

Mammal streak Sweden 2025

The new year has just begun, it's cold and grey (at least if you live in Northern Europe), no planned exotic mammal trip to look forward to, and you've already seen all the animals that occur in your area. That's when life as a mammal watcher isn't that much fun. A way to bring life back to your mammal watching can be to do a streak, a mammal streak. Runners and birdwatchers have long engaged in streaks, running a mile a day or spotting a new bird species each day.

Last year I tried doing a mammal streak in Sweden. It isn't the most species-rich country in the world, and with our total of about 75 mammal species (including occasional whales and bats), I thought a reasonable level of ambition was to see or hear a new species each week and see how long I could keep the streak alive. The rules (my own) were that I could only "streak" one species per week. If I saw two new species during the same week, I could only count one of them. The second one I had to try to find once more another week. Suddenly, all the common and "seen-thousand-times-before-species" became very interesting.

The year started out well, the species of the first week was **moose**. The second week was a boring snow-backlash-week and I had to settle for a simple red squirrel. In week number three, I visited a friend who happened to live right in a **wolf** territory, and after a few dark nightly hours we heard the whole pack howl. The fourth species was the **western barbastelle** during a winter count of hibernating bats. The next, the fifth species, was a real stroke of luck—a **common dolphin** suddenly appeared in Gothenburg's harbour. And so, the weeks rolled on, and new mammals were gradually added to the streak list. I thought I might make it to summer, around week 25. But during the spring and summer, I did three different week-long trips to Croatia, and to avoid ending "the streak" just because I wasn't in Sweden, I decided to allow three Croatian mammals on the list. Since you are "competing" against yourself, it's okay to design the rules as you wish 😊.

To be able to maintain a mammal streak for a longer time it's crucial "save" the easy-to-see species as long as possible, so that you can "use" them at the end when it starts to be really hard to find anything new. To find a **pine marten** or a **polecat** in Sweden can require several weeks of searching and quit a lot of luck, therefore it's good to still have easy ones like **red fox**, **roe deer**, or **bank vole** to tic if you don't succeed with your target species in a certain week.

Mammal streaking may seem rather silly. Why make it more complicated and harder by trying to see a mammal during a particular week? The thing with streaks is that you force yourself to go out mammalwatching every week, even when it's boring, the rain pours down or you only longing for the couch. But by being out in the field so many hours, you also get loads of amazing wildlife and nature experiences, both the target species but also all the "just-by-chance observations". After hard work, many nights with the thermal, and a fair bit of luck, it was suddenly November and the streak was still alive. But now it was starting to get really difficult to find more targeted mammals. Despite intensive searching for a living **mole**, **pine marten**, **otter**, or a **weasel** (mustelids are really hard to spot on demand), I never managed to find them. The streak now relied only on "saved" common species which were ticked off quite quickly. Week 50 became the first week without seeing a new mammal, and a **European hare** (perhaps the easiest mammal to spot in Sweden) seen on Sunday, December 7 in week 49, became the last species in the streak.

For those of you who want to watch mammals at home in a new, a bit silly but fun and challenging way, I can really recommend doing a mammal streak. You set your own level of ambition depending on how challenging you want it to be and how many mammals are available where you're doing it. In northern Europe, I think one species per week is quite reasonable. If you streak in Borneo, maybe five, six or even seven species per week suits better

Good luck and a happy new mammal year!

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Some pictures from the year.



Wester barbastell, Karlsborg, Sweden 2025-01-24.



Common dolphin, Gothenburg's harbour 2025-01-30.



Natter's bat, Lunnås, Sweden 2025-02-22.



Harvest mouse, Falköping, Sweden 2025-09-06



Northern birch mouse, Falköping, Sweden, 2025-07-30

My Mammal streak list 2025

Species	Scientific name	Week	Country
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>	1	Sweden
Red squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	2	Sweden
Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	3	Sweden
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	4	Sweden
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	5	Sweden
Mountain hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	6	Sweden
Reinder	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	7	Sweden
Nattereri's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	8	Sweden
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	9	Sweden
Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	10	Sweden
Common shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	11	Sweden
Harbour seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	12	Sweden
Bank vole	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>	13	Sweden
Field vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	14	Sweden
American mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	15	Sweden
Southern White-Breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	16	Croatia
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	17	Sweden
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	18	Sweden
European polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	19	Sweden
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	20	Sweden
Yellow-necked mouse	<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	21	Sweden
Water vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	22	Sweden
Eurasian pygmy shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	23	Sweden
European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	24	Sweden
Stone marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	25	Croatia
Edible dormouse	<i>Glis glis</i>	26	Croatia
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	27	Sweden
Soprano pipistrell	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	28	Sweden
Harves mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	29	Sweden
Northern birch mouse	<i>Sicista betulina</i>	30	Sweden
Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	31	Sweden
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	32	Sweden
Grey-sided vole	<i>Clethrionomys rufocanus</i>	33	Sweden
European badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	35	Sweden
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	36	Sweden
Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	37	Sweden
Water shrew	<i>Neomys fodiens</i>	38	Sweden
Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	39	Sweden
European beaver	<i>Castor fiber</i>	40	Sweden
Nathusi pipistrell	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	41	Sweden
Wood lemming	<i>Myopus schisticolor</i>	42	Sweden
Wood mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	43	Sweden
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	44	Sweden
Parti-coloured bat	<i>Vespertilio murinus</i>	45	Sweden
Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	46	Sweden
Roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	47	Sweden
Nothern bat	<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i>	48	Sweden
European hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	49	Sweden