

# Finland and Norway

24 May–5 June 2010

## Participants:

Judith Pentreath

Clive Cottrell

Elizabeth and Mark Young

André Weiss Pryde

Led by Toni Eskelin (Finnature guide)

Trip report by André Weiss Pryde. Thanks to Elizabeth and Mark Young for the photographs.



**Day 1** Toni picks us up at the airport and brings us to the Vihiluodontie hotel close to Kempele. We enjoy some initial birding around the hotel and after dinner Toni drives us to a breeding site of Tengmalm's Owl. Even after some heavy scratching at the tree there is no sign of the owl. We continue to some fields close to the hotel and enjoy Whinchats, a calling Corn Crake, a Blue-throat and various waders like Eurasian Curlews, Northern Lapwings and Black-tailed Godwits.

**Day 2** All of us spend some time around the hotel before breakfast. Sedge Warblers are common, Redwings and Common Rosefinch are singing, some ducks and some waders are around and a Caspian Tern shortens Clive's breakfast considerably.

We drive to the north along the coast to Kemi and follow the Kemijoki (the biggest river in Finland) further north. Then Toni leads us into the forest and in a big clearing we find a Northern Hawk-owl. The male perches open on a tree and the female sits in the nest nearby. Finally the rain stops as we head a bit more into the forest where Toni shows us a breeding Great Grey Owl. Eventually he finds the male close to the nest, sitting on a branch and looking at us with great indifference. A stunning bird! Near Kemi we have lunch and then we drive back south to Oulu. We try another spot for Tengmalm's Owl and another near Kiiminki for Eurasian

Pygmy-owl. There we have success, the female is in the nestbox and the male throws fierce looks at us. Later we check for Black Woodpecker at the cemetery but the birds are out. After dinner we drive to the northern shore of Liminka bay. A Marsh Warbler is a local rarity and good views of a singing Thrush Nightingale a good end for the first full day.

**Day 3** Today we head south to explore Liminka bay (Liminganlahti). In the fields we see Whooper Swans, Common Cranes and Bean Geese. It starts raining hard and we head for the Information Centre between Liminka and Lumijoki. In the past Yellow-breasted Bunting used to breed here but now they have given up their westernmost breeding site. We discover Great Black-backed Gulls, some waders, a Siberian (or Heuglin's) Gull and the only Common Coots of the trip. We continue to Varjakka and this time we are successful with Tengmalm's Owl at a nestbox. The scratching works after all!

Later we enjoy lunch at the information centre and then we continue west to Karinkanta.  
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We find some Red-backed Shrikes, Wood Warblers and a nice Ortolan Bunting. In a forest north of the Siilkajoki river we search for Three-toed Woodpecker but the minibus gets stuck in the sand and we have to wait an hour for help. Mosquitoes are plenty and birding gets a bit difficult. Afterwards Toni leads us to another nestbox with a breeding Ural Owl inside. The scratching works here too and luckily Toni does not get attacked by the owl.



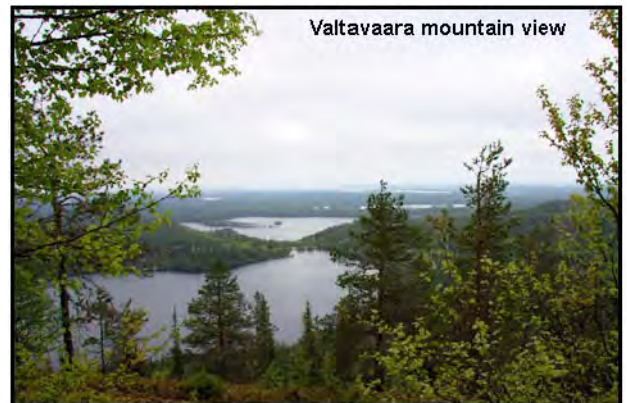
**Day 4** Good weather today but a strong wind. After breakfast we head for the northern shore of Oulu bay where we find the target easily: Terek Sandpiper. We enjoy good views of a bird, feeding in a little bay and then we start our journey northeast to Kuusamo. The forest is endless. We have some lunch in the ABC Taivalkoski and make some stops en route but without great success. Two Ospreys and a White-tailed Eagle are the highlights. Before Kuusamo we visit the rubbish dump, which is full of gulls including some Baltic Gulls, the local dark-backed subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull. Some Smews are a nice sight too. After dinner at the Sokos Hotel we go out and enjoy some displaying Red-necked Grebes nearby.



