

## Tjeldstø 2005

The following report is based largely on my own observations. Information has also been supplemented with records from the "[fugler i Hordaland](#)" website and observations sent in by [Eddie Chapman](#). Egil Frantzen's (unpublished) list of Tjeldstø observations has, as usual, been used as a reference.

Generally speaking more species were recorded in most months than in 2004 and the autumn was particularly productive. A total of 135 species were observed in the Tjeldstø area during 2005. Of these ten were new species: Smew, Osprey, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl, Red-throated Pipit, Barred Warbler, Eurasian Treecreeper and Hawfinch. Additionally the *sinensis* race of Great Cormorant was a new sub-species for the area

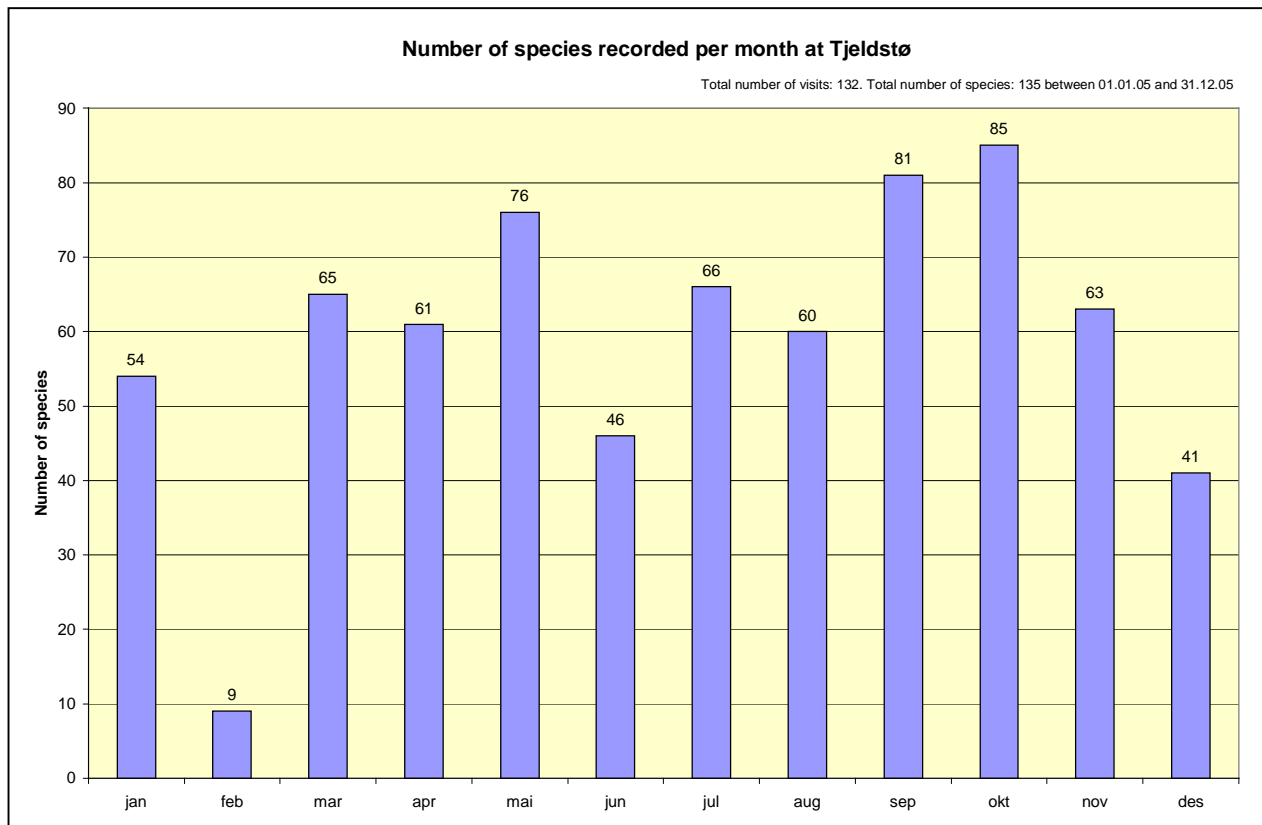


Figure 1 Number of species recorded per month in 2005

### Red-throated Diver (Smålom)

Only three singles recorded, two in spring and one in the first half of October. Poor year, but probably reflects observer effort more than anything.

