

By Aïda López, January 2022



Photo from Lista Bird Race. The first Arctic Warbler ringed at the station was during the Bird Festival at Lista in august 2021.

Management

The management of the station has been run by Aïda López, Head of Lista Bird Observatory. Her main tasks have been completing winter/summer logs 2020-2021, keeping updated the facebook page and the BO website, providing accommodation/compensation to volunteers, guiding schools and families, training volunteers and ringers, hiring the fieldworkers of the station, bird-ringing and birdwatching especially under standardized frames, with special effort this year because of the pandemic. She has been responsible for that the cover page from logs 2000-2002 was introduced on the website, as well as to continue the Wheatear project, the Rock Pipit's trapping, co-work with the Visitor Center, organize the Lista Bird Festival, hold one ringing course, publish the spring and autumn reports for 2021 and write the annual report for 2021. This year a Vipps number for donations has been created and glass signs have been put up around the lighthouse. She has also worked on searching funding for the station and done presentations to possible contributors. This year, because of the pandemic, it has been very challenging to get volunteers and the main ringer into the country.

Standardized ringing

The spring ringing campaign was run by Nils Helge Lorentzen, Charlotte Hallerud, Jan Erik Røer and Aïda López in substitution to Rubén Piculo, who was not allowed due to Covid national restrictions to enter the country until end of July. The autumn campaign was in the beginning run by Gunnar Gundersen and Aïda López and later mainly run by Rubén Piculo.

Lista Bird Observatory completed in 2021 its 32nd consecutive year of spring ringing campaign. During **spring**, the bird observatory was run for a total 87 days from March 15 until June 10. A total of 13 mist-nets were currently used on the standardized (138 meters) and the **results were 8.8% higher than normal** years with 901 birds ringed (average 1990-2020 for spring is 828) of 50 different species. **Weather in spring:** The average temperature was normal, with 0.1 ° C higher than normal from March 1 to May 31. The precipitation was less than half of the normal in April, while it rained more than usual during May. Average precipitation from March until May was 6.8% under average.

During the **autumn**, the bird observatory was run for a total of 124 days from July 15 until November 15. The same 13 mist-nets were currently used on the standardized (138 meters). The **results were 36.1% lower than normal** years with 2596 birds ringed (average 1990-2020 for autumn is 4062) of 57 different species. **Weather in autumn:** The average temperature was 1°C higher than normal from July until October, being October 2°C above normal. The precipitation has been far below normal this autumn, especially in September with rain 86% below average.

The next table shows standardized bird ringing in spring and autumn 2021:

Species	English	Scientific	Spring	Autumn
1	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1	
2	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	5	3
3	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		2
4	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	1
5	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		86
6	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		10
7	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	7	807
8	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	11	107
9	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	9	4
10	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	1	
11	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	1	2
12	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	196	254
13	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	43	32
-	Chiffchaff (collybita)	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	2	
-	Siberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>		9
14	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>		1
15	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	10
16	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	1	
17	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		2
18	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	4	1
19	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	3	1
20	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	52	49
21	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	20	16
22	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	23	15
23	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	29	33
24	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2
25	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	32	174
26	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	15	117
27	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		12
28	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	75	139
29	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	48	57
30	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1	10
31	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	13	12
32	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	3	1
33	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	120	110
34	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1	1
35	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1	
36	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		1
37	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	7	15
38	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	
39	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	6	19
40	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	8	9
41	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		6
-	Stonechat (hibernans)	<i>Saxicola rubicola hibernans</i>	2	
42	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	11	22
-	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	2	1

-	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	5	10
43	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	16	44
44	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	4	50
45	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	8	32
46	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		3
47	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		1
48	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		13
-	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	10	12
49	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	15	43
50	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1	30
51	European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	2	3
52	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	13	52
53	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		59
54	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		1
55	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	4	4
56	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	3	
57	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	19	18
58	Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	33	8
59	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	2
60	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	4	2
61	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5	36
62	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>		1
63	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	19
Totalt			901	2596

A new species was ringed in the standardized ringing.



Arctic Warbler at Lista Lighthouse. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen

It was an Arctic Warbler which was caught and ringed during the Lista Bird Race on 28.08.2021. This is the first record of this species for Lista BO and Farsund municipality.

In the standardized ringing we have continued colour ringing all White Wagtails, Stonechats, Rock Pipits and Wheatears, taking part of a national project of colour ringing, most of it run by Kjell Mork Soot.

The Stonechat has reached the highest number of standardized ringing in 2021, due to a very active pair breeding very close to the nets. This is the second consecutive year that this species breeds in the lighthouse area since our monitoring began in 1990.

Non-standardized ringing

We have been catching and colour-ringing Rock Pipits with playback and walk-in traps. We have in addition added some clap-nets with worms to attract more birds. A total of 138 individuals have been ringed by the traps this autumn, which is by far the highest number since we started this project in 2015 (17 birds in 2020 and 85 in 2019).

Owl's playback was used during the nights in autumn when weather was suitable, catching 6 Tengmalm's Owl on the non-standardized ringing. Compared to previous years this was a low number indicating low or moderate migration activity by this species.



