

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

Summary

After moderate northerly winds on the first day of the month, there was a period of five days of light to calm winds, mainly from the north-east. On the 7th strong north-east winds were followed by a two days of moderate winds, during which the direction shifted to the south-west. From the 9th until the end of the month the dominant wind was west to south-west, seldom below 'strong' and often 'very strong' to 'gale'.

Ringling

All data entered onto Fågel3 and submitted to Ringing Central.

A total of 1,102 birds were trapped in the month. This is the 23rd lowest September catch in the 31 year period, emphasising the impact that the persistent strong winds from the west to south-west have had. Many observatories in Europe, from the Czech Republic to Belgium have been reporting a similar picture, with lower than average captures. Ringing on the 24th was restricted as a result of early closure of the nets due to Chris injuring his knee and travelling to hospital for x-rays. Ringing did not take place on three days due to the weather.

At the start of the month the autumn totals were 400 higher than the average for the two years 2016-17 and 1,517 higher than those for the period 1988-2015. By the 9th September, the day that the south-westerly airstream started to dominate, 2018 was 360 above the average of 2016-17 and 1,640 above that for 1988-2015. By the 30th a total of 3,006 birds had been trapped this autumn, 1,394 below the average for 2016-17 and only 888 above the average for 1988-2015. The best day capture was on the 29th, with 173 new birds, the only day of the month with 100+ birds caught, with only six further dates of 50+ birds.

Highlights for the month were few and far between, but included:

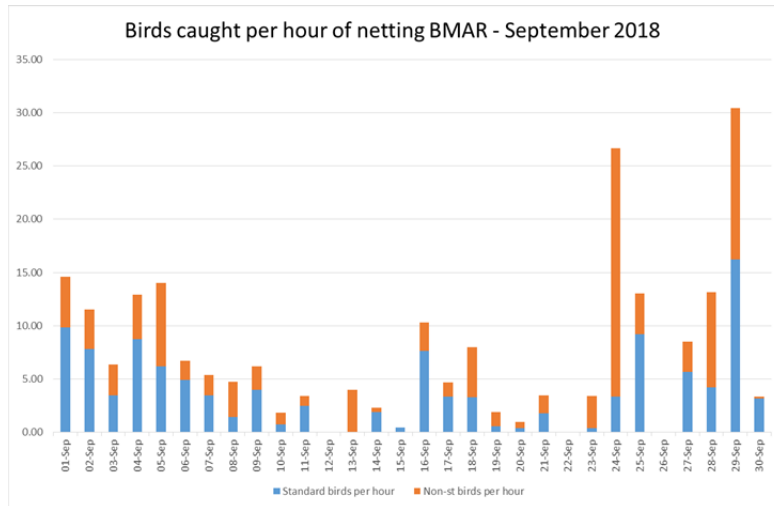
- 2nd – Cuckoo (Gök) The third bird of the autumn
- 2nd – 3 Bluethroat (Blåhake) with three more on the 4th
- 4th – 29 Lesser Whitethroat (Ärtsångare) Highest autumn day catch on record
- 6th – 2 Red-breasted Flycatcher (Mindre flugsnappare)
- 7th – Yellow-browed Warbler (Tajgasångare) First of the autumn
- 23rd – Dunnock (Järnsparv) First of the autumn
- 23rd – Brambling (Bergfink) First of the autumn
- 23rd – Reed Bunting (Sävspurv) First of the autumn
- 24th – Redwing (Rödvingetrast) First of the autumn

Ringing took place on 27 days.

Hours netting	142.00
Average per day	5.3

Av birds/hr	7.8
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Total birds	1,102	
Standard	577	52%
Non-standard	525	48%



The Autumn season so far.

Appendix A, shows a comparison of captures for the autumn of 2018 with those for 1988-2015, prior to the introduction of standardised ringing and those for 2016-17, the two autumns with standardised ringing. The table shows results for all of the 67 species trapped since the 1st July.

Sightings of note during September

For a complete review of birds reported during the month please visit: <https://artportalen.se/search/sightings/site/2074506>. There have been some excellent observations of migration during the month, notably the: 8th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 16th and 23rd. Good reward for those keen enough to get out to the island, put the hours in and enjoy some great days. Good, positive, energy!!

