Norway & Finland – An Arctic Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report 8th – 18th May 2023

Great Grey Owl by Sean Nixon

Hazel Grouse by Sean Nixon

Golden Plover by Jonathan Mycock

Brünnich's Guillemots by Jonathan Mycock

Tour report by Jonathan Mycock

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Tour participants: Jyrki Makkonen & Jonathan Mycock (Leaders) with 12 Naturetrek clients

Summary

On this tour we first explored the forests and wetlands of Oulu and Kuusamo in Finland, where we successfully searched for many of the sought after high Arctic birds, including Great Grey, Ural, Tengmalm's and Pygmy Owls, Siberian Jay, Pine Grosbeak and Red-flanked Bluetail. We then made the scenic journey above the Arctic Circle and into Norway, hugging the shore of the famous Varanger Fjord. Here we found a variety of Sea Duck, including Steller's Eider. A visit to the island of Hornoya, with its teeming seabird populations, was a highlight. We also enjoyed a very scenic drive along the Hamninberg Peninsula, passing breeding waders and skuas on the Arctic tundra, enjoyed a seawatch with several Cetacean species, and found three White-billed Divers. Finally, on our return journey into Finland, having counted a total of 59 White-tailed Eagles along the Varanger Fjord, we got very lucky and found Hawk Owl, Siberian Tit and Hazel Grouse on our last afternoon!

Day 1 Monday 8th May

Heathrow – Helsinki – Oulu

8 C, clear blue sky

Our 07.30 flight from Heathrow arrived on time at Helsinki airport, where we only had a short wait before boarding our connecting flight to Oulu. After re-claiming our baggage, we passed swiftly through to the arrivals hall where Jyrki greeted us. The minibuses were quickly retrieved and after loading our bags we drove the short distance to the Airport Hotel and checked into our rooms. Soon after, we headed out on foot towards the shoreline of the Gulf of Bothnia. Jyrki had already commented that the spring was rather delayed this year, and this was clearly shown by the frozen shoreline!

We climbed up into an observation tower which gave elevated views of the surrounding reedbeds, damp woodland, rocky and muddy shoreline. A good variety of wintering/migrant waders included summer plumage Spotted Redshank and Black-tailed Godwits. Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser males allowed close comparison, a pair of Smew completed the trio of sawbills ducks, while a drake Garganey was a sign of the spring migration. Several Whooper Swans were feeding further across the bay.

A party of Common Cranes came quite close overhead, whilst a female Merlin was seen hunting low over the marshes before alighting in the birch trees. Above the marshes, displaying Common Redshank and Snipe were very vocal, and double figures of Greenshank and Wood Sandpipers were recorded. The hotel grounds held singing Redwing, Fieldfare and Tree Sparrows.

Day 2 Tuesday 9th May

Oulu – Liminka Bay and surrounding area

0.5 C – 16.5 C, bright and sunny with cold wind.

We met at 06.30 and headed back to the viewing platform for a birding session before breakfast. Few new species were added to the list, but the trees close to the hotel held two superb male Pied Flycatchers and a close Lesser Whitethroat. On the edge of the conifer plantation a Red Squirrel lay on a horizontal branch, dozing in the early morning sun. It still showed quite a lot of the grey winter coat typical of the squirrels in Lapland.

After a hearty breakfast we headed out to farmland near Savela, to the south of the hotel, where we soon picked out a Rough-legged Buzzard soaring and hovering high above the tree line, and a Short-eared Owl quartering the ground below. Tree Sparrows on a farmhouse roof and a singing Yellowhammer were more typical of the farmland birds back home. The extensive area of stubble fields held several flocks of Pink-footed Geese, and we saw many groups of Common Cranes flying over in V-formations. Curlew, Snipe and Lapwing were also common in the arable fields, together with many Brown Hares.

