The fact that these unusual depressions were observed simultaneously with extraordinary water flow from the ice margin near Søndre Strømfjord would suggest that these phenomena are linked. Two water-filled ice dolines 1.5 km in diameter with an average depth of 10 m would contain about $35 \times 10^6 m^3$ of water. This is the same order of magnitude as the volume of water released from the ice margin, as estimated by Russell (1990). If the ice dolines are deeper, their water-storage capacity would be closer to the suggested $90 \times 10^6 m^3$ of water released during the drainage event (Russell, 1990). As there was no sign of water flow over the ice surface and as water was observed emanating from the ice-sheet margin it is suggested that these lakes drained either sub- or englacially.

The drainage of supraglacial lake water into two major outwash systems supports the existence of well-established drainage routeways which are likely to survive from year to year. Supraglacial lake drainage, although rarely observed during the winter months, may take place more regularly in the summer months. Supraglacial storage of meltwater is likely to delay the run-off of a significant proportion of the annual melt. The release of supraglacially stored water is also likely to be important for downstream river-channel morphology and sedimentology. Supraglacial lake drainage may be as important as the drainage of ice-marginal lakes when large ice sheets are considered. The drainage of supraglacial lakes should also be recognized in relation to the meltwater-flow regimes of proglacial rivers emerging from former ice sheets in Europe and North America.

I should like to thank K. Swanson and A. Reenberg for keeping me up to date with the above events. Thanks also go to R. Gard, Department of Geography, University of Aberdeen, for operating the ERDAS system and obtaining the photographs.

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24 May 1992

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The accuracy of references in the text and in this list is the responsibility of the author, to whom queries should be addressed.

ERRATUM

Vol. 39, No. 131, p.114, Fig. 3.

The photographs for Figure 3c and 3d were inadvertently switched. We apologise for this error.