck and an early breeder.

We saw c/8 slightly incubated eggs on the 6:th June at Liminka and again c/8 fresh eggs on the 19:th in Karlö. In 1928 we saw c/8 fresh eggs at Liminka on the 19:th May.

Nyroca f. ferina. This duck was very common. It is a late breeder and we saw c/6 and c/7 fresh eggs, the latter on the 19:th June.

Nyroca fuligula. The most common of all the ducks breeding everywhere but very partial to making its nest under the floors of the houses built in the forests to store hay in. We saw numerous nests up to the 20:th June, mostly with incomplete clutches.

Nyroca m. marila. Also common. We saw two nests with typical down feathers. In one nest were several speckled feathers from the male. ? does he assist in incubation.

Oidemia f. fusca. This is a common bird all round the coast but we only got two nests, both under brambles and bushes by the shore and both with incomplete clutches of 5 and 6 eggs respectively.

Somateria m. mollissima. We saw very few Eider Ducks but they possibly breed on the islands.

Mergus m. merganser. Common. We found c/9 fresh eggs on 19:th June. I should imagine there are many more than ten pairs in Hailuoto.

Mergus s. serrator. Equally common though we took no nests.

Colymbus a. arcticus. Common. We saw nine birds one morning round the coast of the island on the North East. A late breeder and we saw single eggs on 13:th June and again on 19:th.

Colymbus stellatus. Not so common as the preceding. A single egg on the 18:th.

Charadrius dubius curonicus. This little Plover was quite common, but very local, breeding entirely to the sand hills and waste stony ground on the North coast. Several clutches of four eggs each mostly much incubated up to the 20:th June.

Charadrius hiaticula subsp. Very common wherever the shores were suitable. We saw many nests with four eggs, fresh and incubated, up to the time we left Hailuoto.

Arenaria interpres. We saw few birds. Even on the islands they were not common. Betham found one nest with two eggs on the mainland (18:th June) and I saw one nest with a single egg on one of the islands on the 15:th June.

Vanellus vanellus. There were several pairs breeding and, though we never troubled to hunt for their nests, we saw three clutches of four and a boy brought in a single egg.

Calidris temminckii. We found this little Stint very common on the islands, four or five pairs breeding together on quite small places. About twelve pair were breeding on the dry open meadow land on the North East of Hailuoto. Here their nests were all made in patches of very short, thin grass, surrounded by open ground and clay soil. Elsewhere we only saw odd pairs breeding. Few birds had begun to lay on the 15:th though we saw numerous nests ready for eggs, but, by the 20:th nearly all had their full complement of four. The colony of twelve pairs all had their nests within an area of less than a square mile.

Philomachus pugnax. Very common and scattered all over the island in suitable places. In one spot we saw seventeen males displaying and fighting.

Tringa erythropus. We saw two pairs in full breeding dress and they must have had nests close by though we failed to find them.

Tringa t. totanus. Very common. We saw many nests with four eggs between the 15:th and 20:th June, all fresh. They were also breeding on the islands in very thin grass on the shingle.

Tringa glareola. Common and we heard several birds singing. We found two nests, one with four fresh eggs and one, on the 18:th, with four eggs on the point of hatching. The nests are very hard to find as they all seem to breed in very thick cover of pine etc. growing in swampy ground.

Tringa hypoleucus. We only saw two birds all the time we were in Hailuoto.

Phalaropus lobatus. We never saw any Phalaropes in the island.

Numenius arquatus. Very common and breeding everywhere from the 12:th May (1928) to the end of June.

Numenius ph. phæopus. We saw very few birds and no nests.

Capella g. gallinago. We occasionally heard them drumming but the bird is not common.

Lymnocyptes minimus. We got one c/4, very typical small eggs, of this little Snipe; twice also I heard the sound of their breeding flight, the curious „təp-təp, tarrap-tarrap“. It is probably a rare but regular breeder in Hailuoto.

Larus minutus. We saw this bird breeding among a colony of *Larus ridibundus* in Hanhinen both in 1928 and 1929. In the former year they had not begun to breed in May but this year we took four clutches of three eggs each between the 12:th and 20:th June.

Round the houses in Tarila *Motacilla a. alba*, *Oenanthe æ. ænanthe*, *Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus* and *Hirundo r. rustica* were very common. The first three bred in the thatch roofs, wooden walls and stacks of hay whilst the fourth built in the barns, sheds and houses. In one hay-house we counted 8 nests of *Hirundo*. *Phylloscopus trochilus* bred everywhere in the woods and even in the open under bushes of *Juniperus communis*. We also heard another *Phylloscopus*, I think *P. c. abietinus*, on several occasions but they were difficult to distinguish with certainty. A *Hippolais* was seen in two or three occasions and *Sylvia borin* was heard singing. *Podiceps cristatus*, *P. auritus* and *P. griseigena* were all common and we saw nests of all three.

Of *Sterna* many *macrura* bred in the island, often placing their nests far inland and away from the sea. We could identify no *Sterna hirundo*, nor did I see any nests or eggs which I could attribute to this bird.

Of *Hydroprogne caspia* we saw only a single specimen. *Larus c. canus* and *Larus f. fuscus* were both common breeding birds.



Vänttelänkari 19. VI 29. Foto Herman Hg.
Till vänster E. C. Stuart Baker. I mitten general
R. M. Betham. Till höger mr Vanhala.