

Birds

Around 550 species of birds has been recorded in Sweden but many are extremely rare visitors and may only have been seen a handful of times. Around 250 species are breeding in Sweden, and some non-breeding species are regularly seen with multiple individuals seen in Sweden every year. The text below should allow identification of all species regularly seen in Sweden but not necessarily the rarest of visitors.

All birds are discussed as adult in breeding plumage. In very few cases juvenile plumage is covered but will be clearly noted if so. For many species males may look similar to females when not breeding and the text should enable identification of species but not gender in those cases.

Lower bar generally shows order, family and species. For a few groups subfamily is listed as well when subfamilies are characteristics and described as distinct taxa.

Note that the listing is partly hierarchical so both a larger group and one or more taxa within it is discussed as separate taxa. This hierarchy is noted in the upper right corner when present.

There are more observers of birds than other groups so frequency between the range maps cannot be compared between birds and other groups.

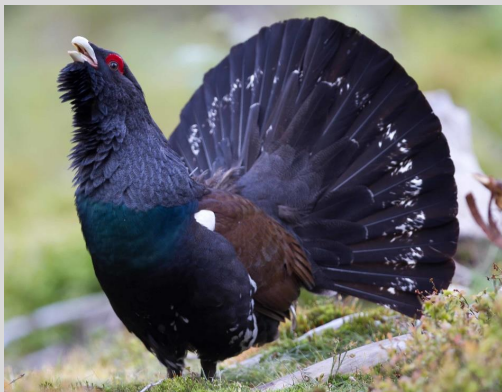
Many birds are migratory and arrives to Sweden in the summer to breed. Thus, basically all species that can be seen in the winter can also be seen in the summer but not the other way around. The terms “summer” and “winter” are used broadly to encompass the summer and winter half of the year. If not mentioned, the bird can be seen year around in Sweden.

Galliformes: Landfowl/Hönsfåglar



Phasianidae

Phasainids/Fasanfåglar



Identification

- Moderately large, ground-living birds.
- Thick round bodies.
- Thick legs covered with feathers for majority of species.
- Nostrils covered with feathers.

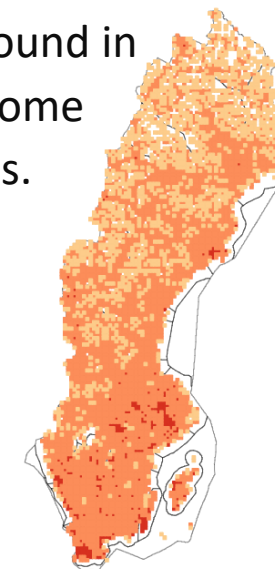
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Varies within the group, many species found in forests, deciduous and coniferous and some in open grasslands and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	16- 79 cm
Wingspan	32 - 115 cm
Weight	70 – 3000 g



Tetrastes bonasia

Hazel grouse/Järpe

NT



Identification

- Moderately large, ground-living bird with a thick round body.
- Dusky grey with black throat and a barred grey back.

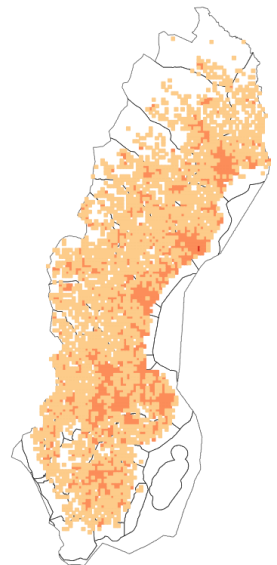
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken for females of capercaillie and black grouse (Birds 2-3) but is substantially smaller.

Habitat

- Coniferous forests, especially spruce.

Head-body length	34 - 39 cm
Wingspan	48 - 54 cm
Weight	~430 g



Tetrao urogallus

Capercaillie/Tjäder

Identification

- Largest of the ground living fowls.
- Male black bird a thick beak, fan shaped tail and a visible "beard" when displaying.
- Smaller red "eyebrow" than black grouse.
- Female brown with watered pattern all over body.

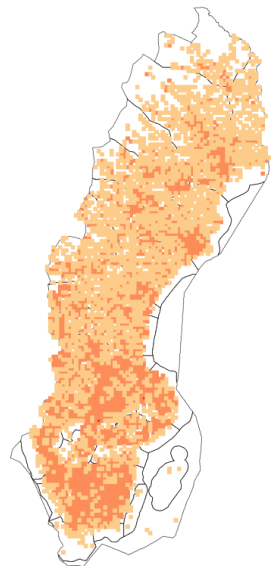
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to black grouse (Bird nr. 4) but are larger and slightly different coloration in both sexes.

Habitat

- Coniferous forests.

Head-body length	75-79 cm
Wingspan	95 - 115 cm
Weight	~3000 g



Male

Female

Lyrurus tetrix

Black grouse/Orre



Male



Female

Identification

- Medium-sized groundliving black fowl.
- Large red eyebrow and white undertail seen when displaying.
- Curled ends of tail feather.
- Female brown and barred across body.

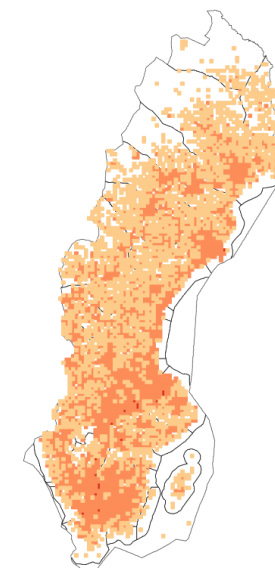
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to capercaillie (Bird nr. 3) but are smaller and with slightly different coloration in both sexes.

Habitat

- Open areas with shrubs and bushes.

Head-body length	48 – 49 cm
Wingspan	65 – 70 cm
Weight	~1100 g



Phasianus colchicus

Pheasant/Fasan



Male



Female

Identification

- Sleek, brown, groundliving fowl with a distinct long tail.
- Males with bright red face with a dark green crest at the back of the head and white collar around the neck.

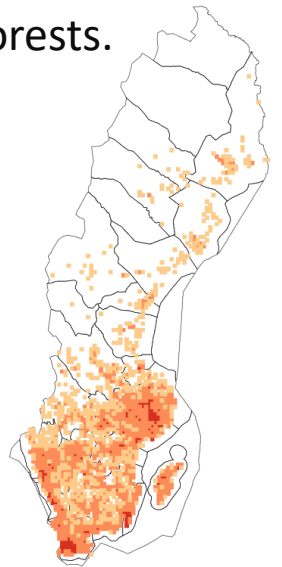
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

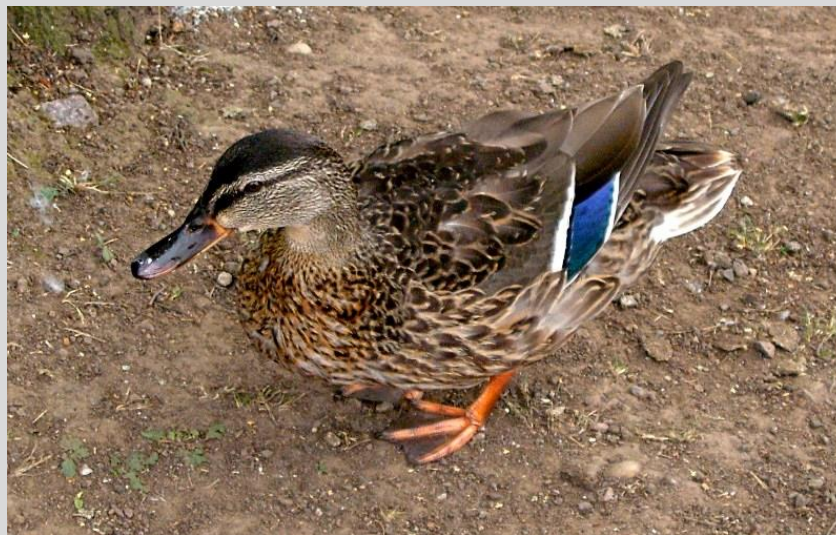
Habitat

- Agricultural areas, open grassland and forests.
- Introduced.

Head-body length	53 – 85 cm
Wingspan	70 – 90 cm
Weight	9000 – 1200 g



Anseriformes: Waterfowl/Andfåglar



Cygnus sp. Swans/Svanar



Identification

- Largest birds in Sweden.
- Large white birds with long necks and vibrant colours on beaks.

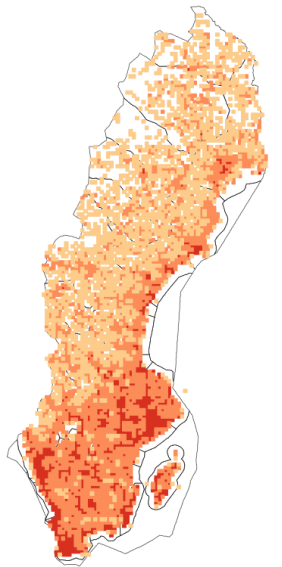
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments but also often in agricultural areas.

Head-body length	101 – 150 cm
Wingspan	152 – 310 cm
Weight	3600 – 15000 g



Branta sp. Dark geese/Mörka Gäss



Identification

- Large, water living birds with long necks.
- Dark on colours, brown and black.
- Black beaks.

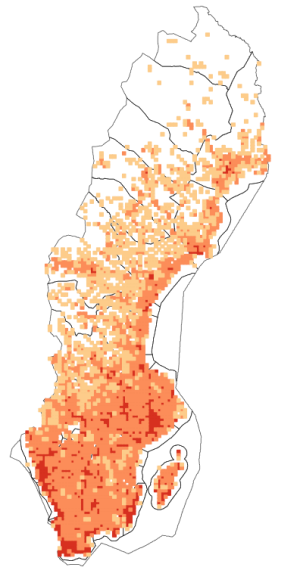
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to grey geese (Bird nr. 8) but has different beak colour.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments as well as agricultural and urban areas.

Head-body length	54 – 105 cm
Wingspan	110 – 180 cm
Weight	1000 - 6500 g



Anser sp. Grey geese/Grå gäss



Identification

- Large, water living birds with long necks.
- Grey in colours with white details on stomach and wings.
- Pink or orange beaks.

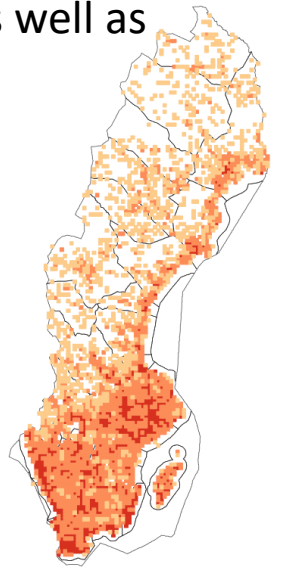
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to dark geese (Bird nr. 7) but has different beak colour.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments as well as agricultural and urban areas.

Head-body length	56 – 88 cm
Wingspan	115 – 168 cm
Weight	1800 – 3300 g



Anatinae Ducks/Änder



Identification

Nr 10 – 13 belong to this group

- Medium sized, waterliving birds.
- Distinguished from geese by much smaller size and by having different colours of males and females.

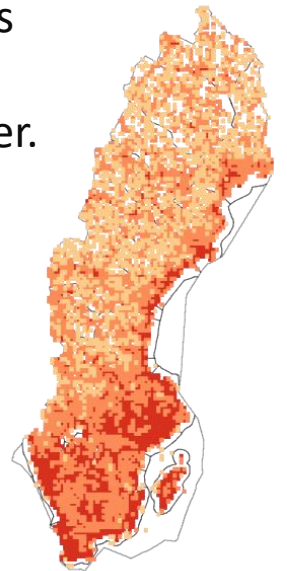
Potential misidentifications

- Similar body shape to rest of family but substantially smaller. Only duck overlapping in size with geese are eiders (Bird nr. 10).

Habitat

- Divided in to diving and swimming ducks depending on feeding strategy.
- Different species in fresh or marine water.

Head-body length	34 – 65 cm
Wingspan	53 – 120 cm
Weight	320 -2500 g



Somateria mollissima

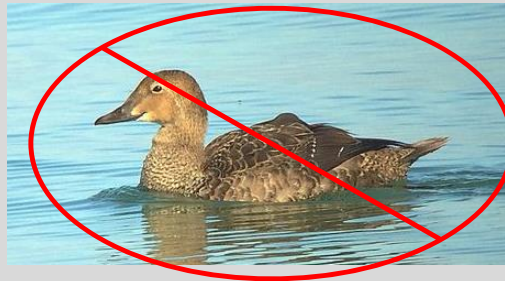
Eider/Ejder



Male



Female



Identification

- Large duck with very distinct beak that slopes from the forehead and down to the tip.
- Males white with black sides and a black crown and a light green neck.
- Females brown with distinct beak shape where feathering reaches nostrils.

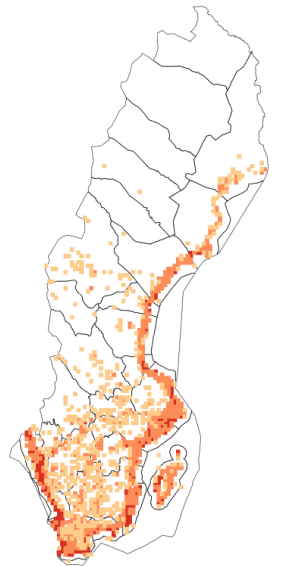
Potential misidentifications

- Females of the rare king eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) looks similar but their feathering does not reach nostrils and the beak shape is different.

Habitat

- Marine mainly, rocks and open water.

Head-body length	60 – 70 cm
Wingspan	95 – 105 cm
Weight	1500 – 2500 g

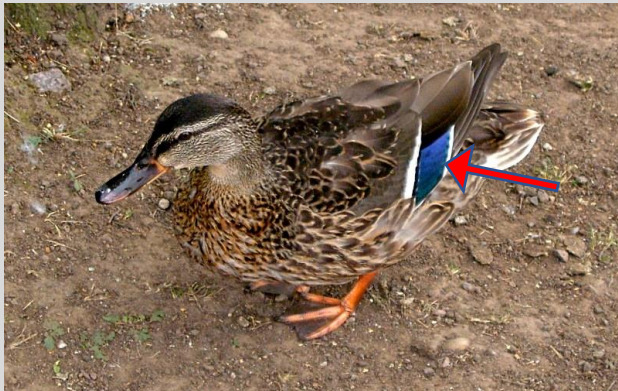


Anas platyrhynchos

Mallard/Gräsand



Female and male



Female

Identification

- Medium sized grazing ducks.
- Males grey with a black iridescent head appearing blue or green depending on the light.
- Females difficult to tell apart from other duck females but has a distinct blue speculum ("wing mirror"; see arrow).

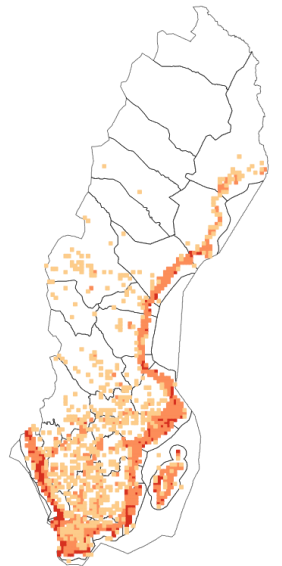
Potential misidentifications

- Females can be mistaken for other ducks until the blue speculum is seen.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments, open grass areas and urban areas.

Head-body length	55 – 60 cm
Wingspan	81 – 95 cm
Weight	720 – 1600 g



Anas crecca

Teal / Kricka

Male



Female



Identification

- Smallest duck in Sweden.
- Males with distinct iridescent orange and green head, grey body and yellow rump.
- Females brown and well-camouflaged but with green wing mirror.

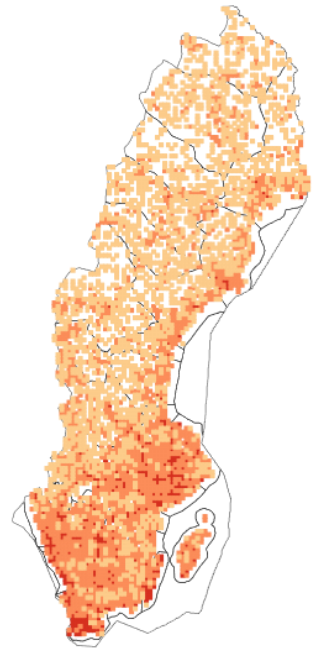
Potential misidentifications

- Females can be mistaken for other ducks until the green speculum is seen.

