

**Monthly report to Landsort Board by Observatory Wardens:
Chris Sharpe & Kay Collister
August 2018**

Summary

Light south to south-east winds for the first two days were followed by a period of twelve days of moderate to strong winds, mainly from the south-west, before light easterlies on the 14th. The 15th gave strong north-east winds before four days of moderate to strong south-west winds, followed, on the 20th by light east to north-east winds that produced 318 birds caught, the highest August catch ever recorded at the Observatory. Most of the rest of the month was again dominated by a predominantly south-west airstream with the last day being light to moderate from the north-east. Periods of rain were recorded on the 12th and 31st, with light showers on four further days.

Ringing

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringing Central.

A total of 1,345 birds were trapped in the month, the highest August catch recorded. On the 20th, a day with light east winds, 318 new birds were trapped, the highest August count on record, with 236 of these being Willow Warbler (Lövsångare). High captures for August in each of the years, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017 reflect the greater effort that is now possible with having two personnel on site, helping to build a more accurate picture of migration patterns, timing and changes.

Highlights for the month included:

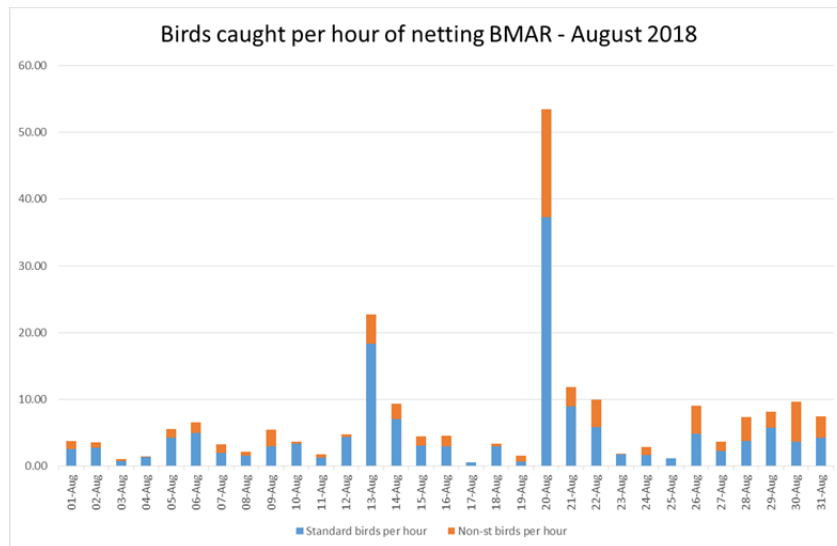
- 1st – Woodcock (Morkulla) The second bird of the autumn
- 5th – Sparrowhawk (Sparvhök) First of seven for the month
- 8th – House Sparrow (Gråsparv) The first since 2014
- 13th – 4 Wood Warbler (Grönsångare)
- 14th – 29 Lesser Whitethroat (Ärtsångare) Highest autumn day catch on record
- 15th – Grasshopper Warbler (Gräshoppsångare) Second bird of the autumn
- 15th - Thrush Nightingale (Näktergal) With another on the 22nd
- 20th – 236 Willow Warbler (Lövsångare) Highest autumn day catch on record
- 27th – Ortolan Bunting (Ortolansparv) First autumn capture on record
- 30th – Kestrel (Tornfalk) Ninth ever caught

Ringing took place on all 31 days.

Hours netting	202.25
Average per day	6.50

Av birds/hr	6.7
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Total birds	1,345	
Standard	910	68%
Non-standard	436	32%



The Autumn season so far.

During August time was spent reviewing captures for species during spring (up to end June) and autumn (from 1st July onward). While a more complete report on this review will be included in the annual report we have presented, in Appendix A, a brief review of the autumn so far. Numbers caught for each of the 59 species trapped this autumn have been compared with records from two prior periods.

The first period covers the 28 years from 1988 until 2015. During these years a heavy reliance was placed on enthusiastic members who gave their available time to ringing birds. Despite dedicated periods of coverage, the years inevitably had variable effort applied to them, thus data have been sporadic with gaps in collection particularly in July. Therefore the picture gained during these years will not have the statistical strength that data gathered daily will have. For this reason we include a comparison with the two year period 2016-17 when daily, standardised, ringing effort has been possible. Though two years data is a small sample size, successive years will add strength to future comparisons providing meaningful change data into the future – the core role of any Observatory.

