

Go Slow in Sweden

Naturetrek Tour Report

13th – 18th May 2025



Capercaillie



Ural Owl



Great Grey Owl



Camberwell Beauty

Tour report and photos by Simon Dicks



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Tour participants: Daniel Green & Simon Dicks with 12 Naturetrek participants

Day 1

Tuesday 13th May

A travel day. We landed safely in Stockholm at 14:20. After a smooth disembarkation and the obligatory pass through customs, we met up with Daniel and other clients who had flown from Manchester and flown out early for a couple of days in Stockholm.

We loaded up the minibuses and began our journey to our first site. We stopped at a small lake at Sigtuna as Daniel wanted to show us the Baltic race of Lesser Black Backed Gull. Much blacker than our UK race, five adults were present along with a supporting cast of Gadwall, Greylag and Canada Geese, Mallard and Lapwing. Common and Lesser Whitethroat sang from the bushes behind but weren't seen.

Moving on, our next destination was a small nature reserve at Hjälvik. A lovely picnic lunch was unpacked and eaten while around us Great and Blue Tit, Marsh Tit and Nuthatch foraged in the bushes and trees. The Nuthatch is a much paler cream colour here in Scandinavia. A woodpecker was seen flying to and from a distant tree, but its identity was not confirmed. Once lunch was consumed and rubbish all packed away, we walked along a short woodland path and emerged out onto a wetland area. A family of the Scandinavian race of Long-tailed Tits delighted the group. The full white heads of the adults clearly seen. The young ones had black sides to the heads and white tops of the heads. Seemingly the full white head develops as they get older.

Ruffs and reeves were spotted flying around and a splendid Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail posed for excellent views. Wood Sandpiper was heard. We walked along a boardwalk out onto the wetland. Superb close views of a lovely dark male Ruff were enjoyed as well as several close females. Wood Sandpiper was seen flying near the reeds. Water Rail was heard several times. A Hobby hawked giving lovely views.

As we made our way further along the boardwalk, a Savi's Warbler was heard reeling from the reedbed. A distant Marsh Harrier was seen.

It was time to head back to the minibus and make our way to the lodge. On the 40-minute drive, we saw Hooded Crow, several Buzzard perched on the roadside fence line, several Roe Deer in the fields adjacent to the road.

Arriving at our lodge, we waited for the short sharp rainstorm to pass before checking into our rooms. A short time later, we all met in the dining room for our first delicious meal of Artichoke soup to start, followed by Ox cheek, boiled potatoes and vegetables.

After dinner, we went for an evening excursion to a nearby quarry to search for Eagle Owl. On the way we enjoyed lovely views of Hare and more Roe Deer.

Once at the quarry, we settled in, and Daniel played the call for a female Eagle Owl. The male responded from trees in the distance on the other side of the quarry. We waited but it would not show itself. Meanwhile a lovely male Redstart was seen perched on some rusted machinery in the quarry. Sand Martins flew above a distant building. The Eagle Owl call was tried a couple more times but to no avail. We called it a night as it had been a long day. A good day but a long day for a Go Slow tour.

Day 2

Wednesday 14th May

We awoke to the sound of a Cuckoo calling in the grounds of the lodge. Breakfast at 7am and we left at 8am armed with a packed lunch.

We stopped in the grounds of the lodge to watch a couple of Spotted Flycatchers fly catching. A splendid Male Pied Flycatcher was also present along with Goldfinch, Blue Tit and Great Tit.

Leaving the lodge grounds, we drove around the area birding. An area of arable land was productive with a small flock of Common Cranes flying. Stock Doves fed on the ground along with numerous Jackdaws and the odd Hooded Crow dotted around. White Wagtails also fed on the ground looking for insects. A Kestrel was also seen along with some Black-headed and Common Gulls. Hares provided the mammal interest along with a couple of Roe Deer.

Driving on, a female Whinchat was found perched up on a Pine tree, and a Yellowhammer seen in another. There are lots of areas of Pine and Silver Birch woodlands forming a patchwork in amongst the large open areas of arable farmland. Colourful red houses all add to the picturesque Swedish scenery.