Habitat

- Fresh and brackish water.
- Often small forest lakes and ponds in the tundra.

Head-body length	34 – 38 cm
Wingspan	53 – 59 cm
Weight	320 – 360 g



Bucephala clangula Goldeneye/Knipa



Male



Female

Identification

- Small diving ducks with a "toppy" head shape.
- Males black and white with an iridescent head appearing greenish or violet in different lights, a white spot on the cheek and a golden eye.
- Females grey body with a chocolate brown head and a bright white eye

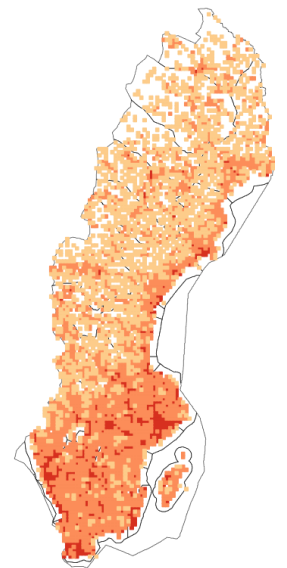
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat similar to merganser (Bird nr. 14) but different coloration, color and size.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments particular in forested areas.

Head-body length	40 – 48 cm
Wingspan	62 – 77 cm
Weight	~900 g



Mergus merganser

Merganser/Storskrake



Male



Female

Identification

- Large sleek, long, diving duck.
- Characteristic curved tip of the beak and crest at the back of the head.
- Males white with a black head and females grey with a brown head.

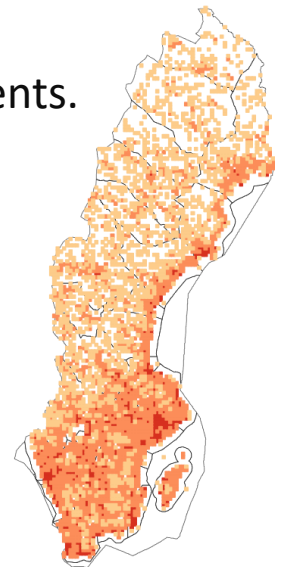
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat similar to goldeneye (Bird nr. 13) but different beak, shape, colour and size.

Habitat

- Freshwater as well as marine environments.

Head-body length	58 – 68 cm
Wingspan	78 – 94 cm
Weight	~1500 g



Podicipediformes: Grebes/Doppingar



Podicipedidae Grebes/Doppingar

Nr 15 belongs to this group

Identification

- Small, diving birds with sharp beaks adapted for fishing.
- No difference between males and females.
- Often with a crest on the back of the head or around the head giving the head a distinct shape from the neck.

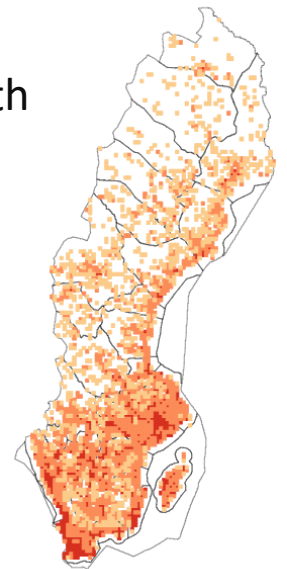
Potential misidentifications

- Ducks (Bird nr. 9) are similar but have smaller and pointier beaks and as rounder bodies and thinner necks.

Habitat

- Varies within the group but found in both freshwater and marine environments, often close to reeds.

Head-body length	23 – 51 cm
Wingspan	30 – 73 cm
Weight	140 – 1500 g



Podiceps cristatus Great crested grebe/Skäggdopping



Identification

- Waterliving, diving bird with a characteristic crest around the whole head.
- Red eye.
- Sharp beak compared to ducks.

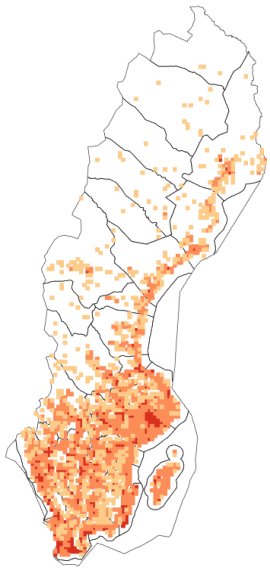
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Mainly freshwater lakes close to reeds.

Head-body length	46 – 51 cm
Wingspan	59 – 73 cm
Weight	600 – 1500 g



Columbiformes: Pigeons and doves/Duvor



Columbidae

Pigeons and doves/Duvor



Identification

- Grey and dusky birds with a small head in comparison to the heavy and compact body and round chest.
- Short legs.
- Small and short beak.

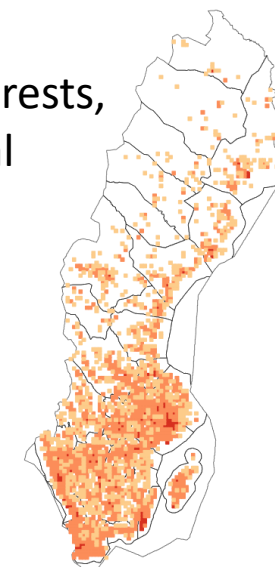
Potential misidentifications

- The cuckoo (Bird nr. 22) has somewhat similar body build but different coloration and distinct posture.

Habitat

- Varies between species but generally forests, open grasslands, urban and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	28 – 45 cm
Wingspan	33 – 80 cm
Weight	150 – 550 g



Columba livia

Rock dove/Klippduva



Identification

- Medium sized pigeon with a distinct iridescent neck area.
- Tabby pattern on the back and wings.

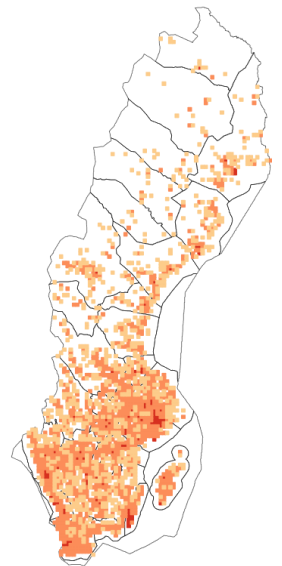
Potential misidentifications

- Somewhat similar to collared dove (Bird nr. 19) but lacking white ring on neck and collared doves back is uniform in colour.

Habitat

- Urban and agricultural areas.
- Introduced.

Head-body length	30 – 35 cm
Wingspan	60 – 68 cm
Weight	240 – 320 g



Columba palumbus

Wood pigeon/Ringduva



Identification

- Very large pigeon with a clean grey colour.
- Characteristic white ring in the neck and across the wings.

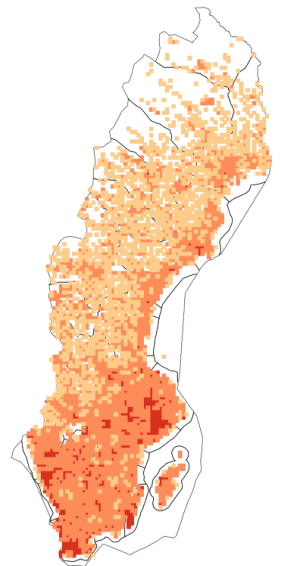
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to rock dove (Bird nr. 18) but it lacks white neck and white spot on wings.

Habitat

- Forest and agricultural landscapes as well as urban areas.

Head-body length	35 – 45 cm
Wingspan	65 – 80 cm
Weight	400 – 550 g



Caprimulgiformes: Nightjars/Nattskärror



Caprimulgus europaeus

Nightjar/Nattskärra



Identification

- Very well-camouflaged night-active bird with characteristically large eyes.
- Barely existing neck.
- Facial bristles around the beak.

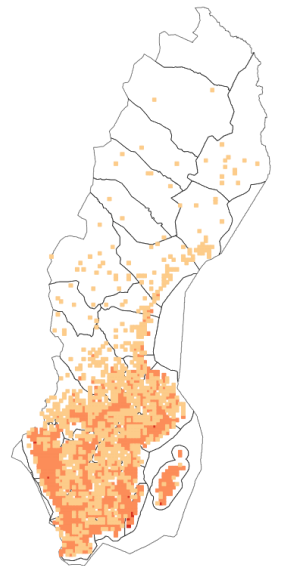
Potential misidentifications

- Body build similar to cuckoo (Bird nr. 22), but different coloration.

Habitat

- Open areas and clear-cuts of forest.

Head-body length	26 – 29 cm
Wingspan	57 – 64 cm
Weight	51 – 101 g



Apodiformes: Swifts/Tornseglare



Apus apus Swift/Tornseglare



Identification

- Small, very dark brown bird with a white throat.
- Agile bird often seen in the air with long wings, shaped like a moon-crescent and a short split tail.
- Small, short beak adapted for eating insects in the air.

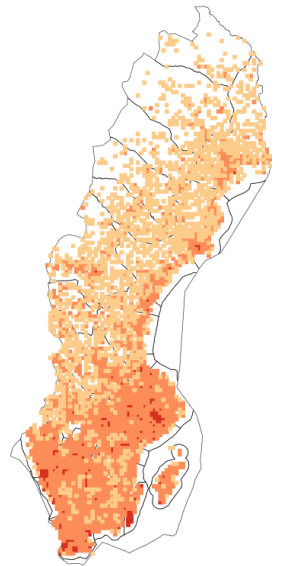
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to swallows (Birds nr. 92-94) but longer wing to body ratio and a characteristic crescent moon-shape to the wings.

Habitat

- Tightly connected to human areas so common in urban environments.
- Seen in summer

Head-body length	14 – 16 cm
Wingspan	40 – 44 cm
Weight	~40 g



Cuculiformes: Cuckoos/Gökar



Cuculus canorus

Cuckoo/Gök



Identification

- Long-tailed, medium-sized, grey bird with a characteristic barred chest in grey and white.
 - Yellow eye-ring and yellow feet.
- Posture in top of trees with wings pointing down very characteristic.

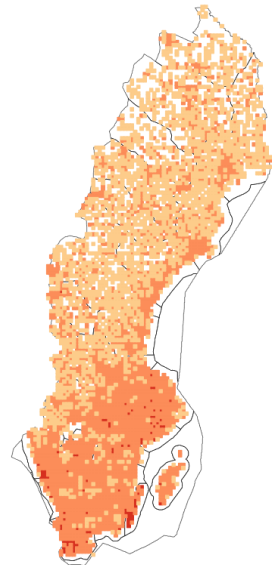
Potential misidentifications

- Doves (Birds nr. 16) has similar body build but different coloration and posture.

Habitat

- Forests, alpine heaths, wetlands and agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	32 – 36 cm
Wingspan	54 – 60 cm
Weight	~160 g



Gruiformes: Gruiformes/Tran- och rallfåglar



Rallidae

Rallidae/Rallar



Identification

- Water-living birds with chubby bodies and long legs and long toes.
- Often ornate (colourful) beaks.
- Relatively short beak and thick legs.

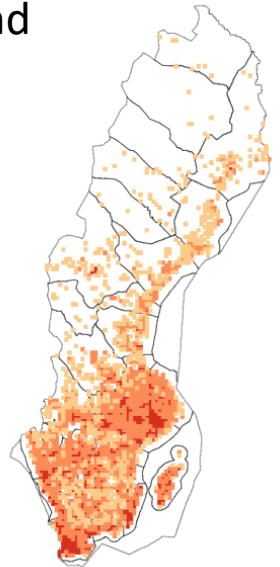
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat similar to shorebirds (Birds nr. 36) but has shorter beaks and thicker legs.

Habitat

- Generally in and around marine areas and freshwater lakes.
- Often close to reeds.

Head-body length	17 – 42 cm
Wingspan	49 – 80 cm
Weight	50 – 900 g



Rallus aquaticus

Water rail/Vattenrall



Identification

- The most sleek of the rails.
- Grey chest and face with a watered brown back and barred stomach in black and white.
- Orange beak, long compared to other species.

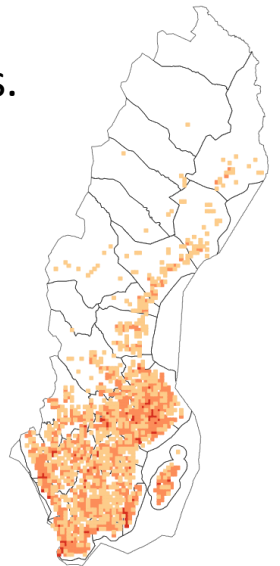
Potential misidentifications

- The uncommon *Crex crex* (Kornknarr) has similar body colors but a much shorter beak which is less colorful and lacks the upwards pointing tail.

Habitat

- Freshwater, brackish water and wetlands.

Head-body length	23 – 26 cm
Wingspan	40 – 45 cm
Weight	100 – 190 g



Fulica atra Coot/Sothöna



Identification

- Fully black water birds with a characteristic red eye and white forehead plate and beak.
- Lobed toes, adapted for walking on floating grass.

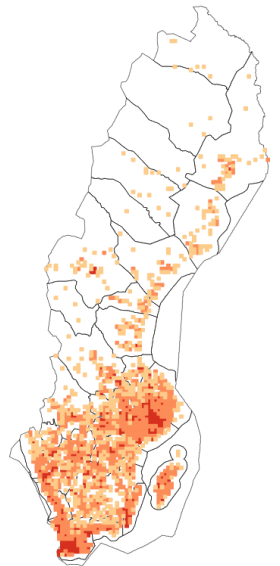
Potential misidentifications

- No similar Swedish species.

Habitat

- Freshwater, marine environments and wetlands, often around reeds.

Head-body length	36 – 42 cm
Wingspan	70 – 80 cm
Weight	750 – 900 g



Grus grus

Crane/Trana

LC



Identification

- Large, long-legged bird with long neck.
- Red forehead ruffled tail feathers and black legs.

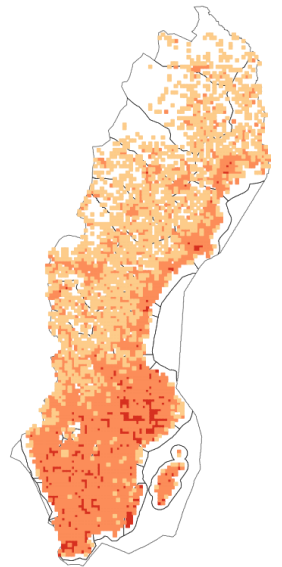
Potential misidentifications

- In flight somewhat like storks (Birds nr. 29 -30) or grey heron (Bird nr. 32) but storks have red legs and herons has a very s-shaped neck.

Habitat

- Swamps and marshes as well as agricultural areas.
- Aggregates in huge flocks in spring.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	115 – 130 cm
Wingspan	200 – 230 cm
Weight	4000 – 6000 g



Gaviiformes: Lommar/Loons



Gavia sp. Loons/Lommar



Identification

- Males similar to females.
- Medium sized water living birds.
- Large distinguished beak, often pointing slightly upwards when swimming.

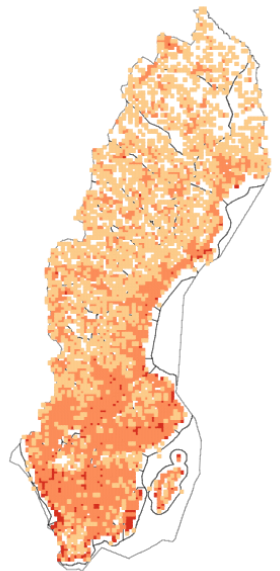
Potential misidentifications

- Body shape similar to ducks particular merganser (Bird nr. 14) but beaks are much sharper and body and neck not as distinct from each other in loons

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments, common in mountainous lakes during summer.

Head-body length	60 – 88 cm
Wingspan	100 – 142 cm
Weight	1800 - 4100 g



Gavia arctica Storlom/Arctic loon



Identification

- Large loon.
- During breeding: characteristic black throat that appears iridescent purple in some angles.
- Non-breeding: overall more grey-ish, less contrasts and throat is instead white.