Sightings of note during August

For a complete review of birds reported during the month please visit: <https://artportalen.se/search/sightings/site/2074506>

Other work on the Observatory

- Grass and vegetation around nets and Obs cut;
- 10 guided talks given;
- Weekly cash reconciliations undertaken and record kept of over-night stays;
- Membership list and bank statements kept up to date and sent to Pelle;
- Common areas, toilet, kitchen etc cleaned before and after each weekend;
- Lab cleaned weekly;
- Bird bags washed.

Chris Sharpe & Kay Collister.
31st August 2018

Appendix A

Species name		Autumn to August		
		Total Autumn 2018	Average 1988-2015	Average 2016-2017
Sparrowhawk	Sparvhök	7	0.4	3.0
Kestrel	Tornfalk	1	0.0	0.5
Woodcock	Morkulla	2	0.0	0.0
Wood Pigeon	Ringduva	1	0.0	0.0
Cuckoo	Gök	2	0.2	2.5
Swift	Tornseglare	1	0.0	0.0
Wryneck	Göktyta	2	1.3	12.0
Green Woodpecker	Gröngöling	1	0.2	2.5
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Större hackspett	1	1.0	1.0
Swallow	Ladusvala	9	3.0	8.5
Tree Pipit	Trädpiplärka	11	2.4	4.5
Yellow Wagtail	Gulärta	1	0.5	0.5
White Wagtail	Sädesärta	32	4.6	21.5
Grey Wagtail	Forsärta	1	0.0	0.0
Wren	Gärdsmyg	1	0.3	11.5
Robin	Rödhake	39	8.5	50.5
Thrush Nightingale	Näktergal	18	4.5	8.5
Redstart	Rödstart	19	6.7	18.5
Whinchat	Buskvätta	7	1.5	2.5
Wheatear	Stenskvätta	5	1.5	8.0
Blackbird	Koltrast	29	12.1	37.0
Song Thrush	Taltrast	15	1.2	8.5
Grasshopper Warbler	Gräshoppsångare	2	0.3	1.0
Sedge Warbler	Sävsångare	3	2.4	4.5
Marsh Warbler	Kärrsångare	2	1.0	0.5
Reed Warbler	Rörsångare	3	6.5	7.5
Icterine Warbler	Härmsångare	56	4.7	42.5
Barred Warbler	Höksångare	2	1.1	0.5
Lesser Whitethroat	Ärtsångare	393	52.3	236.5
Whitethroat	Törnsångare	49	21.9	58.5
Garden Warbler	Trädgårdsångare	73	19.5	46.0
Blackcap	Svarthätta	89	19.8	93.5
Greenish Warbler	Lundsångare	1	0.3	0.0
Wood Warbler	Grönsångare	20	6.6	11.0
Chiffchaff	Gransångare	2	0.6	1.5
Willow Warbler	Lövsångare	558	159.7	340.0
Goldcrest	Kungsfågel	7	11.3	11.0
Spotted Flycatcher	Grå flugsnappare	17	10.5	35.0
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Mindre flugsnappare	1	0.3	0.0
Pied Flycatcher	Svartvit flugsnappare	22	10.8	33.0
Marsh Tit	Entita	2	2.5	1.0
Crested Tit	Tofsmes	1	0.0	0.0

Blue Tit	Blåmes	30	5.7	26.0
Great Tit	Talgoxe	28	15.6	40.0
Treecreeper	Trädkrypare	5	1.1	2.5
Red-backed Shrike	Törnskata	46	19.4	46.0
Starling	Stare	31	0.4	1.0
House Sparrow	Gråsparv	1	0.1	0.0
Tree Sparrow	Pilfink	104	3.6	84.0
Chaffinch	Bofink	28	3.4	20.5
Greenfinch	Grönfink	51	15.7	122.5
Goldfinch	Steglits	5	0.1	9.5
Siskin	Grönsiska	2	0.6	3.0
Linnet	Hämpling	18	1.2	23.5
Redpoll	Gråsiska	8	0.1	2.5
Crossbill	Mindre korsnäbb	3	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Rosefinch	Rosenfink	9	4.1	8.5
Yellowhammer	Gulspurv	26	9.0	31.5
Ortolan Bunting	Ortolansparv	1	0.0	0.0
Overall total		1904	456	1561