Our next stop was a bridge over a fast-flowing river. This is the Black River. A female Goldeneye was spotted accompanied by eight humbug coloured ducklings which delighted the group. Another White Wagtail was seen but strangely no Grey Wagtail despite the apparent suitability of the habitat. Two Common Sandpipers perched on a fallen tree in the river.

We enjoyed this stop for a while before driving in to our next destination. On the way, more Cranes are found. A pair of Whooper Swan offer lovely views standing in a field next to the road. Another Whinchat and another Yellowhammer were seen. We arrived at an area called Mittpunkten. Here we wandered along a gravel track looking for Hazel Grouse. Unfortunately, we aren't successful, but we have some good fortune in seeing a Crested and a Willow Tit. A Blackcap is heard singing.

We stopped for a coffee break and some chocolate Brownies deliciously made by the lodge.

After coffee we drove on. This journey was good for reptiles with an Adder is seen on the side of the road and later, a Slow Worm.

We then stopped and admired three Camberwell Beauty butterflies. Two settle nicely, one on the gravel road and one in a small roadside ditch offering lovely photo opportunities and great views for the whole group.

A ringtail harrier species is briefly seen but we are unable to identify it as it flew quickly across the road and out of sight over the trees.

We continued our exploration along the gravel road when the first minibus comes to a halt just past a clearing. It begins to reverse so we also reverse. From the second row of the bus, the shout of Moose rings out. A Moose is standing in full view just on the edge of the clearing. We all enjoyed a brief view of it before it turns and trots off into the woods and out of sight. A key target for many.

Our stop for lunch is another clearing near to a small area of woodland. Daniel points out a new nest hole in a silver birch - a Black Woodpecker nest hole. We parked the minibuses further along the road and set up the picnic tables and food and our spotting scopes trained on the woodpecker hole. Some foldable stools were set out to eat the delicious picnic lunch in comfort, all the while keeping an eye out for any woodpeckers going to the nest hole. Willow Warblers sang and a Wood Warbler was also heard from the dense woodland next to our impromptu picnic site.

The call of woodpecker went up and we all see a Black Woodpecker fly in and land on a tree a couple away from that where the nest hole is. Good views are enjoyed through both scope and binoculars before the bird hops over to the nest hole and goes inside. A second bird then repeats the process, landing on the same spot of the tree to the left of the nest hole. The first bird exits the hole and flies into the woodland, and the second bird replaces the first in the hole. Later, that bird also flies out of the hole and goes into the woodland.

We packed up the picnic and move on to our next site. A 30-minute drive later and we arrive at a large lake. We parked off the road and set up the scopes and start scanning. A Grey Heron is partially hidden by the long grasses surrounding the lake. A Whooper Swan is also in the long grass with just its head and neck visible. We realise it's sitting on a nest and doesn't move for the duration we are there. Suddenly a Hobby is seen hawking in front of us. We enjoy superb views and it's soon joined by three more. We enjoyed the spectacle of the Hobby's hunting insects, catching them in mid-air and carefully picking off the wings leaving them to flutter to the ground glistening in the sunlight. A Marsh Harriers glides into view and we follow it as it flies past over the reeds.

We eventually tear ourselves away and start making our way home. This is a Go Slow after all. The drive back is productive with more Hooded Crows and Roe Deer seen. A small flock of Common Cranes were feeding in a field. Our final show of the day is to watch a couple of Hares in a field. A Marsh Harrier quarters in from a distance and one of the Hares begins to chase it. Back and forth the harrier goes, speedily followed by the Hare. It is a delight to watch something none of us have ever seen before. A super way to end our first full day in Sweden.

We arrived back at the lodge at around 15:30. Enough time for people to enjoy the pool and spa facilities before meeting for our delicious dinner at 18:00. After dinner, we go through the checklist for the last two days before retiring to our rooms.

Day 3

Thursday 15th May

It was an early start this morning leaving the hotel at 7am armed with packed breakfasts. We travelled around 45 minutes to a site near Fermansbo.

