FACTS & FIGURES

ACCOMMODATION & CAR PARKING AT STANSTED HILTON AIRPORT HOTEL – £ 95

RYANAIR FLIGHTS – STANSTED TO VASTERAS - £ 130 EACH

ACCOMMODATION IN SKULTUNA – SKULTUNA BRUKSHOTELL – B & B, PACKED LUNCH & EVENING MEAL - £ 375 EACH FOR 4 NIGHTS

http://skultunabrukshotell.se/ (ASK FOR LENA)

CAR HIRE WITH RYANAIR (BUDGET) - £ 105 FOR 5 DAYS

ITINERARY

FLIGHT FROM STANSTED TO VASTERAS, SWEDEN – 2 HOURS – WE COLLECTED OUR CAR & DROVE TO OUR HOTEL IN SKULTUNA. WE COULDN’T DO MUCH ON OUR FIRST DAY BECAUSE WE ARRIVED MID-AFTERNOON. AFTER WE’D DROPPED OFF OUR LUGGAGE & HAD A CUP OF TEA IN OUR ROOM, WE DROVE TO FLACKEBO (I HAVE STAYED HERE IN THE PAST) – I REALLY ENJOY DRIVING IN SWEDEN IN WINTER, LOTS OF SNOW & CRACKING SCENERY.


FROM THE FOREST FEEDING STATION DANIEL DROVE TO UPPSALA (JUST OVER AN HOUR’S DRIVE) TO SEE A WINTERING HAWK OWL – EN ROUTE WE SAW A ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD - WE WEREN’T DISAPPOINTED & THE WEATHER WAS SUPERB. WE WATCHED THE HAWK OWL FOR 3 HOURS (IT CAUGHT A VOLE & WE WATCHED IT DEVOUR IT ABOUT 30 FEET AWAY) THE LIGHT WAS FADING, SO WE MADE OUR WAY BACK TO OUR HOTEL IN SKULTUNA.
ON OUR SECOND DAY  CHRIS & I VISITED ANOTHER FEEDING STATION JUST OUTSIDE VASTERAS – C. 10 HAWFINCHES, COMMON REDPOLLS & 2 CRACKING NORTHERN LONG-TAILED TITS ( THEY HAVE COMPLETELY WHITE HEADS ). THERE WERE ALSO YELLOWHAMMERS, BULLFINCHES, NUTHATCHES, TREENCREEPER, WILLOW & MARSH TITS.

WE THEN VISITED THE FOREST FEEDING STATION AGAIN – MALE & FEMALE GREY-HEADED WOODPECKERS SHOWED WELL TODAY & THE NUTCRACKERS WERE PERFORMING – FLYING IN TO GRAB HAZEL NUTS. THE BLACK WOODPECKER DIDN'T SHOW TODAY, ALTHOUGH WE SAW 3 BIRDS FLYING AROUND & CALLING.

MID-AFTERNOON WE TRIED FOR GREAT GREY OWL ( I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH LUCK IN WINTER ) & IT DIDN'T SHOW – SPRING IS MUCH BETTER, WHEN THEY ARE FEEDING YOUNG ( APRIL/MAY )

DANIEL TURNED UP WITH FREDERICK FROM MALMO, HE HAD SPENT A WEEK WITH DANIEL PHOTOGRAPHING A VARIETY OF BIRDS, INCLUDING SPENDING A LOT OF TIME IN THE EAGLE HIDE ( I'VE NEVER FANCIED THE EAGLE HIDE – YOU HAVE TO BE IN BEFORE FIRST LIGHT & LEAVE AT DUSK )

ONE OF THE LOCAL BIRDERS WAS CHATTING WITH DANIEL & SAID HE'D PHOTOGRAPHED A PYGMY OWL NEAR SVANA – HE GAVE US DETAILS & WE TRIED THE NEXT MORNING.

