



LISTA BIRD OBSERVATORY **Activity report 2019**



By Aïda López, November 2019

Photo from Jonas Langbråten. Visit from some members of the Danish Bird Rare Committee.

Executive summary

During this year, the main tasks for the daily leader have been completing the winter and summer logs from 2018/2019, keep updated facebook page and the LiFu website, provide accommodation to birders and volunteers, guiding schools and families, training volunteers and ringers, bird-ringing and birdwatching especially under standardized frames, hire the fieldworkers of the station, co-work in a scientific study, website data storage for logs 2010 and 2009, continue the Wheatear project, continue trapping and colour ringing Rock Pipits, co-work with *Besøkscenter Våtmark Lista*, organize the Lista Bird Festival, offer 2 ringing courses, write the annual report for 2018 and the activity, spring and autumn reports for 2019.

Standardized ringing

The spring and autumn ringing campaigns were run by Rubén Piculo and occasionally by Aida López.

Lista Bird Observatory completed in 2019 its 30th consecutive year of spring ringing campaign. During the **spring ringing campaign**, the bird observatory has been run for a total 87 days from March 15 until June 10. A total of 13 mist-nets have been currently used on the standardized (138 meters) and the results have been close to normal years with 852 birds ringed (average for spring is 834) of 49 different species. Note that average numbers have changed from earlier reports because standardized numbers have been adjusted to the first 6 hours of ringing.

The next table shows bird ringing in spring 2019 (Total ind.: 852; species: 49):

Num. Sps	Species	Scientific name	Total spring
1	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1
2	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1
3	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	9
4	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2
5	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	24
6	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	1
7	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2
-	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	14
-	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	1
8	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	18
9	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	12
10	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	106
11	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1
-	Bluethroat (svecica)	<i>Luscinia svecica svecica</i>	4
12	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1
13	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	25

14	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1
15	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	11
-	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	5
-	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	2
16	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1
17	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	35
18	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	11
19	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	1
20	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2
21	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1
22	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1
23	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	33
24	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	13
25	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	9
26	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	23
27	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	1
28	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	70
29	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	192
30	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	53
31	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	8
32	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	11
33	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3
34	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	3
35	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1
36	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1
37	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2
38	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1
39	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6
40	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	3
41	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	12
42	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	10
43	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	14
44	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	30
45	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	2
46	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea flammea</i>	1
47	Lesser redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	50
48	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5
49	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1
Totalt			851

During the **autumn ringing campaign**, the bird observatory has been run for a total of 124 days from July 15 until November 15. The temperature this autumn has been around 1°C higher than normal and the same 13 mist-nets have been currently used on the standardized (138 meters). The results have been 25% lower than normal years with 3040 birds ringed (average for autumn is 4072) of 62 different species (3557 ind. of 65 species last year).

The next table shows bird ringing in autumn 2018 (Total ind.: 3040; species: 62):

Num. Sps	Species	Scientific name	Total autumn
1	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	3
2	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	3
3	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1
4	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	2
5	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	9
6	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	54
7	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	27
8	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	24
9	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2
10	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	2
11	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2
-	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	39
12	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	87
13	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	20
14	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	181
15	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1
16	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1
17	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	26
18	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	8
19	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	2
20	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	46
-	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	22
21	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	91
22	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	19
23	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	20
24	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	31
25	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	3
26	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1
27	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1
28	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	1
29	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	18
30	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	63
31	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	39
32	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	61
33	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2
34	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	36
-	Siberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	4

35	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	438
36	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	127
37	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	4
38	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	7
39	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	5
40	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	4
41	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	5
42	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	935
43	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	86
44	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	1
45	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	5
46	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	3
47	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	52
48	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	111
49	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	34
50	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	126
51	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	26
52	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	17
53	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10
54	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	6
55	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	31
56	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	1
57	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	4
-	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea flammea</i>	2
58	Lesser redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	15
59	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	3
60	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	20
61	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	2
62	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	8
Totalt			3040

Non-standardized ringing

We started in 2015 a project for monitoring breeding **Northern Wheatears** around the lighthouse, marking adults and chicks with coded colour rings and registering the nests and chicks found in the area. The project has been mainly run in 2019 by Paulina Camarena, Tohar Tal, Rubén Piculo and Aïda López. There have been ringed 6 adults and 16 chicks by the nests. 10 nests have been found around the lighthouse area, which is a normal number. Last year the number of nests found was 17 and in 2017 was 10.

