

Friendship Agreement in a perspective from Falsterbo Björn Malmhagen

A milestone in the history of Falsterbo Bird Observatory happened in the spring of 2016 when we signed the Friendship Agreement with Cape May Bird Observatory (USA) and Spurn Bird Observatory (UK). The purpose of this Agreement is to link our knowledge, ideas and practical work together in order to jointly develop our work. We all have a long history and a lot of knowledge to share with each other!

Our first year has been truly inspiring with productive meetings, lot of shared knowledge and not least, great fun with lots of laughs! The highlights during the year were the times when we had the opportunity to meet physically. The first occasion was when David La Puma, director of CMBO, came to visit us in Falsterbo in August. We had a wonderfully week with nice migration and many interesting conversations. David also held a much appreciated lecture about Cape May at Falsterbo Bird Show. The second occasion was when we could all meet in Spurn the Spurn Migration Festival in September - a really fantastic and familiar arrangement! During this weekend we had the opportunity to talk more about our Friendship Agreement and future plans. On Saturday evening held Björn Malmhagen, from us in Falsterbo, and David La Puma a joint presentation "Tale of Two Peninsulas" presenting the amazing bird migration and similarities of Falsterbo and Cape May. A big thank you to Rob Adams and Nick Whitehouse at Spurn for the invitation and the arrangement!

We very much look forward to the coming year's joint work and it will be very interesting to continue to work with the youth exchange program that we recently started up together. A highlight will also definitely be when we all meet again in the autumn of 2017 to participate at annual Cape May Fall Festival.

Birds at Falsterbo 2016

Now, what was the most exciting things during the 2016 birding season at Falsterbo? Was it the good breeding result of the Pied Avocet colony at Skanör where hundreds of chicks were hatched?

- Was it the observation of a Crested Honey Buzzard in mid-summer?
- Was it the day with 31,500 migrating Barnacle Geese or the day with 168,000 migrating Wood Pigeons?
- Was it the successful breeding of White-tailed Eagle on the peninsula?

We could go on and on with similar questions. After all, perhaps the most remarkable thing was the second half of the autumn season. We had a period of north-easterly wind, more than 3 weeks long, caused by a mighty high pressure over mid-Norway. This caused a change of bird migration routes. Lots and lots of birds, normally migrating east and south of the Baltic Sea, drifted with the wind and landed in southern Scandinavia. The large numbers of geese and pigeons above is one consequence of this weather situation. The ringing totals also got extremely high for species like European Robin, Goldcrest and, especially, Long-tailed Tit (527 ringed, long-term average: 33).

Not only were some species extremely numerous. There were also species, which very seldom or even never before have occurred at Falsterbo: Siberian Accentor (1st and 2nd

record), Pied Wheatear (1st record), Eastern Stonechat (2nd record), Yellow-browed Warbler and Pallas's Leaf Warbler.

The raptor migration was also influenced by the stable weather situation, though not in a particularly positive way. North-east winds do not normally concentrate soaring raptors to Falsterbo. Nevertheless, numbers well above average were recorded for several raptor species like Red Kite, Western Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard, Osprey, Common Kestrel, Eurasian Hobby and Peregrine Falcon.

All totals etc. can be found at falsterbofagelstation.se