Finland & Norway
Forests and Fjords
26th May to 7th June 2019 (13 days)
Trip Report

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Tour Summary

Northern Fenno-Scandia (Lapland) is a classic European birding destination. This year’s itinerary combined the boreal forests, lakes, and marshes of northern Finland with the fjords and tundra of northern Norway, with great success. Arriving in rather wintry weather, we were told that it was a late spring, with the trees only just in leaf in Finland and still in bud in Norway. This did not affect the birding, and we wrapped up six species of owls in style in the first three days. But there was a lot more to the trip than just owls, and our many highlights included all five species of grouse, three species of divers (loons), five species of geese, many ducks including the exquisite Smew, amazing male Ruffs displaying in all their finery, big numbers of White-tailed Eagles, many Common Cranes, Eurasian Dotterel, Jack Snipe, Red-necked Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua (Jaeger), Black Woodpecker, Siberian Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, Siberian Tit (Grey-headed Chickadee), Bluethroat, Red-flanked Bluetail, Pine Grosbeak, Lapland Longspur, Little Bunting, and one of the most impressive seabird colonies in all of Europe. We also saw a vagrant Rosy Starling, and a staggering 10 Northern Hawk-Owls. But the undisputed bird of the trip was the displaying male Capercaillie at point-blank range for as long as we wanted.

Tour in Detail

The tour commenced in Oulu and got off to a cracking start. An unofficial excursion around the hotel and at the edge of the bay was attended by most and got several typical species such as Redwing, Fieldfare, Yellowhammer, Common Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler and Common Rosefinch. In the bay, there were Whooper Swans and Great Crested Grebes, and a variety of waders including Temminck’s Stint, Ruff, and Black-tailed Godwit. Ducks included Garganey and Gadwall, and a Little Tern was a useful species for the list. Our first afternoon saw us head south to the Tyrnävä area. Several pairs of Common Cranes showed well, a Hen Harrier put in a brief appearance and a pair of Grey Partridges tried to look inconspicuous in the bare field, but there was no sign of the Eurasian Dotterels that had been reported there. Good views of Whinchats were hardly adequate compensation. Our final stop was much more successful. As soon as we arrived, a Great Grey Owl flew across the track behind us. After some
anxious moments, it reappeared carrying a shrew in its bill, and flew across the track right in front of us, returning empty-handed a few minutes later. After these spectacular views of the male, we visited the nest where a female was sitting tight, watching us closely but only showing her head. In the same area, a Wood Warbler sang repeatedly and showed well. Mammals were well represented with both Eurasian Elk (Moose) and European Roe Deer. We returned to the hotel, well satisfied.

After breakfast, we headed to Kiiminki, where we quickly scored an obliging Eurasian Pygmy Owl that posed in full view for as long as we wanted. The supporting cast included Goldcrest, European Robin and Dunnock, which were much appreciated by the non-Europeans in the group. Our next site netted us a superb male Black Woodpecker feeding his young inside a large nest hole. Sadly, other woodpecker species were conspicuous by their absence. A visit to a Boreal Owl nest box also proved fruitless, although we heard a distant male and heard the young inside the box. A pair of Eurasian Treecreepers softened the disappointment a little. We adjourned for lunch at the comfortable Liminka Bay Visitor Centre, which boasted a superb exhibition about the area and its wildlife, as well as serving a good lunch. Here, the observation tower gave good views over the bay, although most birds were rather distant. The highlights included a close-range displaying Ruff, a pair of Garganey, several Little Gulls, a pair of Caspian Terns and hundreds of Whooper Swans. We also managed good views of European Pied Flycatcher and Lesser Whitethroat in the nearby woodland. In the afternoon, we drew a blank at another woodpecker site but scored well with a pair of Ortolans, a decreasing species in Finland. Near Kempele, we finally hit the jackpot with a Boreal Owl that posed well for us as she peered out of her nestbox. We returned to the hotel and spent the last hour at the edge of the bay. Sedge Warblers and Common Reed Buntings performed well, and a flock of Common Cranes gave a magnificent flyover. The waders here were a bit distant, and the only new birds were Eurasian Bittern and Blyth’s Reed Warbler, although both were heard only.

On leaving Oulu, we first stopped at Oritkari, where a pair of Terek Sandpipers put in a very brief appearance, flying off almost as soon as they had flown in. We waited in vain for them to reappear while enjoying some Little Ringed Plovers and our first Arctic Terns. A Common Rosefinch was a welcome catch-up for some and the Northern Wheatear was new for the trip. Our next stop was a small lake in
Oulu, where a pair of Horned Grebes showed well – one bird was on its nest in the lakeside vegetation. We then revisited the forest at Sanginjoki, but still, there were no woodpeckers other than Great Spotted. A pair of European Crested Tits was much appreciated, and we found a Mistle Thrush sitting tight on her nest. A visit to a more open forest near Kiminki quickly revealed a superb Ural Owl that posed repeatedly for us, while Tree Pipit, Green Sandpiper and Black Grouse were also new for the trip. After lunch we drove non-stop to Kuusamo, stopping briefly for a Western Osprey on the way. We spent an action-packed hour at the end of the afternoon at Kuusamo Lake, where we had great views of breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebes, Black-throated Loons and Little Gulls, as well as an immature White-tailed Eagle. We also watched several Muskrats here at their ‘push-ups’ (mounds of mud and vegetation in the lake). North of Kuusamo, we visited another forest where a pair of Siberian Tits were actively feeding their young in a nestbox. Our final stop of the day was at a large roadside lake where we found Velvet and Common Scoters, and five Smew (including four males). It was a good end to the day and we headed on to our hotel in Ruka in high spirits.

