

Spring Long weekend in Svartådalen – The Black River Valley



When: May - June

How long: 5 days– 4 nights

Price from:

Spa alternative: –

Extra day: –

Enjoy quality birding in Taiga forest and wetlands around Svartådalen – The Black River Valley of Västmanland. Magnificent birds like Owls, Woodpeckers and Grouse are in focus on this trip.

We offer close encounters with **Ural** – and **Tengmalms Owls** on ringing excursions, that also provide good photo opportunities. **Great Grey**– and **Pygmy Owls** are seen totally in the wild, hunting at sunset over small meadows in the forest.

Woodpeckers drum in early mornings – six species if you´re lucky – with **Three-toed**– and **Grey-headed** as the jewels in the crown.

As waves of migrating birds arrive from late April, the number of species increase around the wetlands and in late May, even the last arriving **Common Rosefinches** get really common.

Look at the *species list* and the "*About the birds- pdf*" and you´ll see what more to expect. Check the species-list thoroughly and you´ll know when is the best time for the species most important to you.

Day 1

Arrival: 14:50 to Västerås Airport

Meet & great stop with coffee/tea and sandwiches over **Slavonian Grebes** in small wetland area by Ångsö castle.

We also check adjacent Björnön for **Icterine Warbler**.

After the break we set off for an extra detour especially to look for **Ortolan Buntings**.

Before sunset we put ourselves in position to await the **Great Grey Owls** evening hunt. An unforgettable experience that often provides breath-taking views on these stunning and obliging birds.

As **Woodcocks** rood and the forest quire of thrushes and Robins is quieting down, **Pygmy Owls** appear to announce their territory.

Dinner & Night at Fläckebo B&B

Day 2

Breakfast at B&B

Morning visit to lake Ösjön with **Black-throated Divers**, chance of **Nutcracker** and **Hazel Grouse** and some nice Butterflies like *Camberwell Beauties*, *Holly Blue* and *Green Hairstreaks*.

A short stop along the way to look and listen for newly arrived **Thrush Nightingales**.

We continue down to the Black River Valley and its rich wetlands to enjoy good scenic views, a nice outdoor lunch and to look for the locally breeding **White-tailed Eagles**, **Honey Buzzards**, **Hobby**, **Black Terns**, **northern Yellow Wagtails**, **Common Rosefinch**, and Waders and Waterfowl of several species, depending on the dates.

Ural Owl ringing excursion with close encounters with Ural Owls. In April we ring incubating females, in May it´s time to ring the chicks before they leave the

nests. Meanwhile the parents often appear, sometimes aggressively and close. Moments of good photo opportunities.

Dinner at Fläckebo B&B

Pygmy Owl- or **Eagle Owl** evening-excursion.

Night at Fläckebo B&B

Day 3

Early rising for Woodpecker Morning with **Wrynecks, Three-toed-, Grey-headed-,** and **Black Woodpeckers.**

Ringling of **Tengmalms Owls**, breeding in nestboxes. Excellent opportunity to get really close views and to photograph these charming, little owls.

Black-throated Divers, Capercaillie and **Goshawk** breed in the area, as do **Woodlark** and **Parrot Crossbill.**

We enjoy the breakfast outdoors and get back for lunch at the B&B around noon.

Afternoon Siesta.

Relaxed evening excursion around the beautiful wetlands of Svartådalen with Black Terns, Little Gulls and **Waders** like immaculate summer-plumaged **Spotted Redshanks, Ruffs, Greenshanks,** and more. **Bittern, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Grasshopper** and **Marsh Warbler.**

Dinner & Night at Fläckebo B&B

Day 4

Early forest morning with leking **Black Grouse** on a large bog with breeding **Common Cranes, Osprey, Wood-** and **Green Sandpipers.**

In the surrounding forest **Crested-** and **Willow Tits, Crossbills, Cuckoos** and several species of **Woodpeckers** including **Black-** and **Grey-headed** appear frequently.

Transfer to airport

Departure at 15:00 from Västerås Airport

Extra Day 5

Alternative 1: Coastal lagoons along Baltic Sea (Uppland) with **Caspian Terns** and **Little Gulls**, several species of Waders, **White-tailed Eagles, Montague's Harrier,** etc.

We visit scenic Eagle Rock and search for **Red-breasted Flycatcher** in the surrounding forest. On the way back, we stop at birding hotspot Hjälstaviken – wetland lagoon with **Little Gulls** and **Black Terns** on our way back.

Dinner & Night at Fläckebo B&B

www.birdsafarisweden.com

Daniel Green

Knutsgatan 5 B
S-722 14 Västerås
Sweden

Phone: +46-(0)706 18 43 16

daniel@birdsafarisweden.com