### Little Grebe (Dvergdykker)

A single was seen on the sea in mid-October and then possibly the same bird was recorded on a number of occasions on Husvatnet until 17 November.



Figure 2 Little Grebe (Dvergdykker), Husvatnet, 17 November 2005

Northern Gannet (Havsule)

Small numbers recorded over Hjeltefjord during both the spring and autumn; most records were in May.

Great Cormorant (Storskarv)

Small numbers (usually less than 10) recorded resting on the islands throughout the winter months, very few observations May - July. Two of the race *sinensis* were on Husvatnet for some time in August / September – constituting only the second record for Hordaland. This race is probably under recorded and may well be reasonably regular at this time of year.



Figure 3 *sinensis* Great Cormorant (Mellomskarv), Husvatnet, 31 August 2005

European Shag (Toppskarv)

Mid winter peaks of up to 30 were logged, but for most of the year less than 10 were more normal. Few records between May and July.

Grey Heron (Gråhegre)

Common all year, with 10-15 noted regularly outside the breeding season.

#### Whooper Swan (Sangsvane)

A maximum of 26 logged in mid-January, but the number of swans recorded at Tjeldstø continues to decline. This species turned up later than ever and in even smaller numbers (maximum 12) in the autumn of 2005. The cause of this decline is unknown and at odds with the otherwise increasing numbers wintering in Hordaland. What is causing Tjeldstø, once the stronghold of this species, to become less attractive to the swans?

#### Greylag Goose (Grågås)

Two turned up in mid January together with numbers of unseasonal species. The first migrants were as usual back in early March; numbers reached a peak of 90 towards the end of March before decreasing again. The peak of 200 in early September was of migrating birds after which only small numbers (1-5) were recorded until well into December.



Figure 4 Greylag Goose (grågås), Tjeldstø, 20 December 2005

#### Barnacle Goose (Hvitkingås)

An unusual winter record of one beside Husvatnet from mid January onwards was the only record prior to 12 birds in mid October.

#### Common Shelduck (Gravand)

One seen in display flight early May over a potential breeding site was the only observation of the year.

#### Eurasian Wigeon (Brunnakke)

A pair turned up in mid January but it was a poor spring for this species with only four observations. A pair was present on Husvatnet during the first half of July after which there were no further records until early September. The autumn followed the usual pattern with a maximum of 24 recorded. The last were seen in the second half of November.

#### Eurasian Teal (Krikkand)

A normal year, with none noted before well into March. A minimum of two breeding pairs successfully raised young. Largest numbers (15) recorded in mid September and the last observation was in the second half of November.

#### Mallard (Stokkand)

Present all year. A good autumn with over 30 logged on a number of occasions between mid September and mid November.

#### Northern Shoveler (Sjeand)

A male was present on Husvatnet for the afternoon of 02 October. This is the 4th record for Tjeldstø and the first since 01 June 2003.

Common Pochard (Taffeland)

A male was on Rotevatnet from 09 to 12 October. The first at Tjeldstø since 06 May 2002.



Figure 5 Male Pochard (taffeland), Rotevatnet, 09 October 2005

Tufted Duck (Toppand)

Almost all records from the migration seasons (March-April and October – mid November). Never more than three present.

Greater Scaup (Bergand)

One-two recorded on Rotevatnet in the first half of October and one on a number of occasions in the second half of November.

Common Eider (Ærfugl)

Maximum of 30 seen on the sea in January. Small numbers present all year.

Long-tailed Duck (Havelle)

Eleven records of 1-5 between January and early May with no autumn records at all.

Common Scoter (Svartand)

The usual scattering of records January – March and again late October until first half of November.

Velvet Scoter (Sjørørre)

Small numbers in the autumn only (late September – mid November).

Common Goldeneye (Kvinand)

Numbers increased slowly from five in early January to twelve in late March before dropping again until mid-April. One early May record again then no observations until the species returned in early October.