Our next stop was Liminka Bay Nature Reserve, run by the Finnish National Parks Department (Metsahallitus). This huge wetland contained a great diversity of birds, and we spent the rest of the morning here. We enjoyed incredibly close views of Ruffs, including males in black, orange-buff and white plumage. Groups of up to 30 appeared to be displaying in congregations known as 'leks'. This was a wader paradise, with displaying and singing Black-tailed Godwit and Wood Sandpipers all around us. The observation tower at Virkkula provided a 360-degree view of the reserve all around us. Large numbers of Common Cranes and Whooper Swans were seen in the distance, whilst two White-tailed Eagles flew past low over the water, like 'flying barn doors', and a male Marsh Harrier quartered the scrub along the opposite shore.

We enjoyed a splendid lunch in the impressively large visitor centre, which housed an exhibition of stunning black and white bird photos. We left the reserve to wind our way across narrow farmland tracks near Lumijoki, west of Liminka Bay, until eventually turning into a conifer plantation. Jyrki went on ahead and located a large nest box. We were lined up a safe distance away, so as not to disturb the occupant. Jyrki then made some scratching noises and after what seemed like a long wait, a splendid Tengmalm's Owl popped its face out of the entrance hole. Bright, round staring yellow eyes and small black and white ear 'bumps' gave it a surprised expression. After taking many photos (to which the owl seemed unperturbed), we crept away and returned to the vans. We all agreed that this was the best bird of the tour so far!

We then visited more farmland in the Karinkanta area, in search of Lesser White-fronted Geese, but we were unsuccessful, although we found Greylag Goose of the race *rubrirostris*. Migrant Northern Wheatears were arriving – their pale bellies contrasting against the dark soil of the arable fields, and a Water Vole was seen briefly swimming across a wet ditch. We then drove to another coastal location at Varjakka, opposite the island of Hailuoto. Here two summer plumage Black-throated Divers flew low overhead and a party of eight Waxwings disappeared into a stand of mixed woodland. Over 80 Whooper Swans, 30 Goldeneye, several Smew, and a single Oystercatcher and Great Black-backed Gull were counted along the shore, while we enjoyed a cup of instant coffee provided by Jyrki.

Finally, we returned to the hotel, completing the checklist before dinner. Later on, a brief visit to the platform was rewarded by a fly past Hobby and a pair of Smew.

Day 3 Wednesday 10th May

Oulu and surrounding area

A pre-breakfast visit to the watchtower produced Little Tern and Sparrowhawk, along with four Mountain Hares on the 'lawns'. After breakfast we headed out at 08.30 to an area of fields SE of Oulu. First, we scanned the fields for geese, finding large flocks of Pink-feet and a few White-fronts. Heading further inland, the landscape started to rise in the direction of Ylikiiminki, and we drove along forest tracks into some older mixed forest. Here Jyrki located a female Great Grey Owl sitting in an old Goshawk nest. Eventually the male flew in and sat on a tree adjacent to the nest. A supporting cast of Tree Pipit, singing Brambling, lots of Siskins and Great Spotted Woodpecker were also seen, and a distant Black Woodpecker heard.

We then drove on to the small town of Muhos where we shopped for our picnic lunch in a supermarket, before driving a short distance out of town to a small lake and picnic area at Karhojan Uimapaikka. Here we ate our lunch, accompanied by a pair of Common Sandpipers feeding around the lake shore. Close by, a small flock of Bohemian Waxwings were feeding in the silver birch trees.

Heading further east into the countryside, we crossed the mighty Oulujoki river. A forest track took us into a stand of young Scots Pine, where Jyrki located an owl nest box. Some of the group had a brief glimpse of a Ural Owl chick, which peeped out from inside, but it soon vanished. However, careful searching revealed a male Ural Owl perched in trees close by, and all the group had views of this splendid owl.

