



FINLAND & ARCTIC NORWAY TOUR REPORT 2023

23 May - 5 June 2023

BY HANNU JÄNNES

Another successful Birdquest tour of Finland and northern Norway produced not only the great majority of target birds, but they were seen against the stunning backdrop of the "Land of the Midnight Sun" with its seemingly endless boreal forests, countless lakes, wet bogs, mighty rivers and partly snow-covered fells. Added to this was the opportunity to explore the rugged coast of the Arctic Ocean with their teeming birdlife. As always owls were high on everyone's wish list, and yet again we succeeded in obtaining really good views of all the target species with an impressive female Great Grey Owl at the nest, a splendid Ural Owl, a close encounter with a pair of the diminutive Eurasian Pygmy Owls, a cute Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl and, thanks to the abundance of rodents in the north, four separate nesting Northern Hawk-Owls and lots of Short-eared Owls. Gamebirds proved co-operative too and we had great views of several Western Capercaillies, including a rogue male, which was voted as the bird of the trip, a great encounter with displaying Black Grouse, a co-operative Hazel Grouse and exceptionally good numbers of Willow and Rock Ptarmigans. Other species worthy of mention were a splendid "singing" Corncrake that showed exceptionally well, great views of Yellow-billed Loon in Norway, all seven of the breeding species of woodpecker, including White-backed, Black, Grey-headed and Three-toed Woodpeckers and Wryneck. It was great to see, after many blank years, small flocks of Steller's Eiders in the Varanger, a pair of Gyrfalcon, stunning Eurasian Dotterels, Broad-billed Sandpiper and Jack Snipe in song flight, the elusive Pine Grosbeaks, a singing adult male Red-flanked Bluetail, Siberian Jay, Grey-headed Chickadee (aka Siberian Tit), and Little, Rustic, Lapland, Ortolan and Snow Buntings. There was a memorable visit to the bird island of Hornöya in Norway, which, with its myriads of breeding seabirds, is a remarkable experience. Rarities included Collared Flycatcher (breeding with a female Pied Flycatcher) in the south and Pectoral Sandpiper in the north. A prominent feature of this tour are the large areas of wilderness with very few people around and consequently excellent possibilities to enjoy nature without too much anthropogenic disturbance.

Our tour began at the Helsinki-Vantaa airport from where we headed straight to our accommodation in Hauho. Before checking in to the pleasant farmhouse style accommodation, we visited a nest of the White-backed Woodpecker and had great views of the parents and at least one large chick peeking out from the nest hole. White-backed Woodpecker is a rare bird in Finland with currently maybe 120-180 breeding pairs annually. This is an increase since the late 1980's, when the population size was estimated to be only 20-30 pairs. The increase is due to measures to protect suitable habitats, but also to irruptive birds from Russia, which boost the Finnish population from time to time. It is a species, which breeds very early in the year, and we often miss it entirely on this tour. After check-in and a good dinner, we visited a site for breeding Tawny Owl. Unfortunately, the bird proved very skittish and gave only brief views.

The next day, our only full one in the south of Finland, was very busy as we needed to try and see as many of the southern species as possible in the day. The morning started at an army training ground where we soon located our main target for the morning, a group of 24 lekking male Black Grouse (a big lek by South Finland standards). The birds were shy at first, but eventually became accustomed to our presence and provided great views of their display with jumps and all. Another good bird inhabiting this area is Wood Lark, which eventually showed very well. Not really a rarity in the southern half of Finland, but rarely seen on this tour because we just don't have enough time to visit suitable habitat. Next was singing Great Reed Warbler, Thrush Nightingale and Common Rosefinch, and then, after a good breakfast, it was time to connect with the strange Wryneck, a singing Icterine Warbler and, nearby, a Blyth's Reed Warbler, before a co-operative River Warbler and a totally mad Corncrake that showed extremely well. A forest area held breeding Grey-headed Woodpecker and a pair of showy Crested Tits feeding their chicks. Nearby we visited Black Woodpecker nest with an adult male and two large chicks. Then a quick visit to the Helsinki area, where our main target was breeding Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which showed well. Back in Hauho we enjoyed another good dinner and visited the world's most beautiful female Ural Owl guarding a nest box with three chicks.

