

By Aïda López, April 2023



Photo from the LIFU team at the Lista Bird Race 2022.

## **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 2021-2022, 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. She has been responsible for that the cover page from logs 1999-1998 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 2022 and co-write the autumn phenology and annual report for 2022. She has also worked on building a better communication with Miljødirektoratet, collaborating with their communication department for social media.

## **Standardized ringing**

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

Lista Bird Observatory completed in 2022 its 33rd consecutive year of spring ringing campaign. During **spring**, the bird observatory was run for a total 88 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 21.3% lower than normal** years with 653 birds ringed (average 1990-2021 for spring is 830) of 39 different species. **Weather in spring:** The average temperature was high, with 0.5°C higher than normal from March 15 to June 10. The precipitation was less than 1/3 of the normal in March and April, while it rained around normal during May. Average precipitation from March until May was 55% 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 21.9% lower than normal** years with 3147 birds ringed (average 1990-2021 for autumn is 4031) of 60 different species. **Weather in autumn:** The average temperature was 0.8°C higher than normal from July until October, being October 2.3°C above normal. The precipitation was lower during autumn, except for august when it was 15% above average.

The next table shows standardized bird ringing in spring and autumn 2022:

Species	English	Scientific	Spring	Autumn
1	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		3
2	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1	
3	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		26
4	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1
5	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		4
6	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		3
7	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		1
8	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		23
9	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		11
10	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2	1142
11	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	12	122
12	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	7
13	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		263
14	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		1
15	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	87	317
16	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	44	27
-	Siberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>		8
17	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	5	3
18	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		1
19	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1	1
20	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	1	1
21	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	1	
22	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	19	62
23	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	3	12
24	Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>		1
25	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	21	12
26	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	15	23
27	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	10	90
28	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	12	130
29	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	1	17
30	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	93	102
31	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	35	64
32	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		2
33	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	6
34	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	7	25
35	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2
36	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	95	67
37	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		4
38	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		6
39	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	6	2
40	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1	5
41	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	4	12
-	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	1	2
-	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	7	19
42	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	17	69
43	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	7	50

44	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	12	17
45	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		5
46	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	
-	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	1	
-	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	8	20
47	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	5	30
48	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		19
49	European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	1	7
50	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	13	50
51	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	1	76
52	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		2
53	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		1
54	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	4	19
55	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	32	19
-	Common Redpoll/Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea/cabaret</i>		10
56	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		16
57	Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	38	56
58	Arctic Redpoll	<i>Acanthis hornemanni</i>		1
59	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	14
60	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	23	5
61	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	21
62	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		10
<b>Totalt</b>			<b>653</b>	<b>3147</b>

A rare species was ringed in the standardized ringing.



Savi's Warbler. This is the second time we ring this species at Lista Bird Observatory. The first time was on May 23, 2000. Foto: Aída López



A Savi's Warbler was caught and ringed during the standardized ringing on 20.04.2022. This is the second record of this species at Lista BO and the sixth one for 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. This year, the Whinchat has been added to this project.

One Stonechat was caught in the nets and there have been two breeding pairs in the area. This is the third 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 this year used mainly clap-nets with worms to attract more birds. A total of 128 individuals have been ringed by the traps this autumn, which is the second highest number since we started this project in 2015 (trapping 138 in 2021 and 17 birds in 2020).

Owl's playback was used during the nights in autumn when weather was suitable, catching 9 Tengmalm's Owl on the non-standardized ringing.



Tengmalm's Owl ringed on 12.10.2022. Foto: Pep Cantó

The breeding Wheatears have been well monitored in the station area in 2022. More staff was available this spring. Based on observations, we assume that the population was low or that it has been a bad breeding season, with only 9 nests found in the lighthouse area (Gunnarhaug, Vågsvollvåien, Vågsvollvika), from which 2 of them failed and two of them had less than 4 chicks. This is not surprising, considering that this species was caught 48% under average on the standardized ringing.

### **Slevdalsvann**

During the autumn, a non-standardized ringing campaign has been run from 1st August until 14th 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 5751 ringed birds of 63 different species, which is 1216 birds and 3 species less than the year before. Some interesting species have been caught, including 1 Nightjar, 1 Paddyfield Warbler, 3 Blyth's Reed Warbler, 2 Thrush Nightingale and a 1 Little Bunting. A new maximum has been ringed for 3 species. Bearded Reedling (86), Eurasian Wren (449) and Sand Martin (50). In 2022 there were 49 days with no ringing, due to many days with bad weather conditions. This is the main reason why the numbers this autumn were lower.



