

Finland & Norway: Birding & Nature Species List | June 4-16, 2025 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by group leader Gerard Gorman with the assistance of local guide Riku and group members Bob, Kelly, Catherine, Fred, Christa, Robert, Peter and Brenda.

Our 2025 tour to Finland and Norway once again resulted in many wonderful observations of the special birds and other wildlife that inhabit Europe's boreal and Arctic regions. Where to begin? Well, here is a selection of highlights: lekking Ruff in their varied, outrageous, breeding plumages, delightful Temminck's Stints doing their fantastic flight displays, numerous views of huge White-tailed Eagles, a magnificent Ural Owl mother guarding her chicks, a male Grey-headed Woodpecker at its nest, gregarious Siberian Jays, the much sought after Gray-headed Chickadee, handsome Red-throated Pipits, a fine male Pine Grosbeak, taiga forest specialties like Little and Rustic Buntings and their rare relative Ortolan Bunting. We recorded a notable 24 species of wildfowl, all 3 possible grebes, 25 shorebirds, 5 auks, 10 larids, 6 fantastic owls, 5 woodpeckers, 7 corvids, all 6 possible chickadees, 5 thrushes, all 4 possible pipits, 10 finches and all 5 possible bunting species. The following list details the species we recorded. Numbers in brackets (-) correspond to the numbers of days the species was recorded.

The eBird link below details the 166 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

eBird compiled by guest Bob Meinke

[Finland & Norway: Birding & Nature | June 4-16, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name

BIRDS (170):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Graylag Goose *Anser anser* — (5) Scattered sightings of small groups and pairs in both countries.

Taiga Bean-Goose *Anser fabali* — (1) Good views of two flocks, one group in fields, one coming Lake Vuotunki near Kuusamo, Finland, on day 5. Around 130 in total.

Tundra Bean-Goose *Anser serrirostris* — (1) Six seen near Kiberg, Norway, on day 12.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* — (1) Two pairs seen on Hornøya Island in the Barents Sea, Norway, on day 11.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* — (1) One seen on Liminka Bay, Oulu, Finland, on day 2.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* — (10) Common and widespread, particularly in Finland. Often seen in pairs.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* — (1) Close views of a pair at Liminka, near Oulu, Finland on day 2.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — (2) A few seen, mainly drakes, on the Kempele and Liminka Bays, near Oulu, Finland, on days 1 and 2.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* — (1) One sighting of a pair on Kempele Bay, Oulu, Finland, on day 1.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* — (7) Several sightings in both countries, mainly drakes.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (8) Scattered sightings of small numbers in both countries, mostly in Finland.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — (2) One on day 8 near Kaamanen, Finland and 3 on day 10 at Nesseby, Norway.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* — (8) Fairly common and widespread in both countries.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* — (11) Common and widespread in both countries. Often seen in pairs.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* — (1) Two seen on a roadside lake in Norway on day 9.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* — (1) Six on the Barents Sea off Vardø, Norway, on day 11.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* — (4) Common on and around Varanger Fjord in Norway.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* — (3) Seen in both countries. A notable flock of 22 on day 7 on Lake Raapyslampi near Kuusamo, Finland.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries of groups of up to 10, mostly on the Barents Sea off Norway.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* — (5) Parties of up to 12 seen on lakes and the Barents Sea in Norway.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* — (9) Common and widespread, particularly in Finland. Breeding pairs using nestboxes often seen.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* — (1) A pair seen on Lake Vuotunki, near Kuusamo, on day 5.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — (8) Common and widespread. Over 500 seen on day 12 near Golnes, Norway.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* — (6) Fairly widespread. Sightings in both countries but most seen on bays in the Barents Sea in Norway.

PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* — (4) Scattered sightings in both countries. A pair seen close in Kuusamo, Finland, on day 4.

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* — (4) Several seen on the tundra in Norway. Very close views of a pair on day 10.

Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* — (1) One female in flight briefly seen by some near Kuusamo on day 7.

Ring-necked Pheasant (l) *Phasianus colchicus* — (4) Single birds, mostly males, seen in the Oulu area.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* — (1) Two in breeding plumage seen close on a pond near Soso, Finland, on day 3.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* — (3) Scattered sightings, some of paired up birds, all in the Kuusamo area in Finland.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (4) About 30 seen, some displaying, on Kempele Bay, Oulu, Finland, on the first 4 days.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — (4) Only seen in Finland, mostly in urban areas around Oulu. All feral birds.

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus* — (8) Scattered sightings, away from forested areas, all in Finland.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* — (2) A few seen in urban areas around Oulu, Finland, on days 2 and 3.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (4) Several heard and 2 seen on days 5 and 9

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Common Swift *Apus apus* — (7) Only seen in urban areas Finland.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* — (1) Only seen on day 1 on Kempele Bay, Oulu, Finland.

CRANES: Gruidae

Common Crane *Grus grus* — (6) Scattered sighting of pairs and small flocks in fields and in flight in Finland.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* — (5) Common on the coast in Norway. Breeding pairs were often seen.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* — (5) Fairly common on the tundra in Norway. Pairs and displaying birds were often seen.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* — (7) Fairly common in farmland and by wetlands in Finland.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (5) Common and widespread on the coast in Norway.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* — (1) Two seen on day 3 at the Tuppu bathing lake, Muhos, Finland.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* — (1) A male seen close up on day 7 on Kaunispää fell in Finland.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (1) Just one seen, on the tundra in Norway on day 10.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* — (9) Fairly common in Finland. Displaying birds seen well behind our Oulu hotel.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — (3) Only seen in Norway. Some males in breeding plumage.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* — (1) Five seen on day 2 at Liminka Bay.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (1) Just 1 seen, on day 11, at Vardo harbor, Norway.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* — (4) Many lekking males watched, most in Norway, often close up at roadsides.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* — (5) Fairly common in Norway. Several displaying birds watched.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (1) A few seen on day 11 on the coast in Norway.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (4) A few seen, often in breeding plumage, on the coast and on the tundra, in Norway.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* — (1) One seen up close on the tundra in Norway on day 109.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* — (1) Five birds seen on day 9 on the tundra in Norway.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* — (1) One "leader only" sighting of a flyover bird near Kuusamo on day 5.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* — (10) Fairly common, particularly in Finland. Scattered sightings of displaying birds.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* — (4) Scattered sightings including 12 on one lake on day 9 in Norway.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (4) Scattered sightings of single birds, all in Finland.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* — (1) One flyover bird near Vuotunki, Kuusamo, in Finland, on day 5.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (3) A few sightings of single birds in both countries.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (7) Fairly common in both countries.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* — (3) A few sightings of single birds in both countries.

SKUAS AND JAEGER: Stercorariidae

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* — (4) Only seen in Norway, mostly on the coast. Both light and dark color morphs were seen.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* — (4) Only seen in Norway, mostly on the tundra. Often in pairs.

AUKS, PUFFINS AND ALLIES: Alcidae

Common Murre *Uria aalge* — (2) Around 1500 estimated, many in pairs nesting, seen on and around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* — (1) About 20, including some nesting pairs, on Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

Razorbill *Alca torda* — (2) 500 plus, many nesting, seen on and around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* — (4) Scattered sightings of small numbers in the bays and harbors of the Barents Sea, Norway.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* — (1) 600 estimated, many in pairs nesting, seen on and around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* — (5) Abundant in coastal Norway, often nesting on buildings in towns and on cliffs on Hornøya Island. Some colonies composed of 100 plus pairs.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (7) Fairly common and widespread on wetlands in Finland.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (3) Common on lakes in the Kuusamo area, Finland.

