



FINLAND & NORWAY

May 18 – May 30, 2024

TRIP REPORT



Finland & Norway - 2024

18th May – 30th May 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favorite.

- Eurasian Pygmy owl
- Western Capercaillie
- Short-eared Owl
- Ural Owl (eye view)
- Eurasian Dotterel
- Northern Hawk Owl
- Bluethroat
- Rock Ptarmigan
- Snow Bunting
- Pine Grosbeak
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Rustic Bunting
- Yellow-billed Loon
- Siberian Tit
- Long-tailed Ducks
- Red-throated Pipit
- European Golden Plover
- Red-necked Grebe
- Great Grey Owl
- Horned (Slavonian) Grebe
- Terek Sandpiper
- Ruff
- Little Gull
- Common Cranes
- Bohemian Waxwing
- Red-necked Grebe
- Smew
- Lapland Longspur
- Willow Ptarmigan
- Brunnich's Guillemot
- Razorbill
- Arctic Loon
- Hornøya Island Spectacle
- Shorebird Bonanza
- Hamningberg Scenery
- Båtsfjord Boogie Night Bash
- Grey-headed Woodpecker
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
- Temminck's Stint
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Caspian Tern
- White-throated Dipper
- Three-toed Woodpecker
- Red-flanked Bluetail
- Siberian Jay
- White-tailed Eagle
- Atlantic Puffin
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Arctic Fox
- Moose (Elk)
- Mountain Hare
- Brown Hare
- Reindeer
- Stoat

SUMMARY:

Our Finland and Norway Tour was a wonderful success with most of our target species not just seen, but seen well. It was apparently a bad Vole year which meant that owls were also in short supply, but our local contacts still managed to produce nest sites for most. Great Grey Owl, **Northern Hawk Owl**, Pygmy Owl and Ural Owl at nest sites and several Short-eared Owls in the field. In Finland, the star of the show had to be the male Capercaillie that was intent of seeing us off its patch of forest, by landing right on the bonnet (hood, Steve!) of the first van and then chasing it up the road!! We did as he asked and left him alone, but what an experience.



We found some wonderful shorebirds with Terek Sandpiper, close Temminck's Stint, breeding plumage Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, and also Horned Grebe, Red-necked and Great Crested Grebe all in full color.

In the mountains we had a fabulous time with Red-flanked Bluetail, Siberian Jay and Three-toed Woodpecker and got great looks at singing Rustic Bunting, plus a White-throated Dipper.

We moved north into Lapland and then Norway where the weather became cooler and eventually cold and icy. A stop at a café with feeders allowed us superb views of Pine Grosbeaks, Brambling, Common Redpoll and Bullfinch, while nearby, a pair of gorgeous Eurasian Dotterel were viewed at close range. The wildlife changed and we started seeing



less trees and more open tundra. Here we enjoyed a nesting Northern Hawk Owl, lots of Willow Ptarmigan, some Rock Ptarmigan, Long-tailed, Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and lots of White-tailed Eagles. There were Smew, Long-tailed Ducks, and a (Yellow) White-billed Loon, as well as many shorebirds all in their fine breeding colors. To top it off we visited the fantastic Hornøya Island, where thousands of birds were nesting. **Atlantic Puffins** walked around our feet, while Thick-billed and Common Murre were seen along with Razorbills, Shags and Kittiwakes. It was a breathtaking experience to see all these birds so close. The scenery, the birds, the wildlife and a fantastic fun group made this such a great trip. We can't wait to return!

Day 1 Arrival Day - Oulu - 18th May

Our tour began with almost everyone flying from Helsinki to Oulu on the same midday flight. Once we arrived and met our local guide, we soon had our brand-new Mercedes minibuses outside, ready to load up with ourselves and our luggage. It was just a short 10-minute drive to our hotel, where we were greeted by a male **European Pied Flycatcher** beside the car park. We checked in and met up a little later for a look along the shoreline just behind the hotel. We walked past a reed bed to an observation platform, and although it was a little windy, it didn't stop us from finding a good variety of birds along the shoreline. Common Redshanks flew back and forth alongside the odd Common Greenshank and some Ruff.



A few tiny Temminck's Stints were a little too far away to be seen clearly. There were four Whooper Swans lounging around, and further scanning found Common Shelduck, Greylag Goose, Common Ringed Plover, Dunlin, a Eurasian Curlew, and a couple of nice Black-tailed Godwits. Black-headed Gulls flew back and forth, and a nice adult Little Gull showing its black underwing was seen flying away. Out on the water there were several Great Crested Grebes, and looking among the ducks, we found Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, and three Common Goldeneye flying by. Common Terns were also seen



fishing, and Bobby picked up a Rough-legged Buzzard up high and flying away.

We then moved on a little and found a White Wagtail, and in a small lagoon, there were several Tufted Ducks. We also had a nice male Reed Bunting perched briefly in the reeds. On our way back, we spotted a few Fieldfare, plus a pair of European Pied Flycatchers protecting their nest box. Beside the hotel, a European Greenfinch was seen, and along a grassy track, we had a close male Western Marsh Harrier, several displaying

Common Snipe, plus one that came down and landed on top of a dead tree. A Willow Warbler then came near, and as a finale to the day, a couple of **Common Cranes** flew over. By dinnertime, all our group had arrived, and we were ready for the next day.