On arriving at a small clearing near to the car park, a Red-backed Shrike was seen perched on a dead tree. We stopped and admired the bird for a few minutes before it flew off, lost to view. We carried on and parked and made the short walk into the Pine woods. It was windy so Daniel was unsure if our luck would be in. The Pygmy Owl call was played. It successfully attracted Great Tit, Blue Tit and a splendid Crested Tit. but, no Pygmy Owl though. We tried a couple more times and admired the Reindeer Moss while we waited.

After a while Daniel suggested we go back to the vehicles and have our breakfast and some coffee and tea. As we were enjoying our delicious fare, a Pygmy Owl called in the distance. Daniel suggested we all wait and finish our

breakfast, and he would go into the woods and try and locate the bird. If he was successful, he'd phone us. A short while later, the phone rang and it was good news. Breakfast was abandoned and we all made our way back into the woods. We arrived and to our great joy, Daniel directed us to where the diminutive bird was perched, high up in a Pine tree. It was in full view and we were all absolutely delighted. The bird then flew to a closer tree but it landed in a more obscured position. Scopes were adjusted and craned even more vertically to try and provide a view through the constantly swaying, wind-blown foliage. We stayed for a good while, all taking in the view of this key target for most of the group.

After having our fill of this delightful bird, we walked back to the minibuses to finish our breakfasts. While finishing, we admired several Green Hairstreak butterflies and a Holly Blue.

Once all packed up, we boarded the vehicles and made our way back down the track. A stop in the area we'd seen Red-backed Shrike produced again with a male and female bird showing nicely. Daniel also thought he saw a Wryneck being chased off but couldn't confirm it.

Our next destination was a lake where some Black-throated Divers are known to breed. We parked up and scanned the lake but no divers were seen.

We tried our luck looking for Wryneck again but were not rewarded. The return walk yielded Holly Blue and Wood White butterflies along with a lovely orangey coloured Common Frog.

By the lake, we set up lunch and started digging into our delicious lunch prepared by the lodge. Dave then spotted two Black-throated Divers. Looking superb in their breeding plumage, everyone enjoyed prolonged scope views as they swam and dived right to left in front of us.

A male Pied Flycatcher emerged from a nest box near the picnic area.

We packed up the lunch paraphernalia and boarded the buses as we had an appointment with Daniel's son Simon. Our destination was very near to the spot we'd seen the Adder and Camberwell Beauties.

Simon and Daniel had found a nesting Ural Owl a couple of weeks earlier in one of the nest boxes they'd erected. The plan was to ring the chicks. Daniel briefed us on how aggressive the Ural Owl female could be and therefore the reason they were both wearing crash helmets.

Armed with a net, ladder and bag, we walked up to the nest box area and we stood back to watch as Daniel placed the net at the entrance to the nest box. The female flew out of the nest box but didn't go into the net and flew off into the trees nearby out of sight.

Simon climbed the ladder and placed three chicks into the bag he was holding. The bag was passed to Daniel who brought it to us to show us the chicks. In the bags were three gorgeous fluffy baby Ural Owls. Daniel began to ring them and once each was ringed, Simon brought them to a mossy area and set them down in succession so we could quickly take some photos. The oldest chick was very active and keen to explore its surroundings, so kept hopping down off the mossy ledge and tried to wander off into the woods. The other two were not as bold and didn't care for making a bid for freedom.

Once all three were ringed and some photos taken, they were carefully placed back in the nest box to wait for Mum's return. We stayed for a little while longer, hidden from view as best we could hoping for a glimpse of the female. After a short time we left so as not to disturb them too greatly.

We thanked Simon and bid him farewell and boarded the minibuses to start making our way back to the lodge for some relaxation time and for clients to make use of the pool and spa facilities if they wished.

As we hadn't had great views of the adult Ural Owl, on the way back, we stopped at another nest site. This is a broken off tree and the nest was at the top of the tall stump. We arrived to see the eyes and top of the head of a female Ural Owl. What a treat. In the background, a Black Woodpecker called. They too apparently nested nearby. We didn't stay long at the Ural nest so as not to disturb her. Back on the road and back to the lodge.