A third area of forest was then visited, east of the river, stopping en-route to watch a Woodcock at the roadside verge. Here, nest boxes were provided for Pygmy Owls, including some which they could cache food in. A diminutive Owl was located, perched above but close to a nest box, giving good views. In the adjacent field, a Camberwell Beauty butterfly was flying along the margins, and later a Red Fox trotted across a large stubble field. We then headed back to the hotel, completing the check list after another excellent dinner. Some group members headed down to the tower platform later to view the coast, where a lot of the ice had melted since the morning. A pair of Smew and several Goosander were feeding in the open water and a lek of Ruff was taking place in the bay. At least 100 Little Gulls were observed feeding along the edge of the ice sheet across the open channel. Both Mountain and Brown Hares were feeding on grassland behind the shoreline. Around the hotel, Redwing, Redstart, Yellowhammer and Willow Warbler were still singing. We all retired at the end of what had been a brilliant day of owl spotting!

Day 4 Thursday 11th May

Oulu - Kuusamo

After checking out of the hotel, we walked the short distance to Kempele Bay to the south. Nearby gardens held several Pied Flycatchers, which appeared to be defending their nest boxes against Blue Tits. Migrant waders, e.g., Common Sandpipers, filled the air with their calls. The bay held a handsome pair of Slavonian Grebes, whilst

further out were a pair of Black-throated Divers. The rocky promontory had a pair or European Wheatears, whilst off-shore, Goosander and Red-breasted Mergansers allowed close comparison. Next, we drove through Oulu and visited Hietassari, a coastal nature reserve to the north of the town. The woodland adjacent to the car park was filled with singing Redwings, and a single Brambling was also very vocal. A piping call alerted us to a male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which all the group eventually saw. A Red Squirrel proved very photogenic, whilst a fly-over Lesser Redpoll was new for the trip. The watchtower allowed elevated views of the coastal strip, which harboured several Caspian and Common Terns. A trio of Great Cormorants flew over, for most of the group the first they had seen on the tour. Back at the car park, a pair of Waxwings delighted the photographers amongst us.

We then drove north on the A22 towards Lapland, into the Kiiminki Forest area. The sunny ride margins attracted several Camberwell Beauties and a single Green Hairstreak, which eventually alighted on one of the minibuses! Sadly, no owls or Hazelhens were located, but we were rewarded with an adult White-tailed Eagle flying overhead. Returning to the road we encountered two female Capercaillies feeding at the ride edge, and we watched one slowly strut across the track. Lunch was taken at a café in Pudasjarvi, after which we completed the drive to Kuusamo, watching the landscape gradually become hillier and boggier, with taller and denser forest. Several Reindeer were seen close to the road. After checking into our rooms at the hotel, we explored the extensive grounds, where birds included Little Gull, Greenshank, Raven and House Sparrow.

Day 5 Friday 12th May

Kuusamo area

1.5 C - 16 C. Sunny, blue sky, cloudy later, with a cold wind.

Today we departed at 05.00 for an early morning grouse drive. It was not long before we encountered three female Capercaillies very close the road, after which two superb Willow Grouse were watched slowly walking away from the roadside verge.

At Konttainen Hill, a Red-flanked Bluetail was soon located, singing from the top of a tall conifer across the road from the car park, where a flock of Common Crossbills flew over. Bramblings and Tree Pipits were singing from the Silver Birch trees. Further on, two male Black Grouse were observed sitting in the top of a tree, beyond which the sheep grazed fields held 10 Golden Plover and two Whimbrel, a few Common Cranes, and some Reindeer.

We then returned to the hotel for breakfast, returning to 'Bluetail Hill' afterwards, where a colourful pair of Pine Grosbeaks were hopping beneath the feeders. Several Bullfinches of the pale pink northern race, Chaffinches and a Brambling were also feeding on seeds on the ground. Most of our group followed the icy footpath up the hill, through Spruce Forest where we heard both Three-toed and Black Woodpeckers calling. Higher up, we trudged through knee-deep snow to the tree line, where we had good views of two Siberian Jays, whilst another pair was seen feeding by the roadside. Next, we drove to Ruka, where a large cliff held a Peregrine territory. Upon our arrival, the male flew off and we waited patiently for his return, eventually enjoying a 'fly past' before the bird alighted on the rocks.