Day 2 Oulu area - 19th May

Today was the first full day of the tour. We started off with a pre-breakfast walk to the



shoreline just outside our hotel. Along the walk, we spotted Lesser Whitethroats singing, several Reed Buntings, and Sedge Warblers in song flight. A male Western Marsh Harrier made a brief appearance, and Common Snipe and a Greenshank were in full aerial display. From the observation platform, we found a nice Spotted Redshank, plus several Temminck's Stints, including one Little Stint among them. A group of

Garganey flew past, and we picked up two adult Little Gulls flying by. The **Whooper Swans** showed off and dwarfed the breeding plumaged Dunlin nearby. Northern Lapwings and

Common Terns flew around, and the distant sky was filled with Common Swifts. Some motion on the water alerted us to a Eurasian Otter swimming across the bay, and a lone Common Crane flew past. Among the many Great Crested Grebes further out were a few Common Goldeneye, Common Scoter, and a pair of Greater Scaup. Eurasian Wigeon and Common Teal were easy to see, and a lone Northern Pintail was spotted. Fieldfares and Redwings were in the gardens closer to our hotel, and then it was time for breakfast.

Afterwards, we set off to a small pond and soon found three Slavonian Grebes in full breeding plumage. They spent most of their time asleep but could still be seen very well in the scopes. A pair of Common Goldeneye were also present, and Gina found a female Smew hiding in the pond-side vegetation.

Moving on, we drove to an area of arable fields edged by forest. We soon found singing Yellowhammers and Pied Flycatchers and could hear our target bird, the Grey-headed Woodpecker. We walked closer to the call and eventually Sandy spotted it on a hunter's hide of all places. As we were getting onto the bird with our scopes, a Short-eared Owl was also spotted flying over the forest – which way to look??? We lost the woodpecker, but once again, it appeared back at the hunting tower and was spotted by Barbara. There were lots and lots of **Green Hairstreak** butterflies all along the ditch edges, and back on the road, we scoped a Tree Pipit.



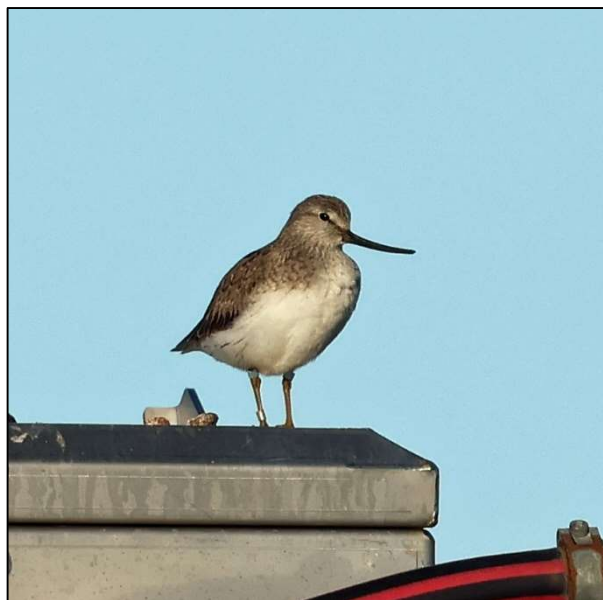
Moving on again, we drove to a sandy beach on a pond and had our picnic lunch.

Afterwards, we went and tried to see a Tengmalm's Owl that was nesting in a wooden nest box. Unfortunately, it didn't want to show itself today. Our next stop was in a patch of pines where a short walk had us looking up at an old Goshawk nest that was now occupied by a sitting Great Grey Owl. We could only really see its head and tail, so Steve worked his way to the opposite side of the forest where we all joined him to get better views, especially when it raised its head and looked at us. Moving on again, our last stop in another patch of mossy forest had us walk just 200 meters, and once in position, we were all soon looking at a tiny yet fierce-looking **Eurasian Pygmy Owl**. We had absolutely stunning views of this delightful bird, and then after a

quick look at a Goldcrest, we made our way back to the hotel.

Day 3 Oulu area - Liminka - 20th May

This morning, we went out before breakfast and drove to an industrial area beside the shoreline. We found a couple of Northern Wheatears, Common Gulls, Whinchats, and



eventually our target bird, a **Terek Sandpiper**, that was perched atop a fuel tanker surveying its territory.

After breakfast, we set off toward the Liminka Reserve. In the car park were Pied Flycatchers, a Lesser Whitethroat, and a few Yellowhammers. We then walked to a raised platform from which we could scan the vast horizon. Ducks included a pair of close Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Greater Scaup, Eurasian Teal, Northern Pintail, and a distant Long-tailed Duck. Also, a long way off were perched White-tailed Eagles and a group of Taiga Bean Geese. A massive Caspian Tern was spotted, and we also found Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Black-tailed Godwit, and singing Common Snipe. A female Western Marsh

Harrier gave a close flyby, while Western Yellow Wagtails and some very cheery Barn Swallows were seen.

