

The Nordic Ornithological Congress 1983

The tradition of Nordic Ornithological Congresses was started somewhat unofficially at Lammi in 1974 (see *Ornis Fennica* 2/1975), but then officially, under the auspices of the Scandinavian Ornithologists' Union, at Revingeby in Sweden in 1977. After congresses in Norway (1979) and Denmark (1981), it was Finland's turn to organize the congress, which was held in Joensuu, easternmost Finland, on 1-5 August, 1983.

The organizing committee for the 1983 congress was appointed by the Finnish Ornithological Society and included, besides the SOU-chairman 1981-83 Olli Järvinen and the SOU-secretary 1981-83 Jörgen Palmgren, the following persons: Antti Haapanen, Juhani Lokki, Hannu Miettinen and Torsten Stjernberg. It is my pleasure to thank the members of the organizing committee for their intensive work during the two years before and many months after the congress. I am also grateful for the help received from the local organizers; my special thanks go to Heikki Hyvärinen, Hannu Pöysä and Jorma Sorjonen, all at the Department of Biology, University of Joensuu. Considerable help was provided by the Department of Zoology at the University of Helsinki. The Ministry of Education and the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation supported the congress economically, which made it possible, among other things, to support the travels of a number of junior participants and to produce the congress proceedings without unnecessary delay.

The congress comprised half a dozen of symposia, and one of the days was devoted to field excursions. The sunshine during the congress was plentiful not only literally but also figuratively thanks to the warm Nordic cooperation among the about 160 participants (Iceland 1, Denmark 19, Norway 33, Sweden 55, Finland 59, and, in addition, Switzerland 3 participants).

Besides by the excellent papers, the congress was highlighted by several Pekka & Toivo anecdotes.

Almost all the papers given at the congress are printed here. The papers were edited by Yrjö Haila and Torsten Stjernberg, who also organized the refereeing process, aided by numerous ornithologists. The congress organizers are grateful to the Finnish Zoological Publishing Board for cooperation during the final technical production of the congress volume. This cooperation will make this congress volume accessible also to the international readership.

The Nordic Ornithological Congress 1983 accepted three resolutions. The Congress wishes to emphasize:

1) that every effort should be made to develop environmental monitoring systems based on birds, preferably in Nordic cooperation. The Congress calls attention to the long and advanced tradition of scientific ornithology in the Nordic countries and to the high numbers of qualified amateurs, as both are necessary prerequisites for a successful monitoring system.

2) that woodpecker trees ought to be protected. Modern forestry tends to remove old trees that are necessary for many endangered woodpeckers, but woodpecker holes provide nesting sites to a number of other birds and also to bats.

3) that every effort should be made to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions in the Nordic countries because the acid rain will increasingly damage the environment, including many bird habitats.

The next congress will be held in Sweden, in the vicinity of Göteborg, in the summer of 1985; this time the main responsibility will rest on the SOU-president 1983-85 Sören Svensson and the SOU-secretary 1983-85 Johnny Karlsson.

Olli Järvinen

President of the Congress 1983