Smew (Lappfiskand)

A "redhead" was seen on Rotevatnet on 29 October. A new species for Tjeldstø which had been in the area since 24 October.

Red-breasted Merganser (Siland)

Common for most of the year. As usual few records June – August.

White-tailed Eagle (Havørn)

Not quite the most frequent raptor in 2005 with only 25 sightings of 31 individuals; the majority of records were as usual from outside the breeding season.



Figure 6 White-tailed Eagle (havørn)

Osprey (Fiskeørn)

A bird in the area 02-03 September was the first record for Tjeldstø.

Northern Goshawk (Hønehawk)

Usual pattern of records with one in February and four September - December.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Spurvehawk)

The most frequently observed bird of prey with 28 sightings of 28 birds – the vast majority of which were seen in the period September to November.

Common Kestrel (Tårnfalk)

One spring record in late March, two in late July and two in September / October.

Merlin (Dvergfalk)

One midsummer observation and three between end August and mid September.

Peregrine (Vandrefalk)

One record in early May, three midsummer observations and four from early September to early October.

Common Moorhen (Sivhøne)

One present on Husvatnet for several days in the first half of November.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (Tjeld)

This species followed the usual pattern, arriving in early March and departing by mid-August after which there was only one observation in September. Several pairs bred in the area both in the reserve and out.

Ringed Plover (Sandlo)

Two spring records in late March / early April and seven observations from the end of July to early October. Maximum four.

European Golden Plover (Heilo)

Regular late March to mid April, sporadic May records then none until the end of July. Very regular from early August to mid October. Maximum 25.



Grey Plover (Tundralo)

One heard flying over 28 September was the first dated observation Tjeldstø.

Northern Lapwing (Vipe)

A record observation of 88 birds 18 January was most unexpected. Numbers dropped rapidly and no more were seen until the second half of March. As usual most Lapwing had departed by mid August but small numbers regular well into the first half of November.

Little Stint (Dvergsnipe)

Three seen flying up from Husvatnet together with Common Snipe 11 September were the first observation for Tjeldstø.

Curlew Sandpiper (Tundrasnipe)

One-two with Golden Plover out in the reserve 05 September were the first record for Tjeldstø.

Purple Sandpiper (Fjæreplytt)

This species was seen exclusively on the islands to the east of the reserve. Observed twice in January and three times late October – December. Observer effort is probably the main reason for the paucity of records. Maximum 50.

Dunlin (Myrsnipe)

A poor year for this species at Tjeldstø with only five observations between mid September and mid October.

Ruff (Brushøns)

Noted on only seven occasions between the end of July and 20 September.

Common Snipe (Enkeltbekkasin)

Overwintered in small numbers. Up to 20 observed in early May and mid October.

Jack Snipe (Kvartbekkasin)

Two records in mid January and one in late December add up to a typical year.

Eurasian Woodcock (Rugde)

A few logged from late March to Mid April then none until late December.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Lappspove)

A normal year with one beside Husvatnet on 20 September.



Whimbrel (Småspove)

Three records of five birds around mid May were the only records.

Eurasian Curlew (Storspove)

After atypical records in mid January none were noted until the second half of March. Three or four pairs bred in the reserve all of which had departed by mid September.

Spotted Redshank (Sotsnipe)

Three records of four birds between 07 August and 01 September.

Common Redshank (Rødstilk)

This common breeder (minimum of four pairs) arrived in early May and was gone by 20 July after which none were seen.

Common Greenshank (Glottesnipe)

A below average year with one May record and four in July / August. Maximum: 2.

Green Sandpiper (Skogsnipe)

Only one observation – heard over Rotevatnet 12 October.

Common Sandpiper (Strandsnipe)

Another poor year in the reserve with only five records between mid May and 07 September. This species is under recorded as it often prefers the rocky coastline to the east of the reserve.

Ruddy Turnstone (Steinvender)

Flocks of 10 and 6 noted on the islands east of the reserve 26 October and 09 November.

Arctic Skua (Tyvjo)

Singles seen over Hjeltefjord in early August and early September.

Black-headed Gull (Hettemåke)

An even scattering of records from early March to mid November with no clear peaks, usually 1-3 birds logged.

