Birding Finland & Sweden
Trip Report
9th to 20th May 2016

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: David Erterius
Tour Summary

Our trip to Finland and Sweden proved to be rather relaxed with a good number of quality birds, spectacular scenery, smooth logistics, good accommodation and delicious food; although the ‘weather gods’ weren’t on our side all the time this year.

The more interesting bird species recorded on this trip included Taiga Bean Goose, Garganey, Smew, Hazel Grouse, Western Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Horned Grebe, White Stork, European Honey-buzzard, Pallid Harrier, Montagu’s Harrier, White-tailed Eagle, Pied Avocet, European Dotterel, Eurasian Woodcock, Terek Sandpiper, Temminck’s Stint, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Ruff, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Tawny Owl, Ural Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Eurasian Pygmy Owl, Boreal Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, European Nightjar, Eurasian Wryneck, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, European Green Woodpecker, Siberian Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, European Crested Tit, Grey-headed Chickadee, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Bearded Reedling, Long-tailed Tit, Common Grasshopper Warbler, River Warbler, Barred Warbler, Common Firecrest, Collared Flycatcher, Red-breasted Flycatcher, White-throated Dipper, Tawny Pipit, Hawfinch, Common Rosefinch, European Serin, Corn Bunting and Rustic Bunting.

Our tour commenced on the coast in Finland, namely in the city of Oulu. Conveniently situated in the heart of the birding region, this city is the most populous in Northern Finland and, compared to its latitude, the largest city in the world outside Russia. After a good lunch, we set out for some afternoon birding nearby. Our first stop was at an industrial area that is a well-known spot for breeding Terek Sandpiper, here at its westernmost edge of the species’ breeding range. However, our search proved fruitless, probably because it was still a little too early in the season for this migrant to have yet arrived. However, our explorations of the area yielded our first looks at Northern Wheatear, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Ringed Plover, Common Snipe, Common Redshank, Common Sandpiper and Eurasian Skylark. Next, we tried a site for Horned Grebe which turned out to be easily located and one bird showed very well indeed, to the delight of the whole group, not least the photographers. After an unsuccessful attempt on Eurasian Pygmy Owl, we headed to a tranquil mixed forest in search of Black Woodpecker.
High up in a big aspen, we found an active nest hole and it didn’t take long before the head of a female showed superbly, whereas the male showed briefly and kept at a distance. Our second attempt on Eurasian Pygmy Owl again proved fruitless, but we were compensated with views of a lovely pair of Bohemian Waxwing, an obliging Willow Tit, good looks at a singing Common Chiffchaff and our first Eurasian Siskins. At another spot for Eurasian Pygmy Owl, where we again drew blank, we enjoyed lengthy views of two European Crested Tits.

The next day started off with a visit to the famous Liminka Bay, just a little further south on the coast. Being the largest bay in the northernmost parts of the Gulf of Bothnia, this is an internationally important wetland reserve, teeming with birdlife - especially during the spring and autumn migration seasons. Here, we saw good numbers of shorebirds, including Common Snipe - in full aerial display, Black-tailed Godwit - in smart breeding plumage, Spotted and Common Redshank, Common Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper. In addition, three immature White-tailed Eagles were enjoyed through the scope. Several adult male Western Marsh Harriers were patrolling over the surrounding marshes and fields and then all of a sudden, a splendid adult male Pallid Harrier appeared, mobbing one of the Marsh Harriers! A little further ahead we enjoyed our first sightings of Greylag Goose and Stock Dove. We also took the opportunity to visit Liminka Bay’s attractive and newly built visitor centre. One of the real highlights this day was the very impressive flocks of Ruff with many hundreds of birds in one field right next to the road and several splendid males in full display! After dinner, we set out in search of another main target, Ural Owl.

We started off with a wonderful drive through beautiful and vast spruce and pine forests, intermixed with small fields, meadows and picturesque traditional houses. Arriving at the spot, we soon found a well-placed nest box and kept a distance to it as we started to watch for the adults. Apparently, no bird was inside the box so we expected it to show up somewhere in the near vicinity. It was a truly magnificent evening with only a little chill in the air and not a breath of wind. After a while, the female appeared just beyond the forest edge, barely visible from our watch point. We stayed clear, as she was attending her nest box and we did not want to disturb her unnecessarily. Here, we were also entertained with several flyby Eurasian Woodcock that showed particularly well in its spectacular display flight. Driving back to our hotel, all of a sudden the first Western Capercaillie of the trip appeared on the roadside, before disappearing into the forest.
As we still hadn’t seen any Eurasian Pygmy Owl, we decided to try again early the following day, before making our way inland, all the way up to the vast wilderness around Kuusamo. It wasn’t long after climbing out the vehicles that a Eurasian Pygmy Owl started calling and we were soon enjoying magnificent views of him perched at eye-level, at close quarters, inside the dense spruce forest! He sat fully exposed for some time, allowing us all fabulous views.

We then headed inland, northeast, to Kuusamo - a small city not far from the Russian border - in order to spend several days looking for various forest specials. Driving through the untamed landscape blanketed with forests, boglands and expansive lakes and rivers, we made a few stops that yielded a stunning male Smew, hundreds of Common Goldeneye and a pair of Greater Scaup, the only sighting of this species for the trip. As we passed through a pristine patch of taiga forest, the first Hazel Grouse of the trip appeared by the side of the road, although giving rather brief looks before disappearing into the dense forest. During our time in the Kuusamo area, we were treated to a host of memorable sightings of quality species like Northern Hawk-Owl, Boreal Owl, Hazel Grouse, Western Capercaillie (many females on the roadsides and a very close encounter with a “crazy lekking” male!), Black Grouse, Siberian Jay, Grey-headed Chickadee, Smew and Taiga Bean Goose. The lakes in the area held interesting waterbirds such as Whooper Swan, Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal, Common Goldeneye, Black-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe. Other interesting species here included Northern Goshawk, Green Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, Eurasian Jay, Mistle Thrush, Bluethroat, Western Yellow Wagtail (of the northern thunbergi race), Eurasian Bullfinch and Common Reed Bunting. Whilst in the Kuusamo area, we also took the opportunity to watch a major vagrant, namely a Eurasian Stone-curlew - only the 19th national record for Finland! As if this wasn’t enough, we also observed several interesting mammals, including Red Squirrel, Reindeer, Elk, Arctic Hare and Muskrat. On our way back to Oulu, a very sharp-eyed participant spotted a gorgeous male Willow Ptarmigan on a roadside bog for all to admire. As we arrived in Oulu, we still had some time before catching our flight to Copenhagen later that day, so we decided to try again for the Terek Sandpiper. Just as we arrived, a distant bird was found perched up on a tall floodlight and we then got subsequent good looks as it was foraging at much closer quarters in a nearby sewage pool. Here, we also enjoyed good looks at Little Ringed Plover, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Temminck’s Stint and Ruff.
Boarding our flight, we then spent the rest of the day travelling and the early evening saw us arriving at Copenhagen Airport in Denmark. After having collected our luggage, we swiftly transferred to our vehicles and thereafter made our way to Sweden across the impressive Öresund bridge. This enormous construction connects the Danish capital Copenhagen with Malmö, the third biggest city in Sweden. Once in Sweden, we headed southwards to our accommodation on the Falsterbo peninsula in the very south-west of Sweden. To celebrate our arrival in Sweden, we then finished off the day with a delicious dinner at a very cosy inn in the quaint and picturesque setting of the Falsterbo village.