We had an early start for our first day in the Kuusamo area. Our first stop was close to the town itself and, we immediately found a male Western Capercaillie on the roadside. He disappeared into the forest all too quickly, so we entered the forest in hot pursuit. The going was tough as the ground was little more than a very wet Sphagnum bog. Within a short space of time, we re-found the bird and he proceeded to strut around his territory in full display, right in front of us! He showed neither fear nor animosity as we enjoyed our front-row seats for this special performance. Eventually, we left him in peace, still showing off even without an audience. Our next stop was equally spectacular. A pair of Northern Hawk-Owls showed well near the lakeshore, and nearby we found no fewer than six juveniles – three fledged and in the trees, and the other three still in their nestbox. For a single pair to raise six young is an exceptional feat. The lake itself held impressive numbers of Common Goldeneyes, as well as eight more Smew. Several Eurasian Bullfinches showed well, and we wrapped-up the pre-breakfast session with great views of a pair of Willow Ptarmigan. It started to rain more heavily after breakfast and continued for most of the day. We headed south from Kuusamo and had lunch in a log cabin in the forest at Iivaara. The forest birding was almost wiped out by the weather but several Bramblings during
lunch were a welcome addition to our list. To the east of Kuusamo, some grassy fields held a flock of several hundred migrant Barnacle Geese, as well as four Taiga Bean Geese. We scoped them in the light rain before a White-tailed Eagle disturbed the entire flock. In the late afternoon, we had great views of a pair of White-throated Dippers with beakfuls of caddis fly larvae. A male Common Redstart also showed well here, but in the end, the rain and cold forced us to return to the hotel early.

Our second day in the Kuusamo area was dry, and in the afternoon, it was gloriously sunny, but a strong wind all day severely hampered our birding. A pre-breakfast excursion close to Ruka proved very successful with excellent views of two groups of Black Grouse. We saw males displaying in a field at first sight, and in-flight at a second site where they also perched in the tops of trees. A single European Golden Plover was also new for the list, and shortly after we added the much-wanted Siberian Jay with two great sightings. After breakfast, we headed back to Konttainen, where we saw more Siberian Jays, with even better views than before breakfast. But the highlight here was a superb immature male Red-flanked Bluetail that showed really well on the tops of several spruces. A search for Hazel Grouse was less successful and we headed to Kuusamo for lunch. In the afternoon, we birded the Kuusamo area, including a tower hide overlooking a lake. Here we saw more Little Gulls and Smews, but nothing new for the trip. Eventually, the wind proved too much and we headed east to the Russian border. On the way, we found a flock of 19 Taiga Bean Geese, at the same site as yesterday’s smaller flock. It was still windy at the Russian border and we struggled to find any small birds, other than a pair of Bramblings and a Common Rosefinch.

Our pre-breakfast excursion in search of Jack Snipe was frustratingly thwarted by a road closure, although we did find some more Black Grouse. Instead, we returned to Kuusamo where we lucked in on Hazel Grouse. As we drove through some mature spruce forest, a single male was at the roadside, quickly flying up into a small spruce where it vanished in the foliage. Fortunately, it quickly relocated itself to a young budding birch tree where it remained for several minutes, eating the buds and showing well to everyone. Flushed with success we returned for breakfast. Leaving Kuusamo behind we headed north to Ivalo. A roadside stop for a very close colony of Little Gulls was noteworthy, followed by the obligatory stop at the Arctic Circle. A short detour took us to

White-throated Dipper by Nigel Redman

Juvenile Northern Hawk-Owl, one of six siblings, by Nigel Redman

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a small village near Pelkosenniemi where we found an immaculate vagrant Rosy Starling in full breeding plumage. At first, we only saw it in flight, but after a long wait, we re-found the bird in a grassy field in bright sunshine. In the afternoon, we made a stop at Ilmakkiaapa where we watched some wonderful male Ruffs displaying and found a male Common Scoter and two Smew on the lake. Nearby, a displaying Broad-billed Sandpiper was a welcome addition to the list. Continuing north we paused briefly for a pair of Bohemian Waxwings right beside the road. Our final stop of the day was at Kaunispää, at the top of a high fell. It was rather cold and windy above the treeline, and the only bird of note was a superb Long-tailed Skua.

From Ivalo, we continued northwards, stopping first at the edge of town where we quickly added a smart Little Bunting to the list. Nearby, we visited the water treatment works. A pair of Siberian Tits was an unexpected surprise here. There was little else of note, although we had great looks at Western Yellow Wagtails and a Tree Pipit, amongst other things. Our next major stop, at a roadside café, proved to be very rewarding. A selection of bird feeders at the back of the café held numerous finches, including several Pine Grosbeaks and many Bramblings, as well as Siberian Jay and both Willow and Siberian Tits, and all were eminently photogenic. Several short roadside stops further north produced Black-throated Loon, Red-breasted Merganser, and Willow Ptarmigan. After a spectacular lunch at Utsjoki, we explored Ailegas fell where we had wonderful views of a party of Bohemian Waxwings, a male Bluethroat constantly song-flighting, another Long-tailed Skua, a distant Merlin, and several Eurasian Dotterels. Leaving Finland behind, we crossed the river into Norway for the final leg of the trip. On the way, we found a close-range lek of a dozen spanking male Ruffs, all puffed out, flapping their wings and jumping up into the air whenever a female appeared. The males came in a variety of colours, mostly white, black and/or rufous, but one male was the uncommon form that mimics a female’s plumage. Other species seen included several Rough-legged Buzzards, two more Taiga Bean Geese, an assortment of gulls and four Eurasian Elks (Moose). We also visited Tanamunningen Nature Reserve to the north of Tana, but the weather was against us and we beat an early retreat back to Tana bru for an overnight stay.

Leaving Tana, we headed east, following the north shore of Varanger Fjord. Our first stop was at Varangerbotn, where the highlight was a single Greater White-fronted Goose. During the day we made many other stops, some short, some long, including Nesseby, Vadsø and Ekkerøy. Rafts of ducks were impressive, and we found good numbers of
waders including Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope, all in full summer plumage. A large number of ducks included many Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Eider, Common Scoter and Long-tailed Duck. We found lekking Ruffs, displaying in all their finery in order to attract a dowdy female. Arctic Terns were flying around noisily at Vadsø and Vardø. The magnificent Black-legged Kittiwake colony at Ekkerøy also held a few Razorbills and Black Guillemots, and a single Brünnich’s Guillemot here was unexpected. Other surprises included Common Crane and Black-tailed Godwit at Nesseby, somewhat further north than usual. Skuas comprised many Arctics and a single Long-tailed. Other new birds included Red-throated Loon and European Shag, as well as our second Short-eared Owl and Merlin. But perhaps most memorable of all was a large number of White-tailed Eagles that were seen throughout the day – we counted a total of 31.

