

Uppland and southern Sweden

20th march-23rd march 2008

This is an account of the species recorded during a 3-days visit to the owl-routes around Uppsala, Uppland and en route Malmö-Uppsala and return. A brief visit was made at Tåkern on the way back on the 23rd. Places visited during our stay includes Fiby Urskog on the 21st, Östervåla on the 21st and 22nd, Gisslaren on the 23rd and Pansarudden on the 23rd. Participants were Jens Søgaaard Hansen, Ib Jensen, Poul Ulrik and Morten Kofoed-Hansen.

Accommodation at Uppsala Vandrehem & Hotel in central Uppsala. Here you are centrally positioned in relation to Fiby Urskog (approx. 10 km), Östervåla (approx 50 km) and Gisslaren (approx 70 km).

Weather conditions during our stay were changeable, with radical shifts between snow and clear skies. After a mild period prior to our visit, temperatures had declined and lay somewhere between -1-3 degrees in daytime and down to -10 at night. Most of the time we had quite a lot of wind, around 8-10 m/sec, but fortunaltely it tended to decrease at night, which is preferable when you listen for owls.



Jens Søgaaard Hansen

Species list

Cormorant: 3 flocks in flight at Vättern, Öster Götland

Grey Heron: 3 seen from the E4, Öster Götland

Bittern: 1 was singing at Tåkern on the 23rd.

Mute swan: A few individuals in various ponds en route and 1 heard at night, Östervåla on the 22nd. At least 150 were in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Whooper swan: Besides several flocks seen in fields en route, a flock of 72 was in a field by road 272 between Östervåla and Uppsala and approx 100 around Tåkern on the 23rd.

Greylag Goose. Several seen en route in the southernly regions and 500+ around Tåkern on the 23rd.

Bean Goose: About 135 crossing low over the fields at road 272 between Östervåla and Uppsala on the 22nd. More than 500 around Tåkern on the 23rd. All identified birds were of the race *Fabalis*.

Canada Goose: A few small flocks en route and 50 around Tåkern on the 23rd.

Shellduck: A few birds seen en route around Häljarp, Skåne.

Mallard: Quite common in ponds and lakes in the southern regions

Wigeon: 10 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Teal: 1 in Gamla Trädgården, Uppsala, on the 22nd and 8 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Pochard: 30 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Tufted duck: About 200 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Eider: A few seen from the car around Häljarp, Skåne on the 20th and a flock of 30 migrating S over Sturup Airport on the 23rd.

Goldeneye: A few seen from the car around Häljarp, Skåne on the 20th and approx 2000 were in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Smew: 20 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

Goosander: A few birds seen from the E4 and approx 500 in Tåkern on the 23rd.

White-tailed Sea eagle: 1 imm. flying by Sturup Airport on the 20th, 1 imm seen from the E4 in Närke on the 20th, 1 imm over Östervåla on the 21st, 1 seen from the E4 in Småland on the 23rd and 4 was at Tåkern on the 23rd.

Red Kite: 4 was seen from the car on the 23rd, 1 in Småland and 3 in Skåne.

Rough-legged Buzzard: Locally common, with groups of 1-3 seen from the car in the agricultural fields in Närke, Västmanland and Uppland.

Common Buzzard: Numerous along the highways, especially in the southern regions.

Sparrowhawk: 1 at Tåkern on the 23rd.

Kestrel: A few birds seen en route.

Black Grouse: 7-9 birds roosting in treetop at Toftberget, Östervåla on the 22nd. The best odds for seeing black grouse here is around daybreak.

Partridge: Two groups were seen from the car in snowy fields in Skåne on the 20th.

Pheasant: A few birds were seen from the car in Skåne.

Coot: A few birds were seen in ponds en route.

Crane: A few pairs were seen in fields en route. One flew over Fiby Urskog on the 21st and 17 was around Tåkern on the 23rd.

Oystercatcher: 4 flew over Sturup Airport on the 20th, and a few were seen from the E6 around Häljarp, Skåne.

Lapwing: Common in fields, especially in the northernly regions.

Redshank: 1 was seen in flight from the E6 around Häljarp, Skåne on the 23rd.

Curlew: 3 seen from the car around Häljarp, Skåne on the 23rd.