Two Thrush Nightingale were ringed in Slevdalsvann. Foto: Nils H. Lorentzen

## **Bird counts**

Lots of hours have been spent on covering the study area. A total of 245 species within the area have been seen in 2022, which is 8 more than the year before. There have been four new species for the observatory area, including 33 uncommon/rare species: Surf Scoter, **Pallid Swift (1<sup>st</sup>!)**, Lesser Yellowlegs, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Black Tern, Long-tailed Skua, Great Egret, Pallid Harrier, Black Kite, Common Kingfisher, White-backed Woodpecker, Red-footed Falcon, Woodchat Shrike, Bearded Reedling, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, **Radde's Warbler (1<sup>st</sup>!)**, Dusky Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Savi's Warbler, **Western Subalpine Warbler (1<sup>st</sup>!)**, Common Firecrest, Rose-coloured Starling, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Desert Wheatear, Pied Wheatear, Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Citrine Wagtail, **Pechora Pipit (1<sup>st</sup>!)**, Water Pipit, Arctic Redpoll and Rustic Bunting.



The Western Subalpine Warbler was registered for the first time at the bird observatory and Agder County.  
Foto: Aïda López

There has been a potential Heuglin's Gull in Våien and the first singing Southern Bluethroat in Gunnarsmyra.





A singing Southern Bluethroat was registered for the first time at the bird observatory. Foto: Timo Meißner

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. Our goal is to build significant connections with biologists, students and birdwatchers.

There has been a total of 7 volunteers (from Norway, Germany, France and Spain) staying in the house this year, compared to 4 volunteers in 2021.

One volunteer spent almost the whole autumn season (11 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 benefits Lista Bird Observatory in terms of national and international development.





Part of the LIFU team in August 2022 sharing a Spanish dinner. Foto: Aïda López

## **Media**

The reach of Lista Bird Observatory on social media, and Facebook in particular, continued to increase this year. The LIFU Facebook page has 3617 likes in April 2023. It has been posted 78 updates to the page in 2022, higher to recent years.

A total of 7 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 13 groups have been guided by Lista Bird Observatory in 2022, compared to 21 in 2021. This is almost half amount of guiding than the year before.



A visit from 32 Norwegian nature guides from the 25 authorized visitor centers that provide nature knowledge. Foto: Jan Erik Røer

### **Accommodation**

We currently offer 2 beds and the fee is 150 NOK per person and night. No guests have overnight in 2022 because the beds have been full booked by volunteers.

### **Ring-banding course**

We have continued this year offering a ring-banding course for beginners. It's a combination of 2,5h of theory and 10h practice in the field. Standardized ring-banding, identification, biometric measurements, age, sex, moult and bird cycle are some of the contents. The course in spring was cancelled due to lack of participants, and a course was carried out in autumn with a total of 5 participants from all over Norway.



Participants from the ringing course in autumn 2022. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen

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

### **Lista Bird Festival**

We celebrated the festival with feast and activities throughout the first weekend of September. It was a successful weekend with social events. As usual, there was a bird race on Saturday, barbecue and a lecture from Bjørn Frantzen who has worked at the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO). The lecture was "Glimpse from 30 years of visiting Russia, from Murmansk to Chukotka". He explained lots of wildlife adventures on his trips to Russia while he was working on the connections and relationship in terms of nature and culture between Norway and this country. After the talk there was a bird quiz.



As in the previous years, the area for the Lista Bird Race was reduced. In total there were 7 teams and despite the wind we were just as happy to be out!

Alcatraz Team was the winner this time with 98 species + 1 point for Striped Goose!



Participants from the Lista Bird Race 2022.

This year, as last year, both competitors and other visiting birders could enjoy good barbecue after finishing the Bird Race in the evening. 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.

The winner was in the end, as the last years, Bjørn Mo from «Aedon», while Truls W. Andersen from «Alcatraz» took second place. Third place went for Gunnar Gundersen and Geir Grimsby from the teams «Alcatraz» and «Hakkespettene».





Several moments from Lista Bird Festival 2022.

## 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 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 2022 only one **nanotag was placed** on a Robin.

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). There were no participants in 2022.

## **Grants for the operation of the station in the period 2022**

We applied to Agder County Council (Agder Fylkeskommune) in 2021 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.

In December 2022 we submitted a report for the past year to Agder County Council.

In addition to the annual report for 2022, we published an autumn phenology report for Miljødirektoratet, which was granted separately.

## **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 Oddvin Lund, Emma Mayer, Hanelie Sidhu, Antonin Chesneau, Katja Siegemund, Pep Cantó Bård Olsen, Karina Henriette Tjørve og Timo Meißner 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, Agder Fylkeskommune, BirdLife Norge 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 Røer for being always helpful with positivism and diligence despite the distance.