

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

Summary

The first few days had winds from the SE to SW, with the 1st producing 263 new birds, continuing the good numbers caught at the end of September. The 4th to 11th had winds of strong to very strong from the NW, with mainly SW to W winds from 12th to 16th, remaining strong to very strong. The period 17th to 25th gave winds mainly from the E to SE with numbers of birds caught increasing as a result. Other than the 19th to 20th the winds remained strong. From the 26th to the end of the month winds from the N to NW dominated, including Gale force winds on the 29th and 30th.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

2,960 new birds of 41 species were caught in the month, only the tenth highest October in the 30 years of the Observatory, caused by a combination of very strong winds and what is accepted through the country as a poor breeding season. Nets were opened at SUDD on two dates, producing 54 new birds of 7 species. The year total now stands at 10,053, significantly more (44%) than the 1988-2017 average as at the end of October which stands at 6,993.

Captures of note included:

- 18 Taltrast (Song Thrush) 6th;
- The first two of a total of 9 Svartmes (Coal Tit) also on the 6th;
- 9 Domherre (Bullfinch) on the 11th, the highest day catch for the month;
- A late Trädgårdssångare (Garden Warbler) 12th;
- Single Gransångare (*tristis*) (Chiffchaff) on the 17th and a further single on the 19th;
- Two Varfågel (Great Grey Shrike) 18th, with 17 Stjärtmes (Long-tailed Tit) on the same day;
- Single Snösiska (Arctic Redpoll) on 17th, 26th & 27th;
- Single Enkelbeckasin (Common Snipe) 19th;
- Single Kungsfågelsångare (Pallas's Warbler) on the 21st;
- Hornuggla (Long-eared Owl) 26th;
- The highest day catch of the month (291) for Gråsiska (Redpoll) on the 29th.

Summaries below are for Bredmar only.

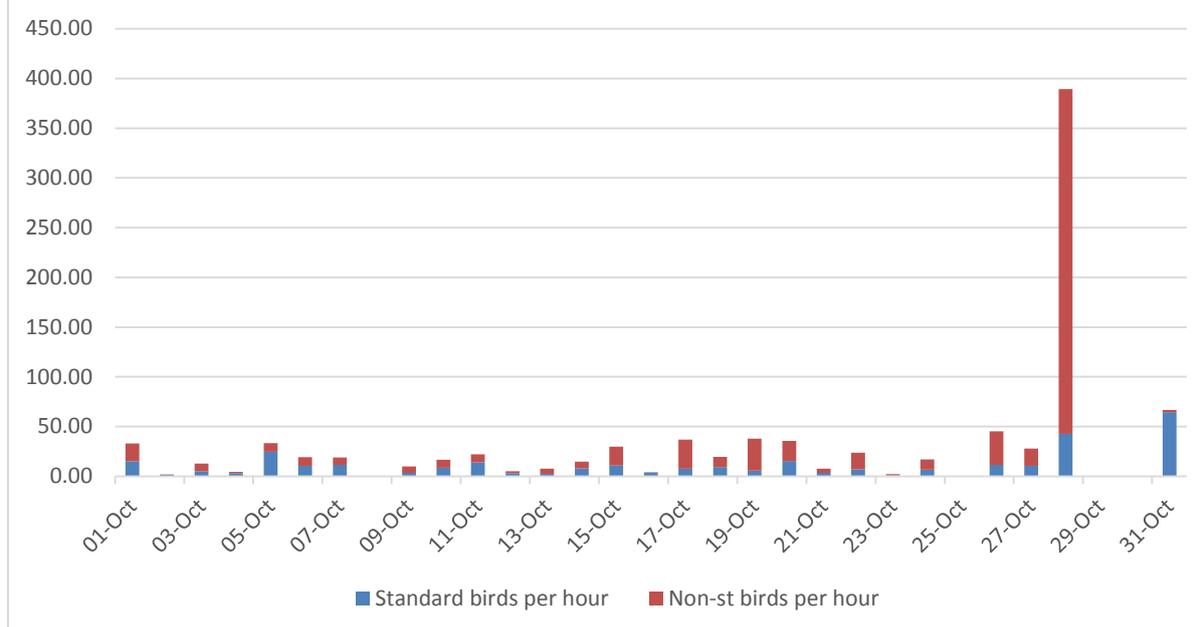
Available days	31
Days netting	27
%age	87.1%

Hours netting	135
Average per day	5.0

Total birds	2,906	
Standard	1063	36.6%
Non-standard	1,843	63.4%

Av birds/hr	21.5
-------------	------

Birds caught per hour of netting BMAR - October 2017



Sightings of note during October

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

- 400 Bofink (Chaffinch) on 5th and similar number on 6th;
- 200 Grönsiska (Siskin) 5th;
- Kungsörn (Golden Eagle) 6th
- Sädgås (Bean Goose) *rossicus*, exhausted on 6th & 7th;
- Two Ladusvala (Barn Swallow) on 6th;
- 4,275 Ringduva (Woodpigeon) on 6th;
- Two Gröngöling (Green Woodpecker) on 7th, followed by singles on 27th & 29th;
- Two Blå kärrhök (Hen Harrier) on 7th with a single on the 10th;
- 445 Taltrast (Song Thrush) on 7th, the 3rd highest ever count in the Stockholm area;
- Bird of the season, a Tajgablåstjärt (Red-flanked Bluetail) 7th and 8th;
- Nine Varfågel (Great Grey Shrike) on 15th;
- Two Tretåig mås (Kittiwake) on 21st, with a single on the 22nd;
- Three Skärnsnäppa (Purple Sandpiper) on 22nd, with a single on 29th;
- Approximately 20 Vinterhämpling (Twite) on 22nd;
- A single Större korsnäbb (Parrot Crossbill) on 22nd;
- Single Dvärgbeckasin (Jack Snipe) on 24th;
- Sångsvan (Whooper Swan) tired individual on Bredmar pond on 24th. Present on island until months end;
- Single Stenknäck (Hawfinch) on 28th;
- A Tobisgrissla (Black Guillemot) on 29th;
- Two Snösparv (Snow Bunting) on 29th.

Other work on the Observatory

- Final trimming of grass in front of Obs and where bird food is put down;
- All bird bags washed;
- Daily diary blog kept up to date;
- Guided talk given (see later);
- Weekly cash reconciliations undertaken and record kept of over-night stays (see later);
- Writing of work-plan and method statements covering the work of Wardens completed;
- Common areas, toilet, kitchen etc cleaned before and after each weekend;
- Lab cleaned weekly;
- Most nest boxes visited, cleaned and repaired. Just 10 to do before we leave

Volunteer work on the Observatory by Chris, Kay & others

- Some trees removed/ decreased in height to protect nets from damage;
- New lights fitted in kitchen by Mats & Mattias;
- Batteries replaced in smoke detectors by Mats;
- SUDD nets removed and poles taken back to Obs.