THIS WAS OUR LAST FULL DAY, SO WE HEADED TO SVANA TO TRY FOR THE PYGMY OWL – AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES I COULD HEAR BIRDS MOBBING & WHEN I TURNED AROUND THE TINY PYGMY OWL WAS SITTING AT THE TOP OF A PINE TREE. I MIMICKED ITS CALL & IT FLEW & LANDED IN A SMALL BIRCH TREE. I WAS PANICKING BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH THIS TINY OWL, BUT IT WAS VERY CONFIDING & LET US APPROACH TO WITHIN 20 FEET – AFTER ABOUT 15 MINUTES IT FLEW BACK INTO THE FOREST – WHAT A SUPER BIRD!


IN THE LATE AFTERNOON WE TRIED THE GREAT GREY OWL SITE AGAIN, I SOON GOT BORED, SO BACK TO THE HOTEL FOR EVENING MEAL.

ON OUR LAST MORNING WE CHECKED THE HAWFINCH FEEDING STATION ON OUR WAY TO THE AIRPORT – A FEW HAWFINCHES WERE SHOWING WELL, FEEDING ON THE SUNFLOWER SEEDS.
A WHITE-TAILED EAGLE FLEW OVER & NEAR THE AIRPORT WE SAW ANOTHER ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD. JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT WE WATCHED THE LOCALS SKATING ON A FROZEN LAKE – WHY DON'T WE GET MORE SNOW IN BRITAIN – IT'S GREAT FUN.

I THINK THIS IS MY SIXTH WINTER TRIP TO SWEDEN & I CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK – THE PYGMY OWL STOLE THE SHOW.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

WHOOPER SWANS – 9
GOLDFEYE
WHITE-TAILED EAGLES – 3
ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARDS – 2
WOOD PIGEONS
HAWK OWL – 1 UPPSALA – ( STUNNING )
PYGMY OWL – 1 NEAR SVANA – ( PROBABLY BIRD OF THE TRIP )
BLACK WOODPECKERS – 3 ( AT LAST, SOME NICE IMAGES )
GREY-HEADED WOODPECKERS – MALE & FEMALE
GRET SPOTTED WOODPECKERS
FIELDFARES
BLACKBIRDS
GREAT TITS
COAL TITS
BLUE TITS
CRESTED TITS
WILLOW TITS
MARSH TITS

NORTHERN LONG-TAILED TITS - 2 ( NORTHERN BIRDS HAVE WHITE HEADS – VERY SMART )

NUTHATCHES

TREENCREEPERS

MAGPIES

JAYS

NUTCRACKERS – C. 8 ( STILL ONE OF MY FAVOURITE BIRDS )

JACKDAWS

HOODED CROWS

RAVENS

TREE SPARROWS

CHAFFINCHES

COMMON REDPOLLS

GREENFINCHES

BULLFINCHES

HAWFINCHES – C. 10

CROSSBILLS – ONLY HEARD

REED BUNTINGS

YELLOWHAMMERS

MAMMALS

ROE DEERS

WEASEL – 1 UPPSALA

RED SQUIRRELS – 3
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www.glynsellorsphotography.com

www.birdsafarisweden.com (Daniel Green)

www.skultunabrukshotell.se (Lena)

IMAGES BELOW
NUTCRACKER

BULLFINCH
FEMALE BLACK WOODPECKER

FEMALE BLACK WOODPECKER
FEMALE BLACK WOODPECKER
HAWK OWL
HAWK OWL
HAWK OWL
HAWK OWL WITH VOLE
NORTHERN LONG-TAILED TIT

COMMON REDPOLL (MEALY)
BULLFINCH

NUTHATCH
NUTCRACKER
BLUE TIT
CRESTED TIT

PYGMY OWL
PYGMY OWL
PYGMY OWL
MALE GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER
FEMALE GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER
NUTHATCH

WHOOPER SWAN
CRESTED TIT
NUTCRACKER FOREST FEEDING STATION

FROZEN ROAD
BIRCHES