The next morning our birding commenced in earnest. However, the ‘weather gods’ were not cooperating with us and we fought a rather cold and brisk northerly wind as we walked across the Falsterbo Golf Course, one of the oldest in Sweden. A singing Lesser Whitethroat showed well and so did a female Western Wagtail as it sauntered across the fairway. Good numbers of swallows and martins were roosting at the lee side of the lighthouse garden and we had very good scope looks at Sand Martin, Barn Swallow and Common House Martin. As we hadn’t had our early morning coffee/tea yet, we decided to pay a visit to the impressive Falsterbo lighthouse, built in 1795 and have it there. Once inside the lighthouse, the spectacular view from the lantern room, the traditional interior and an interesting exhibition on bird migration were all thoroughly enjoyed. After having had a proper breakfast back at our accommodation, we went to see the biggest breeding colony of Pied Avocet in Sweden. Here, we also enjoyed Barnacle Goose, Eurasian Coot, Common Whitethroat and further looks at breeding Common Ringed Plovers, Common Redshanks, Little Terns and Arctic Terns. Our next stop was at a breeding site for Eurasian Penduline Tit where we soon managed fabulous looks at several birds, including a nest building male. Here we also found Bearded Reedling with a very obliging male showing well for all in a nearby reedbed.

Heading eastwards, via a breeding site for Eurasian Eagle Owl en route - where we enjoyed amazing views of both an adult and juveniles (!). We arrived at Lake Kranke where we enjoyed a field lunch surrounded by the wonderfully green and lush countryside. Spring was in full swing with many wildflowers blooming and a great variety of birds in full song. Some of the highlights here included majestic Mute Swans, gaudy Great Crested Grebes, elegant Red Kite patrolling the air space, a flyby adult White-tailed Eagle and hawk-like Common Cuckoo giving superb...
We then birded a rich wetland nearby and enjoyed good views of a number of waterbirds with a smart male Garganey and additional looks at a small group of Ruff being the highlights. A Western Osprey flew by as well, our first sighting of this species. At nearby Silvåkra by, an adult White Stork was foraging by the road and soon after we enjoyed further looks at another bird at its nest at nearby Vombs ängar. Here we also found a group of 40 Common Cranes that showed well in the scope. Thereafter, we made our way to Fyledalen where our attempts to see Golden Eagle were to no avail (again, mainly probably due to the bad weather this day), but a singing male Common Firecrest was a nice surprise. We then made our way to our charming accommodation in the picturesque fishing village of Brantevik, situated only a stone's throw away from the Baltic sea.

The next morning saw us leaving at the crack of dawn, heading for Ravlunda shooting range further north along the coast. This is an area of natural beauty next to the Baltic Sea with vast expanses of sand-steppe habitat intermixed with moorland and surrounded by verdant beech forests. Of particular interest here were two range-restricted species, namely Eurasian Golden Oriole and Tawny Pipit, the latter at its last stronghold in Sweden. After some efforts, we eventually managed good views of a Tawny Pipit that played elusive, maybe due to the still rather unstable weather. A low-flying Eurasian Hobby gave good but brief looks as it whizzed by and we enjoyed great looks at very smart male Red-backed Shrikes. We also found a pair of Eurasian Golden Oriole, unfortunately, they were not so cooperative, leaving us with just a number of flight views in the Beech canopy. On the contrary, Woodlark showed very well for all and several very impressive flocks of migrating Barnacle Goose crossed the sky right overhead, heading northeast for the Russian Arctic. A pair of Common Crane offered additional views and we managed to track down a vocal and rather restless European Green Woodpecker that eventually showed well for all of us. At the forest edge and inside the forest, we also added Spotted Flycatcher, Eurasian Blackcap, Coal Tit and Eurasian Treecreeper to the trip list and also managed way better looks at a very cooperative singing male Common Firecrest.
Up next was a small detour to one of the most famous waterfalls in Scania, beautifully located in a small valley with meadows and surrounding mixed forest and an old traditional style watermill at a clear water stream. Here we found the cute Long-tailed Tit and our main target, Grey Wagtail. Venturing a little further to an open pine forest with nearby gardens produced great views of European Serin before heading off to Åspet. Just before our arrival at Åspet, a European Honey Buzzard, that was apparently migrating, was seen along the road and was a good find indeed - the only sighting for the trip. At Åspet, we enjoyed another superb packed field lunch before heading for the lagoon and bird observation tower. Further sightings of various waterbirds were added, including Common Pochard - which was new for the trip, and additional looks at White-tailed Eagle, Pied Avocet and Sandwich Tern.

Leaving the coast and heading inland, our next stop was at a small area with a complex of ponds that formerly belonged to a brick factory. The extensive reedbeds surrounding the ponds were home to Eurasian Bittern - our only chance for this elusive species. We heard two different males “booming” at each other and spent some time in the vicinity in hope of seeing a flying bird. However, the birds kept hiding in the reeds so we decided to come back and try again later in the evening. At least we enjoyed very good looks at graceful Black Terns swooping down from the air snatching aquatic insects. A Eurasian Reed Warbler creeping around low in the reeds proved difficult to see well, although most people got a glimpse of it in contrast to a Thrush Nightingale that showed well for all to admire. As we were a little ahead of schedule, we decided to visit the fairly newly built visitor centre not far from our hotel. This is a permanent exhibition focusing on the nature and wildlife of “Kristianstads Vattenrike” which has been designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. A male Eurasian Blackcap gave additional very good looks as he was singing his heart out near the entrance.

After dinner, we then went back to the ponds at Hercules in order to try again for the Eurasian Bittern. As we walked the path along the ponds, we had our best looks so far of Eurasian Hobby. The Bittern was still actively booming, although still hiding in the reeds. Then, quite unexpectedly, what appeared to be a female took off from another reedbed and was, unfortunately, only seen by the local leader and very briefly by the tour leader. The next day started off with a pre-breakfast stroll from our hotel along the nearby small river of “Helge å”. The distinctive, rich sound of singing Thrush...
Nightingale was commonly heard from the willows and bush wood forest along the trail and we also heard several Eurasian Wren in song and managed good looks at one as well. A pair of responsive Common Redpoll put in a brief appearance in a swampy birch grove and on our walk back we had fabulous views of Eurasian Nuthatch and European Goldfinch, both of which were foraging next to the trail.

After breakfast, we then spent some time in an impressive alder-swamp forest where we had our first looks at Icterine Warbler and enjoyed further views of Eurasian Nuthatch, Long-tailed Tit and Eurasian Treecreeper. Back at Hercules ponds (now our third visit here), we aimed for a singing Common Grasshopper Warbler that we had heard in the distance on the day before and we decided to try and track it down. Our plan worked and we soon found ourselves watching the bird in question perched up in some brush at close quarters! At nearby Håslövs ängar, a vast area consisting of wet and rich meadows grazed by cattle, we found lovely males of Western Yellow Wagtail and an obliging Meadow Pipit, whereas Black-tailed Godwit and Northern Lapwing were displaying over the meadows. Just as we were about to leave this fabulous area, news came in that a very cooperative Eurasian Wryneck had been seen at a nearby isolated big hill, so off we went and upon arrival, we were greeted by the area’s “top-local-birder” and his girlfriend who would give our group an exclusive guided tour to the bird. We ventured out across a grazing land with scattered thickets and boulders on a dry, sun-exposed slope and it didn’t take long before we heard the loud whining song of a male Wryneck at a distance. Minutes later and with little effort, we managed to coax it in and it perched up in a dead tree in good light for all to admire. En route to Öland, we stopped for lunch at one of the biggest game enclosures in northern Europe, the Eriksberg Nature Reserve in the province of Blekinge and the restaurant itself was located in the heart of the reserve, beautifully surrounded by open oak forest and meadows. Here, we found two of the elusive Hawfinch and managed good looks as they were feeding high up at the oak flowers. Our final days were spent on the island of Öland, known not only for its superb birdlife but also for its rich blend of natural, cultural and historical attractions. On arrival to the island, we shot down to Sebybadet on the south-eastern coast, where a Eurasian Dotterel had been present for a while. After a rather extensive search in the area, enjoying hundreds of Dunlin at close quarters and a number of other shorebirds, we eventually managed to track down the bird which was a lovely female in nearly complete breeding plumage! With elated spirits, we then drove to our place for the night just a few minutes away.
accommodation here was a charming and comfortable family-run guesthouse that was formerly a traditional Öland farmhouse, built in the classic island style.