After dinner we boarded the minibuses again. We had a journey of around an hour and 20 mins to a Great Grey Owl nest. During the drive, Roe Deer and Common Crane were seen again.

Arriving at the site, we walked around 100 metres to the best spot to view from. As Daniel arrived, he saw the male bird flying from the nest site. It had clearly delivered some food to the female as she was busy consuming it while we all got into position and set the scopes up. We then spent an immensely enjoyable hour or so watching this beautiful, large owl sitting on her nest. Occasionally, she'd look up in our direction and we'd see those stunning yellow eyes and the full facial disc these owls are known for. A superb experience and one that only got better when the male flew in and perched on a nearby branch. It hopped over to the nest, an old Goshawk nest, and delivered another meal, assumed to be a vole. He then sat perched for a little time allowing us a wonderful view of both male and female owls in the same scope view. A truly spectacular pair of birds. As the light was dimming, we tore ourselves away and wandered back to the minibus. A delighted group of wildlife enthusiasts.

Driving away from the site, we scanned the clearings and roadsides for more wildlife. Daniel in the lead bus pulled over as he'd seen another Great Grey Owl perched on a tree stump. We all exited the vehicles to look at this third Great-grey of the night. While watching this bird, a Woodcock flew in and landed on another tree stump. Soon, the Great Grey Owl flew off, so we concentrated on the Woodcock until the light was very dim indeed. Time to head for home, mulling over and delighting in our three owl species day. Arriving back at the hotel at around 22:30, despite the excitement we were all ready for some sleep. It had been a long but wonderful day in wild, central Sweden.

Day 4

Friday 16th May

A relaxed morning with breakfast at 07:00 today. After which, a journey to Björnön/Hässlö near a small airport beckoned. The target this morning was Thrush Nightingale.

Shortly after our arrival, we all heard the call. Similar to our Common Nightingale in parts, the song was recognisable. And very similarly to our Nightingale's an absolute pain to try and see the bird making this cacophony. Eventually, the bird was spotted on a branch, frequently obscured by the branches of the bush swaying in the strong breeze. Every so often though, the wind abated and gave us a lovely view of the whole bird in full song. We stayed to admire the bird for a while, another target bird successfully viewed. Once we'd given the bird suitable attention, we continued on down the track next to the airport perimeter. A Red Fox was spotted near one

of the runways. Unfortunately, the lack of movement and static position face on quickly made us realise it was a fake!

We continued. We rounded a corner and reached the end of the track. It was a lovely spot to sit and scan from. Common and Lesser Whitethroats sang, and we enjoyed good views of both. A Red-backed Shrike was then found perched among the blossom of a Blackthorn bush. It darted over to perch on the wire perimeter fence in front of the reedbed and began to sing. Many of the group hadn't heard the song before so we enjoyed watching the little bird singing in the sunlight.

A Marsh Harrier quartered over the reedbed in the distance, the shrike remained in position on the wire singing.

Coffee and cake was calling, so we returned to the minibus and set up the table and foldable chairs. The Thrush Nightingale was still singing in the distance. Greenfinch called from above, Daniel heard a Hawfinch in flight but none of the group could pick it up.

Drinks and snacks consumed, our next site beckoned.

Thirty minutes later, we arrived at a layby and parked. Then a short walk which led to two pools and we were soon admiring some superb Slavonian Grebes in their summer plumage. Their golden head regalia glowing in the sunshine along with their bright red eyes. We were admiring eight of these wonderful birds on the one lake along with our first Tufted Ducks and Pochard of the tour.

The other pool across the path held another couple of Slavonian Grebes. A Red Kite flew low over us giving us great views of this bird, common to most of us, although it's uncommon in Sweden so a nice bird to see here.

We decided to have lunch so Daniel fetched the minibus and we unloaded the gear before he returned to the layby. We made our picnic spot against a tall hedgerow which provided some shelter from the strong winds.

