

Sweden's Upland Birds

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 - 31 May 2017



Great Grey Owl by Colin Brown



Dotterel by Rachel Oakley



Rock Ptarmigan by Colin Brown



Slavonian (Horned) Grebe by Colin Brown

Report compiled by Tom Mabbett
Images courtesy of Rachel Oakley & Colin Brown



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Summary

This was a week of truly spectacular birding, enjoying wonderful views of Great Grey Owl, Pygmy Owl and Ural Owl. The upland birds further north were wonderful with Dotterel, Long-tailed Skuas on territory, Lapland Bunting, Bluethroat, Gyr Falcon and a superb Great Snipe lek leaving us all mesmerised. We had superb views of a great range of special birds and had a lot of fun along the way.

Day 1

Wednesday 24th May

Our flight from the UK was smooth and after meeting Daniel, we headed on our way. It was a short drive to our first stop and here we had a look at some feeders and enjoyed a cup of tea and a sandwich. The feeding station was buzzing with birds, with Hawfinch the star. These beautiful finches were dwarfing the Tree Sparrows and Greenfinches. Top birds! Wryneck was then heard and found mid-height in an oak tree, and we were all able to get good scoped views as it preened.

It was then time to carry on to our hotel and after settling in and enjoying dinner, we were off again with a certain owl on our minds. Arriving at a glade where a pair is known to nest nearby, we got out of the vehicle and started scanning for the majestic Great Grey Owl. After a little while at this glade with Green Sandpipers flying over and Garden Warbler singing, we moved on to check another area. Arriving at the second glade, we stepped from the vehicle and almost straight away this amazing bird was spotted on a small tree in the middle of the glade. For the next 45 minutes or so we had simply breathtaking views of this Great Grey Owl, at times flying and perching within a couple of metres of us! The “oohs” and “ahhs” from all of us just went to show how much we enjoyed this first evening out. It was special indeed.

With light fading we dragged ourselves away from the bird and made our way back to the hotel for some well earned sleep.

Day 2

Thursday 25th May

Today we were up and out of the hotel at 7.15am, and made our way to an area to look for Pygmy Owl. On our way there Daniel did very well spotting movement in a broken tree trunk which turned out to be at least three Ural Owl chicks! We soon spotted an adult perched nearby watching over them and had superb views. A smart Red-backed Shrike was nearby and after we had all had brilliant views of the owls, we carried on. A great start!

Arriving at the Pygmy Owl area, we all gathered and before long this tiny owl flew in and perched up in a tree just above our heads! The size in flight is quite amazing. We had superb views of this special bird with lots of other tits and warblers coming in to mob it: Crested Tit, Pied Flycatcher, Willow Tit and Lesser Whitethroat amongst others.

We carried on to a new area and went in search of more birds. The highlight here was Three-toed Woodpecker. Eventually we all had great views of a female bird, with a Back Woodpecker flying near to us. Goldeneyes were

on the pools and on checking a box for Tengmalm's Owl, it unfortunately held dead young. Maybe some had fledged or more likely there was just not the food supply this year.

After a really superb morning we had our lunch at a lakeside and then returned to the hotel to pick up our bags. We then went on to have a real treat as we joined up with local ringers to check a Ural Owl box as part of a long term study of the species. We watched as three young were ringed with the beautiful adult sat nearby watching us. At one point the adult stooped onto the ringer's head and hit him with such force it took his crash helmet off his head! The birds were ringed as quickly as possible and then put back safely in the box. Not a job for the faint hearted!

After this we carried on northwards to the Green Hotel in Tallberg. En route we made a couple of stops and saw an Osprey before arriving. The views over the nearby huge lake were spectacular, and we had a relaxed evening after a brilliant day.

Day 3

Friday 26th May

In the morning we made a couple of stops before reaching Fulufjället National Park. We enjoyed Red-throated and Black-throated Divers on the way and on arriving, we stepped out of the vehicle to a singing Brambling and enjoyed excellent views. They were very common throughout.

Here we enjoyed a great walk to the waterfall. It is a beautiful area with bogs and upland taiga forest with a river running through. Reaching an area from where we could view the cliff faces around the waterfall, we set to work scanning for a very special bird that breeds here: Gyr Falcon. After some careful scanning with the telescopes, the nest was found and the female was sat on it! We all managed to see the bird but it was rather distant. A few of us, keen for a hike, climbed higher up onto a plateau area and followed the path to view from much closer. Here we had really exceptional views of the bird in the telescope. It was a spectacular setting too. Ring Ouzel and Wheatear were also seen here.

After enjoying this special experience, we made our way back down to the vehicles for lunch, seeing Yellow Wagtail and, more excitingly, a few people saw a Siberian Jay.

We enjoyed an excellent lunch of trout, cream cheese and crackers before carrying on north. After a couple of hours driving and stopping for a Capercaillie in the road, Greenshank on a power line, Arctic Terns and our first Elk, we arrived at our hotel near Funasdalen and settled in. We were to be here for three nights and it was as far north as we were going to reach on the tour. We settled in to our base with excellent views to the surrounding habitat.

After a lovely dinner we drove to a nearby site known for its Great Snipe, but on arrival the conditions were not ideal so we decided to leave it for the following night. We did see a few Black Grouse flying away. It was then back for a well-earned sleep.

