



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Finland & Norway

Forests and Fjords

9th to 21st May 2022 (13 days)

Trip Report



Steller's Eider by John Caddick

Tour leaders: Nigel Redman and Antero Topp

Trip report compiled by Nigel Redman

Tour Summary

Our tour to northernmost Finland and Norway, collectively known as Lapland, was a true Arctic experience this year. The winter was very late, and consequently virtually all the rivers and lakes in the north were still frozen when we arrived, although the roads were completely clear. It made for some challenging birding, with winter visitors such as Steller's and King Eiders still present, but some of the regular summer visitors were absent. Nevertheless, as the trip progressed, the warming temperatures quickly melted some of the lakes, and we managed to find almost all our targets. Highlights this year included at least 15 White-billed Divers (Yellow-billed Loons), a flock of 250 King Eiders, more than 30 Capercaillies (mostly females), many displaying Ruffs, and of course amazing views of six species of owls.



Razorbills by Nigel Redman

The tour commenced in Ivalo, from where we headed north. At our first stop, we found a flock of Taiga Bean Geese and a few other waterbirds. Later, a stop at a roadside café was particularly successful with large numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Bramblings, as well as several Siberian Tits. After a fine lunch in Utsjoki, we crossed into Norway and headed to Varanger Fjord. Following the northern side of the huge fjord we made several stops. A brief sighting of a Brent Goose at Varangerbotn was an unusual record for the area, while a large flock of Tundra Bean Geese was a welcome addition to the list. We clocked up many waterbirds, waders and White-tailed Eagles, but the real highlight of the day was a flock of 16



Atlantic Puffin by Nigel Redman

Steller's Eiders offshore. Then a dozen of them flew to the shore where they delighted the photographers at close range for as long as we wanted to watch them. This special species is a celebrated winter visitor to Varanger, but most of them have left by May, and this was Rockjumper's first sighting of the species in Norway.

On our second day we boarded a small boat for the short ride to Hornoya, Varanger's famous seabird colony. A Brünnich's Guillemot (Thick-billed Murre) on the water just outside Vardo harbour was a good omen. But when we arrived the cliffs were full of noisy Kittiwakes, but completely devoid of auks. Offshore, there were huge rafts of auks loafing around, too far away to scope. But by mid-morning, these vast flocks of auks began winging their way over our heads to the mighty cliffs. Soon, the cliffs were teeming with auks, their incessant cries almost deafening. It was an incredible spectacle and a

**Male Ruff by Nigel Redman****Female Capercaillie by Nigel Redman**

photographer's dream. Puffins were especially popular, but the Shags were both comical and very striking, and the Razorbills and Guillemots were very dapper. We found quite a few more Brünnich's, but they were far outnumbered by the Common Guillemots. The afternoon was cut short by rain, but many Snow Buntings and a Glaucous Gull were the highlights.

An adult Glaucous Gull got our third day off to a good start, but much of the morning was spent chasing King Eiders. In the end we saw about 20 birds, mostly immature males or females, but the total included a couple of fully adult males although both were a bit distant. The flocks of eiders and Long-tailed Ducks were being continually disturbed by a couple of whaling ships that were hunting a Minke Whale in the channel. Fortunately, the whale eluded the ships, and lived to fight another day. At Kiberg, prolonged views of a group of Fin Whales was an unexpected treat. In the afternoon we visited Hamningberg where we found no fewer than eight Yellow-billed Loons on the sea, plus a summer-plumaged Common Loon and a single Pomarine Skua.

We left Vardo, and headed back west along Varanger Fjord. At Vadso, there were no fewer than 30 Steller's Eiders. An obliging Willow Ptarmigan was also notable. The journey over the snowy hills to Batsfjord proved to be very quiet. A few Horned Larks and several flocks of Snow Buntings were almost the only birds of note before we arrived at a rather wintry Batsfjord.

It was gloriously sunny for our full day in the Batsfjord area and the snowy mountains and picturesque fjords made for some dramatic scenery. Our first success was Rock Ptarmigan, and after a distant bird, we found a pair right beside the road. Shortly after, some Willow Ptarmigan provided a useful comparison between the two. Our seawatch at Berlevag was very

**Siberian Jay by Nigel Redman**



Bohemian Waxwing by John Caddick

close to the road. In the afternoon, we stopped again at the Pine Grosbeak café, and soon after we found our first Ruffs – two gorgeous males displaying right beside the road. Closer to Ivalo, two female Capercaillies were also found next to the road.