The new day saw us at an Eurasian Pygmy Owl nest, where a fiery-eyed female was sitting on eggs and a male was staring at us from a spruce top giving us good scope views. After breakfast and loading the vehicle, we visited the nest hole of an adult male Collared Flycatcher (a rarity in Finland) that played hard to get in the rainy weather but eventually provided us with decent views. It was later confirmed that this vagrant male was breeding with a female Pied Flycatcher and produced at least two young birds, which fledged in July. This is one of the very few confirmed records of Collared Flycatcher breeding in Finland. Time then to commence the long journey north to Oulu, where we arrived just in time for dinner.

In the Oulu area our first task was to locate Ortolan Bunting, a bird in serious decline in Finland. After a search we managed to achieve our goal and had good views of several males despite the rather cold and windy morning. Then it was time for a short visit to Liminka Bay for wetland species including Black-tailed Godwit, which breeds here, a couple of White-tailed Eagles and good numbers of commoner species of ducks, waders and gulls. We then headed 130 kms north to meet with a local guide Matti, who had important target species lined up for us. The very first bird was a cute female Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl showing extremely well outside its nest box. Next was a pair of Northern Hawk-Owls guarding territory and giving good views. Last target species of the day was an amazing female Great Grey Owl breeding on an artificial nest platform erected by Matti. After the action-packed day, with three species of owl, it was time to head for Kuusamo for three-night's stay.

The first morning in Kuusamo was spent in finding the much-needed Siberian Jay, which we located quite easily and had great views of a small group. Other brilliant birds found during the day included Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker, Grey-headed Chickadee (aka Siberian Tit), a Capercaillie nest with eight eggs, European Honey Buzzard, Rustic Bunting and Northern Hawk-Owl. In addition, Eurasian Stoat and Muskrat were additions to our mammal list.

The next day started very early with a morning gamebird drive starring a rogue male Capercaillie, which proved very entertaining and was later voted as the bird of the trip! We also spent fair amount of time searching for another important gamebird, the Hazel Grouse, and managed, in the end, to locate a splendid male after an extensive search. Another target bird, an adult male Red-flanked Bluetail, showed quite well, but the steep hillside terrain was too difficult for some participants who, as a consequence, unfortunately missed the bird. After midday the forecasted heavy rain started and we retreated to our comfortable accommodation via a pizzeria, where we enjoyed a sumptuous pizza lunch. The rest of the day was dedicated to rest & relaxation.

The rain continued unabated the next morning, and we had to cancel our pre-breakfast outing. Luckily the weather improved during breakfast, and we were soon admiring a pair of very active Little Buntings in full sunshine near downtown Kuusamo. Then we revisited the Red-flanked Bluetail some had missed the previous day and thankfully this time we were all able to enjoy good scope views of this eastern beauty. We then headed for Saariselkä for a two-night stay stopping on route on a fell, where we admired a pair of rather photogenic Eurasian Dotterels associating with a flock of colourful Golden Plovers.

Our full day in the Ivalo-Inari area, in sunny but rather cold weather, began with a visit to a bog near Karigasniemi, where we had a nice collection of birds including photogenic Long-tailed Jaeger (or skua), Temminck's Stints, Red-necked Phalaropes, Common Ringed Plovers, Dunlins, Spotted Redshanks, lekking Ruffs, many European Golden Plovers, displaying Common Snipes and Wood Sandpipers, Bluethroats, two Rough-legged Buzzards and a Merlin. Later a stop at another bog revealed a fine male Willow Grouse and two displaying Broad-billed Sandpipers. After the morning in 'wader country' we hurried to Kaamanen and the café Neljän Tuulen Tupa, where we enjoyed a very tasty lunch (salmon soup

and then mini pancakes for dessert) with many brilliant birds visiting the feeders just outside the windows of the café. Amongst the colourful Bramblings, in their splendid summer plumage, Greenfinches and Common Redpolls were six different Pine Grosbeaks (including an adult male). After dinner we visited another wetland complex near Ivalo, where a Jack Snipe was added to the long list of waders seen during the day, and we also had good views of a hunting Short-eared Owl.

