

TABLE 1. The location and measurements of the nests found on 6 May (A) and 12 May (B) 1971, quantities of various building materials, and the measurements of the eggs.

| | A | | B | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Height from the ground (m) | 9.0 | | 10.3 | |
| Distance from the treetop (m) | 0.7 | | 2.0 | |
| Width of the nest (cm) | 11.0 | | 10.0 | |
| Height of the nest (cm) | 9.0 | | 8.0 | |
| Diameter of the nest bowl (cm) | 6.0 | | 6.0 | |
| Depth of the nest bowl (cm) | 3.0 | | 2.0 | |
| Percentages of building materials: | exterior | interior | exterior | interior |
| Dead spruce twigs | 50 | — | 40 | — |
| Lichen | 50 | 40 | 40 | 30 |
| Juniper bark | — | — | 5 | 40 |
| Hair | — | 40 | — | 5 |
| Feathers | — | 15 | — | 25 |
| Decomposed wood | — | — | 5 | — |
| Hay | — | 5 | — | — |
| Measurements of eggs (mm) | length | breadth | length | breadth |
| | 21.2 | 14.9 | 20.5 | 14.8 |
| | 20.7 | 15.3 | | |
| | 21.0 | 15.1 | | |
| | 20.3 | 14.9 | | |

Long-distance fishing flights of the breeding Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

MARTTI SOIKKELI

It is known that the Caspian Tern may fly on fishing flights to places over 30 km from the breeding grounds (BERGMAN 1953). In 1971 and 1972, during a study of breeding Caspian Terns in south-western Finland, I found data suggesting that the Caspian Tern may perform fishing flights up to 70 km from the nest.

On 28 July, 1971, I found 10 fish tags in the same nest of a Caspian Tern. According to information from the Husö Biological Station, Åland, the tags were from eight salmon smolts (2-year-old salmon) and from two sea trout smolts. The salmon had been tagged and released only 7 days earlier and the trout 14 days earlier at Långnäs, Lumparland, eastern Åland, 70 km from the nest where the tags were found.

On 24 June, 1972, a tag was found in a Caspian Tern nest from a sea trout smolt tagged and released 18 days earlier at Marsund, Eckerö, south-western Åland. The place of release is 85 km from the place of recovery.

The Caspian Tern must have taken the tagged smolts at the place of release or some other place to which the fish might have moved. The salmon smolts recovered in 1971 were most likely captured at or near the place where they were released. First, there were as many as 10 tags in the nest showing that the tern (or terns) had made more than one, perhaps several, flights to catch the salmon. Second, the salmon were taken at or near the same spot, since it is doubtful whether a Caspian Tern could find the successive locations of a moving salmon school. Third, as the vomited bones from the salmon were in the nest as soon as 7 days after the release, at

least the first smolts were taken and eaten in the first days after release, when they were still close to the place of release. Mr. Carl Storå of the Husö Biological Station is of the opinion that the Caspian Tern caught the salmon in the bay where they were released, although no fishing Caspians were seen.

The sea trout, the tag of which I found 18 days after the release in 1972, belonged to a stock of 800 specimens known to move away from the place of implantation more rapidly than sea trout usually move (C. Storå, pers. comm.). Thus, it is possible that the Caspian Tern did not take the trout at Marsund, 85 km from the nest, but closer to or farther away from the breeding ground.

According to BERGMAN (1953), in late April and early May, the Caspian Tern fishes in the inner archipelago in Finland. Later during the breeding season, in July and August, fishing occurs also in the outer archipelago. The pair, in whose nest the tags were found in 1971, laid their first egg on approx. 5 July and incubated an exceptionally late clutch in late July. The question remains, whether fishing flights up to 70 km or more are common within the breeding Caspian Terns or just a rare habit of late-breeding individuals in the Finnish archipelago.

ANDERSSON (1970) found that Swedish Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* may fly up to 61 km from the nest for feeding. KUMARI (1972) reported Herring Gulls flying as far as 100 km from their breeding places in order to search for food. Apparently, the feeding range of some breeding tern and gull species is wider than usually thought.

Selostus: Räyskän pitkiä pesimäaikaisia saalistuslentoja.

Erään räyskäparin pesästä löytyi 10 kalamerkkiä 28.7.1971. Kalat, 8 kaksivuotiaista lohta ja kaksi meritaimenta, oli merkitty 70 km:n päässä yhdyskunnasta viikkoa (lohet) ja kahta viikkoa (taimenet) ennen merkkien löytymistä. Räyskän ravintojätteistä löytyi 24.6.1972 18 päivää aikaisemmin 85 km:n päässä yhdyskunnasta merkityn taimenen merkki. Havainnot viittaavat siihen, että räyskän saalistusalue saattaa olla laajempi kuin yleensä on arveltu.

References

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 KUMARI, E. 1972. Distribution changes and living conditions of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) in the East Baltic area. Proc. XV Int. Orn. Congr. 1970, p. 663. 663. — E. J. Brill, Leiden.

Tidig häckning av mindre korsnäbb *Loxia curvirostra*

JARL EXCELL

Den 6.XI.1967 såg jag i terrängen nära Ström-fors Bruk en hona av mindre korsnäbb flyga upp från marken med grässtrån i näbben. Den flög upp i en tät gran. Då den kom fram igen var näbben tom. En hane sjöng ivrigt i närheten. Den 23.XI. undersökte jag granen. Alldeles intill stammen, bland de täta kvistarna, hittades ett nästan färdigt bo. Ägg fanns inte.

Den 9.XI.1967 sågs på ett annat ställe en hona flyga upp från marken med gräs i

näbben, åtföljd av en hane. Honan flög in bland kvistarna i en mindre gran och dröjde där över en minut, medan hanen satt i toppen och visslade och sjöng. Då honan flög bort följde hanen henne. Den 19.XI. klättrade jag upp i granen och undersökte den noga, dock utan att hitta något bo.

Den 9.XI.1967 såg jag på ett tredje ställe hur ett par matade sina två högljutt tiggande, redan flygga ungar.