As we ate, an acrobatic Hobby appeared so we admired the bird catching insects on the wing as they do. Another two joined the first so we had a splendid show while we ate our lunch.

A Four-spotted Chaser was seen in flight and landed for us to admire and photograph. Brimstone butterflies fluttered in the strong breeze. Another very pleasant site to explore.

Behind us in the large hedge Tree and House Sparrow called. We finished lunch and packed up before strolling back to the minibuses and boarding for our next journey.

Our final site of the day was near to Dalkarlskärret and a lake where Red-necked Grebes are known to breed. We wandered down to the lake and ahead of us on a small clump of flattened reeds was a female Red-necked Grebe on her nest. We trained our spotting scopes and enjoyed some lovely views. Other species on the lake were Gadwall, Coot, Tufted duck, our first Moorhen of the tour. Common Tern and Black-headed Gulls were nesting on an island in the middle of the lake.

We enjoyed some more tea and coffee on a picnic bench in the shade of the large trees. Then the male Red-necked Grebe was spotted. He was busy diving and re-appearing several metres away.

As time was getting on, and we needed to get back to enable us to have some downtime and enjoy the facilities at the lodge before dinner, we boarded the minibuses and began the journey back to base.

Another excellent meal was enjoyed along with a dessert before everyone retired to their rooms.

Day 5

Saturday 17th May

Again we awoke to the sound of a Cuckoo's call. After breakfast, we were in the minibuses for 8am on our way to a woodland to look for Capercaillie.

As we neared the site entrance, we spotted a car a little further down the track. These were two of Daniel's friends who had the key to the gate to allow us access. We continued down the track to a parking area. We made our greetings and began the walk into the woods to begin our search for this large grouse.

Willow Warblers sang from the trees but to continue the theme for the holiday, we could not locate them to actually see them. The woods we were walking through were on the banks of a large lake. Black-throated Divers were apparently present, so we were to keep an eye out for them. After a walk of around 400 metres, our quarry was located. The huge Capercaillie was in full view below us as we were stood on a mossy, grassy rise. It was in full pomp and splendour displaying and calling. What a magnificent bird! This particular bird is known as a rogue Capercaillie. Supercharged on testosterone, they can be aggressive birds, and this one was no different. Rogue Capercaillie are not shy about defending their territory and over the course of the half an hour we were observing him, he made several attempts to force us back and we dutifully obliged. He was constantly displaying and calling and on several occasions ran towards us at a surprising turn of speed to see us off. It was an incredible experience.

As we were watching the bird, in the distance we heard the haunting call of a Black-throated Diver. We left the Capercaillie in peace, and began the walk back and stopped to look for the diver on the way. It was rather distant on the huge lake but it was good to see nonetheless.

We thanked the gatekeepers and set off for our next site.

We drove to another patch of woodland with cleared areas felled for timber. We disembarked the minibuses and straight away started looking for, or at least, to find a Wryneck. We had a wander down the road and tried to find Grey-headed Woodpecker. There was a fresh nest hole in one of the trees so we trained our binoculars and scopes on it but had no success this time.

Carrying on further, we found a suitable spot for lunch and enjoyed another super meal prepared by the hotel. We also tried again for the woodpeckers. We managed to see a Black Woodpecker which called from further down the road and flew up onto a tree trunk. we observed it in flight as it flew towards us and off into the woods. A Treecreeper was a new bird for the trip, and a Downy Emerald flew in and landed on Carol's jacket.

Still no Grey-headed or Wryneck. Another woodpecker soon appeared though, a Great-spotted Woodpecker. It flew to a nesthole and went in. Soon, another flew in near to the nest hole. The first bird exited and was promptly replaced by the second, feeding chicks no doubt.

As has been common on our travels, Willow Warblers were singing around us and accompanied by a Chiffchaff at this locale.

We packed up the lunch site and boarded the vehicles. On the drive through, Daniel had spotted some Wolf dung so we were headed back that way to have a proper look.

