

12 Register of Faunistically Valuable Records

Zoological Museum, Finnish Museum of Natural History
Association of Ornithological Societies in Finland

Faunistical bird records / Zoological Museum
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1. BACKGROUND AND AIMS. Less numerous bird species are central subjects of interest in local surveys made by birdwatchers. Much more time is spent in "ordinary" birding than in censuses and surveys together. Ornithologists have collected faunistically valuable records of birds in Finland for nearly two hundred years. Much of these have been published as brief notes in journals, in local monographs and in handbooks. Older faunistical records have been collected in the Palmén archive of the Zoological Museum, Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki, and in the Merikallio archive of the Zoological Museum of the University of Oulu. An annual report of nationally valuable observations has been published in the field ornithological journal "Lintumies" since 1976.

The aim of collecting faunistical records is to get information on species which are so sparse that other monitoring projects would produce too scanty data. This may be caused by the rarity or the mode of life of the species (exceptional habitats, difficult to observe, require special methods for estimating population size etc.). Many of these species are, however, specialized in their habitat requirements and indicate the occurrence of environmental changes in areas with high value for nature conservation. It is thus recommended that the local ornithological societies collect into their own archives observations of all species which are uncommon in the particular area. Together with the bird atlas surveys, which have been repeated in 1974–79 and 1986–89, the annual faunistical data may be used for monitoring fluctuations in distribution and abundance of less numerous species.

2. WHICH RECORDS ARE COLLECTED?

Observations of all uncommon or occasionally breeding birds in Finland are collected in the

faunistical archives of the Museum (see Sect. 4). Data on certain annual visitors not breeding in the country are also collected. All the rarities which do not belong to the species checked by the National Rarity Committee of the Finnish Ornithological Society and the Association of Ornithological Societies in Finland are filed in the faunistical archive.

Observations of the species included in the national list (see below) have been collected so thoroughly that annual variations of distribution in Finland can be studied. Even single breeding observations of the most rare species are of significance. – Local ornithological societies collect faunistical data also on many other species for their own archives. A local list of species of interest is available from each society. At a minimum, those species listed in Sect. 4 should be included in the report for the respective society. These records are valuable also on a national scale, when data are summarized from local reports.

3. COLLECTING OBSERVATIONS. All faunistical observations are sent to that local ornithological society to which the municipality of the observation belongs (see the map on the back cover of this Manual for the regions and Appendix 2 for the municipalities) or to the Association of Ornithological Societies in Finland (address: Box 17, SF-18101 Heinola, Finland). The societies publish local reports in their own journals and send data of the species on the national list to the Museum. One can avoid delay in the publication process by sending one's own observations to the local society as quickly as possible. Many societies have a local rarities' committee, which checks the observations of certain species. Only checked and confirmed observations of these species are taken into ac-

count in national reports; for other species all reported observations are valid.

There is no standard form for collecting faunistic data, because in different societies quite different data are gathered. Several local societies have forms of their own (for information ask your society). The most important thing is that all the information listed in Sect. 5 is given about the observation. The observations may also be reported on an ordinary A4-size paper; write clearly, on one side of the paper only. The species should be listed in systematic order and the observations in chronological order within the species according to the instructions in Sect. 5. Observations coming from different regions should be separated and sent to the respective local societies.

4. SPECIES-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. Observations collected in the national archive are used for monitoring the occurrence and distribution of uncommon birds in Finland. Detectability of species and ability to ensure breeding have modified the type of species-specific data collected. Note that the breeding time varies from species to species (see Solonen 1985, v. Haartman et al. 1963–72).

In the following list all the species which should be reported to the Museum by the local societies are marked with a plus (+). In addition, the Museum proposes that the local societies should collect in their own archives at least records of all the other species listed below. The letter code after the species name shows which kind of observations are collected: A = all observations throughout the year

B = all observations during the breeding season
C = nesting sites and their numbers of breeding pairs (estimated or censused); both confirmed (e.g. nest found, parent feeding young or brood) and probable nestings are included (e.g. regular territory, probable nesting site, alarming bird etc.).