In addition, we have been catching and colour-ringing **Rock Pipits** with playback and walk-in traps. A total of 85 individuals have been ringed by the traps this autumn (79 in 2018 and 57 in 2017).

In the standardized we have continued colour ringing all Wheatears, White Wagtails, Rock Pipits and Stonechats, taking part of a national project of colour ringing, most of it run by Kjell Mork Soot. This year two **Stonechats** were ringed in autumn, being only one more bird ringed in autumn since 1990. There is now a total of 5 birds ringed of this species between spring and autumn.



Owl's playback has been used during the nights in autumn when weather was suitable, catching 11 Tengmalm's Owl.

Slevdalsvann

During the autumn, a non-standardized ringing campaign has been run from August until November in Slevdalsvann nature reserve. A total of 15 nets have been up the whole period (including 5 nets in the reeds) resulting with 4.771 ringed birds of 49 different species, which is 16 species less than the year before. Some interesting species have been caught, including 1 Spotted Crake, 2 Blyth's Reed Warbler, 55 Common Grasshopper Warbler, 7 Barred Warbler and 29 Bearded Reedling. 52 Marsh Warbler have been ringed, reaching the highest number ever.

This year the number of Water Rail was low and the weather has been quite unstable. Therefore the walk-in traps were not settled in autumn. A total of 9 individuals of this species have been ringed, compared to 22 birds last year.

A new coded colour-ring project for monitoring the breeding Bearded Reedling at Slevdalsvann was started in September, marking adults and juveniles. There have been colour ringed 18 individuals. This is taking part of a project coordinated by Rune Aae, from Østfold University College.



This species have shown an increase the last few years and been ringed this autumn in the highest numbers since 1998.

Bird counts

At least 3 hours have been spent every morning on counting birds migrating on the sea. This equals at least 630 hours of counts during spring and autumn campaigns.

Lots of hours have been also spent on covering the study area. A total of 224 species within the area have been seen in 2019, without any new species for the observatory area and including 18 uncommon/rare species: Great Egret, Black Kite, Red Kite, Red-necked Phalarope, Caspian Gull, Hawk Owl, European Bee-eater, Tawny Pipit, Olive-backed Pipit, Water Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Firecrest, Rose-coloured Starling, European Serin, Pine Grosbeak, Ortolan Bunting, Little Bunting and Corn Bunting.

Volunteering project

This year we have continued offering the opportunity for volunteers to stay at the observatory, especially those who were already involved in biological and ornithological activities. Our goal is to build significant connections with biologists, students and birdwatchers.

There has been a total of 10 volunteers this year from Mexico, Netherlands, UK, Germany, Norway, Spain, Greece and Russia.



Two of the volunteers have worked at the station for a long period (6-9 weeks) completing an internship from University.

In this way we are contributing to community education, public awareness and have opened our network of contacts which definitely benefits Lista Bird Observatory in terms of national and international development.

Media

The reach of Lista Bird Observatory on social media, and Facebook in particular, continued to increase this year. The LIFU Facebook page has 2895 "Likes" in November 2019. It has been posted 75 updates to the page since January 2019.

Increase of likes on facebook from November 2017 to November 2019:



A total of 7 posts on the website have been published this year, which have been mainly reports and advertisement for events or course offers.

Guiding and schools



Besøksenter Våtmark Lista is responsible of the nature guidance for schools and families, together with Lista Fuglestasjon.

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A total of 3 school groups + 4 private families/groups have been guided by Lista Bird Observatory in 2019. This less than half of the groups guided last year. We are currently studying solutions for increasing the number of guided tours next year. It will probably be advertised in "Visit Norway" magazine and in the apartments at Lista Fyr.

Accommodation

We currently offer 2 beds and the fee is 150 NOK per person and night. Several guests have overnight in the house contributing to the Observatory's economy.

Ringing course

We have continued this year offering a ringing course for beginners. It's a combination of 2,5h of theory and 10h practice in the field. Standardized ringing, identification, biometric measurements, age, sex, moult and bird cycle are some of the contents. Two courses have been done with a total of 9 participants from all over Norway.



We have got very positive feedback and have already some bookings for the courses next year.