We began our stay at Vardø with a short boat trip to Hornøya Island. As we approached the island, we encountered huge rafts of murres (guillemots) on the calm waters, and as we landed we were greeted by rows of European Shags on the coastal rocks. The shags were even nesting inside and underneath the visitor shelter, providing unrivaled photographic opportunities for selfies with shags. The towering cliffs held tens of thousands of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Common Guillemots, and the noise was almost deafening. We quickly found smaller numbers of Razorbills, Atlantic Puffins and Brünnich’s Guillemots (Thick-billed Murres) amongst the many Common Guillemots and Kittiwakes, and the rest of the morning was spent soaking up this magnificent spectacle. There are few ornithological sights in the world that can rival a major northern hemisphere seabird colony such as this, and it was a real treat to witness all the frenzied activity here. Every now and then, thousands of auks would erupt from the cliffs as a White-tailed Eagle flew past, creating an even bigger frenzy than usual. Over the water on the next island, we counted no fewer than 23 eagles resting on the hillside. In addition to the seabirds, we had great views of several Eurasian Rock Pipits at the base of the cliffs. Returning to Vardø, we enjoyed another fine meal at our hotel and in the afternoon, we visited a small coastal pool where we found a variety of waders including Sanderling and Little Stint. Several Red-throated Pipits showed well, as did a well-marked male Arctic Redpoll. We spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the island, seeing more Red-throated Pipits and Arctic Redpolls, but little else of note. We finished the day checking the many gulls in Vardø harbour for rarer northern species but in vain.

Our second day at Vardø was dedicated to driving to Hamningberg. Our first stop was at Barvikmyran, where we found several Red-
necked Phalaropes, Red-throated Loons and Arctic Skuas. Two pairs of Greater Scaup was a new species for the trip, as was a fine male Lapland Bunting that eventually showed well. We made many short stops on the way to Hamningberg, scanning the coast at every opportunity for seabirds. There were hundreds of Common Mergansers and Long-tailed Ducks on the sea, but few eiders. An Arctic Redpoll showed well by the roadside, but a pair of Twites disappeared all too quickly. When we reached Hamningberg, we had to work hard, but after a while, we found two distant Yellow-billed Loons and a few Northern Gannets. A Red-throated Pipit also showed well here. On the way back, we found several displaying Temminck’s Stints, a singing male Ring Ouzel, and a fine Peregrine Falcon. We also revisited Barvikmyran where we saw many more Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Phalaropes than in the morning, plus a Short-eared Owl and a Horned Lark in the nearby dunes. After dinner, an optional late evening excursion in perfect sunny and still conditions produced many interesting species such as Black-throated Loon, Willow Ptarmigan, Long-tailed Skua, Short-eared Owl, and Bluethroat, with many birds showing more readily than during the day.

Leaving Vardø, we made our way back westwards along Varanger Fjord. Close to Vardø, a Short-eared Owl put on a great display as it hovered frequently over a field in search of prey. Along the fjord, we made many short stops to check for ducks. One of the highlights was a kettle of around 100 migrating Long-tailed Skuas and several hundred Arctic Terns. Further on, a pair of Peregrine Falcons also put on a great display. We stopped for a picnic lunch at Varangerbotn, but the tide was out and we saw little from the hide there. From Tana bru, we headed north towards Båtsfjord. A stop at Tanamunningen proved very successful as a pair of Northern Ravens was persistently mobbing a Golden Eagle and we enjoyed the spectacle for an extended period of time. In the snowy highlands, we made many short stops to look at Lapland and Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and displaying Temminck’s Stints, all of which we saw well. An unexpected highlight was a pair of Tundra Bean Geese on a partly frozen pool.

At Båtsfjord, we spent some time around the harbour, but there was little of note other than a pair of Velvet Scoters and a pair of Bohemian Waxwings. As we drove back over the fell from Båtsfjord, the weather deteriorated and it began to rain. We searched long and hard for ptarmigans. Two male Willow Ptarmigans raised our hopes temporarily, but eventually, we found a superb male Rock Ptarmigan that showed for a long time, even if it was a little distant. Several Long-tailed Skuas also put
on a good display. We descended to the lowlands and the weather improved noticeably. We found two separate Northern Hawk-Owls by the roadside which gave great views. Leaving Norway, we had lunch at the border in Utsjoki. A Merlin dashed across the road at close range and at the Pine Grosbeak café, the numbers of birds at the feeders had decreased considerably, but we had great views of several Pine Grosbeaks and a Siberian Tit. A short detour to a large bog near Inari produced several Smew, a close Red-necked Phalarope and a superb Jack Snipe that circled around us several times before returning to the long grass of the bog. On the journey back to Ivalo, a female Capercaillie at the side of the road gave incredibly close views and was almost the final bird of the tour.

There was no time for any birding on the final day as most people had to leave early to catch flights. This classic Finland and Norway itinerary had once again proved to be a great success. We had found almost all of the specialities and had seen most of them very well indeed. The weather had been generally kind – not too much rain, although it was cold and windy in the far north. Our local guide, Taru, had been magnificent, getting us to the sites and onto the birds with ruthless efficiency. Despite the popularity of the owls, none featured as the bird of the trip. Top of the list was the displaying Capercaillie (of course), but a surprise second place went to Eurasian Dotterel, with Great Grey Owl picking up third place. This was a tour that will be hard to beat, but who knows what next year will bring.
Annotated List of Birds Recorded

(181 in total: 178 seen, 3 heard)


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

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese and Swans Anatidae

Barnacle Goose  
*Branta leucopsis*
A flock of around 500 near Vuotunki 29.5.

Greylag Goose  
*Anser anser anser*
Pairs were seen on 6 days, at Oulu 26–27.5, Liminka Bay 27.5, Nesseby 2.6, 2 Hornøya 3.6 and Vardø 3–5.6.

Taiga Bean Goose  
*Anser fabalis fabalis*
4 near Vuotunki 29.5, 19 at the same site 30.5, 2 between Utsjoki and Tana 1.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 2.6.

Tundra Bean Goose  
*Anser serrirrostris rossicus*
2 were seen well on a partly frozen lake between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6.

Greater White-fronted Goose  
*Anser albifrons*
1 immature at Varangerbotn 2.6.