**Day 5** We start at four am today but it seems to be too cold and windy for birds. The only bird worth noticing is a female Black Grouse, we only hear distant males.

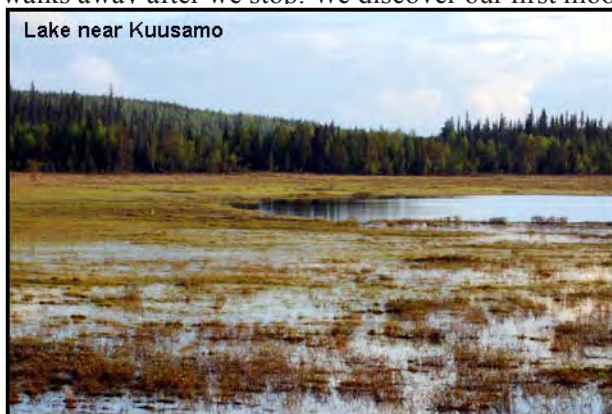
After breakfast we drive to Valtavaara mountain, looking out for Red-flanked Bluetail. We walk up the hill and soon we hear a bird and have distant views. Almost on the top we have much better views of a young male and we also hear and shortly see some Hazel Grouse. Back at the parking we hear more Hazel Grouse on the other side and Toni tries to attract them. We enjoy great views of a bird on a fallen tree.

After that we drive through the forest, stopping at various sites for Rustic Bunting. At one site two Siberian Jays are a nice discovery. Finally we see a female Rustic Bunting near a small stream. After a picnic at the shore of one of the thousands of lakes in Finland we watch a White-throated Dipper of the nominate black-bellied form. We then head towards the



Russian border, finding six White-tailed Eagles and many Ravens.

**Day 6** We start early and drive around northeast of Kuusamo. A female Western Capercaillie is on the road but quickly walks away after we stop. We discover our first moose and enjoy some male Black Grouse displaying. After breakfast we are out in the forest again. Toni leads us to a nestbox with breeding Siberian Tits. We have to wait some time but eventually two birds are showing well. We stop at various places, finding our first Red-necked Phalaropes, nice Ruffs and Mealy Redpolls. Brambling, Common Redstart and Willow Warbler are very common. After lunch in the ABC Kuusamo Toni leads us to a Black Woodpecker hole where we discover the bird quickly and after some time waiting we are rewarded with good views of the male and female. In a bog we hear Jacksnipe and after dinner we go to an observation tower where we enjoy two Spotted Redshanks in full breeding plumage.



**Day 7** Long drive from Kuusamo to Ivalo. We stop at various places in the forest but without adding new species. Near Tonkopura

we cross the Arctic Circle and north of Sodankylä we have lunch in a nice café. North of Saariselkä we drive up to Kaunis-pää mountain and soon some Dotterels are located. A Golden Eagle passes over us too. We have dinner with a lot of Thais in the hotel and go out again later to search for Little Bunting but without success.

**Day 8** Before breakfast we drive to the Little Bunting site again and this time we are successful. One bird is soon located by Toni and eventually seen by all, more birds are heard. We continue heading north to Inari and Utsjoki, searching for waders



and Pine Grosbeak on the way. We stay longer at the feeders at the Neljän Tuulen Tupa Café but the grosbeaks are not visiting it today. But we enjoy good views of Bramblings, a Siberian Tit and a very close and tame Siberian Jay. Close by a Willow Grouse is calling and Toni manages to show us the bird. After lunch in Utsjoki we pass the border into Norway and follow the Tana River to the north. We reach the Varangerfjord at Varangerbotn where various waders feed at a river mouth. Ruddy Turnstones, Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots, Dunlins, Eurasian Oystercatchers and Purple Sandpipers are everywhere and White-tailed Eagles are pleasantly common. We also stop at the famous church of Nesseby, seeing Temminck's Stints and Common Shelducks. A big flock of Greater Scaup, many Goosander, Common and Velvet Scoters, Common Eider and the first King Eider are seen in the fjord too. Rather late we arrive in

Vardø in our hotel, happy to find our rooms well heated!