Our next three days were spent in the famous Ottenby Reserve, well renowned as one of the finest areas for birding in Sweden. Here, tired spring migrants rest and feed in the bushy gardens around the old stone lighthouse or in the adjacent meadows and on the banks of seaweed and in the shallow water along the coast. The early mornings on the island saw us visiting the southernmost point of the island where we enjoyed the scenery with the lighthouse and the adjacent lush gardens, slate-covered beach and vast lagoons that were teeming with birds. Mute Swan, Common Shelduck, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser were all present on the surrounding water and/or resting on stones and we also found a few new waders such as Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling and even a single, quite unseasonal, Purple Sandpiper. A ground day-roosting female European Nightjar was thoroughly enjoyed through the scope and we found a singing first-year (non-scarlet) male Common Rosefinch as well as a late migrant Brambling in a tree next to the lighthouse. A most welcome bonus at the point was a Corn Bunting that all of a sudden showed up next to the wind shelter and was seen by the early risers. Ottenby is also a first-class spot for watching seafoal migration and we noted very impressive flocks of Barnacle Goose and Brant Goose as well as small numbers of Velvet Scoter, Common Scoter, Red-throated Loon and Razorbill passing by the point. Also very unexpectedly, a single Northern Gannet flew by! A species that is frequently seen on the Swedish west coast but only rarely in the Baltic Sea.

The road towards the point, across the heavily grazed and wind-swept coastal meadows offered great views of Eurasian Oystercatcher, Northern Lapwing, Common Ringed Plover, Eurasian Curlew and Common Redshank, several of which had newly hatched young. At the nearby Ottenby Lund, the largest continuous deciduous woodland area on Southern Öland, we found a lovely male Red-breasted Flycatcher in full song and had great looks at singing Wood Warbler as well
as additional looks at Icterine Warbler, Eurasian Wren and Spotted Flycatcher with little effort.

Whilst in the Ottenby area, we also enjoyed a very territorial male Collared Flycatcher and not far from there, in a garden, were three cute Tawny Owl chicks that we could study and photograph extensively. Another highlight, and one of the “eastern specialities”, was a newly arrived and very actively singing male Barred Warbler that showed well for all. We also heard the characteristic sound of “Crex crex” which is the scientific name of the shy and retiring Corn Crake. This species is usually very difficult to see but we decided to give it a try. However, despite our persistent efforts, including heading out early to a rank meadow, we didn’t manage to coax in any of the birds.

Exploring the south-western stretch of the island yielded a number of good sightings and species. At Grönhögen, we paid a short visit to an old industrial yard where a singing adult male Black Redstart put in an appearance for all and we had good looks at a colony of roof-nesting Herring Gull with newly hatched chicks as well as single pairs of Lesser Black-backed Gull. During a short walk in an interesting area with ancient mills and small, nutrient-rich ponds surrounded by reeds, willows and dense scrub, we found Little Grebe, Horned Grebe, a small Water Rail chick, Common Cuckoo and Eurasian Reed Warbler plus several singing Eurasian Wryneck. A little further north on the coast, the famous shorebird migratory stopover area of Västerstadsviken offered stunning Red Knot in full, fresh breeding plumage and the sought-after Broad-billed Sandpiper as well as additional looks at Temminck’s Stint and Little Ringed Plover.

In the impressive mixed forest and woodland at Beijershamn, we found two new species namely Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Marsh Tit, both of which showed fabulously for us. Here we also enjoyed good scope looks at newly fledged Eurasian Treecreeper sitting still on a trunk for several minutes and both Long-tailed Tit and Collared Flycatcher showed very well at the parking lot. Another highlight was to watch two cute chicks of Long-eared Owl in some nearby pine trees.
On one occasion, whilst driving back to our accommodation, a beautiful adult male Hen Harrier swept past, low over the fields and we found two different breeding Montagu’s Harrier and could study both the male and the female as they were patrolling in the area and carrying nesting material. Sadly, we eventually had to bid farewell to this fabulous island and we decided to have our final field-breakfast at Ottenby Kungsgård, an old country farm with an adjoining park, open woodland and pastures. Just as we were about to arrange a group photo, something shuttling insect-like, sounded for a few seconds at a distance – a River Warbler!

We quickly repositioned and dashed to the actual spot from where the sound had come from and it didn’t take long before we all could watch a River Warbler climbing a small bush and creeping around for a while in the foliage before flying off and disappearing into a dense stand of nettles.

Very chuffed with this great ending, a triumphant group headed back to the vehicles and then started our northbound journey back to the mainland and Kalmar Airport to catch our departure flights. What a cracking way to end off this remarkable tour before making our way to the airport for our return flights home. A wonderful group of participants made this Scandinavia adventure a resounding success! Also, a very special thank you to our local agent and guide. I am very much looking forward to our next trip!

Annotated List of species recorded
List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds:
212 in total (209 seen and 3 heard)


Status codes:
I = Introduced, RI = Re-introduced

IUCN codes:
CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient
Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*

**Taiga Bean Goose**  
*Anser fabalis*  
Two distant birds in flight Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5 and great scope looks at 3 birds Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5.

**Greylag Goose**  
*Anser anser*  
10 birds Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5 and then recorded daily in Sweden. Small numbers also seen on the small artificial danish island “Peberholm” just before we entered the Öresund Bridge on our way from Copenhagen Airport to Sweden.

**Canada Goose (I)**  
*Branta canadensis*  
Four birds at the Pied Avocet colony at Landgrens holme, Skanör, Sweden 15.5 and great looks at eight adults and two chicks at Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Brant Goose**  
*Branta bernicla*  
Two birds roosting at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 18.5 and scattered groups of at least 1000+ migrants on passage the same day, with an estimated further 800 migrating there the following day. Thousands of this species are seen every year from mid-May to early June as they are migrating from their wintering grounds along the North Sea coast on mainland northwestern Europe to their breeding grounds high up in arctic Siberia.

**Barnacle Goose**  
*Branta leucopsis*  
One bird Oulu area, Finland 10.5, 30 Peberholm, Denmark 14.5, 300 Landgrens holme, Skanör, Sweden 15.5, 2000+ migrating Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5 and at least 10000 migrating Ottenby area, Sweden 17-19.5. Like the previous species, thousands of this striking small goose are passing by every spring as they are migrating from their wintering grounds along the North Sea coast on mainland northwestern Europe to their breeding grounds high up in arctic Siberia. The migration peaks a little earlier than Brant, around mid-May.

**Mute Swan**  
*Cygnus olor*  
Commonly seen every day in Sweden and small numbers also seen on the small artificial danish island “Peberholm” just before we entered the Öresund Bridge on our way from Copenhagen Airport to Sweden.