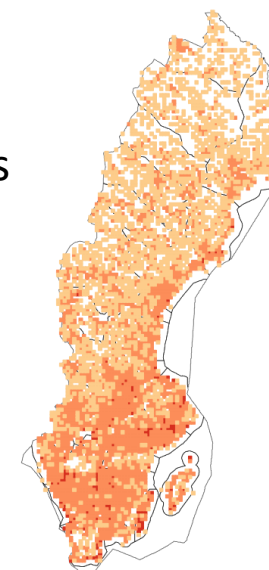
Potential misidentifications

- In winter, Red-throated loon (*Gavia stellata*) but identified by larger size, distinct forehead and thicker beak.

Habitat

- Freshwater and marine environments as well as wetlands.

Head-body length	60 – 70 cm
Wingspan	105 – 125 cm
Weight	1000 – 3000 g

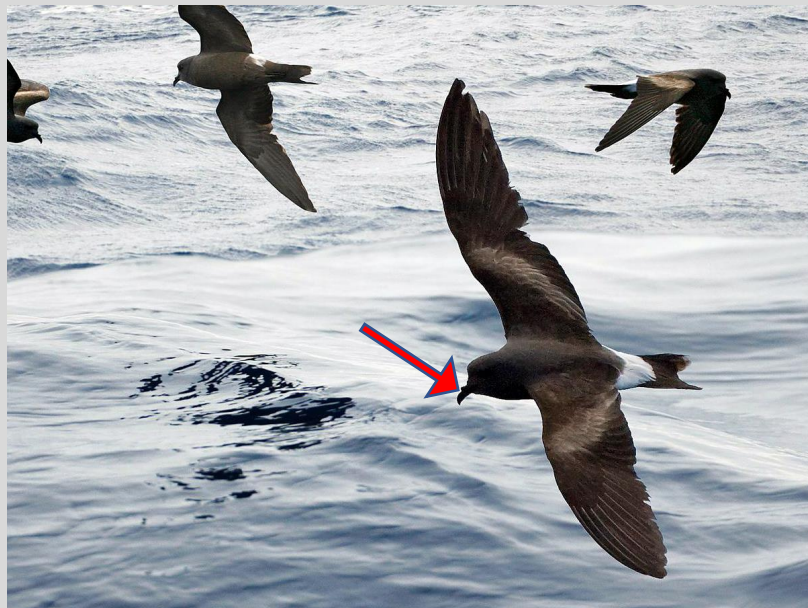


Procellariiformes: Stormfåglar/Petrels



Procellariiformes

Petrels/Stormfåglar



Identification

- Compact somewhat "chunky" seabirds.
- May be white and gull-like but with thicker neck or brown and similar to skuas but with longer beak.
- At close distance identifiable by their distinct nostrils (arrow) which is larger than any other birds.

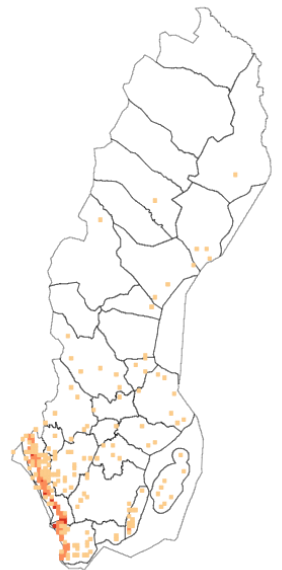
Potential misidentifications

- Different species look similar to gulls (Bird nr. 45) or skuas (Birds nr 51). Safe identification for beginners may require being close enough to see nostrils.

Habitat

- Marine open water, nests and rests on steep cliffs. Does not breed in Sweden.

Head-body length	15 – 50 cm
Wingspan	37 – 117 cm
Weight	20 – 1000 g



Ciconiiformes: Storks/Storkar



Ciconia nigra

Black stork/Svart stork



Identification

- Large bird with long neck and long red legs.
- Black neck and head.

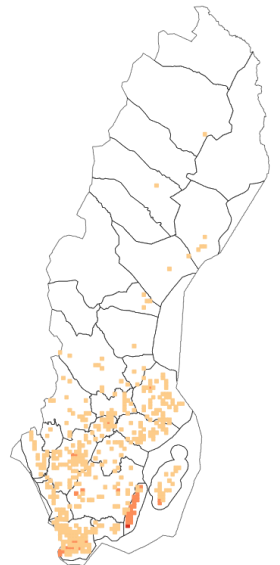
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken with crane (Birds nr. 26), grey heron (Birds nr. 32) or white stork (Birds nr. 31) in flight.
- Only white stork share the red legs but that species has white head and neck.

Habitat

- Forests and wetlands.
- Extinct as breeding bird in Sweden but still regularly seen in the country.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	90 – 105 cm
Wingspan	175 – 202 cm
Weight	~2900 g



Ciconia ciconia

White stork/Vit stork



Identification

- Large bird with long neck and long red legs.
- White neck and head.

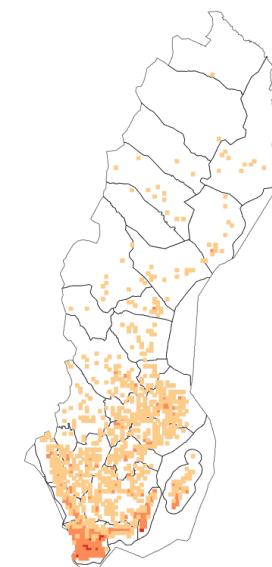
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken with cranes (Birds nr. 26), grey heron (Birds nr. 32) or black stork (Bird 30) in flight. Only black stork share the red legs but that species has black head and neck.

Habitat

- Agricultural and urban areas as well as wetlands.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	95 – 110 cm
Wingspan	183 – 217 cm
Weight	~3400 g



Pelecaniformes: Herons/Hägrar



Ardea cinerea

Grey Heron/Gråhäger



Identification

- Large, long-legged birds found around water.
- Massive long, thick beak and characteristic S-shaped neck seen both when standing and in flight.

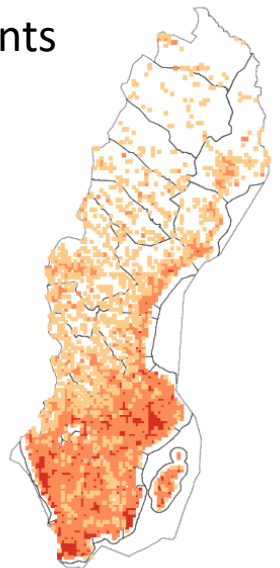
Potential misidentifications

- Common crane (Bird nr 26) and storks (Birds nr 29-30) but shorter legs than those species and with unique S-shaped neck.

Habitat

- Freshwater as well as marine environments and around reeds.
- Found wading in shallow water looking for fish.

Head-body length	85 – 102 cm
Wingspan	155 – 175 cm
Weight	1000 – 2000 g



Botaurus stellaris

Bittern/Rördrom



Identification

- Medium-sized bird found around water.
- Massive, long, thick beak held upwards creating an elongated form with little distinction between body, neck and beak.

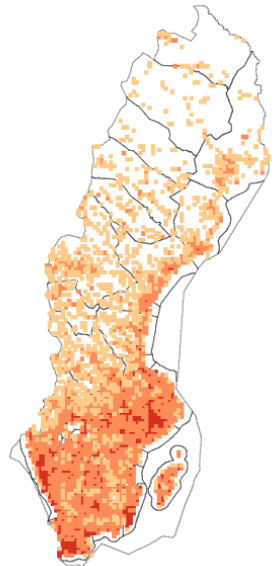
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

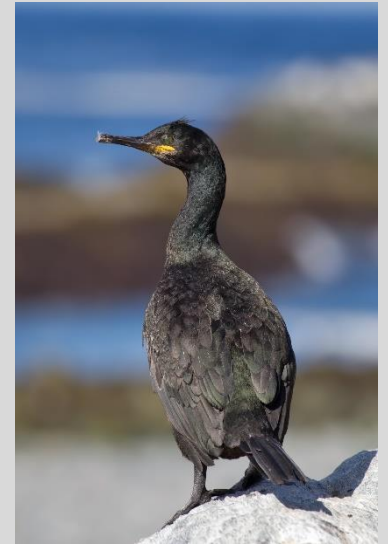
Habitat

- In freshwater as well as marine environments and around reeds.
- Although relatively common it is rarely spotted and well-camouflaged.

Head-body length	69 – 81 cm
Wingspan	100 – 130 cm
Weight	870 – 1940 g



Suliformes: Suliformes /Sulfåglar



Morus bassanus Gannet/Havssula



Identification

- White, sleek, long-winged marine bird.
- Distinct yellow head.
- Black wing tips.

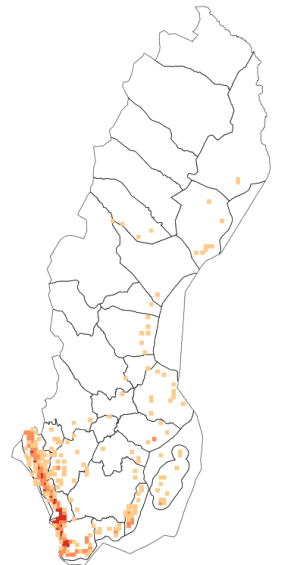
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat like a gull (Birds nr. 45), but identifiable by yellow head.

Habitat

- Marine, pelagic environments, often seen along ferries and in the intermediate to outer archipelago of Gothenburg.
- Does not breed in Sweden.

Head-body length	87 – 100 cm
Wingspan	165 – 180 cm
Weight	~3000 g



Phalacrocoracidae

Cormorants/Skarvar



Identification

- Black, long-necked water-living birds.
- Often seen sunbathing/ drying of the water with stretched out wings (very characteristic).
- Distinct beak with a curve at the end.

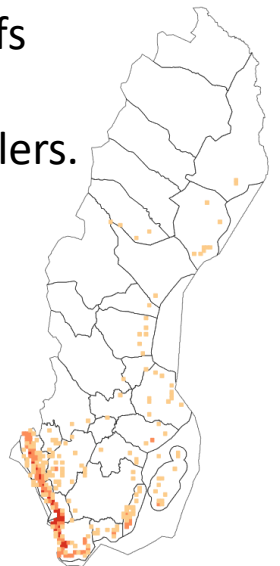
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat similar to loons (Birds nr. 27) but distinguished by all black body and beak shape.

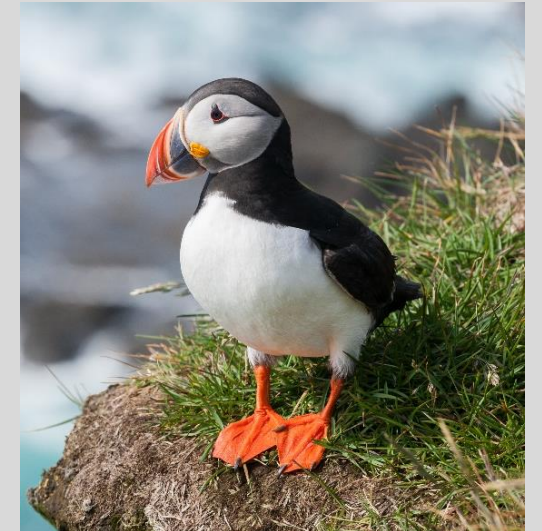
Habitat

- Marine environments, often seen on cliffs and man made structures such as docks.
- Fish-eating and hated by fishers and anglers.
- Breeds in large colonies.

Head-body length	68 – 95 cm
Wingspan	95 – 160 cm
Weight	1800 – 3700 g



Charadriiformes: Shorebirds/Vadarfåglar



Charadriiformes

Shorebirds/Vadarfåglar



Identification

Nr 37 – 54 belong to this group

- This is a large group found close to water. All species has long legs, somewhat long beaks and are found wading in low water.
- Laridae, Stercorariidae and Alcidae (Birds nr. 44-54) look different and is discussed separately.

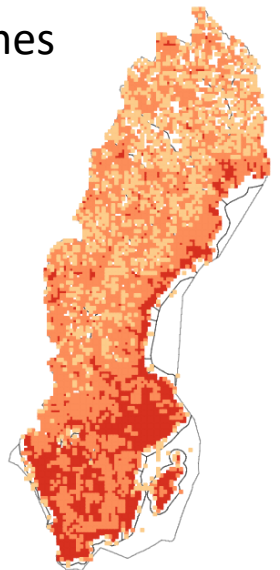
Potential misidentifications

- Somewhat similar to rails (Birds nr. 21, see this).

Habitat

- Beaches, coastal grasslands and sometimes alpine heaths.
- Many species only seen in summer.

Head-body length	20 – 74 cm
Wingspan	38 – 166 cm
Weight	40 – 1500 g



Haematopus ostralegus

Oystercatcher/Strandskata



Identification

- A large wading bird.
- Black and white with a characteristic bright orange thick bill and orange legs.

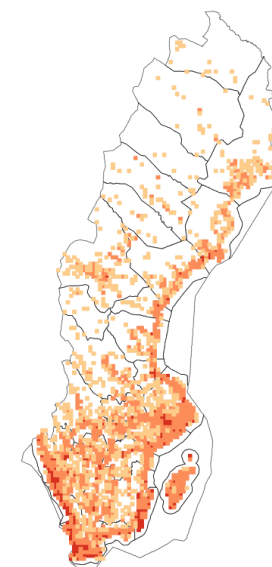
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Beaches, coastal grasslands and sometimes urban areas (if they are covered with grass).
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	39 – 44 cm
Wingspan	72 – 83 cm
Weight	~480 g



Recurvirostra avosetta

Pied avocet/Skärfläcka

LC



Identification

- White and black longlegged bird.
- Characteristic upward curved bill.

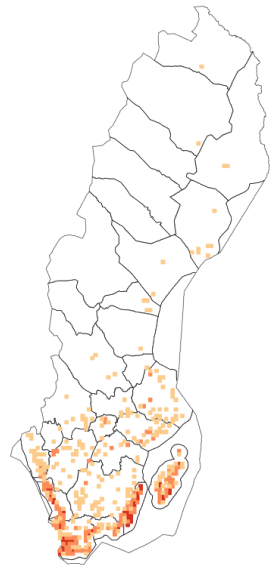
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Marine shallow beaches.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	43 – 46 cm
Wingspan	67 – 77 cm
Weight	~300 g



Vanellus vanellus

Lapwing/Tofsvipa



Identification

- Black and white bird with some iridescence to the black.
- Characteristic crest at the top of the head.
- Wings very round and wider at ends than base.

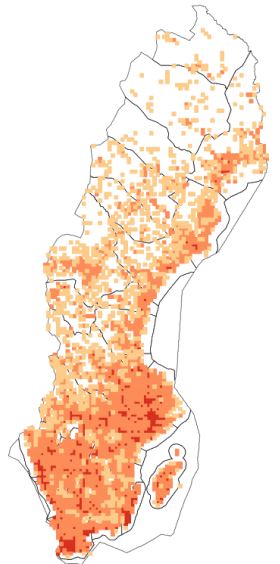
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Marine beaches, agricultural areas and wetlands.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	15 – 31 cm
Wingspan	32 – 72 cm
Weight	~220 g



Numenius sp. Curlews/Spovar



Identification

- Large waders.
- Brown-beige streaked bodies.
- Characteristic long curved bills downwards.

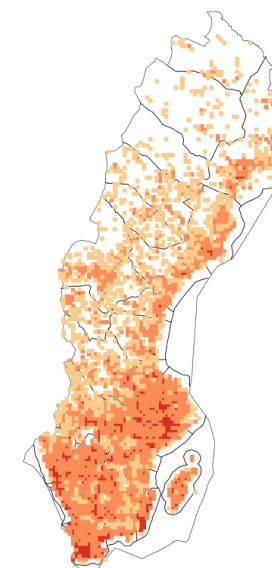
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden with that long curved bill.

Habitat

- Marine beaches, agricultural areas and wetlands.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	50 – 55 cm
Wingspan	~100 cm
Weight	~730 g



Scolopax rusticola Woodcock/Morkulla

LC



Identification

- Short-legged, stubby bird with little-to no neck.
- Very long, thick beak compared to body.
- Characteristic perpendicular bands across head (see arrow).