**Day 9** It has snowed at night and the landscape is slightly powdered white. We take the road to Hamingberg, a deserted fishing village some 40kms northwest of Vardø. The landscape is stunning but a strong and cold wind makes birding difficult. We manage to see some good King Eiders, very nice Lapland Buntings, Bluethroats, some Arctic Redpolls, Glaucous Gulls and out at sea some Pomarine Skuas, Northern Gannets and distant Northern Fulmars. Black-legged Kittiwakes and Arctic Skuas are everywhere and White-tailed Eagles are more common than the occasional Rough-legged Buzzards. We fail to find a White-billed Diver but we have good views of a young Great Northern Diver. A Bewick's Swan on the way back is a surprise. After dinner we go out again and enjoy the midnight



sun and find some Bean Geese (Tundra and Taiga) and a Greater White-fronted Goose. We also witness an Arctic Hare running through the tunnel to Vardø in front of the minibus with a speed of almost 40 km/h!



**Day 10** Most go out early and explore Vardø and its surroundings. Red-throated Pipits are common and André sees a male Grey Phalarope in the harbour. After breakfast we walk to the pier and take the boat for the 15 minutes trip to Hornøya Island. Some 150,000 seabirds breed here and we watch Atlantic Puffins, Eurasian Shags, Razorbills and Common and Brünnich's Guillemots. Some King Eider are close and Black-legged Kittiwakes are everywhere. We also spot some Minke Whales at sea. For a change the weather is sunny and the sea calm, so luck is on our side this morning!

We spend the afternoon along the shore between Vardø and Vadsø. We have some close views of White-tailed Eagles and various waders, including Little Stint, but our main target, Steller's Eider, seems to elude us. We turn around in Vadsø and at this moment we spot a fine drake Steller's Eider very close. Once more, persistence pays off and Judith remarks on a bright smile in André's face.

**Day 11** After breakfast we start our way south. En route to Vadsø we make several stops and have good views of Shore Lark, Arctic Redpoll, Bluethroat and a Lapland Bunting. A male Merlin passes through close to us and some porpoises are spotted at sea. We follow the right side of the Tana River this time, seeing a perched Common Cuckoo on a wire.

After lunch in Utsjoki, Mark wants to buy some insulating tape and Elizabeth some chocolate in the local supermarket. Stepping out of the minibus, André notices a falcon flying over us: a Gyr Falcon! As the well-known breeding site near Tana Bru is deserted, it needs a lot of luck to see one of these big falcons but we did!



North of Inari we try again for Broad-billed Sandpipers and now the birds have arrived and two of them show us their display flight.

The next stop is at the Neljän Tuulen Tupa Café again where a Pine Grosbeak has just been seen five minutes ago. We



wait and watch. Greenfinches and Bramblings are feeding, a Red Squirrel joins the party and a Siberian Tit pays a short visit. And suddenly a fine pair of Pine Grosbeaks arrives and starts feeding. We watch and enjoy and later we drive happily to our hotel in Ivalo.

**Day 12** Today we have a long drive from Ivalo over Rovaniemi to Oulu. It rains most of the time and is rather cold. South of Ivalo we drive up Kaunispää mountain again, this time looking out for Willow Ptarmigan. We see a bird but after some research it turns out to be a Willow Grouse. North of Rovaniemi we have lunch at the Arctic Circle and make a tourist tour in the Santa Claus village, including a photo session with Santa in person. After dinner we go out



again to the other site of Oulu bay. We step out of the bus and hear our target immediately: Blyth's Reed Warbler. Two birds are singing and we manage to see them well. From a nearby observation tower we walk back to the hotel, enjoying the improved weather.

**Day 13** A last early morning start to the forests north of Siikajoki again. We first check a site for River Warbler but without success. A female moose crosses the road in front of us with its young. At the next site we got stuck before we stopped and walked for some minutes into the forest. There are loads of mosquitos again but we are rewarded with good views of a pair of Eurasian Three-toed Woodpeckers at the hole. On the way back a Great Grey Shrike on a wire is a nice surprise and well seen by all. After breakfast we head for the airport and it is time to say good-bye to our leader Toni. André has some more time and visits the next observation tower but without adding new species to the list.

All the species we saw are listed below.

## Birds

This list is based mainly on André's notes and may not be complete. Varangerfjord means the region from Varangerbotn up to Hamningberg (which is technically not at the fjord).