Mute Swan  
*Cygnus olor*
A pair at Karinkanta and another pair at Liminka Bay, both on 27.5.

Whooper Swan  
*Cygnus cygnus*
Pairs or small groups were seen throughout both countries on 11 days. Exceptionally, about 400 were counted at Liminka Bay 27.5.

Common Shelduck  
*Tadorna tadorna*
Up to 4 at Oulu 26–27.5, and 3 at Varangerbotn 2.6 and 5.6.

Garganey  
*Spatula querquedula*
1 male at Oulu 26.5 and a pair at Liminka Bay 27.5.

Northern Shoveler  
*Spatula clypeata*
Up to 20 at Oulu 26–27.5, 20 at Liminka Bay 27.5 and 2 at Kuusamo Lake 30.5.

Gadwall  
*Mareca strepera strepera*
1 at Oulu 26.5, 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5 and 4 at Kuusamo Lake 30.5.

Eurasian Wigeon  
*Mareca penelope*
Small numbers were seen on 9 days with peak day counts of 10 on 27.5 and 28.5.

Mallard  
*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*
Small numbers were seen on 9 days with peak day counts of 20–30 on 27–29.5.

Northern Pintail  
*Anas acuta*
4 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 4 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 6 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6, and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Eurasian Teal  
*Anas crecca*
Small numbers were seen on 10 days with peak day counts of 30 at Oulu 26.5 and 20 at Liminka Bay 27.5.
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Small numbers were seen on 11 days with peak counts of 50 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 20 at Raapyslampi 28.5 and 20 at Ilmakkiaapa 31.5.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila marila*
Two pairs were seen on a lake at Barvikmyran, near Vardo 4.6.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*
Small flocks were commonly encountered in Varanger, with 100–200 birds seen daily.

Velvet Scoter (EN) *Melanitta fusca*
8 at Raapyslampi 28.5, 4 at Raapyslampi 31.5, 2 between Vardo and Hamningberg 4.6 and 2 at Batsfjord 6.6.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
4 at Raapyslampi 28.5, 1 at Ilmakkiaapa 31.5, 150 at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 80 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Long-tailed Duck (VU) *Clangula hyemalis*
Flocks totalling around 100 birds were seen at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 5.6, about 150 between Vardo and Hamningberg 4.6 and 9 at Batsfjord 6.6. In addition, singles or pairs were seen on inland lakes in Varanger on several occasions.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula clangula*
Commonly encountered throughout as singles or pairs, and sometimes as large flocks. Seen on 11 days, with peak counts of 20 at Raapyslampi 28.5, 80 at Kuusamo 29.5, 50 at Ilmakkiaapa 31.5 and 40 at Batsfjord 6.6.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*
Frequent sightings this year, with as many males seen as females. 5 at Raapyslampi 28.5, 8 at Kuusamo 29.5, 1 at Kuusamo 30.5, 1 at Raapyslampi 30.5, 1 between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5, 2 at Ilmakkiaapa 31.5, 1 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6, and 4 between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

Common Merganser (Goosander) *Mergus merganser merganser*
In Finland, 2 at Oivanki 28.5, and 2 near Vuotunki 29.5. Large flocks totalling several hundred birds were seen in Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 5.6, but the largest numbers were between Vardo and Hamningberg 4.6 where an estimated 1,500 birds were seen.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*
In Finland, 1 at Oulu 26.5, 3 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6 and 6 between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6. In Varanger, much less numerous than Common Merganser with which it often associated. Peak day count in Varanger of 100 birds on 5.6.

Pheasants, Grouse and allies *Phasianidae*

Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia*
After a long search, we finally had great views of one in a birch tree at Kuusamo 31.5, with another heard nearby.

Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus urogallus*
1 male gave a virtuoso performance at Kuusamo 29.5 and a female was on the side of the road between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix tetrix*
1 at Yli-ii 28.5, 15 near Kuusamo 30.5, 4 near Kuusamo 31.5; all were males. A female was almost hit by a passing car between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5.

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*
After a long search we saw a male well, if a little distantly, between Batsfjord and Tana 6.6.

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus*
2 at Kuusamo 29.5, 3 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6, 3 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 8 at Soppevannet 4.6 and 2 between Batsfjord and Tana 6.6.
Grey Partridge  
*Perdix perdix*

2 at Tyrnävä 26.5.

Common Pheasant  
*Phasianus colchicus*

2 at Tyrnävä 26.5 and 1 at Oulu 26.5.

### Loons (Divers) *Gaviidae*

**Red-throated Loon (Red-throated Diver)**  
*Gavia stellata*

Singles or pairs were seen frequently in Varanger, with a peak day count of 36 birds, including no fewer than 20 seen from one spot at Barvikmyran.

**Black-throated Loon (Black-throated Diver)**  
*Gavia arctica arctica*

2 at Kuusamo Lake 28.5, 1 between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5, 2 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6, 2 at Soppevannet 4.6, 2 at Varanger Fjord 4.6 and 6 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

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

2 on the sea at Hamningberg 4.6.

### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

**Red-necked Grebe**  
*Podiceps grisegena*

Up to 4 at Kuusamo 28–30.5.

**Great Crested Grebe**  
*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

10 at Oulu 26.5, 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 1 at Kuusamo 29.5 and 1 at Kuusamo 30.5.

**Horned Grebe (Slavonian Grebe)**  
*Podiceps auritus auritus*

A pair at Oulu 28.5, including one sitting on a nest.

### Herons, Egrets and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**Eurasian Bittern (H)**  
*Botaurus stellaris stellaris*

1 was heard briefly at Oulu 27.5.

### Gannets and Boobies *Sulidae*

**Northern Gannet**  
*Morus bassanus*

About 10 over the sea at Hamningberg 4.6.

### Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

**European Shag**  
*Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis*

Commonly encountered in Varanger, especially on Hornøya where the nesting birds were very approachable.

**Great Cormorant**  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Commonly encountered in Varanger.

### Osprey *Pandionidae*

**Western Osprey**  
*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

1 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5 and 2 singles between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6.

### Kites, Hawks and Eagles *Accipitridae*

**Golden Eagle**  
*Aquila chrysaetos chrysaetos*

1 immature at Tanamunningen 5.6.

