

By Aida López, April 2024

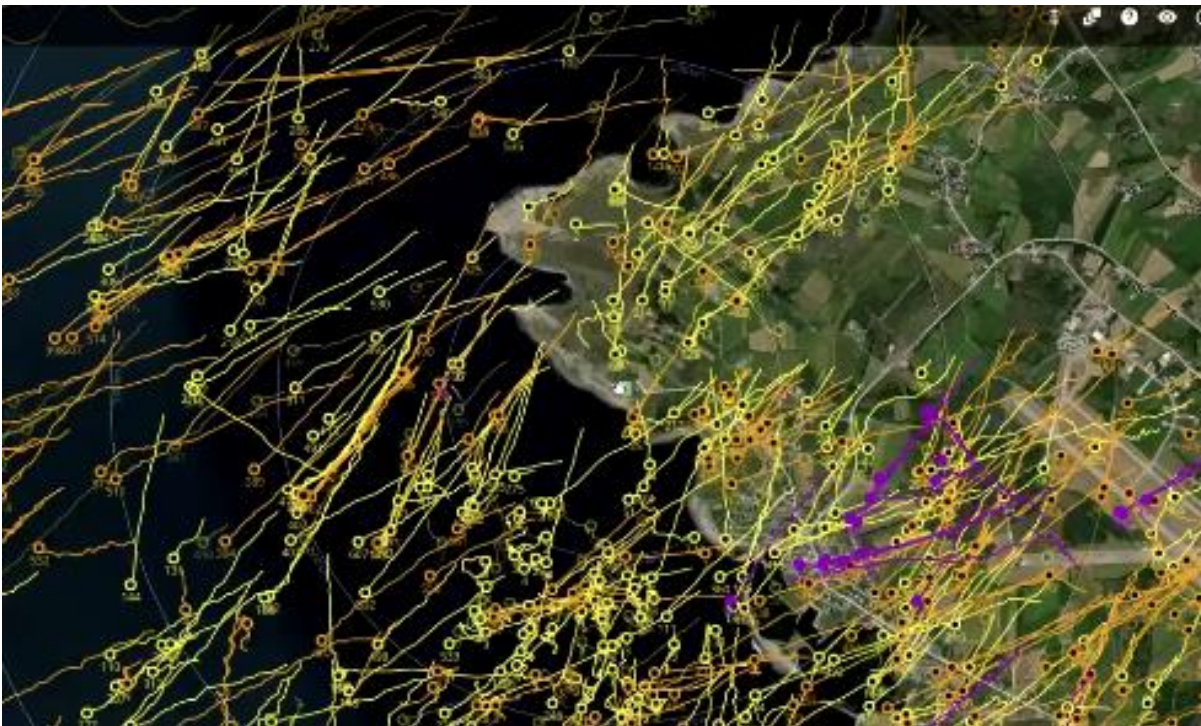


Photo from the radar app in 2023.

Management

The management of the station has been run by Aïda López, head of Lista Bird Observatory and Jan Erik Røer in her absence. Her main tasks have been completing winter/summer logs 2022-2023, 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 1998-1994 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 report for 2022 (autumn is missing). Jan Erik has covered some important issues during the autumn campaign and updated facebook as well as writing the annual report for 2023.

Standardized ringing

The spring campaign was run by Rubén Piculo and occasionally by Aïda López.

Lista Bird Observatory completed in 2023 its 34th 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 16.1% lower than normal** years with 692 birds of 45 different species. **Weather in spring:**

The average temperature was very close with 0.1°C lower than normal from March to May. Except for a milder period in mid-April, the spring of 2023 had long periods of cool weather and precipitation was above normal.

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 49.7%! lower than normal** years with 2.003 birds ringed of 61 different species. **Weather in autumn:** June was warm and dry, while both July and August had temperatures below average. September was the hottest month in autumn with +2.4 °C. From mid-October until the end of the year, the temperature was well below normal in the last three months of the year. In terms of precipitation, October ended as the autumn month with the least rainfall, the opposite of what is normal. Precipitation average during the autumn was close to normal.

