

Bird task

Forest

Ringdue (*Columba palumbus*)

19.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus

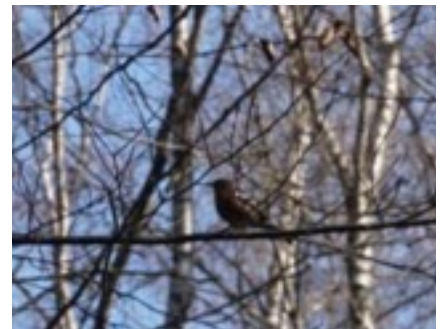
Here in Norway the Ringdue is mainly found in forests and parks in the south of Norway. Especially in this area, a lot of them are residents and spent the winter months in cities. Ring doves are seed eaters.



Bokfink (*Fringilla coelebs*)

19.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus

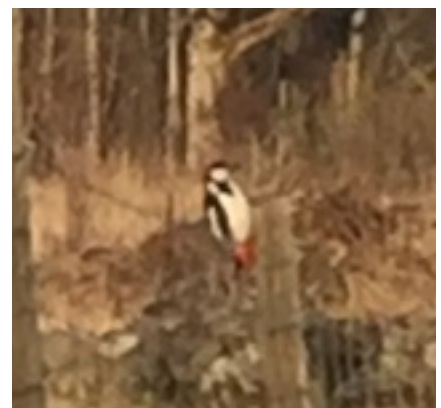
The Bokfink has white and black feathers and (as you can see on the picture) the males have a brown-red chest. In summer, they are insect eaters, in autumn they change their feeding and become seed eaters. The Bokfink has not really a preferable habitat, it lives in parks, forests and gardens. The bigger part of their population migrates from September till end of March to western Europe.



Flaggspett (*Dendrocopos major*)

19.04.2021, Bakkenteigen

The Flaggspett is black-white spotted on its back, the stomach is white and on its lower bump it is red. This woodpecker is most common in south and east Norway but can also be found more in the west and north. Its preferable habitat are different kinds of forests. The Flaggspett is an insect as well as seed eater. It is a resident but in some exceptions it can happen that it migrates somewhere else.



Svarttrost (*Turdus merula*)

19.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, gras area/forest behind campus

The male is completely black with an orange-yellow beak. The female is more dark-brown. In Norway it occurs mainly in the south, except of high mountain regions. Most of the blackbirds migrate from September to November to Great Britain, some of them stay in Norway. The Svarttrost is mainly a generalist it eats insects, earthworms, snails as well as berries and fruit.



Rødstrupe (*Erithacus rubecula*)

23.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus

The Rødstrupe has a round body and a red chest. It mainly eats insects but also spiders, worms, flies, bugs and small snails as well as berries. It lives typically in forests but can also be seen in gardens and parks. The Rødstrupe nests in mixed forests as well as in damp conifer forests all over south Norway and north of Trøndelag. In the north of Norway it is not so common to see it. Most of them migrate from September to October to southwestern Europe, some of them stay in the coast area in southwestern Norway.



Gransanger (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

20.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus

The Gransanger is very small with a greenish upper side, a pale underside, dark legs and short wings. The Common Chiffchaffs prefer to inhabit forests, but can also be found in parks. They are short- to long-distance migratory birds and spend the period from August to February further south. They eat small and soft-shelled insects.

Gråspurv (*Passer domesticus*)

20.04.2021, Borre

The Gråspurv can be found all year round, except in the tropics and as far as the North Cape, wherever people are. Males and females differ clearly in their colouration: The females are duller brown, the upper side is light grey-brown, the back is black-brown and yellow-brown striped. The males have a black throat, a black bib, a lead-grey crown and a brown back with black longitudinal stripes. The breast and belly are ash-grey. They are granivorous, and are adept at taking advantage of people's scraps and raise their young with insects.

Hagesanger (*Sylvia borin*)

25.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus

The Hagesanger is uniformly grey-brown on the upper side, the underside is lighter but only white on the belly. It prefers high bushes, overgrown forest edges, the undergrowth in sparse forests and preferably near water. The Hagesanger is an insect eater but also eats berries if available. They are long-distance migrants, wintering in tropical Africa and thus migrating long distances.

Salt- and freshwater

Linerle (*Motacilla alba*)

19.04.2021, Bakkenteigen, gras area/forest behind campus

The Linerle has a black head and chest, a white face and a grey back, the bottom side is white and the tail black. The preferred habitat is in damp areas, not too far away from some kind of water, they occur for example on meadows and at streams. The Linerle can be especially seen in the south of Norway but also in other regions. The Linerle is an insect eater but also eats worms and spiders. They are migratory birds.



Gråmåke (*Larus argentatus*)

20.04.2021, Borre

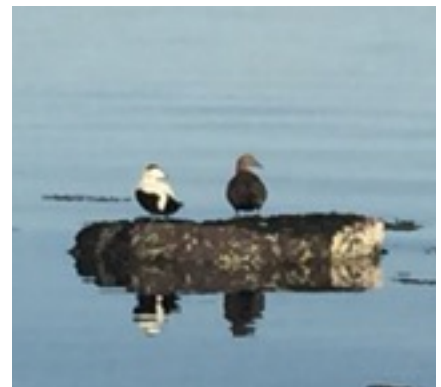
This seagull is light-grey on the back with black-white feather tips and has a yellow beak. The Gråmåke is a very marine kind of sea gull. They have nests all over the coast of Norway, some have also been seen in the inland. The seagull is a generalist. The Gråmåke migrates in September to November to Portugal but you can also see some in the winter months in Norway.



Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

20.04.2021, Borre

The Eider occurs along the whole coast of Norway, from the outmost islands to the inland by the fjords. Their preferred habitat is connected to saltwater and they are normally not seen in lakes. The Eider is a resident and they eat crustaceans and mussels.



Stokkand (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

20.04.2021, Borre

The male and female look different, both have a yellow beak. The female is brown spotted with a blue feather on her side, the male has a green head, a white ring around the neck and a brown chest. The Stokkand is the most common grass duck in Norway and occurs in the whole country. This type of duck has its habitat in parks and other places where people feed birds in winter. They prefer vegetation rich water, they also occur in saltwater but just breed in freshwater. The Stokkand in Norway is a resident but in general they also migrate from other countries to Norway over the winter.



Toppskarv (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

20.04.2021, Borre

The Toppskarv is a big, slender and black bird, it often stays in the position with outspread wings for quite some time. In Norway it is common to see the Toppskarv along the coast from Rogaland to Finnmark. They migrate in winter along the Norwegian coast north of the Lofoten. The Toppskarv occurs in freshwater as well as saltwater. They are fish eaters. The cormorant prefers to breed in hilly or rocky terrain.



Rødnebbterne (*Sterna paradisaea*)

20.04.2021, Borre

The Rødnebbterne is the migratory bird with the longest migration route, as it breeds in the north polar region and winters in the south polar region. Its plumage is white to light grey, the bill red and the head cap black. It has very short legs but longer tail spikes. Rødnebbternes eat small fish, insects, pelagic and littoral crustaceans.

References

Birds in the forest

<https://www.miljolare.no/aktiviteter/foringsplassen/artslister/fugler?artsvisning=liste>

Birds at coasts and fresh waters

<https://www.miljolare.no/aktiviteter/kyst/fjora/artslister/sjofugler?artsvisning=liste>

The bird ringing

Bird ringing enables identifying recaptured birds. Thus, ringing makes it possible to track the behaviour of individual birds over a large period of time.

Other than young birds, which can simply be ringed in the nest, adult birds have to be caught using elaborate methods. There are different methods, small birds are usually caught with fine nets (Japanese nets), larger birds are getting caught in traps equipped with bait, such as weirs.

By trapping with nets, a net length of about 375 meters is common to catch those birds. During the trapping season, from 30th of June to 6th of November, fixed poles stretch the nets. The total trapping area of the nets is 750m², the nets are about two meters high. During the trapping season, all nets are permanently attached and are checked hourly between sunrise and evening darkness.

For every bird caught, a record is kept of which net and which side of the net it was found in. The birds are brought individually to the station and are processed there. The species gets identified and after this each animal receives a special aluminium ring with a unique lettering combination of two letters and up to six numbers. The first letter of the ring embossing corresponds to the series designation. In addition, the name of the ring centre is stamped in. The fitting ring size for the bird species can be read on the list of recommended ring sizes and the ring assortment.¹ A variety of rings, adapted to the different body sizes, characteristics and habitats of the birds, are available for marking. As the rings are extremely light, they usually do not harm the bird.



Picture 1



Picture 2

¹ Beringungszentrale Hiddensee (2014): Liste der empfohlenen Ringgrößen und Ringsortiment. Online available at: https://www.beringungszentrale-hiddensee.de/downloads/empfohlene_ringgroessen_august_2014_v1.pdf (24.04.2021)

The ring is placed around the bird's barrel and closed with special ringing pliers. Following biometric data such as fat disposition, training of the flight muscles, age, sex and mason condition are collected. In addition, the length of the third hand wing from the outside as well as wing length and weight.

All data is entered into a special computer programme during ringing and the bird is released immediately. Normally, a ringing procedure takes no more than a minute.

In 1271-1295, Marco Polo already mentioned on his Asia expedition that Chinese falconers marked their birds with foot rings and the name of the owner.

From the 17th century on, ducks, geese, birds of prey and some other birds were occasionally marked with metal rings around their necks and feet in Europe to record their whereabouts.

In 1899, the Danish teacher Hans Christian Cornelius Mortensen ringed two house sparrows and 165 starlings, which is considered the birth of today's scientific bird identification.

The first large-scale bird ringing in Germany was carried out by J. Thienemann in 1903.

If you find a ringed bird, you should contact the responsible ringing centre or report it directly via the website www.ring.ac. The following information is important to know: the ring number, the place where the bird was found, the date it was found, the circumstances, i.e. whether the bird is dead or alive, and if possible the species of bird.

References

NABU Hamburg (2021): Beringung in der Reit. Arbeitsschwerpunkte in der Forschungsstation. Online available at: <https://hamburg.nabu.de/tiere-und-pflanzen/forschungsstation-die-reit/17391.html> (24.04.2021)

Picture 1: http://www.beringungszentrale-hiddensee.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IMG_7719klein.jpg

Picture 2: <http://proring.de/content/images/2ecd4e914840b026d90bfa9dac127f1f.jpg>