Back at the reserve's restaurant, we enjoyed a great lunch and also managed to add Tree Sparrows and a pair of Common Redstarts to our list. From here, we checked a nearby area where a Hazel Grouse flew across the road and was briefly seen by a few of us as it walked off into the forest. Later, another flew up from the roadside and was only seen by a few.

We drove to a coastal point where we scanned the vastness in the chilly breeze. Common Cranes and a White-tailed Eagle flew past, and a fine Black-tailed Godwit sported its summer colors. In the nearby woods, we were treated to fantastic views of a pair of **Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers** and even watched them copulating.



Moving on, we arrived at our last woodland stop and here, after a short walk, we looked at a hollow tree stump where some feathers in the top revealed a roosting Ural Owl. A small crack in the trunk allowed the owl to put one eye up close and peek out at us. As we returned back to the hotel, a field with a group of colorful Ruff entertained us for a few minutes.

Day 4 Oulu - Kuusamo - 21st May

This morning was to be a bit of a traveling day as we would head towards Kuusamo. But first, we went out for a pre-breakfast check of a Tengmalm's Owl nesting box. We drove to the site

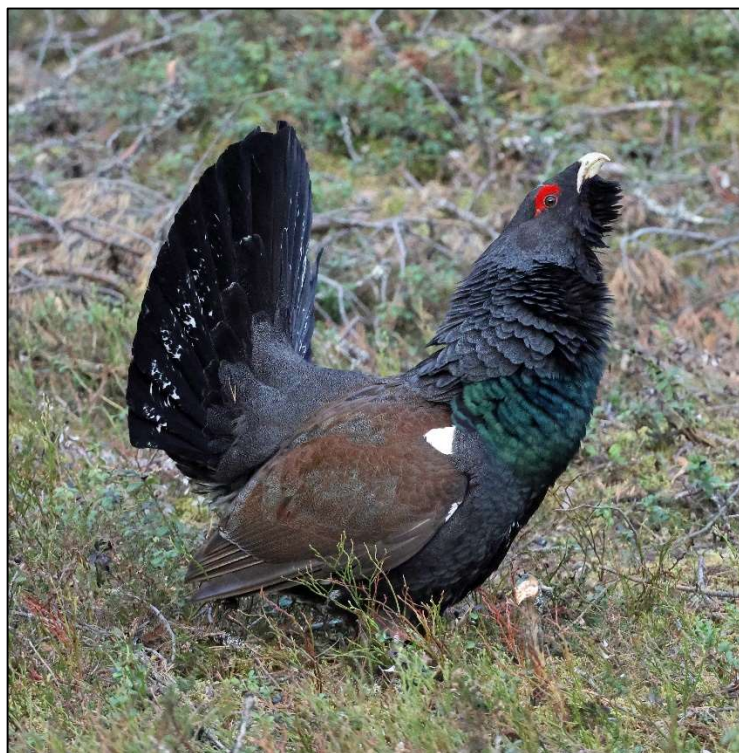
and saw Willow Warblers, and in the open fields, Lapwings, Black-headed Gulls, Jackdaws, and Eurasian Siskins flying around. We tried for the Tengmalm's Owl, but it did not show. A quick check around the forest had more Siskins flying and briefly perching, and then we got good views of a European Robin.

We headed back for breakfast, then packed our bags and set off on the drive to Kuusamo, some 200 km away. We passed many Fieldfares and some Brown Hares in fields, and then later these Brown Hares were replaced with paler and whiter Mountain Hares. A stop along the way had us scan numerous dead tree tops in the hope of spotting a Northern Hawk Owl, but to no avail. We did, however, see several Bramblings and a Common Kestrel.

Continuing on past endless pine, spruce, and birch trees, we eventually arrived at Kuusamo, where we had lunch and then checked into our hotel. We had some time to relax before dinner, and afterwards, several of us took a short walk to a nearby pond. The light was beautiful, and we found Wood Sandpipers, a Temminck's Stint, Greenshank, Tufted Ducks, Wigeon, Gadwall, a Common Merganser, a pair of Whooper Swans, White Wagtails, some Common Teal, and we heard a Great Spotted Woodpecker. A Muskrat sat out on the floating ice, and then as we returned to the hotel, we got incredibly close views of the **Temminck's Stint** and Wood Sandpiper together. Time for bed, as we are to be up early tomorrow.



