

Ringling Birds, Learning to Lead

LiA Impact Report on Six Weeks of Conservation, Fieldwork & Leadership in Sweden

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ABOUT THE NGO: KVISMARE FÅGELSTATION

Kvismare fågelstation is a Swedish bird observatory dedicated to monitoring bird populations through long-term ringing efforts. I spent 6 weeks volunteering with the observatory ringing team, where I assisted with setting up ringing sites, ringing birds, and fixing equipment.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



Photographed below:
Juvenile Red-backed
Shrike



LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

I arrived at my LiA with helpful intentions. I left with the knowledge that conservation is more than action: success relies upon listening, learning, and letting others lead you.

Fieldwork has taught me that leadership can be as simple as noticing the tasks which need completion. I discovered that accountability is more than accepting consequences or taking ownership, but also recognizing that action, or inaction, impact the experiences of the people surrounding you.

ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT

Working with live animals required a strong commitment to ethical and responsible practices. All birds were handled with care under the supervision of licensed ringers.

THE MOTIVATION

The effects of climate change on ecosystems and species can be difficult to monitor. Birds are an excellent bioindicator of shifting temperatures (Taff and Shipley, 2023), with data collected by long term population studies supporting government conservation policies.

SMART Goals

1. Proficiency in identifying the passerines most frequently ringed.

★ I learnt to identify 19 different bird species.

🎯 Enabled me to independently collect data for the NGO.

2. Develop skills in handling and ringing birds.

★ I ringed 206 birds.

🎯 My handling skills allowed me to quickly react to unexpected scenarios.

3. Practice my leadership as part of a close-knit team.

★ I learnt that humility, curiosity, and initiative was the key to unlocking my leadership potential in a unfamiliar environment.

🎯 Throughout my LiA, I learnt repair skills from various visitors to the observatory. At the end of my stay, I passed these skills onto the new volunteers.

PROJECT IMPACT

Environmental: contributed to ongoing bird monitoring and biodiversity data collection.

NGO: supported through daily volunteering, repairing equipment, and maintaining ringing sites.

Community: assisted with the maintenance and protection of a wildlife reserve open to the general public.

