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Note on the breeding of the Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* in Finnish Lapland

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The Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* nests regularly on the steep slopes of the Scandinavian Mountain Range (Haftorn 1971), and in Finland at Enontekiö (Järvinen & Pryl 1976, Lahti 1976) and Utsjoki (Iso-Iivari 1979). v. Haartman et al. (1963—72) mention that it has possibly bred in more southerly places, at Pelkosenniemi (Pyhätunturi) and Kuusamo (Jäkälävuoma) in 1955 and at Salla in 1900. Observations of this species during the spring migration have been made in the Värriötunturi fell area, eastern Finnish Forest Lapland, during the past ten years, but the first nest was found only in 1981. Vladimirskaja (1948) does not mention the species in the nearby Soviet Lapland Game Preserve, Kola Peninsula, in the 1930s, but according to Haftorn (1971), nowadays it breeds on those mountains.

The present nest of the Ring Ouzel was located on a steep southern slope, about 25 m above the bottom of a 60-m-deep 200-m-broad ravine (Syväkuru), which runs some 750 m in a west-east direction through the Värriötunturi fell ridge. It lay in a niche in which *Ledum palustre* was growing. The vegetation otherwise chiefly consisted of *Betula pubescens* ssp. *tortuosa, Sorbus aucuparia, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi,* mosses and lichens.

A Ring Ouzel nest is said to consist of moss, dry leaves and dry grass, with a little earth serving as mortar (v. Haartman 1969). The present nest was composed of the following materials (% of air dry weight): dry fine grass 65.7 %, earth 21.3 %, dry thick stalks 10.7 %, dry leaves and moss 1.4 % and lichens 0.9 %. The nest bowl was lined almost solely with fine grass. The inner diameter was 90 mm, the depth 45 mm and the outer diameter 190 mm. The corresponding measurements reported by Haftorn (1971) are 90—103, 58—65 and 165—220 mm, and those given by Järvinen & Pryl (1976) 105—106, 50 and 148 mm.

The nest, with 5 eggs, was found on 4 June, but the pair had already been observed giving warning calls in the same place on 31 May. The nest was robbed on 7—8 June. The pair were still in the area one week later.

The behaviour of the pair at the nest was followed from a hide with the help of a telescope for 23 hours on 6—7 June. During this period only the female was seen incubating. According to Haftorn (1971), both parents incubate. The present female left her nest unattended 11 % of the time, even when it was snowing. When the female was off the nest, the male often sat on the nest rim, but did not settle to incubate. The female had one long incubation period (527 min.; 17.53—02.40) and many shorter periods (range 8—62 min., mean ± *SD* 35.6 ± 14.3 min.) during the rest of the day. The mean length of the 19 absent periods recorded was 6.7 min. (± *SD* 4.2, range 2—15 min.). It seems that the Ring Ouzel has an activity pattern similar to that of the Redwing *Turdus iliacus,* another subarctic thrush species which has its main resting spell before midnight and which is especially active during the late night hours, when earthworms and some other invertebrates are available on the ground (Peiponen 1970).

Table 1 shows the frequencies of the shifting, preening, settling and resettling activities of the female at the nest during one day. She shifted her eggs fairly evenly throughout this day, on average 1.7 times/hour. The frequencies of preening and settling varied much more than that of shifting, the corresponding means being 3.9 and 10.7 times/h. Resettling took place rather seldom, on average only 0.7 times/h. Here, as is common with incubating birds (see Pulliainen 1978), the settling movements often followed the other activities and achieved the highest frequency of them all. The present female also caught insects while sitting on the eggs, but she had few opportunities for this, since the ambient temperature was very low, with occasional falls of snow. She often slept with her head under wing while on the nest.

The present Ring Ouzels were noisy near and on their nest. The female even gave calls when

TABLE 1. Frequency of shifting, preening, settling and resettling activities of a female Ring Ouzel at the nest on 6—7 June 1981.

Time of day	Frequencies of shifting	preening	settling	resettling
13.00—13.59	0	0	3	1
14.00—14.59	2	2	6	2
15.00—15.59	1	8	10	1
16.00—16.59	2	7	14	2
17.00—17.59	1	4	13	0
18.00—18.59	2	5	19	2
19.00—19.59	3	1	12	1
20.00—20.59	3	2	14	2
21.00—21.59	2	1	6	0
22.00—22.59	4	0	8	0
23.00—23.59	2	6	11	0
24.00—00.59	1	0	7	0
01.00—01.59	0	0	5	0
02.00—02.59	2	6	15	0
03.00—03.59	1	0	6	0
04.00—04.59	1	3	10	1
05.00—05.59	2	17	17	2
06.00—06.59	0	4	8	0
07.00—07.59	3	9	19	0

sitting on the eggs. They reacted strongly to human movement in the vicinity of the nest. During the study night the male was silent around midnight, between 23.00 and 02.00.

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Selostus: **Sepelrastas pesivänä Itäkairan Itäosissa**

Kesällä 1981 löydettiin sepelrastaan 5-munainen pesä Sallan pohjoiskärjessä Värriötunturin poikki kulkevan Syväkuru -nimisen rotkolaakson etelärinteeltä suopursua kasvavasta lähes pystysuoran seinämän onkalosta, 25 m korkeudella pohjalta. Pesä löytyi 4.6, mutta jo 31.5. paikalla oli kiivaasti varoitteleva pari. Pesä ryöstettiin 7—8.6. välisenä aikana, mutta sitä ennen 6—7.6. pesällä oli jatkuva tarkkailu piiloteltasta käsin kaukoputkea apuna käyttäen. Tarkkailuvuorokauden aikana, jolloin satoi lunta ja rakeita, naaras oli poissa pesästä 11 % ajasta. Vain sen todettiin hautovan, mutta naaraan ollessa poissa koiras istui pesänreunalla. Kuten punakylkirastaalla, sepelrastaalla oli vuorokaudessa yksi pitkä haudontajakso (527 min.), joka ajoittui pääosiltaan iltayön tunneille. Poissaolojaksojen keskipituus oli 6.7 min., ja lyhyehköjen haudontajaksojen 36 min. Naaras käänsi muniaan keskimäärin 1.7, suki höyheniään 3.7, asetteli itseään munia vasten 10.7 ja vaihtoi asentoa 0.7 kertaa tunnissa. Näiden toimintojen yleisyys vuorokauden eri aikoina on esitetty taulukossa 1.

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