Common Gull *Larus canus* — (12) Very common and widespread, particularly in Norway. Many seen nesting.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — (9) Common and widespread in both countries, particularly on coastal Norway.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* — (4) Regularly seen on coastal Norway, but in small numbers.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* — (5) Only recorded in Norway, often single birds, though about a dozen pairs seen nesting on Hornøya island.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* — (1) One seen at Kempele Bay, Finland, on day 1.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* — (6) Fairly common at wetlands in Finland.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* — (5) Only seen in Norway where fairly common on the coast.

LOONS: Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* — (3) Only seen in Norway. Breeding pairs seen on tundra lakes.

Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries. 12 seen together near Kuusamo, Finland, on day 6.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (5) Only recorded along coastal Norway. Mostly single birds seen.

European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis* — (2) Over 100 estimated nesting, and seen up-close, on Hornøya Island, Norway.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (2) Single birds seen in Norway on days 10 and 12.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — (3) A total of 4 seen, all in Finland.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* — (1) One seen briefly on day 7, north of Kuusamo in Finland.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* — (3) Around 10 seen, all in the Oulu area in Finland.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* — (2) Single birds seen in flight on days 2 and 8, both in Finland.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* — (1) One heard and then seen in a forest near Siikajoki, Finland, on day 2.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* — (7) Seen in both countries, the most in coastal Norway with 20 plus on day 10 along Varanger Fjord.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* — (1) One seen on day 8 over the tundra in Norway.

OWLS: Strigidae

Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* — (1) One seen perched in a big-forest near Lokan Tekojarvi, Finland, on day 7.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* — (1) One adult and two young seen at a nest box near Ojala, Finland, on day 3.

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa* — (1) One seen with chicks in a forest near Siikajoki, Finland, on day 2.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* — (1) One seen by the roadside near Ala-Murto, Finland, on day 4.

Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* — (1) One seen at a nest box near Martinniemi, Finland, on day 2.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* — (1) One seen near Makikyla, Finland, on day 2.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* — (1) One seen near Murto, Finland, on day 4.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* — (8) Several single birds seen in Finland, often at feeders.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* — (1) A male seen at a nest near Mokkaikyla, Finland, on day 3.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* — (1) One flyover bird seen near Vuotunki, Kuusamo, Finland, on day 5.

Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* — (1) A male seen at a nest near Mokkaikyla, Finland, on day 3.

FALCONS: Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (4) Scattered sightings, often at roadsides, in the Oulu area, Finland.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* — (1) One seen briefly in flight on day 8 in Norway.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* — (2) One adult seen on day 10 and two chicks in a nest (watched from a safe distance) on day 12, in Norway.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus* — (2) One seen on day 5, and 5 on day 6, at Konttinen, Kuusamo, Finland.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* — (2) One seen near Siikajoki, on day 2, and 2 at Ala-Murto, Finland, on day 4.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* — (11) Common and widespread throughout, particularly in Finland.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* — (4) Common in urban areas and roadsides in the Oulu area in Finland.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* — (2) Roadside flocks seen in the Oulu area in Finland on days 2 and 3.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* — (12) Common and widespread in both countries.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (11) Fairly common and widespread in both countries.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater* — (1) One seen at Laitakangas, Finland, on day 3.

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus* — (1) Three seen at the Tuppu bathing lake, Muhos, Finland, on day 3.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* — (3) Three seen, all in Finland.

Gray-headed Chickadee *Poecile cinctus* — (1) Two seen by a nest box on day 7 near Kuusamo, Finland.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (7) Scattered sightings, all in Finland. Often at bird feeders.

Great Tit *Parus major* — (9) Quite common throughout but mostly seen in Finland.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* — (1) Three seen on day 9 on the tundra in Norway.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* — (1) Several seen, often in song flights, in the Oulu area on days 2 and 4.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* — (4) Locally common around Kempele and Liminka Bays, Finland.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — (3) A few seen in Finland, most in the Oulu area.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (8) Common and widespread in Finland.

