

Finland & Norway: Birding & Nature | Species List

June 3 – 15, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



List compiled by group leader Gerard Gorman with the assistance of the tour participants.

(#) = Number of days recorded. (H) = heard only, not seen.

For further details on specific species, locations and habitats, please see the tour report.

BIRDS (177 species recorded)

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

Graylag Goose *Anser anser* — (3) Scattered sightings of small groups in both countries.

Taiga Bean-Goose *Anser fabalis* — (1) About 10 seen in roadside field near Kuusamo on day six.

Tundra Bean-Goose *Anser serrirostris* — (1) Just one seen near Vardø on day 11.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* — (1) Around eight seen on Hornøya Island, Norway.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* — (11) Common and widespread. Pairs and “herds” seen in fields.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* — (2) A few seen in Finland on day two and in Norway on day 10.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* — (2) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland. Mostly males.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — (2) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* — (2) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* — (4) Scattered sightings, mostly of males.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (9) Common and widespread.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — (4) Scattered sightings, mostly of males.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal *Anas crecca* — (7) Scattered sightings in both countries.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* — (7) Scattered sightings, mostly of males and most were in Finland.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* — (2) Two males in Norway.

Steller’s Eider *Polysticta stelleri* — (1) Four females seen on Varangerfjord.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* — (1) One male seen on Varangerfjord.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima* — (4) Many seen, mostly males, in Norway.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* — (3) Scattered sightings in both Finland and Norway.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* — (3) A few seen in Finnish Lapland and in Norway.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* — (1) One adult male seen on Varangerfjord.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* — (3) A few seen in Finnish Lapland and in Norway.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* — (9) Common and widespread, often seen in pairs.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* — (3) Scattered sightings, small numbers, mostly males seen.

Common Merganser *Mergus merganser* — (7) Widespread, but most were seen in Norway.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* — (3) A few seen in Norway.

PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* — (3) Three single birds seen in Norway.

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* — (1) One seen in Norway.

Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* — (1) One male in flight, flushed from the roadside near Kuusamo.
Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix* — (2) Twenty-two males at a lek near Kuusamo on day five, and others on day six.
Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* — (2) One heard and one male seen near Oulu in Finland.

GREBES: Podicipedidae

Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* — (1) Two seen, including a breeding plumage male, at Kempele on day four.
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* — (2) A few seen on days five and six near Kuusamo.
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (3) Dozens on Kempele Bay near Oulu. Some displaying.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — (4) Only feral “domestica” birds seen.
Stock Dove *Columba oenas* — (1) Just one seen on day 10.
Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus* — (5) Only seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (H) Heard on three days in Finland, not seen.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Common Swift *Apus apus* — (3) Only seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle, most in the Oulu area.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* — (2) Only seen on Kempele Day and around Oulu, Finland, on days two and three.

CRANES: Gruidae

Common Crane *Grus grus* — (6) Only seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle. Small flocks and pairs.

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* — (5) Common along shorelines in Norway.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae

European Golden-Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* — (5) Scattered sightings, mostly north of the Arctic Circle.
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* — (5) Scattered sightings, all in Finland south of the Arctic Circle.
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (4) Scattered sightings, all north of the Arctic Circle.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* — (1) One seen, in the Oulu area on day three.
Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* — (2) Seen in the uplands in Norway.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* — (1) Only seen in the Kuusamo area on day five.
Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* — (5) Seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle.
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* — (3) Seen in Norway.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* — (2) Seen in the Oulu area in Finland.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* — (2) Seen in Norway.
Red Knot *Calidris canutus* — (1) Seen in Norway, on day 10.
Ruff *Calidris pugnax* — (7) Scattered sightings of lekking birds in both Finland and Norway.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus* — (2) Single birds north of the Arctic Circle on days seven and nine.
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* — (4) Several displaying birds seen in Norway's uplands.
Sanderling *Calidris alba* — (2) A few seen in summer plumage in Norway on days 10 and 12.
Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (5) Scattered sightings of birds in breeding plumage. Most in Norway.
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* — (1) Just one seen in Norway on day 10.
Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* — (2) Two birds flushed from the roadside in Finland.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* — (7) Scattered sightings, mostly in Finland.
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* — (2) Close-up views in upland Norway on days eight and nine.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (3) Scattered sightings of single birds.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* — (1) Only seen on day six in the Oulanka NP.
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* — (1) Seen on day three at Kempele Bay.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (4) Scattered sightings of single birds.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (6) Scattered sightings in both Finland and Norway.
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* — (7) Scattered sightings in both Finland and Norway.