The next table shows standardized bird ringing in spring and autumn 2023:

Species	English	Scientific	Spring	Autumn
1	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1
2	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1	1
3	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		3
4	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1	2
5	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		63
6	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		1
7	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		3
8	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1	4
9	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		5
10	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	1	53
11	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		20
12	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		520
13	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	103
14	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	9	15
15	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		23
16	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		1
17	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	44	153
18	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	55	29
-	Common chiffchaff (<i>abietinus</i>)	<i>Phylloscopus collybita abietinus</i>	12	6
-	Siberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>		1
19	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>		1
20	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	1
22	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1	
23	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	2	
24	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	1	
25	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	36	61
26	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	8	19
27	Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>		2
28	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	14	6
29	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	9	43
30	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	1	
31	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	29	108
32	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	20	89
33	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		1
34	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	1	11
35	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	26	62
36	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	10	24
37	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	3	10
38	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	56	69
39	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	3	33
40	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2	5
41	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	111	88
42	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1	
43	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		10
44	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	14	6

45	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2	7
46	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	2	2
47	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3	19
-	Greenland Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	2	
-	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe</i>	13	
48	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		24
49	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	9	20
50	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		17
51	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	8
-	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	2	41
-	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	10	5
53	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	13	24
54	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		24
55	European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		10
56	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	4	36
57	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		4
58	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	
59	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		12
60	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	8	12
61	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>		2
62	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	48	32
63	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	6	1
64	Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	42	12
65	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2
66	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1	4
67	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	45	
68	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	3	20
69	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	9
Totalt			692	2003

A rare species was ringed in the standardized ringing.



Arctic Warbler.

This is the second time we ring this species at Lista Bird Observatory. The first time was on Aug 23, 2021.

Foto: Lasse Heckroth

An Arctic Warbler was caught and ringed during the standardized ringing on 06.09.2023. This is the second record of this species at 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. Last year, the Whinchat was added to this project.

Four Stonechats were caught in the nets and there were two possible breeding pairs in the area that finally disappeared in the beginning of May, after been seen in the same spot for some weeks. This is the fourth consecutive year with breeding pairs 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 42 individuals have been ringed by the traps this autumn.

Owl's playback was used during the nights in autumn when weather was suitable, catching 5 Tengmalm's Owl on the non-standardized ringing.

The breeding Wheatears have been monitored in the station area in 2023. Less experienced 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 1 of them failed and at least two of them had less than 3 chicks. This is not surprising, considering that this species was caught 20% down average in spring, probably being affected by the very low numbers the spring before (48% under average in 2022, being the lowest year since 2003).



From left to right, coloured-ringed Wheatear chicks (Foto: Diogo Portela), Tengmalm's Owl (Foto: Benito Sánchez) and colour-ringed Rock Pipit (Foto: Lasse Heckroth).

Slevdalsvann

The project was finished in 2022. A report from the ringing in 2020-2022 will be published in 2024. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, respectively, 5674, 6967 and 5751 birds were ringed between the reeds (reserve) and shrubs (Ammo). The ringing in the reserve was from August until October, while the nets in the shrubs were open until the first part of November. In 2023, all boardwalks (wooden planks) were removed.

Bird counts

Lots of hours have been spent on covering the study area. A total of 244 species within the area have been seen in 2023, which is 1 less than the year before. There has been a new species for the observatory area, including 30 uncommon/rare species: Bar-headed Goose, Mandarin Duck, Smew, Pied Avocet, White-tailed Lapwing (**1st!**), Pectoral Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Gull, Black Tern, Balearic Shearwater, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great Egret, Pallid Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Red Kite, Black Kite, Eurasian Pygmy Owl, European Bee-eater, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Bearded Reedling, Yellow-browed Warbler, Common Firecrest, Rose-coloured Starling, Thrush Nightingale, Citrine Wagtail, Water pipit, Two-barred Crossbill, European Serin, Little Bunting and Rustic Bunting.



A White-tailed Lapwing was registered for the first time at the bird observatory and for second time in Norway. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen



There were 8 observations of Little Bunting this autumn, which is a record number for the station (average is 2). Foto: Lasse Heckroth

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 3 long-term volunteers (from Spain, Germany and Belgium) and an extra fieldworker from Portugal. Two of the three volunteers spent almost the whole spring and autumn seasons respectively (10 and 16 weeks).