The number on the other side of the slash (/) shows the regions of the local ornithological societies from where the species should be reported (see Appendix 2 and the map on the inside back cover). SF = the whole of Finland, in = inland, np = northern part of the area in question, sp = southern part, ep = eastern part, NOC = observations are collected within the censuses of nocturnal singers (see instructions in Ch. 10 of this Manual). For example, inland

nesting sites of Ringed Plover and their pair numbers should be collected to local archives from all regions except 20–22.

Birds breeding in Finland

- +Little Grebe: A / SF
- +Bittern: A / SF (NOC)
- +Grey Heron: A / SF
- +Mute Swan: C / 4–10, 12–23
- +Whooper Swan: C / 1–13
 - Bean Goose: C / 1–18
 - Greylag Goose: C / 4–5, 13, 19; A / in
- +Canada Goose: C / 4–10, 12–23
- +Shelduck: A / SF
- +Gadwall: A / SF
 - Eider: C / 19–20, 22; A / in
 - Long-tailed Duck: C / 1–22, 23sp
- +Black Kite: A / SF
- +Marsh Harrier: C / SF
 - Hen Harrier: C / 1–11
 - Rough-legged Buzzard: B / 1–21
 - Hazel Grouse: A / 23np
- +Willow Grouse: A / 1–10, 16
 - Ptarmigan: A / 1–22, 23sp
 - Black Grouse: A / 23np
- +Water Rail: A / SF (NOC)
- +Spotted Crake: A / SF (NOC)
- +Moorhen: A / SF (NOC)
 - Coot: A / 20ep, 21–23
- +Oystercatcher: C / in
 - Little Ringed Plover: C / 23np
 - Ringed Plover: C / in 1–19
 - Dotterel: B / 1–22, 23sp
- +Purple Sandpiper: A / SF
 - Dunlin (*C. a. alpina*): C / 1–22, 23sp
 - Broad-billed Sandpiper: C / 1–19
 - Jack Snipe: C / 1–19
 - Woodcock: B / 20np, 23
- +Black-tailed Godwit: A / SF
 - Whimbrel: C / 1–11, 16
 - Curlew: C / 23np
 - Spotted Redshank: C / 1–19
- +Redshank: C / in