The journey to Kuusamo was long and wet, but we managed a few productive stops on the way. The most outstanding feature of the journey was the number of grouse right beside the road, even on the main roads and throughout the day. By the end of the day we had counted no fewer than 15 Black Grouse and 12 Capercaillies – and all were females. Then, in the late afternoon we chanced on a lek of 5 male Black Grouse which performed well for us. Other highlights of the day included a spectacular lek of Ruffs, two male Smew, a pair of Black-throated Divers, and our first Little Gulls. We also found three Pink-footed Geese, a scarce visitor to Finland.

An early morning excursion near Kuusamo provided fabulous views of several Siberian Jays, but most other birds were rather inactive due to the cold conditions. The highlight of the morning was seeing several Rustic Buntings. In the afternoon we headed to the Russian border and Lake Vuotunki. Good

rewarding, despite there being little obvious movements of birds. A flock of 250 King Eiders was particularly noteworthy, but another 7 White-billed Divers and a pair of Brünnich's Guillemots were also welcome. Unfortunately, several Manx Shearwaters were rather distant. In the afternoon we visited Syltefjord where we added Lapland Longspur and Ring Ouzel to the list.

Leaving the tundra of Varanger behind, we had more great views of Rock Ptarmigan before heading back into Finland and the taiga zone. On the way, some Merlins showed well



Boreal Owl by Antero Topp



Ural Owl by Nigel Redman

birds included great views of Bohemian Waxwings, more lekking Black Grouse, more roadside Capercaillies and hundreds of Little Gulls.



Great Grey Owl by Nigel Redman



Eurasian Pygmy Owl by Nigel Redman

Our second day in the Kuusamo area was just as cold, with frequent short snow showers. Passerines were again rather inactive, but eventually a Red-flanked Bluetail perched up in a spell of sunshine and showed well to everyone. The rest of the morning was devoted to looking for Hazel Grouse, but despite valiant attempts only brief views were obtained by most. However, in the afternoon we finally encountered a pair of Hazel Grouse by the roadside, and the male perched up in a bare tree giving superb views for several minutes. Many lakes in the area were still completely frozen but after checking several of the unfrozen ones we finally managed to find a group of Velvet Scoters, as well as a few more Smew.

Leaving Kuusamo, we headed southwest to Oulu. There was a dramatic improvement in the weather as the day progressed, with sunny conditions and no snow at all around Oulu. On the way, we finally connected with a male Capercaillie by the roadside, having seen more than 30 females. In the afternoon, we visited various sites in the Tynava area where we had fantastic views of Boreal and Eurasian Pygmy Owls, but a Ural Owl at its nest only showed its tail.

Our final full day in the Oulu area saw us completing our



Group photo at the Russian border by Antero Topp

owl list. First up was a Great Grey Owl on its nest, but there was no sign of the male. As we were leaving, the male hooted and we rushed back into the forest where we enjoyed amazing prolonged views of him in the open. Next, we visited a Ural Owl nest containing at least one young, which gave occasional views. But nearby one of the adults was perched prominently in the open, and in sunshine. We returned to coast, to the magnificent wetland of Liminka Bay. There were hundreds of Ruffs there, together with a wide range of waterbirds. In the afternoon we saw a lone Northern Hawk Owl perched inconspicuously in a bare tree before returning to the bay near our hotel. It had been an unusual tour in terms of the weather, but with patience and effort we managed to see most of the specialities of these two delightful Nordic countries.

Finland & Norway - Forests and Fjords 2022

Annotated List of species recorded

Birds (175 in total: 173 seen, 2 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow Gill, F., Donsker, D. & Rasmussen, P. (eds). 2022. IOC World Bird List (v 12.1). Doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.12.1.

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Brant Goose/Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

1 Varangerbotn 10.5.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Several heard Siikajoki 20.5 and 23 seen Kempele Bay 21.5.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser anser

Small numbers seen frequently in the Varanger region with a peak count of 14 on 13.4. Also 2 Kempele Bay 20.5 and 1 flying over forest at Siikajoki 20.5.