Day 5 Kuusamo Area - 22nd May



This morning, we had an early pre-breakfast start in order to try and connect with a very special bird. We didn't drive too far before taking an off-road dirt track. It wasn't long before we could see our target bird standing high up on a ridge within the forest. He had spotted us too! And as is the case with some of these charged-up male **Capercaillies**, he didn't want anyone or anything in his territory, except female Capercaillies. We watched from the minibuses as he strutted around with his head in the air, and slowly but surely, he started to make his way down the hill toward us. Photo opportunities were fantastic. We quietly got out of the buses and stood beside them. He came closer and closer and, in Capercaillie language, told us to 'get lost'. Having enjoyed his performance, we decided to leave him in peace and

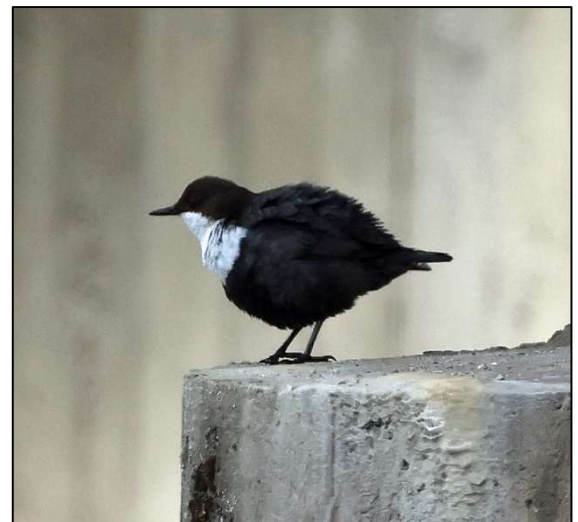
let him think he had seen us off. But just as the first van was about to pull away, he flew straight toward it and landed on the bonnet (hood) right up by the windscreen. He continued to strut and call from his elevated perch. Well, that was totally unexpected. After a few thrilling minutes, the bird returned to the forest ground and the van pulled away. This triggered the bird to chase the first van up the road for 100 yards. Blown away by this spectacle, we made our way back for breakfast, stopping at a couple of small lakes first, where we saw a Snipe on top of a tree, Common Merganser, Goldeneye, and a very brief Siberian Jay.



After breakfast, we set off to check the local area. Some farm fields held a group of nice male Ruff, of all different color forms. We also had Eurasian Golden Plovers, Fieldfares, and Redwings. An Ortolan Bunting showed briefly to some of us, and a pair of Northern Wheatears and Tree Sparrows were noted. We got to see quite a few Mountain Hares, many still in their white winter fur.

In another area of meadows, we found Temminck's Stints, Lapwing, Curlew, a Common Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpipers, and then a group of Western Yellow Wagtails and some Meadow Pipits.

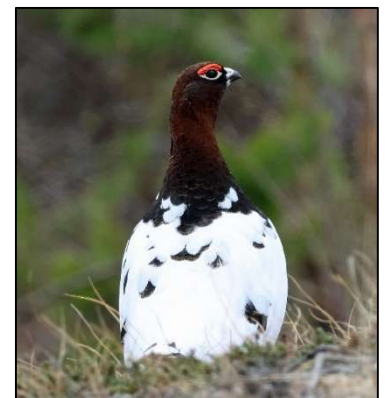
Beside a beautiful white-water river, we found a **White-throated Dipper** and a pair of Reed Buntings. Afterwards, we checked out some more ponds, and one held a nice Red-necked Grebe, plus a small group of Taiga Bean Geese, a White-fronted Goose, and a single Pink-footed Goose. A pair of Bohemian Waxwings put in an appearance before we headed back toward the hotel.



At another pond, we saw Whooper Swans displaying, Little Gulls flying around, and a distant Arctic Loon. We enjoyed plenty of ducks, Common Terns, and more Little Gulls before calling it a day. And what a great day it was.

Day 6 Oulanka - Kuusamo area - 23rd May

Today was another early start, as our target birds are most active early in the day. We drove half an hour to an area near a ski resort, and along the way, we had a quick stop for a **Willow Grouse** that was spotted beside the road. Once we were at our site, we got out and could immediately hear Redwings and Bramblings singing. A distant Red-flanked Bluetail was also heard, and with this bird in our sights, we set off on a walk up through the woods. As we neared a singing bird, we were distracted by loud drumming from a close woodpecker. On a dead tree quite close to us was a Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, which was backlit by the morning sun, making it difficult to see well. Back to the



Bluetail, and it wasn't too long before we found a bird singing from the tip-top of a tree. It was an immature male, so a little more grey than blue.

We scoped the **bluetail** and later another bird. A Siberian Jay flew overhead, and Goldcrests could be heard. We then made our way back down to the car park. Here, we tracked down a Eurasian Wren, and in so doing, we found a lovely pair of Bullfinches, shortly followed by a lone **Siberian Jay**.



Back by the minibuses, there were more Jays, plus



another drumming Three-toed

Woodpecker. As we were about to get into the buses at least four Siberian Jays were in the trees and visiting a bird feeder right beside us.

Leaving the area, we drove back towards our hotel, stopping for a couple of female Capercaillie along the roadside and then a Short-eared Owl perched in a dead tree. Later, we went and checked a lake where Little Gulls put on a fabulous show, and two distant Arctic Loons were spotted. We then drove through a woodland where we heard a Rustic Bunting, and after a short search, we soon had a bird in our scopes. What fantastic views we got. Moving on, we checked other areas finding Willow Tit and Tree Pipit.

