

Spring Long weekend in Svartådalen – The Black River Valley



When: April

How long: 4 days– 3 nights

Price from: 8.459 SEK/ person (4 persons)

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.

Look at the *species list* and the "*About the birds- pdf*" and you´ll see what more to expect. Check "When to see the bird?" 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 Ängsö castle. **Black**– and **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Osprey** also frequent the area.

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

Naturally we look for Moose along the way back to the B&B.

Dinner & Night at Fläckebo B&B

Day 2

Breakfast at B&B

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

We pay a visit to the winter feeding station where **Crested**–, **Willow**–, **Marsh**– and **Long-tailed Tits** still might appear, together with **Nuthatches** of the white-bellied Scandinavian race.

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**, flocks of **Bean Geese**, **Smew**, and other wildfowl.

Raptors like **Hen Harrier**, **Rough-legged Buzzard** and **Merlin** are on passage through the area and winter-visitors like **Great Grey Shrike** and **Golden Eagle** might linger on.

Pick-nick lunch with a view.

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 nest.

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 **Three-toed–**, **Grey-headed–**, and **Black Woodpeckers**.

Ringed 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 drumming **Snipes** and singing **Curlews**.

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** and several species of **Woodpeckers** including **Black–** and **Grey-headed** appear frequently.

Transfer to airport

Departure at 15:00 from Västerås Airport

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