

The bird task

Forest

Ringdue (Columba palumbus)

Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus, 19.04.2021

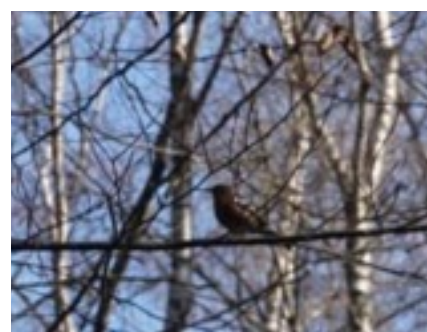
The Ringdue (Woodpigeon) is mainly found in parks and forests in the south of Norway. Especially in this area a lot of them spent the winter months in cities because they are residents. Ring doves are seed eaters.



Bokfink (Fringilla coelebs)

Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus, 19.04.2021

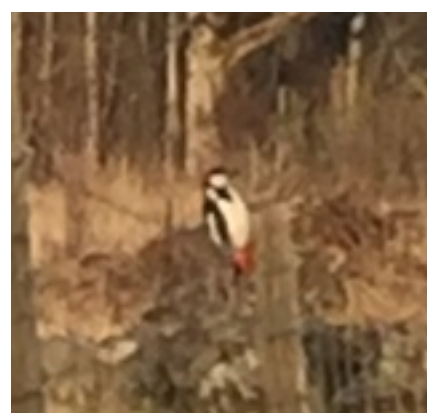
The Bokfink (Common chaffinch) has white and black feathers and the males have a red-brown chest. In summer they are insect eaters, in autumn they change their feeding and become seed eaters. Bokfinks do not prefer any particular habitat, they live in parks, forests and gardens. From September till end of March the bigger part of their population migrates to western Europe.



Flaggspett (Dendrocopos major)

Bakkenteigen, 19.04.2021

The back of the Flaggspett (Great spotted woodpecker) is black-white spotted, the stomach is white and on its lower bump it is red. This woodpecker can be found more in the north and west but is most common in south and east Norway. Its preferable habitat are different kinds of forests. The Flaggspett eats insects and birds' eggs but also seeds and berries. It is a resident but in the north sometimes also a visitant.



Gransanger (Phylloscopus collybita)

Bakkenteigen, forrest behind campus, 20.04.2021

The Gransanger (Common Chiffchaff) is very small. The sexes look the same, with a greenish upper side, a pale underside, dark legs and short wings. Its song is very characteristic and can be heard from April. Gransangers 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)

Borre, 20.04.2021

The Gråspurv (House Sparrow) 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 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. The females are duller brown, the upper side is light grey-brown, the back black-brown and yellow-brown striped. The Gråspurv is only slightly larger than the Trespurv. They are granivorous, and are adept at taking advantage of people's scraps and raise their young with insects.

Hagesanger (Sylvia borin)

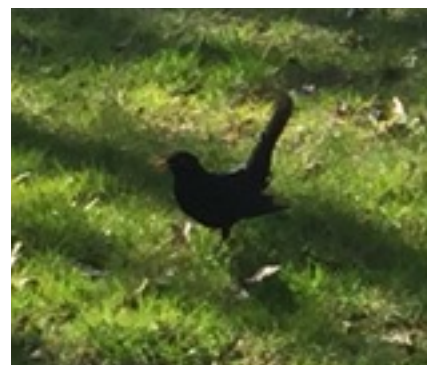
Bakkenteigen, forrest behind campus, 25.04.2021

The Hagesanger (Garden warbler) 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 feeds on insects and, if available, also on berries. They are long-distance migrants, wintering in tropical Africa and thus migrating long distances.

Svarttrost (Turdus merula)

Bakkenteigen, gras area behind campus, 19.04.2021

The female Svarttrost (Blackbird) is more dark-brown, the male is completely black with an orange-yellow beak. In Norway it occurs mainly in the south, except of high mountain regions. From September to November most of them migrate to Great Britain, but a few of them stay in Norway. The Svarttrost feed mainly on animal food, mostly insects, earthworms and snails. Depending on availability, they also eat berries and fruits.

Rødstrupe (Erithacus rubecula)

Bakkenteigen, forest behind campus, 23.04.2021

The Rødstrupe (Robin) has a round body and a red chest. Usually it lives in forests but can also be seen in gardens and parks. The Rødstrupe nests in moist coniferous forests as well as in mixed forests all over south Norway. In the north of Norway it is not so common to see it but you can find them in the north of Trøndelag. Most of them migrate from September to October to southwestern Europe but some of them stay in the coast area in southwestern Norway. Primarily they eat insects but also flies, worms, spiders, small snails and berries too.