Taiga Bean Goose

Anser fabalis fabalis

36 Toivoniemi 10.5, 1 Toivoniemi 15.5, 3 Vuotunki 17.5 and 10 Vuotunki 18.5.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

3 Kemijärvi 16.5.

Tundra Bean Goose

Anser serrirostris rossicus

A flock of about 150 en route to Varangerbotn 10.5, 6 Varanger Fjord 11.5, 2 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 2 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 3 Tana-Båtsfjord 13.5, 2 Båtsfjord 14.5 and 13 Båtsfjord-Utsjoki 15.5. A good showing for this migrant species.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

2 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

2 Toivoniemi 10.5, 4 Varanger Fjord 10.5, 2 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 4 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 150 Kemijärvi 16.5, 5 Vuotunki 17.5, 10 Kuusamo 17.5, 4 Kuusamo - Oulu 19.5, 6 Tyrnava 19.5 and 20 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Common Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

2 Nesseby 10.5, 6 Nesseby 13.5, 2 Kempele Bay 20.5 and 3 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Garganey

Spatula querquedula

2 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 2 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Northern Shoveler

Spatula clypeata

Up to 10 Kempele Bay 19–21.5.

Gadwall

Mareca strepera strepera

2 Vuotunki 18.5 and 2 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Eurasian Wigeon*Mareca penelope*

2 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 20 Kemijärvi 16.5, 10 Vuotunki 17–18.5, 10 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 2 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Mallard*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

Commonly seen with peak counts of 20 on 10.5 and 20.5.

Northern Pintail*Anas acuta*

6 Toivoniemi 10.5, up to 4 Varanger Fjord 11–13.5, 3 Kemijärvi 16.5 and 2 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Eurasian Teal*Anas crecca*

2 Toivoniemi 15.5, 20 Kemijärvi 16.5, 2 Noitiniemi 17.5, 6 Vuotunki 17.5, 15 Vuotunki 18.5, 10 Kempele Bay 20.5 and 10 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Common Pochard (VU)*Aythya ferina*

1 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Tufted Duck*Aythya fuligula*

Common on lakes around Kuusamo and Oulu, with a peak count of 150 at Vuotunki 18.5.

Greater Scaup*Aythya marila marila*

2 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Steller's Eider (VU)*Polysticta stelleri*

16 Vadsø 10.5 and 30 Vadsø 13.5. These immaculate lingerers from winter were voted second in the Bird of the Trip poll.

King Eider*Somateria spectabilis*

2 Vardø 11.5, 20 off Vardø and Kiberg 12.5, and a flock of 250 offshore at Berlevåg 14.5.

Common Eider (NT)*Somateria mollissima*

Very common around Varanger and seen each day there. There were many hundreds off Kiberg 11.5.

Velvet Scoter (VU)*Melanitta fusca*

A group of 8 at Vuotunki 18.5.

Common Scoter*Melanitta nigra*

1 Toivoniemi 10.5, 10 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 30 Berlevåg 14.5, 10 Kemijärvi 16.5 and 3 Torankijarvi, Kuusamo 17.5.

Long-tailed Duck (VU)*Clangula hyemalis*

Very common around Varanger, especially off Vardø and Kiberg; very large flocks off Kiberg 11.5.

Common Goldeneye*Bucephala clangula clangula*

Common in Finland and seen on most lakes there, but largely absent from Varanger.

Smew*Mergellus albellus*

2 Kemijärvi 16.5, 2 Noitiniemi 17.5, 3 Vuotunki 17.5 and 6 Vuotunki 18.5.

Common Merganser/Goosander*Mergus merganser merganser*

Small numbers were seen most days, but rarely more than 10 per day.

Red-breasted Merganser*Mergus serrator*

Small numbers seen each day in Varanger, with a peak count of 30 on 12.5. In Finland, 10 Kemijärvi 16.5 and 6 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae**Hazel Grouse***Tetrastes bonasia*

2 Konttainen 18.5, 2 Vuotunki 18.5 and 2 Taivalkoski 19.5.

Willow Ptarmigan*Lagopus lagopus*

1 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 3 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5, 1 Syltefjord 14.5, 1 heard Utsjoki–Ivalo 15.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5 and 1 Mielikkojarvi 16.5.