Lunch was obtained in Kuusamo in a local restaurant, and afterwards we visited some nest boxes in nearby plantations in the hope of seeing Siberian Tit. Unfortunately, the boxes were unoccupied, so we headed eastwards

to a snowy landscape of forests, lakes and hills (fjells). Some flooded fields held a range of wildfowl and waders, including Common Cranes, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed and Taiga Bean Geese and Pintail. Two Short-eared Owls and a female Marsh Harrier were hunting at the far side of the fields. Several Ruffs were busily feeding, including many colourful males, together with ca 40 Wood Sandpipers.

A bridge across the Hepojoki provided a good vantage point to scan the river, and it was not long before Craig spied a Black-bellied Dipper on a rock down below. The lake behind the bridge held a fine male Velvet Scoter and more Goldeneye. Our final stops were at Vuotunki Lake, which was partially frozen. The near shore held three Black-throated Divers, Smew, Goldeneye, and Mallard. Further out we observed a few brave Reindeer crossing the ice on their broad, splayed hooves. A search for passerines delivered three Willow Tits by the roadside, after which we returned to the hotel to re-pack for departing in the morning.

Day 6 Saturday 13th May

Kuusamo – Ivalo

0.5 C – 16 C. Sunny, blue sky with warm westerly wind.

Leaving the hotel at 05.00, we headed to the outskirts of Kuusamo, to an area of forest where Jyirki played the call of Rustic Bunting, and within a short time one started calling from within the trees. The bird was feeding on the ground in the swampy woodland, and eventually everyone managed to see this striking bird. We then headed for 'Bluetail Hill', but this time our luck was not with us as no Bluetail was seen. However, two Siberian Jays gave close views, along with a juvenile Pine Grosbeak, and a Black Woodpecker flew over the road.

We then began the 400 km journey northward to Ivalo. At the Artic Circle crossing point, another Rustic Bunting was singing, and a Common Crane circled overhead. A picnic lunch was eaten next to the Valley mire nature reserve at Keelopaa, where Common Cranes and several Northern Wheatears were seen. We then moved further north to the Saariselka area, south of Ivalo. Six of the group went with Jyrki to climb a snow-covered hill in search of Rock Ptarmigan, and Phil eventually found a female of this well-camouflaged grouse species. Several Golden Plover were seen on the hill, and their calls could be heard from lower down. The other half of the group stayed in the car park area, where two Willow Grouse were observed. Paul found a beautiful Mealy Redpoll in a Scots Pine tree, which gave prolonged views. Finally, we reached the hotel near Ivalo in time to unpack and enjoy our dinner.

Day 7 Sunday 14th May

Ivalo – Vadso – Vardo

2 C – 15.5 C. Sunny AM, cloudy PM.

Some members of the tour explored the hotel grounds before breakfast, discovering two pairs of Willow Tit. After breakfast and check out, we went to a waste tip which overlooked an area of bog, and here we saw Wood Sandpiper, Raven and Common Crane. Continuing our journey, Northern Lapland started to produce Rough-legged Buzzards, Willow Grouse by the roadside and singing Golden Plovers. We stopped for coffee at a café north of

Kammanenen, where Pine Grosbeak and Brambling were busy on the feeders. As the day was warming up, several raptors appeared, including a soaring White-tailed Eagle, together with Merlin, Hobby and Kestrel. Further on, we stopped to watch two Golden Eagles being mobbed by a Rough-legged Buzzard, the latter appearing dwarfed by the eagles! The landscape gradually changed to have a more upland appearance - Aspen started to appear, mixed with Birch, replacing the Scots Pine which was dominant further south. Lunch was taken at the Pub Rastigaisa, south of the mighty Teno river. We then crossed the border into Norway, without any passport control, then onwards to a lovely bridge at Tana Bru.

