

perished in the middle of June (see also Pulainen 1978).

Repeat nesting was to be expected in the second half of June, when the weather improved slightly, but in spite of equally intensive searching, I was able to find only four nests completed after 15 June (Table 1). Young fledged in one of them, but the others were robbed at the end of the incubation phase. However, this may indicate somewhat better breeding success in the late nests in general.

All but one of the nests were situated in natural habitats, where the Spotted Flycatcher normally breeds more successfully than in "man-made" ones (Marjakangas 1980). However, the bad weather in summer 1981 seems to have been more disastrous for the pairs nesting in natural sites, since at Nivala and the neighbouring Sievi, young fledged from 9 out of 23 nests in human constructions (K. Huhtala and J. Latvala, pers. comm.). This might be due to the fact that the "man-made" nest-sites of the species are often adequately protected against the weather. Nevertheless, the breeding population of the Spotted Flycatcher is likely to be smaller in 1982 than in 1981.

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Selostus: **Harmaasiepon heikko pesimistulos huonon sään takia kesällä 1981**

Kesän 1981 poikkeuksellisen sateisen sään vai-

kutuksia harmaasiepon pesintään seurattiin Ylivieskassa, Nivalassa ja Utajärvelä. Pesimäkauden sateisin jakso oli Utajärvelä tehtyjen säähavaintojen mukaan kesäkuun alkupuolisko, jolloin ilma myös pysyteli viileänä. Kuukauden 15. päivään mennessä valmistuneista 20 pesästä vain yksi onnistui, mutta peräti 17 hylättiin viimeistään kuoriutumisvaiheessa (taul. 1), vaikka Keski-Pohjanmaalla aiemmin kerätyn aineiston mukaan harmaasieppo hylkää harvoin. Tämä osoittaa huonon sään vaikeuttaneen huomattavasti aihausten lintujen toimeentuloa, mm. ravinnonsaantia. Kesäkuun 15. päivän jälkeen valmistuneet eli pääasiassa uusintapesät saattoivat menestyä ensimmäisiä paremmin.

Tutkitut pesät olivat yhtä lukuun ottamatta luonnonbiotoopeissa, joissa harmaasiepon pesintä aiempien havaintojen mukaan onnistui parhaiten. Kuitenkin kesällä 1981 asutuksen piirissä pesineet parit näyttivät, ilmeisesti suojaissempien pesäpaikkojensa ansiosta, selviytyneen hiukan paremmin. Tästä huolimatta kesän 1982 pesimäkanta tullee olemaan pienempi kuin kesän 1981.

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Snow Buntings *Plectrophenax nivalis* roosting in the snow

WALTHER THIEDE

Marjakangas (1981) has just published his observations of Snow Buntings burrowing in snow and remarks that only Welty (1962) so far has referred to this behaviour. I would therefore like to add four more references without excluding the existence of others in the vast ornithological literature.

In our paper on the "Bird-life in winter at the Ochotsk Sea coast of Hokkaido" (1974) we mention the year-long experience of one

of us (M. Taketatsu) that Snow Buntings "are sleeping in the snow on the ground". The area where this is observed is the agricultural plain of Koshimizu village (Abashiri area) at the east coast of Hokkaido, Japan. There, the temperature in winter can also drop to —20 to —25°C.

Nethersole-Thompson (1965) cites on p. 274—275 roosting observations by D. Parmelee and S. MacDonald from Ellesmere Island.

But Parmelee's and MacDonald's remarks can be traced back to their original report in Bent et al. (1968): p. 1669—1671. They cite their observations near Slidre Fjord on west-central Ellesmere Island between April 16 and September 27, 1955:

"Away from the station they roosted out of the wind in shelter niches in sandstone outcrops. — Although daily maximum air temperatures did not reach thawing until May 28, evaporation and heat absorption from inbedded grains of wind-blown sand produced deep pits along the front of snowbanks that made excellent shelters where the newcomers of both sexes roosted together. The largest number of buntings seen in one of these snow roosts was 14. — No communal roosting was observed during the nesting period. — On August 21st we flushed 30 or more buntings roosting under a huge snowbank undercut by running water; the number of droppings showed this roost had been used for some time."

Bagg (1943) reported "their burrowing into snowdrifts during -35°F weather in Massachusetts and remaining huddled in their individual holes throughout the day, "emerging only occasionally to feed on a nearby chaff pile."

Further, Forbush (1929) reported: "When the snow is soft, these birds are said to dive into it (as they do sometimes when pursued by hawks), and there pass the night. When the snow is frozen hard, the flocks sleep in the open, protected from the north wind only by some slight rise in the ground, by sand dunes, or by a stone wall."

Generally, however, it is stated in the European literature that during winter, or the off-breading season, Snow Buntings prefer to roost in trees (S. Haftorn 1971, Nethersole-

Thompson 1965). But it might be that during the coldest winter time, when Snow Buntings stay with us, no ornithologist has so far been interested in staying out at night to observe roosting behaviour and find out roosting places of Snow Buntings on a windswept coastal plain.

Selostus: Havaintoja pulmusten yöpymisestä lumessa

Tiedonannossa kerrotaan neljästä julkaisusta havainnosta pulmusten yöpymisestä lumessa.

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Kuikan ja jääkuikan sukellusten kestoajoista Jäämerellä

TIMO PETTAY

Pääsin 27.5.1981 klo 22.30—24.00 Pohjois-Norjan Kongsfjordissa seuraamaan läheltä neljän jääkuikan *Gavia adamsii* ja kolmen kuikan *G. arctica* sukeltelua kalanpyynnissä. Jääkuikat saapuivat lentäen ja laskeutuivat n. 500 m:n päähän minusta. Hetken kuluttua ne ryhtyivät ravinnonhakuun. Sukeltaminen ja pintaannousu olivat aluksi lähes yhtäaikaisia, mutta pian yksi linnuista erottautui joukos-

ta ja ui läheemmäs minua. Aloin tällöin mitata sen ajankäyttöä, osaksi kaukoputkea (25x) ja kiikaria (8x) apuna käyttäen. Sää oli tyyni ja kolea. Lintu sai ainakin yhden kalan.

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