Day 7 Kuusamo - Ivalo - 24th May

This morning, we had breakfast at the usual time in preparation for the long drive to Ivalo, in Finnish Lapland. Along the way, we said goodbye to Phil and Barbara at the Rovaniemi airport. Despite there being a lack of sightings during the journey, we made sure to scan every lake we passed by. After leaving the airport, we made a brief stop at a boggy area where we scoped out a breeding-plumaged Spotted Redshank and found a female Smew. Continuing on, a male Capercaillie crossed the road in front of us and disappeared into the forest. Next, we passed by a male Black Grouse, which vanished quickly. Then, a Moose (Elk) was spotted beside the road, and as we neared Ivalo, we drove to the top of an open moorland hill where we eventually found a beautiful pair of **Eurasian Dotterel**. While preparing for dinner, Bobbie texted the group to say she was watching a fine male



Smew on the river behind the hotel. Excitedly, we all rushed outside to catch a glimpse of this elegant duck through our scopes.

Day 8 Ivalo - Båtsfjord- 25th May

This morning, we had an early breakfast and then drove a short distance to some waterworks. A walk around the ponds found us Common Goldeneye, plus Fieldfare and Redwing. Further on, overlooking some fields, we spotted a Common Crane and a Red Fox. We then heard a Bluethroat singing, and after a short walk and wait, we scoped the bird singing from a small tree.

At our next stop, a female Hen Harrier circled the parking lot. We walked into a lush woodland and were soon looking at a large tree with a hole in the trunk. Here, a **Northern Hawk Owl** stared out at us. After watching the bird for a while, we walked away, but just as we did, Steve spotted another owl fly in and change positions with its mate on the nest. Thinking that the other bird must now be nearby, Steve soon located it sitting in a dead treetop. We all got wonderful views, and to prove the bird was not bothered by our presence, it fell asleep.



We returned for breakfast and then packed our bags and set off north to Norway. Our first stop was at a small café that had bird feeders out the back. Here, we had coffee and cake and enjoyed close-up views of male and female **Pine**



Grosbeaks, lots of Bramblings, a pair of Bullfinches, some Greenfinches, Reed Buntings, and Common Redpolls. Red Squirrels were also plentiful, enjoying the feast.

We moved on and soon spotted a nice male Willow Grouse standing beside the road before continuing on to our lunch stop. We then headed north again, seeing several Rough-legged Buzzards. The weather turned decidedly cooler and the landscape changed from trees to very few trees, eventually to high tundra with plenty of snow and icy ponds. We found Rock Ptarmigan and Willow Grouse, both in double figures, while European Golden Plovers, a Whimbrel, and Red-throated Loons were seen. As we slowly made our way along the road, we found some Lapland Buntings, a flock of Snow Buntings, Redpolls, Redwings, Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers. Near our hotel, we saw a pond full of Kittiwakes, Herring

Gulls, Common Gulls, and about a dozen Common Mergansers. As we unloaded the van, an Arctic Tern was seen fishing near the hotel.

Day 9 Styltefjord - Kongfjord - Båtsfjord- 26th May

Today, we took a short walk around the harbor before breakfast. We found lots of Kittiwakes, with many birds nesting on the buildings around town. There were also Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls. We found a few Black Guillemots, and far out in the bay, two Long-tailed Ducks flew past. We also saw some very elegant **Long-tailed Jaegers**.



We returned for breakfast and then set off to drive along a nearby valley. We stopped many times for Willow and Rock Ptarmigans, plus numerous European Golden Plovers, a distant Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, and some Ruff. We had brief sightings of Snow Buntings and some Lapland Buntings, as well as the regular Fieldfares and Redwings. Common Merganser, Goldeneye, and Teal were all seen before we returned to the hotel and enjoyed our picnic lunch in comfort.

Afterwards, we set off across the snowy hills in a different direction. We found a nice marshy spot where we watched Bean Geese, Dunlin, Temminck's Stint, Ringed Plover, Redshank, and some displaying Ruff. Moving on, we stopped to observe a Wigeon on a pond and soon found two Red-necked Phalaropes. Our next stop produced some beautiful Bohemian Waxwings posing on power lines and coming to the ground. Further on, we decided to take a nice walk over a rocky headland. Lots of Golden Plover were seen, plus on the water were rafts of Common Eider. Some tiny rocky islands held a breeding colony of Great Cormorants and on one island, an adult White-tailed Eagle perched and surveyed its hunting ground. There was little else to see on the walk, but we did find Purple Saxifrage. We returned to the vehicles and watched a huge White-tailed Eagle fly in and land on some rocks. As we headed back, we made one last stop to look at three Red-throated Loons on a small pool.