Salt- and freshwater

Linerle (*Motacilla alba*)

Bakkenteigen, gras area behind campus, 19.04.2021

The Linerle (Pied Wagtail) has a black head and chest, a white face, a grey back, a black tail and a white bottom side. The Linerle can particularly be seen in the south of Norway but also in other regions. As a habitat they prefer humid areas like along a stream or a meadow. Linerles are migratory birds and spend the winter mainly in south-western Europe and North Africa. They are insectivores but also eats worms and spiders.



Gråmåke (*Larus argentatus*)

Borre, 20.04.2021

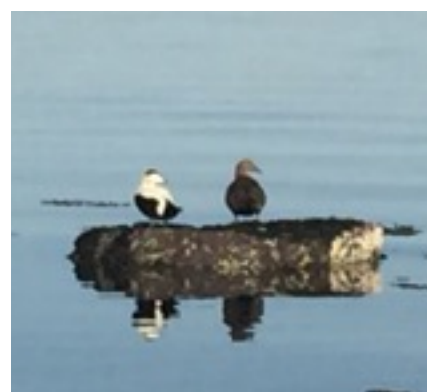
The Gråmåke (Herring Gull) has a light-grey back, black-white feather tips and a yellow beak. It is a very marine kind of sea gull and they have nests all over the coast of Norway. Some have also been seen in the inland. From September till November they migrate to Portugal but some of them can also be seen in Norway. The herring gull is an omnivore.



Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

Borre, 20.04.2021

The Eider (Eider ducks) are found along the whole coast of Norway, from the inland by the fjords to the outer islands. They are normally not seen in lakes as their preferred habitat is connected to saltwater. The Eider is a resident and eats mussels and crustaceans.

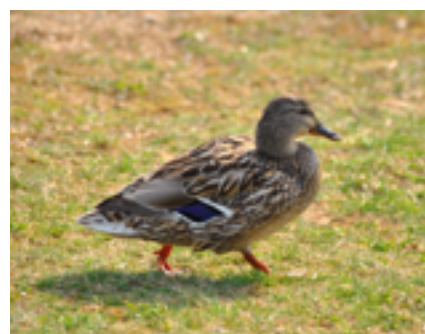


Rødnebbterne (Sterna paradisaea)*Borre, 20.04.2021*

The Rødnebbterne (Arctic tern) is the migratory bird with the longest migration route, as it breeds in the north polar region and winters in the south polar regions. 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.

Stokkand (Anas platyrhynchos)*Borre, 20.04.2021*

The male and female Stokkand (Mallard) look different but both have a yellow beak. The male has a green head, a white ring around the neck and a brown chest, the female is brown spotted with a blue feather on her side. The Stokkands are the most common grass ducks in Norway and can be found in the whole country all year round as they are resident birds in Norway. Stokkands from other countries also migrate to Norway to spend the winter. They prefer vegetation rich water, occur in saltwater but just breed in freshwater. It is a distinctly omnivorous species that dives for food. Also this type of duck has its habitat in parks and other places where people feed birds in winter.

Toppskarv (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)*Borre, 20.04.2021*

The Toppskarv (Crow Cormorant) is a black, big and slim bird. Often it stays for some time in the position with outspread wings. It is common to see the Toppskarvs along the coast from Rogaland to Finnmark in Norway. They prefer to breed in rocky or hilly terrain. In winter they migrate along the Norwegian coast, north of the Lofoten. The Toppskarv occurs in freshwater as well as saltwater and is a fish eater.



The bird ringing

The ringing of birds makes it possible to identify recaptured birds. Thus, ringing allows the behaviour of individual birds to be tracked over a large period of time.

In contrast to young birds, which can simply be ringed in the nest, adult birds have to be caught using elaborate methods. Small birds are usually caught with fine nets, so-called Japanese nets, larger birds in traps equipped with bait, such as weirs.

When trapping with nets, the birds are caught with a net length of about 375 meters. Fixed poles stretch the nets during the trapping season from 30 June to 6 November. The nets have a height of about two metres and a total trapping area of 750m². During the trapping season, all nets are permanently attached and are checked hourly between sunrise and evening darkness.

For each animal 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 processed there. After species identification, 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. Which ring size should be used for which 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. Now 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 2 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 or see a ringed bird, you should contact the responsible ringing centre or report it directly via the website www.ring.ac. You should give 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

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- Picture 1: http://www.beringungszentrale-hiddensee.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IMG_7719klein.jpg
- Picture 2: <http://proring.de/content/images/2ecd4e914840b026d90bfa9dac127f1f.jpg>