

On the immigration
of
Syrrhaptēs paradoxus, Pall., into Norway
in 1888
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During the invasion of Europe in 1888, *Syrrhaptēs paradoxus* reached the coasts of Norway shortly before the middle of May, and the flocks spread themselves throughout different parts of southern Norway during the course of the ensuing weeks. There were however but two localities, in which they are known to have settled for a time, and these are also the only two in the country which could afford a suitable residing place for them, namely, the two flat sandy coastal districts **Listerland** and **Jäderen**, situated in the south western portion of the land.

In almost all the other places where it has been observed, it has but occurred on one occasion, when it has been seen or shot; and only exceptionally has it been observed for some days at any of these places. Most of these localities have also been as opposite as possible to their true haunts, as they have been either the steep coastal regions in the county of Bergen, or the deep valleys in the interior of the land.

The most northerly point, to which it has advanced, has been Aalen, north of Røros, situated on the northern slope of the Dovrefjeld ($62^{\circ} 24'$ N. L.).

The first flocks arrived on the coast of Norway the 12th May; and the most instances of their appearance were noticed during the course of the latter part of this month.

In the beginning of June they were yet observed in several places in the southern parts of the country, and dispersed birds were seen still in July. In no place have they bred, or shown signs of an inclination to breed.

From the beginning of July nothing more was heard of them, and it appeared, as if from that time they had been all killed or driven away. It was therefore unexpected, that towards the end of the autumn some of these birds were again seen or shot in the southern coastal districts, and even on the 3rd January 1889 one was seen, the last, that is known to have been observed in Norway during the immigration of 1888. Whether these last individuals had just arrived (from Jutland), cannot be decided; but it may be remarked, that just before their first appearance (27th Oct.) a violent southerly gale had raged in the southernmost parts of the country; and just at the same time a renewed immigration was noticed in several parts of Jutland (vide Winge, Vidensk. Medd. Naturh. Foren. Kjöbenhavn 1889, p. 82, etc.). So far as is known, both sexes have been equally represented. Of the specimens shot, several have been preserved in the Museums of the country, the supply to the Stavanger Museum being the greatest, as it obtained a considerable number from the adjacent district of Jäderen.

In **Listerland**, a flat, sandy, coastal district to the westward of Lindesnäs, thus in the southernmost portion of the land, they first appeared on the 12th May. They were seen there in coveys, numbering 30 to 60 individuals. They lived in the immediate neighbourhood of the strand, and also on the neighbouring heaths, and were not shy; several specimens of the first flock were shot, and two of them forwarded to the Christiania University Museum, and one to the Museum in Bergen.*)

Subsequently the University Museum obtained several specimens from the same locality, which were shot between the 16th and 22nd of May, and on the 17th of June.

*) See *The Ibis* 1888, p. 375.

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The coveys remained in Listerland the whole of May, and specimens were offered for sale almost daily in the neighbouring town of Farsund; likewise in the month of June they were, on the whole, numerous, notwithstanding that they were everywhere persecuted, and not a few were shot (one of my informants says »many hundreds«). In the course of June their numbers greatly diminished, and they became thinner for want of suitable nourishment. The last was observed in this locality in the middle of July.

In **Jäderen** district, which on the whole is similar to Listerland in its natural surroundings, but the area of which is very much larger, they appeared about the same time, as in Lister; possibly some days later. The first covey which is mentioned as having been observed in this district, was seen at Närbö and Kvalben on the 22nd of May. At the first named place the covey numbered 80, at the latter 35 individuals; several of these were shot and forwarded to the Museum in Stavanger.

In Jäderen they were seen at various places from Ogne to Stavanger during the end of May and beginning of June. The coveys, on account of the persecution, to which they were exposed, were greatly dispersed, and often only a brace or some few were seen together. Nevertheless a covey was observed on the strand in Ryfylke (in northern Jäderen) in the end of May, which numbered about 100 individuals.