**Western Marsh Harrier**  
*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

1 at Oulu 26.5, 1 at Karinkanta 27.5 and 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5.
**Hen Harrier**
*Circus cyaneus*
1 female at Tynnävä 26.5.

**White-tailed Eagle**
*Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*
In Finland, 1 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 1 at Kuusamo 28.5, 1 near Vuotunki 29.5 and 1 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6. Commonly seen in Varanger with peak counts of 31 at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 23 on Hornoya 3.6.

**Rough-legged Buzzard**
*Buteo lagopus lagopus*
3 between Utsjoki and Tana 1.6, 4 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6, 3 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 7 at Varanger Fjord 5.6 and 1 between Båtsfjord and Utsjoki 6.6.

**Cranes Gruidae**
*Grus grus*
30 at Tynnävä 26.5, 4 at Ukuranperä 27.5, 14 at Oulu 27.5, 1 at Ivalo 1.6, 1 at Nesseby 2.6 and 4 between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

**Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**
*Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*
In Finland, 2 at Oulu 26.5 and 2 at Oritkari 28.5. Seen daily in Varanger with up to 20 per day.

**Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**
*Vanellus vanellus*
About in the 20 Tynnävä area 26.5, 6 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 2 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5 and 1 near Vuotunki 30.5.

**European Golden Plover**
*Pluvialis apricaria*
4 migrants in fields near Vuotunki 30.5. In the north, up to 15 per day were seen in the Varanger area, mostly birds on breeding territory.

**Common Ringed Plover**
*Charadrius hiaticula*
At least 6 at Oulu 26.5. Seen daily in small numbers in Varanger with a peak count of over 100 on 2.6.

**Little Ringed Plover**
*Charadrius dubius curonicus*
3 at Oritkari, near Oulu, on 28.5.

**Eurasian Dotterel**
*Charadrius morinellus*
3 were seen by everyone on Ailegas fell near Utsjoki on 1.6 (with another single bird seen there too), and 3 more were seen by Taru near Båtsfjord on 6.6.

**Sandpipers and allies Scolopacidae**
*Numenius phaeopus*
Singles or very small groups were seen on 7 days; most were probably migrants and most were in northern areas. Fewer than 20 birds in total.

**Eurasian Curlew (NT)**
*Numenius arquata arquata*
Singles or pairs were seen on 8 days, mainly in Finland – around 25 birds in total.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**
*Limosa lapponica lapponica*
About 20 birds were seen at several sites along Varanger Fjord 2.6. Subsequently 4 at Vardø 3.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6. Most were in breeding plumage but a few were not.

**Black-tailed Godwit (NT)**
*Limosa limosa*
1 at Tynnävä 26.5, 4 at Oulu 26.5, 2 at Oulu 27.5 and 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5. A single bird at Nesseby, in Varanger, on 2.6 was unexpected so far north.

**Ruddy Turnstone**
*Arenaria interpres interpres*
6 birds at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.
Red Knot  
*Calidris canutus*
A loose flock of 10 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, all in breeding plumage.

Ruff  
*Calidris pugnax*
Breeding males were seen on almost every day of the trip, with counts of 20-25 birds on four days.

Broad-billed Sandpiper  
*Calidris falcinellus falcinellus*
1 in display flight at Ilmakkiaapa 31.5.

Temminck’s Stint  
*Calidris temminckii*
4 at Oulu 26.5 were clearly migrants. Mostly seen in Varanger (on breeding territory), with 4 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6, 4 at Varanger Fjord 5.6 and at least 16 between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6.

Sanderling  
*Calidris alba alba*
1 at Vardø 3.6, 1 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 4 at Varanger Fjord 5.6, all in summer plumage.

Dunlin  
*Calidris alpina*
A large flock of migrants at Oulu 26.5. In Varanger, about 50 at several sites along Varanger Fjord 2.6, 20 at Vardø 3.6 and 10 at Varanger Fjord 5.6. Smaller numbers were found at several inland sites in Varanger.

Purple Sandpiper  
*Calidris maritima*
A large flock of around 200 birds was seen at Varanger Fjord 2.6. Elsewhere, about 20 at Vardø 3.6, 20 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 10 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Little Stint  
*Calidris minuta*
1 at Vardø 3.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6, both in breeding plumage.

Eurasian Woodcock  
*Scolopax rusticola*
1 was seen at Kuusamo 30.5.

Jack Snipe  
*Lymnocryptes minimus*
1 circled around us several times at Toivoniemi, near Inari on 6.6.

Common Snipe  
*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*
Singles or pairs were seen or heard almost every day.

Terek Sandpiper  
*Xenus cinereus*
2 were seen briefly at Oritkari near Oulu on 28.5.

Red-necked Phalarope  
*Phalaropus lobatus*
Many good sightings of this special bird: 3 at Nesseby 2.6, 2 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 25 on several lakes at Barvikmyran, near Vardø 4.6, 5 at Soppevannet 4.6, 4 between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6, 4 between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6 and 1 at Toivoniemi 6.6.

Common Sandpiper  
*Actitis hypoleucos*
Singles or pairs were seen on 7 days.

Green Sandpiper  
*Tringa ochropus*
2 on a roadside stream at the edge of the forest near Yli-ii 28.5.

Common Redshank  
*Tringa totanus*
6 at Oulu 26–27.5, 6 at Karinkanta 27.5, 10 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 6 at Varanger Fjord 5.6, 4 between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6 and 1 between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6.

Wood Sandpiper  
*Tringa glareola*
Frequent sightings, mainly singles or pairs. Seen on 9 days, with peak daily counts of 6 birds.

Common Greenshank  
*Tringa nebularia*
1 at Oulu 26.5, 3 at Oulu 27.5, 1 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 1 near Vuotunki 29.5 and 1 at Kuusamo 31.5.

**Gulls, Terns and Skimmers *Laridae***

Black-legged Kittiwake  
*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*
Common in Varanger, with huge colonies at Ekkerøy and Hornøya.
Black-headed Gull  
*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Commonly encountered in Finland with peak counts of 100 at Oritkari 28.5 and 50 at Kuusamo 30.5. In Norway, singles at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and Båtsfjord 6.6.