Day 10 Båtsfjord - Vadso - Hornøya Island - 27th May

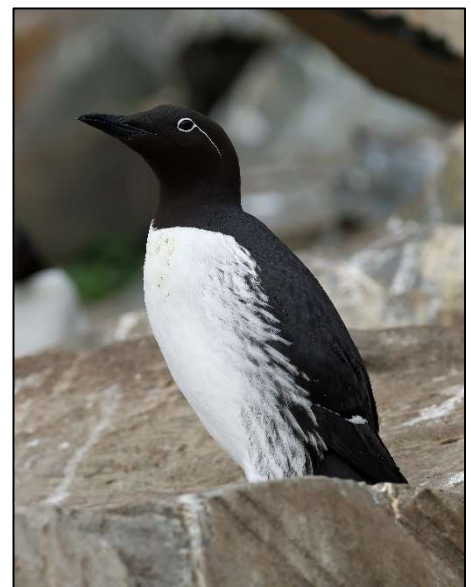
With the forecast of bad weather coming in tomorrow, we changed our itinerary a bit. We had a boat trip planned for tomorrow, so instead, we made our way quickly with a few stops to Vardo, in order to take the afternoon boat to Hornøya Island. We left Båtsfjord in fog and made our way across the snowy tundra. From a bridge, we got fantastic looks at five Long-tailed Ducks. Continuing on, we passed a couple of Rough-legged Buzzards, and then we got to Vadso beside the Varangerfjord. We walked to a small pond and here we watched 16 **Red-necked Phalaropes** spinning around on the water right in



front of us. Fabulous! We continued on and managed to count 25 White-tailed Eagles between here and our hotel in Vardo. One quick stop found a bunch of Taiga Bean Geese and a lone Barnacle Goose. Another stop with few birds, had us instead looking at a Stoat carrying one of its babies. We arrived at our hotel and took our picnic lunch outside the hotel in a city park.

Afterwards, we gathered up and met by the boat launch for our short crossing to the Bird Island of Hornøya. This change of plan had proved a good move as all the other companies booked to visit the island in the next three days had their visits cancelled due to the weather.

On arrival, we were met by a cacophony of noise and birds flying back and forth from the cliff face, and thousands of Common Murres sat on the water. This is a mind-blowing place, and **Atlantic Puffins** were building burrows right in front of us. Common Murres were literally everywhere, including many of the 'Bridled Form'. **Razorbills** were also numerous, but there were only a handful of the rarer **Thick-billed Murres** to be found, jostling for a nesting position high on the ledges.





We took our time watching these birds at point-blank range.

Over the other side of the island, there were easily 10,000 more birds, often all taking off together and flying around in a mass before landing on the water. and for those who walked even further, they were treated to seeing a couple of Humpback Whales and a Minke Whale. With Shags and Kittiwakes all around plus the adorable Puffins, it was hard to leave, and the weather had been perfect for us.

We all returned from the island and immediately drove to the small harbor in town, where a breeding plumaged **Yellow-billed Loon** sat quietly on the smooth water. What a spectacular day!



Day 11 Vardo - Vadso - Hamningberg - 28th May

This morning, after breakfast, we retraced our steps from yesterday back towards Vadso. One of the first things we saw was an **Arctic Fox** found by Gina. We watched it for about 20 minutes as it scratched and dug into a tussock to try and find some voles, one of which we saw run away. Apparently, this is a very rare record for the area.



Moving on, we stopped for a group of Taiga Bean Geese which included one Barnacle Goose. A Short-eared Owl was seen to disappear behind a grass bank, and then we started seeing huge White-tailed Eagles. At one point, five eagles were around a carcass, and although they all took off, they offered excellent views.



We tried several places in search of sea duck and managed to spot big rafts of Common Scoter and Common Eider, plus over 30 Long-tailed Ducks and good numbers of Common Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser. A couple of distant Red-necked Phalaropes were spotted, as well as a lone Yellow-billed Loon. Moving on, we saw plenty of Willow Ptarmigan and European Golden Plovers, plus a few Ruff and Oystercatchers.

Beside a beach, we had a fantastic time looking through the shorebirds at pretty close range, allowing wonderful views of many in their breeding colors. **Dunlin**, Sanderling, Purple

Sandpipers, Common Ringed Plover, Bar-tailed Godwits, Ruddy Turnstone, and a Red Knot. We then moved to another area and had a quick coffee break while watching a couple of Black Guillemots and some **Arctic Terns**. Our next stop was at Vadso where we again checked through the eiders and shorebirds, finding plenty of Common Eider, Dunlin, and some Bar-tailed Godwits. As we returned, there were a few Ruff in the grasses right beside the road, and we had fantastic looks at chestnut, black, white, and cream-colored males.

We then returned to Vardo and our hotel for lunch. Afterwards, we drove toward Hamningberg with stops to look at Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, and hundreds of gulls. Through the impressive rocky terrain, we found a couple of Northern Wheatears, and one van got to see a male Ring Ouzel. We got to the end of the road at Hamningberg and looked out at a blustery sea.



Several Northern Gannets were our reward, before we turned around and made our way to the hotel.

Day 12 Vardo - Vadso - Café - Ivalo - 29th May

This morning, we drove to the nearby headland after breakfast. It was bitterly cold, and not too much was seen, except for Fieldfares, Redwings, Golden Plover, Ruff, and a White-tailed Eagle. Afterwards, we packed our bags and set off on the long journey back to Ivalo. A quick stop by the harbor, where the Yellow-billed Loon hung out, was enlivened by six Red-necked Phalaropes.