There in the middle of the road were two droppings around 15 ft apart. We were all taken aback by how large and fibrous they were from what they'd clearly been eating. It was great to know and have confirmation that there are Wolves in the area albeit with large territories. We took some photos with a credit card for a size reference then climbed aboard the minibuses to head back to base for some time to relax before another lovely dinner.

This evening, there was an optional after dinner drive to look for Moose and other wildlife. Several of the group joined us and we explored the local area. The birdlife was good, but no Moose were found. Cranes, Whinchat and Wheatear were seen.

At a lake, a splendid male Smew was seen and a White-tailed Eagle sent everything into the air causing havoc before flying off without having made an attempt to catch anything.

A productive evening excursion even though we failed to see our hoped for Moose. We headed back to the hotel as some of us had a very early morning the following morning.

Day 6

Sunday 18th May

This morning saw an alarm clock setting of 4.30am for those who wanted to join the optional excursion to a Black Grouse Lek site.

Outside the rooms, Wood and Willow Warbler were singing. Half the group declined the excursion so we piled into one minibus and set off. It wasn't a long journey and we passed a small lake with Goldeneye on it. We parked and heard Willow Warbler and Common Whitethroat singing. We saw the latter before walking on. We set up the scopes on the edge of a large area of marsh. In the distance, the Black Grouse were lekking and displaying and plenty of them too. Also out on the marsh were Curlew (new for the tour) and we enjoyed their wonderful call. We also enjoyed a good view of Redwing, another new one for the tour. After watching the grouse for while and enjoying coffee and cinnamon buns, suddenly, they all lifted from the ground and flew off, giving the opportunity to count all 24 of them!

We made our way back to the minibus and continued the search for Wryneck. Would today be the day?

Driving along the tracks, a raptor suddenly appeared and flew in the opposite direction to us. The consensus from Daniel is it was likely a ringtail harrier but a definitive id is not possible. Further along, we pass the same small lake with the Goldeneye on it.

We continued on and pulled up and stop to try for Wryneck again. No luck an Osprey is seen in the distance. We watch as it flies towards us giving good views before circling back and away from us. We continued to scan and a Raven is spotted as well as a Swallow. It's a productive morning so far. We move on to another area. As we proceed slowly along the tracks we stop to listen regularly. Still nothing. But then, Daniel hears a call. We all jump out of the minibus and start walking back up the track. We can hear it, now where is it. It's spotted on a tree stump in a small gap in the foliage. It's in the glorious morning sunshine and singing away. A fabulous bird and a new bird not just for the tour but for some clients as well. We set up the scopes and enjoy watching and listening. It's been hard work finding one, but it has paid off on the last morning. We continue to watch as it flies up into a tree, still singing away and still in view. After our fill of this fabulous bird, we leave it in peace, happy that we've finally found a Wryneck.

The next stop is a house with some bird feeders. We arrive and park and on the feeders is a Bullfinch and a Greenfinch. Two more new birds for the tour. We stand and watch for a while. Daniel is talking about the area and we discover this is his house and his garden. House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow join in on the feeders, soon followed by a Great Spotted Woodpecker which sends all the birds retreating into the trees. When it disappears, the others return. The woodpecker comes back and scatters them again. This procedure repeats for a while. A female Pied Flycatcher is seen low down in a nearby tree giving great views

We decide we'd better move on and head back to the hotel for breakfast and to see those who didn't join the morning activity. We'd better check out of the hotel as well we suppose!

Back at the hotel, we enjoy our final breakfast before gathering our belongings and loading the minibuses with luggage. Once everyone is gathered at the minibuses, we hear a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker drumming. It seems we won't be leaving just yet. We train our scopes on the branches of the dead tree which has looked a prime place for a Lesser-spot all week with no joy until today. It's another new bird for people's life lists as well as the tour.

Now it really is time to go. We have a stop to make on the way to the airport. We boarded the minibuses and set off saying goodbye to our lovely base for the last five nights. Our destination is a lake in the hope of finding Black Tern and Little Gull.