**Whooper Swan**  
*Cygnus cygnus*  
Several good sightings in Finland 9-13.5, one bird Vombs ängar, Sweden 15.5 and a breeding pair Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**Common Shelduck**  
*Tadorna tadorna*  
A pair near our hotel in Oulu, Finland 9-11.5 and several recorded daily in Sweden 15-20.5. Also seen on the small artificial danish island “Peberholm” just before we entered the Öresund Bridge on our way from Copenhagen Airport to Sweden.

**Gadwall**  
*Anas strepera*  
A pair at Falsterbo golfclub, Sweden 15.5 and a further seven at various locations the same date, a total of five birds Ölands södra udde, Sweden 18-19.5 and two birds Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Eurasian Wigeon**  
*Anas penelope*  
A total of 23 birds seen at various locations in Finland 10-13.5.

**Mallard**  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
A common and widespread species that was seen daily throughout the tour.

**Northern Shoveler**  
*Anas clypeata*  
A total of five birds on the coast near Oulu, Finland 10.5, a male at Furuhus mosse, Sweden 15.5, two males Isternäset, Sweden 17.5 and three males Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Northern Pintail**  
*Anas acuta*  
Two birds on the coast near Oulu, Finland 10.5 and a pair in Kuusamo area, Finland 11.5.
Garganey  
*Anas querquedula*
A pair near our hotel in Oulu, Finland 10.5, a male near Kuusamo, Finland 11.5, a male at Klingavälsåns våtmark, Sweden 15.5 and two males Isternäset, Sweden 17.5.

Eurasian Teal  
*Anas crecca*
30 Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5, a total of 30 birds at various lakes Kuusamo area, Finland 11-13.5 and a total of five Skåne, Sweden 15.5.

Common Pochard  
*Aythya ferina*
Two males and a female Äspet, Sweden 16.5.

Tufted Duck  
*Aythya fuligula*
Commonly seen at various lakes in Finland and Sweden and recorded on eight days of the tour. Very good looks at a male and a female together near our hotel in Oulu, Finland 10.5.

Greater Scaup  
*Aythya marila marila*
Good scope views of a pair on a lake between Oulu and Kuusamo, Finland 11.5.

Common Eider  
*Somateria mollissima*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: A total of 15 birds scattered at Falsterbo and Brantevik 15.5, 30 birds Sebybadet, Öland 17.5 and up to 200 Ölands södra udde 17-19.5.

Velvet Scoter (EN)  
*Melanitta fusca*
Seen in Sweden only: A group of 13 flying by Ölands södra udde 18.5 and three birds flying by there on the following day.

Common Scoter  
*Melanitta nigra*
Seen in Sweden only: A group of 15 flying by Ölands södra udde 18.5 and 10 birds flying by there on the following day.

Long-tailed Duck (VU)  
*Clangula hyemalis*
A distant male on the water at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 19.5.

Common Goldeneye  
*Bucephala clangula clangula*
Commonly seen on lakes in Finland across four days with a peak number of 300 Kuusamojärvi, Kuusamo 11.5. Also seen in Sweden: A female and two chicks at Ekenabben 17.5.

Smew  
*Mergellus albellus*
Seen across three days in Finland: Three female-types near our hotel in Oulu 10.5 and a total of 18 Kuusamo area 11-12.5, 14 of which were seen in one lake and a several good looks at stunning adult males.

Common Merganser  
*Mergus merganser*
Small numbers were commonly seen on the cost and at various lakes in Finland, one seen flying by at Äspet, Sweden 16.5 and one seen by the tour leader at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 19.5. Recorded on six days of the tour.

Red-breasted Merganser  
*Mergus serrator*
A male Kuusamojärvi, Finland 11.5 and small numbers along the coast in Sweden 15-19.5. Seen particularly well at Ölands södra udde 19.5.

**Pheasants, Grouse and Allies Phasianidae**

Hazel Grouse  
*Tetrastes bonasia*
A roadside individual was seen briefly on our drive from Oulu to Kuusamo and then we had great views of a pair near Kuusamo and later a further pair with fabulous looks at the male.

Western Capercaillie  
*Tetrao urogallus*
Our first sighting of this, the largest of the world’s grouse, was of a roadside female 10.5, showing well before disappearing into the forest on our drive back from the Ural Owl site in the Oulu area. The species was then seen virtually everywhere along the roads in the Kuusamo area, Finland and no less.
than a total of 26 (!) females were seen, with up to 20 females in a day 12.5! Further to this, we enjoyed a very confiding “crazy” lekking male that was seen down to just a few metres!

**Black Grouse**  
*Lyrurus tetrix*

Our first sighting was brief, flushed views of a male (by the tour leader only) near Kuusamo 11.5 with a roadside female there on the same date and then we had an additional total of nine birds across the following three days, with great looks at six males lekking in one field. Also heard calling from their lek at a different site.

**Willow Ptarmigan**  
*Lagopus lagopus*

A male was spotted by a very observant participant on our drive back from Kuusamo to Oulu 14.5 and subsequently showed very well for all.

**Common Pheasant (I)**  
*Phasianus colchicus*

Singles and pairs were commonly seen in both Finland and Sweden and the species was recorded on six days of the tour.

**Loons Gaviidae**

*Gavia stellata*

We heard the flight call as we were trying to relocate the Rustic Buntings near Kuusamo 13.5 and two were seen flying by at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 20.5.

**Black-throated Loon**  
*Gavia arctica*

Two at a lake near Oulu Airport 11.5, a total of six birds Kuusamo area 11-13.5, a distant bird flying by Gräsgårds hamn, Öland, Sweden 18.5 and one in flight seen by the tour leader Ölands södra udde, Sweden 19.5.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe**  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

One seen briefly at Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5 was the only sighting.

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

A total of 10 on lakes in the Kuusamo area, Finland 11-12.5, four birds Furuhus mosse, Sweden 15.5 and one bird Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Great Crested Grebe**  
*Podiceps cristatus*

20 birds Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5, a total of 15 at Åspet and Herculesdammarna, Sweden 16.5 and five Herculesdammarna, Sweden 17.5.

**Horned Grebe**  
*Podiceps auritus*

Fabulous looks at one bird near Oulu 9.5 and one seen briefly at Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Storks Ciconiidae**

*Ciconia ciconia*

A total of four seen at Silvåkra and Vombs ängar, Sweden 15.5: Good looks at a roadside foraging individual, another one at its nest and distant flight views of a further two individuals. A total of six (including birds at two separate nests) in the Hercules–Håslöv area 17.5. All birds involved were belonging to the Swedish reintroduction programme of the species.

**Heron, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Eurasian Bittern**  
*Botaurus stellaris*

We heard the strange booming call of two separate males in the dense reeds at Herculesdammarna 16-
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Small numbers of this widespread species were seen daily in Sweden.

Gannets and Boobies *Sulidae*
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*
An adult flying by at Ölands södra udde 18.5 was an unexpected record as this species is rarely seen in the Baltic Sea.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Around 30 distant birds at Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5 and small numbers were seen daily in Sweden.