Our next stop was where we saw the **Arctic Fox** yesterday, and sure enough, there it was running around in the snow. We watched it for a while and then noticed another one nearby, but this one was completely white. Wow, what a sighting.



We continued on, stopping for a field of Bean Geese, which now included three Barnacle Geese, and a Short-eared Owl sat on a fence post. The competition between the vans started with how many White-tailed Eagles could be spotted during our journey. We checked flocks of Common Eiders and noted Common Scoter, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Long-tailed Ducks. Beside a grassy field, we checked through 20 or more Meadow Pipits and eventually found one very colorful Red-throated Pipit. Next was the beach that was full of shorebirds yesterday. It was again teeming with birds, and we found Sanderling, Purple Sandpipers, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshank, and Ruff. Another **Red-throated Pipit** was also



found, this one more pinkish on the throat. Continuing on, the Eagle count was increasing. We stopped at another area which held shorebirds and added a group of four Red Knots. We continued and checked through more Eiders. Lunch was enjoyed at a local pub, and then we headed towards Ivalo, with a stop at the café with bird feeders. Here we saw Bramblings, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and some Red Squirrels. The last stretch of the journey was enlivened by a fully breeding plumaged Arctic Loon on a perfectly still lake. The final count of **White-tailed Eagles** for the day was an amazing 54.



Day 13 Ivalo - 30th May

Our last morning saw us have breakfast and then drive a short distance to a patch of forest and a tower that overlooked a lake. As we were walking towards the tower, a pair of Grey-headed Chickadees (Siberian Tits) called and were seen briefly before they disappeared. From the tower, we could see a pair of Smew with the male glowing in the morning light. Common Cranes were seen nesting, and we spotted a distant Hen Harrier, while some Ruff and Common Snipe were displaying.

We then walked back to the forest trail where the Grey-headed Chickadee (Siberian Tits) were heard calling again. Steve saw one dive into a nest box. We all waited patiently, and after 20 minutes, the bird was seen poking its head out of the nest box. Later, it flew out and then returned, giving us some views of a species we thought we had missed. What a great end to our fabulous trip!

Kind Regards
Gina & Steve

BIRDLIST FOR FINLAND/NORWAY 2024

A = Number of species recorded on tour B = Number of days out of 7 recorded -Finland
 C = Highest daily count – Finland D = Number of days out of 6 recorded – Norway
 E = Highest daily count - Norway
 H = Days Heard only N/C = No Count Cm = Common

This list follows the IOC WORLD BIRD LIST v (14.3) and as such names may be different than some of the field guides and other taxonomies.

* notes below checklist for certain species.

A	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Finland		Norway	
			B	C	D	E
1	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			5	3
2	Black-throated Loon	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	2	2	1	1
3	Yellow-billed Loon	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>			3	2
4	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2	30		
5	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	1	1		
6	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	2	3		
7	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanua</i>			1	4
8	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1	1		
9	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>			3	50
10	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	7	100	6	20
11	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1	1		
12	Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	1	1		
13	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	2	10	4	10
14	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	3	10	5	35
15	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	1	1		
16	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	1	1		
17	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			3	3
18	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	2	4		
19	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	5	10	2	2
20	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	6	8	5	6
21	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	7	8	5	2
22	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	4	2		
23	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	3	3	3	2
24	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	4	10	1	2
25	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	2	10		
26	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	7	6	4	2
27	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	2	2	1	2
28	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>			5	600
29	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	1	2	4	40
30	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	3	6	3	60
31	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	3	6		
32	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	7	20	5	4
33	Smew	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	3	2	1	2
34	Common Merganser (Goosander)	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	5	20	6	100
35	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	4	4	6	40
36	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2	5	5	54
37	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	3	2		
38	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	1	2	1

39	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Butel lagopus</i>	1	1	3	6
40	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	1		
41	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	2	2	2
42	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	1		
43	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	1	2		
44	Willow Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	1	1	5	10
45	Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>			1	1
46	Western Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	3	3		
47	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	3	1		
48	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	6	25	2	2
49	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	3	6	5	6
50	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	1		
51	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	3	1	4	25
52	Eurasian Dotterel	<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>			1	2
53	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	2	6	5	50
54	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	7	20	1	2
55	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	4	6	2	4
56	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1	1		
57	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba alba</i>			2	4
58	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	2	6	4	120
59	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			2	4
60	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>			3	30
61	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	6	80	6	12
62	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	6	4	5	2
63	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	3	3		
64	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>			3	8
65	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			4	2
66	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	7	8	2	1
67	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	3	1		
68	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	3	10	4	6
69	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	6	2	1	2
70	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	4	12	5	10
71	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1	1		
72	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	1		
73	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	5	8	2	2
74	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			4	8
75	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			4	16
76	Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua)	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			5	12
77	Long-tailed Jaeger (Skua)	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>			4	6
78	Pomarine Jaeger (Skua)	<i>Stercorarius</i>			2	4
79	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	4	10		
80	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	6	100	4	1
81	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	4	30	4	10
82	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	1	1		
83	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			4	30
84	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	3	3	5	60
85	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			5	400
86	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	6	20	3	6
87	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			4	35

