Finland & Norway: Birding & Nature
Species List | June 4 – 16, 2026
with Naturalist Journeys

Compiled by group leader Gerard Gorman with the assistance of local guide Riku and the group members.

Our 2026 tour to Finland and Norway once again turned up many excellent observations of special birds and other wildlife. We recorded 22 species of wildfowl, 23 shorebirds, all 3 possible grebe species, 9 larids, 7 corvids, 8 diurnal raptors, 5 chickadees, 5 thrushes, all 4 possible pipits and 10 finches. The following is a list of the species recorded. For further details on specific species, locations and habitats, please see the tour report. (#) = Number of days recorded.

Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name

BIRDS (163 species)

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (22 species)
Graylag Goose *Anser anser* — (5) Several sightings of small parties, often pairs, in both countries.
Taiga Bean-Goose *Anser fabali* — (1) One at Liminka Bay, near Oulu, Finland, on day 2.
Tundra Bean-Goose *Anser serrirostris* — (3) Small numbers seen in Norway, on days 9, 10 and 11.
Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* — (1) Seven near Skalvel, Norway, on day 12. The origin of these birds is debatable; most seemed to be color banded and were perhaps "escapes" from elsewhere in Europe.
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* — (10) Common and widespread, particularly in Finland. Often seen in pairs and on nests.
Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* — (10) 11 seen (adults with young) on day 3 near Oulu in Finland, and 12 on day 10 at Nesseby in Norway.
Garganey *Spatula querquedula* — (1) A pair on Kempele Bay in Finland on day 2.
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — (3) A few seen, mainly drakes, on the Kempele and Liminka Bays, near Oulu, Finland, on days 2, 3 and 4.
Gadwall *Mareca strepera* — (1) A pair seen at Kempele Bay, Oulu, Finland, on day 3.
Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* — (6) Several sightings of up to 15 birds each, mostly drakes, in both countries.
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (7) Scattered sightings of small numbers in both countries, often with ducklings, mostly in Finland.
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — (1) 28 seen on day 10 near at Nesseby in Norway.
Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca* — (8) Fairly common and widespread in both countries, up to 20 seen each time.
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* — (12) Common and widespread in both countries. Often seen in pairs.
Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* — (3) Four seen on day 5 near Kuusamo in Finland, and in Norway three at Kongsfjord on day 9 and two near Båtsfjord on day 10.
Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* — (5) Up to 50 seen daily on the sea and shore in Arctic Norway.
Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* — (1) Three seen at Neljän Tuulen Tupa in Finland on day 8.
Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* — (4) Groups of up to 6 seen on lakes and the Barents Sea in Norway.
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* — (9) Common and widespread, up to 30 Adults with ducklings often seen.
Smew *Mergellus albellus* — (2) Six seen on Lake Vuotunki near Kuusamo on day 5 and one near Ivalo on day 13.

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Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — (7) Common and widespread on coastal Norway. 100+ seen on several days.
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* — (6) Fairly widespread. Scattered sightings in both countries.

PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (3 species)
Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* — (3) Single birds seen on days 10, 11 and 12 in Norway.
Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* — (1) Just one seen on the tundra in Norway on day 9.
Ring-necked Pheasant (I) *Phasianus colchicus* — (2) Single males seen in the Oulu area on days 2 and 3.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3 species)
Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* — (1) A male in breeding plumage seen close on a pond near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* — (3) Paired birds seen in the Kuusamo area in Finland.
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (3) Only seen in Finland. Around 30 birds, some displaying, on Kempele Bay on day 3.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3 species)
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* — (5) A few seen in urban areas in both countries.
Stock Dove *Columba oenas* — (1) Two seen on day 4 near Kempele in Finland.
Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus* — (5) Scattered sightings in farmland in Finland.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (1 species)
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (3) Heard on days 3 and 6, one seen in flight near Ivalo on day 13, all in Finland.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (1 species)
Common Swift *Apus apus* — (6) Groups of up to ten seen mainly in urban areas in Finland.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1 species)
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* — (1) Just one seen on day 3 on Kempele Bay near Oulu in Finland.