Little Gull  
*Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Many good sightings this year: 6 at Liminka Bay 27.5, up to 20 per day at Kuusamo 28–30.5 and a wonderful roadside breeding colony of about 30 birds between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5.

Mew Gull  
*Larus canus canus*
Very common throughout and seen every day.

Great Black-backed Gull  
*Larus marinus*
1 at Oulu 26.5 was the only sighting in Finland. Commonly encountered in Varanger in small numbers, with a peak day count of about 50 birds.

European Herring Gull  
*Larus argentatus*
In Finland, 3 at Kuusamo 28.5 and 1 at Pelkosenniemi 31.5. Very common in Varanger and seen every day.

Lesser Black-backed Gull  
*Larus fuscus*
1 at Konttainen 30.5 and 1 between Utsjoki and Tana 1.6.

Caspian Tern  
*Hydroprogne caspia*
2 at Liminka Bay 27.5.

Little Tern  
*Sternula albifrons albifrons*
A single bird was seen at Oulu 26.5 and 27.5.

Common Tern  
*Sterna hirundo hirundo*
Up to 6 at Oulu 26–28.5, 4 at Liminka Bay 27.5, up to 6 at Kuusamo 28–30.5 and 2 with Arctic Terns at Varanger Fjord 2.6.

Arctic Tern  
*Sterna paradisaea*
2 at Oritkari, near Oulu 28.5. Common in Varanger, with peak counts of 100 at Vardø 4.6 and a flock of several hundred birds at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*

Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua)  
*Stercorarius parasiticus*
Seen every day in Varanger, usually singly or in pairs, with a peak day count of 30 birds on 4.6.

Long-tailed Jaeger (Long-tailed Skua)  
*Stercorarius longicaudus*
In Finland, 1 at Kaunispää 31.5 and 1 at Ailegas 1.6. Many good sightings in Varanger, especially between Tana and Båtsfjord where we counted 20 birds on 5.6. Exceptionally, there was a flock of at least 100 birds on Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Auks, Murres and Puffins *Alcidae*

Thick-billed Murre (Brünnich’s Guillemot)  
*Uria lomvia lomvia*
1 on the sea at Ekkerøy, Varanger 2.6, at least 50 on the cliffs at Hornøya 3.6 and 1 at Hamningberg 4.6.

Common Murre (Common Guillemot)  
*Uria aalge*
Huge numbers at the colony on Hornøya 3.6, and small numbers on the sea between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6.

Razorbill  
*Alca torda*
1 at Ekkerøy 2.6, good numbers at the colony on Hornøya 3.6, a few on the sea between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6. and 4 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Black Guillemot  
*Cepphus grylle*
Small numbers seen every day in Varanger, with peak daily counts of about 10 birds.
Atlantic Puffin  
*Fratercula arctica*  
Many on the cliffs at Hornøya and in the surrounding seas 3.6.

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**  

**Rock Dove**  
*Columba livia var. domestica*  
2 at Vadsø 2.6, and up to 10 at Vardø 3–5.6.

**Common Wood Pigeon**  
*Columba palumbus palumbus*  
4 at Tynnävä 26.5, 2 at Oulu 26–27.5, 2 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5 and 1 between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae**  

Common Cuckoo  
*Cuculus canorus canorus*  
Singles seen or heard on 7 days: 1 heard at Revonlahti 26.5, 1 seen en route 27.5, 1 heard at Iivaara 29.5, 1 seen at Pelkosenniemi 31.5, 1 seen at Varangerbotn 2.6 and 1 seen between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

**Owls Strigidae**  

**Ural Owl**  
*Strix uralensis liturata*  
Great views of 1 at Yli-ii 28.5.

**Great Grey Owl**  
*Strix nebulosa lapponica*  
A pair was seen at Revonlahti 26.5. The female was on her nest and the male was seen several times in flight.

**Northern Hawk-Owl**  
*Surnia ulula ulula*  
A family party of 2 adults and 6 young (3 fledged and 3 still in the nest box) at Kuusamo 29.5. In Norway, 2 singles were found by the roadside between Båtsfjord and Utsjoki 6.6. 10 birds on the trip was a good tally!

**Eurasian Pygmy Owl**  
*Glaucidium passerinum passerinum*  
1 showed really well at Kiiminki 27.5.

**Boreal Owl (Tengmalm’s Owl)**  
*Aegolius funereus funereus*  
At Saarela, 1 bird was heard distantly and the young in the nest box were also heard, and at Kempele one adult was seen in her nest box, both on 27.5.

**Short-eared Owl**  
*Asio flammeus flammeus*  
Single birds were seen on 5 occasions, at Tynnävä 26.5, Varanger Fjord 2.6, Soppevannet 4.6, Barvikmyran 4.6 and Vardø 5.6.

**Swifts Apodidae**  

Common Swift  
*Apus apus apus*  
About 50 at Oulu 26.5, 4 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 6 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5 and 1 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6.

**Woodpeckers Picidae**  

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**  
*Dendrocopos major major*  
1 at Oulu 26.5, 1 at Karinkanta 27.5, 2 at Sanginjoki 28.5, and 1 between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5.

**Black Woodpecker**  
*Dryocopus martius martius*  
1 was seen well at a nest hole in Sanginjoki 27.5.
Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*
Singles at Oulu 26.5, Kuusamo 29.5 and Tanamunningen 5.6.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*
I was soaring high at Ailegas fell on 1.6, 2 singles were seen close together at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 1 flew low across the road between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
I was seen well between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 2 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Crows, Jays and Magpies *Corvidae*

Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus infaustus*
Several sightings totalling 10 birds at Konttainen 30.5 and 2 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 1.6.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius glandarius*
1 at Ukuranperä 27.5 and 1 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*
Common throughout and seen on 10 days in small numbers.

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*
About 50 at Tyrnävä 26.5 and up to 20 at Oulu 27–28.5.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*
About 20 at Tyrnävä 26.5 and 6 at Oulu 27.5.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix cornix*
Common throughout and seen every day in small numbers.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax corax*
Singles or pairs seen on 10 days, with a peak day total of 6 birds.

Waxwings *Bombycillidae*

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*
5 between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5, 6 at Ivalo 1.6, 10 seen well at Ailegas fell 1.6, 2 at Båtsfjord 6.6 and 1 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 6.6.