Rock Ptarmigan*Lagopus muta*

3 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5 and 10 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Western Capercaillie*Tetrao urogallus urogallus*

1 male Ivalo–Utsjoki 10.5, and another male at Taivalkoski 19.5. A total of 32 roadside females were seen as follows: 2 Utsjoki–Ivalo 15.5, 12 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 10 Kuusamo 17.5, 4 Vuotunki 18.5, 2 Taivalkoski 19.5 and 2 Ruka 19.5.

Black Grouse*Lyrurus tetrix tetrix*

20 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 1 Mielikkojarvi 16.5, 16 Kuusamo 17.5, 29 Ruka 19.5 and 2 Siikajoki 20.5.

Grey Partridge*Perdix perdix*

2 Tyrnava 19.5.

Common Pheasant*Phasianus colchicus*

2 or 3 singles seen or heard at Oulu 19–20.5.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Common Cuckoo***Cuculus canorus canorus*

1 seen Kuusamo 17.5 and 1 heard Siikajoki 20.5.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove***Columba livia domestica*

1 Kiberg 11.5 and 10 Kiberg 12.5.

Stock Dove*Columba oenas oenas*

1 Kemijärvi 16.5 (with Wood Pigeons).

Common Wood Pigeon*Columba palumbus palumbus*

1 Ivalo–Utsjoki 10.5, 20 Kemijärvi 16.5, 30 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Vuotunki 18.5, 6 Tyrnava 19.5, 10 Kärsämä 20.5 and 2 Kempele 21.5.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Water Rail***Rallus aquaticus*

1 heard Kempele Bay 19.5 and 1 seen Kempele Bay 20.5.

Cranes Gruidae**Common Crane***Grus grus*

Small numbers seen on 8 days: 1 Toivoniemi 10.5, 8 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5, 1 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 1 Mielikkojarvi 16.5, 6 Kemijärvi 16.5, 2 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Kallunkijarvi 18.5, 2 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5, 1 Oulu 20.5, 1 Siikajoki 20.5 and 4 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Red-necked Grebe***Podiceps grisegena*

2 pairs Noitiniemi 17.5, 1 Kallunkijarvi 18.5 and 1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5.

Great Crested Grebe*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

Up to 26 per day at Kempele Bay 19–21.5.

Horned Grebe*Podiceps auritus auritus*

2 on small pond in Oulu 20.5.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**Eurasian Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*

Up to 20 per day in Varanger 10–15.5. In Finland, 2 Kemijärvi 16.5, and up to 27 Kempele Bay 20–21.5.

Plovers Charadriidae**Northern Lapwing (NT)***Vanellus vanellus*

6 Vuotunki 17.5, 2 Vuotunki 18.5, 40 Tyrnava 19.5, 30 Kärsämä 20.5 and 4 Kempele 21.5.

European Golden Plover*Pluvialis apricaria*

Commonly seen in both countries: 4 Varanger Fjord 10.5, 1 Kiberg 11.5, 3 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 30 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5, 10 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5, 10 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 30 Kuusamo 17.5 and 58 Vuotunki 18.5.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

Singles on three days at Vardø 11–13.5, 2 Kemijärvi 16.5 and 10 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae**Eurasian Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

2 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 4 Syltefjord 14.5, 1 Utsjoki–Ivalo 15.5, 2 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 1 Kuusamo 17.5 and 1 Vuotunki 18.5.

Eurasian Curlew*Numenius arquata arquata*

2 Varangerbotn 10.5, 1 Kemijärvi 16.5, 4 Kuusamo 17.5, 1 Vuotunki 18.5, 6 Tyrnava 19.5, 2 Kempele Bay 19.5, 10 Kärsämä 20.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Bar-tailed Godwit*Limosa lapponica lapponica*

120 Nesseby, Varanger 10.5, 6 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 20 Nesseby 13.5 and 2 Båtsfjord 14.5.