Next morning, on the way to Norway, we detoured via lakes and promising looking forest habitats where we tried to find Bohemian Waxwings, but this time we had to admit defeat. Once in Norway, we drove without too many stops on route to a river mouth, where small numbers of wintering Steller's Eiders were still lingering. We soon located nine of these highly priced arctic sea ducks and we also spotted a female King Eider. Steller's Eiders winters in quite good numbers in northern Norway, but for the last 10-15 years the timing of their northward migration has shifted earlier and earlier and consequently they have been absent here for years during the time of our visits. Steller's Eider in the bag, we now had time to relax a bit and spent couple of most enjoyable afternoon hours on the Ekkerøy peninsula, with its sandy beaches, admiring the many Purple Sandpipers, Dunlins, Sanderlings, Bar-tailed Godwits, Common Ringed Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Ruffs. On the way to our hotel, there was one more stop by fields, where Tundra Bean and Pink-footed Geese were grazing.

Our first, very windy, morning in Vardö started with a visit to a stake-out for Twite, which we failed to see, before making an excursion to the remote village of Hamningberg, which has a definite "end of the world" feel to it. The stormy wind blasted for the whole day and the choppy sea made it difficult to find any of the Yellow-billed Loons, which are often found here, but we did have better luck on the passerine front and found Arctic Redpolls, Bluethroats, three Bohemian Waxwings, Red-throated Pipit, a tame Lapland Bunting and a Horned Lark. At Hamningberg the horizon was "full" of blowing whales, and we managed to identify Humpback, Common Minke and Fin Whales. Time was also spent admiring and photographing a group of lekking Ruffs in a sheltered road-side spot.

Next day a short pre-breakfast birding trip took us from the island of Vardö to the mainland, where we spent time admiring a very close, near adult, Yellow-billed Loon in a fishing harbour, and watching a Pectoral Sandpiper, a rare bird in Norway, feeding amongst seaweed. As the stormy wind had abated somewhat during the night, we took the boat to the famous bird island of Hornøy, where we had excellent views, and some great photo opportunities, of the breeding seabirds including Thick-billed and Common Murres, Razorbill, Atlantic Puffin, Eurasian Shag, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Fulmar. Other interesting birds here included a few Twites and Rock Pipits. In the late evening we still had the energy for an excursion to enjoy birding under the midnight sun.

The following day we drove from Vardö to Båtsfjord on the other side of the Varanger Peninsula. During the journey we made several birding stops along the fjord, which produced a total of thirteen Steller's Eiders (including a fine adult male!), two Ring Ouzels, two Little Stints, a very photogenic pair of roadside Northern Hawk-Owls and a pair of Peregrine Falcons. On the high, partly snow-covered fells of the central peninsula, we were rewarded with a brilliant pair of Snow Buntings, several Horned Larks, unusually high numbers of Rock Ptarmigans with brilliant views and a couple of Willow Ptarmigans.

Our full day in the Båtsfjord area was split between the coastal strip from Kongsfjord to Berlevåg and the high fells of the Varanger Peninsula. The absolute highlight of the day was seeing a pair of Gyr Falcons in their breeding habitat. Firstly, we saw the pair in flight before later seeing the male of the same pair sitting below the nesting cliff guarding the nest. On the fells we again enjoyed the great birds of the harsh environment with great views of a pair of Eurasian Dotterel, lekking Ruffs, displaying Red-necked Phalaropes, a pair of Greater Scaups, 15 or so Rock Ptarmigans, Long-tailed Jaegers, breeding Red-throated Loons, several Horned Larks and three Ring Ouzels.

On our last, part rainy, day we drove from Norway to Ivalo in Finland birding on the way. The drive didn't offer any great surprises, but we had some nice encounters with the species we had seen earlier on the trip including some Northern Hawk-Owl action and showy Pine Grosbeaks at our lunch place. Once at the Ivalo airport it was time to thank everybody for their good company during our adventure in the 'Land of the Midnight Sun' before the flight back to Helsinki.

