

Kattegat II, spring 2023

Overall impression:

Migration intensity in the area was low. In spring, small flocks of migratory waterbirds, mainly seaducks and dabbling ducks, were recorded regularly. Moreover, small numbers of thrushes and other songbirds were also seen or heard throughout the entire spring period as were single individuals of birds of prey.

Passage of migratory birds during night was detected by the vertical radar but species identification based on calls was not possible due to high flight altitudes. During adverse weather conditions songbirds landed on the vessel, which facilitated species identification.

A summary of the observations conducted during the surveys 23-26 March 2023 and 04-09 May 2023 is presented below.

Species recorded during daytime:

- Commonly spotted species include lesser black-backed gull, common scoter, and black-throated diver.
- Notable sightings include a significant migration of barnacle geese with 6,000 individuals observed on a single morning.
- Other species observed during this period include: Arctic skua, razorbill, common eider, long-tailed duck, red-throated diver, northern gannet, starling, lesser black-backed gull, jackdaw, rook, carrion crow, whooper swan, barnacle goose, graylag goose, velvet scoter, sandwich tern, grey heron, common gull, cormorant, shelduck, chiffchaff, barn swallow, red-breasted merganser, unidentified curlew, black-headed gull, great cormorant, arctic/common terns, sandwich terns, sanderling, honey buzzard, swift, dunnock, song thrush, herring gull, guillemot, great black-backed gull, hen harrier, kestrel, and sparrow hawk.

Species recorded during nighttime:

- Regularly heard species during nighttime include redwing, mistle thrush, song-thrush, European robin, and reed bunting.
- Other nighttime species include chiff-chaff, skylark, meadow pipit, goldcrest, waders, gulls, common sandpiper, oystercatcher, and barnacle goose.

Additional Notes:

- Small flocks of various migrating bird species were observed during daytime surveys.
- Some nocturnal migration was observed, but several tracks on the radar were either 'silent' or too distant to identify.
- On 05-05-2023, observations were hindered by strong winds and high waves, but clear radar images were obtained due to the absence of rain.

Table 1: Overview of spring observations 2023, Kattegat II

Date Range	Daytime Species	Nighttime Species
23-03-2023 to 24-03-2023	Arctic skua, razorbill, common eider, common scoter, long-tailed duck, red-throated diver, northern gannet, starling, lesser black-backed gull.	redwing, mistle thrush, song-thrush, chiff-chaff, skylark, meadow pipit, European robin, reed bunting.
25-03-2023 to 26-03-2023	Jackdaw, Rook, carrion crow, whooper swan, barnacle goose, graylag goose, velvet scoter, common scoter, red-throated diver, black throated diver, sandwich tern, grey heron, lesser black-backed gull, common gull, cormorant.	redwing, mistle thrush, song-thrush, goldcrest, European robin, reed bunting.
04-05-2023 to 05-05-2023	Few lesser black-backed gulls, one unidentified diver, one barn swallow, one meadow pipit.	One wader and one gull were heard.
05-05-2023 to 06-05-2023	Few lesser black-backed gulls, one red-throated diver, black-throated diver, common scoter, red-breasted merganser, flock of unidentified curlew.	Recordings made throughout the night with recorders and radar images (no surveyors on deck).
06-05-2023 to 07-05-2023	Few individuals of: Lesser black-backed gull, common gull, shelduck, black-throated diver, common scoter, velvet scoter, chiffchaff, barn swallow.	Common sandpiper.
07-05-2023 to 08-05-2023	One or few individuals of: Black-throated diver, lesser black-backed gull, common gull, black headed gull, common scoter, velvet scoter, great cormorant, red-breasted merganser, barnacle goose, arctic/common terns, sandwich terns, sanderling, honeybuzzard, swift, chiffchaff, dunnock, song thrush, barn swallows.	Common sandpiper, oystercatcher, chiffchaff.
08-05-2023 to 09-05-2023	Big migration day for barnacle geese (6,000 individuals). Lesser black-backed gull, common gull, herring gull, black-headed gull, guillemot, great black-backed gull, common scoter, graylag goose, great cormorant, arctic/common terns, honey buzzard, hen harrier, kestrel, sparrow hawk, swift, barn swallows.	Oystercatcher and barnacle goose.