Black-tailed Godwit (NT)*Limosa limosa*

2 Kempele Bay 20.5 and 4 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Red Knot (NT)*Calidris canutus*

10 Nesseby, Varanger 10.5, 1 Vardø 11.5 and 2 Nesseby 13.5.

Ruff*Calidris pugnax*

None in Norway this year, but small numbers were seen each day in Finland: 2 Utsjoki–Ivalo 15.5, 10 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Mielikkojarvi 16.5, 15 Kuusamo 17.5, 50 Vuotunki 18.5, 1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 10 Kempele Bay 21.5. There were several hundred at Liminka Bay on 20.5. This species was voted Bird of the Trip.

Dunlin*Calidris alpina*

At least 100 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 30 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Purple Sandpiper*Calidris maritima*

Up to 20 per day in Varanger 10–15.5.

Eurasian Woodcock*Scolopax rusticola*

1 at dusk at Kempele Bay 20.5.

Common Snipe*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*

Singles or pairs were seen or heard on most days.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

1 Vuotunki 17.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Vuotunki 17.5, 1 Vuotunki 18.5 and 1 Kärsämä 20.5.

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

4 Varanger Fjord 10.5, 1 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 1 Vadsø 13.5, 6 Syltefjord 14.5, and up to 4 Kempele Bay 20–21.5.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

1 seen briefly at Kempele Bay 19.5 (leaders only).

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen on every day in Finland, with a peak count of 20 on 20.5; none at all in Norway.

Spotted Redshank*Tringa erythropus*

1 heard Nesseby 10.5, 2 seen Vuotunki 18.5, 1 heard Kempele Bay 19.5 and 1 seen Kempele Bay 21.5.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

Singles or pairs were seen on nine days, mostly in Finland.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae***Black-legged Kittiwake***Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*

Very common in Varanger, notably at Hornøya and Ekkerøy/Kiberg.

Black-headed Gull*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Small numbers seen every day in Finland, but only a few in Norway: 2 Vadsø 10.5, 2 Båtsfjord 13.5, 1 Båtsfjord 14.5 and 1 Vadsø 13.5.

Little Gull*Hydrocoloeus minutus*

10 Kemijärvi 16.5, at least 100 Torankijarvi 17.5 and at least 100 Vuotunki 17–18.5.

Common Gull*Larus canus canus*

Very common throughout and seen virtually every day.

Great Black-backed Gull*Larus marinus*

Common in Varanger, but not seen in Finland.

Glaucous Gull*Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*

1 Kiberg 11.5, 1 Vardø 12.5, 1 Vardø 13.5 and 1 Syltefjord 14.5.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

1 immature between Vardø and Hamningberg 12.5.

European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Commonly seen in Varanger (Norway), but smaller numbers in Finland.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

2 at the rubbish dump in Kuusamo 17.5.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

2 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

2 Kemijärvi 16.5, 2 Torankijarvi 17.5, 2 Vuotunki 17–18.5, 1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5, and up to 20 Kempele Bay 20–21.5.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

2 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 4 Kemijärvi 16.5 and 1 Vuotunki 17.5. A very poor showing for this species. Most had simply not arrived yet.

Skuas Stercorariidae

Pomarine Jaeger/Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

1 flew past during a seawatch between Vardø and Hamningberg 12.5.

Parasitic Jaeger/Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Up to 30 per day Varanger Fjord 10–13.5, 10 Syltefjord 14.5, 10 Berlevåg 14.5 and 5 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Auks Alcidae

Thick-billed Murre/Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia lomvia*

At least 50 Hornøya 11.5 and 2 Berlevåg 14.5.

Common Murre/Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Thousands on and around Hornøya 10.5, and a few others on other days.

Razorbill (NT) *Alca torda*

Hundreds on and around Hornøya 10.5, and a few others on other days; 1 Berlevåg 14.5.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Small numbers each day in Varanger; the largest count was 40 at Berlevåg 14.5.

Atlantic Puffin (VU) *Fratercula arctica*

Many on or around Hornøya 10.5.

Loons/Divers Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon/Diver *Gavia stellata*

10 Varanger Fjord 10.5, 15 Vardø–Hamningberg 12.5, 4 Båtsfjord 13.5, 4 Båtsfjord 14.5, 6 Syltefjord 14.5, 10 Berlevåg 14.5, 4 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5 and 2 Kemijärvi 16.5.

Black-throated Loon/Diver *Gavia arctica arctica*

2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 4 Noitiniemi 17.5, 10 Torankijarvi 17.5, 1 Kallunkijarvi 18.5, 3 Vuotunki 18.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 20–21.5. None in Norway.