CRANES: Gruidae (1 species)
Common Crane *Grus grus* — (5) Scattered sightings in Finland, mostly pairs, but about 30 seen on day 4 near Kempele.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1 species)
Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* — (6) Common and widespread on the coast in Norway.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (4 species)
European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* — (4) Fairly common on the tundra in Norway where and displaying birds were often seen.
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* — (5) Fairly common in farmland and by wetlands in Finland.
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (5) Common and widespread on the coast in Norway.
Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* — (2) Two pairs seen on upland tundra, on day 7 at Kaunispää in Finland and on day 9 in Norway.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (18 species)
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (2) Single birds seen in Norway on days 6 and 9.
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* — (5) Fairly common in Finland, in farmland and even around urban areas. Displaying birds and pairs with chicks also seen.
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — (2) Only seen in Norway. Around 50 on day 10 at Nesseby.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* — (2) Only seen in Finland, five on day 2 at Liminka Bay.
Ruff *Calidris pugnax* — (6) Many lekking males seen by tundra wetlands in Norway, often at roadsides. Up to 20 a day.
Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* — (1) Two seen in flight display at a roadside bog near Ilmakkiaapa in Finnish Lapland on day 7.
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* — (2) Around 12 seen, including birds in close flight display on day 8 at the Tana estuary in Norway.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (1) Two seen on day 11 near Svartnes in Norway.
Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (2) Around 12 seen, most in breeding plumage, on day 10 at Nesseby in Norway.
Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* — (1) One bird seen briefly in flight at Vuotungintie in Finland on day 5.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* — (8) Fairly common and widespread in both countries. Displaying birds often seen.
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* — (3) Scattered sightings, of pairs and small groups on tundra wetlands in Norway, on days 9, 10, 11
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (4) Scattered sightings of single birds in both countries. Around 5 seen on day 5 around Kuusamo.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* — (1) One bird seen briefly in flight near Kempele in Finland on day 3.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* — (1) Two seen on day 2 at Liminka Bay in Finland.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (4) A few sightings, mostly of single birds, in Finland.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (6) Fairly common in both countries, pairs often seen.
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* — (3) A few sightings of single birds in both countries.

SKUAS AND JAEGERS: Stercocariidae (2 species)
Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* — (5) Only seen in Norway, mostly on the coast. Often in pairs. Both light and dark color morphs were seen. Up to 25 birds daily.
Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* — (3) Only seen in Norway on the tundra. Often in pairs. Around 10 were seen on day 9.

AUKS, PUFFINS AND ALLIES: Alcidae (5 species)
Common Murre *Uria aalge* — (1) Thousands (hard to estimate) seen, many in pairs on cliffs and over the sea around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.
Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* — (1) About six seen on cliffs on Hornøya Island, Norway, and some over the sea, on day 11.
Razorbill *Alca torda* — (1) Hundreds seen on and around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.
Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* — (4) Scattered sightings of up to ten daily in the bays and harbors of the Barents Sea, Norway.
Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* — (1) At least 50 seen, many close-up in pairs, on and around Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (9 species)
Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* — (5) Abundant in coastal Norway, nesting in colonies on buildings in towns and on cliffs on Hornøya Island.
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (8) Fairly common on wetlands in Finland. 100 plus seen on some days, Fewer in Norway.
Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (2) About 12 on lake Vihtasalmi, Kuusamo, in Finland, on days 4 and 6.
Common Gull *Larus canus* — (10) Common and widespread, particularly in Norway. Many seen nesting.
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — (6) Common and widespread in both countries, particularly on coastal Norway.
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* — (3) Mostly seen on coastal Norway, but in small numbers, up to 5 daily.
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* — (5) Only seen in coastal Norway, often single birds, though pairs nesting on Hornøya island.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* — (4) Fairly common at wetlands in Finland.
Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* — (9) A few in Finland but most in coastal Norway where birds seen daily.