- Green Sandpiper: B / 23np
- +Turnstone: C / in
- Red-necked Phalarope: C / 1-18
- Arctic Skua: C / 4-5, 19-20
- Long-tailed Skua: C / 1-22, 23sp
- Little Gull: C / 20ep, 21-23
- +Great Black-backed Gull: C / in 1-22, 23sp
- Common Tern: C / 23np
- Arctic Tern: C / in 1-19
- +Little Tern: A / SF
- +Black Tern: A / SF
- +Guillemot: A / SF
- Razorbill: C / 11-12, 19-20, 22
- Feral Pigeon: C / 20ep, 21, 23
- Woodpigeon: B / 23np
- +Collared Dove: A / SF
- +Turtle Dove: A / SF
- Eagle Owl: B / 22-23
- Hawk Owl: B / 1-18
- Tawny Owl: B / 20-23
- Ural Owl: B / 23
- Great Grey Owl: A / 1-16
- Long-eared Owl: B / 20ep, 21np, 22-23
- Short-eared Owl: B / 1-11
- Tengmalm's Owl: B / 23np
- +Kingfisher: A / SF
- Black Woodpecker: A / 23np
- Great Spotted Woodpecker: A / 23np
- +Three-toed Woodpecker: C / SF
- Red-throated Pipit: B / 1-22, 23sp
- +Rock Pipit: A / 19-20
- Waxwing: B / 1-19
- Dipper: B / 1-22, 23sp
- Wren: B / 22-23
- +Thrush Nightingale: A / SF (NOC)
- Bluethroat: B / 1-22
- +Black Redstart: A / SF
- +Ring Ouzel: A / SF
- Blackbird: B / 20ep, 23
- +Grasshopper Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- +River Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- +Blyth's Reed Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- +Marsh Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- +Reed Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- +Great Reed Warbler: A / SF (NOC)
- Icterine Warbler: B / 20-23
- +Barred Warbler: A / 4-23
- Lesser Whitethroat: B / 23
- Whitethroat: B / 23
- Blackcap: B / 14, 19-23
- +Greenish Warbler: A / SF
- +Arctic Warbler: A / SF
- Wood Warbler: B / 23
- Chiffchaff: B / 23np
- Long-Tailed Tit: B / 20-23
- +Siberian Tit: B / 1-19
- Crested Tit: B / 23np
- Coal Tit: B / 20-23
- Blue Tit: B / 20-23
- +Nuthatch: A / SF
- Treecreeper: B / 23np
- +Golden Oriole: B / 1-3, 11-14, 17, 19-23
- Red-backed Shrike: B / 22-23
- Jay: B / 23np
- +Siberian Jay: A / 1-11
- Jackdaw: C / 20ep, 21-23
- +Rook: C / SF
- +Tree Sparrow: A / 1-5, 7-17, 19-23
- +Serin: A / SF
- Greenfinch: A / 23np
- Goldfinch: B / 13-23
- Linnet: B / 20ep, 23
- +Twite: A / SF
- +Two-barred Crossbill: B / SF
- Scarlet Rosefinch: B / 23np
- Pine Grosbeak: B / 1-21
- +Hawfinch: A / SF
- Lapland Bunting: B / 1-22, 23sp
- Snow Bunting: B / 1-22, 23sp
- Ortolan Bunting: B / 23np
- +Little Bunting: A / SF
- +Yellow-breasted Bunting: A / SF

In addition to the above-listed species local societies collect data on many other species in their regions. – Note that species observed outside or on the border of their normal breeding range (see Hyytiä et al. 1983) as well as other rare breeders are worth reporting to the local society!

Regular visitors and transient migrants

All observations from the whole country are collected of the following species:

- +White-billed Diver
- +Black Stork
- +White Stork
- +King Eider
- +Steller's Eider
- +Kittiwake
- +Glaucous Gull
- +Roller
- +Hoopoe

Local societies also collect data on many other rare visitors and migrants.

5. WHAT IS REPORTED OF AN OBSERVATION? At least the following basic data should be reported of each observation: (1) species, (2) date (possibly also time of day), (3) municipal-

ity, locality and exact place (also national grid coordinates if necessary), (4) number of individuals; age and sex if possible, (5) data on behaviour (e.g. breeding evidence, song, direction of migration etc.). Please fill in a Nest Record Card for all nests found.

It is important that the original data are accurate and described in detail (e.g. give all observation days or the first and the last day). Generalizing and summarizing, if carried too far, lessen the possibilities of further use of the material.

6. USEFULNESS OF FAUNISTICAL OBSERVATIONS. Observations collected in faunistical archives (e.g. numbers of birds) cannot directly be used for research purposes, because all factors that may have an effect on the observations are not known or they can not be standardized. However, accidental observations form an important source of information on rare and threatened species and their usage should be studied further. Measuring observer effort will be a central theme if the usefulness of faunistical data is going to be improved in the future. Also so called negative observations (a species has not been found regardless of observing) should be taken into account.

The comparability of faunistical observations can be dramatically improved if observer effort remains the same every year. This requires, for example, the same observation area, standardized observing efficiency (in different subareas, habitats and time periods) and the same field routine (way of moving etc.). However, results of single observers from different

years should not be compared with each other because of the probable sources of error caused by random factors in small data. Only using data of large areas and from many observers one can draw conclusions e.g. on population fluctuations.

Return your faunistically valuable observations to the ornithological society according to the preference of the respective society (in any case before the end of the year)!

SELECTED REFERENCES

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