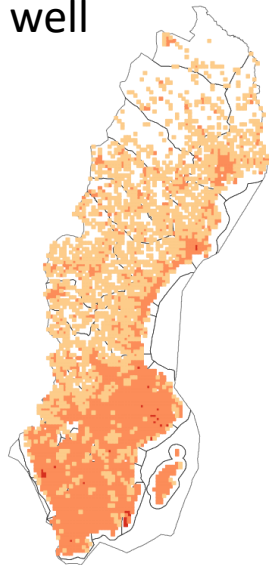
Potential misidentifications

- Snipes (Birds nr. 42) looks similar but has black band going along head rather than across it.

Habitat

- Coniferous, deciduous or mixed forests as well as moors.
- Seen in summer

Head-body length	~ 38 cm
Wingspan	56 – 60 cm
Weight	~310 g



Gallinago sp. Snipes/Beckasiner



Identification

- Well-camouflaged brown and beige birds.
- Very long beaks compared to body.
- Black stripes on head running along head (see arrow).

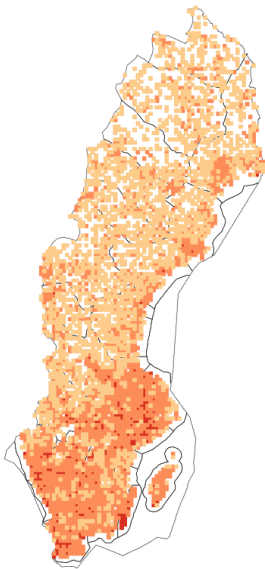
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to woodcock (Birds nr. 41) but substantially smaller and has thinner beak and black stripes on head running in different direction.

Habitat

- Forests, marine beaches and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	23 – 28 cm
Wingspan	39 – 45 cm
Weight	80 – 140 g



Tringa totanus

Common redshank/Rödbena



Identification

- Medium sized brown wader.
- Characteristic red legs.

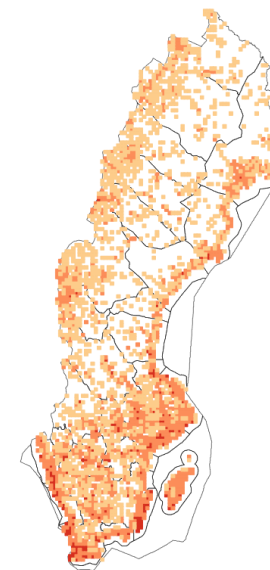
Potential misidentifications

- Body shape similar to other waders but readily identifiable by bright red legs.

Habitat

- Marine beaches, brackish waters and wetlands.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	24 – 27 cm
Wingspan	47 – 53 cm
Weight	~130 g



Larinae Gulls/Måsar & trutar



Identification

Nr 45 – 49 belong to this group

- Medium to large marine birds.
- Often white body with grey to black wings.
- Some species have a characteristic red spot on the beak.

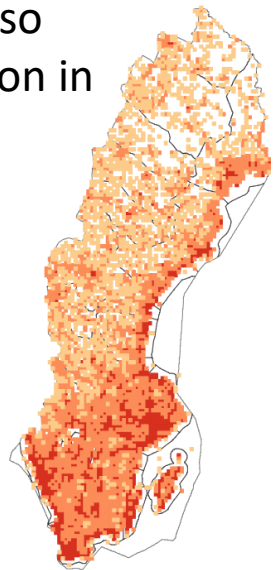
Potential misidentifications

- Some petrels (Birds nr. 29) look similar (see that slide).

Habitat

- Mainly marine pelagic birds but found also found along coasts. Some species common in urban environments.

Head-body length	24 – 74 cm
Wingspan	62 – 166 cm
Weight	68 – 1500 g



Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Black-headed gull/Skrattmå



Identification

- Small gull with characteristic brown face in summer.
- Juvenile and adults in winter has a characteristic black spot behind the eye (arrow).

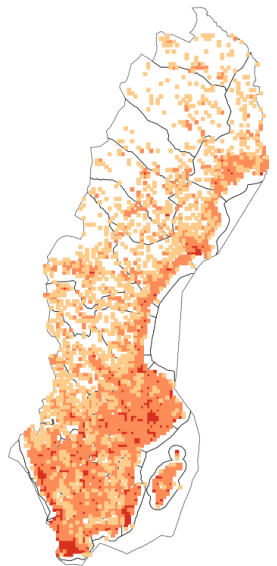
Potential misidentifications

- Adults unlikely to be mistaken in summer. Juveniles and adults in winter can be mistaken from other gulls until the small black spot is seen.

Habitat

- Marine and freshwater environments.
- Agricultural areas.

Head-body length	35 – 39 cm
Wingspan	86 – 99 cm
Weight	~280 g



Larus canus

Mew gull/Fiskmåås



Identification

- Small gull.
- Yellow-green beak and legs (no red mark on beak).
- "Kind" appearance compared to herring gull.

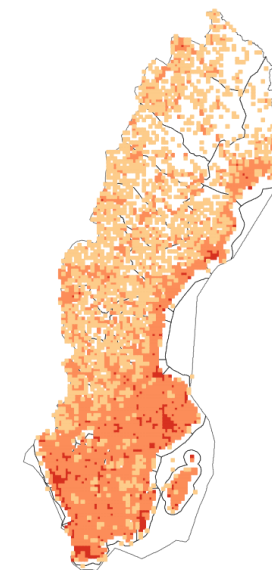
Potential misidentifications

- Similar to herring gull (Birds nr. 47) but different appearance (compare pictures) also substantially smaller and herring gull has red spot on beak.

Habitat

- Marine and freshwater environments.
- Urban areas.

Head-body length	40 – 46 cm
Wingspan	100 – 110 cm
Weight	~430 g



Larus argentatus Herring gull/Gråtrut



Identification

- Large gull.
- Light grey on back, pink legs.
- Large beak with red spot on bottom.
- "Mean" appearance compared to mew gull.

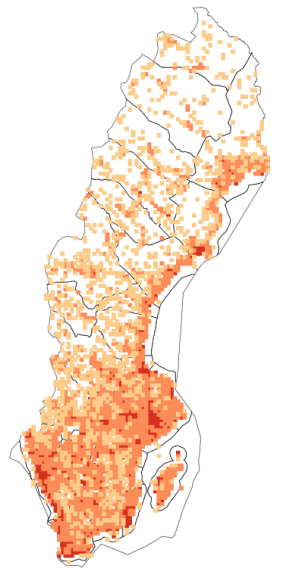
Potential misidentifications

- Similar to mew gull (Birds nr. 46) but larger with beak with red mark on bottom.
- Similar to Greater black-backed gull (Birds nr. 48) but smaller and with lighter grey wings.

Habitat

- Mainly marine but also freshwater.
- environments and urban environments.

Head-body length	55 – 67 cm
Wingspan	140 – 155 cm
Weight	710 – 1100 g



Larus marinus

Greater black-backed gull/Havstrut



Identification

- One of the largest gulls in the world.
- Dark grey to almost black back.
- Pinki-ish legs

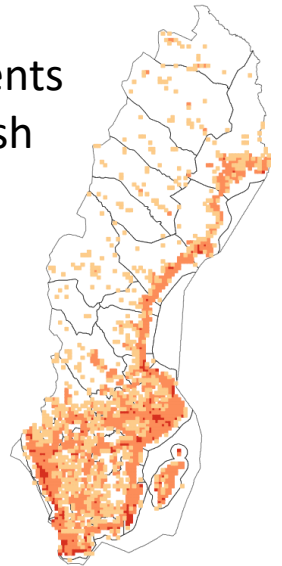
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken with Herring gull (Birds nr. 47) or Lesser black-backed gull (Bird nr. 49) but is identifiable by larger size and pink-ish legs as Lesser black-backed gull has yellow legs.

Habitat

- More associated with marine environments than other gulls but also found in brackish waters and urban environments.

Head-body length	61 – 74 cm
Wingspan	144 – 166 cm
Weight	~1500 g



Larus fuscus

Lesser Black-backed gull / Silltrut



Identification

- Large, white bird with dark grey to black wings.
- Large, thick beak with a red spot at the end.
- Yellow legs.

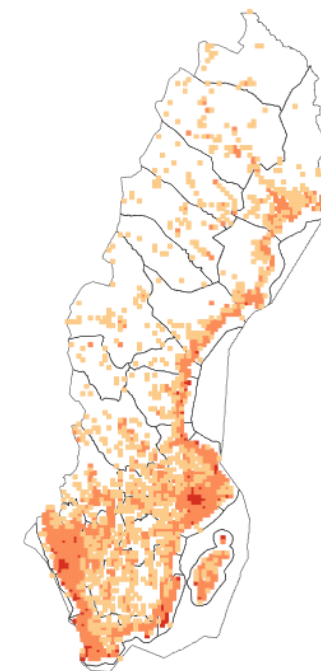
Potential misidentifications

- *Larus marinus* (Bird nr. 48) but is smaller and with yellow legs instead of pink. *Larus argentatus* (Bird nr. 48) but much darker back.

Habitat

- Coastal areas as well as large bodies of freshwater.

Head-body length	52 – 60 cm
Wingspan	135 – 155 cm
Weight	~1100 g



Sterninae Terns/Tärnor



Identification

- Long-winged marine birds, smaller than gulls.
- Long, sharp, often colourful beaks.
- Short legs.
- Common with forked tails used in very acrobatic flight.

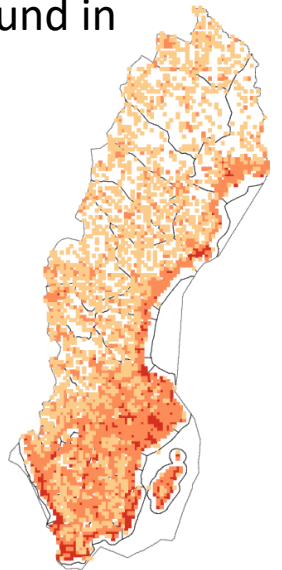
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Mainly marine environments but also found in freshwater lakes.
- Seen in summer

Head-body length	21 – 55 cm
Wingspan	41 – 111 cm
Weight	45 – 775 g



Sterna sp. Sterna/Sterna tärnor



Identification

- Small gull-like birds with very sleek grey wings.
- During breeding (aka summer): Red, short legs and red to blood-red beak with a black tips of various size.

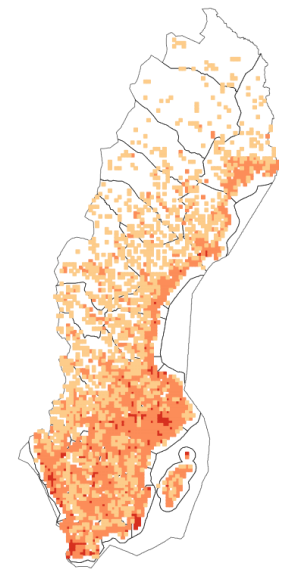
Potential misidentifications

- May look similar to other terns, but distinguished from them by red beak and red legs.

Habitat

- Mainly in marine environments but sometimes found in freshwater lakes.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	34 – 37 cm
Wingspan	70 – 80 cm
Weight	97 – 146 g



Stercorariidae

Skuas/Labbar



Identification

- Medium to Large, gull-like birds.
- Generally dark although one species with white chest.
- Thick, large beaks.

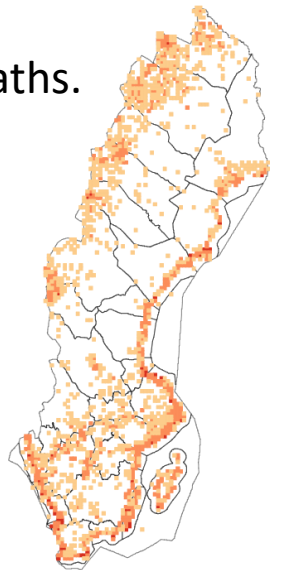
Potential misidentifications

- Somewhat like gulls (Birds nr. 47) but identifiable by colour. Looks like some rare species of petrels (Birds nr. 29) but lack their distinct nostrils.

Habitat

- Varies within group but often marine.
- Some species breed on inland alpine heaths.

Head-body length	35 – 58 cm
Wingspan	88 – 140 cm
Weight	280 – 1300 g



Alcidae Auks/Alkor



Identification

- Small to medium sized black and white marine birds.
- Round bodies, little neck and small wings.
- large beaks.
- Somewhat "penguin-like" (penguins are named for looking like them).

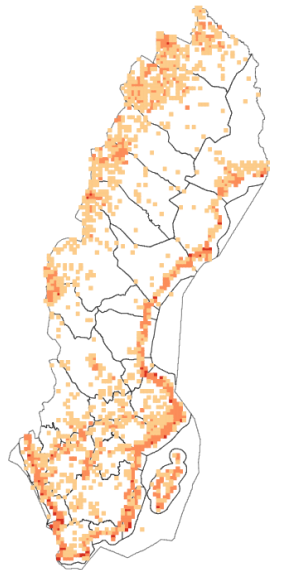
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Marine cliffs and open water.

Head-body length	19 – 46 cm
Wingspan	34 – 69 cm
Weight	150 – 990 g



Fratercula arctica Puffin/Lunnefågel

NE

Identification

- Medium sized black and white marine bird.
- Characteristic colourful striped beak and red eye.
- Orange feet.

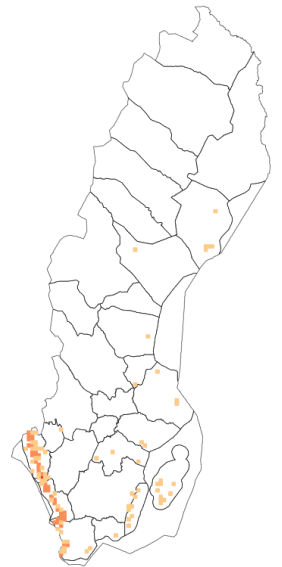
Potential misidentifications

- Rest of family has similar body shape but no other Swedish species has similar colourful beak.

Habitat

- Marine cliffs and open water.
- Rare and no longer breeding in Sweden
- Mainly seen in fall and winter.

Head-body length	28 – 34 cm
Wingspan	50 – 60 cm
Weight	~490 g



Cepphus grylle

Black guillemot/Tobisgrissla



Identification

- Dark and sleek marine bird.
- Characteristic white patches on wings
- Distinct red mouth.

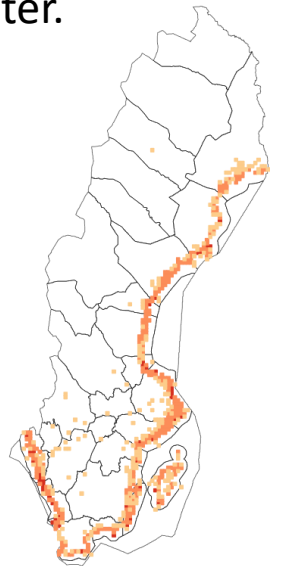
Potential misidentifications

- Rest of family has similar body shape but different coloration.

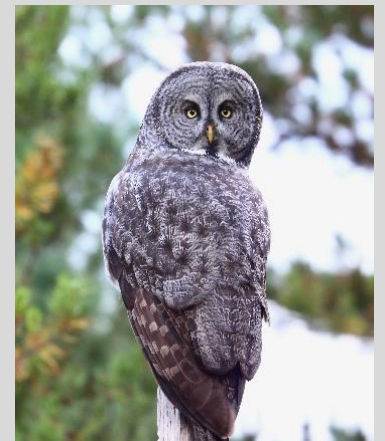
Habitat

- Breeds in marine cliffs.
- Observed in open marine or brackish water.

Head-body length	34 – 37 cm
Wingspan	54 – 58 cm
Weight	~430 g



Owls/Ugglefåglar



Tyto alba

Barn owl/Tornuggla



Identification

- Large, light coloured owl, white, beige and rufous.
- Characteristic white, flat face.

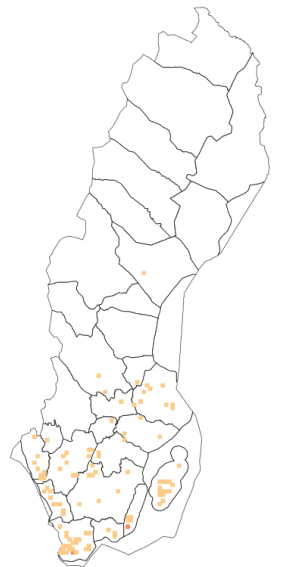
Potential misidentifications

- True owls (Birds nr. 57) has the same body build but lacks the flat white face.