A fieldworker ringing a Tengmalm's Owl for the first time. Foto: Aida López

The breeding Wheatears have not been monitored in the station area as normal in 2021. Fewer ringers and staff were available this spring due to the pandemic. Based on observations, we assume that the population was low or that it had a low breeding season, with only 7 nests found in the lighthouse area (Gunnarhaug, Vågsvollvåien, Vågsvollvika).

Slevdalsvann

During the autumn, a non-standardized ringing campaign has been run from 1st August until 21st November in Slevdalsvann, and specifically from 1st August until 31st October inside the nature reserve (reeds). Tape-luring is used at this location for attracting a high number of birds. A total of 16 nets have been up (including 5 nets in the reeds) resulting with 6967 ringed birds of 66 different species, which is 2 species more than the year before. Some interesting species have been caught, including 1 Long-eared Owl, 1 Pallas's Leaf Warbler, 1 Dusky Warbler, 1 Great Reed Warbler, 1 Aquatic Warbler, 2 Paddyfield Warbler, 2 Blyth's Reed Warbler, 1 Olive-backed Pipit, 1 Pechora Pipit, 2 Little Bunting and the first Woodcock. A new maximum of Sedge Warbler has been ringed (1469), while 1028 Blackcap and 801 Garden Warbler were ringed this autumn which is also noteworthy!

There has been ringed 17 individuals in 2021, a low number due to a dry autumn with no water under the nets. This is part of a project started in 2019 for monitoring the breeding Bearded Reedling.



A Pechora Pipit was ringed in Slevdalsvann. This is the second record in Agder. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen

Bird counts

Lots of hours have been also spent on covering the study area. A total of 237 species within the area have been seen in 2021, which is 11 less than the year before. However, there has been four new species for the observatory area, including 14 uncommon/rare species: Surf Scoter, **Western Capercaillie (1st!)**, Pied Avocet, Sabine's Gull, Caspian Gull, White Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, **Brown Shrike (1st!)**, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, **Arctic Warbler (1st!)**, Common Firecrest, **Collared Flycatcher(1st!)**, Desert Wheatear and Rustic Bunting.



The Brown Shrike was registered for the first time at the bird observatory and Agder County. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen

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.

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. Although our goal is to build significant connections with biologists, students and birdwatchers, this year the biggest challenge was the management of people in the house, following the **COVID-19** measures/restrictions. Every person staying in the observatory

during spring had to stay alone in the house and during autumn was only allowed the stay for full-vaccinated people.

The library of the station was properly classified and ordered by one of the volunteers. Books and magazines are now stored in coded shelves, providing orderly access and a location for every item on the shelf.



Office work from ringers and volunteers on a very windy day. Foto: Aïda López

There has been a total of 4 volunteers (from Germany, France and Norway) staying in the house this year, compared to 2 volunteers in 2020 and 11 volunteers in 2019.

All volunteers during autumn have stayed for a long period (5-14 weeks), making possible their stay during the pandemic.

In this way we are contributing to community education, public awareness and have opened our network of contacts which 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 3257 likes in December 2021. It has been posted 65 updates to the page since January 2021, similar to recent years.

A total of 9 posts on the website have been published this year, which have been mainly reports, articles and advertisement for events or course offers.

Guiding and schools

Besøksenter Våtmark Lista (Visitor Center) is responsible of the nature guidance for schools and families, together with the Bird Observatory.

A total of 21 groups have been guided by Lista Bird Observatory in 2021. This is almost double amount of guiding than in 2020, despite the COVID-19.



A group guided at Lista Lighthouse. Foto: Jonas Langbråten

Accommodation

We currently offer 2 beds and the fee is 150 NOK per person and night. No guests have overnight in the house because of the COVID-19. The guest room has only been used by volunteers.

Ringling 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. The course in spring was cancelled because of COVID-19, and a course was carried out in autumn with a total of 4 participants from all over Norway.



Participants trying to determine age of the bird. Foto: Aïda López

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

Lista Bird Festival

On August 28, we arranged the Lista Bird Race. This year it was a reduced program with only the bird race, barbecue and quiz. There was neither lecture on Saturday nor family activities on Sunday. Despite a more modest arrangement, there was good support from the most enthusiastic birdwatchers and a new species for the station appeared in the nets!

The Arctic Warbler was caught in net nr. 11 and all participants could see it! This was the first record of this species for both the bird observatory and Farsund municipality. There were no other rare species found during the day that resulted in extra points for the race. However, a Gyr Falcon was seen. It stayed in the area all day.

Some teams started the day by looking for seabirds at Lista lighthouse. Then the teams spread around the bird observatory area and Slevdalsvann. In total, all teams registered 117 species this time (129 species last year). The 3 best teams found 101, 98 and 96 species, respectively. These teams were teams "Cape May", "Lifu Team" and "Alcatraz", the same teams that were on top last year.

This year, as last year, both competitors and other visiting birders could enjoy good barbecue after finishing the Bird Race in the evening. This time there was barbecue and quiz in the gallery garden at Lista Lighthouse. After grilling, it was time to determine the "Norwegian champion in birdwatching 2021". Jan Erik Røer thanked everyone for their attendance and efforts and went through the results list from the day.

