

2021 Strategic Plan for Haparanda Sandskär's Bird Observatory

Goals for 2021

1. To conduct bird monitoring during the breeding season in mid-June, in the same manner as during the period 2006-2020.
2. Continued implementation of high quality bird monitoring at the Haparanda Sandskär Bird Observatory. This includes:
 - Ringing nestlings on the islands around Haparanda Sandskär in early July.
 - Daily standardized ringing on Haparanda Sandskär, Sydön from July until October. Opening of the station is planned to start on 17nd of July. The date for closing will be determined based on the weather situation. It is expected to be finished no later than October 16th.
 - The standardized period for trapping with cages is, as usual, part of the standard period within July and August.
 - In addition to traditional ringing, alternative methods for ringing are undertaken with mobile nets at R1 – R4 (in Kumpula and/or near the marking spot at Sydön) provided it does not interfere with other activities, visitors, or residences in the village.
 - Observation of nesting, resting, and migrating birds during the aforementioned periods.
3. Contribution to the monitoring of wildlife diseases.
4. To increase the number of young people participating in ringing activities.
5. Informing visitors to the national park and others about birds including protection and ringing efforts.

Implementation of objectives – General

In order to meet the above objectives it is required, primarily, that the observatory's staffing and finances are secured. This will be achieved through:

- Education of ringers and assistants by
 - Taking on and instructing trainees, school children as well as adult bird enthusiasts. Specific action to engage children and young adults is required to secure the future of the observatory and its operations.
 - Systematically providing opportunities for the observatory's staff to participate in all varieties of tasks associated with ringing.
- Promotion of the observatory through:
 - Maintaining the observatory's website.
 - Maintaining of the observatory's Facebook page.
 - Issuing a separate annual report. Since 2014 this takes the form of the first issue of the year of Fåglar i Norrbotten.
- Active recruitment before the field season.
- Partnership with Studieförbundet to start a study circle

Implementation of high-quality bird monitoring

1. Continue to work along the same course of action as in 2020.
2. Improve the work conditions and equipment
 - Continuous inspection of trapping equipment
 - Work actively to increase trapping by utilizing the mobile net locations.

Systematic observations during nesting season

1. Excursion to Haparanda Sandskär for 3-4 days in June to conduct the inventory.

Contribution to wildlife disease monitoring

1. All workers are encouraged to watch for and report signs of wildlife disease. This includes making note of any defects and injury on ringed birds in the protocol.

Increasing the number of young people participating

1. Active recruitment through social media and personal contacts.
2. The establishment of a grant to the memory of Per Sandberg, to be awarded annually to young people who actively contribute to the ringing activities at Haparanda Sandskär.

Informing the general public

1. Ringing demonstration for visitors to Haparanda Sandskär during the field season.
2. Maintaining the Home page and the Facebook pages throughout the year.

Organization

Haparanda Sandskär bird observatory is managed by Norrbotten's Ornithological Society, while the Sandskär-group is responsible for operations. This group currently consists of:

Inger Brännström, Director of the Observatory, responsible for contacts with RC, responsible for the Home Page, coordinator for the work with the activity reports and articles in FiN, will update the station documentation (Strategic Plan, Activity Plan, Work Plan etc), in charge of seeking approvals from County Administrative Board, responsible for media contacts.

Ulf Öhman: Responsible for the budget to be presented to Sandskärsgruppen (within NOF). President of NOF.

Andreas Livbom: Responsible for meteorology and reports in relation to Artportalen and the regional reporting committee.

Lena Stenman: In charge of maintaining the inventory of nesting birds, responsible for recruitment of personnel.

Rolf Lahti: Responsible for the ringing of young nesting birds.

During the observatory's open times, the station will be attended by at least 1 ringer and 2-3 assistants. A site manager will also be present at all times and will be the contact person with NOF. The job of the site manager and the ringing supervisor can be filled by two separate individuals. The site manager can be one of the assistants or another person on the mainland. The bird observatory is working to expand staffing, partly in order for more people of every age to be able to participate in the observatory's activities, and partly so that we get an increased participation of bird enthusiasts from other areas of Sweden and other countries. The station will gladly take on trainees without prior experience of ringing.