Habitat

- Agricultural areas, open grasslands and wetlands.

Head-body length	33 – 39 cm
Wingspan	80 – 95 cm
Weight	430 – 620 g



Strigidae True owls/Ugglor



Identification

- Small to large predatory birds.
- Large head-to-body ratio.
- Flat faces and large eyes.
- Often perched in upright position.

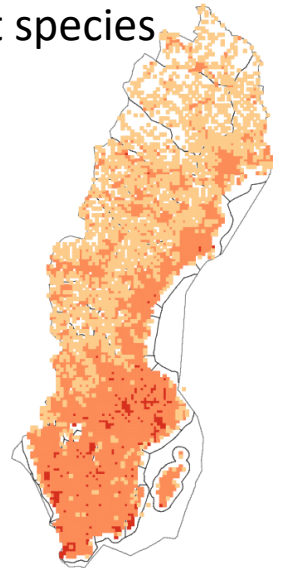
Potential misidentifications

- Barn owls (Birds nr. 56) look similar but is identifiable by distinct white face.

Habitat

- Habitat varies between species but most species like forests and agricultural landscapes.

Head-body length	15 – 73 cm
Wingspan	32 – 140 cm
Weight	60 – 4000 g



Strix aluco Tawny owl/Kattuggla



Identification

- Sweden's most commonly seen owl.
- Medium-sized owl.
- Brown washed all over.
- Dark mark from forehead down between the eyes (see arrow).

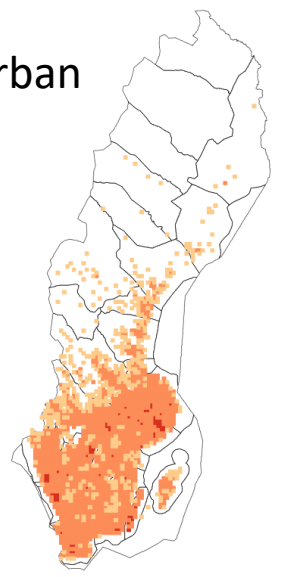
Potential misidentifications

- Other species in family of similar build but they lack the dark mark.

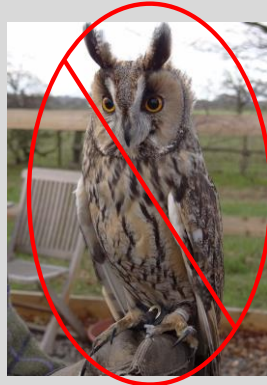
Habitat

- Deciduous and mixed forests as well as urban parks and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	37 – 43 cm
Wingspan	81 – 96 cm
Weight	385 – 800 g



Bubo bubo Eagle-owl/Berguuv



Identification

- One of the largest owls in the world.
- Long tufts on head (see arrow) and dark orange to red eyes.

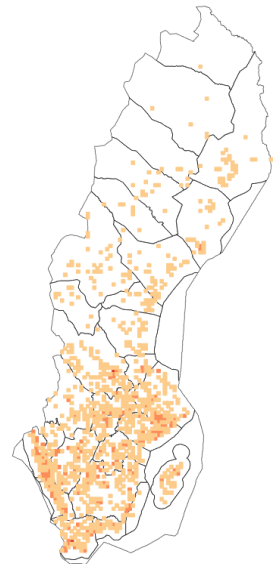
Potential misidentifications

- Only other Swedish species with similar tufts is the Long-eared owl (Bird nr. 60) but it is much smaller and also more slender.

Habitat

- Deciduous and coniferous forests, agricultural areas and coastal beaches.

Head-body length	59 – 73 cm
Wingspan	138 – 170 cm
Weight	1600 – 4000 g



Asio otus

Long-eared owl / Hornuggla



Identification

- Small to medium sized brown owl.
- Characteristic tufts on top of head looking like small horns.

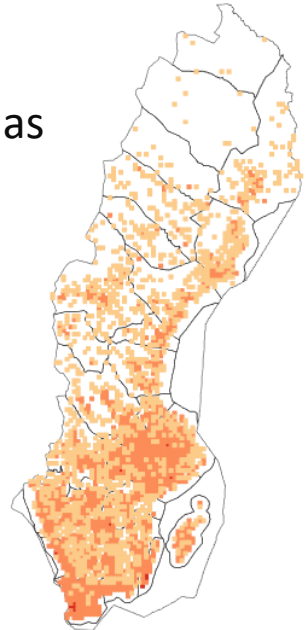
Potential misidentifications

- *Bubo bubo* (Bird 59) but significantly smaller and with thicker black streaks all the way along the stomach

Habitat

- Forests in proximity to open areas such as agricultural areas.

Head-body length	31 – 37 cm
Wingspan	86 – 98 cm
Weight	245 – 400 g



Accipitriformes/Hökfåglar



Pandion haliaetus

Osprey/Fiskgjuse

LC



Identification

- Large bird of prey.
- Distinct wing shape during flight with "broken" wings or somewhat "m-shaped" profile.
- White face with a black band across the eyes

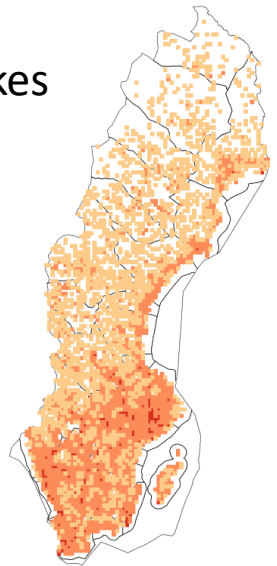
Potential misidentifications

- Many species within Acciptridae (Birds nr. 62) looks somewhat similar but they do not fly with "broken wings".

Habitat

- Close to large bodies of water such as lakes and ocean where they feed on fish.
- Often nests in pines.

Head-body length	52 – 60 cm
Wingspan	152 – 167 cm
Weight	1230 – 2200 g



Accipitridae

Hawks and eagles/Hökartade rovfåglar



Chordata

Aves

Accipitriformes

Accipitridae (15 Swedish species)

Nr 63 – 65 belong to this group

Identification

- Medium to large sized birds of prey.
- Thick beaks with more or less curved tip.
- Often bulky bodies.
- Either large, wide wings for soaring or more sleek wings for fast flight.

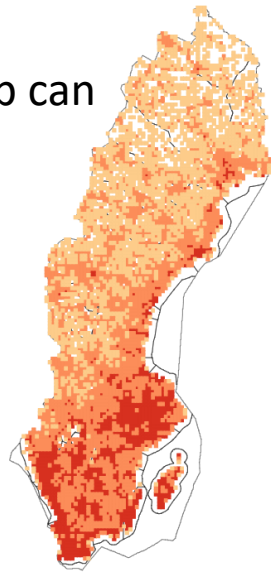
Potential misidentifications

- The osprey (Birds nr. 61) looks similar but has distinct wing shape when flying.

Habitat

- Varies widely between species, but group can be seen nearly everywhere.

Head-body length	~29 cm
Wingspan	~58 cm
Weight	131 – 6700 g



62.

Aquila chrysaetos

Golden eagle/Kungsörn



Identification

- Very large bird of prey.
- Dark brown body with a rufous head.
- Massive bill and thick, feathered legs.
- Characteristic square wing shape.

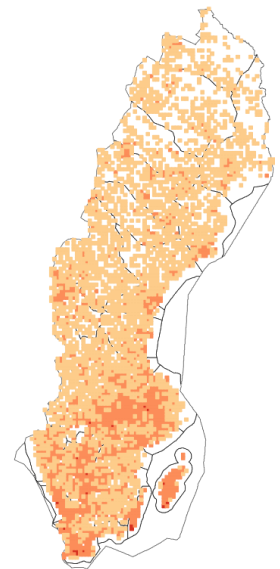
Potential misidentifications

- Other birds of prey, but drastically larger and more square wing shape than nearly all other species. Only equally big species in Sweden is White-tailed eagle (Bird nr. 64) but it has a wider (and white) tail.

Habitat

- Nests in forests and alpine heaths but seen in basically all landscapes.

Head-body length	80 – 93 cm
Wingspan	190 – 225 cm
Weight	2800 – 6700 g



Haliaeetus albicilla

White-tailed eagle / Havsörn



Identification

- Very large bird with massive squareshaped wings.
- White triangular shaped tail.
- Massive yellow beak.

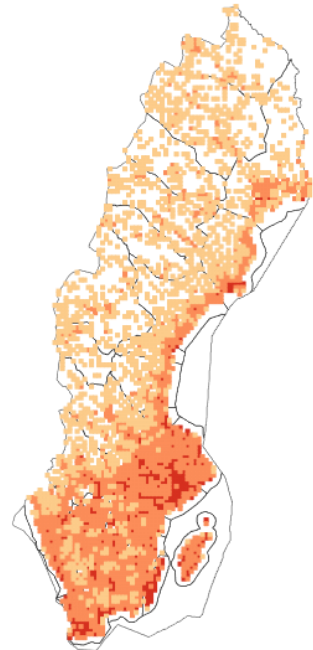
Potential misidentifications

- *Aquila chrysaetos* (Bird 63) but this lacks the yellow beak and the white tail, and the tail is also rectangular.

Habitat

- Coastal areas and large bodies of freshwater like lakes and rivers.

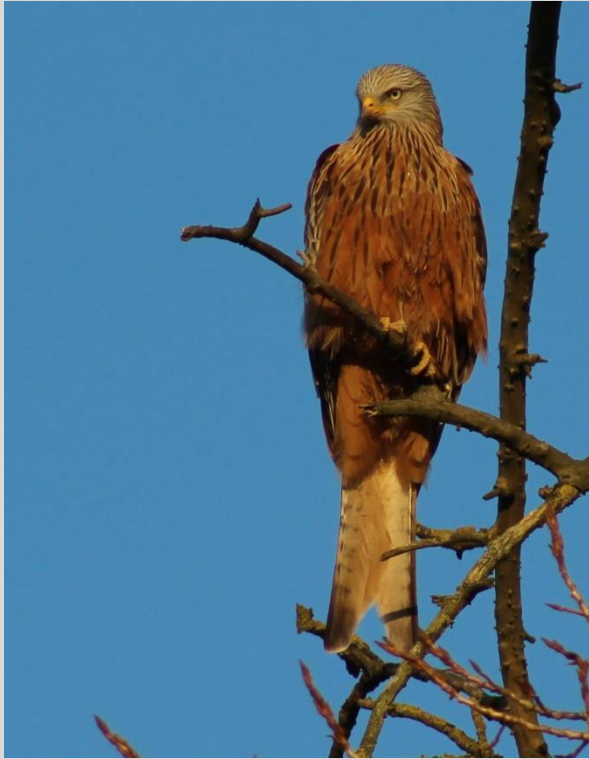
Head-body length	76 – 94 cm
Wingspan	120 – 240 cm
Weight	~ 4700 g



Milvus milvus

Red kite/Röd glada

LC



Identification

- Medium-sized, rufous bird of prey.
- Characteristic forked tail.
- Often flies with slightly "broken" wings but nowhere as much as in ospreys.

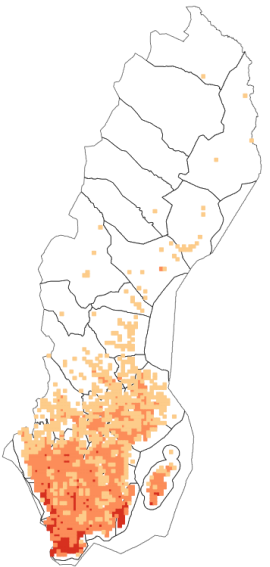
Potential misidentifications

- Other hawks and eagles (Bird 62) but distinguished by the forked tail, clear colour blocks of rufous and white and black plumage.

Habitat

- Mainly in agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	60 – 66 cm
Wingspan	140 – 165 cm
Weight	~1100 g



Buteo buteo Common buzzard/Ormvråk



Identification

- Medium-sized bird of prey.
- Characteristic band (see arrow) over breast seen both in flight and when perched.

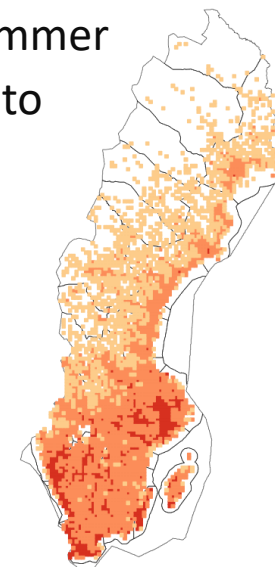
Potential misidentifications

- Separated from most other species in family by size and chest band. Separated from Rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) by the lack of feathers on legs.

Habitat

- Often seen along roadsides mainly in summer
- Forests, deciduous and coniferous close to open areas such as grassland and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	46 – 58 cm
Wingspan	110 – 132 cm
Weight	430 – 1400 g



Bucerotiformes: Bucerotiformes/Härfåglar och näshornsfåglar



Upupa epops

Hoopoe/Härfågel



Identification

- Unmistakable with its crest, up when agitated or displaying.
- Small, long-legged bird with a long beak.

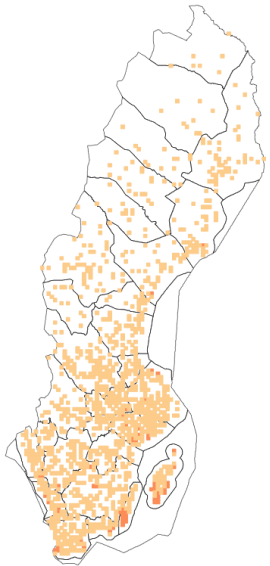
Potential misidentifications

- No similar Swedish species.

Habitat

- Pastures and agricultural land.
- Extinct as breeding bird in Sweden but still regularly seen in the country.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	25 – 29 cm
Wingspan	44 – 48 cm
Weight	70 – 85 g



Coraciiformes: Coraciiformes/Praktfåglar



Merops apiaster Bee-eater/Biätare

NE



Identification

- Small, agile, very colourful bird.
- Long tail seen both when perching and when flying.

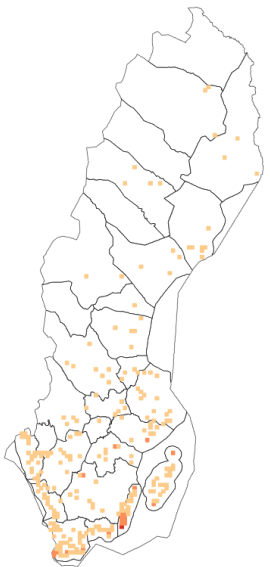
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Rare but recurring visitor to Sweden, often open, agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	25 – 29 cm
Wingspan	36 – 40 cm
Weight	44 – 78 g



Coracias garrulus Roller/Blåkråka



Identification

- Basically unmistakable blue, crow-like bird.
- Engages in a characteristic rolling, acrobatic flight.

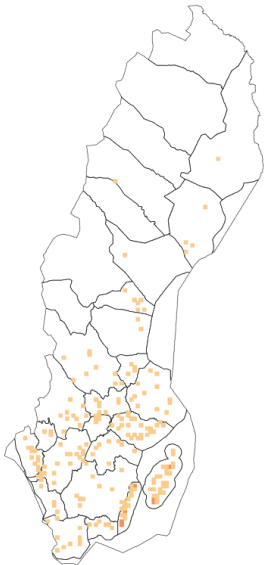
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Rare but recurring visitor to Sweden, often open, agricultural areas.
- Extinct as breeding bird in Sweden but still regularly seen in the country.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	29 – 32 cm
Wingspan	52 – 58 cm
Weight	~150 g



Alcedo atthis

Kingfisher/Kungsfiskare



Identification

- Small, deep blue and orange bird.
- Head and beak unproportionally large for the body.
- Seen perching on branches close to water or diving for fish.

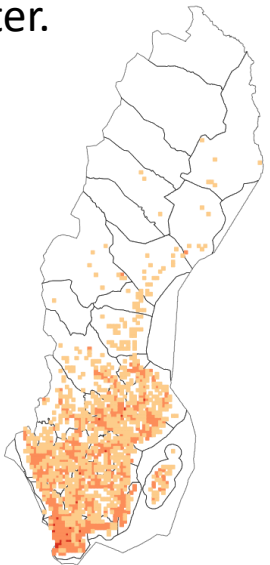
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Mainly creeks and rivers of freshwater, often with surrounding forests, also in clean still water.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	17 – 19.5 cm
Wingspan	24 – 26 cm
Weight	34 – 46 g



Piciformes: Woodpeckers/Hackspettar



Jynx torquilla Wryneck/Göktyta



Identification

- Small, brown bird with little to no distinguished neck.
- Lines across the throat and upper chest very typical.

