

## Korta rapporter *Short communications*

### A pair of the Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* with two clutches in Finnmark, North Norway

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On 21 July 1999 I found, together with Per J. Tømmeraas, a nest of the Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* with four eggs 4 m high up in a birch at Virdnejavvri in the Alta-Kautokeino water system in Finnmark, North Norway, north of the Arctic Polar Circle. The nest was situated about 310 m above sea level and above the conifer tree limit. The female was incubating four eggs.

The nest was evidently a second brood, since several young of another brood were still around and begged both the female and the male intensively for food. When the female left the nest for a period-off she was followed by at least one young in hot pursuit. On one occasion a young perched on the nest rim for about five minutes, vibrated the wings and begged for food. However, the female, which was incubating, ignored the fledgling completely. On another occasion the male visited the nest and then both the female and the young vibrated the wings. During our short stay (about one hour) at the nest we did not see any of the young being fed by the parents.

This observation strongly indicates that the pair in question laid two clutches in the alpine birch above the conifer tree limit.

Based on data from Sweden, Finland and Norway, Swanberg (1936), Peiponen (1957) and Hildén (1969) put forward the hypothesis that the Redpolls after an early nesting in coniferous forests in the lowland (with egg-laying in March–May) move up to the mountains and nest for the second time there. Such a phenomenon would explain the June “invasions” of yearlings observed in the mountains. However, a

few species are evidently able to carry out double-brooding in the northern Scandinavian mountain regions. Swanberg (1955) mentions the Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*, the Dunnock *Prunella modularis* and the Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. There is now good evidence that the Redpoll also occasionally raises double broods in the mountain regions in North Scandinavia.

#### References

- Hildén, O. 1969. Über Vorkommen und Brutbiologie des Birkenzeisigs (*Carduelis flammea*) in Finnish Lappland im Sommer 1968. *Ornis Fennica* 46:93–112.
- Peiponen, V. A. 1957. Wechselt der Birkenzeisig, *Carduelis flammea* (L.) sein Brutgebiet während des Sommers? *Ornis Fenn.* 34:41–64.
- Swanberg, P. O. 1936. *Fjällfåglars Paradis*. Natur och Kultur, Stockholm.
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#### Sammenfatning

*Et par av gråsisik Carduelis flammea med dobbeltkull i Finnmark*

Et reir av gråsisik *Carduelis flammea* ble 21. juli 1999 funnet i bjørkeregionen ved Alta Kraftverk i Finnmark, 310 m over havet. Hunnen ruget på 4 egg. Dette var åpenbart parets 2. kull, idet utfløyne unger holdt seg nær reiret og tigget mat fra begge foreldre. Tidligere er dobbeltkull i fjellregionen nord for Polarcirkelen påvist hos jernspurv *Prunella modularis*, fjellerke *Eremophila alpestris* og rødvingetrost *Turdus iliacus*. Observasjonen i Alta tyder på at også gråsisiken er istand til å fostre 2 kull i fjellregionen i N-Skandinavia.

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