Common Loon/Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

1 in summer plumage on the sea between Vardø and Hamningberg 12.5.

Yellow-billed Loon/White-billed Diver (NT) *Gavia adamsii*

3 Vardø–Hamningberg 12.5, 5 Hamningberg 12.5 and 7 Berlevåg 14.5. All but two were in full summer plumage.

Petrels & Shearwaters Procellariidae

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

About 20 at Berlevåg, Varanger 14.5.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

6 offshore at Berlevåg, Varanger 14.5.

Gannets & Boobies *Sulidae***Northern Gannet***Morus bassanus*

1 Vardø 11.5, 10 Vardø–Hamningberg 12.5 and 1 Berlevåg 14.5.

Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***Great Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common in Varanger and seen each day.

European Shag*Gulosus aristotelis aristotelis*

Common in Varanger, especially on Hornøya.

Hérons & Bitterns *Ardeidae***Eurasian Bittern***Botaurus stellaris stellaris*

1 heard at Kempele Bay 19–21.5 and 1 heard Liminka Bay 20.5.

Ospreys *Pandionidae***Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 20.5.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae***Golden Eagle***Aquila chrysaetos chrysaetos*

1 between Vardø and Hamningberg 12.5.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk*Accipiter nisus nisus*

2 Vuotunki 18.5 and 1 Kärsämä 20.5.

Western Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

1 Liminka Bay 20.5.

Hen Harrier*Circus cyaneus*

1 Kuusamo 17.5, 1 Kempele Bay 19.5 and 1 Liminka Bay 20.5.

White-tailed Eagle*Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*

More than 100 birds were seen in Varanger, with a peak daily count of 52 on 12.5. The vast majority were immature birds, but an active nest was observed at Tanamunningen.

Rough-legged Buzzard*Buteo lagopus lagopus*

Commonly seen in Varanger with a peak daily count of 15 on 13.5.

Common Buzzard*Buteo buteo*

1 Vuotunki 17.5 and 1 Kärsämä 20.5.

Owls *Strigidae***Boreal Owl/Tengmalm's Owl***Aegolius funereus funereus*

1 at a nestbox at Tyrnava 19.5.

Northern Hawk-Owl*Surnia ulula ulula*

1 Kärsämä 20.5.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl*Glaucidium passerinum passerinum*

1 Tyrnava 19.5.

Short-eared Owl*Asio flammeus flammeus*

3 Tyrnava 19.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Ural Owl*Strix uralensis liturata*

1 in a tree-stump nest at Tyrnava 19.5 and an adult in the open at Siikajoki 20.5; at least one young bird in a box at the latter site.

Great Grey Owl*Strix nebulosa lapponica*

2 Siikajoki 20.5; the female on its nest and the male nearby. This species achieved third place in the Bird of the Trip poll.

Woodpeckers *Picidae***Eurasian Wryneck***Jynx torquilla torquilla*

1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major major

1 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5, up to 3 Konttinen 16–18.5, 2 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 2 Siikajoki 20.5.

Falcons *Falconidae*

Common Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus

2 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5 and 3 Kärsämä 20.5.

Merlin

Falco columbarius

3 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

2 between Vardø and Hamningberg 12.5.

Crows & Jays *Corvidae*

Siberian Jay

Perisoreus infaustus infaustus

5 Konttinen 17.5.

Eurasian Jay

Garrulus glandarius glandarius

1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5 and 2 Ruka 19.5.

Eurasian Magpie

Pica pica

Common throughout, but fewer in Norway; peak daily count of 20 on 10.5.

Western Jackdaw

Coloeus monedula

6 Kuusamo 17.5, 30 Tyrnava 19.5, 30 Kärsämä 20.5 and 10 Oulu 21.5.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus

About 20 Oulu 20.5.

Hooded Crow

Corvus cornix cornix

Very common throughout and seen every day.

Northern Raven

Corvus corax corax

Single or pairs were seen most days.

Waxwings *Bombycillidae*

Bohemian Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulus garrulus

5 Vuotunki 17.5, 2 Kallunkijärvi 18.5 and 1 Konttinen 18.5.

Tits & Chickadees *Paridae*

Coal Tit

Pariparus ater ater

2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5.

