

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

Summary

The month was dominated by strong to very strong winds, mainly from the South to South-west, with netting not possible on two days (19th and 31st) due to heavy rain all morning. The strong winds, coupled with the predominantly southerly direction resulted in low numbers being caught. The most productive period of the month was the seven days between the 22nd and 27th, the only period in which the winds were from the NW through to NE quarter.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringing Central.

768 new birds of 41 species were caught in the month, the fourth highest August in the 30 years of the Observatory, with only the years 2013, 2014 and 2016 being better. Nets were opened at SUDD on the 24th, 26th and 27th, producing 50 new birds of 13 species. The year total now stands at 4,224, significantly more (67%) than the 1988-2017 average as at the end of August which stands at 2,529.

Captures of note included; Gök (Cuckoo) on the 7th and 26th, a Rosenfink (Rosefinch) on the 8th, Bergfink (Brambling) on the 12th and 15th, Buskvätta (Whinchat) on the 15th and 23rd and a Höksångare (Barred Warbler) on the 17th. The first sign of an autumn movement was on the 11th with 12 Ärtsångare (Lesser Whitethroat) and 5 Lövsångare (Willow Warbler) caught. It was not until the 22nd, when the wind moved to the NE that the first decent catch resulted in 142 new birds including 17 Ärtsångare, 85 Lövsångare and a Halsbandsflugsnappare (Collared Flycatcher). Among the 50 birds at SUDD the most notable was a Svart röstjärt (Black Redstart), the only August capture for the species and the earliest autumn capture, the previous earliest being 23th October 2000.

Summaries below are for Bredmar only.

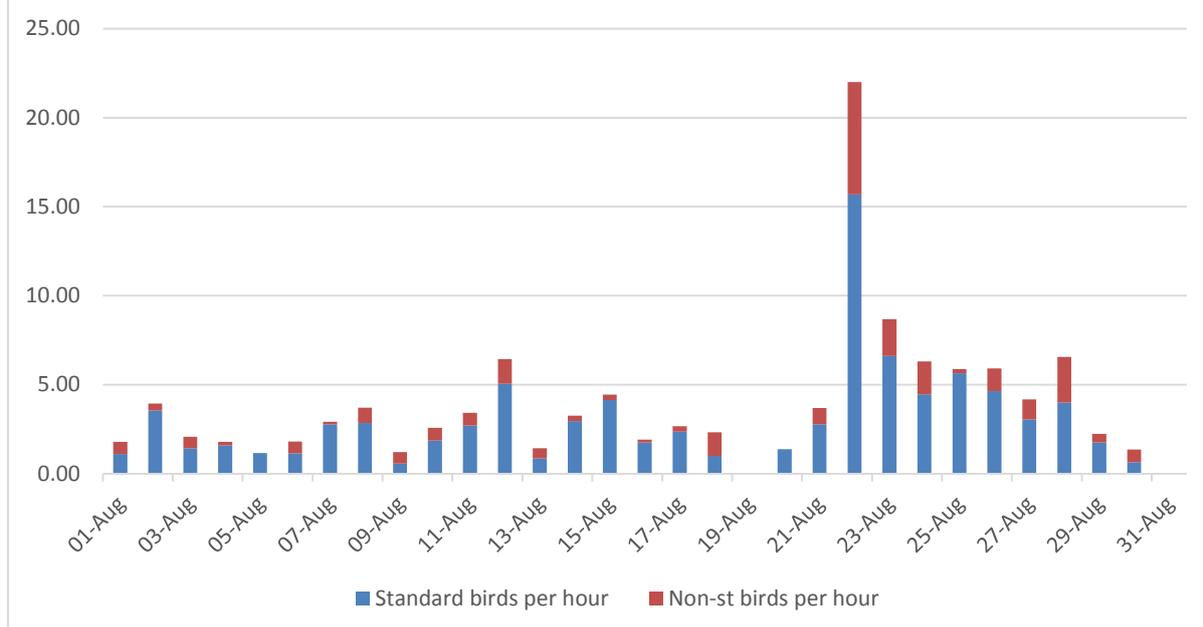
Available days	31
Days netting	29
%age	93.5%

Hours netting	180.75
Average per day	6.3

Av birds/hr	4.0
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Total birds	719	
Standard	546	76.00%
Non-standard	173	24.00%

Birds caught per hour of netting BMAR - August 2017



Sightings of note during August

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

- 200 Myrspov (Bar-tailed Godwit) on the 2nd;
- 130 Kustsnäppa (Knot) on the 3rd, with a further 89 on the 5th;
- 760 Kärrsnäppa (Dunlin) on the 5th and 735 on the 6th;
- 71 Kustpipare (Grey Plover) and 10 Spovsnäppa (Curlew Sandpiper) on the 6th;
- Single Brun kärrhök (Marsh Harrier) on the 3rd & 8th;
- Fiskgjuse (Osprey) on the 3rd & 21st;
- Brun glada (Blavk Kite) on the 26th;
- 59 Mindre korsnäbb (Common Crossbill) on the 3rd and 264 on the 8th.

Other work on the Observatory

- Routine strimming of net rides and paths;
- All bird bags washed;
- Daily diary blog kept up to date;
- 7 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.

Volunteer work on the Observatory by Chris, Kay & others

- Interior wall next to bathroom painted;
- Wall door given 3 coats of paint;

- 4 more Tornseglare (Swift) nest boxes painted and put in position;
- Some canopy height reduced near nets;
- Sudd netting area cleared of vegetation and all nets put back up.