1	<b>Red-throated Diver</b> <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Several observations at Varangerfjord
2	<b>Black-throated Diver</b> <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Several observations on lakes in Lappland and some at sea
3	<b>Great Northern Diver</b> <i>Gavia immer</i>	1 imm. bird at Hamningberg
4	<b>Great Crested Grebe</b> <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Only four birds noted around Oulu and Kuusamo
5	<b>Red-necked Grebe</b> <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Common on lakes around Kuusamo
6	<b>Northern Fulmar</b> <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Some distant birds on 1. June at sea
7	<b>Northern Gannet</b> <i>Morus bassanus</i>	Some birds at sea Varangerfjord
8	<b>Great Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1 bird in Liminka bay, common Varangerfjord
9	<b>European Shag</b> <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Common at Varangerfjord with breeding birds on Hornøya
10	<b>Whooper Swan</b> <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Common around Oulu, around Kuusamo and in Lappland. Scarce at Varangerfjord.
11	<b>Bewick's Swan</b> <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	1 bird near Vardø on 1. June was a bit of a surprise, even to Toni.
12	<b>Mute Swan</b> <i>Cygnus olor</i>	2 birds in Liminka bay on the 26. May were the only ones.
13	<b>Bean Goose</b> <i>Anser fabalis</i>	Some birds around Oulu were of the subspecies rossicus (Tundra Bean Goose) and near Vardø we found a small mixed flock with two fabalis (Taiga Bean Goose).
14	<b>Greylag Goose</b> <i>Anser anser</i>	Regularly encountered around Oulu and also some birds at Varangerfjord.
15	<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b> <i>Anser albifrons</i>	1 bird at Oulu seen by André and one bird together with Bean Geese near Vardø on 1. June.
16	<b>Common Shelduck</b> <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	5 birds near Nesseby, 2 near Vadsø and one near Oulu
17	<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b> <i>Anas penelope</i>	Almost daily some birds noted
18	<b>Mallard</b> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Common around Oulu, scarce in the north
19	<b>Gadwall</b> <i>Anas strepera</i>	One bird noted by Clive on the 5. June near the hotel.
20	<b>Northern Pintail</b> <i>Anas acuta</i>	Some birds around Oulu, 2 males in Lappland
21	<b>Northern Shoveler</b> <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Some birds, mainly around Oulu.
22	<b>Common Teal</b> <i>Anas crecca</i>	Some birds noted almost every day.
23	<b>Garganey</b> <i>Anas querquedula</i>	One bird near the hotel, around 5 in Liminka bay.
24	<b>Common Pochard</b> <i>Aythya ferina</i>	1 distant male at Kuusamo, twitched by Clive and André
25	<b>Tufted Duck</b> <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	The most common duck in Finland, scarce at Varangerfjord.

26	<b>Greater Scaup</b> <i>Aythya marila</i>	1 flock of 30 birds near Varangerbotn and 2 birds at Hamningberg
27	<b>King Eider</b> <i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Pleasantly common at Varangerfjord and some close encounters at Hornøya.
28	<b>Steller's Eider</b> <i>Somateria stelleri</i>	One adult male in the harbour of Vadsø on 2. June
29	<b>Common Eider</b> <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common at Varangerfjord with big flocks present.
30	<b>Long-tailed Duck</b> <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	2 birds near Kuusamo, common at Varangerfjord
31	<b>Velvet Scoter</b> <i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Several around Kuusamo, common at Varangerfjord
32	<b>Common Scoter</b> <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	5 at Kuusamo, quite common at Varangerfjord
33	<b>Common Goldeneye</b> <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Common on the lakes in Finland
34	<b>Smew</b> <i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Regularly noted around Kuusamo and 2 near Oulu
35	<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> <i>Mergus serrator</i>	Common, noted on all days.
36	<b>Goosander</b> <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Some around Kuusamo, common at Varangerfjord
37	<b>Hen Harrier</b> <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	2 males near Oulu on 25. May, one female near Kuusamo
38	<b>Western Marsh-Harrier</b> <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Some birds around Oulu
39	<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b> <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 near Liminka Bay on the 26. May
40	<b>Northern Goshawk</b> <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1 on the way from Kemi to Oulu seen by Clive on the 25. May
41	<b>European Honey-buzzard</b> <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1 seen well on the 25. May near Oulu, another distant bird near Kuusamo
42	<b>Common Buzzard</b> <i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 distant bird on the 30. May was the only one.
43	<b>Rough-legged Buzzard</b> <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Several seen around Utsjoki, Tana Bru and at Varangerfjord
44	<b>White-tailed Eagle</b> <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Pleasantly common at Varangerfjord with up to 15 birds seen daily. Also some around Kuusamo.
45	<b>Golden Eagle</b> <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1 bird on Kaunispää mountain near Saariselkä
46	<b>Osprey</b> <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	In total 7 birds around Kuusamo and on the way north.
47	<b>Common Kestrel</b> <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Some birds around Oulu
48	<b>Eurasian Hobby</b> <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1 bird on the 25. May
49	<b>Merlin</b> <i>Falco columbarius</i>	1 male on the 3. June at Varangerfjord
50	<b>Gyr Falcon</b> <i>Falco rusticolus</i>	1 male flew over the parking space of the shopping centre at Utsjoki on the 3. June
51	<b>Willow Grouse</b> <i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	1 on the 31. May at the Neljän Tuulen Tupa Cafe and 1 on the 4. June at Kaunispää mountain
52	<b>Eurasian Capercaillie</b> <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	1 female on the 29. May near Kuusamo
53	<b>Northern Black Grouse</b> <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	1 female on the 28. May near Kuusamo, 9 males on the 29. May
54	<b>Hazel Grouse</b> <i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	2 birds seen (one very well) and others heard at Valtavaara near Kuusamo on the 28. May