'BIRDS OF THE TRIP' WINNERS

1st: Western Capercaillie

2nd: Northern Hawk-Owl

3rd: Gyr Falcon

4th: Corncrake

5th: Steller's Eider

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Canada Goose (introduced) *Branta canadensis*

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* As a result of recent change of migration routes, this species is now regularly recorded in N Norway during the time of our visit.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* As a result of recent change of migration routes, this species too is now regularly recorded in N Norway during the time of our visit.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* Four non-leader birds in the Liminka Bay area.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* One at Nesseby in Norway.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* Only recorded in the Liminka Bay area.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* One male in Kuusamo.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* Two pairs of this steadily declining arctic duck were observed in northern Norway.

Steller's Eider ♠ *Polysticta stelleri* After a gap of many years it was great to encounter this beautiful arctic sea duck at Varangerfjord again, with 13 individuals including one gorgeous adult male.

King Eider ♠ *Somateria spectabilis* Rather scarce this year. First a single female and later a distant flock of around 20 birds including one adult male.

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Smew ♠ *Mergellus albellus*

Common Merganser (Goosander) *Mergus merganser*

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Hazel Grouse ♠ *Tetrastes bonasia* After quite an extensive search we managed to locate a co-operative male. Good spot Mary!

Willow Ptarmigan (W Grouse) *Lagopus lagopus* Rather common in the north this year.

Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta* Positively common in the fells of the Varanger peninsula this year.

Western Capercaillie ♠ *Tetrao urogallus* Great encounter with a rogue male and brilliant views of several females including one at nest.

Black Grouse ♠ *Lyrurus tetrix* Great encounter at a lek with 24 displaying males in the south and five roadside birds in the Kuusamo area.

Common Pheasant (introduced) *Phasianus colchicus*

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Corn Crane ♦ *Crex crex* One brilliant individual near Lahti in the south.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Eurasian Dotterel ♦ *Charadrius morinellus* Three pairs, with some terrific views, in the north.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* One near Vardö. A rare bird in Norway and a first for this itinerary.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Jack Snipe ♦ *Lymnocyptes minimus* A displaying bird came to check us out near Ivalo.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* Two first-summer birds in Norway.

European Herring Gull ♦ *Larus argentatus*

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic G) *Larus [fuscus] fuscus* A few in the south.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Heuglin's G) *Larus [fuscus] heuglini* A single bird in the north of Finland.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua) *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Long-tailed Jaeger (L-t Skua) *Stercorarius longicaudus* A total of 12 birds were noted. A good showing.

Thick-billed Murre ♦ *Uria lomvia*

Common Murre (C Guillemot) *Uria aalge*

Razorbill ♦ *Alca torda*

Black Guillemot ♦ *Cephus grylle*

Atlantic Puffin ♦ *Fratercula arctica*

Red-throated Loon (R-t Diver) *Gavia stellata*

Black-throated Loon (B-t Diver, Arctic L) *Gavia arctica*

Common Loon (Great Northern Diver)** *Gavia immer* One first-summer bird at Ekkerøy in Norway.

Yellow-billed Loon ♦ (White-billed Diver) *Gavia adamsii* Great views of an adult or near adult bird in the harbour at Svartnes in Norway.

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* Two nesting birds on the bird island in Hornöya plus small numbers of distant birds at sea.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* heard only.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Amazingly common in northern Norway with an estimated 30 birds on the best day.

Rough-legged Buzzard (R-l Hawk) *Buteo lagopus* Good showing in the north.

Boreal Owl (Tengmalm's O) ♦ *Aegolius funereus* Great encounter with an adult bird in Tornio.

Northern Hawk-Owl ♦ *Surnia ulula* Thanks to an abundance of voles in the north, this quality owl was easy to see this year. We had four encounters including two self-found pairs.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl ♦ *Glaucidium passerinum* Brilliant pair at nest in Hauho.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* Rather common in the north.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* One in Hauho.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* One showy female in Hauho.

