

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

Summary

During the first part of the month strong to very strong, mainly NE winds were followed by a period of strong to very strong winds from the south/ south-west. This period included a day of gales with very strong winds that meant most of the afternoon was spent bailing water out of the cellar and lab. From the 15th to 21st the main wind direction was NE of moderate strength, which improved the number of birds caught per day but it was not until the last week of the month that the predominantly NE winds resulted in significant numbers of birds being caught, with 1740 in nine days, 1180 of these being in the last three days. On the 30th a total of 648 birds caught at Bredmar (475) and SUDD (173) was the 3rd highest autumn day catch in the history of the Observatory.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

2869 new birds of 51 species were caught in the month, the third highest September in the 30 years of the Observatory, with only the years 1990 and 2008 being better. Nets were opened at SUDD on five dates, producing 277 new birds of 20 species. The year total now stands at 7,093, significantly more (63%) than the 1988-2017 average as at the end of September which stands at 4,336.

Captures of note included:

- A Tornfalk (Kestrel) on the 6th, only the 8th caught on the Observatory;
- The first autumn Mindre flugsnappare (Red-breasted Flycatcher) also on the 6th, the first of five for the month, finishing with one at SUDD on the 30th;
- Videsparv (Rustic Bunting) on the 15th, the 14th caught here;
- Höksångare (Barred Warbler) on the 22nd, with a Blåhake (Bluethroat) on that day;
- The only Gräshoppsångare (Grasshopper Warbler) of the year on the 23rd;
- Single Sävsångare (Sedge Warbler) on the 23rd, 27th and 29th;
- Taigasångare (Yellow-browed Warbler) on the 29th;
- 28 Järnsparv (Dunnock) on the 30th, the highest autumn day-catch for the species.

Summaries below are for Bredmar only.

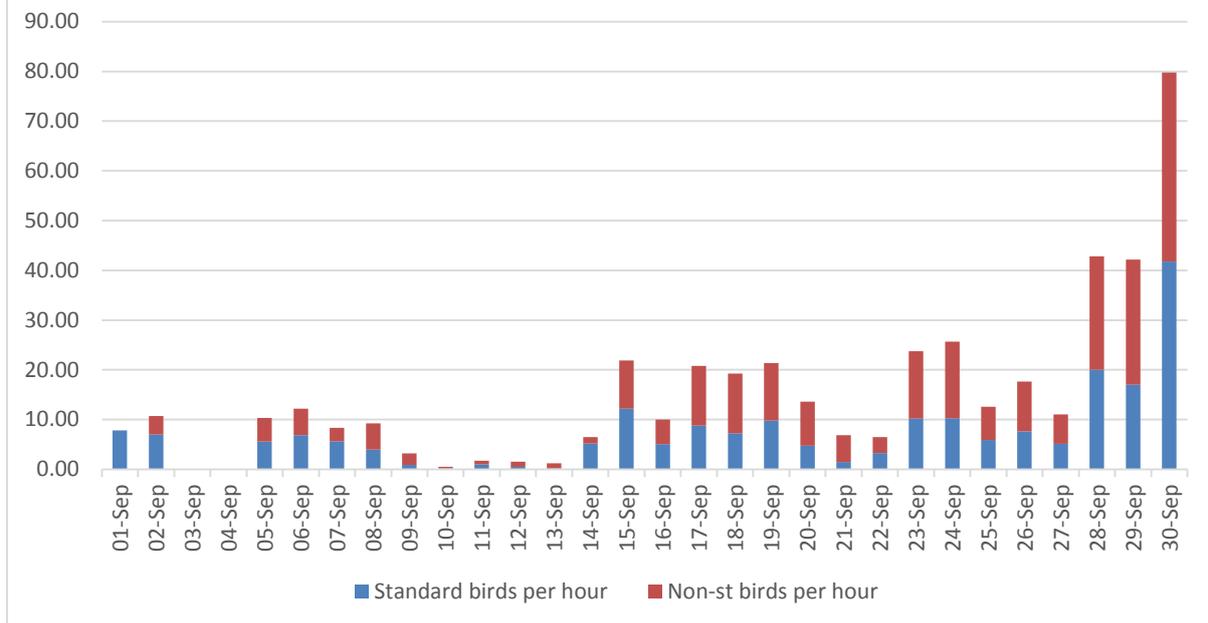
Available days	30
Days netting	29
%age	96.7%

Hours netting	172
Average per day	5.9

Av birds/hr	15.1
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Total birds	2592	
Standard	1112	42.90%
Non-standard	1480	57.10%

Birds caught per hour of netting BMAR - September 2017



Sightings of note during September

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

- Spillkråka (Black Woodpecker) on the 8th;
- Two Bivråk (Honey-buzzard) 13th;
- Smalnäbbad simsnäppa (Red-necked Phalarope) on the 16th;
- Two Fiskgjuse on the 17th, with 1335 Storskarv (Cormorant) and a single Ljungpipare (Golden Plover) also that day;
- Single Fjällvråk (Rough-legged Buzzard) on the 18th and 19th;
- A Blå kärrhök (Hen Harrier) on the 21st;
- A total of 1090 Vitkindad gås (Barnacle Geese) on the 22nd, with 950 Bofink (Chaffinch) on the same day;
- Single Brun kärrhök (Marsh Harrier) on the 23rd;
- The first Taigasångare (Yellow-browed Warbler) on the 23rd, with another on the 24th;
- A Stäpphök (Pallid Harrier) on the 27th;
- A decent migration past the island on the 28th included: 60 Prutgås (Brent Goose), 694 Bläsand (Wigeon), 57 Stjärtand (Pintail) with single Sidensvans (Waxwing) and Lappsparv (Lapland Bunting) also present on the island;
- On the final day of the month two Gulärta (Yellow Wagtail), a single Rödstrupig piplärka (Red-throated Pipit), a Pilgrimsfalk (Peregrine Falcon); eight Nötskrika (Jay) and 1100 Bofink (Chaffinch) were among a range of migratory birds observed.

Other work on the Observatory

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

- 10 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;
- Cellar cleared of flood water;
- Interview given to Natursidan for an on-line article about the work of the Observatory:
<http://www.natursidan.se/nyheter/ringmarkning-pa-landsort-en-livsstil-och-insats-for-fagelforskningen/>
- The outside of the building has now been completely re-painted and all of the old windows that had not been repaired last year have been replaced.

Volunteer work on the Observatory by Chris, Kay & others

- All new windows cleaned to remove factory protection layer;
- Some trees removed/ decreased in height to protect nets from damage;
- Removal of desk, chairs etc from office to enable window to be replaced and replaced afterwards.