55	<b>Common Pheasant</b> <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Some around Oulu, heard and seen
56	<b>Corn Crake</b> <i>Crex crex</i>	1 heard close to the hotel in Oulo on the 24. May
57	<b>Common Coot</b> <i>Fulica atra</i>	2 birds seen at Liminkabay on the 26. May were the only ones for the trip
58	<b>Common Crane</b> <i>Grus grus</i>	Big flocks of more than 200 birds around Oulu, single birds in almost every bog in Finland.
59	<b>Eurasian Oystercatcher</b> <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Common at Varangerfjord, 1 on the 5. June near Oulu
60	<b>Common Ringed Plover</b> <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Some birds around Kuusamo, common at Varangerfjord
61	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b> <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1 bird near the hotel on the 25. and 27. May
62	<b>Eurasian Dotterel</b> <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	3 birds on the 30. May on Kaunispää mountain near Saariselkä
63	<b>European Golden-plover</b> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Regularly around Varangerfjord
64	<b>Northern Lapwing</b> <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Common around Oulu and Kuusamo, no observations in Norway
65	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b> <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Common Varangerfjord
66	<b>Sanderling</b> <i>Calidris alba</i>	2 birds on 1. June near Hamningbird, 6 on the 2. June
67	<b>Red Knot</b> <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Around 30 on the 31. May near Varangerbotn, 9 on the 2. June near Vadsø
68	<b>Dunlin</b> <i>Calidris alpina</i>	1 near Oulu, 1 heard near Kuusamo, common at Varangerfjord
69	<b>Purple Sandpiper</b> <i>Calidris maritima</i>	Common Varangerfjord
70	<b>Little Stint</b> <i>Calidris minuta</i>	2 on the 2. June at Ekkerøy
71	<b>Temminck's Stint</b> <i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Observed on 5 days, usually in small numbers
72	<b>Broad-billed Sandpiper</b> <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	2 displaying on a bog north of Inari on the 2. June
73	<b>Ruff</b> <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Regularly around Kuusamo and Varangerfjord
74	<b>Eurasian Curlew</b> <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Common around Oulu, also quite common around Kuusamo
75	<b>Whimbrel</b> <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Most common in Lappland and Varangerfjord
76	<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b> <i>Limosa limosa</i>	Some birds around Oulu
77	<b>Bar-tailed Godwit</b> <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Quite common at Varangerfjord
78	<b>Common Redshank</b> <i>Tringa totanus</i>	Mostly around Oulu and Varangerfjord
79	<b>Spotted Redshank</b> <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Some birds around Kuusamo and at Varangerbotn in full breeding plumage
80	<b>Common Greenshank</b> <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Regularly, scarce at Varangerfjord
81	<b>Wood Sandpiper</b> <i>Tringa glareola</i>	Most common around Kuusamo and Ivalo
82	<b>Green Sandpiper</b> <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1 heard on the 26. May