Nesserby church was our first birding stop in Norway. Here we found Purple Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black Guillemot, Common Eider, Common Scoter and Kittiwakes. Then we pressed on to Vasdo, via a long drive through the rolling Tundra, noticing that White-tailed Eagles were becoming commoner. At Vasdo, we crossed a bridge to park near the 'Birders Basecamp', where sharp-eyed Phil spotted "an unusual duck", which turned out to be Steller's Eider, and a total of 11 were counted! Next, our first Arctic Skua flew by, a dark phase bird. The final leg of our long journey was to Vardo, and en-route we saw two Black-throated Divers, more Arctic Skuas, Short-eared Owl and a distant cetacean. We arrived at Vardo, via an impressive undersea tunnel, close to 7pm Norway time.

Day 8 Monday 15th May

Hornoya – Svartnes – Hamningberg Road

Blue sky, sunny.

Today we had an excursion planned to the island of Hornoya, so we boarded a small boat leaving Vardo at 09.00. The boat ride only took 10 minutes, and as we approached the island, rafts of thousands of Guillemots could be seen close to the shore. Soon after landing, huge streams of auks and Kittiwakes took off from the cliffs, with birds flying close overhead. As we walked along the narrow path on the island, it was difficult to know where to look, there was so much avian activity. Shags peered out quizzically from their shelters under rocks, while in a recess on the cliffs, a large colony of Kittiwakes was especially noisy. Further up the path, we scoped the auks on the sea, and one or two Brünnich's Guillemots were identified. Ron noticed that two of the Shags (a male and a female) were wearing colour rings, and later investigations revealed that they had been ringed in 2021 and had returned the following year.

The path to the lighthouse started to climb; Puffins and Razorbills were occupying the grassland and rocks above us. In the lighthouse area, Twite and Rock Pipit were recorded for the first time on the trip. To the north, several Cetaceans were feeding in the Barents Sea, and every so often they could be seen blowing spray into the air, to the cries of "there she blows" from the group. Fin whale, Humpback and Minke whale were the probable species seen. Returning to the boat landing we found several groups of Brünnich's Guillemots on the cliffs above us, all jostling for position with the other auk species.

We returned on the midday boat to the hotel for a hearty lunch. Then we headed off along the road to Hamningberg, via Svartnes. Arctic Skuas, Golden Plover and Dunlin were all nesting on the Tundra, and it was marvellous to see them so close. Sharp-eyed Phil also spotted three Horned Larks, the only ones of the trip. Following our return later to Vardo, we walked along the harbour, past numerous fishing boats which were moored

up, to look for a Glaucous Gull which had been found on the previous evening, and we found the bird perching on one of the harbour buildings.

Day 9 Tuesday 16th May

Svartnes – Hamningberg – Vardo

Blue sky and sunny AM; cloudy PM with light drizzle.

After breakfast, we took a packed lunch from the hotel and headed first through Vardo to a spot overlooking the Bussesundet Fjord, which separates the island which the town sits on from the mainland. Long-tailed Duck and Black Guillemot were conspicuous, along with distant WTEs. Wheatear and Redstart showed signs of spring migration, whilst a Redwing was seen carrying food into a Dwarf Willow bush, a sign of feeding young. We then travelled via the tunnel to Svartnes and onto the Hamningberg road. At the small village of Vesterelva, the air was filled with the songs of Ring Ouzel, Redwing and Wheatear. A few Twite were feeding on the short grassland, but largely kept out of sight behind some rocks. On the tall crags above, a pair of Rough-legged Buzzards soared, eventually being attacked by a Peregrine. There were three of these falcons at one point, the male of the pair trying to see of an intruding male. The Rough Legs were seen carrying nest material, before settling on their chosen spot on the cliff face.

At Sandfjord, we passed a nature reserve established to protect the sand dune ecosystem, where four Reindeer were grazing. Further on we entered a spectacular valley, with an icy stream emptying into the sea. Tall cliffs rose on either side, and the floodplain held grassland and riverine Willow scrub. Colorful Norwegian houses lined the edge of the floodplain. Eventually we reached Hamningberg and we spent several minutes watching sea birds moving along the coast. These included several Pomarine Skuas, of both light and dark phase plumages. Northern (Blue) Fulmars were conspicuous and numerous, together with hundreds of Kittiwakes. Several Northern Gannets and Common Scoter passed by. A male Orca, with a very large dorsal fin, was seen moving west. We then moved down to a new sea watching hut, carrying the boxes containing our lunches across some treacherous rocks to get to the hide. Additional Whales included two Fin, a Minke and a small dolphin or porpoise.