LOONS: Gaviidae (3 species)
Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* — (3) Only seen in Norway. Breeding pairs seen on smaller tundra lakes with 6 birds on day 11.
Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries. 5 seen on tundra lakes on day 9.
Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* — (1) One seen by Nick Rutter at Vardø on day 11.

GANNETS: Sulidae (1 species)
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* — (5) About 40 seen at Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2 species)
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (5) Single figures seen on coastal Norway.
European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis* — (3) Hundreds seen, many in breeding pairs, on Hornøya Island, Norway, on day 11.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1 species)
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — (1) Two seen on day 6 over a Kuusamo lake in Finland.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (7 species)
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* — (1) One seen on day 6 near Oivanki, Kuusamo, in Finland.
Eurasian (Western) Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* — (3) Only seen in the Kempele area in Finland.
Hen Harrier *Circus cyanus* — (1) One seen on day 10 before Vardø in Norway.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* — (1) One seen briefly in flight on day 3 near Muhos in Finland.
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* — (7) Seen in both countries, the most along Varangerfjord in Norway with 12 on day 11.
Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* — (6) A good year for this species in Arctic Norway with, for example, 10 individuals seen on day 10.
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* — (1) Just one seen, on day 3 near Muhos in Finland.

OWLS: Strigidae (5 species)
Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* — (2) Three seen, a single bird on day 8 and a 10, at undisclosed locations in Norway.
Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* — (1) An adult on a nest watched near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa* — (1) An adult on a nest with chicks watched near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* — (4) Several seen hunting and displaying by day in both countries.
Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* — (1) Three fledged juveniles seen on day 2 at an undisclosed location near Oulu, Finland.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4 species)
Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* — (1) An adult male watched at a nest near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* — (6) The most widespread woodpecker. Seen in both countries with 6 on day 5 in and around Kuusamo.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* — (1) A pair watched at a nest near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* — (2) One near Martinniemi on day 2 and one fly-by near Muhos on day 3, both in Finland.

FALCONS: Falconidae (2 species)
Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (6) Scattered sightings in both countries. About a dozen observed in total.
Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* — (1) One adult and four chicks, watched from a safe distance, on day 10 at an undisclosed location in Norway.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (7 species)
Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus* — (1) Five seen on day 6 near Ruka, Kuusamo, in Finland.
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* — (2) Two seen in Finland, on days 2 and 4.
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* — (11) Common and widespread, seen throughout.
Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* — (4) Locally common in urban areas, particularly around Oulu in Finland.
Rook *Corvus frugilegus* — (2) Flocks seen in fields in the Oulu area in Finland on day 2.
Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* — (12) Common and widespread in both countries. Up to 25 seen daily.
Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (11) Seen in both countries. Highest day count was ten on day 8.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (5 species)
Coal Tit *Periparus ater* — (1) Just one seen near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* — (2) Three seen in Finland, one at Konttainen on day 5 and two in Kuusamo on day 6.
Gray-headed Chickadee *Poecile cinctus* — (4) A total of 6 seen, at nest boxes and feeders in Finland.
Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (4) A total of 6 seen, at nest boxes and feeders in Finland.
Great Tit *Parus major* — (7) Quite common and widespread in Finland.

