

## Late breeding of Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* at Linköping, southern Sweden

*Sen häckning av ringduva Columba palumbus i Linköping, södra Sverige*

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In 2005, we recorded a late breeding of a Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* in the urban area of the University of Linköping (latitude 58°23'41.94" N, longitude 15°34'12.18" E). The nest lay in a small Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* just outside the window of one of the buildings of the university (Figure 1). Hatching was not earlier than 15 October and the young fledged about 10 November. According to Cramp (1985) incubation takes 17 days and the fledging period varies between 20 and 35 days. This gives an estimation of egg-laying to have occurred between 19 September and 4 October and hatching between 6 and 21 October.

Few reports have been made on late breedings of Wood Pigeons in Sweden. Within north-western Europe, Wood Pigeons may breed from February through November (Cramp 1985), although in Sweden the climate limits the number of late attempts. It has been shown that Wood Pigeons are able to breed later in urban than in forest areas (Ljunggren 1988). *Fågelskydd Spillepeng* (a bird rescue organisation in Skåne, southernmost Sweden) has collected 18 breeding records since 1998 where egg laying started during September (Kenneth Bengtsson in email) and with the latest start



Figure 1. The nesting tree (in the middle of the picture) for the late breeding of wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, University area of Linköping (latitude 58°23'41.94" N, longitude 15°34'12.18" E). Picture taken April 30, 2008.

*Häckningsträd (i bildens mitt) för den sena häckningen hos ringduva Columba palumbus på universitetsområdet i Linköping (latitud 58°23'41.94" N, longitud 15°34'12.18" Ö). Fotot taget 30 april 2008.*

of breeding on 28 September (Bengtsson 2001). A few late breeding attempts which resulted in young in 2002–2007 have been reported to the Swedish bird observation database Svalan (<http://svalan.art-data.slu.se>). Most of these young were seen in the beginning of October (Table 1). One observation later than ours was made on 23 November 2007 in Halland (56°39'56"N, 12°47'52"E) which is about 170 km south of Linköping.

Two factors work together for late-breeding to become more common in the future in Sweden. The establishment and increase of an urban population since the first urban breeding in 1918 (Sven-

Table 1. Observations in Svalan between 2002 and 2007 (database checked 14 January 2008) on late breedings of Wood Pigeons. Selected breeding criteria were “nest, egg/juveniles” and “pulli/newly fledged”. *Observationer i Svalan mellan 2002 och 2007 (uttag ur databasen 14 januari 2008) på sena häckningar av ringduva. Valda häckningskriterier var ”bo, ägg/ungar” och ”pulli/nyligen flygga”.*

Landskap <i>Province</i>	Date <i>Datum</i>	Observer <i>Observatör</i>
Skåne	5 October 2003	Håkan Winqvist
	1 October 2005	Olof Jönsson, Stefan Magnusson
	6 October 2006	Lars Åkerman
	22 October 2006	Åke Lindström
Halland	23 November 2007	Markus Andersson
Bohuslän	4 October 2004	via Tommy Järås
	4 October 2006	Stefan Oscarsson
Östergötland	13 October 2006	Johan Nilsson
Södermanland	3 October 2004	Erik Peurell

sson et al. 1999) is important since urban pigeons are able to breed late (Ljunggren 1988). Overwintering Wood Pigeons seem to be more common in Sweden nowadays (Staav & Fransson 2007) which elongates the season within Sweden. This shift increases the chances to record late breeders in November, a month when many Wood Pigeons already has left the country.

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### Sammanfattning

En sen häckning av ringduva *Columba palumbus* noterades på universitetsområdet i Linköping (latitud 58°23'41.94" N, longitud 15°34'12.18" Ö). Duvorna häckade i en liten lönn precis utanför fönstret på en av universitetsbyggnaderna (Figur 1). Kläckning inträffade inte före 15 oktober och ungarna var flygga 10 november. De flesta andra observationer av häckande ringduva där ungar observerats under perioden 2002–2007 har varit i början på oktober (Tabell 1.). Ett sydligare senare fynd föreligger från Halland (1315620N, 6286090E, Rikets nät) 23 november 2007.

Två faktorer verkar för att sena häckningar av ringduva skall kunna bli vanligare i framtiden. Den urbana populationen har sedan etableringen 1918 ökat och denna population verkar ha möjlighet att häcka senare på säsongen än den som är knuten till skog. Övervintring av ringduva verkar också bli vanligare vilket förlänger säsongen inom Sverige. Den här förändringen ökar chanserna att notera häckningar i november, vilket är en månad då många ringduvor redan lämnat landet.

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