

**Monthly report to Landsort Board by Observatory Wardens:
Chris Sharpe & Kay Collister
July 2017**

Summary

After strong NE winds on the 1st and light SW winds on the 2nd there was a period of three days of moderate NW winds before backing to the SW and dropping to almost calm conditions on the 9th. From the 10th until the 16th the wind was predominately from the SW and varied in strength from calm to strong. From the 17th to 19th Chris was not able to help run the nets, so netting was restricted to the standard nets and some non-standard ones with strong NW winds restricting the nets that could be used safely. From 20th to 22nd the wind was light and variable from NE to SW before settling to the NE on the 23rd until the 28th between light and strong with the final three days on the month largely dominated by moderate to strong winds from the SE through to W.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

559 new birds of 43 species were caught in the month, making this July the 3rd highest in the 30 years of the Observatory. The year total now stands at 3,456, significantly more (58%) than the 1988-2017 average as at the end of July which stands at 2,190.

Captures of note included two Gröngöling (Green Woodpecker) on the 24th and 29th, the 12th & 13th ever ringed at the station with five of these in 2016 and 2017 – all in July. Two Sävsångare (Sedge Warbler) were only the 2nd and 3rd trapped in July over the last 30 years. A total of 22 Härmsångare (Icterine Warbler) continues the run of good numbers during the month of July with 85% of the overall July totals having been trapped in the three years that daily trapping has taken place (2014, 2016 & 2017). A Bändelkorsnäbb (Two-barred Crossbill) on the 19th was unexpected, being only the 6th ringed at the Observatory, all the previous five having been trapped in October 2013. Finally, two 1st calendar year Stenknäck (Hawfinch) on the 10th were noteworthy, but did they breed on the island?

Netting took place on all available days.

Available days	31
Days netting	31
%age	100%

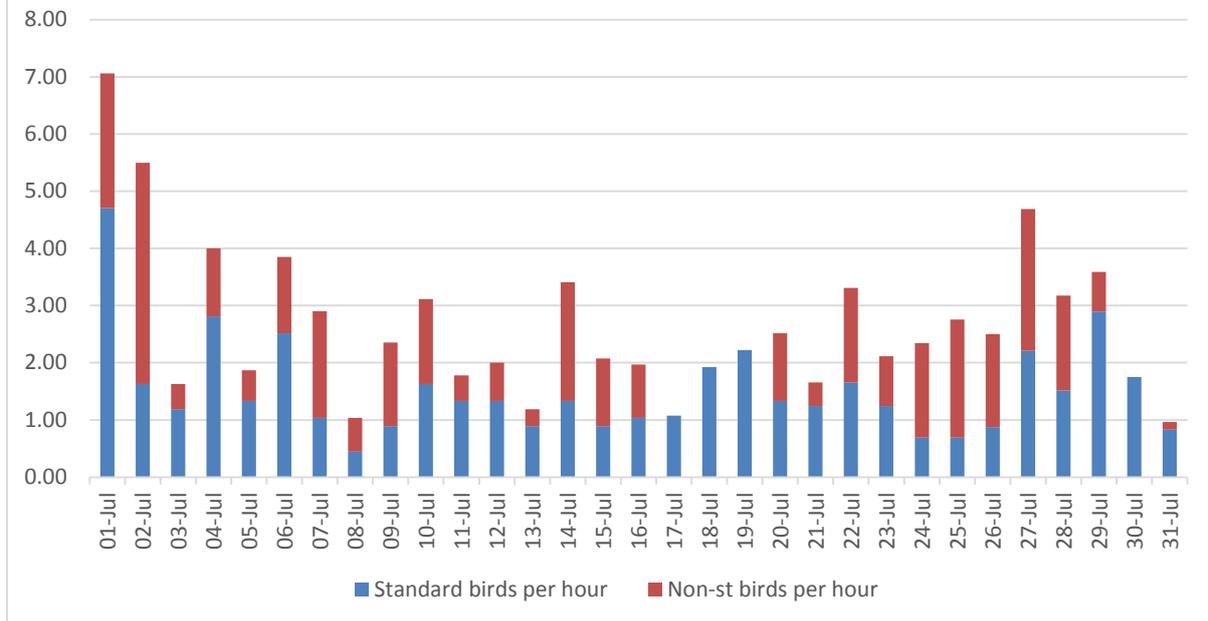
Hours netting	217.25
Average per day	7.00

Av birds/hr	2.6
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Total birds	559	
Standard	313	55.99%
Non-standard	246	44.01%

Note: 'Non-standard' birds includes birds ringed in nest boxes.

Birds caught per hour of netting BMAR - July 2017



Sightings of note during July

Among a range of interesting sightings for the month, mostly covered on the daily diary, the following were of note:

- The Drillsnäppa (Common Sandpiper) that had three young in Bredmar continued to be heard calling through the first half of the month, indicating that young were still present;
- The pair of Svarthakedopping (Horned Grebe) that had young in Norrhamn at the end of June were still present on the 2nd, though no young were observed;
- Over 800 Tornseglare (Common Swift) feeding over the island on the 4th;
- 5 Mindre korsnäbb (Common Crossbill) feeding on the 6th were followed by a further five on the 24th;
- Two Skräntärna (Caspian Tern) flew over the Obs on the 12th;
- Two Gök (Cuckoo) on the 15th were the first of several seen thereafter with a Lundsångare (Greenish Warbler) singing near the Obs on the same day with a Duvhök (Goshawk) also observed;
- A Lärkfalk (Hobby) on the 21st was followed by a further bird on the 26th, the latter bird seen to catch a svala (Swallow/House Martin);
- A light migration of waders was observed on the 22nd with: 90 Myrspov (Bar-tailed Godwit), a Svartsnäppa (Spotted Redshank) and two Svarthakedopping (Horned Grebe) being the most noteworthy;
- A further passage of waders was observed on the 23rd with 73 Myrspov (Bar-tailed Godwit) and 44 Kustsnäppa (Red Knot);
- A Bändelkorsnäbb (Two-barred Crossbill) flew over on the 24th;
- The first returning Fiskgjuse (Osprey) on the 26th was followed by at least two more birds on the 29th.

- Also on the 26th an Enkelbeckasin (Common Snipe) was observed on the football pitch together with two well-grown young. The following day presumably the same three birds were flushed from cover just to the west of Bredmar reed-beds. A check of Artportalan from 1988 onwards indicates this is the first confirmed record of breeding of the species on the island.

Other work on the Observatory

- Last three nest boxes checked in early July with the best result waiting until last; a brood of 6 Göktyta (Wryneck) and an adult were ringed in Box 24 north of the shooting range. Later in the month two of the young were re-trapped in Bredmar nets.
- Routine strimming of net rides and paths;
- All bird bags washed;
- Daily playing of Tornseglare tape at the nest boxes on the Obs. Six of the seven boxes have been investigated by birds, some used overnight or for long periods in the day and some with pairs entering. These are all probably young birds from 2016 and should hopefully return to use the boxes for breeding in 2018;
- Daily diary blog kept up to date;
- 11 guided talks given (see later);
- Weekly cash reconciliations undertaken and record kept of over-night stays (see later);
- On-going work on work-plan and method statements covering the work of Wardens;
- Common areas, toilet, kitchen etc cleaned before and after each weekend;
- Lab cleaned weekly.