Osprey *Pandionidae*
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
One at Klingavälsåns våtmark 15.5 and two birds in flight during our morning walk from our hotel to Isternäset, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*
European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
One bird was seen well in flight near Äspet, Åhus, Sweden 16.5.
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Despite our persistent efforts, we only heard it near its nest at Benestads backar, Fyledalen, Sweden 15.5.
Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*
Two separate sightings of singles in flight in the Kuusamo area 13-14.5.
Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Four separate sightings of single males Oulu area 9-10.5 and a dozen in total at various sites in Sweden 14-19.5.
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Brief views of a female Liminka Bay 10.5, a roadside adult male on our drive back from Kuusamo to Oulu 14.5 and another adult male near our accommodation on Öland 19.5.
Pallid Harrier (NT) *Circus macrourus*
We were lucky to encounter two different adult males of this species in the Oulu area, Finland 10.5 – one was seen attacking a male Western Marsh Harrier at Liminka Bay and another distant bird was spotted as it got mobbed by some Hooded Crows across the bay near our hotel, Oulu. This species has started to breed in Finland only recently.
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*
On Öland, Sweden, we managed great views of pairs on two separate occasions: A male and female at Solberga 18.5 and another male and female between Ottenby and Färjestaden 19.5. On both occasions, the female was seen carrying nesting material.

Red Kite (NT) *Milvus milvus*
Commonly seen at various inland sites in Sweden 15-17.5.
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*
Good scope views of three immatures Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5, brief views of an immature
Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5, an adult Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5, two distant birds in flight Häslövsängar, Sweden 17.5 and a total of four at various sites on Öland, Sweden 18-19.5.

**Rough-legged Buzzard**  
_Buteo lagopus_  
One seen briefly in flight near Oulu 11.5 and two birds soaring high overhead Kuusamo area 13.5.

**Common Buzzard**  
_Buteo buteo_  
This common and widespread species was seen every day in Sweden 15-20.5.

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae**

**Water Rail**  
_Rallus aquaticus_  
One heard at Borgeby, Sweden 15.5 and a chick seen briefly at Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Corn Crake**  
_Crex crex_  
Three different individuals heard near Ås, Öland, Sweden 18-19.5. However, despite our hard efforts, we failed to see any of them.

**Common Moorhen**  
_Gallinula chloropus_  
Heard at Borgeby, Sweden 15.5 and another one heard Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Eurasian Coot**  
_Fulica atra_  
Seen in Sweden with a total of 40 at Skanör, Krankesjön, Furuhus mosse, Åspet and Herculesdammarna 15-17.5. Also great looks at a pair with two chicks Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Cranes Gruidae**

**Common Crane**  
_Grus grus_  
A total of eight birds at various sites in Finland 10 and 13.5 respectively, 40 Vombs ängar, Sweden 15.5 and great scope views of a pair Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**Eurasian Stone-curlew**  
_Burhinus oedicnemus_  
One bird seen well Kantokylä, Kuusamo, Finland 11.5. A rare vagrant in Finland and this bird constituted only the 19th national record of the species!

**Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**

**Eurasian Oystercatcher**  
_Haematopus ostralegus_  
1-2 birds Oulu 9 and 14.5 respectively and small numbers were seen daily on the coast in Sweden 15-20.5.

**Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Pied Avocet**  
_Recurvirostra avosetta_  
Recorded in Sweden as follows: 300+ Landgrens holme, Falsterbo 15.5, 20 birds Åspet 16.5 and a total of 95 birds at various coastal sites on Öland 17-20.5.

**Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**

**Northern Lapwing**  
_Vanellus vanellus_  
Commonly seen throughout and recorded on nearly every day of the tour.

**European Golden Plover**  
_Pluvialis apricaria_  
A total of 75 Oulu area 10.5 and 10 Kuusamo area 12.5.

**Grey Plover**  
_Pluvialis squatarola_  
A single bird at Åspet, Sweden 16.5.
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
1-2 birds Oulu 9-10.5 and small numbers were seen daily in Sweden 15-20.5.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
A male Oulu industrial area, Finland 14.5, one Klingavälsåns våtmark, Sweden 15.5 and one Västerstadsviken, Öland, Sweden 18.5.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Great scope views of a stunning female at Sebybadet, Öland, Sweden 17.5.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*
A total of seven seen in Finland in Oulu area and Kuusamo area 9, 10 and 12.5. All birds were seen in the typical display flight at the late evening.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Recorded in Finland as follows: 5 Oulu industrial area 9.5, 20 Liminka Bay and 2 Kempele Bay 10.5. Also 30 Kristianstad area, Sweden 17.5.

Black-tailed Godwit (NT) *Limosa limosa*
Two birds Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5 and four birds Häslövs ängar, Sweden 17.5.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Five distant birds Ölands södra udde, Sweden 19.5.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
A total of nine birds Oulu area and Kuusamo area 10-12.5 and 14.5 respectively.

Eurasian Curlew (NT) *Numenius arquata*
A total of around 40 birds seen at various locations in Finland 9-13.5 and small numbers in Sweden commonly seen throughout, including close looks at a bird on its nest Ottenby, Öland 19.5.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
10 birds Liminka Bay 10.5 and one Oulu industrial area 14.5.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Two birds Oulu industrial area, Finland 9.5, 20 birds Liminka Bay and Kempele Bay, Finland 10.5 and commonly seen daily in Sweden 15-20.5.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Around 10 seen in the Oulu area, Finland 9-10.5 including birds in display flight, a total of four Kuusamo area, Finland 11-13.5 and one bird Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Recorded in Finland as follows: heard near Oulu 9 and 10.5 and one seen there as well, a total of four birds Kuusamo area 12-13.5, one of which giving great views in display flight.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Recorded on nearly every day in Finland with up to 200 at Liminka Bay 10.5 and in Sweden we had two at Klingavälsåns våtmark 15.5 and one bird at Beijershamn 19.5.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
This widespread species breeds all across northern Asia and the tiny population in Finland is at the westernmost edge of its breeding range. The classic spot is in the industrial areas on the outskirts of Oulu, and at our first attempt here on 9 May, we failed to find it. However, coming back on 14 May giving it another try just before heading to our flight to Sweden, it wasn’t long before we managed to locate a newly arrived bird and got subsequent great looks at it!

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Scattered sightings of a total of 12 birds in Finland 9-14.5, three birds Klingavälsåns våtmark, Sweden
15.5 and a total of eight at various locations on Öland, Sweden 18-19.5.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
Recorded on Öland in Sweden at Ölands södra udde and Västerstadsviken 18-19.5 with a total of eight individuals.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*
Five birds in lovely breeding plumage were seen at Västerstadsviken, Öland 18.5.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*
Up to two birds Ölands södra udde, Sweden 18-19.5.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
Two distant individuals at Sebybadet, Öland, Sweden 17.5.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
In Finland, we recorded 10 birds at the Terek Sandpiper spot at Oulu industrial area 14.5 and Sweden offered further looks at the species with 10 Västerstadsviken, Öland 18.5, 20 Beijershannn, Öland 19.5 and one bird Ölands södra udde the same date.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
A distant bird at Sebybadet, Öland, Sweden 17.5.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*
One at Ölands södra udde, Öland, Sweden 18-19.5.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: 200 Sebybadet, Öland 17.5, 500+ scattered at Ölands södra udde and Västerstadsviken, Öland 18.5, 200 Ölands södra udde 19.5 and 50 Beijershannn, Öland the same day. All sightings were of nominate *alpina*-birds on stop-over, heading north to their breeding grounds in northern Scandinavia. However, one of the birds at Beijershannn belonged to the subspecies *schinzii* which breeds locally on coastal pastures in the south.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*
Seen on Öland in Sweden: Great looks at two birds Västerstadsviken 18.5 and seven at Beijershannn 19.5.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
We had brief views of five birds in flight near Oulu, Finland 9.5 but then enjoyed an estimated total of 600+ on the following day in the Oulu area, with several fabulous looks at males in full display on roadside fields! 11 birds Oulu industrial area, Finland 14.5, seven Klingavälsåns våtmark, Sweden 15.5, five at Häslövs ängar, Sweden 17.5 and two birds Öland, Sweden 18-19.5.

