



Fig 1 - Waiting to board the ship that took us around the North Cape, the northernmost point of Europe. Left to right: Orville Crowder, the tour leader, Sverre Fjelstad, Charles Thaeler, Frank Frazier - sitting (rather uncomfortably) Kit Frazier and Lucy Thaeler.

BIRD TRIP TO SCANDINAVIA

By Frank P. Frazier

Photos by Sverre M. Fjelstad

It was a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable trip we took in July, 1964 not only because we saw nearly 150 species of birds (more than 80 of them new to us), not only because the others in the group were interesting and congenial and Orville Crowder's leadership was expert. The scenery was new to us and beautiful beyond our expectations. The friendly people with whom we came in contact, whether in Norway, Finland, Sweden or Denmark, won our hearts.

Sverre Fjelstad, ornithologist, nature photographer and writer who also gives a regular radio broadcast on nature to all of Norway, was our guest leader through most of the trip -- accompanied during the first two weeks by his lovely young wife, Anne-lise.

Sverre Fjelstad also takes part in bird banding projects. A Siskin banded by him in Norway was the first Siskin recovered in Belgium -- a Red-backed Shrike he banded was the first (and only) Norwegian bird recovered in inland Africa (in the Belgian Congo). Banding (called ringing elsewhere than in North America) is government sponsored in Norway, but all ringing records are kept by the Stavanger Museum, of which Holger Holgerson is Konservator.

In Sweden, Major Sven Wahlberg acted also as guest leader and took us to several fine birding places including Sand Island, where in an untouched aspen wood we came upon a Black Grouse and saw our only woodpecker - the Great Spotted Woodpecker. Bird clubs in Sweden usually have some ringing activities, Sven told us. There are about 300 active banders and the records are kept by the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm -- Mr. Carl Edelstam is the Supervisor.

Harriet Jørgensen, of the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, also joined us in Sweden as a guest leader and made us very welcome when we came to Copenhagen. Harriet is the author of various ornithological books and articles and has taken part in important ringing projects. She has a position at the Zoological Museum as assistant to EBBA Honorary Member Dr. Finn Salomonsen.

On Øland, an island in the Baltic off Sweden, we visited the famous bird ringing station at Ottenby. There we were privileged to watch the capture of shore birds in the huge Heligoland trap and to examine their techniques for catching, ringing and recording.

Drawings and descriptions of two of their interesting gathering receptacles, which might well prove to be useful to American banders, appear on the next page.

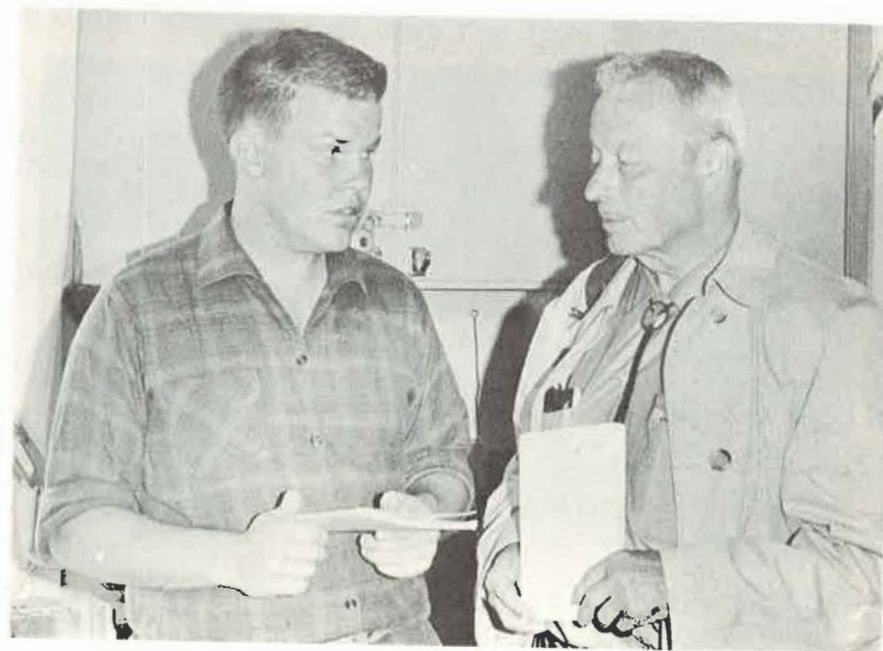


Fig 2 - Anders Larsson, manager of the famous bird ringing station at Ottenby, Sweden, thanking me for the copy of EBBA news I have just given him.

Ottenby (Sweden) Gathering Cages

Two interesting gathering receptacles were used at Ottenby for bringing birds from the traps or nets to the place of banding.

Figure 3 shows a 12" square gathering cage 6" high. The frame is of stiff wire. The base is of hardware cloth fixed so that it is raised 2" from the ground by the legs of the four corners. Sides and top are of cotton cloth. For inserting or extracting birds there is a slit in the top (or in one of the sides) and this slit has elastic sewn in at the edges.

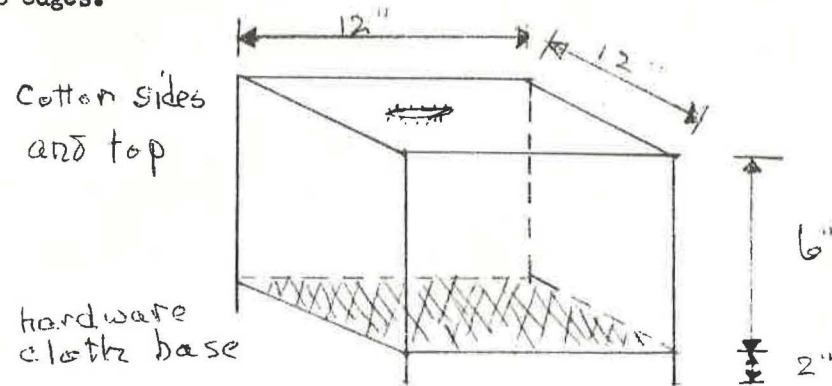


Fig 3. Gathering Cage

Figure 4 shows a gathering bag. The base is of light metal, round with a diameter of 12". The bag is of cotton cloth, with draw strings to open or close the mouth of the bag.



Fig 4. Gathering Bag



Fig 5 - Urban Ekstam and John Friberg, Swedish college students who spend the summer banding at Ottenby, with two of the Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) they have just taken from traps for banding.



Fig 6 - Anne-lise Fjelstad helped make it very easy to find Norway and its people beautiful and friendly.