Siberian Tit/Grey-headed Chickadee

Poecile cinctus lapponicus

4 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5, 2 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 15.5 and 2 Mielikkojärvi 16.5.

Willow Tit

Poecile montanus borealis

2 Ivalo–Utsjoki 10.5, 2 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 2 Vuotunki 17.5 and 1 Konttinen 18.5.

Eurasian Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus caeruleus

2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Konttinen 17.5, 4 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Siikajoki 20.5 and 2 Kempele 21.5.

Great Tit

Parus major major

4 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5, 1 Kongsfjord 14.5, 1 Båtsfjord 14.5, 2 Utsjoki–Ivalo 15.5, 2 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 15.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 4 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Konttinen 18.5 and 6 Siikajoki 20.5.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Eurasian Skylark

Alauda arvensis arvensis

1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Siikajoki 20.5 and 1 Oulu 21.5.

Horned Lark/Shore Lark

Eremophila alpestris flava

1 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 4 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5, 5 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5 and 6 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Swallows & Martins *Hirundinidae*

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica rustica*

1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5, 10 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 6 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Common House Martin*Delichon urbicum urbicum*

2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 10 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 4 Oulu 21.5.

Leaf Warblers & Allies *Phylloscopidae***Willow Warbler***Phylloscopus trochilus*

2 Noitiniemi 17.5, 3 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5, 10 Oulu 20.5 and 4 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Common Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita*

2 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 4 Oulu 20.5.

Reed Warblers & Allies *Acrocephalidae***Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Up to 3 Kempele Bay 20–21.5.

Sylviid Babblers *Sylviidae***Eurasian Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*

1 Tyrnava 19.5.

Lesser Whitethroat*Curruca curruca*

4 Siikajoki 20.5.

Goldcrests & Kinglets *Regulidae***Goldcrest***Regulus regulus regulus*

3 Konttainen 17.5, 1 Konttainen 18.5 and 2 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5.

Wrens *Troglodytidae***Eurasian Wren***Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*

2 Konttainen 17.5, 1 Konttainen 18.5 and 1 Ruka 19.5.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Common Starling***Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*

2 singles at Oulu 20.5.

Thrushes *Turdidae***Song Thrush***Turdus philomelos philomelos*

1 Toivoniemi 10.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Konttainen 17–18.5, 6 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Vuotunki 18.5, 2 Ruka 19.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Mistle Thrush*Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*

1 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 6 Vuotunki 17.5, 2 Vuotunki 18.5, 1 Tyrnava 19.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Redwing (NT)*Turdus iliacus*

Very common throughout and seen most days.

Common Blackbird*Turdus merula merula*

1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Fieldfare*Turdus pilaris*

Very common throughout and seen every day; usually in larger numbers than Redwing.

Ring Ouzel*Turdus torquatus torquatus*

3 Syltefjord 14.5.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***European Robin***Erithacus rubecula*

1 Konttainen 17.5, 1 Vuotunki 17.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Red-flanked Bluetail*Tarsiger cyanurus*

At least 2 heard at Konttainen 17–18.5; one bird showed well on 18.5.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca*

1 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 1 Tyrnava 19.5, 6 Siikajoki 20.5, 4 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

1 Kuusamo 17.5, 1 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5 and 1 Oulu 20.5.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

2 Tyrnava 19.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1 Kongsfjord 14.5 and 1 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Dippers Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*

2 Vuotunki 17.5.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus montanus*

1 Kongsfjord 14.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5 and 2 Kuusamo 17.5.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus domesticus*

Common throughout in towns and villages, and seen most days.

Accentors Prunellidae

Dunnock *Prunella modularis modularis*

1 heard Vardø 12.5, 1 heard Vuotunki 17.5, 1 heard Konttainen 18.5 and 1 heard Siikajoki 20.5.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

4 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 10 Kuusamo 17.5, 1 Tyrnava 19.5 and 2 Siikajoki 20.5.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Singles or pairs seen on most days in both countries.