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**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
A common species throughout the tour and recorded nearly every day. Good views of breeding birds at Krankesjön, Sweden and hundreds foraging on roadside fields in Finland at several occasions.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Recorded in Finland as follows: A total of 30 birds at Liminka Bay and Kempele Bay, near our hotel at Oulu 10.5 and up to 200 Kuusamo area 11-13.5 including several good looks at breeding birds.

**Mew Gull** *Larus canus*
This common and widespread species was recorded on every day of the tour.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*
An adult in flight Oulu area, Finland 10.5 and recorded every day in Sweden 15-20.5.

**European Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*
Small numbers in Finland on the coast and in the Kuusamo area 9-13.5 and seen every day in Sweden 15-20.5. A colony of roof nesters and several newly hatched chicks were enjoyed at Grönhögen, Öland,
Sweden 19.5 with an estimated 35 nests in the colony.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*
Great views of a roadside adult in Oulu area, Finland 10.5, further good looks at an adult Kuusamojärvi, Finland 11.5 and another one seen in flight nearby, two adults Kuusamo area, near Russian border, Finland 13.5, a subadult flying by Falsterbo fyr, Sweden 15.5, four adults Ölands södra udde, Sweden 17-18.5, and three breeding pairs Grönhögen, Öland, Sweden 19.5. The birds in Finland all belonged to the nominate *fuscus*-subspecies, also known as “Baltic Gull”, whereas the birds in Sweden all were of western origin and belonged to the *graellsii/intermedius* complex.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Small numbers on the coast in Sweden 15-18.5.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*
Small numbers on the coast in Sweden 15-19.5. Seen particularly well in Falsterbo where a few pairs were breeding alongside Pied Avocets.

**Common Tern** *Sternula hirundo*
Small numbers Oulu area and Kuusamo area, Finland 9-11.5, 30 Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5, 10 Klingavälsäns våtmark, Sweden 15.5 and two birds Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Arctic Tern** *Sternula paradisaea*
Small numbers on the coast in Oulu area, Finland 9-10.5, 20 Falsterbo, Sweden 15.5, one Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5 and common along the coast of Öland, Sweden 17-20.5.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*
15 birds Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5 and 20 birds Herculesdammarna, Sweden 16.5.

**Auks, Murres, and Puffins Alcidae**

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: 15 flying by Ölands södra udde 18.5 and three birds flying by there on the following day.

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**

**Rock Dove (I)** *Columba livia*
Seen in Kuusamo and Oulu 12-14.5 and at various urban sites in Sweden 15-19.5.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*
One at Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5, four Hardeberga stenbrott, Sweden 15.5 and one Öland, Sweden 18.5.

**Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*
Small numbers were commonly seen throughout the tour.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
One Falsterbo, Sweden 15.5 and one Öland 17.5.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae**

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*
Recorded across five days in Sweden, 15-19.5 and seen well at Krankesjön 15.5 and Fågelsjön, Degerhamn 19.5.

**Owls Strigidae**

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo*
We visited a public nest site for the species at Hardeberga quarry, Sweden 15.5 and enjoyed fantastic
looks at three chicks and the female sitting on the cliffs as well as in flight.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*
Good looks at three chicks Näsby, Öland, Sweden 18.5.

**Ural Owl** *Strix uralensis*
Good looks at a female near its nestbox Oulu area, Finland 10.5.

**Northern Hawk-Owl** *Surnia ulula*
A male in the Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5 and another male in the same area, near the russian border 13.5.

**Eurasian Pygmy Owl** *Glaucidium passerinum*
A male in the Oulu area 10.5.

**Boreal Owl** *Aegolius funereus*
A female in its nestbox Oulu area 13.5.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*
Two chicks Haga park, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*
Good looks at one Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5.

**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**

**European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Great scope views of a day-roosting female at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 19.5.

**Swifts Apodidae**

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Commonly seen in Sweden 15-19.5.

**Woodpeckers Picidae**

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
Great views of a calling bird near Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 and three birds heard calling at Fågelsjön, Degerhamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*
Fantastic looks at a male Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
Great looks at a male Kuusamo area 11.5 and another one there 13.5, one Furuboda, Sweden 16.5 and two birds Ottenby area, Sweden 18.5, one of which attempting to migrate at Ölands södra udde.

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius*
Fantastic views of a female at its nest hole and brief views of the male Oulu area, Finland 9.5 and one seen briefly in flight on our drive from Kristianstad to Kalmar 17.5.

**European Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*
Great looks at a calling male Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
A total of four birds Kuusamo and Oulu areas 12-14.5 and a total of nearly a dozen at various sites in Sweden 15-18.5.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*
One seen briefly by the tour leader at Herculesdammsarna, Sweden 16.5 and a female-type passing by
high overhead as we tried for Corn Crake at Ås, Öland, Sweden 20.5.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Seen in Sweden as follows: A close bird in flight Ravlunda skjutfält 16.5, two birds Herculesdammmarna the same day and a distant individual in flight Håslövs ängar 17.5.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Recorded in Sweden as follows: A male at our lunch spot, Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5, a pair and two males Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5 and a female Ottenby area 19.5.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

Recorded in Sweden only: A male and female were unfortunately seen all too briefly at Ravlunda skjutfält 16.5 and another bird was seen in flight at Drakamöllan later the same day.

**Old World Orioles Oriolidae**

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**

**Siberian Jay** *Perisoreus infaustus*

Four birds Kuusamo area 12.5, seen extremely well down to just a few metres!

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Recorded in Finland as follows: One bird Oulu area 9.5 and two separate sightings Kuusamo area 13-14.5.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*

This common and widespread species was seen daily throughout the tour.

**Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

A total of 60 recorded across two days in Oulu area, Finland and seen daily in Sweden.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Small numbers were commonly seen in southernmost Sweden 14-17.5.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

This common and widespread species was seen daily throughout the tour.

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*

A total of 13 birds at various locations in Finland 9-14.5 and a dozen in Sweden on three separate days.

**Waxwings Bombycillidae**

**Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Great looks at a male and female together Oulu area, Finland 9.5 and a total of three birds Kuusamo area 13.5.

**Chickadees and Tits Paridae**

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

One bird in song Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**European Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus*

Two birds were seen well in the Oulu area 9.5.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

We found two different nests and had great looks at one adult and another bird inside the nest hole at Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5.
Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*
One seen well Oulu area 9.5 and a total of four birds Kuusamo area 11-12.5.

Grey-headed Chickadee *Poecile cinctus*
Two birds were seen well in the Kuusamo area 13.5.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Two birds Kuusamo area 13.5 and seen daily in Sweden 15-19.5.

Great Tit *Parus major*
Commonly seen throughout the tour. One bird at our lunch spot Beijershamn, Öland, Sweden 19.5 showed particularly well.

**Penduline-Tits Remizidae**

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*
Visiting a public nesting site in Sweden, we enjoyed a singing male and a female actively feeding young at a nest and further good looks at another male busy nest-building nearby 15.5.

**Bearded Reedling Panuridae**

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*
Four birds at the same location as for the previous species 15.5, of which at least an adult male showing particularly well.