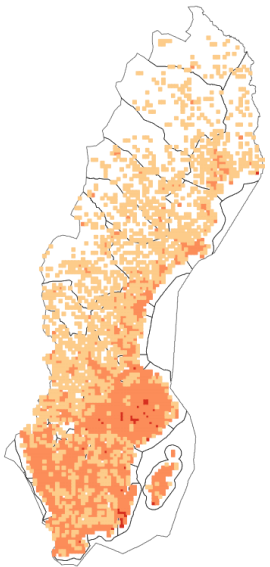
Potential misidentifications

- Looks somewhat like a cuckoo (Birds nr. 22) but substantially smaller and more brown.

Habitat

- Sparse deciduous and mixed forests as well as large gardens and parks.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	16 – 18 cm
Wingspan	25 – 27 cm
Weight	~35 g



Picinae

True woodpeckers/Egentliga hackspettar



Chordata

Aves

Piciformes

Picidae

Picinae (7 Swedish species)

Nr 73 – 74 belong to this group

Identification

- Small to medium birds with distinct large beak, large head and thick legs.
- Many species with watered black and white pattern on back. Only Swedish exceptions to this colour pattern described in next two slides.
- Found sitting upright against tree trunks.

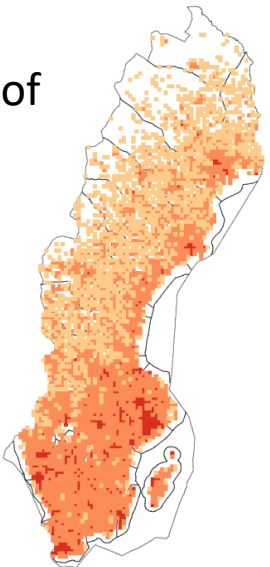
Potential misidentifications

- No similar Swedish species.

Habitat

- Mainly forests or areas with high density of trees of some kind.

Head-body length	14 – 57 m
Wingspan	24 – 73 cm
Weight	20 – 300 g



72.

Picus sp. Picus woodpeckers/Grönspettar



Identification

- Large woodpeckers with green upper parts.

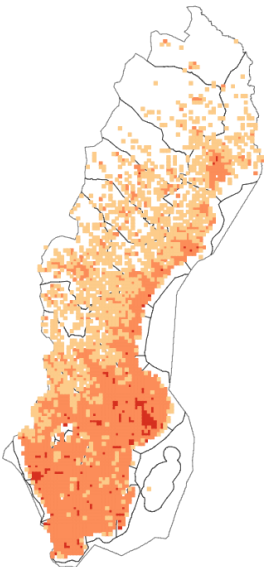
Potential misidentifications

- No similar Swedish species.

Habitat

- Forests and open woodland.

Head-body length	27 – 36 cm
Wingspan	45 – 51 cm
Weight	110 – 180 g



Dryocopus martius

Black woodpecker/Spillkråka



Identification

- Very large, black woodpecker.
- Red head.

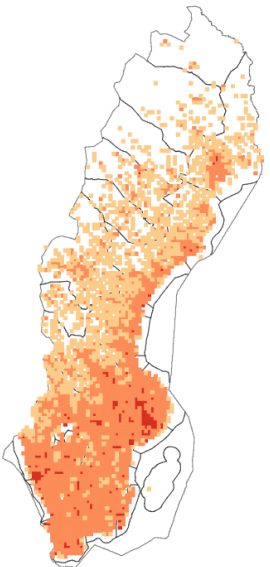
Potential misidentifications

- No similar Swedish species.

Habitat

- Coniferous and mixed forests.

Head-body length	40 – 57 cm
Wingspan	67 – 73 cm
Weight	~300 g



Falconiformes: Falcons/Falkar



Falco sp. Falcons/Falkar



Identification

- Small to medium sized birds of prey.
- Sleek thin wings and often long, distinct tail in flight.
- Agile flyers, some species hover mid-air looking for food.
- Smaller beaks than other birds of prey.

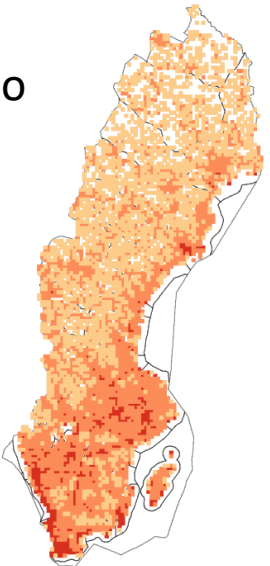
Potential misidentifications

- Looks like small Accipitridae (Birds nr. 62) but much thinner wings.

Habitat

- Most species prefer open areas, often also seen in urban areas.

Head-body length	27 – 60 cm
Wingspan	50 – 110 cm
Weight	130 – 2000 g



Falco tinnunculus

Common kestrel/Tornfalk



Identification

- Small, rufous and grey bird of prey.
- Long sleek wings and relatively long tail.
- Often seen hovering mid-air looking for food.

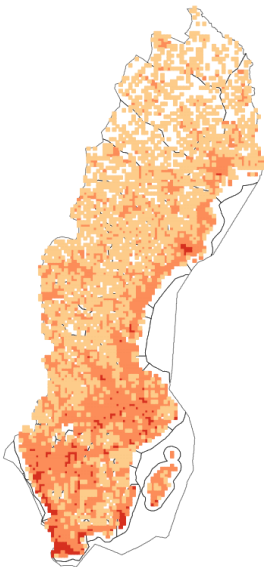
Potential misidentifications

- Other falcons may look similar but only falcon with rufous back and wings.

Habitat

- Open grasslands and agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	31 – 38 cm
Wingspan	75 – 76 cm
Weight	150 – 280 g



Falco peregrinus

Peregrine falcon/Pilgrimsfalk



Identification

- Larger falcon with thick legs and claws.
- Distinct slaty grey plumage with bright yellow eye ring and beak

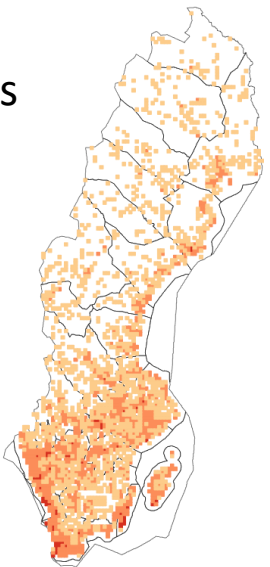
Potential misidentifications

- Other falcons but larger than all other falcons and other medium sized birds of prey but much more sleek wings, no wing pens showing in flight and by slaty grey colour.

Habitat

- Breeds on steep cliffs and hunts in various environments throughout Sweden.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	40 – 50 cm
Wingspan	80 – 110 cm
Weight	500 – 1300 g



Passeriformes: Passerines/Tättingar



Passeriformes

Passerines/Tättingar



Identification

- Only Swedish birds who sings (songs are more complex than calls).
- Except for Corvinae (Birds nr. 81) which are excluded in size measurements all species small to medium).
- Mainly perches and jumps rather than walks.

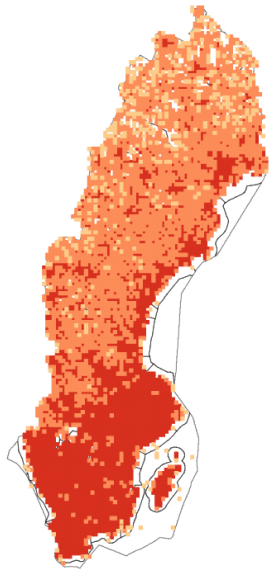
Potential misidentifications

- Smaller than nearly all other birds. A small to medium bird not matching any other described species is a passerine.

Habitat

- Except for White-throated dipper (Bird nr. 101), all species are terrestrial.

Head-body length	8.5 – 29 cm
Wingspan	13.5 – 45 cm
Weight	4.5 – 140 g



Oriolus oriolus

Golden oriole/Sommargylling



Identification

- Medium sized passerine.
- Bright yellow and black bird.

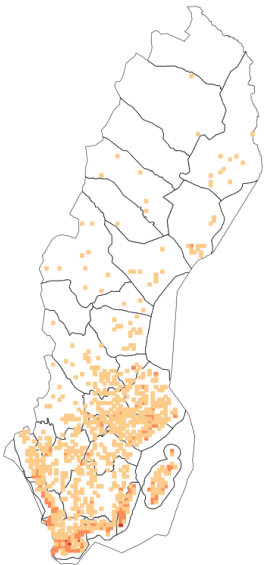
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Deciduous and coniferous forests and agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	22 – 25 cm
Wingspan	44 – 47 cm
Weight	56 – 79 g



Laniidae

Shrikes/Törnskator



Identification

- Medium-sized passerines.
- Long tail and pronounced beaks with a curve at the tip.
- Black band across the face.

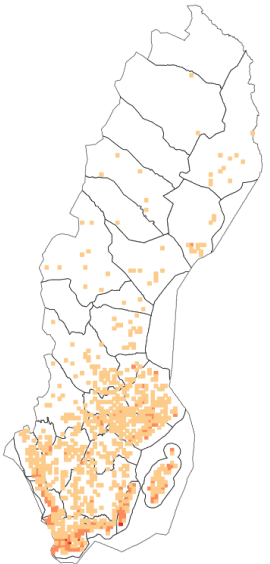
Potential misidentifications

- Magpie (Birds nr. 83) when perched but significantly smaller and with shorter tails.

Habitat

- Varies between species but forest and open areas such as agricultural landscapes are common.

Head-body length	17 – 26 cm
Wingspan	24 – 35 cm
Weight	28 – 64 g



Corvinae Corvinae/Corvinae



Identification

- Larger than all other passerines.
- Often large beak.
- Most species dark or black. Only Swedish exceptions (Birds nr. 82-83) described in next two slides.

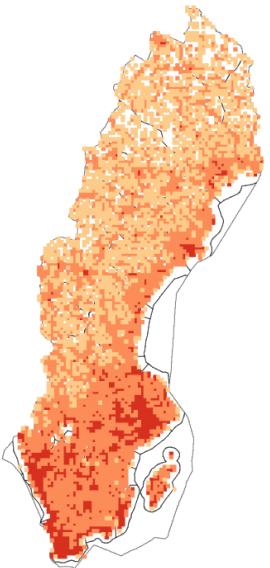
Potential misidentifications

- Accipitridae (Birds nr. 62) when flying but overall smaller with longer beaks without a curve at the end and when black or black-grey: unmistakable.

Habitat

- Varies between species from coniferous or mixed forest to urban and agriculture landscapes.

Head-body length	30– 67 cm
Wingspan	54 – 150 cm
Weight	140 – 1560 g



Garrulus glandarius Jay/Nötskrika



Identification

- Buffed pink/rufous bird.
- Characteristic blue wing mirror (see arrow).
- Rounded wings characteristic in flight.

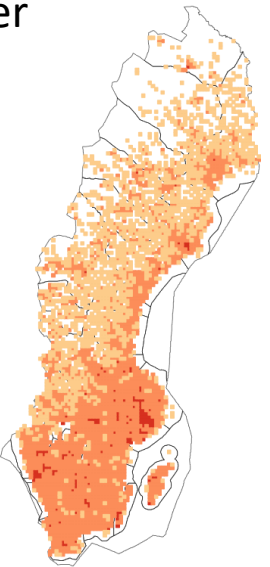
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Mixed forests, coniferous forests, agricultural landscapes.
- Sweden's most common corvid by number of individuals.

Head-body length	32 – 35 cm
Wingspan	54 – 58 cm
Weight	140 – 185 g



Pica pica Magpie/Skata



Identification

- Unmistakable black and white corvid.
- Long characteristic tail.
- Black feathers iridescent and may appear blue or green.

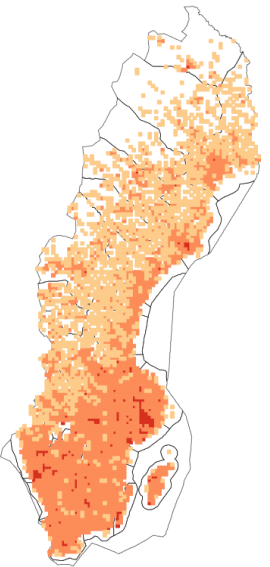
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Generalist but particularly common in agricultural areas and urban areas.

Head-body length	40 – 51 cm
Wingspan	52 – 60 cm
Weight	175 – 295 g



Corvus monedula

Jackdaw/Kaja



Identification

- Small- to medium sized corvid.
- Distinct white eye.
- Mainly black but smaller greyish parts with limited contrast between the two.

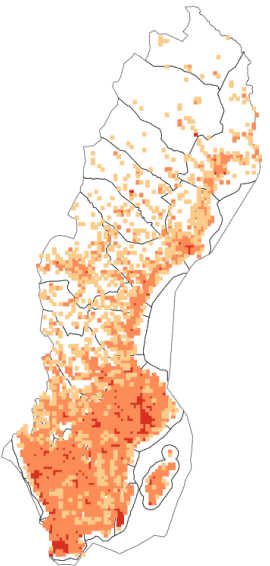
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken for hooded crow (Bird 85) but much smaller and with less contrast between grey and black parts.

Habitat

- Agricultural and urban areas as well as forests.

Head-body length	30 – 35 cm
Wingspan	64 – 73 cm
Weight	180 – 270 g



Corvus corone

Hooded crow/Kråka



Identification

- Large corvid.
- Distinct contrast between grey body and black wings and tail.
- In Sweden all individuals are grey and black whereas in other parts of Europe they are completely black.

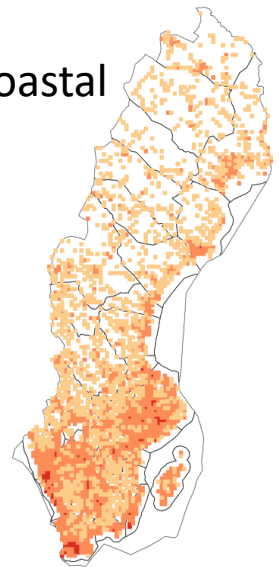
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken for jackdaw (Birds nr. 84) or raven (Birds nr. 86) but different colour and size.

Habitat

- Agricultural and urban areas as well as coastal beaches.

Head-body length	44 – 51 cm
Wingspan	84 – 100 cm
Weight	410 – 675 g



Corvus corax Raven/Korp



Identification

- Very large corvid.
- Completely black.
- Thick beak that is very noticeable when flying.
- Beard-like feathers on the throat that bulges out.

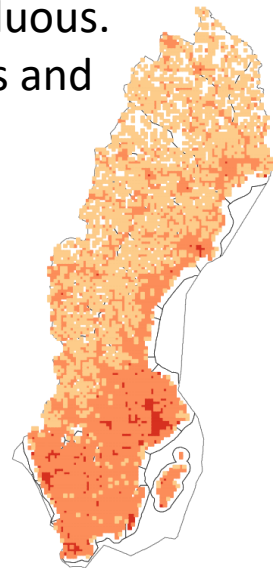
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken for hooded crow (Birds nr. 83) but is much larger and in Sweden different in colour.

Habitat

- Forests, mainly coniferous but also deciduous.
- Open areas such as the arctic heathlands and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	54 – 67 cm
Wingspan	120 – 150 cm
Weight	800 – 1560 g



Paridae Tits/Mesar



Identification

Nr 88 – 89 belong to this group

- Small birds with a round body and little to no neck visible.
- Often with a relatively long tail.
- Beaks are short and small.

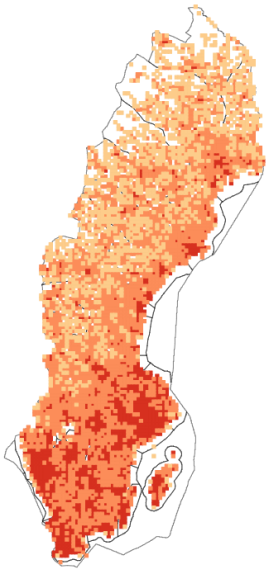
Potential misidentifications

- Flycatchers and finches (Birds nr. 107 and 117) are larger less round and have longer beaks.
- Pendulin tit (Birds nr. 90) and Long-tailed tit (Bird 99) have much longer tails.