Woodcock: 2 at Fiby Urskog on the 21st.
 Common snipe: 2 at Tåkern on the 23rd.
 Black-headed Gull: Common along the E4 and E6
 Common Gull: Common along the E4 and E6
 Herring gull: Common along the E4 and E6
 Great Black-backed gull: A few birds seen en route from the E6.
 Rock Dove: The domesticated version were common in Uppsala.
 Wood pigeon: Only a few birds had arrived at Uppsala, but common in the southern regions
 Stock dove: 1 seen from the E4 in Öster Götland
 Tawny owl: 2-3 were heard at Gisslaren on the 23rd.
 Great grey Owl: 1 were seen and heard on an unpublished location on the 20th. As this is an isolated southern occurrence it is ment to be kept a "public secret", and therefore we will not bring a precise description here. It will probably be posible to get the location from the local birdwatchers.
 Ural owl: 2 males and 1 female were heard 3 km N of Höörskog on the 21st. 1 was found in a tree by the road in broad daylight at Upplandaengene daylight on the 22nd and 1 male was heard at Gisslaren on the 23rd. Apparantly the Ural owls didn't become vocal untill sometime after 2200.



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Pygmy Owl: 3 birds (1 calling+ 2 singing) at Gisslaren on the the 23rd.
 Black Woodpecker: 1 crossing the road in Närke on the 20th, approx 5 in Fiby Urskog on the 21st, 1 at Toftberget on the 22nd and 1 at Gisslaren on the 23rd.
 Green woodpecker: 1-2 at Fiby Urskog on the 21st.
 Grey-headed Woodpecker: 1 male at Toftberget, Östervåla on the 21st and maybe the same bird at the same place on the 22nd.
 Great spottet woodpecker: Relatively common in the forrests.

Three-toed woodpecker: 1 male seen and heard in Fiby urskog on the 21st. Probably also a second bird was seen.

Lesser spotted woodpecker: 3 in Fiby Urskog on the 21st.

Skylark: Very numerous on agricultural fields in Uppland.

Wood lark: 1 crossing Fiby Urskog on the 21st.

Meadow pipit: 1 around Östervåla on the 22nd.

Wren: A few birds heard on different locations in Uppland

Dipper: 2 were in the canal by Gamla trädgården, Uppsala on the 22nd.

Waxwing: 2 small flocks were seen from the car in Skåne on the 20th.

Redwing: A few birds heard singing in Fiby urskog on the 21st.

Mistle thrush: 3 singing, Fiby urskog on the 21st and a few seen from the car in Uppland.

Fieldfare: A large flock seen from the car in Skåne

Blackbird: Scattered individuals were seen along the trip, especially feeding in gardens.

Goldcrest: A few birds heard in the pinewoods.

Great Tit: Common in gardens with bird-feeding.

Coal tit: A few birds heard singing in Fiby Urskog and Toftberget.

Blue tit: Scarce in Gardens with birdfeeding.

Crested tit: A few birds in Fiby Urskog and at Östervåla.

Marsh tit: 1 feeding in a garden in Östervåla and 2 in Gamla trädgården, Uppsala on the 22nd.

Willow tit: 1 heard in Fiby urskog on the 21st and 1 feeding in garden, Östervåla on the 22nd.

Longtailed tit: A few birds on the northern subspecies were seen around Toftberget. A group of 15-20 were at Vättern on the 20th

Bearded tit: 1 was heard at Tåkarn on the 23rd.

Nuthatch: 3 in Fiby Urskog on the 21st and 2 in Gamla Trädgården on the 22nd. A few more birds were heard around.

Treecreeper: 5 singing in Fiby Urskog on the 21st and a few other birds were heard on different locations.

Great Grey Shrike: 1 en route in Västmanland on the 20th, 1 between Östervåla and Uppsala on the 22nd, 1 en route Öster Götland and 1 Småland on the 23rd.

Magpie: Common all over.

Jay: 1 in Fiby urskog on the 21st, and a few other birds around.

Jackdaw: Common.

Rook: Relatively common en route.

Hooded crow: Common.

Raven: A few birds seen en route, with the largest flock on 20-25 birds around Stockholm on the 23rd. 2 were at Gisslaren on the 23rd and 1 was at Tåkern on the 23rd.

Starling: Several flocks seen from the E4 in Öster Götland on the 23rd.

House Sparrow: Common in the inhabited areas.

Tree sparrow: Common in the inhabited areas.

Chaffinch: Scarce, mostly seen feeding in Gardens i Uppland.

Greenfinch: Common in inhabited areas of Uppland.

Siskin: 1 heard at Pansarudden on the 23rd.

Bullfinch: 3 at Fiby Urskog on the 21st and a few other scattered observations.

Crossbill: 1 at Fiby urskog on the 21st, and a few at Östervåla on the 21st.

Parrot Crossbill: At least 1 at Toftberget Östervåla on the 21st.

Reed Bunting: 10 at Tåkern on the 23rd.

Snow Bunting: 17 in flock in a field at Östervåla on the 22nd.

Yellowhammer: Common, mostly seen feeding in gardens in large numbers in Uppland.