**Larks Alaudidae**

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*
Three sightings of four birds Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5 and three birds near Kristianstad 17.5.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Seen and heard daily around Oulu, Finland and recorded across several days in Sweden, 15-19.5.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
Great looks at five birds roosting at Falsterbo lighthouse 15.5 and also recorded on Öland 19.5.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
15 birds Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5, an estimated 100 roosting at Falsterbo lighthouse, Sweden 15.5 and then recorded daily in Sweden.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*
One bird Kuusamo area 13.5, 50 roosting Falsterbo lighthouse 15.5 and then seen daily in Sweden 16-19.5.

**Long-tailed Tits Aegithalidae**

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Three birds Hallamölla 16.5, two Ekenabben 17.5 and two Beijershamn 19.5.

**Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae**

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Commonly recorded and mostly heard singing throughout the tour. Good looks at one Oulu area 10.5.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
One bird showing well Oulu area 9.5 and then recorded on four days in Sweden 15-19.5 and also a
couple seen well there.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: One singing Ravlunda skjutfält 16.5, two separate sightings of birds showing well in full song Ottenby lund 18.5 and heard singing Beijershamn 19.5.

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**Reed-Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae**

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Good looks at a singing bird Borgeby 15.5, one singing Herculesdammarna 16.5, three singing Linnérundan, Kristianstad 17.5 and one could be studied in the hand as it was banded at Ottenby Bird Observatory, Öland 18.5.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Heard singing and one bird was seen briefly at Herculesdammarna 16.5, one singing near our hotel, Kristianstad 17.5 and one seen singing Fågelsjön, Degerhamn 19.5.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: One heard singing Borgeby 15.5, a singing bird seen Ekenabben 17.5, one seen and several heard singing Ottenby lund 18.5 and two singing Fågelsjön, Degerhamn 19.5.

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**Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae**

**Common Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*
Fabulous views of a very cooperative bird at Herculesdammarna, Sweden 17.5.

**River Warbler** *Locustella naevia*
One singing Ottenby Kungsgård, Öland, Sweden 20.5. First heard at a distance as we were about to take our group photo (!) and then we managed to track it down and got great if somewhat brief views of it as well!

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**Old World Warblers Sylviidae**

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Heard at Falsterbo 15.5, great looks at a singing male Ravlunda skjutfält and Kristianstad naturrum 16.5, two separate sightings Kristianstad 17.5, one bird Ottenby 18.5 and heard singing Beijershamn 19.5.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*
A singing bird seen well Borgeby, Sweden 15.5, heard singing Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 and heard singing Ottenby, Öland 18-19.5.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*
A male heard singing at Karl X wall, Öland 18.5 and then we managed fantastic looks at the same bird on the following day and also a female was seen there briefly.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: One bird was seen well in song Falsterbo golf course 15.5, one bird Ottenby 18.5 and heard Öland 19.5.

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*
Seen and heard well in Sweden at several occasions 15-19.5.

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**Kinglets Regulidae**

**Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*
Brief looks at a singing male Fyledalen, Sweden 15.5 and much better views of another male in full song Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden on the following day.
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
Good looks at two birds Oulu area, Finland 10.5 and several heard there on the two following days. Also heard Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**Wrens Troglodytidae**
*Troglodytes troglodytes*
Heard Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5, at Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5 and birds in full song were seen very well at Linnérundan, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 as well as in Ottenby lund, Sweden on the following day, with another bird seen at Beijershamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Eurasian Wren**
*Troglodytes troglodytes*
Heard Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5, at Krankesjön, Sweden 15.5 and birds in full song were seen very well at Linnérundan, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 as well as in Ottenby lund, Sweden on the following day, with another bird seen at Beijershamn, Sweden 19.5.

**Nuthatches Sittidae**
*Sitta europaea*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Seen very well at two separate occasions Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5: A foraging adult during our pre-breakfast walk along Linnérundan and a confiding family group of five birds at Ekenabben. A total of five seen at Ottenby lund and Beijershamn, Öland 18-19.5.

**Eurasian Nuthatch**
*Sitta europaea*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Seen very well at two separate occasions Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5: A foraging adult during our pre-breakfast walk along Linnérundan and a confiding family group of five birds at Ekenabben. A total of five seen at Ottenby lund and Beijershamn, Öland 18-19.5.

**Treecreepers Certhiidae**
*Certhia familiaris*
Seen in Sweden as follows: One bird Ravnслаunda skjutfält 16.5, one Ekenabben 17.5 and three birds Bijershamn 19.5.

**Starlings Sturnidae**
*Sturnus vulgaris*
Ten birds Oulu area, Finland 10.5 and seen daily in Sweden 14-19.5.

**Common Starling**
*Sturnus vulgaris*
Ten birds Oulu area, Finland 10.5 and seen daily in Sweden 14-19.5.

**Common Blackbird**
*Turdus merula*
Heard in Finland at Oulu area 10.5 and Kuusamo area 12.5 with further daily sightings in Sweden 14-19.5.

**Fieldfare**
*Turdus pilaris*
Commonly recorded daily in Finland 9-13.5 as well as in Sweden 15-19.5.

**Redwing**
*Turdus iliacus*
Recorded daily in Finland 9-13.5 and one bird briefly Öland 17.5 seen by the tour leader.

**Song Thrush**
*Turdus philomelos*
Heard singing in Finland at Oulu area 9.5 and Kuusamo area 12.5 with great looks at one there on the following day. Also seen at Ravnслаunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5 and Ölands södra udde, Sweden 17.5.

**Mistle Thrush**
*Turdus viscivorus*
Four birds Kuusamo area 12.5 and one seen well there on the following day.

**Old World Flycatchers Muscicapididae**
*Muscicapa striata*
Recorded in Sweden as follows: Two birds Ravnслаunda skjutfält 16.5, five birds Ottenby lund 18.5 and a total of ten Ottenby and Beijershamn 19.5.

**European Robin**
*Erithacus rubecula*
Seen and heard well at several occasions in Finland 9-13.5 and one Ölands södra udde, Sweden 17.5.
Bluethroat  
*Luscinia svecica*
A female on stop-over at Kuusamo area 13.5 was the only sighting.

Thrush Nightingale  
*Luscinia luscinia*
A total of three birds heard across Skåne, Sweden 15.5, one seen well in full song Herculesdammarna, Sweden 16.5, a singing bird was seen in Linnérundan, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 with further records of birds heard singing across Skåne and Öland, Sweden 17-19.5.

European Pied Flycatcher  
*Ficedula hypoleuca*
A male was seen well defending his nest box at our hotel in Oulu, Finland 10-11.5 and another male Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5. Five birds Ölands södra udde, Sweden 17.5, three birds Ottenby area, Sweden 18.5 and a male Beijershamn, Sweden 19.5.

Collared Flycatcher  
*Ficedula albicollis*
Two separate sightings in Sweden: A male showing well Näsby, Öland 18.5 and great looks at a pair Beijershamn, Öland 19.5.

Red-breasted Flycatcher  
*Ficedula parva*
Great views of an adult male in full song Ottenby lund, Öland, Sweden 18.5.

Black Redstart  
*Phoenicurus ochruros*
A young male was seen briefly Ölands södra udde, Sweden 17.5 and great looks at an adult male Grönhögen, Sweden 19.5.

Common Redstart  
*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Seen and heard in Finland across three days 12-14.5 and a number of sightings in Sweden 15-19.5.

Whinchat  
*Saxicola rubetra*
A male Oulu area, Finland 9.5, a male Klingavälsåns våtmark, Sweden 15.5, one Ottenby area, Sweden 18.5 and a female Ås, Öland, Sweden 19.5.

Northern Wheatear  
*Oenanthe oenanthe*
A pair Oulu industrial area, Finland 9.5, a male Liminka Bay, Finland 10.5, one bird Falsterbo 15.5, a total of five birds at Håslövs ängar and Sebybadet, Sweden 17.5 and eight birds Öland, Sweden 18-19.5.