Habitat

- Varies greatly between species.

Head-body length	10 – 15 cm
Wingspan	17 – 25 cm
Weight	8 – 23 g



Cyanistes caeruleus

Blue tit/Blåmes



Identification

- Small yellow and blue tit.
- White face.

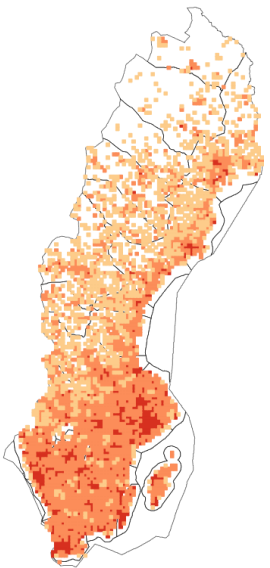
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to great tit (Birds nr. 89) but is smaller, has a blue head and lacks a black band on chest and stomach.

Habitat

- Forest, agricultural landscapes and urban environments.

Head-body length	10.5 – 12 cm
Wingspan	18 – 20 cm
Weight	10 – 13 g



Parus major Great tit/Talgoxe



Identification

- Large tit.
- Yellow body with black head and a white cheek.
- Distinct black band on chest and stomach.

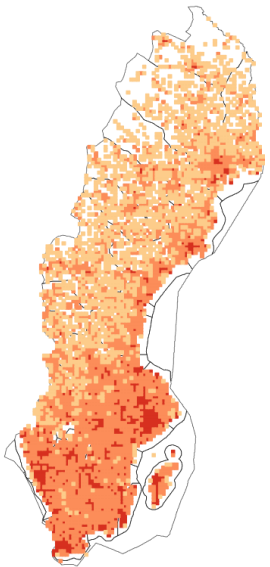
Potential misidentifications

- Blue tits (Birds nr. 88) looks similar but is distinctly smaller and lacks the black band on chest and stomach.

Habitat

- Forest, agricultural landscapes and urban environments.

Head-body length	13.5 – 15 cm
Wingspan	22 – 25 cm
Weight	15 – 23 g



Remiz pendulinus

Pendulin tit/Pungmes



Identification

- Small, tit-like bird with long tail.
- Distinct black facemask and rufous back.

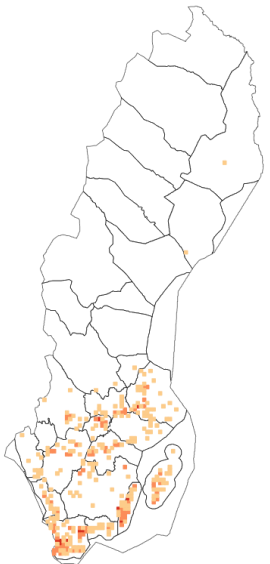
Potential misidentifications

- Body shape is similar to tits (Birds nr. 87) but the facemask should enable safe identification.

Habitat

- Densely vegetated shores of marshes.
- Nests generally hanging over water.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	10 – 11.5 cm
Wingspan	16 – 17 g
Weight	~9 g



Alaudidae

Larks/Lärkor



Identification

- Small, brown to sand coloured passerines
- Long legs and quite long beaks.
- Quite short and "stumpy" wings.
- Often found running on the ground or perched on rocks singing.

Potential misidentifications

- Pipits (Birds nr. 115) but distinguished by larger size, thicker bills and bulkier bodies.

Habitat

- Varies within the group but often open habitats such as grassland, agricultural landscapes or rocky terrain
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	14 – 19 cm
Wingspan	25 – 38 cm
Weight	20 – 55 g

Panurus biarmicus

Bearded reedling/Skäggmå



Male



Female

Identification

- Small rufous tit-like bird with a long tail and rather round body.
- Males bright grey head and apparent "black beard".
- Females dusky rufous with a silver grey throat and chest.

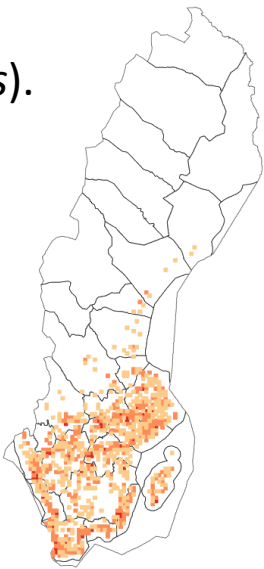
Potential misidentifications

- Body shape similar to several other birds including tits (Birds nr. 87) but distinct coloration.

Habitat

- Breeds in reed beds (*Phragmites australis*).
- Spends most time inside reed beds and often hard to see.

Head-body length	14 – 15.5 cm
Wingspan	16 – 18 cm
Weight	11 – 21 g



Delichon urbicum

House martin/Hussvala



Identification

- Rather compact small bird with very long wings.
- Black wings and back and white chest with strong contrast between the two.

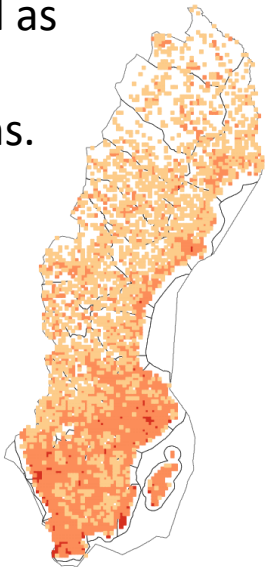
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to sand martins (Bird 94) but has longer wings and stronger contrast between dark and light part.

Habitat

- Agricultural and urban landscapes as well as marine beaches.
- Breeds almost exclusively close to humans.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	13.5 – 15 cm
Wingspan	26 – 29 cm
Weight	12 – 22 g



Riparia riparia

Sand martin/Backsvala



Identification

- Compact small bird with long wings (but shorter wings and tail than other swallows).
- Buffed brown and white with less contrast between colours in plumage and
- Characteristic dark band across chest.

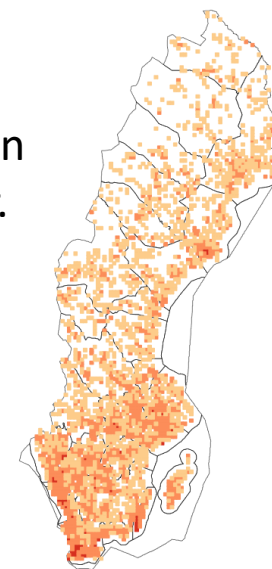
Potential misidentifications

- Similar to house martin (Bird 92) but has shorter wings, weaker contrast between dark and light part.

Habitat

- Urban environments and wetlands.
- Only in summer where they build nest in colonies in sand banks along fresh water.

Head-body length	12 – 13 cm
Wingspan	27 - 29 cm
Weight	12 – 17 g



Hirundo rustica

Barn swallow/Ladusvala

LC

Identification

- Long-tailed, dark swallow with characteristic red face.
- Characteristic long forked tail.

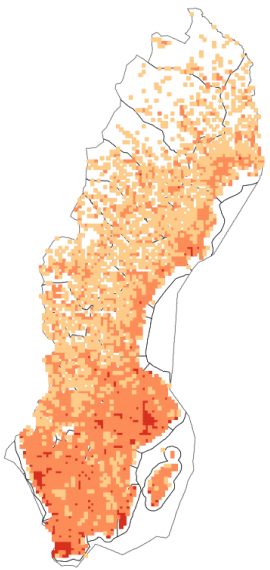
Potential misidentifications

- Distinguished from swifts (Birds nr. 21) by white chest and belly as well as much longer, forked tail and a more straight wing shape.

Habitat

- Agricultural, and urban landscapes.
- Wetlands and marine beaches.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	17 – 21 cm
Wingspan	32 – 34.5 cm
Weight	15 – 25 g



Aegithalos caudatus

Long-tailed tit/Stjärtmes



Identification

- Small white passerine with round body.
- Very long tail.

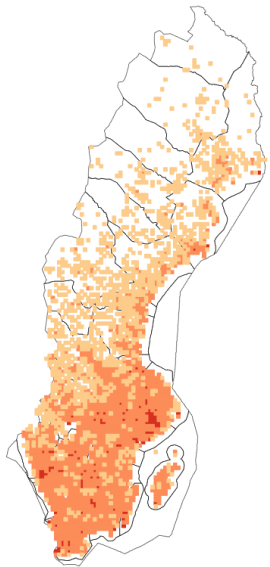
Potential misidentifications

- Tits (Birds nr. 87) has somewhat similar build but different coloration and long tail is unmistakable.

Habitat

- Shrubland, deciduous and mixed forest.

Head-body length	13 - 15 cm
Wingspan	16 – 19 cm
Weight	7 – 10 g



Certhiidae

Treecreepers/Trädkrypare



Identification

- Small brown, round passerines with lighter chest and little to no neck visible.
- Characteristic curved bill.
- Often seen climbing up tree trunks.

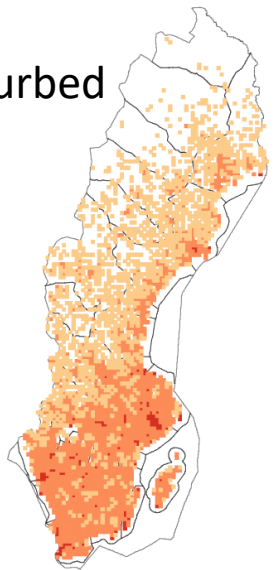
Potential misidentifications

- Can be mistaken for nuthatch (Birds nr. 98) but different in colour, nuthatch has straight beak and nuthatch often walk down stem.

Habitat

- Mixed forests as well as gardens and disturbed land.

Head-body length	12.5 – 14 cm
Wingspan	17 – 21 cm
Weight	7 – 13 g



Sitta europaea Nuthatch/Nötväcka



Identification

- Small grey-blue passerine with rufous flanks and upper gump.
- Straight beak.
- Characteristic black "bandana" across the eyes (see arrow).
- Only Swedish bird that is able to climb downwards on a tree trunk.

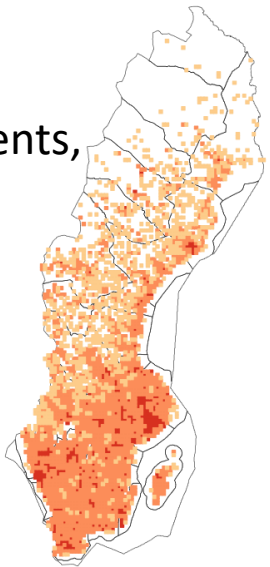
Potential misidentifications

- Similar to treecreepers (Birds nr. 97, see this slide).

Habitat

- Agricultural landscapes, urban environments, mixed forests.

Head-body length	12 – 14.5 cm
Wingspan	23 – 27 cm
Weight	17 – 28 g



Troglodytes troglodytes

Wren/Gärdsmyg



Identification

- Very small, brown, round bird.
- Characteristic tail pointing upwards.
- Barred pattern all over the body.

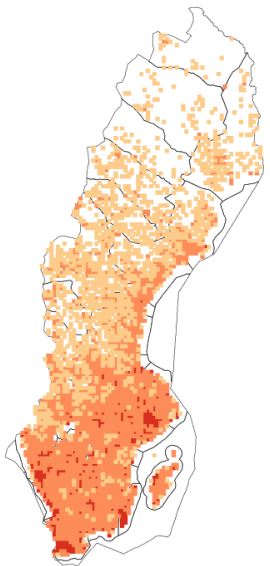
Potential misidentifications

- There are many brown birds but the distinct tail and round body should enable safe identification.

Habitat

- Forest, urban environments.
- Seen in summer

Head-body length	9 – 10.5 cm
Wingspan	13 – 17 cm
Weight	~9 g



Cinclus cinclus

White-throated dipper/Strömstare



Identification

- Medium sized chocolate brown passerine.
- Characteristic white throat.
- Very round body with head and neck not heavily pronounced.

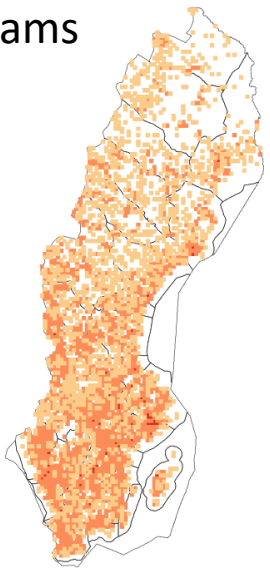
Potential misidentifications

- Some thrushes (Birds nr. 102) may have similar white throat but their body is much more elongated.

Habitat

- Always around running waters, small streams to larger rivers
- Found diving and jumping on the rocks

Head-body length	17 – 20 cm
Wingspan	26 – 30 cm
Weight	55 – 73 g



Sturnus vulgaris

Starling/Stare



Identification

- Medium sized passerine.
- Iridescent black body.
- White spots all over the body.
- Sometimes seen in huge flocks.

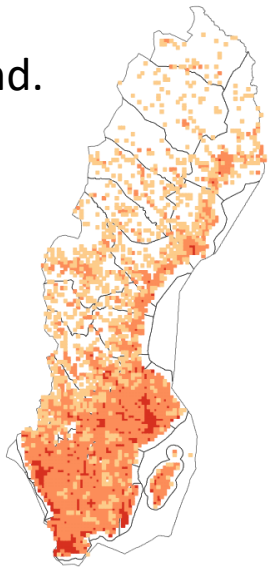
Potential misidentifications

- Body shape similar to thrushes (Birds nr. 102) but thrushes lack the iridescence and are clearly bigger.
- Sometimes seen in mixed flocks with thrushes.

Habitat

- Open ground, majority on agricultural land.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	19 -22 cm
Wingspan	37 – 42 cm
Weight	59 – 88 g



Turdus sp. Thrushes/Trastar



Identification

Nr 103 – 104 belong to this group

- Medium sized passerines.
- Long stretched bodies.
- Colour variable between species but never iridescent.

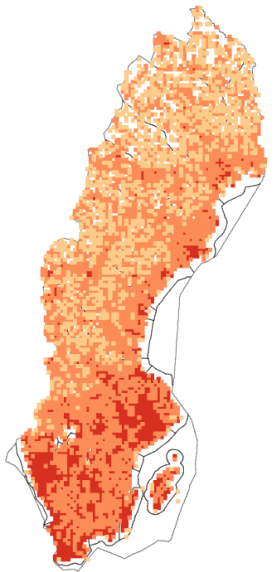
Potential misidentifications

- The body shape and size of thrushes is rather distinct and only starlings (Birds nr. 101) have similar body shape but starlings are distinctly iridescent and smaller.
- Sometimes seen in mixed flocks with starlings.

Habitat

- Large variation between species.

Head-body length	19 – 29 cm
Wingspan	39 – 45 cm
Weight	49 – 140 g



Turdus merula Common blackbird/Koltrast



Male



Female

Identification

- Medium sized elongated passerine.
- Male black with orange beak and eye ring.
- Female dark brown.

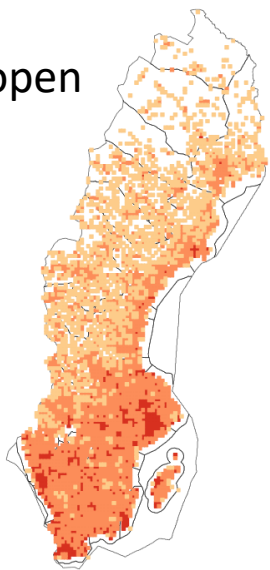
Potential misidentifications

- Males similar in colour to jackdaw (Birds nr. 84) but longer tail and smaller head. Females can be mistaken for other thrushes (Birds nr. 102) but none of them are uniform brown.

Habitat

- Seen in many habitats including forests, open areas and urban areas.

Head-body length	23.5 – 29 cm
Wingspan	35 – 38 cm
Weight	80 – 135 g



Turdus pilaris

Fieldfare/Björktrast



Identification

- Medium sized elongated passerine.
- Rufous spotted chest and slaty grey head with strong contrast between different parts of the body.