After eating our packed lunch, we moved across to overlook the Syltefjorden, on the west side of the headland. Two Black-throated Divers and one distant White-billed Diver (or Yellow-billed Loon) were spotted, along with many Kittiwakes, Arctic and Pomarine Skuas. We then returned to the previous location overlooking the Barents Sea and observed more whales. Heading back towards Vardo, a viewpoint overlooking the wide bay of Persfjorden produced a lovely pair of White-billed Divers, showing much more clearly in good light, their pale, yellowish bills and white collars being quite conspicuous. Inland, a female Hen Harrier flew past, close by.

Day 10 Wednesday 17th May

Vardo – Vadso – Ivalo

8 C – 13 C. Cloudy; rain, heavy at times, low cloud.

After breakfast we checked out of the Hotel Vardo and headed down the tunnel to the mainland, under a dull grey sky and drizzle. We began a challenge set by Jyrki to count White-tailed Eagles on our journey back to Finland, and many were spotted perched on or flying along the scenic, rocky coast of Varanger Fjord. By the time we reached the Finnish border, we had achieved the impressive total of 59 of these magnificent raptors! A male Snow Bunting was seen by Phil, but sadly it was not safe to stop at that point. Our first birding stop was at the nature reserve at Vadso, where we checked the pool for Red-necked Phalarope, without success. However, the tidal channel held one male and several female Steller's Eider and four splendid summer plumage Knot.

After a brief pit stop at Tana Bru, we headed SW along the left bank of the mighty Teno river and stopped for lunch at a diner just inside Finland. Later, we re-visited the café near Kaamanen, which held the usual Pine Grosbeaks and Red Squirrel on the feeders, but sadly no Siberian Tits.

We pressed on for several miles before the walkie-talkie radio crackled into life with a message from Jyrki – "Hawk Owl"! Quickly braking, we reversed 200 m to see this lovely bird sitting on a telegraph pole by the roadside, which keen-eyed Cindy had noticed while the rest of her minibus had dozed off. It flew across some scrubland to a tall pine tree, where it sat for a while, rotating its head to show the mock facial markings on the back of the head. Eventually the owl flew off with a male Brambling in pursuit. The group breathed a collective sigh of relief at finally catching up with one of the smartest owls, and the fifth of the set of rare owls found in Finland.

Moving on, we entered some pine forest north of Inari, where Jyrki had some locations for Siberian Tit. We drove a long way down sandy forest tracks, before stopping near a pond. Playback of calls elicited a response from a Siberian Tit, but we could not locate it, so we continued to a second location. Shortly after playing the call, Sue sighted a pair of Siberian Tits feeding in a Silver Birch, and eventually everyone obtained reasonable views. We then continued until we had almost re-joined the main road. Play back of Hazel Grouse calls resulted in a reply – the thin, high-pitched call could be heard coming from the tall understory from within an open pine woodland. Soon the Hazel Grouse was seen, perching on a horizontal branch of Birch. The male was showing its red wattles and it's grey, black and beige plumage blended in perfectly with the birch and other vegetation. With three of our remaining target species under our belts, and with the weather deteriorating, we pressed onto Ivalo for a re-fuelling stop, and then onto our hotel, the Holiday Club Saarelska, south of Ivalo, and our final dinner of the tour.