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* — (7) Fairly common, mainly in urban areas, mainly in Finland.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* — (1) One seen near Siikajoki, Finland, on day 2.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (11) Abundant, some seen and many heard in both countries.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* — (6) Fairly common, a few seen and more heard in both countries.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* — (2) Two near Martinniemi on day 2, and 1 at Soso on day 3, in Finland.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* — (1) Heard only, on day 7 near Kuusamo, Finland.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* — (2) Heard only, on days 2 and 3 in the Oulu area, Finland.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* — (1) Two seen at Båtsfjord, Norway, on day 9.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* — (1) One seen near Mökkikyla, Finland, on day 3.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* — (12) Very common and widespread in both countries.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* — (3) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland, including by our hotel.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* — (12) Very common and widespread in both countries.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* — (1) One male seen near Persfjord, Norway, on day 11.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (6) Scattered sightings of single birds in Finland.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* — (2) Just 2 seen, on days 2 and 3 in the Oulu area, Finland.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* — (4) The “red-spotted” subspecies seen: 2 in Finland at Skalluvaara on day 8, several in Norway on subsequent days.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* — (2) One heard at Konttinen, Kuusamo, on day 5, and a 2nd year male seen at Tuovila, Kuusamo, on day 6.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (6) Fairly common and widespread, particularly in Finland.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (1) A singing male seen near the Oulu hotel, Finland, on day 1.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (2) A few seen on days 2 and 4 in the Oulu area.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (4) Several sightings in Norway.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* — (1) Two seen near Siikajoki, Finland, on day 2.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (9) Seen in urban areas in both countries, even in Lapland and the Arctic.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* — (4) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* — (1) A pair seen at Lokan Tekojärvi, Finland, on day 7.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* — (12) Common and widespread, often in urban areas, in both countries.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* — (6) Fairly common and widespread, particularly in Norway.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* — (2) Two at Mökkikyla on day 3 and 1 at Tuovila on day 6, in Finland.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* — (2) Seen in Norway, including males in breeding plumage, on days 11 and 12.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* — (2) Several seen in coastal areas in Norway on days 10 and 11.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* — (7) Common and widespread in Finland.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* — (6) Common and widespread in the Kuusamo area and Lapland.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (4) Often seen and heard in the Oulu area, Finland.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* — (1) A male seen at a feeder at Neljan TuulenTupa, Finland, on day 12.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* — (5) Fairly common, particularly in Finland. Often seen at feeders.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* — (8) Fairly common in both countries.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* — (3) Only seen in Norway.

Hoary Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* — (1) Two seen by the roadside near Kiberg, Norway, on day 12.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* — (1) About 8 seen in flight at Konttainen, Kuusamo, Finland, on day 5.

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus pinus* — (6) Fairly common, particularly in Finland. Often seen at feeders.

LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS: Calcariidae

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* — (2) Males in breeding plumage on the tundra by road 891 on day 9 and near Svartnes, Norway, on day 11.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* — (4) Scattered sightings, all in Finland.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* — (4) Fairly common by wetlands in the Oulu area, Finland.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* — (1) Two singing males seen in Kuusamo, Finland, on day 6.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* — (2) A singing male seen in Kuusamo on day 6 and another on day 7.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* — (1) Two seen in farmland at Yli-Murto, near Oulu, Finland, on day 4.

MAMMALS

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* — (2) Several seen in farmland in the Oulu area, Finland.

Mountain Hare *Lepus timidus* — (4) Several seen in Kuusamo and Lapland.

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* — (6) Several seen, often at bird feeders in Finland.

Gray Seal *Halichoerus grypus* — (5) Several individuals seen in Norway.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* — (2) Two seen, 1 in Finland, 1 in Norway.

Caribou (Reindeer) *Rangifer tarandus* — (9) Common and widespread, especially in the Kuusamo area and Lapland.

Moose *Alces alces* — (1) A young individual seen at Skalluvaara, Finland, on day 8.