83	<b>Common Sandpiper</b> <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common and regularly seen
84	<b>Terek Sandpiper</b> <i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1 bird on the 27. May well seen near Oulu
85	<b>Eurasian Woodcock</b> <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Some around Oulu, including at the hotel
86	<b>Common Snipe</b> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common, scarce at Varangerfjord
87	<b>Jack Snipe</b> <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Heard on the 29. and 31. May
88	<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b> <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	3 birds around Kuusamo on the 29. May, afterwards regularly in small numbers
89	<b>Grey Phalarope</b> <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	1 male seen by André on the 2. June in Vardø
90	<b>Arctic Skua</b> <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Common at Varangerfjord
91	<b>Long-tailed Skua</b> <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	The first bird north of Inari, afterwards some observations at Varangerfjord
92	<b>Pomarine Skua</b> <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	4 distant birds at sea on the 1. June
93	<b>Little Gull</b> <i>Larus minutus</i>	Common around Kuusamo
94	<b>Black-headed Gull</b> <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Common in Finland, none seen at Varangerfjord
95	<b>Common Gull</b> <i>Larus canus</i>	Common, mainly at Varangerfjord
96	<b>Herring Gull</b> <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Commonly seen
97	<b>Glaucous Gull</b> <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Some seen at Varangerfjord, around 10 on the 1. June, less on the 2. and 3. June
98	<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b> <i>Larus marinus</i>	4 at Liminka bay on the 26. May, common at Varangerfjord
99	<b>Siberian Gull</b> <i>Larus heuglinii</i>	1 at Liminka bay on the 26. May. Treated as subspecies of <i>Larus fuscus</i> in the Collins guide.
100	<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> <i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	This form is also known as Baltic Gull and may be a full species. We saw some birds around Kuusamo.
101	<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b> <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Very common at Varangerfjord
102	<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Some identified around Oulu and Kuusamo. A lot of terns passed unidentified.
103	<b>Arctic Tern</b> <i>Sterna paradisea</i>	Most common at Varangerfjord but also noted around Oulu and Kuusamo.
104	<b>Little Tern</b> <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Some observations around Oulu
105	<b>Caspian Tern</b> <i>Sterna caspia</i>	1 on the 25. May near the hotel at Oulu
106	<b>Common Guillemot</b> <i>Uria aalge</i>	Very common on Hornøya on the 2. June
107	<b>Brunnich's Guillemot</b> <i>Uria lomvia</i>	Some on Hornøya on the 2. June
108	<b>Razorbill</b> <i>Alaca torda</i>	Common on Hornøya on the 2. June
109	<b>Black Guillemot</b> <i>Cephus grylle</i>	Regularly in small numbers at Varangerfjord
110	<b>Atlantic Puffin</b> <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Common on Hornøya on the 2. June



