

When to Find the Birds in Skåne

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Is April too early for Thrush Nightingales? How many Short-toed Treecreepers have been seen in Skåne and when do they usually turn up? When is the best time to see a Eurasian Spoonbill? Can Lesser Whitethroat winter here?

We have compiled a table to answer questions like these – as a tool to help understand the situation when it comes to bird occurrence in Skåne and also to satisfy birdwatchers of an inquiring mind.



Most Thrush Nightingales arrive in May. Photo: Mikael Arinder/Skånska Bilder.



The table includes all the species occurring in Skåne up until and including the year 2003, classified as spontaneous by the Swedish Ornithological Society's Rarities Committee (414 in total). Records after 2003 will be found in the Appendix on page 27.

A bar chart shows the frequency of the species during each month. The wider the bar, the more common the species (see next page for key to symbols).

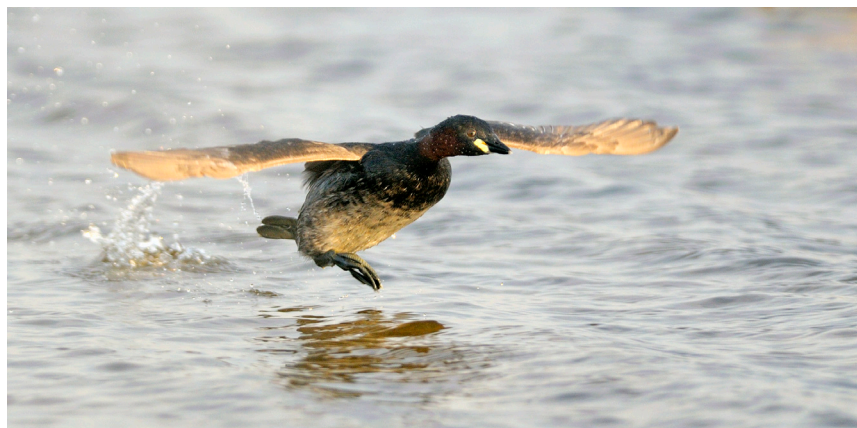
The table is based on the number of individual birds present in the countryside in general, but it also tries to take into consideration the likelihood of finding the species in its natural environment. Thus, some species that are numerous by comparison, but for one reason or another are harder to spot, will be indicated by a narrower bar. Species that occur irregularly in the countryside, such as seabirds and crossbills, are represented in the table by a bar-width that corresponds to the average appearance. In certain years, some species such as Pomarine Skua and

Long-tailed Skua, can be considerably more numerous than the table suggests.

Also note that the width of the bar corresponds to the occurrence of the species at some point during the given period. During the last week in April, a first wave of tropical migrants tends to arrive in the countryside, and their occurrence during a few days will then reflect in a barcode for the whole month.

The table shows the national threat status as well as the breeding status for certain species (see next page for key to symbols). In cases where 20% or more of the total Swedish breeding population of one particular species is found in Skåne alone, this will be indicated.

The table can be regarded as a support tool for your birdwatching and also as a source for curious minds. The table has been based on published data which in turn has been adapted according to the authors own personal experiences, and is therefore subjective (but nevertheless very useful for birdwatchers).



The Little Grebe can be seen in Skåne the year around. *Photo: John Larsen.*



Key to symbols

NT National threat status

RE	Regionally extinct
CR	Critically endangered
EN	Endangered
VU	Vulnerable
NT	Near Threatened
DD	Data Deficient

BS Breeding status

B	>100 breeding pairs
b	<100 breeding pairs
(b)	a few pairs breeding irregularly
-	not breeding in Skåne
●	20% or more of the Swedish breeding population occurs in Skåne
	The three specifications of the above category are:
●	Dunlin of the subspecies <i>schinzii</i>
●	Chiffchaff of the subspecies <i>collybita</i>
●	Common Redpoll of the subspecies <i>cabaret</i>

Occurrence

	Common/relatively common Large chance of finding species in appropriate environment.
	Infrequent/rare but regular Normally requires a bit of luck or optimal weather conditions (relevant to e.g. seabirds) to find the species.
	Occasional, but in many cases annual At least 100 birds in total have been recorded of the species up to and including 2007. Some breeding birds with a very wide local distribution are also included in this category.
	Occasional Normally a maximum of 5 records in each month. At least 100 birds recorded of the species in total up to and including 2007.
21	Number of birds recorded monthly up to and including 2007, but <100 in total. The figure relates to month of discovery. If several individuals have been observed together these will be shown in the table as one record.

The months of the year on which the table is based are shown in abbreviated form at the top of the table: J(anuary), F(ebruary) etc.



	NT	BS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mute Swan		B	█											
Tundra Swan		-			█	█							█	█
Whooper Swan		b	█											
Bean Goose	NT	-	█											
Pink-footed Goose		-	█											
Greater White-fronted Goose		-	█											
Lesser White-fronted Goose	CR	-	█											
Greylag Goose		B●	█											
Canada Goose		B	█											
Barnacle Goose		b	█											
Brent Goose		-	█											
Red-breasted Goose		-	4	1	5	4	24	1			1	22	9	4
Egyptian Goose		(b)	█											
Ruddy Shelduck		-	█											
Common Shelduck		B	█											
Eurasian Wigeon		(b)	█											
American Wigeon		-				4	1		1		2	2	1	
Gadwall	NT	b	█											
Common Teal		B	█											
Green-winged Teal		-			1	11	1							
Mallard		B	█											
American Black Duck		-											1	
Northern Pintail	NT	(b)	█											
Garganey	VU	b	█											
Blue-winged Teal		-					2	1	1	1	2			
Northern Shoveler	NT	b	█											
Red-crested Pochard		-	4	1	8	6	4	3	4	2	4	8	3	
Common Pochard	VU	b	█											
Ring-necked Duck		-		1		2		1						2
Ferruginous Duck		-			1	6	4	1		2	2			



	NT	BS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tufted Duck		B												
Greater Scaup	VU	-												
Common Eider		B												
King Eider		-												
Steller's Eider		-												
Long-tailed Duck	DD	-												
Common Scoter		-												
Surf Scoter		-				3	2			1	4	2		
Velvet Scoter	NT	b												
Common Goldeneye		B												
Smew	NT	-												
Red-breasted Merganser		B												
Goosander		b												
Ruddy Duck		-				4	6	1	1		4	1		
Hazel Grouse		b												
Black Grouse		B												
Western Capercaillie		b												
Grey Partridge	NT	B												
Common Quail	VU	(b)												
Common Pheasant		B												
Red-throated Diver	NT	-												
Black-throated Diver		b												
Great Northern Diver		-												
Yellow-billed Diver		-												
Little Grebe	VU	b												
Great Crested Grebe		B												
Red-necked Grebe		B												
Horned Grebe	VU	(b)												
Black-necked Grebe	EN	(b)												
Black-browed Albatross		-					2							