On the way, Daniel suddenly calls over the radio look left, look left, quickly! I glance to my left unfortunately just as I am turning a corner and catch a glimpse of a large silver bird just before it flies behind some trees which are extremely inconveniently placed. I call out to the occupants of the minibus to look behind us. As we look back we see a superb male Montagu's Harrier. I quickly pull the bus over, and we all jump out and watch this magnificent raptor flying in front of us. It banked left and we followed it in binoculars as it swooped down behind some trees towards some houses and a stream. A few seconds later, it flew back towards us carrying a prey item. It looks like a small eel or perhaps a small snake. We watch as it flies and pecks chunks off its quarry as it flies, feeding on the wing. What a fantastic bird. We continued to watch until it flies out of view. A real bonus sighting. Boarding the buses again, we carry on the journey all on rather a high.

We continued on to the lake. It's very windy so we try and brace the scopes as well as possible on the viewing platform and do our best not to be in the brunt of the wind. Out on the lake, numerous Little Gulls and Black Terns are flying around battling the wind. On the water are Wigeon and Great-crested Grebe. Redshank, a

Greenshank (new for the tour) and a Ruff are wading foraging for food. Despite the wind, it's a nice spot for lunch so we enjoy our lunch while enjoying the birdlife.

Soon enough, it was time to move on and begin the journey to the airport. Before we boarded the minibus, the group very kindly thanked the tour leaders for an enjoyable tour. Driving away from the lake, Sweden still had a surprise in store for us as not long after we'd pulled away from where we parked, a White-tailed Eagle flew low in front of us. We stopped the buses to fully enjoy this huge bird watching as it flew away into the distance gaining height. In the long grass below, two close Common Cranes were foraging. We re-started our journey to the airport. It was smooth going and traffic very light. We stopped at a petrol station to swap drivers for the last leg of the airport run. A Marsh Harrier was the final bird of note on the journey.

We arrived at the airport and unloaded the luggage, saying our goodbyes and thanking Daniel for an enjoyable and successful tour.

Airport formalities complete, we boarded the plane. A smooth flight and London came into view. It was time to part ways and reflect on a wonderful time in Sweden with some very special birds and a wonderful group of people.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I = Introduced		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Canada Goose - I	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>				✓		
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>				✓		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓				
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓			✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓		
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>				✓		
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>					✓	
Western Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>					✓	
Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>		✓				✓
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				H		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	H	H	H	H	
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	H					
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				✓		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>				✓		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓			
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓				
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓					
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	✓					
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓				
Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	✓					

I = Introduced		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>			✓		✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓			✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						✓
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				✓		
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>			✓			
Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>			✓			
Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>			✓			
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						✓
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		H				✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				✓	✓	✓
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		✓	✓		✓	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓		✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓			✓	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓	✓		
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓			
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		✓	✓			
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	✓	✓				
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		✓				
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	✓					
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓					
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓		✓			
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		H			✓	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	H	H	H	H
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	H	H	H	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	H			✓		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	H	H		✓		
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					LH	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		H				
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	H	✓	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	H				H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	H			✓		H
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	H			✓		✓

I = Introduced		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓			
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	✓	H		H	H
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓	H	H	✓	✓	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					✓	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		✓				✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓		H		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	LH			✓		
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓					
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓		✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					✓	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				✓	✓	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>					H	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓					
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓				
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			✓			✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	H	H	H	✓
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓	✓
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			✓			
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			H		✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓		✓		
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓				

Mammals

		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
European Hare - I	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>			✓			
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓				
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Elk (Moose)	<i>Alces alces</i>		✓				
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				✓		
European Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>			✓			

Reptiles & amphibians

		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>						
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			✓			
European Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>		✓			✓	
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>						
Adder	<i>Vipera Beris</i>		✓				
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		✓				

Butterflies

		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>						
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓			
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>			✓		✓	
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>				✓		
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓			
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓			
Northern Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i>		✓				
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓		

Others

		May 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	13	14	15	16	17	18
Dragonflies							
Downy Emerald	<i>Cordulia aenea</i>					✓	
Arachnids							
Crab Spider	<i>Thomisidae</i>		✓				