Meadow Pipit (NT) *Anthus pratensis*

2 Toivoniemi 10.5, 4 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5, 10 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5, 6 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5, 1 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5 and 10 Vuotunki 18.5.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis trivialis*

1 Torankijarvi 17.5, 1 Konttainen 18.5, 1 Taivalkoski 19.5 and 4 Siikajoki 20.5.

European Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

6 Hornøya, Varanger 11.5 and 2 Hamningberg, Varanger 12.5.

Finches Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs coelebs*

Commonly seen and heard in Finland, but none in Norway.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Less common than Chaffinch: 2 Ivalo 9.5, 30 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5, 6 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 15.5, 10 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Kuusamo 17.5, 2 Konttainen 18.5 and 2 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator enucleator*

About 20 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 10 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 15.5.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*

1 heard Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 2 Konttainen 17.5, 1 heard Konttainen 18.5, 2 Tyrnava 19.5, 1 heard Siikajoki 20.5 and 1 seen Kempele Bay 21.5.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris chloris*

Small numbers, mainly in the north: 10 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 15.5, 1 Vardø 11.5, 4 Vardø 12.5, 2 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 2 Båtsfjord 14.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris flavirostris*

1 Vardø 11.5 and 10 Vardø 12.5.

Common Redpoll

Acanthis flammea

Up to 20 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 15.5, 6 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 4 Kuusamo 17.5, 10 Konttainen 18.5, 6 Siikajoki 20.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Arctic Redpoll

Acanthis hornemanni

At least 2 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 15.5, 1 Vardø 12.5 and 1 Syltefjord 14.5.

Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra curvirostra

2 Konttainen 17.5, 4 Kuusamo 17.5 and 6 Konttainen 18.5.

Eurasian Siskin

Spinus spinus

2 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 15 Kuusamo 17.5, 6 Vuotunki 18.5, 4 Kuusamo–Oulu 19.5, 6 Siikajoki 20.5 and 2 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Longspurs & Snow Buntings *Calcariidae*

Lapland Longspur/Lapland Bunting

Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus

1 Syltefjord 14.5.

Snow Bunting

Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis

20 Varanger Fjord 11.5, 50 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 20 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5, 30 Båtsfjord–Berlevåg 14.5 and 10 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5.

Buntings *Emberizidae*

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella citrinella

2 Ivalo 15.5, 1 Vuotunki 17.5, 4 Tyrnava 19.5 and 4 Siikajoki 20.5.

Rustic Bunting (VU)

Emberiza rustica

1 heard Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 5 seen Torankijarvi 17.5.

Common Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus

2 Toivoniemi 15.5, 1 Mielikkojarvi 16.5, 1 Noitiniemi 17.5, 1 Tyrnava 19.5, 4 Kempele Bay 20.5, 2 Liminka Bay 20.5 and 2 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Mammals (10 species in total)

Wolves, Foxes & Jackals *Canidae*

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

1 Varanger Fjord 12.5 and 1 Kempele Bay 21.5.

Seals *Phocidae*

Grey Seal

Halichoerus grypus

2 Hamningberg 12.5, 1 Tana–Båtsfjord 13.5 and 2 Berlevåg 14.5.

Deer *Cervidae*

Elk

Alces alces alces

3 Båtsfjord–Utsjoki 15.5 and 1 Vuotunki 17.5.

Reindeer (VU)

Rangifer tarandus tarandus

Commonly seen throughout but all are at best feral.

Rorquals *Balaenopteridae*

Common Minke Whale

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

1 Kiberg 12.5 and 2 Vardø 12.5.

Fin Whale (VU)

Balaenoptera physalus

About 6 Kiberg 12.5.

Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae*

European Hare

Lepus europaeus

2 Tyrnava 19.5 and 1 Siikajoki 20.5.

Mountain Hare*Lepus timidus*

Regular sightings on 9 days: 1 Ivalo-Utsjoki 10.5, 1 Varanger Fjord 12.5, 1 Varanger Fjord 13.5, 2 Båtsfjord 14.5, 3 Utsjoki-Ivalo 15.5, 10 Ivalo–Kuusamo 16.5, 8 Kuusamo 17.5, 1 Vuotunki 18.5 and 10 Ruka 19.5.

Squirrels Sciuridae**Eurasian Red Squirrel***Sciurus vulgaris*

2 Neljan Tuulen Tupa 10.5 and 1 Konttainen 17.5.

Hamsters, New World Rats and Mice, Voles Cricetidae**Muskrat***Ondatra zibethicus*

1 Vuotunki 17.5.

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