Other work on the Observatory

- Grass and vegetation around nets and Obs cut;
- Eight guided talks given;
- Weekly cash reconciliations undertaken and record kept of over-night stays;
- Common areas, toilet, kitchen etc cleaned before and after each weekend;
- Lab cleaned weekly;
- Bird bags washed.

Chris Sharpe & Kay Collister.
30th September 2018

Appendix A

Species name		Autumn to September		
		Total Autumn 2018	Average 1988-2015	Average 2016-2017
Sparrowhawk	Sparvhök	11	4.0	8.5
Kestrel	Tornfalk	1	0.1	1.0
Woodcock	Morkulla	2	0.0	0.0
Wood Pigeon	Ringduva	1	0.0	0.0
Cuckoo	Gök	3	0.3	3.5
Swift	Tornseglare	1	0.0	0.0
Wryneck	Göktyta	2	1.3	12.0
Green Woodpecker	Gröngöling	1	0.2	1.7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Större hackspett	2	3.5	4.5
Swallow	Ladusvala	9	3.0	8.5
Tree Pipit	Trädpiplärka	16	5.9	8.5
Yellow Wagtail	Gulärla	1	0.6	0.5
White Wagtail	Sädesärla	35	8.6	23.0
Grey Wagtail	Forsärla	1	0.0	0.0
Wren	Gärdsmyg	20	21.6	63.0
Dunnock	Järnsparv	7	16.3	41.0
Robin	Rödhake	220	314.6	859.0
Thrush Nightingale	Näktergal	18	4.7	9.0
Bluethroat	Blåhake	6	4.5	2.0
Redstart	Rödstart	31	30.4	47.5
Whinchat	Busksvätta	9	2.2	3.5
Wheatear	Stenskvätta	6	2.4	9.0
Blackbird	Koltrast	30	18.9	43.5
Song Thrush	Taltrast	41	31.6	43.0
Redwing	Rödvingetrast	3	1.2	0.5
Grasshopper Warbler	Gräshoppsångare	2	0.8	1.5
Sedge Warbler	Sävsångare	5	6.4	7.0
Marsh Warbler	Kärrsångare	2	1.1	1.0
Reed Warbler	Rörsångare	3	8.8	10.0
Icterine Warbler	Härmsångare	56	4.9	43.0
Barred Warbler	Höksångare	3	1.5	1.0
Lesser Whitethroat	Ärtsångare	485	88.5	314.0
Whitethroat	Törnsångare	50	28.0	62.5
Garden Warbler	Trädgårdssångare	84	42.9	61.0
Blackcap	Svarthätta	156	92.3	229.0
Greenish Warbler	Lundsångare	1	0.3	0.0
Yellow-browed Warbler	Tajgasångare	1	0.5	4.5
Wood Warbler	Grönsångare	22	7.8	15.5
Chiffchaff	Gransångare	36	23.1	52.0

Willow Warbler	Lövsångare	704	325.1	519.5
Goldcrest	Kungsfågel	331	690.5	955.0
Spotted Flycatcher	Grå flugsnappare	27	25.0	57.5
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Mindre flugsnappare	3	2.9	6.0
Pied Flycatcher	Svartvit flugsnappare	27	17.2	40.5
Marsh Tit	Entita	3	5.1	1.0
Crested Tit	Tofsmes	1	0.0	0.0
Blue Tit	Blåmes	37	66.9	119.0
Great Tit	Talgoxe	51	38.6	73.0
Treecreeper	Trädkrypare	29	20.3	16.5
Red-backed Shrike	Törnskata	49	23.0	49.5
Starling	Stare	31	0.4	1.0
House Sparrow	Gråsparv	1	0.2	0.0
Tree Sparrow	Pilfink	113	5.7	96.0
Chaffinch	Bofink	64	22.5	59.5
Brambling	Bergfink	6	2.2	2.0
Greenfinch	Grönfink	57	28.6	123.0
Goldfinch	Steglits	5	0.4	9.5
Siskin	Grönsiska	7	27.6	180.5
Linnet	Hämpling	18	1.2	23.5
Redpoll	Gråsiska	9	31.7	12.5
Crossbill	Mindre korsnäbb	3	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Rosefinch	Rosenfink	9	5.2	9.0
Yellowhammer	Gulsparv	26	15.1	32.5
Ortolan Bunting	Ortolansparv	1	0.0	0.0
Reed Bunting	Sävparv	11	16.6	2.0
Overall total		3006	2188	4400