Dippers  
*Cinclidae*
Two birds were seen well at a stream Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5.

Old World Sparrows  
*Passeridae*

House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*
A female at our hotel in Kuusamo, Finland 12.5 and then recorded on five days in Sweden 14-19.5.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow  
*Passer montanus*
One bird Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5 with further daily records in Sweden 15-19.5.

Accentors  
*Prunellidae*

Dunnock  
*Prunella modularis*
One seen Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5 and heard Beijershamn, Sweden 19.5.

Wagtails and Pipits  
*Motacillidae*

Western Yellow Wagtail  
*Motacilla flava*
Recorded in Finland as follows: A distant male seen by the tour leader at Liminka Bay 10.5, one bird Kuusamojärvi 11.5 and two males Kuusamo area 13.5. In Sweden, we had a female at Falsterbo.
lighthouse 15.5 and several good looks at Herculesdammarna and Håslövs ängar 16-17.5 and Ottenby area and Beijershamn, Öland 18-19.5. Two different subspecies were involved: The birds in Finland belonged to the northern *thunbergi* ssp. whereas the birds in Sweden were of the nominate race ssp. *flava*.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
We had a male and a female at Hallamölla, Sweden 16.5.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*
This common and widespread species was commonly recorded daily.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*
Good looks at one Ravlunda skjutfält, Sweden 16.5.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*
One bird Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5 and one seen well Håslövs ängar, Sweden 17.5.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
A total of three seen Kuusamo area, Finland 12-13.5, one of which seen particularly well, with further records of birds heard singing in Sweden across three days, 17-19.5.

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**Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae**

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*
This common and widespread species was commonly recorded daily.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*
Recorded in Finland across four days, 10-13.5 and mostly heard singing, but four birds were also seen very well at a feeder in the Kuusamo area 12.5 including lovely males. Further looks at an unseasonal male Ölands södra udde, Sweden 18-19.5.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Two of this elusive species were seen well as they were feeding in oak trees at our lunch stop in Blekinge, Sweden 17.5.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Recorded in Finland as follows: A male and female Oulu area 10.5, two separate sightings of females Kuusamo area 12-13.5 and also heard there 11-12.5.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*
Great looks at a young male Ölands södra udde, Sweden 18-19.5.

**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*
Good views of a singing male Oulu area, Finland 10.5 and several sightings across Sweden 15-18.5.

**Common Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*
Two birds Oulu area 9.5 and several sightings across Sweden 15-19.5.

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*
Heard at three separate occasions in the Oulu and Kuusamo areas, Finland 9 and 11.5 and seen briefly Kuusamo area 13.5 with further very good looks at two birds Linnérundan, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5. Two different subspecies were involved: The birds in Finland belonged to the northern nominate ssp. *flammea* whereas the birds in Sweden were of the southern ssp. *cabaret*.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*
Recorded in Finland as follows: Heard flying over Oulu area 9.5, 11.5 and Kuusamo area 13.5. Also seen Kuusamo area 12.5 where a flock of 30 birds flew overhead.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
One bird flying by Falsterbo 15.5, two birds were seen very well near our hotel, Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 and one Ottenby, Öland 18.5.
European Serin  *Serinus serinus*
After much effort, we managed to find five birds at Furuboda, Sweden 16.5.

Eurasian Siskin  *Spinus spinus*
Recorded in Finland as follows: Great views of a male and two females Oulu area 9.5 and two birds seen Kuusamo area 13.5. Also heard daily in Finland 10-13.5.

**Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**

**Corn Bunting**  *Emberiza calandra*
A few of us were lucky to see a vagrant bird at Ölands södra udde, Sweden 20.5.

**Yellowhammer**  *Emberiza citrinella*
A total of five birds Oulu area, Finland 10.5, one Kuusamo area, Finland 11.5 and a total of ten in Sweden 15-19.5.

**Rustic Bunting**  *Emberiza rustica*
A pair Kuusamo area, Finland 13.5. The male was heard singing but unfortunately the male and female were seen all too briefly despite our hard efforts.

**Common Reed Bunting**  *Emberiza schoeniclus*
A total of seven seen in Finland 10-13.5 of which one male in full song seen very well Kuusamo area 13.5. Also heard in Sweden at a couple of occasions.

**Annotated List of Mammals recorded**

**Total species recorded:** 17 (including 1 semi-domesticated; Reindeer)

**Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals Canidae**

**Red Fox**  *Vulpes vulpes*
A quite unexpected sighting of one animal after dusk in the central Falsterbo village, Sweden 14.5, just as we were about to walk back from our dinner restaurant. Another one was seen in full daylight at Vombs ängar, Sweden 15.5.

**Weasels, Skunks, Otters Mustelidae**

**Eurasian Badger**  *Meles meles*
One crossing the road in the dark at Ottenby, Sweden 19.5 was only seen by the tour leader and the local guide.

**Seals Phocidae**

**Grey Seal**  *Halichoerus grypus*
A total of 25 at Ölands södra udde, Sweden across two days 18-19.5.

**Harbour Seal**  *Phoca vitulina*
A total of 12 at Ölands södra udde, Sweden across two days 18-19.5.

**Deer Cervidae**

**Elk**  *Alces alces*
We had great views of two female-types in the Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5.

**European Roe Deer**  *Capreolus capreolus*
One was seen in the Oulu area, Finland 9.5 and scattered sightings in Sweden 14-19.5 of a total of seven.
**Red Deer**  
*Cervus elaphus*  
We had good looks at a female at Fyledalen, Sweden 15.5 near a group of Fallow Deer.

**Fallow Deer**  
*Dama dama*  
Around fifty were seen at Fyledalen, Sweden 15.5.

**Reindeer**  
*Rangifer tarandus*  
The first animals appeared at the roadside on our drive from Oulu to Kuusamo 11.5 and we then enjoyed numerous sightings across the following three days. Not seen in the Oulu area, though. These Reindeer were semi-domesticated animals belonging to the Sami people.

**Pigs Suidae**  
*Sus scrofa*  
Brief looks at a roadside female with three small piglets at Ravlunda, Sweden 16.5.

**Hedgehogs, Gymnures Erinaceidae**  
*A roadside individual was seen for a split-second by the tour leader on our drive back from our first attempt at the Ural Owl near Oulu, Finland 9.5.*

**Rabbits, Hares Leporidae**  
*Lepus europaeus*  
Commonly seen daily in the farmlands of Sweden 14-19.5.

**Mountain Hare**  
*Lepus timidus*  
Seen on four days out of six in Finland, 9-14.5 and a number of good looks at animals in their distinctive brown-and-white transitional winter-to-summer coat.

**European Rabbit**  
*Oryctolagus cuniculus*  
A number of good looks in the province of Skåne, Sweden 15-17.5.

**Hamsters, New World Rats and Mice, Voles Cricetidae**  
**Bank Vole**  
*Myodes glareolus*  
Good views of one at a feeder in a roadside forest, Kuusamo area, Finland 12.5.

**Muskrat**  
*Ondatra zibethicus*  
A total of seven at various wetlands and lakes near Kuusamo, Finland 11.5 and good looks at several.

**Squirrels Sciuridae**  
**Eurasian Red Squirrel**  
*Sciurus vulgaris*  
One Kuusamo area 11.5, one Fyledalen, Sweden 15.5, one at Kristianstad, Sweden 17.5 and two at Ekenabben, Sweden 17.5.