

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

Summary

After a couple of days of light S-SW winds there was a period of eight days of N-NE winds, occasionally very strong with easterly winds over the middle of the month when 164 new birds were caught on the 15th, the best catch of the month. The second half of the month started with fresh to strong S winds before a further few days with winds from the NE through to W before settling to a more SW-W direction at the end of the month.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

1,517 new birds of 49 species were caught in the month, making this May the 7th highest in the 30 years as an Observatory. The year total now stands at 2,243, significantly higher than the average for the end of May which is 1,756.

Highlights for the month included: a late Sidensvans (Waxwing) on the 3rd, a total of 24 Blåhake (Bluethroat) to give 25 for the year, eleven Sävsångare (Sedge Warbler) including 4 on the 17th, 17 Rörsångare (Reed Warbler), with 7 on the 30th, a Lundsångare (Greenish Warbler) on the 25th and a total of eight Mindre Flugsnappare (Red-breasted Flycatcher).

The first brood of Talgoxe (Great Tit) were ringed (in a nest box on the ground) and two broods of Pilfink (Tree Sparrow) have been ringed, all at SUDD. Stare (Starling) seem to have had a poor year, with all young now ringed, but just 34 chicks compared to 59 last year.

Ringling took place on all 31 days.

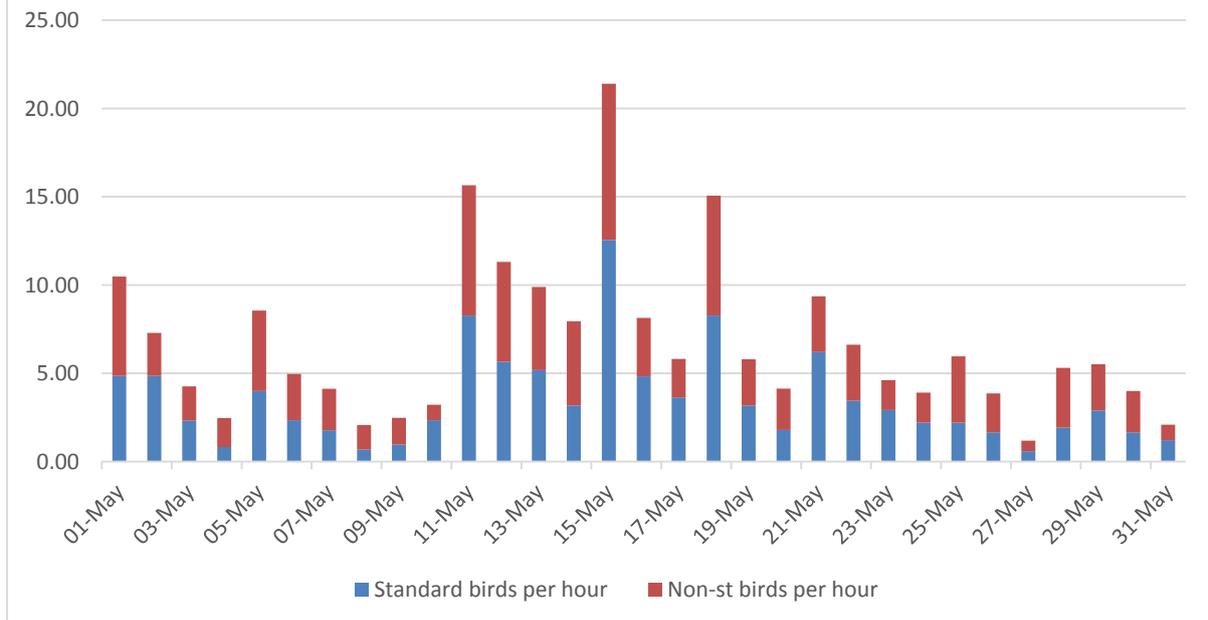
Available days	31
Days netting	31
%age	100%

Hours netting	230.5
Average per day	7.44

Av birds/hr	6.6
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Total birds	1517	
Standard	761	50.16%
Non-standard	756	49.84%

Birds caught per hour of netting BMAR - May 2017



Sightings of note during May

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

- Pair of Skedand (Shoveler) 10th, with a male 20th;
- 84 Småspov (Whimbrel) and 175 Storspov (Curlew) NE 10th;
- A mixed flock of c520 Sjörrer (Common Scoter) & Svärta (Velvet Scoter) 11th;
- 6 Ljungpipare (Golden Plover) N 13th;
- 1 Ägretthäger (Great Egret) 13th;
- A pair of Årta (Garganey) 24th;
- A Vaktel (Quail) 26th;
- First (and only) Gök (Cuckoo) heard 29th.

Other work on the Observatory

- Start of nest box checking, some young ringed
- Rubbish taken to garbage boat – helped by Janne
- Strimming of net rides and paths
- All bird bags washed
- Seven Tonseglare (Swift) nest boxes built and put up. At least one bird has landed to investigate the boxes.
- Daily diary blog kept up to date
- Guidings given
- Weekly cash reconciliations undertaken and record kept of over-night stays On-going work on Job Description, workplan and method statements covering the work of Wardens.
- Common areas, toilet, kitchen etc cleaned before and after each weekend

- Lab cleaned weekly

Volunteer work on the Observatory by Chris & Kay

- New washing machine installed
- Donated fridge/freezer collected and installed
- New boardwalk at SUDD east built – helped by Janne
- All SUDD nets put up – helped by Janne
- All three bench seats and tables scrubbed clean and oiled.
- All pillow/cushion covers and mattress covers washed and dried.
- On-going work on reviewing the 30 years of ringing and sightings data

Chris Sharpe & Kay Collister.

31st May 2017