

Wardens' report to Landsort Fågelstation board

April 2020

Espen Quinto-Ashman & Matt Scragg

Weather summary

On 2nd there was a wind storm with maximum gusts over 33m/s, this carried on into 3rd after which calmer weather resumed. Southerly winds dominated during the first 12 days of the month but then switched to Northwest for another six, after this the wind died down and became more variable in direction, but generally more favourable for northbound migrants. The 28th was the only day with significant precipitation.

Ringling

All data was entered on Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

A total of 1429 birds of 33 different species were ringed as well as 180 subsequent encounters of 15 different species. This total is slightly higher than last year and slightly higher than the average of 2016-2019 (the duration in which standardised ringling has taken place). The most numerously caught species was the Robin / Rödhake with 875 ringed, followed by Chiffchaff / Gransångare with 120 ringed. The highest day capture was on 29th when 277 birds were ringed and the lowest was on 1st when seven birds were ringed. There were two foreign controls; a Robin with a Russian ring was caught on 13th April and a Robin with a Finnish ring was caught on 29th. There was also a Swedish control Goldcrest / Kungsfågel on 27th.

Less frequently caught species included:

- Ring Ouzel / Ringtrast: one on 15th, the first caught since May 1999 and 5th ringed on Landsort
- Firecrest / Brandkronad kungsfågel: one on 21st, the 10th ringed on Landsort
- Great Grey Shrike / Varfågel: one on 25th
- Magpie / Skata: one on 26th

Sightings of note during April

The first migrants started to arrive from the beginning of the month with Chiffchaff, Wheatear, Osprey and Swallow recorded in the first ten days. North-westerly winds then slowed migration until later in the month with large arrivals of common migrants in the ultimate days.

15th – Ring Ouzel / Ringtrast, one at Bredmar

20th – Red-necked Grebe / Gråhakedopping, 23 migrating past Södra Udden

22nd – King Eider / Praktejder, one off Södra Udden

23rd – Pallid Harrier / Stäpphök, one migrating south at Södra Udden

24th – Serin / Gulhämpling, one migrating at Södra Udden

27th – Stejneger's Scoter / Sibirisk knölsvärta, one migrating past Södra Udden, also 3108 Velvet Scoter / Svärta and 2068 Common Scoter / Sjöorre

Other work at the observatory

- Common areas cleaned weekly
- Lab cleaned weekly
- Bird bags washed
- Canopy height around net rides reduced
- New rules relating to Covid-19 introduced and signage erected at observatory

Ringing demonstrations

Due to a reduced number of visitors to the island because of Covid-19, no ringing demonstrations took place in April.

Overnight accommodation

Occupancy during April was 27 bed nights from paying members. A price increase from 100:- to 150:- per night was introduced.