Day 11 Thursday 18th May

Ivalo – Helsinki – London

0.5 C – 16 C. Strong wind and heavy snow, low cloud.

The weather forecast for our last morning in Finland was for rain and snow, so we arose with a feeling of trepidation. After breakfast, we discussed possible options for one final excursion with Jyrki. Despite horizontal

snow blowing, we ventured out for a short drive, but there was little bird activity, so we returned to the hotel to finish packing and then headed to the airport at Ivalo. We managed to see a few Herring Gulls and Hooded Crows near the airport, but we had plenty of memorable sightings to look back on! We said our final goodbyes to Jyrki, without whose patience and bird-finding skills we could have missed many of the Arctic specialities of our tour.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only, I = Introduced)

		May 2023										
Common name	**Scientific name**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Taiga Bean Goose	*Anser fabalis*		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Pink-footed Goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Tundra Bean Goose	*Anser serrirostris rossicus*		✓					✓				
White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*			✓	✓							
Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	✓	✓									
Whooper Swan	*Cygnus cygnus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Garganey	*Spatula querquedula*	✓	✓									
Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Gadwall	*Mareca strepera*	✓	✓			✓		✓				
Eurasian Wigeon	*Mareca penelope*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
Eurasian Teal	*Anas crecca*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Steller's Eider	*Polysticta stelleri*							11			4	
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Velvet Scoter	*Melanitta fusca*					✓		✓				
Common Scoter	*Melanitta nigra*							✓		✓		
Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*								✓	✓	✓	
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Smew	*Mergellus albellus*		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Goosander	*Mergus merganser*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Hazel Grouse	*Tetrastes bonasia*										1M	
Willow Ptarmigan/Grouse	*Lagopus lagopus*					2	3	3			2	
Rock Ptarmigan	*Lagopus muta*						1F					

		May 2023										
Common name	**Scientific name**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
Western Capercaillie	*Tetrao urogallus*		1F		2F	7F	✓	1F			1M4F	
Black Grouse	*Lyrurus tetrix tetrix*					2M	✓					
Common Pheasant - I	*Phasianus colchicus*	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Common Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra*				✓							
Common Crane	*Grus grus*	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Slavonian Grebe	*Podiceps auritus*				2							
Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	✓	✓					✓				
Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
European Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	✓				✓	✓	✓				
Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*							✓				
Black-tailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*									1		
Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*								✓		4	
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*		✓					✓	✓		✓	
Purple Sandpiper	*Calidris maritima*							3	100	✓		
Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*			1								
Jack Snipe	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	H										
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1		✓	
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	✓	✓	2	✓							
Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*		✓	✓	✓		✓					
Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	✓	✓	✓	40	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

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Little Gull	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*		✓	100	✓	✓	✓					
Common Gull	*Larus canus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*							1	1	1		
European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus heuglini*		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*			1								
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*								✓	✓	✓	
Pomarine Skua	*Stercorarius pomarinus*									20+		
Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brünnich's Guillemot	*Uria lomvia*								20+			
Common Guillemot	*Uria aalge*								✓	✓		
Razorbill	*Alca torda*								✓	✓		
Black Guillemot	*Cepphus grylle*							✓		✓		
Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*								✓	✓		
Red-throated Diver	*Gavia stellata*								5	1		
Black-throated Diver	*Gavia arctica*		2		2	4		2		2		
Great Northern Diver	*Gavia immer*									1		
White-billed Diver	*Gavia adamsii*									3		
Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*									✓		
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
(Northern) Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*									✓		
European Shag	*Gulosus aristotelis*							✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris*		H	H								
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*							2				
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*		✓	✓							✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus*	1M	✓	✓							1F	
Hen Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*		1F	1M		1F				1F		
White-tailed Eagle	*Haliaeetus albicilla*		3		1			15	✓	✓	59	
Rough-legged Buzzard	*Buteo lagopus*		2					4	1	2	✓	