In the end of June they were not observed more generally, but still in the beginning of July the Stavanger Museum obtained a specimen, shot in Jäderen. That they have not bred in that locality which apparently would have afforded them suitable quarters for brooding, appears to be undoubted.

The remaining diverse occasions, on which they have been met with, may be registered under the following three areas: the south-east coast, the inner parts and the west-coast (Bergen Stift).

In the southern coastal regions scattered individuals or small coveys were observed, chiefly in the latter part of

May. Thus in **Skjeberg** (13th May), at another spot in **Smaalenene** (15th May), at **Iddefjord** (20th May), also near **Frederikshald** (end of May); subsequently at **Ingedal** (3rd June), as well as at **Lillesand** (8th June).

In the interior parts also most of the birds were met with shortly after their arrival in the latter half of May. They almost always appeared singly or but a few together. Here they were found at Gardermoen in **Trögstad**, a sandy military exercising ground (16th May), in **Grue** beyond **Kongsvinger** (17th May), in **Siljord**, **Thelemarken** (22nd May), in **Gudbrandsdalen** (24th May); and finally in the end of May a small flock advanced as far as the upper part of **Österdal**, and two specimens were shot out of a small covey in **Tolgen** (south of **Röros**), and one at **Reitan** in **Aalen** between **Röros** and **Trondhjem**; the mountain pass which they had to cross here, is 664^m above the level of the sea. Only from one place in these districts has it been reported that a flock was observed for some days together; this was at **Stange** on the **Hedemarken** plateau, where a covey of 8 birds arrived in the end of May, and was observed to be still there on the 9th of June.

Finally, individuals or flocks were seen on the western coast (**Bergens Stift**), which forms the immediate continuation of **Jäderen**, although it almost in no part has the same characteristics. According to Dr. Grieg, the **Bergen Museum** received on the 22nd May one specimen from **Hardanger**, and shortly afterwards another was shot on **Stordöen**. On the 3rd of June small flocks appeared near **Bergen**, and about the same time some were observed at **Valestrand**, just to the north of **Bergen**.

Finally may be mentioned the occasions on which they appeared late in the autumn, after they had been entirely lost sight of since the beginning of July.

On the 25th of October three specimens were shot at **Närbö**, **Jäderen**, and sold in **Stavanger** (as food). On the 17th November a single male was shot at **Kvalben** in the same district, and forwarded to the **University Museum** in **Christiania**. A female was killed at **Börsesjö** near **Skien**

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on the 29th of November, thus also in the south eastern coastal district, and was subsequently given to the University Museum. None of these latter specimens were young birds, but all fully developed old ones. A specimen was killed by the telegraph wire at Kvalben, Jäderen, in the beginning of December. The covey at Närbö (in the same district), of which 3 specimens were shot the 25th October, was observed at the same place to the end of the year; and still on the 3rd January 1889, a solitary specimen was seen, the last which to my knowledge has been observed in Norway.

The first birds forwarded to the University Museum, a male and a female, were shot, as previously mentioned, the 12th of May. The testes in the first were somewhat swollen, and the ovary of the female contained eggs about the size of those of a *Regulus*.

The stomachs of these specimens were crammed, and contained seeds of plants, growing on the coast, of which could be distinguished small *Papilionaceae* (*Vicia?*), as well as some *Alsinaceae* (*Spergula?*), together with a considerable amount of gravel. In the specimens subsequently shot in May, I discovered besides gravel and seed, in some of them only grains of barley. In one of the birds, shot during the autumn in Jäderen on the 17th November, I found the stomach entirely filled with rye.

I add the measurements of some of the specimens, which I was enabled to examine in the flesh.

	Locality	Date	Total length	Length of wing	Central rectrices	Next longest rectrices
Male	Lister	16 th May	410	257	173	106
Male	Lister	22 nd May	403	253	186	110
Male	Smaalenene	15 th May	400	250	164	108
Male	Jäderen	17 th Nov.	407	240	187	110
Female	Lister	12 th May	372	238	134	105
Female	Lister	16 th May	350	230	121	100

Christiania, April 1890.

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