111	<b>Wood Pigeon</b> <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Regularly seen in the forests of Finland and Lappland
112	<b>Feral Pigeon</b> <i>Columba livia</i>	Scarce around Oulu and Kuusamo, about 10 in Vardø
113	<b>Eurasian Collared-dove</b> <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1 heard by Mark in Oulu
114	<b>Common Cuckoo</b> <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Almost daily heard (except Varangerfjord) and 3 birds seen
115	<b>Short-eared Owl</b> <i>Asio flammeus</i>	2 birds on the 24. May near Oulu, 2 on the 31. May and 1 on the 2. June Varangerfjord
116	<b>Northern Hawk Owl</b> <i>Surnia ulula</i>	2 on the 25. May north of Kemi, the female in the nest
117	<b>Ural Owl</b> <i>Strix uralensis</i>	1 bird at its nestbox south of Oulu on the 26. May
118	<b>Great Grey Owl</b> <i>Strix nebulosa</i>	2 on the 25. May north of Kemi, the female on the nest
119	<b>Eurasian Pygmy-owl</b> <i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	2 on the 25. May near Kiiminki, the female in the nestbox
120	<b>Tengmalm's Owl</b> <i>Aegolius funereus</i>	1 bird at its nestbox south of Oulu on the 26. May
121	<b>Common Swift</b> <i>Apus apus</i>	Some observations near Oulu and Kuusamo, common near Oulu on the last two days
122	<b>Eurasian Wryneck</b> <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	2 heard on the 26. May south of Oulu
123	<b>Black Woodpecker</b> <i>Dryocopus martius</i>	A pair in and near its hole near Kuusamo on the 29. May and another bird flying over the same day
124	<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b> <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Some observations but rather scarce
125	<b>Lesser Spotted Woodpecker</b> <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	1 heard north of Inari on the 30. May was later confirmed by another group
126	<b>Three-toed Woodpecker</b> <i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	A pair at its hole south of Oulu on the 5. June
127	<b>Sky Lark</b> <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Some observations
128	<b>Shore Lark</b> <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	1 on the 1. June near Hamningberg, 4 on the 3. June on the way to Vadsø
129	<b>Sand Martin</b> <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Common, also seen at Varangerfjord
130	<b>Eurasian Swallow</b> <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common, also a few seen at Varangerfjord
131	<b>House Martin</b> <i>Delichon urbica</i>	Some birds seen at various locations
132	<b>Tree Pipit</b> <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Quite common in the forests of Finland
133	<b>Meadow Pipit</b> <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common, especially at Varangerfjord
134	<b>Red-throated Pipit</b> <i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Pleasantly common at Varangerfjord
135	<b>White Wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla alba</i>	Common
136	<b>Yellow Wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	Regularly seen. This distinctive form is also called Grey-headed Wagtail
137	<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b> <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Seen or heard on 6 days, best views of this beauty near Kuusamo
138	<b>White-throated Dipper</b> <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	2 observations on the 28. and 29. May near Kuusamo of the black-bellied form of this species

139	<b>Dunnock</b> <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Only 1 bird seen on the 28. May and two heard
140	<b>European Robin</b> <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Rare with only 3 birds heard
141	<b>Red-flanked Bluetail</b> <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	2 birds seen and another one heard at Valtavaara near Kuusamo on the 28. May
142	<b>Thrush Nightingale</b> <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	1 bird heard and seen on the 25. May north of Liminka bay
143	<b>Bluethroat</b> <i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1 bird on the 24. May near Oulu, later some good views of various birds at Varangerfjord
144	<b>Common Redstart</b> <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Common in the forest and regularly heard or seen
145	<b>Whinchat</b> <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Quite common around Oulu, less so in the north
146	<b>Northern Wheatear</b> <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Some around Oulu, more common at Varangerfjord
147	<b>Common Blackbird</b> <i>Turdus merula</i>	Not very common and only heard and seen near Oulu and Kuusamo
148	<b>Fieldfare</b> <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Very common
149	<b>Redwing</b> <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Daily seen or heard
150	<b>Song Thrush</b> <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Some birds heard or seen around Kuusamo and Oulu. 1 near Vardø on the 2. June
151	<b>Mistle Thrush</b> <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Some birds mainly around Oulu and Kuusamo
152	<b>Sedge Warbler</b> <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Common around Oulu (especially in front of the hotel)
153	<b>Marsh Warbler</b> <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1 bird heard at Liminka bay on the 25. May
154	<b>Blyth's Reed-warbler</b> <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	2 birds well seen near Oulu on the 4. June and one more heard
155	<b>Garden Warbler</b> <i>Sylvia borin</i>	Some birds around Oulu, mainly around the hotel
156	<b>Blackcap</b> <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1 bird on the 25. May near the hotel
157	<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b> <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	1 bird heard on the 26. May, 1 seen by André on the 5. June
158	<b>Common Whitethroat</b> <i>Sylvia communis</i>	1 bird heard on the 26. May
159	<b>Wood Warbler</b> <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2 birds seen on the 26. May south of Oulu, another one heard on the 5. June
160	<b>Willow Warbler</b> <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Incredibly common and seen or heard everywhere
161	<b>Common Chiffchaff</b> <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Rare, only heard twice around Oulu and Kuusamo
162	<b>Goldcrest</b> <i>Regulus regulus</i>	Three times heard only
163	<b>Pied Flycatcher</b> <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Pleasantly common and seen or heard regularly
164	<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b> <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Some birds recorded on 5 days
165	<b>Siberian Tit</b> <i>Parus cinctus</i>	2 birds at their nestbox near Kuusamo on the 29. May, one bird at the feeder on the 31. May and on the 3. June
166	<b>Willow Tit</b> <i>Parus montanus</i>	Only 1 bird seen on the 27. May, some other heard

