

Short communications *Korta rapporter*

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Återfynd av två starar *Sturnus vulgaris* ringmärkta i Abisko

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Nyligen har ett andra återfynd rapporterats av stare *Sturnus vulgaris*, ringmärkt som bounge i Abisko. Under åren 1977-1995 har 111 starar (varav 84 pulli) ringmärkts i Abisko.

Någon gång mellan 7 och 10 november 1983 hittades en stare död på en oljeplattform inom Ekofisk, Edda 2/C, på Nordsjön (56°30'N/03°30'E) i "tjukk tåke og kjøligt vaer" enligt den norske rapportören. Fågeln hade ringmärkts i en kull om fyra ungar vid Abisko naturvetenskapliga station (68°21'N/18°49'E) den 15 juni samma år.

Den 26 oktober 1995 upphittades ävenså en död stare ombord på fiskefartyget Gígja VE340 från Vestmannaeyjar under sillfiske vid fiskebanken Skrudgrunn på Islands ostkust (64°50'N/12°47'W). Fågeln hade ringmärkts i en kull om fyra ungar vid Abisko Östra (68°21'N/18°50'E) den 17 juni samma år, ett avstånd (orthodromen) om 1432 km.

Starar från nordvästra Sverige övervintrar vid norska kusten (SOF 1990) även om Torneträskområdet inte markerats som häckningsområde för arten. Ett tecken på denna flyttningväg kan vara att arten enligt mångåriga fenologiska observationer noteras tidigare i Abisko än i Kiruna. En vår hittade länsstyrelsens naturbevakare en död stare i passet norr om Riksgränsen tidigare än det första individet sågs i Abisko. Ett glest häckningsbestånd finns i Abiskoområdet, och Hedenström (1927) anger häckning vid Abisko Östra "... sedan minst tre år tillbaka". Under ornitologkongressens exkursioner 1950 (Lundevall 1952) registrerades arten vid Abisko, Björkliden och Stordalen. År 1983 sattes 80 holkar upp från Björkliden till Torneträsk station för naturvårdsverkets miljöövervakning. Första året häckade

staren vid Abisko Östra, Abisko naturvetenskapliga station och Björkliden. Därefter har arten endast noterats som häckfågel vid Abisko Östra.

Fågeln på Ekofiskfältet *kan* ha tagit den rutt som nordnorska fåglar följer (Haftorn 1971), d.v.s. direkt från Sydnorge över till England. Det anses sedan långt tillbaka att starar från Skandinavien besöker Island på hösten och tillbringa vintern där – liksom t.ex. björktrastar och koltrastar (A. Petersen, Naturugripasafnid, Reykjavik, *in litt.*) men detta var faktiskt den första Skandinavienmärkta stare som återfunnits på Island (*l.c.*).

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Summary

Recoveries of two Starlings Sturnus vulgaris banded at Abisko

Two recoveries have been obtained from 111 Starlings (84 pulli) banded at Abisko, northern Sweden. Both had been banded as nestlings and were found dead in the autumn of the banding year. The first bird was banded at Abisko Subarctic Research Institute (68°21'N/18°49'E) on June 10th, 1983, and found dead on Ekofisk, Edda 2/C (56°30'N/03°30'E) between November 7th and 10th. The second bird was found on a herring trawler at the fishing bank Skrudgrunn (64°50'N/12°47'E) off the eastern coast of Iceland on October 26th, 1995. This bird was banded at Abisko (68°21'N/18°50'E) on June 17th, 1432

km away (orthodrome). I suggest that the bird on Ekofisk, North Sea, was on its way from southern Norway to the British Isles, supposed to be the normal route for Starlings from northern Norway. The second recovery was the very first verification of a Scandinavian Starling found on Iceland.

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The survival of the Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* in Sweden.

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The population of the Red-backed Shrike is decreasing in Sweden. The decline has been estimated to be 50% since the end of 1970s (Svensson 1996). The reason for the decline has been considered to be low survival of the nestlings. In recent years, from the beginning of the 1980s, the standardized capture of birds at Ottenby has shown a decline especially of juveniles (Pettersson 1993). However, locally the breeding success is good (Olsson 1995b).

Olsson (1995b) discussed the balance of survival and mortality of the Red-backed Shrike to maintain an unchanged population size. According to Jacober & Stauber (1987), a pair of Red-backed Shrikes must produce 2.9 fledglings per year to balance mortality. Olsson found in his study area that the Red-backed Shrikes produced 3.5 fledglings per year, a satisfactory number for maintaining at least an unchanged population size.

The survival may be different in different population. In an attempt to estimate the survival of Red-backed Shrikes in Sweden I have analysed 111 ring recoveries of Red-backed Shrikes of known age found dead or killed from 1950 to 1995. My analysis, using the maximum likelihood method of North & Morgan (1979), showed that the survival is 39.2% (SE± 2.1%) in the first year, 52.7% (SE± 5.7%) in the second year and 57.7% (SE± 1.4%) in the third year and thereafter. Using these estimated survival figures, I calculated with the formula given by Henny et al. (1970) that the necessary number of fledglings to be produced by a pair of Red-backed Shrikes is 2.3 per year to maintain a stable population. If I used the lower 95% confidence interval

limit of my estimated survival figures I found that the Red-backed Shrikes must produce 3.0 fledglings per year. According to my calculations the population development of the Red-backed Shrike in Sweden ought to be positive.

It is not possible to determine if the survival of the Red-backed Shrikes has changed during the last decades. Although there is only a small number of ring recoveries in the last fifteen years, I compared the mean survival for the Red-backed Shrikes between 1950–1979 and 1980–1995. I found that the mean survival is greater during the latter period, 459 days (n= 31), compared to 352 days (n=80) for the first 30 years. The difference is, however, not statistically significant ($t=0.96$; $P=0.34$). The result can be interpreted as a skewness in the population towards older birds. But the result can also be interpreted as a better survival in later years depending on fewer deliberately killed birds or other advantageous circumstances. There is a tendency that fewer Red-backed Shrikes were deliberately killed during the last fifteen years but it is not significant in my small material ($\chi^2 = 1.64$; $P=0.2$; $n=111$).

Nothing in my calculations can explain the declining population of the Red-backed Shrike in Sweden.

Bruderer (1993) (cited by Olsson 1995b) studied the Red-backed Shrikes in their wintering area and he did not find any special dangers for the birds. Nothing is known of altered losses of birds during the migration. The number of ringed Red-backed Shrikes and recoveries is nearly the same before and after the 1980s. The decline of the Red-backed Shrike in Sweden may be caused by shrinking good environments for the bird (Olsson 1995a).

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