Common Gull (Fiskemåke)

No winter records before this species arrived in early March, after which numbers rapidly built up to well over 100 by mid April after which numbers decreased slightly. Most Common Gull had left by mid August but small numbers (<12) noted regularly until late November.

Lesser black backed Gull (Sildemåke)

Noted in small numbers (maximum four) from early April to early October.



Figure 7 Lesser Black-backed Gull (Sildemåke), Husvatnet, 20 September 2005

Herring Gull (Gråmåke)

Common all year with less than 50 most of the time. Over 200 logged a number of times January – early March.



Figure 8 Herring Gull (Gråmåke) with abnormally coloured legs. Tjeldstø, 03 May 2005

Glaucous Gull (Polarmåke)

A second winter was seen twice around mid January was the first record for Tjeldstø.

Great black backed Gull (Svartbak)

Common all year with less than 30 most of the time. Over 100 logged a number of times January – early March.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Krykkje)

Two observations in April and May.

Common Tern (Makrellterne)

Arrived in early May and several pairs attempted breeding outside the reserve area. Regular until mid August, sporadic records into September.

Arctic Tern (Rødnebbterne)

First recorded in mid May, a few pairs may have attempted breeding in the vicinity. Last seen in early October.



Figure 9 Arctic Tern (rødnebbterne), Tjeldstø, 15 May 2005

Common Guillemot (Lomvi)

Most noted on passage over Hjeltefjord, largely late March to early May and early October to early November. Maximum 18 in mid April.

Razorbill (Alke)

One to four logged on 5 occasions, similar occurrence pattern to Common Guillemot.

Black Guillemot (Teist)

Two records of this species in 2005, one in mid May and the other in late December. Relatively rare on the east side of Øygarden.

Little Auk (Alkekonge)

Not the best of years for this species, a maximum of 58 logged on 23 January. Otherwise a total of 32 seen on 7 other occasions; most regular late October – mid November.

Atlantic Puffin (Lunde)

A single record of one bird at the beginning of August.

Common Woodpigeon (Ringdue)

A common breeder, this species was first seen in the second half of March and then daily until mid October. No big numbers with a maximum of 18 at the end of August.

Eurasian Collared Dove (Tyrkedue)

Typical year with one isolated spring record of a single bird on 20 May.

Common Cuckoo (Gjøk)

A very poor year indeed for this species with just three observations between 19 May and the end of August.

Short-eared Owl (Jordugle)

The first and second records for Tjeldstø occurred on 16 January and 24 March respectively.

Common Swift (Tårnseiler)

Never a common species at Tjeldstø; 2005 was a poorer than average year with two singles logged during July – the peak month for this bird.



Grey-headed Woodpecker (Gråspett)

An average autumn with a total of four birds noted on three dates in the second half of October.

Skylark (Sanglerke)

Four spring records in the period March - June, largely of single singing birds in the reserve. Somewhat commoner on autumn passage between early October and mid November.

Sand Martin (Sandsvale)

Only observation was strangely enough of three birds in early September.

Barn Swallow (Låvesvale)

First observed towards the end of April, thereafter daily until the end of September with the last birds noted in mid October.

House Martin (Taksvale)

Typically most records during the spring and autumn migrations – early May to mid September.

Richard's Pipit (Tartarpipilerke)

One flying over 14 October was the second record for Tjeldstø.

Meadow Pipit (Heipipilerke)

This species returned towards the end of March and an absolute minimum of 15-20 pairs bred in the area. Numbers increased greatly from the end of August to mid October, during this period 200 were present on a number of occasions. Numbers dropped rapidly after mid October with scattered records of singles well into November.

Red-throated Pipit (Lappipilerke)

First record for Tjeldstø was of a single 27 September.

Rock Pipit (Skjærpipilerke)

This winter visitor was seen regularly throughout January after which the species was seen only once, in March, until mid October after which small numbers were regular until the end of the year.

Yellow Wagtail (Gulerle)

One record on 19 June of this irregular Tjeldstø species.

Grey Wagtail (Vintererle)

Two records in late July / early August and one, more typical, 07 November.

Pied Wagtail (Svartryggerle)

Typically noted on a number of occasions during late March and early April.