SKUAS AND JAEGERs: Stercorariidae

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* — (4) Pairs and singles seen, most in coastal Norway.
Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus* — (3) Several breeding pairs seen in upland Norway.

AUKS, PUFFINS AND ALLIES: Alcidae

Common Murre *Uria aalge* — (1) 1000s seen breeding on Hornøya Island, Norway.
Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* — (1) A few breeding pairs seen on Hornøya Island, Norway.
Razorbill *Alca torda* — (1) Dozens of pairs seen on Hornøya Island, Norway.
Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* — (2) A few in Vardø Harbour and others in flight.
Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* — (1) Dozens of pairs seen on Hornøya Island, Norway.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* — (5) Many nesting in coastal Norway's towns.
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (7) Many seen, mostly in Finland.
Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (3) Only seen on lakes in the Kuusamo area.
Common Gull *Larus canus* — (10) Common and widespread, particularly in Norway.
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* — (9) Common and widespread.
Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* — (4) Common in coastal Norway and nesting on Hornøya.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — (1) One seen flying over Liminka Bay on day two.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* — (7) Common and widespread.
Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* — (7) Some seen in Finland, but most in Norway.

LOONS: Gaviidae

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata* — (5) Most seen, some nesting, in Norway.
Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica* — (6) Scattered sightings, mostly in Finland, some in Norway.
Yellow-billed Loon *Gavia adamsii* — (1) One seen in a fishing harbour on Varangerfjord on day 12.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (3) Most seen in Norway.

European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis* — (1) 100s seen on Hornøya Island, Norway. Many on nests.

OSPREY: Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — (1) Just one seen, near Kuusamo on day five.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* — (1) Just one seen in the Norwegian uplands at Gednje on day nine.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* — (2) Singles seen in Finland on days two and five.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* — (1) Just one seen near Kuusamo on day four.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* — (1) Just one seen near Kuusamo on day five.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* — (3) Singles seen on days three, five and six.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* — (5) 20+ seen daily in Norway, particularly on the coast.

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus* — (4) One seen in northern Finland, more common in Norway.

OWLS: Strigidae

Northern Hawk-Owl *Surnia ulula* — (3) Four seen in total, two near a nest in Finland, and two in Norway.

Eurasian Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium passerinum* — (1) A pair near a nest box in Finland on day three.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* — (1) A female seen near a nest cavity in Finland on day two.

Great Gray Owl *Strix nebulosa* — (1) A female sitting on a nest in Finland on day three.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* — (1) Two seen by the roadside in Norway on day 10.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* — (6) Fairly widespread in Finland. Often at feeders.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* — (1) A pair seen by their nest hole in Finland on day three.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* — (2) One seen on day three, one heard on day six, both in Finland.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (3) Singles seen in Finland on days eight, 12 and 13.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* — (1) One seen by roadside in Norway on day 12.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* — (2) Single males in Finland, south of Arctic Circle, on days two and four.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae

Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus* — (2) Several confiding birds watched at Konttainen near Kuusamo.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* — (1) Just one seen in the Oulu area on day three.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* — (10) Common and widespread.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* — (3) Common in the Oulu area, Finland.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* — (1) Small groups seen in fields the Oulu area, Finland, on day two.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* — (12) Very common and widespread.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (7) Scattered sightings, usually birds in flight.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* — (2) Seen in Finland on days five and seven.

Gray-headed Chickadee *Poecile cinctus* — (1) Seen by a nest box near Ivalo on day eight.
Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (3) Seen in Finland south of the Arctic Circle.
Great Tit *Parus major* — (6) Scattered sightings, mostly in Finland.