Lista Fuglefestival

We celebrated the festival with feast and activities throughout the last weekend of August. It was a successful weekend with social events. On Saturday there was a bird race, barbecue and a talk from Klaus Malling Olsen, who impressed all those present with a highly inspiring lecture about *Gulls actual to Norway with special attendance to Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull*.



Most teams started the day at Slevdalsvann ringing site. Then the teams spread around Lista. The teams registered a total of 134 species (145 species last year) in Farsund municipality that day, 3 teams passed 100 species and the top 3 teams found 109, 106 and 104. These teams were team "Grimsby vindmølle motstandere", "Alcatraz" and "Agder United". The rare species found during the day was Rose-coloured Starling (by team "Lighthouse Lovers"). Third and second place were Gunnar Gundersen and Truls W. Andersen.

Bjørn Mo took the first place, being the "Norwegian Champion in Bird Watching 2019".

On Sunday there was a ringing demonstration and a guided tour. Some prizes were delivered to the people and there were a good number of experienced ornithologists who attended to the festival, coming from different *Fylke*. We have got very nice feedback, knowing that most of the people want to come back.

Research

We are involved in the first radio telemetry project in Norway in collaboration with the Bird Observatories at Mølen, Store Færder and Jomfruland. Two antennas have been installed at Lista in autumn 2019.

This will allow us to follow the movements of individual birds during their stopover from 2020. Through radio-telemetry it is possible to learn more about stopover behaviour, timing of departure and departure directions, especially of nocturnally migrating songbirds.

Two scientific articles have been published with data from Lista Fuglestation in 2019. The references are below:

- Lehtikainen, A., Lindén, A., Karlsson, M., Andersson, A., Crewe, T.L., Dunn, E.H., Gregory, G., Karlsson, L., Kristiansen, V., Mackenzie, S., Newman, S., Røer, J.E., Sharpe, C., Sokolov, L.V., Steinholtz, A., Stervander, M., Tirri, I-S., Skjold Tjørnløv, R. 2019. Phenology of the avian spring migratory passage in Europe and North America: Asymmetric advancement in time and increase in duration. **Ecological Indicators 101: 985–991.**

- Mysterud, A., Heylen, D.J.A., Matthysen, E., Lopez Garcia, A., Jore, S., Viljugrein, H. 2019. Lyme neuroborreliosis and bird populations in northern Europe. **Royal Society. Volume 286, Issue 1903.**

Skagen & Ottenby

We currently offer a package – called the 'Scandinavian Triple'-. Volunteers apply for working at all three places (during autumn or spring). The participants stay for at least 3 weeks at each site. The three Observatories compensate the volunteers with 50 SEK pr. day of work and 800 SEK for each travel between the Observatories.

There has been a volunteer from the UK in spring and one from the Netherlands in autumn, under this programme.

Database, analysis, reports & results

The 2018 report was finished and delivered in August 2019. The annual report for 2020 has not been started and the delivery is programmed for March 2020.

A meeting between Jomfruland, NOF and Lista Bird Observatory had place in Jomfruland in January 2019. We talked about actual economic problems, possible improvements and development of the stations, potential ways of collaboration and the planning of a new meeting with the Environment Directorate / other financial contributors.



After that meeting, there was a new meeting in February with the Environmental Department, where we presented our work, annual reports and economic issues.

Aknowledgements

There is a long list of people I would like to thank for their collaboration, help, encouragement, and professionalism this year. Thanks to Rubén for doing such a good job in the field, working hard and being always helpful with the rest of the team. Thanks to Paulina Camarena, Tohar Tal, Anna Moulin, Jordy Kwaks, Alina Krämer, Jonas Brüggeshemke, Koen Stork, Christina Ninou, Grigory Evtukh, Oddvin Lund and Naïd Mubalegh for helping cover the ringing and counts during the busiest periods, creating a learning environment and spirit of comradeship. Thanks to the anonymous birdwatchers for proving valuable information and covering part of the counts within the study area. Thanks to our funders including Miljødirektoratet, NOF and Natur og Fritid, our work would be impossible to carry out without their contributions. Thanks to Gunnar Gundersen and Nils H. Lorentzen for providing help and experience on the field whenever is needed and taking over the main tasks in Slevdalsvann. And at last, thanks to Jan Erik Rør for being always helpful with positivism and diligence despite the distance.