Hesselø Syd, autumn 2023

Overall impression:

Bird migration through the area occurs at a relatively low intensity. Migratory movements are dominated by species of ducks, mainly seaducks but also dabbling ducks, cormorants, gulls and other seabirds. Thrushes and other migratory songbirds were also recorded, as were single individuals of birds of prey.

Passage of migratory birds during night was detected by the vertical radar but species identification based on calls was not possible due to high flight altitudes. During adverse weather conditions songbirds landed on the vessel, which facilitated species identification.

A summary of the observations conducted during the surveys 18-22 August 2023, 08-13 September 2023 and 03-04 October 2023 is presented below.

Species recorded during daytime:

- Commonly spotted species include lesser black-backed gull, common scoter, and wigeon.
- Notable sightings of seabirds include 4 great skuas, 2 fulmars and regular sightings of northern gannets.
- Other species observed during this period include: Red-throated diver, common scoter, velvet scoter, common eider, greater scaup, common guillemot, razorbill, canada goose, brent goose, great cormorant, grey heron, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, kittiwake, sandwich tern, black tern, western marsh harrier, kestrel, merlin, dunlin, red knot, grey plover, golden plover, whimbrel, ruff, feral pigeon, wren, wheatear, white wagtail, yellow wagtail, tree pipit, meadow pipit, icterine warbler, lesser whitethroat, garden warbler, blackcap, willow warbler, chiffchaff, goldcrest, pied flycatcher, redstart, blue tit, greenfinch, brambling, siskin.

Species recorded during nighttime:

- Species heard during nighttime include robin, song thrush, redwing, oystercatcher, common snipe, ringed plover, tree pipit.
- Other nighttime species include herring gull, lesser black-backed gull and grey heron.

Additional Notes:

- Small flocks of migrating passerine species were observed during daytime surveys including flocks of blue tits and siskins.
- Some activity of nocturnal migrants evident on the vertical radar, but most tracks on the radar were either 'silent' or too distant to identify.

Table 2: Overview of autumn observations 2023, Hesselø Syd

Date Range	Daytime Species	Nighttime Species
18-08-2023 to 20-08-2023	Grey plover, common scoter, velvet scoter, great cormorant, lesser black-backed gull, yellow wagtail and icterine warbler, feral pigeon	Common sandpiper, european robin, song thrush
20-08-2023 to 22-08-2023	Grey heron, common scoter, whimbrel, great cormorant, yellow wagtail, sandwich tern, ruff, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, great skua, ruff, pied flycatcher, greenfinch	Oystercatcher, European robin
08-09-2023 to 10-09-2023	Common scoter, great cormorant, yellow wagtail, white wagtail, tree Pipit, western marsh harrier, kestrel, wigeon, lesser black-backed gull	Tree pipit, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull
10-09-2023 to 11-09-2023	Common scoter, great cormorant, yellow wagtail, white wagtail, tree pipit, siskin, northern gannet, redstart, wheatear, lesser black-backed gull, wigeon	European robin, common snipe, ringed plover, song thrush
11-09-2023 to 12-09-2023	Common scoter, great cormorant, yellow wagtail, white wagtail, tree pipit, blue tit, northern gannet, redstart, lesser black-backed gull, garden warbler, chiffchaff, willow warbler, black tern, blackcap	European robin, tree pipit, oystercatcher
12-09-2023 to 13-09-2023	Red-throated diver, common scoter, great cormorant, canada goose, grey heron, great skua, canada goose, brent goose, dunlin, marsh harrier, tree pipit, yellow wagtail, northern gannet, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, chiffchaff, lesser whitethroat, golden plover, merlin	Tree pipit, European robin, grey heron, song thrush
03-10-2023 to 04-10-2023	Common scoter, greater scaup, velvet scoter, wigeon, gannet, fulmar, kittiwake, common guillemot, razorbill, lesser black-backed gull, dunlin, red knot, brambling, goldcrest, wren, meadow pipit, blackcap, robin	Redwing