LARKS: Alaudidae

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* — (2) Seen in the Norwegian uplands on days eight and nine.
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* — (1) Seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle, on day four.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* — (4) Several singing birds seen in the Oulu area.
Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (1) One seen near Liminka Bay on day two.
River Warbler *Locustella fluvatilis* (H) One heard singing near Liminka Bay on day two.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — (3) Small numbers in flight in the Kuusamo and Oulanka areas.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (9) Common and widespread.
Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* — (4) Small groups, some nesting, south of the Arctic Circle.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (11) Common and widespread. Some seen, many heard.
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* — (5) Fairly common. Some seen but more often heard.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* — (3) Singles on days two and three in the Oulu/Liminka areas. Others heard.
Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* — (2) Single birds seen on days three and six.
Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis* — (1) One heard singing and later seen near Oulu on day two.

KINGLETS: Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* — (3) Single birds seen on days four, six and seven, south of the Arctic Circle.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* — (1) One seen on day three near Muhos, Oulu area.

WRENS: Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* — (H) Two heard singing, on days three and six.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* — (1) Seen on the River Hepojoki near Oulanka on day six.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* — (1) Surprisingly, just one seen, in Båtsfjord, Norway, on day nine.

THRUSHES: Turdidae

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* — (3) Two birds seen on days two and five, one heard on day eight.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* — (1) One seen on day seven near Kuusamo.
Redwing *Turdus iliacus* — (12) Common and widespread, seen and heard daily.
Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* — (1) Only seen on day two around Oulu.
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* — (12) Common and widespread, seen and heard daily.
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* — (1) Two seen on day nine near Båtsfjord, Norway.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (3) Single birds on days two, three and six, all south of the Arctic Circle.
European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* — (H) One heard on day two near Liminka.
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* — (1) The “red-throated” *svecica* race, seen near Båtsfjord on day nine.
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (6) Common and widespread, several seen and heard.
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (2) Just two seen, on days two and eight, in Finland.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (4) Several seen, all south of the Arctic Circle.
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (6) Fairly common and widespread.

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* — (3) Seen in small groups, often hawking insects on days two, four and eight.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* — (1) A singing male seen at Konttainen near Kuusamo on day seven.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (10) Scattered sightings in settlements and urban areas.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* — (1) Seen on the River Oulanka on day six.
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* — (3) A few seen in Finland on days five, six and seven.
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* — (11) Common and widespread.
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* — (5). Fairly common, most seen in Norway.
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* — (4) Scattered sightings in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle.
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* — (3) Scattered sightings in Norway.
Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* — (1) Only seen on Hornøya Island, Norway.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* — (7) Fairly common and widespread, most seen in Finland.
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* — (9) Common and widespread.
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (4) Common in the Oulu area, Finland.
Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* — (2) Heard on day seven and a pair seen at the Four Winds Café on day eight.
Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* — (3) A few seen in Finland south of the Arctic Circle.
European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* — (4) Scattered sightings in both Finland and Norway.
Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* — (3) Seen in the Norwegian uplands.
Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* — (3) One seen on the ground on day six at the Oulanka NP Centre.
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* — (H) Heard in flight on day seven.

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus pinus* — (7) Fairly common and widespread, most seen in Finland.

LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS: Calcariidae

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* — (2) Several seen in the Norwegian uplands on day nine.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* — (1) A few seen in the Norwegian uplands on day nine.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* — (2) Only seen in the Oulu area, Finland.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* — (7) Fairly common in reedy wetlands, most seen in Finland.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* — (1) One seen on day six near Oulanka.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* — (1) Two seen on day five near Kuusamo.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* — (1) One singing male seen near Oulu on day three.

MAMMALS OBSERVED

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* — (3) Only seen in Finland, south of the Arctic Circle.

Mountain Hare *Lepus timidus* — (3) Seen in both Finland and Norway, including in urban habitats.

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* — (4) Several individuals of various colour forms observed.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* — (1) One seen in the Barents Sea off Hornøya Island.

Reindeer (Caribou) *Rangifer tarandus* — (9) Common, though free-roaming, none are truly wild.