White Wagtail (Linerle)

Observed daily from early April to early September, and regularly until the last observation in mid October.

Bohemian Waxwing (Sidensvans)

As usual this species was noted regularly between mid October and mid November. However, numbers were lower than in previous years – this is probably more due to observer effort than anything else.

Winter Wren (Gjerdsmett)

Present all year but with an obvious increase in October.

Hedge Accentor (Jernspurv)

Common from early April to mid July and then none until passage birds came through between mid September and mid October.



#### European Robin (Rødstrupe)

Present all year with obvious peaks in March and in the first half of October after which numbers dropped gradually.

#### Common Redstart (Rødstjert)

Redstart was recorded twice during September.

#### Whinchat (Buskskvett)

Recorded once in mid May and twice in the first half of September.

#### Northern Wheatear (Steinskvett)

Turned up in early April and seen daily during May and the first half of June after which the species became much more irregular until the last one at the end of September.

#### Common Blackbird (Svarttrost)

Common all year but with noticeable influxes towards the end of March / early May and again in the first half of October.

#### Fieldfare (Gråtrost)

A single was seen a few times during January after which there were no more records until early March. Maximum on spring passage was 120 in early April after which small numbers logged during the summer months. Numbers started increasing again in early September reaching a peak of around 800 in early November after which there was a rapid drop towards the end of the month. Small numbers noted during December.

#### Song Thrush (Måltrost)

Arrived towards the end of March and from then on regular until well into the first half of July. Song Thrush seemed to disappear entirely from mid July to mid September after which the species was regular until early November with a clear peak in mid October.

#### Redwing (Rødvingstrost)

A flock of 11 birds in mid January was the best observation until the second half of March when flocks of up to 30 were noted. Breeding birds were present most of the summer, although there were none logged between mid July and late August. Over 1000 were recorded on a number of dates between early October and early November. Flocks of up to 20 were seen well into December.

#### Mistle Thrush (Duetrost)

Up to three birds were present on a number of dates in late March / early April.



Figure 10 Mistle Thrush (Duetrost), Tjeldstø, 30 March 2005. Photo taken through living room window...

#### Sedge Warbler (Sivsanger)

This species was much less numerous than usual in 2005 with no singing birds in the reserve itself for the first time since my records began. However, the species was present in small numbers outside the reserve from 12 May to early September.



Figure 11 Sedge Warbler (Sivsanger), Tjeldstø, 15 May 2005.

#### Barred Warbler (Hauksanger)

A juvenile present on 09 October was the first record for Tjeldstø.

#### Lesser Whitethroat (Møller)

One – two Lesser Whitethroat were recorded daily during the second half of July and into early August.

#### Common Whitethroat (Tornsanger)

This species also appeared to be less numerous than usual in 2005. Small numbers regular from mid May to mid September.

#### Blackcap (Munk)

As usual the late autumn provided the only records for this species – all in the period 15 October – 05 November.



Figure 12 Female Blackcap (Munk), Tjeldstø, 16 October 2005.



**Yellow-browed Warbler (Gulbrynsanger)**

An influx in late September gave a couple of records at Tjeldstø.

**Common Chiffchaff (Gransanger)**

A passage migrant only at Tjeldstø this species was heard singing on two occasions in mid May and was seen twice in the second half of October.

**Willow Warbler (Lovsanger)**

One of the commonest breeding species in the area Willow Warbler were seen daily from early May to mid August after which there were sporadic observations until late September.

**Goldcrest (Fuglekonge)**

Present all year but very much under recorded. Much more obvious from July onwards; there was a notable influx in mid October when 20-50 were noted on a number of occasions.

**Pied Flycatcher (Svarhvitfluesnapper)**

Recorded twice on passage, once in early May and once 08 September.

**Crested Tit (Toppmeis)**

Small numbers seen regularly throughout the year.

**Coal Tit (Svartmeis)**

A common bird throughout the year, although smaller numbers noted during the winter months.

**Blue Tit (Blåmeis)**

A common bird throughout the year. Maximum ca 10.

**Great Tit (Kjøttmeis)**

A common bird throughout the year, this is the commonest species of tit in the area.