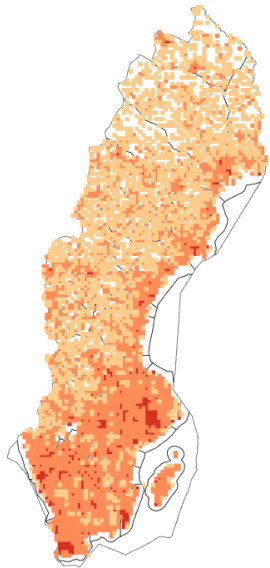
Potential misidentifications

- Several other thrushes (Birds nr. 102) have similar chest colour but none of them has the grey head of the fieldfare.

Habitat

- Agricultural areas and mixed forests.
- Urban environments such as parks and gardens.

Head-body length	22 – 27 cm
Wingspan	39 – 42 cm
Weight	82 – 138 g



Muscicapidae

Flycatchers/Flugsnappare



Chordata

Aves

Passeriformes

Muscicapidae (12 Swedish species)

Nr 106 – 108 belong to this group

Identification

- Small passerines, variable in colour.
- Thin but relatively long beaks adapted for eating insects.
- Generally elongate with long legs often stretched out while standing (except Birds nr. 106, 107).

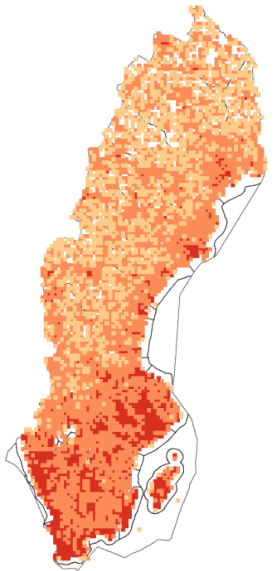
Potential misidentifications

- Tits (Birds nr. 87) has shorter beaks and less distinct separation between head and body.
- Finches (Birds nr. 117) has wider beaks.

Habitat

- Varies between species but generally prefer forests or open, rocky habitats.

Head-body length	11 – 15 cm
Wingspan	18 – 25 cm
Weight	11 – 19 g



105.

Erithacus rubecula

Robin/Rödhake



Identification

- Small dusky grey brown passerine.
- Round body.
- Characteristic orange throat and quite large eyes.

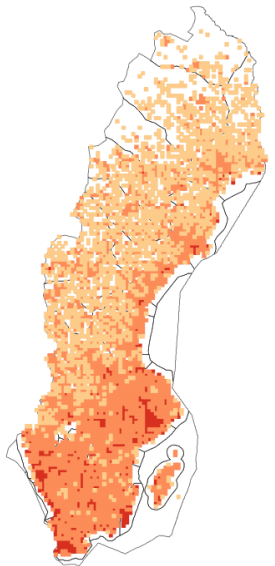
Potential misidentifications

- Tits (Birds nr. 87) has similar body shape but lacks the distinct orange throat.

Habitat

- Coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests as well as urban areas such as gardens.

Head-body length	12.5 – 14 cm
Wingspan	20 -22 cm
Weight	13 – 21 g



Ficedula hypoleuca

Pied flycatcher/Svartvit flugsnappare



Identification

- Small, black and white passerine.
- Round body and head and two white dots on forehead.

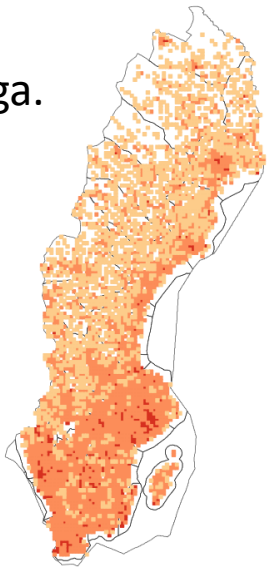
Potential misidentifications

- Halsbandsflugsnappare (*Ficedula albicollis*), which is rare in western Sweden, is similar but has one large white spot on top of beak and the white stretches all around the neck.

Habitat

- Deciduous and mixed forests but also taiga.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	12 – 13.5 cm
Wingspan	22 – 24 cm
Weight	10 – 17 g



Oenanthe oenanthe Wheatear/Stenskvätta

LC



Identification

- Small long-legged passerine.
- Grey back with a rufous sheek and underside.
- Characteristic black mask across eyes.
- Often in upright position as if scouting the surroundings.

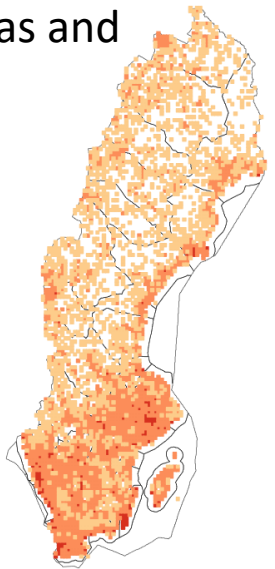
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Open environments, grassland, rocky areas and agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	14 – 16 cm
Wingspan	26 – 32 cm
Weight	19 – 29 g



Regulus sp. *Regulus*/Kungsfåglar



Identification

- Smallest passerine in Sweden.
- Green washed with some black and white wing patterns.
- Characteristic colourful crests (see arrow) in yellow or orange.

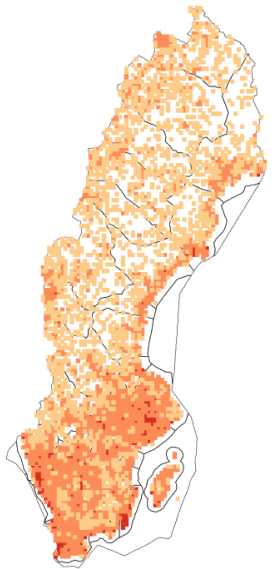
Potential misidentifications

- These birds should be readily identifiable based on tiny size and colourful crest.

Habitat

- Forests and shrubland.

Head-body length	8.5 – 9.5 cm
Wingspan	13.5 – 15.5 cm
Weight	4.5 – 7 g



Bombycilla garrulus Waxwing/Sidensvans



Identification

- Small to medium sized passerine.
- Grey body with a rufous head and characteristic crest.
- Characteristic yellow tail tips and red and yellow wing tips.

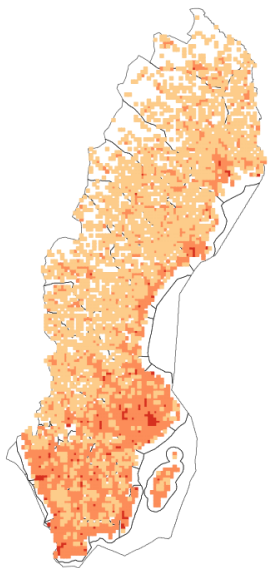
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Older mixed forests.

Head-body length	18 – 21 cm
Wingspan	32 – 36 cm
Weight	48 – 72 g



Passer montanus Tree sparrow/Pilfink



Identification

- Small brown passerine.
- Chestnut coloured head.
- Characteristic black spot on cheek.

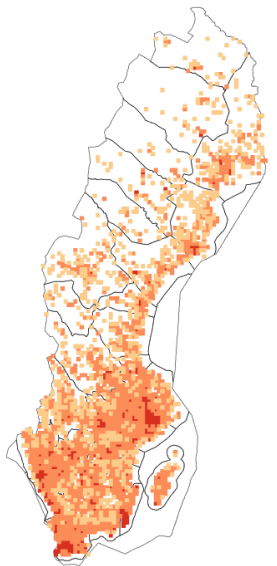
Potential misidentifications

- Looks similar to male house sparrows (Birds nr. 112) but they lack black spot on cheek and have grey head.

Habitat

- Urban environments, close to humans and constructed areas.

Head-body length	12.5 – 14 cm
Wingspan	~21 cm
Weight	22 – 24 g



Passer domesticus

House sparrow/Gråsparv

LC



Male



Female

Identification

- Small, grey and brown bird.
- Relatively thick beak.
- Male with dark brown back and large black chest patch.
- Females brown-beige, little contrast and overall lighter.

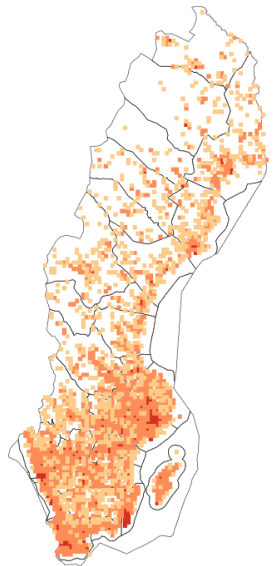
Potential misidentifications

- Males look like tree sparrow (Birds nr. 111) but are larger and have grey head and lack black spot on cheek.

Habitat

- Urban and agricultural areas.

Head-body length	14 – 18 cm
Wingspan	21 – 26 cm
Weight	24 – 40 g



Anthus sp. Pipits/Piplärkor



Identification

- Small beige, sleek passerines.
- Streaked across the body.
- Elongated bodies with long necks.

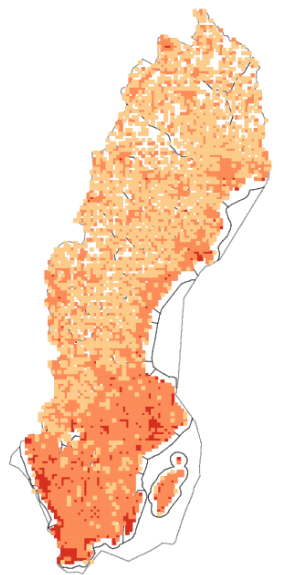
Potential misidentifications

- Larks (Birds nr. 91) look similar but are larger and with bulkier bodies.

Habitat

- Open terrain, alpine heaths, coastal grasslands and moors.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	14 – 16 cm
Wingspan	22 – 28 cm
Weight	15 – 32 g



Motacilla sp. Wagtails/Ärlor



Identification

- Small passerines with a small round head and no visible neck.
- Long tails that wag when standing or walking.
- Most species yellow to varying degree (only exception discussed as bird nr 115).

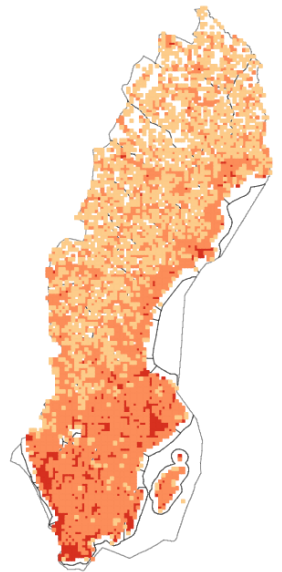
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Urban and agricultural areas.
- Shorelines and open grassland.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	16 – 20 cm
Wingspan	24 – 30 cm
Weight	11 – 26 g



Motacilla alba

White wagtail / Sädessärila



Identification

- Small black and white bird with characteristic long tail that wags when walking or standing.
- Only black and white species in the family.

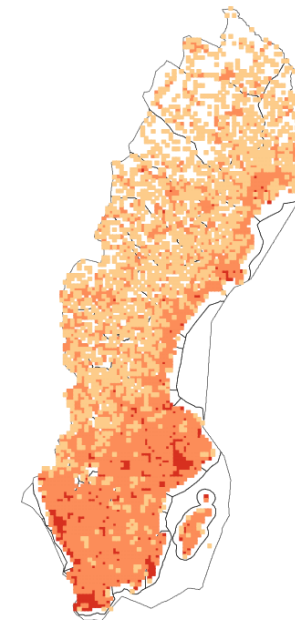
Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Open areas like grassland and pastures and beaches.
- Often in proximity to humans.

Head-body length	16 – 19 cm
Wingspan	25 – 27 cm
Weight	~ 23 g



Fringillidae Finches/Finkar



Chordata

Aves

Passeriformes

Fringillidae (16 Swedish species)

Nr 117 – 120 belong to this group

Identification

- Small to moderate sized passerines.
- Thick, cone-shaped beaks, wide at the base, adapted for eating seeds.
- Many species are colourful.

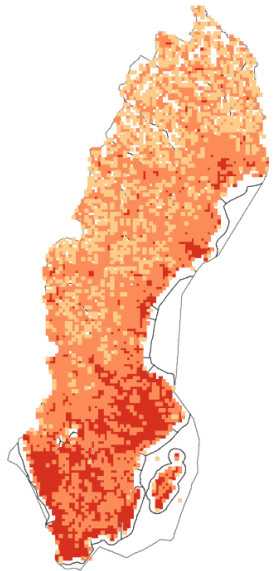
Potential misidentifications

- Tits (Birds nr. 87) have smaller beaks and are rounder.
- Tree sparrow (Bird nr. 111) and house sparrow (Bird nr. 112) has smaller beaks and duller colours.

Habitat

- Habitat varies between species but generally perches in trees.

Head-body length	9 – 18 cm
Wingspan	20 - 31 cm
Weight	11 – 55 g



116.

Fringilla coelebs Common chaffinch/Bofink



Male



Female

Identification

- Small passerine with a distinct beak.
- Males have dark grey head and neck with a rufous body and black and white wings.
- Females, all over brown green with less white on their wings.
- Both sexes with two large white/light lines on wings.

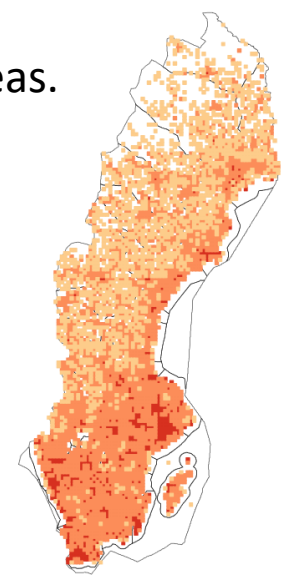
Potential misidentifications

- Other finches has at most one white line on wings.

Habitat

- Mixed forests, agricultural and urban areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	14 – 16 cm
Wingspan	25 – 29 cm
Weight	16 – 30 g



Coccothraustes coccothraustes Hawfinch/Stenknäck



Identification

- Medium sized beige and rufous passerine.
- Copper coloured head with beige body and dark brown back.
- Massive beak even distinctly larger than other finches.

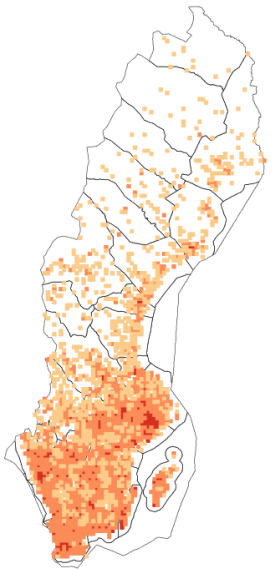
Potential misidentifications

- Common chaffinch (Birds nr. 117) but readily identifiable by the massive beak.

Habitat

- Deciduous and mixed forests and parks.

Head-body length	16.5 – 18 cm
Wingspan	~31 cm
Weight	50 – 55 g



Loxia sp

Crossbills/Korsnäbbar



Males



Females

Identification

- Medium sized parrot-like passerines with a large head.
- Characteristic crossed beak.
- Males bright red.
- Females green beige.

Potential misidentifications

- No similar species in Sweden.

Habitat

- Coniferous forests mainly.

Head-body length	15 – 18 cm
Wingspan	26 – 33 cm
Weight	25 – 61 g

Carduelis carduelis Goldfinch/Steglits

LC



Identification

- Small beige passerine.
- Characteristic white and velvet red face and yellow wingbands.

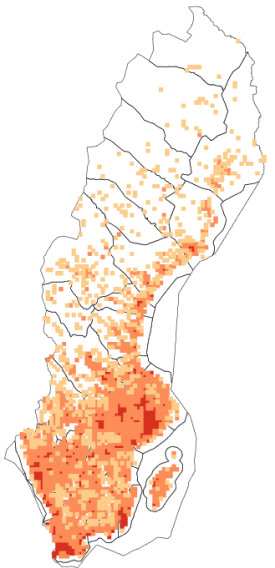
Potential misidentifications

- Similar body build like rest of family but readily identifiable by colours.

Habitat

- Mixed forests, open grasslands, shrubland and agricultural areas.
- Seen in summer.

Head-body length	12 – 13.5 cm
Wingspan	21 – 25.5 cm
Weight	14 – 18 g



Sources

Species selected by Heléne Aronsson and Søren Faurby.

Text written by Heléne Aronsson and Søren Faurby.

Body sizes are taken from Collin's Bird Guide, NatureGate, BirdID – Nord University or Wikipedia.

Distributional maps for all taxa taken from artfakta.se

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