

Wardens' report to Landsort Fågelstation board

April 2019

Espen Quinto-Ashman & Matt Scragg

Weather summary

The month started on a calm note with variable light winds and insignificant precipitation. The wind picked up significantly on 8th and 9th, gusting from the northwest, temperatures hovered around zero and both days also had a light dusting of snow. The winds had eased off by 10th but stayed northerly meaning the temperature stayed low until the wind direction swung west on 18th, it then moved around to the southwest, finally allowing in the wave of migrants that the northerlies had been blocking. The wind picked up again on 27th and this day also brought the only significant rain of the month, although this was just a short, heavy shower.

Ringling

All data was entered on Fågel3 and submitted to Ringling Central.

A total of 1368 birds of 36 different species were ringed as well as 290 subsequent encounters of 18 different species. Lower than last year's total but slightly higher than the average of the past four years (the duration in which standardised ringling has taken place). The most numerously caught species was the Robin with 734 ringed, followed by Goldcrest with 202 ringed. The highest day capture was on 20th when 131 birds were ringed and the lowest was on 14th when only three birds were ringed. There were two foreign controls; a Dunnock with a French ring was caught on 1st April and a Goldcrest with a German ring was caught on 26th.

Less frequently caught species included:

- Mistle Thrush: the first caught since 2012. Three individuals on two dates, being the 14th 15th and 16th ringed at Landsort
- Firecrest: the eighth ringed at Landsort
- Woodcock: the 15th ringed at Landsort
- Woodpigeon: the 10th ringed at Landsort

Sightings of note during April

Spring migration took a while to pick up as northerlies dominated mid-month temporarily putting the brakes on migration. The winds switched to a southerly direction perfectly coinciding with a large number of visiting birders over the start of the Easter period and some good sightings were consequently recorded during this period. Highlights included:

2nd - Long-eared Owl, one at Bredmar

18th – Firecrest, one ringed at Bredmar

19th - Garganey, two at Norrhamn

20th – Serin, one at Södra Udden

20th – Penduline Tit, one flew north over Södra Udden

20th – Slavonian Grebe, 21 (high count) in Norrhamn

20th – Red-necked Grebe, 20 (high count) off Jutvik

21st – Mediterranean Gull, two flew north over Bredmar, seen again later from Södra Udden

22nd – Steller's Eider, one from Södra Udden

24th – Penduline Tit, one flew north and then back south over the obs

26th – Hoopoe, one at Fårhagen

Other work at the observatory

- Common areas cleaned weekly
- Lab cleaned weekly
- Bird bags washed
- Composter built in obs garden
- Veg planted in garden
- Canopy height near the net rides reduced

Ringling demonstrations

There were three booked ringling demos: a group of 10 on 16th, Birdlife Sverige Group on 21st and one for a WWF youth group of six on 28th.

Overnight accommodation

Occupancy during April was 21 bed nights from paying members. There were a further 27 bed nights from the Birdlife Sverige youth group and five from the group who came over for the interview with 'Naturmorgon' on P1 radio.