**Eurasian Treecreeper (Trekryper)**

The first record for Tjeldstø was on 03 January. Another bird was seen in early November.

**Eurasian Jay (Nøtteskrike)**

Flocks of five were seen twice in early October, a typical autumn observation. More unusual was a single noted on two occasions in late January.

**Black-billed Magpie (Skjære)**

Common throughout the year, usually less than 15 noted.

**Eurasian Jackdaw (Kaie)**

A flock of 10 turned up 23 March and were present for some days with two birds remaining until at least 27 March.

**Hooded Crow (Kråke)**

Around 70 birds normal during the winter months. Numbers dropped from early March onwards and did not build up again until late October.

**Common Raven (Ravn)**

Two- five regular throughout the year. Breeding birds found in the immediate vicinity of the reserve.

**Common Starling (Stær)**

Up to 25 Starling were seen during January, the first positive indication of returning birds came in early March and up to 200 were observed during the second half of the month. Migrating / dispersing flocks were obvious from mid July onwards; peak numbers occurred in late August / early September after which numbers dropped slowly throughout the rest of the year.



#### House Sparrow (Gråspurv)

Regular in small numbers throughout the year. Maximum 8.

#### Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Pilfink)

Common all year with several breeding pairs. Up to 20 logged regularly outside the breeding season. Tjeldstø is one of the few remaining strongholds for this species in the northern parts of Hordaland. The species seems to have declined or even disappeared from a number of other localities.

#### Chaffinch (Bokfink)

As usual this species was present all year, with up to 20 recorded in January. Numbers peaked in early-mid October with a maximum of 400 logged.

#### Brambling (Bjørkefink)

One-two recorded on several occasions in January, then absent until September. A clear peak in the first half of October with the best day count of around 1000 birds after which numbers dwindled rapidly. One-two seen on a number of dates in November and December.

#### European Greenfinch (Grønnfink)

One of the commonest species on a year round basis. Up to 30 present during the winter months, rather fewer seen during the breeding season.

#### European Goldfinch (Stillits)

A good year for this species at Tjeldstø with 15 in mid January a notable record. 1-15 logged on four dates between early October and early November.

#### European Siskin (Grønnsisik)

Reasonably regular from late March to mid October, but never numerous (always less than five).

#### Common Linnet (Tornirisk)

First seen in late March but only common from the end of April. As usual a clear peak noted in late August / early September when up to 40 were present. Last seen in the first few days of October.

#### Twite (Bergirisk)

The normal pattern of occurrence was followed with few spring and summer records; this species became more regular during September and October.



Figure 13 Twite (Bergirisk), Tjeldstø, 24 October 2005.

#### Mealy Redpoll (Gråsisik)

A single bird was seen several times in January and a few were recorded in March.

#### Lesser Redpoll (Brunsisik)

Although there were records in April this common breeder was only regular (daily) from early May onwards until mid September. A peak of around 300 was logged in the first half of October along with a passage of other finches. Present well into the first half of November.

#### Common Crossbill (Grankorsnebb)

Typically irruptive occurrence pattern. Up to 50 present in January, small numbers (1-6) in March and April then virtually absent until late August when small numbers turned up again. Up to 100 were noted on a number of dates around mid October, although many of these were migrating. Thereafter numbers dropped and no more than ten were seen after early November.



Figure 14 Common Crossbill (Grankorsnebb), Tjeldstø, 24 October 2005

#### Common Bullfinch (Dompap)

Only two records; one in January was possibly a hanger on from the large influx in the autumn of 2004. The second observation was of two birds 24 October, part of a larger influx in Øygarden at that time.

#### Lapland Longspur (Lappspurv)

Singles observed on 24 and 26 October.

#### Snow Bunting (Snøspurv)

A single 01 November was the only record at Tjeldstø in 2005.

#### Yellowhammer (Gulspurv)

Largely seen on migration with two records in early March and one in late November. A single feeding at a bird feeder on 20 December was the only record outside migration periods.

#### Reed Bunting (Sivspurv)

One-two singing males in the reserve regular from early May to early June; this species seems to becoming less numerous (along with Sedge Warbler) in the area. Typically more were seen on autumn migration between early September and mid October.

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