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Tengmalm's Owl	*Aegolius funereus*		1									
Northern Hawk-Owl	*Surnia ulula*										1	
Eurasian Pygmy Owl	*Glaucidium passerinum*			1								
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*		1			2		3	1	1	✓	
Ural Owl	*Strix uralensis*			2								
Great Grey Owl	*Strix nebulosa*			2								
Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides tridactylus*					H						
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*Dryobates minor minor*				1M							
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Black Woodpecker	*Dryocopus martius*			H		H	1					
Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*			✓			✓	✓			✓	
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	1F						2		2		
Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*		1					1				
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*					1				3		
Great Grey Shrike	*Lanius excubitor*			1								
Siberian Jay	*Perisoreus infaustus*					3	3	1				
Eurasian Jay	*Garrulus glandarius*		✓	✓		✓		✓				
Eurasian Magpie	*Pica pica*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Rook	*Corvus frugilegus*		✓									
Hooded Crow	*Corvus cornix*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	*Corvus corax*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bohemian Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Siberian Tit	*Poecile cinctus lapponicus*										2	
Willow Tit	*Poecile montanus borealis*			H		3		4				
Eurasian Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Great Tit	*Parus major*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*								3			
Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*		✓		✓							
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common House Martin	*Delichon urbicum urbicum*								✓			

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Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*		✓	✓		✓	✓					
Sedge Warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*		H	H								
Lesser Whitethroat	*Curruca curruca*		✓		✓							
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*		✓			✓						
Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	✓		✓				✓	✓			
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*			✓	✓	✓	✓					
Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Redwing	*Turdus iliacus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Fieldfare	*Turdus pilaris*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ring Ouzel	*Turdus torquatus*									2		
European Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*	✓			✓							
Red-flanked Bluetail	*Tarsiger cyanurus*					1M						
European Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Common Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Whinchat	*Saxicola rubetra*		1									
Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*		2		2		3	✓	2	✓	✓	
White-throated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*					2						
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	✓	✓					✓	✓			
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Grey-headed Wagtail	*Motacilla flava thunbergi*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba alba*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	*Anthus trivialis*			✓	✓	✓	✓					
European Rock Pipit	*Anthus petrosus*								2		✓	
Common Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Pine Grosbeak	*Pinicola enucleator*					2	1	3			4	
Eurasian Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	

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European Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris chloris*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Twite	*Linaria flavirostris*								✓	✓		
Common Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*						✓					
Lesser Redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*				✓	✓						
Parrot Crossbill	Loxia pytyopsittacus			H								
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*			H		✓	✓	✓				
Eurasian Siskin	*Spinus spinus*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Lapland Bunting	*Calcareous lapponicus*						1					
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*										1M	
Yellowhammer	*Emberiza citrinella*	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Rustic Bunting	*Emberiza rustica*						2					
Common Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Others

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Mammals												
Mountain Hare	*Lepus timidus*			4	✓		✓				✓	
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*		✓	✓								
Red Squirrel	*Sciurus vulgaris*		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*			✓								
Reindeer	*Rangifer tarandus*				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Roe Deer	*Capreolus capreolus*							1				
Stoat	*Mustela erminea*		1									
Grey Seal	*Halichoerus grypus*							✓		✓	✓	
Otter	*Lutra lutra*								1			
Water Vole	*Arvicola amphibius*		✓	✓								
Short-tailed Field Vole	*Microtus agrestis*									✓		
Tundra Vole	*Alexandromys oeconumus*							✓				

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Cetaceans												
Fin Whale	*Balaenoptera physalus*									✓		
Humpback Whale	*Megaptera novaeangliae*								✓			
Minke Whale	*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*								✓	✓		
Orca	*Orcinus orca*									1M		
Small cetaceans (Dolphin sp.)	*N/A*								✓	✓		
Fish												
Pike	*Esox lucius*		3									
Butterflies												
Red Admiral	*Vanessa atalanta*	✓										
Peacock	*Aglais io*	✓										
Small tortoiseshell	*Aglais urticae*		✓						✓	✓		
Brimstone	*Gonepteryx rhamni*		✓		✓		✓					
Camberwell Beauty	*Nymphalis antiopa*			✓	✓							
Green Hairstreak	*Callophrys rubi*				✓							
Bees												
Tawny Mining Bee	*Andrena fulva*		✓									
Red-tailed Bumblebee	*Bombus lapidarius*				✓					✓		