Great Grey Owl ♦ *Strix nebulosa* A beautiful female at nest in Tornio.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Two near Lahti.

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* One was seen well and another one was heard in Kuusamo.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Gyr Falcon ♦ *Falco rusticolus* A pair in Norway.

Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine) *Falco peregrinus* Four birds were noted.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* One for the leader only in the north.

Siberian Jay ♦ *Perisoreus infaustus* Nice encounters at Valtavaara in Kuusamo.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Bohemian Waxwing ♦ *Bombycilla garrulus* Only seen at Varangerfjord.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

Grey-headed Chickadee ♦ (Siberian Tit) *Poecile cinctus* Great views of one in Kuusamo.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Great Tit *Parus major*

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Horned Lark (Shore L) *Eremophila alpestris*

Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* heard only

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* One singing bird near Lahti in the south.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* Three birds with excellent views in the south.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

River Warbler ◊ *Locustella fluviatilis* Great views of a singing bird near Lahti.

Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Eurasian Treecreeper (Common T) *Certhia familiaris*

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common Blackbird (Eurasian B) *Turdus merula*

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Red-flanked Bluetail (Orange-f Bush Robin) *Tarsiger cyanurus* One adult male in Kuusamo.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Collared Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula albicollis* Adult male in the south was a great bonus bird.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* heard only

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis*

Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*

White Wagtail *Motacilla [alba] alba*

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

European Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Pine Grosbeak ♦ *Pinicola enucleator* Great views at the traditional café feeder site in Kaamanen.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet R) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Arctic Redpoll ♦ (Coue's A R) *Acanthis [hornemanni] exilipes*

Red Crossbill (Common C) *Loxia curvirostra*

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Lapland Longspur (L Bunting) *Calcarius lapponicus*

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

MAMMALS

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*

Common Seal (Harbour S) *Phoca vitulina*

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*

Eurasian Stoat *Mustela erminea*

Elk (Moose) *Alces alces*

European Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Reindeer (Caribou) *Rangifer tarandus*

Common Minke Whale (Northern M W) *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus*

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*

Harbor Porpoise (Common P) *Phocoena phocoena*

European Hare (introduced) *Lepus europaeus*

Mountain Hare (Arctic H) *Lepus timidus*

Eurasian Red Squirrel (Red S) *Sciurus vulgaris*

Root Vole (Tundra V) *Alexandromys oeconomus*

Grey Red-backed Vole (Grey-sided V) *Craseomys rufocanus*

Norway Lemming *Lemmus lemmus*

Muskrat (introduced) *Ondatra zibethicus*



Boreal Owl (image by Kathy Horn)



Yellow-billed Loon (image by Hannu Jännes)



Ruff (image by Hannu Jännes)



Rock Ptarmigan (image by Hannu Jännes)



Pine Grosbeak (image by Hannu Jännes)



Northern Hawk-Owl (image by Hannu Jännes)



Hazel Grouse (image by Roger Horn)



Birdwatching in the Arctic (image by Hannu Jännes)



Dunlin (image by Hannu Jännes)



Common Murre (image by Hannu Jännes)



Atlantic Puffin (image by Hannu Jännes)



Atlantic Puffin (image by Hannu Jännes)



Great Grey Owl (image by Hannu Jännes)



Glaucous Gull (image by Hannu Jännes)



Eurasian Oystercatcher (image by Hannu Jännes)



Eurasian Dotterel (image by Hannu Jännes)



Lapland Longspur (image by Roger Horn)



Long-tailed Jaeger (image by Hannu Jännes)



Northern Fulmar (image by Hannu Jännes)



Mountain Hare (image by Hannu Jännes)



Red-necked Phalarope (image by Hannu Jännes)



Rock Ptarmigan (image by Hannu Jännes)



Razorbill (image by Hannu Jännes)



Purple Sandpiper (image by Hannu Jännes)



Ruff (image by Hannu Jännes)



Ural Owl (image by Hannu Jännes)



Watching a Eurasian Pygmy Owl (image by Hannu Jännes)



Western Capercaillie (image by Hannu Jännes)