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 2023 sharing a Spanish dinner. Foto: Gunnar Gundersen

Media

The reach of Lista Bird Observatory on social media, and Facebook in particular, continued to increase this year. The LIFU Facebook page has 3747 likes in April 2024. It has been posted 49 updates to the page in 2023, lower than recent years.

A total of 5 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 11 groups have been guided by Lista Bird Observatory in 2023. This is half amount of guidings than other years.

Accommodation

We currently offer 2 beds and the fee is 150 NOK per person and night. No guests have overnight in 2023 because the beds have been full booked 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. A course was carried out in spring with a total of 7 participants from all over Norway.



Participants from the ringing course in spring 2023.

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 Hans Petter Rømme who is active at Store Færder Observatory. He gave a lecture at Nordberg Fort about "Bird migration seen with nano-tag telemetry. Results from the telemetry project at Store Færder, Mølen, Jomfruland and Lista bird stations".

As in the previous years, the area for the Lista Bird Race was reduced to Lighthouse area and Slevdalsvann only. In total there were 7 teams. Team Catharus was the winner this time with 96 species.



Participants from the Lista Bird Race 2023.

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 « Catharus », while Egil Ween took second place from the same team. Third place went for Anders Braut Simonsen from the team « Reservelaget ».



LISTA BIRD RACE
2023

RESERVELAGET	82
KRISTIANSAND I	80
HAKKESPETTENE	78
JÆRGJENGEN	75
KRISTIANSAND II	73
TEAM CATHARUS	96
LISTA FUGLESTASJON	85



Several moments from Lista Bird Festival 2023.

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. 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 2023 no nanotags were placed because of the lack of experience personnel.

Lista Bird Observatory (BirdLife Norway) works in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute for Natural Sciences (NINA), on a project called VisAviS, which is run from 2022 to 2026. NINA is responsible for the project funded by The Research Council of Norway. VisAviS will use the latest radar technology to map bird migration routes over Norway and adjacent seas. A radar is installed at Lista Lighthouse, and the location of the radar has been carefully chosen considering the overview of the bird migration.

Lista Bird Observatory (LBO) has the main responsibility for ground-truthing of the radar tracks at Lista. The station will register the species and the number of birds that pass by and log these. The data is then entered into the radar system so that the movements detected by the radar (the radar track) are linked with the observations. The fieldwork will be carried out in 2023 and 2024. The last two years of the program will be used for data analysis, reporting and publication. The project will also use the long data series from LBO (observations and ringing of birds for 34 years). This will make it possible to better understand and use the data obtained from the radar, especially with a focus on phenology. We are very pleased to be part of this project, which gives even more meaning and weight to the work at the bird station.

The project aims to map the main migration routes in time and space will thus be important to reduce conflicts with wildlife, as well as ensure a more environmentally friendly location of wind-power plants. In addition, it is necessary to ensure a sufficient quality of impact assessments before development, it is explained on the NINA website.

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 2023 partly because of the difficulties for UK volunteers to get the VISA and follow the project.

Grants for the operation of the station in the period 2023

We applied to Agder County Council (Agder Fylkeskommune) in 2021 for an annual grant for the period 2021-2024. The subsidy of NOK 300,000 in 2023 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 January 2024 we submitted a report for the past year to Agder County Council.

In 2023, we were informed by Miljødirektoratet that the annual grant of NOK 460,000 for the S-Norway Migration Survey at Jomfruland and Lista was increased to NOK 600,000. Lista B.O. receives half of the amount.

The observatory received NOK 100,000 from Statsforvalteren i Agder as "Measures for wildlife" (tilskudd til vilttiltak).

Aknowledgements

There is a long list of people I would like to thank for their collaboration, help, encouragement, and professionalism this year. Thanks to the ringers Rubén, Mario and Benito, working hard and being always helpful with the rest of the team. Thanks to Sara Carrillo, Lasse Heckroth, Peter Wijnsouw, Bård Olsen and Karina Henriette Tjørve for helping cover the ringing and counts during the busiest periods, creating a learning environment and spirit of comradeship. Thanks to Diogo Portela for covering the fieldwork with the radar, the migration counts and for always being helpful with the necessities that the observatory might have. Thanks to the anonymous birdwatchers for providing 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 for providing help and experience on the field whenever is needed. And at last, thanks to Jan Erik Røer for being more present this year when there was lack of personnel and being always helpful with positivism and diligence despite the distance.