167	<b>Eurasian Blue Tit</b> <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	A few birds heard or seen
168	<b>Great Tit</b> <i>Parus major</i>	Regularly in small numbers
169	<b>Red-backed Shrike</b> <i>Lanius collurio</i>	4 birds on the 26. May south of Oulu
170	<b>Great Grey Shrike</b> <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1 nice bird came as a bonus on the 5. June south of Oulu
171	<b>Siberian Jay</b> <i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	2 on the 28. May near Kuusamo and 1 bird at the feeder at the Neljän Tuulen Tupa Cafe on the 31. May
172	<b>Eurasian Jay</b> <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Only 3 birds seen, usually crossing the road in front of the bus
173	<b>Eurasian Magpie</b> <i>Pica pica</i>	Common
174	<b>Eurasian Jackdaw</b> <i>Corvus monedula</i>	Some birds around Oulu
175	<b>Common Raven</b> <i>Corvus corax</i>	Regularly seen, big flocks around Kuusamo
176	<b>Hooded Crow</b> <i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common
177	<b>Rook</b> <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	5 birds south of Oulu on the 26. May
178	<b>House Sparrow</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Scarce. Most common in Vardø.
179	<b>Chaffinch</b> <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Regularly
180	<b>Brambling</b> <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Common in the forest and always pleasant to see
181	<b>Eurasian Siskin</b> <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Very common in the forest
182	<b>Eurasian Goldfinch</b> <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2 seen by Mark on the 25. May at the Liminka bay information centre
183	<b>European Goldfinch</b> <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Some, most notably at the feeders in Lappland
184	<b>Mealy Redpoll</b> <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Some seen and heard around Kuusamo, in Lappland and at Varangerfjord
185	<b>Arctic Redpoll</b> <i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	5 on the 1. June near Hamningberg, 2 on the 3. June on the way to Vadsø
186	<b>Twite</b> <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Some birds at Varangerfjord, well seen near Vardø
187	<b>Linnet</b> <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	3 on the 26. May
187	<b>Eurasian Bullfinch</b> <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2 seen on the 27. May near Kuusamo, 2 more heard (and seen by Elizabeth) on the 28. and 30. May
189	<b>Common Rosefinch</b> <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Some birds around Oulu including a fine pair in the hotel garden
190	<b>Red Crossbill</b> <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Some birds seen or heard, mainly near Kuusamo.
191	<b>Pine Grosbeak</b> <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	1 fine pair seen well at the feeder at the Neljän Tuulen Tupa Cafe on the 3. June
192	<b>Yellowhammer</b> <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Regularly seen and heard in Finland
193	<b>Ortolan Bunting</b> <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	1 seen south of Oulu on the 26. May, others heard the same day
194	<b>Rustic Bunting</b> <i>Emberiza rustica</i>	After a long search one female seen well around Kuusamo on the 28. May
195	<b>Little Bunting</b> <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	1 seen well east of Ivalo on the 31. May, 2 more heard at the same spot

196	<b>Reed Bunting</b> <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Regularly seen or heard around Oulu and Kuusamo
197	<b>Lapland Bunting</b> <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	3 on the 30. May near Hamnigberg, 3 on the 1. June and 1 fine male on the 3. June on the way to Vadsø
198	<b>Snow Bunting</b> <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	1 on the 1. June at Varangerfjord

## Mammals

1	<b>Arctic Hare</b> <i>Lepus arcticus</i>	Some observations, including one in a tunnel!
2	<b>Red Squirrel</b> <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Two seen.
3	<b>Stoat</b> <i>Mustela erminea</i>	2 at Varangerfjord
4	<b>Musk Rat</b> <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Many of this introduced species around Kuusamo
5	<b>Reindeer</b> <i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Many north of Kuusamo. These are domestic animals, not really wild ones.
6	<b>Moose (Elk)</b> <i>Alces alces</i>	1 near Kuusamo, 1 with a wee one near Oulu
7	<b>Harbour Porpoise</b> <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Quite a lot of them in Varangerfjord
8	<b>Minke Whale</b> <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Some on the 2. June from Hornøya. Another whale remained unidentified.
9	<b>Grey Seal</b> <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Some identified at Varangerfjord.

June 2010, André Weiss Pryde