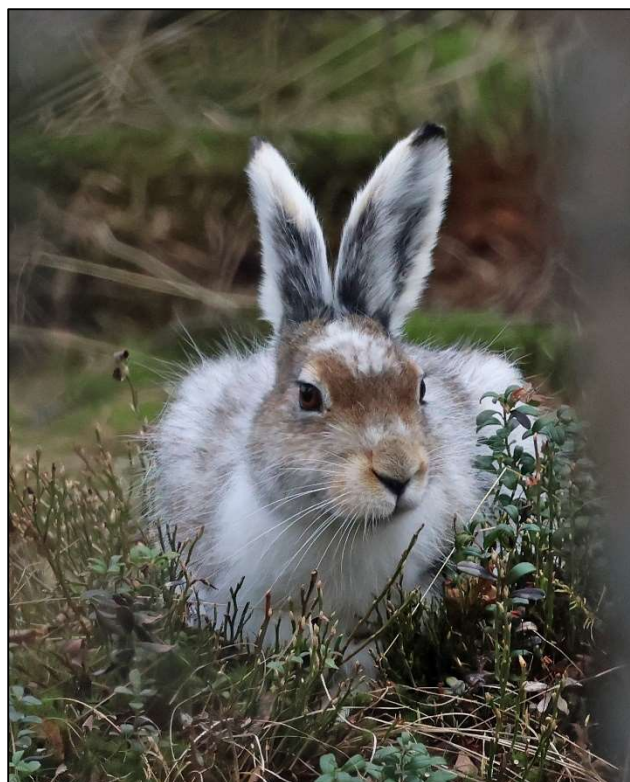
88	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	1	2		
89	Common Murre (Guillemot)	<i>Uria aalge</i>			2	10,000
90	Thick-billed Murre (Brunnich's)	<i>Uria lomvia</i>			1	7
91	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			1	150
92	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>			4	6
93	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			1	200
94	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			2	6
95	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	4	4	1	1
96	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	4	H	1	1
97	Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium. passerinum</i>	1	1		
98	Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	1	1		
99	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	1	1		
100	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	2	2	3	1
101	Northern Hawk Owl	<i>Surnia ulula</i>	1	2		
102	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	3	100		
103	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	3	1		
104	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	1	2		
105	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	1	1		
106	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	1	1		
107	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2	4	1	1
108	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7	30		
109	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	1	5	1	2
110	Horned Lark (Shorelark)	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			1	6
111	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	4	2	1	1
112	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1	4	5	25
113	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>			1	2
114	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	7	6	5	2
115	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	3	4		
116	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	2	2	1	4
117	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1	1		
118	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1	1		
119	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	1		
120	Red-flanked Bluetail	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	1	3		
121	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1	2		
122	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1	4		
123	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2	2	5	3
124	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	7	50	6	20
125	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	4	8	5	20
126	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	2	4		
127	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1	1		
128	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>			1	1
129	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acr schoenobaenus</i>	1	3		
130	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	1	1		
131	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	2	2	1	H
132	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	4	H		
133	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	7	4	5	1
134	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1	1		
135	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1		
136	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	5	10	1	1

137	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	1	1		
138	Grey-headed Chickadee (Siberian Tit)	<i>Poecile cinctus lapponicus</i>	1	2		
139	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	3	2		
140	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5	2	2	1
141	Siberian Jay	<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	2	4	1	1
142	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	7	Cm	6	10
143	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	4	30		
144	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2	30		
145	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	7	Cm	6	Cm
146	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	3	2	5	4
147	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	2	5	6
148	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	3	4	1	2
149	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	6		
150	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	4	4	3	40
151	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2	2	2	4
152	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	3	4		
153	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>			3	4
154	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1	2	1	2
155	Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>			2	8
156	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	3	6		
157	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	1	1		
158	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	3	4	3	2
159	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	1	1		
160	Lapland Longspur (Bunting)	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>			2	6
161	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>			4	12



Other sightings

A		SCIENTIFIC NAME	B		C	
1	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	3	8		
2	Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>			5	10
3	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	4	2	3	4
4	Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	4	10	4	25
5	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	2	2		
6	Elk/Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>			1	1
7	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1	1
8	Arctic Fox	<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>			2	2
9	Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>				
10	Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	1	1		
11	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>			1	4
12	Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>			1	1
13	Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			1	1
14	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	4	40		
15	Peacock Butterfly	<i>Aglais io</i>	1	1		
16	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	1	1		
17	Clark's Mining Bee	<i>Andrena clarkella</i>	1	30		
18	Moor Frog	<i>Rana arvalis</i>	1	10		
19	Lingonberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	4	N/C		
20	Grey Reindeer Lichen	<i>Cladonia rangiferina</i>	1	N/C		
21	Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	5	N/C		
22	Bog Labrador Tea	<i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	2	N/C		
23	Purple Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	2	N/C		



SUNRISE BIRDING LLC