The participants from the three top teams were invited to do the quiz for choosing the winner. Jonas Langbråten was the quiz master and presented a good number of pictures right on the wall of the lighthouse gallery: Single birds that were to be identified in a few seconds.



Jonas Langbråten and the best 3 teams are ready to start the quiz. Foto: Aïda López

The winner was in the end, as in 2020 and 2019, Bjørn Mo from «Cape May», while Egil Ween from the same team took second place. Third place went to the previous winner Andreas Gullberg from the team «The Vikings».

All participants answered a survey for future bird festivals. The results were published on our website and showed that people are happy with the event as it is now: a bird race within the observatory area and Slevdalsvann, a lecture and a quiz for the three best teams.

Research

We are still involved in the radio telemetry project for passerines in Norway, in collaboration with the bird observatories at Mølen, Store Færder and Jomfruland.

Two antennas were installed at Lista in autumn 2019. This allows us to follow the movements of individual birds during their stopover.

The nanotags used are from the **Motus Wildlife Tracking System**, which is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.

During 2020 a total of **9 nanotags were placed** on: 1 Robin, 2 Northern Wheatear, 1 Reed Bunting and 5 Brambling.

Through radiotelemetry it is possible to learn more about stopover behaviour, timing of departure and departure directions, especially of nocturnally migrating songbirds.

Skagen & Ottenby

The 'Scandinavian Triple' is a pack where volunteers apply for working at all three places (during autumn or spring). It has been cancelled during 2021 because of COVID-19.

Special visits

Several politicians of Venstre, the Liberal Party, visited Lista Bird Observatory in August 2021: the Minister of Climate and Environment (Sveinung Rotevatn), the representative for Agder County (Ingvild Wettrhus Thorsvik), the leader of the party for Farsund Municipality (Anita Vestøl), the County council representative Beate Marie Johnsen and board member Harald Schuitema. BirdLife Norway's General Secretary, Kjetil Solbakken, came to support our team to guide the visit.

We presented them the work we have been carrying for the last 31 years, collecting systematic data on bird migration showing that our data base is unique. Lista BO is the only year-round manned bird station in Norway and it is threatened with cuts in funding.

With this as a background, they were interested in a presentation about our work and listen to the challenges and gain first-hand knowledge. Biodiversity and management are one of the Liberal Party's most important core issues for the Party and they have shown interest for that the bird station gets secured stable funding.

We were lucky that day and the minister released a young Wryneck caught in the nets!



Sveinung Rotevatn and Aïda López releasing a Wryneck after being ringed. Foto: Thomas Grønvold

The County council representative Beate Marie Johnsen has been a great support during 2020 and 2021 encouraging us to apply for a grant.

Grant for the operation of the station in the period 2021-2024

We applied to Agder County Council (Agder Fylkeskommune) for an annual grant of NOK 200,000 for the period 2021-2024. The subsidy will mainly cover parts of the annual costs related to salaries, compensations, equipment and travel expenses for daily management at the station as well as to those volunteer ornithologists who participate in the work at the station.

Climate change and the loss of nature and biodiversity are among the most important challenges of our time. Lista Bird Observatory is an important contributor in monitoring and research related to changes in biodiversity and climate effects on bird life. The bird station

also has an important role to play disseminate natural science to school classes and other visitors at Wetland Center.

Therefore, the Agder County Council has successfully accepted the application and provided the grant for the amount and period referred above. The subsidy is incorporated in the county municipality's annual budget for the current years.

By 1st of December in 2022, 2023 and 2024, we will submit a report for the past year, as well as budget for the coming year.

Aknowledgements

There is a long list of people I would like to thank for their collaboration, help, encouragement, and professionalism. Many people have made an extra effort this year in order to keep all the work despite the lack of personnel because of the pandemic. Thanks to Nils H. Lorentzen, Charlotte Hallerud, Jan Erik Røer and Gunnar Gundersen for working temporary at the station while the Norwegian borders were closed. Thanks to Rubén Piculo for being our main fieldworker during autumn, for being always helpful with the rest of the team, and especially for putting faith in our work despite having to wait in Spain during the six months that the borders were closed. Thanks to Oddvin Lund, Adrien Brun, Lara Beckmann, Bård Olsen, Karina Henriette Tjørve, Johanna Klein and Anne-Marie Austad for helping cover the ringing and bird counts, 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, Agder Fylkeskommune, BirdLife Norge and Natur og Fritid, as our work would be impossible to carry out without their contributions. Thanks to Venstre Partiet (Norway's social liberal party) for showing so much interest in our work and make effort in a local and a national level to contribute to improve our economy. Thanks to Gunnar Gundersen, Jon Ludvig Hals, Truls W. Andersen, Tor Olsen and Nils H. Lorentzen for providing either quality data to the station or taking over the main tasks in Slevdalsvann. And at last, thanks to Oskar Bjørnstad and Jan Erik Røer for being always helpful with positivism and diligence despite the distance.