



Program for ringing activities on Haparanda-Sandskär

This program is to be augmented by an Activity plan for the current year and by Work procedures.

Rules and guiding principles

- The ringing must follow existing laws and decisions by Naturvårdsverket (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) regarding ringing.
- The ringing must follow advice and recommendations by the Ringing centre given in “Handbok för ringmärkare” and Message sheets.
- The activities must not break the rules given for the National Park.
- The activities shall mainly be carried out as standardized ringing.
- Ringing must not take place during unsuitable weather such as rain and strong wind. All nets must be closed during rain. During strong winds nets where birds risk strangling and excessive stress shall be closed. Decision regarding closing of nets is primarily to be taken by the Ringer-in-charge, but the Site manager has superior responsibility.
- The nets are to be checked and emptied often enough so that birds are not injured, however the maximum interval is 30 minutes.
- Standardized ringing comprises 24 mist nets at standardized sites according to a net map. There are also alternative sites according to net map may and possibility to use mobile nets, with a maximum of four pieces. See the instructions in the ringing folder.
- The standardized ringing also comprises 28 wader cages.
- The standardized ringing during Fall migration is conducted from mid July until mid October. Exact dates are given in the Activity plan for the year. Standardized ringing during Spring migration has been conducted earlier and the observatory is working towards restarting this activity. The period in question is the beginning of May until the beginning of June.
- Birds that die in connection with the ringing could be of interest (see the list in the next paragraph). If in good condition and if the practicalities can be arranged in a satisfactory way (freezing them in the station freezer), they should be taken care of and sent to Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet (Museum of Natural History). These birds are to be put in a plastic bag together with a paper noting the date of death and then be stored in the freezer compartment of the observatory. All birds put in the freezer compartment are to be noted on a special form. Permission from the County administrative board is required to remove the birds from the National Park. The Director of the observatory is responsible for applying for this permission.
- Species that currently are of interest for the collection at the Museum of National History are: Little Grebe, Shag, Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, majority group of waders, Shore Lark, Red-throated Pipit, Rock Pipit, Ring Ouzel, Arctic Warbler, Siberian Tit, Ortolan Bunting and Rustic Bunting.
- The list of instructions according to the above should be posted in the marking hut.

- A number of bird species and mammals considered of special value are designated as State Game. When dead animals or birds belonging to this category are found in nature, they should be reported or handed in to the police for transport to the Museum of National History. (See www.nrm.se).

Other ringing, inventories and studies

- Other ringing than at the standardized places may only take place after agreement with the County Administrative Board and the Ringing Centre. The agreement is handled by the Director of the Observatory.
- Comment: During 2007 it was made clear that no special permission is needed from Naturvårdsverket apart from the general permission from the Ringing Centre.
- Scientific studies may not be carried out without exemption from the regulations by Naturvårdsverket and permission from Animal Ethics Committee. However, observational studies are allowed without prevention from these regulations.
- Exception is needed to go ashore on islands with Prohibition against going ashore.
- If signs of death among seabirds is noted the County Administrative Board is to be notified immediately.

Quality assurance of the activities

- Work procedures shall exist and be attached to the program.
- Every year an activity plan is to be drawn up and also attached.
- Site manager, Ringer-in-charge, and assistants shall sign a document stating that they have read, understood, and accepted the Program, Work Procedure and the Rules for the National Park. These documents have to be read every year so that any changes or additions are understood.
- During the ringing season the functions Site manager, Ringer-in-charge, and Contact person ashore be manned. The Site manager shall be an experienced person and is the person with daily responsibility. Site manager and Ringer-in-charge may be the same person.
- Daily reporting is done via Internet. The function of “contact person ashore” implies that the staff always can call a designated NOF-person.
- The observatory shall have continuous contacts with the Nature Wardens of the County Administrative Board in the area.
- The observatory has strict rules for recruitment. This means, among other things, that we ask for references for persons unknown to us that are to work as ringers and assistants. For Ringers-in-charge is required station licences that are issued by the Ringing Centre. To get this it is required to have either a personal licence or documented experience from Haparanda Sandskär Bird Observatory or from another bird observatory.
- If the observatory personnel breaks the rules and recommendations for the activities or there is a suspicion of crime the County Administrative Board is to be contacted. The Site Manager is responsible for this. The County Administrative Board then decides about measures to be taken.
- If the personnel of the County Administrative Board discovers or strongly suspects that the Observatory Personnel breaks rules and recommendations the Site Manager or the Station Director shall immediately be informed about this.

Accommodation

- The County Administrative Board places accommodation in a cabin in the village at the disposal of the Observatory during the ringing season free of charge. The cabin has eight places.

Division of responsibility

The division of responsibilities between the County Council, the Environmental Protection Agency and NOF is outlined elsewhere.

Other

- In the work procedures there shall be information concerning:
 1. "State game" and what to do if any of these species are encountered.
 2. That collection of dead animals requires exemption granted by the County Administrative Board.
 3. That preservation of dead animals must not take place.
- A report concerning the activities and their results is to be submitted to the County Administrative Board no later than the 1st of April each year. The report shall contain number of ringed species and individuals, retraps of ringed individuals, manning at the observatory – periods, number of ringers and assistants, interesting finds and observations. An economic report shall also be included.
- The program for the bird observatory is to be approved each year by the County Administrative Board before the start of the field activities. The program shall be submitted before 1st of April.