Tits and Chickadees *Paridae*

European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus cristatus*
At least 2 at Sanginjoki 28.5.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus borealis*
2 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 1.6.

Siberian Tit (Grey-headed Chickadee) *Poecile cinctus lapponicus*
2 at a nest box at Oivanki 28.5, 2 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 1.6, 2 at Ivalo 1.6 and 1 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 6.6.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus caeruleus*
Small numbers seen on most days in Finland: 4 at Oulu 26.5, 2 at Oulu 27.5, 2 at Kiiminki 27.5, 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5, 3 Sanginjoki 28.5, 4 at Iivaara 29.5 and 2 at Konttainen 30.5.

Great Tit *Parus major major*
Small numbers were seen every day in Finland, but none in Norway. Peak day count of 10 birds on 30.5.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis arvensis*
6 at Tyrnävä 26.5, 2 at Ukuranperä 27.5, 2 at Kempele 27.5 and 2 at Oritkari 28.5.
Horned Lark  
*Eremophila alpestris flava*
1 in coastal dunes near Vardø 4.6 and 4 on the high fells between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Sand Martin**  
*Riparia riparia riparia*
Mainly small numbers on 5 days: 2 at Oulu 27.5, 10 at Oritkari 28.5, 2 at Iivaara 29.5 and 10 at Kuusamo 30.5. Many at Ilmakkiaapa on 31.5 in a mixed flock of hirundines.

**Barn Swallow**  
*Hirundo rustica rustica*
Seen every day in Finland, generally in small numbers but many at Ilmakkiaapa on 31.5. In Norway, a single at Hamningberg 4.6 and 2 at Varanger Fjord 4.6.

**Common House Martin**  
*Delichon urbicum urbicum*
Small numbers seen each day in Finland.

**Leaf warblers and allies Phylloscopidae**

**Willow Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus trochilus*
Very common throughout, and seen or heard every day of the tour, with peak day counts of 20 in Finland and 6 in Norway.

**Common Chiffchaff**  
*Phylloscopus collybita*
Singles were recorded on just four days, at Revonlahti 26.5, Saarela 27.5, Sanginjoki 28.5 and between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6.

**Wood Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
1 was seen well at Revonlahti 26.5.

**Reed warblers and allies Acrocephalidae**

**Sedge Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
About 6 at Oulu 26–27.5 and 2 at Oritkari 28.5.

**Blyth’s Reed Warbler (H)**  
*Acrocephalus dumetorum*
1 was heard briefly at Oulu 27.5.

**Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae**

**Garden Warbler**  
*Sylvia borin borin*
1 seen at Oulu 26.5 and 1 heard at Karinkanta 27.5.

**Lesser Whitethroat**  
*Sylvia curruca*
2 at Ukuranperä 27.5, 1 at Liminka Bay 27.5 and 1 at Sanginjoki 28.5.

**Kinglets Regulidae**

**Goldcrest**  
*Regulus regulus regulus*
Seen or heard on 5 days: 3 at Kiiminki 27.5, 1 at Sanginjoki 28.5, 1 at Kuusamo 29.5, 5 at Konttainen 30.5 and 1 at Kuusamo 31.5.

**Eurasian Treecreeper**  
*Certhia familiaris familiaris*
2 at Saarela 27.5.

**Starlings Sturnidae**

**Rosy Starling**  
*Pastor roseus*
1 superb adult at Pelkosenniemi, between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5. This species is a vagrant to Finland.
**Thrushes and allies Turdidae**

**Ring Ouzel**

*Turdus torquatus torquatus*

1 male between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6.

**Common Blackbird**

*Turdus merula merula*

1 at Kiiminki 27.5.

**Fieldfare**

*Turdus pilaris*

Common throughout and seen every day except for one. Peak day count was 20 on 31.5.

**Redwing**

*Turdus iliacus*

Common throughout and seen every day except for one. Slightly less numerous than Fieldfare.

**Song Thrush**

*Turdus philomelos philomelos*

2 at Oulu 26.5, 1 at Kiiminki 27.5 and 1 at Kuusamo 31.5.

**Mistle Thrush**

*Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*

2 at Ukuranperä 27.5, 1 at Sanginjoki 27.5, 1 at Sanginjoki 28.5, 2 at Yli-i 28.5, 2 at Kuusamo 29.5 and 2 between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

**Chats and Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**Spotted Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa striata striata*

2 at Revonlahti 26.5, 2 at Karinkanta 27.5, 2 at Liminka Bay 27.5 and 1 at Sanginjoki 28.5.

**European Robin**

*Erithacus rubecula rubecula*

1 at Kiiminki 27.5 and 2 at Kuusamo 30.5.

**Bluethroat**

*Luscinia svecica*

1 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6, 1 at Ailegas fell 1.6, 1 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 2 at Soppevannet 4.6, 1 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6, 1 between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6 and 1 between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6.

**Red-flanked Bluetail**

*Tarsiger cyanurus*

1 immature male showed well at Konttainen 30.5.

**European Pied Flycatcher**

*Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca*

Singles or pairs seen daily in Finland. Only seen once in Norway, at Varanger Fjord 2.6.

**Common Redstart**

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

1 male at Käylä, near Kuusamo on 29.5.

**Whinchat**

*Saxicola rubetra*

3 at Tyrnävä 26.5, 3 at Ukuranperä 27.5, 1 at Oritkari 28.5 and 1 at Ivalo 1.6. Not seen in Norway.

**Northern Wheatear**

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

In Finland, 2 at Oritkari 28.5, 1 at Iivaara 29.5 and 4 between Ivalo and Utsjoki 1.6. Frequently encountered in Varanger, with a maximum day count of 15 on 5.6.

**Dippers Cinclidae**

**White-throated Dipper**

*Cinclus cinclus cinclus*

1 near Vuotunki 29.5 and 2 at Käylä, near Kuusamo 29.5.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

**House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus domesticus*

Small numbers were seen on 8 days, in both countries.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**

*Passer montanus montanus*

2 at Oulu 26–27.5 and 10 at Pelkosenniemi, between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5.
**Accentors Prunellidae**

**Dunnock**  
*Prunella modularis modularis*  
Singles were seen or heard at Kiiminki 27.5, between Kuusamo and Ivalo 31.5 and between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6.

**Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae**

**Western Yellow Wagtail**  
*Motacilla flava*  
Singles or pairs were seen on 9 days, with a peak day count of 6 at Ivalo on 1.6. The birds at the latter site were *thunbergi*, but nominate *flava* was recorded elsewhere.

**White Wagtail**  
*Motacilla alba*  
Singles or pairs were seen on every day of the tour. The peak day count was 15 between Vardø and Hamningberg on 4.6.

**Meadow Pipit**  
*Anthus pratensis*  
Recorded on 9 days. Only a few were seen in Finland, but the species was common in Varanger with a peak day count of 30 between Vardø and Hamningberg on 4.6.

**Tree Pipit**  
*Anthus trivialis trivialis*  
3 at Yli-ii 28.5, 2 at Konttainen 30.5 and 4 at Ivalo 1.6.

**Red-throated Pipit**  
*Anthus cervinus*  
5 at Vardø 3.6, 2 at Hamningberg 4.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

**Eurasian Rock Pipit**  
*Anthus petrosus littoralis*  
6 at Hornøya 3.6 and 1 at Hamningberg 4.6.

**Finches Fringillidae**

**Common Chaffinch**  
*Fringilla coelebs coelebs*  
Seen every day in Finland, with a peak day count of 10 at Kuusamo 29.5. Not seen in Norway.

**Brambling**  
*Fringilla montifringilla*  
1 heard at Liminka Bay 27.5, 3 at Iivaara 29.5, 2 at Vuotunki 30.5, 2 at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 1 at Tanamunningen 5.6. By far the largest number was at Neljän Tuulen Tupa where there were around 50 on 1.6 (but only 2 there on 6.6!).

**Pine Grosbeak**  
*Pinicola enucleator enucleator*  
4 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 1.6 and 4 again there on 6.6.

**Eurasian Bullfinch**  
*Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
2 at Sanginjoki 27.5, 2 at Kiiminki 27.5, 6 at Kuusamo 29.5 and 1 at Ivalo 1.6.

**Common Rosefinch**  
*Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*  
2 at Oulu 26.5, 1 at Oritkari 28.5 and 1 heard near Vuotunki 30.5.

**European Greenfinch**  
*Chloris chloris chloris*  
Singles or pairs were seen on 9 days with peak day counts of 4 at Oulu 26.5 and 4 at Varanger Fjord 2.6.

**Twite**  
*Linaria flavirostris flavirostris*  
1 at Vardø 3.6, 2 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 3 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

**Common Redpoll**  
*Acanthis flammea*  
4 at Oulu 26.5, 2 at Oulu 27.5, 1 at Tanamunningen 1.6, 2 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 2 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

**Arctic Redpoll**  
*Acanthis hornemanni*  
5 at Vardø 3.6, 1 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

**Red/Parrot Crossbill**  
*Loxia curvirostra/pytyopsittacus*  
1 bird flying over at livaara 29.5 was not specifically identified.

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Rockjumper Birding Tours  
View more tours to [Finland](#) or [Norway](#).
Eurasian Siskin  
*Spinus spinus*  
2–4 birds were seen or heard on 6 days, all in Finland.

**Longspurs and Snow Bunting *Calcariidae***

Lapland Longspur  
*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*  
4 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6, 2 at Barvikmyran 4.6, 6 between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6 and 2 between Båtsfjord and Tana 6.6.

Snow Bunting  
*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*  
3 pairs were seen between Tana and Båtsfjord 5.6.

**Buntings, New World Sparrows and allies *Emberizidae***

Yellowhammer  
*Emberiza citrinella citrinella*  
Seen or heard every day in Finland, but not seen in Norway. Peak day counts were 10 in the Oulu area on 26.5 and 10 at Pelkosenniemi, between Kuusamo and Ivalo on 31.5.

Ortolan Bunting  
*Emberiza hortulana*  
2 at Ukuranperä, near Lumijoki on 27.5.

Little Bunting  
*Emberiza pusilla*  
1 was seen and another heard near Ivalo on 1.6.

Rustic Bunting (H)  
*Emberiza rustica*  
1 was heard by Taru at Iivaara on 29.5.

Common Reed Bunting  
*Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*  
Recorded on 7 days, mostly in Finland. Up to 4 at Oulu 26–27.5, 2 at Kuusamo 28.5, 1 at Iivaara 29.5, 2 near Vuotunki 30.5, 6 at Kuusamo 30.5, 2 at Ivalo 1.6 and 1 at Soppevannet 4.6.

**Annotated List of Mammals Recorded**

**Rabbits and Hares *Leporidae***

European Hare  
*Lepus europaeus*  
2 at Tyrnävä 26.5, 1 at Oulu 26.5 and 1 between Oulu and Kuusamo 28.5.

Mountain Hare  
*Lepus timidus*  
1 at Tyrnävä 26.5, up to 20 at Kuusamo 29–31.5, 4 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 2 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 3 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

**Hamsters, New World Rats and Mice, and Voles *Cricetidae***

Root Vole  
*Microtus oeconomus*  
1 at Tanamunningen 1.6, 2 at Varanger Fjord 2.6 and 1 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.

Muskrat  
*Ondatra zibethicus*  
3 at Kuusamo Lake 28.5 and one at another lake near Kuusamo 30.5.

**Squirrels *Sciuridae***

Eurasian Red Squirrel  
*Sciurus vulgaris*  
1 at Sanginjoki 27.5, 2 at Iivaara 29.5 and 3 at Neljän Tuulen Tupa 1.6.

**Seals *Phocidae***

Grey Seal  
*Halichoerus grypus*  
1 at Varanger Fjord 2.6, 1 at Vardø 3.6, 4 between Vardø and Hamningberg 4.6 and 5 at Varanger Fjord 5.6.
Deer Cervidae

Eurasian Elk (Moose)  
*Alces alces alces*  
2 at Revonlahti 26.5, 4 between Utsjoki and Tana 1.6 and 2 between Utsjoki and Ivalo 6.6.

European Roe Deer  
*Capreolus capreolus*  
1 at Revonlahti 26.5.

Reindeer  
*Rangifer tarandus*  
Commonly encountered throughout. All were presumably semi-domesticated, but some roamed more freely than others.

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Group photo at the Russian border by Nigel Redman