LARKS: Alaudidae (2 species)
Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* — (1) Two seen on day 9 on the tundra in Norway.
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* — (2) Four seen in farmland near Oulu on day 4, one in Norway on day 11.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (1 species)
Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* — (3) Several seen, often in flight display, in reedbeds by Kempele Bay in Finland.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (3 species)
Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — (2) A few seen in Finland, near Muhos on day 2 and Ivalo on day 13.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (9) Common and widespread, particularly in Finland.
Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* — (7) Fairly common in urban areas in Finland.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (3 species)
Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* — (1) One heard in a forest near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (11) Abundant, a few seen but many heard in both countries.
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* — (3) A few seen and many more heard in Finland.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (2 species)
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* — (1) One heard on day 2 in Finland.
Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis* — (1) One seen close to our hotel near Oulu on day 4.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1 species)
Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* — (1) One heard on days 3 in the Oulu area, Finland.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1 species)
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* — (1) Two seen at the river by Vuotungintie in Finland on day 5.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1 species)
European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* — (1) 15 seen on day 3 close to our hotel near Oulu.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (5 species)
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* — (1) One seen near Ruka, Kuusamo, in Finland, on day 6.
Redwing *Turdus iliacus* — (11) Common and widespread in both countries.
Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* — (1) Just one seen, near Muhos in Finland on day 3.
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* — (12) Common and widespread in both countries.
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* — (1) A male seen near Kongsfjord in Norway on day 9.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (6 species)
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (1) One seen near Ruka in Finland on day 5.
European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* — (1) Heard on day 3 near Muhos in Finland.
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (6) Several heard and some seen at various sites in Finland.
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (2) Seen on days 5 and 6 in Kuusamo in Finland.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (3) A total of 7 seen, all in Finland.
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (3) A total of seven seen, five on day 11 around Vardo in Norway.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1 species)
Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* — (1) One seen near Ruka, Kuusamo, in Finland, on day 6.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (2 species)
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (11) Seen in urban areas in both countries, even in the Arctic.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* — (4) Only seen in Finland, mostly in the Oulu area.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (7 species)
Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* — (1) One seen at the river by Vuotungintie in Finland on day 5.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* — (2) One at Liminka Bay on day 2, two at Lake Vuotunki on day 6, in Finland.
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* — (10) Common and widespread, often in urban areas, in both countries.
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* — (6) Fairly common in open countryside in both countries.
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* — (3) One seen near Muhos in Finland on day 3 and others heard.
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* — (1) One seen on the tundra near Båtsfjord in Norway on day 9.
Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* — (2) Seen near Kongsfjord in Norway on day 9 and on Hornøya Island on day 11.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (11 species)
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* — (6) Common and widespread in Finland.
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* — (8) Common in the Kuusamo area and Lapland.
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (4) Often heard in the Oulu area, a few seen.
Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* — (2) Up to five, males and females, seen at feeders at Neljän Tuulen Tupa in Finland, on days 8 and 12.
Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* — (6) Fairly common, particularly in Finland. Often seen at feeders.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* — (4) Fairly common in both countries.
Twite *Linaria flavirostris* — (1) Two seen on Hornøya Island on day 11.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina* — (1) Five seen near Kempele in Finland on day 4.
Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* — (3) Seen in Norway on days 9 and 10 and near Ivalo, Finland, on day 13.
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* — (1) Five seen near Kempele in Finland on day 2.
Eurasian Siskin *Spinus pinus* — (8) Fairly common, particularly in Finland. Often seen at feeders.

LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS: Calcariidae (2 species)
Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* — (1) One seen on the tundra near Båtsfjord in Norway on day 9.
Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* — (1) Two seen on the tundra near Båtsfjord in Norway on day 9.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4 species)
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* — (4) Scattered sightings, all in Finland.
Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* — (7) Fairly common by wetlands in the Oulu area in Finland.
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* — (1) One heard singing near Ivalo in Finland on day 13.
Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* — (1) Two seen in farmland near Tyrnävä in Finland on day 4.

MAMMALS (7 species)
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* — (1) One seen in farmland in the Oulu area in Finland.
Mountain Hare *Lepus timidus* — (5) Several seen in the Kuusamo area and Lapland.
Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* — (4) Several seen at bird feeders in Finland.
Gray Seal *Halichoerus grypus* — (3) Seen in the Tana Estuary and Vardø harbor in Norway.
Harbor Porpoise Phocoena phocoena — (1) Seen in the Barents Sea in Norway.
Caribou (Reindeer) *Rangifer tarandus* — (10) Many seen from Kuusamo north through Lapland to Arctic Norway.
Moose *Alces alces* — (4) Single adults seen in Finland and Norway and an adult with a calf near Vardø on day 12.