Day 4

Saturday 27th May

Today we headed up onto a high tundra plateau at Flatruet in search of some special species that call this place home. On the way we stopped for a real treat to watch a Golden Eagle on its nest with small young. As we watched, the female started to call and the male glided in with food. Magnificent birds! We saw Whooper Swans en route and then an Icterine Warbler was very well spotted by Sam at the roadside with some Ringed Plovers noted, before we stopped and took a walk out onto the tundra.

It was a special walk with so many star species seen. We walked a circular route on the tundra with lekking ruff seen very well with at least 10 males together and a few reeves. Dunlins were singing, Wood Sandpiper was overhead and the Lapland Bunting's jingling song was nearby and we had great views. A stunning male Hen Harrier drifted past and a Willow Ptarmigan showed well. As we were watching, Reindeer passed nearby to us.

Moving on, we stopped as two stunning Long-tailed Skuas flew past and we went on to watch them perched and had great telescope views. Special birds indeed! Long-tailed Ducks were on the small pools and a brief Red-necked Phalarope meant this walk just had so much!

After a delicious and well-earned lunch, we made our way slowly back to the hotel. We had another treat in store though as a pair of Dotterel was spotted at the roadside and we got out to enjoy wonderful close views of this confiding species. Also a Merlin was seen briefly.

We made it back to the hotel for a relax before dinner, and after our meal went out to the Great Snipe Lekking area nearby. It was perfect conditions tonight and after seeing three Back Grouse perched in small trees and getting in position, we all enjoyed a wonderful show. The Great Snipe were heard first making the strange clicking and popping calls, and then were seen jumping up and down, stretching their necks out and fighting at times. At least 12 birds were seen and we had great scope-filling views. In the background the bubbling calls of Black Grouse were heard. It was a special experience. We walked back to the vehicles as it was nearing midnight and, still being light, a Bluethroat was singing nearby. It was then time for bed after a super day.

Day 5

Sunday 28th May

We headed out after an excellent breakfast and had a walk nearby to try and see Siberian Jay. Unfortunately the jays were not found, but we did enjoy Common Redstart and Tree Pipit.

We then carried on back up towards the plateau of yesterday and made more stops on the way. We had brilliant views of Bluethroat displaying with at least five seen, and close views of Whooper Swan and Whimbrel. We carried on past the plateau and, after a stop to change a wheel after a puncture, we made it down to Storsjon lake. Here we had lunch and enjoyed truly amazing views of a pair of Slavonian Grebes who were nesting just a few metres away!

We went for a walk here noting Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatcher, and after another look at the grebes, started our journey back. We stopped for refreshments at a promising delta area and here saw Ospreys on their nest, Red-throated Diver, a few Dunlins and Ringed Plover with a Curlew.

We carried on our way and after stopping at some seed in a garden to enjoy around a dozen Bramblings, we headed for the hotel for a relax and dinner. As we were making good time we stopped again for another try for Siberian Jay, and this time we saw them almost straight away as we stepped out of the vehicles. We had amazing close up views of three birds and after many photographs were taken, it was time to turn in for the day. It had been another great day with some super views of many special species.

After dinner there was the option to head out for an evening/night drive in the twilight hours to look for more wildlife and anything we may come across. It was great fun and a very rewarding hour or so as we had fantastic views of more Elk, many mountain Hares including a very confiding individual, and people in one of the vehicles were lucky enough to see a Pine Marten crossing the road! A brief Merlin was also seen.

Day 6

Monday 29th May

This morning we had to say farewell to our splendid hosts and head on our way. We stopped at the lake in town on the way and enjoyed very good views of Velvet and Common Scoters and another Black-throated Diver, with Reed Bunting noted.

We continued on to Rogen NR for a walk which in years gone by has had Siberian Tit. They may still be here but in such a vast area they are very difficult to see. We weren't able to find the tits but it was a lovely walk and on the way there a female Capercaillie was seen well at the roadside. Brambling, Spotted Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtail were seen before we carried on.

We headed to Nipfjället for lunch; an isolated mountainous area where we were able to drive right to the highest area. We had lunch and then went for a very rewarding walk. Here we enjoyed a pair of Dotterel with one bird seemingly on the nest, and a few Golden Plovers were near to them. We then carried on for a while and enjoyed really superb views of a pair of Rock Ptarmigan!

After a lovely walk in spectacular surroundings, we dropped back down to a lakeside for a coffee stop. Here there were Arctic Terns, with Greenshank also seen, amongst others.

We now carried on driving south again to our hotel for the night at Alvdalen. Again it had been a super day and despite being a travel day, it was broken with some super birding and habitats.

Day 7

Tuesday 30th May

We left the hotel with our first rainfall of the week. It was tipping it down! We stopped at a lakeside for some birding and sheltered as best we could for a coffee and cake stop. The highlight here was hearing a Corn Crake. It was close to us and only Sam was able to catch a glimpse of it. Snipe were drumming overhead and our first Mute Swans were seen!

We journeyed on and stopped at Tallberg village to enjoy a delicious traditional waffle and hot drink while we dried off. The next stop was a mine where Eagle-Owl breeds and we had great telescope views of three birds; an adult and two young. Impressive birds! A Black Redstart was seen well singing.

Carrying on and with the weather improving, we stopped at a great little site for Ortolan Bunting. We could hear the birds singing almost straight away and went on to have really great views. Along the fence line were Red-backed Shrike and Whinchat, and a Merlin powered through and actually sat for us on view for a short time for telescope views.

There was a lot to look at here and after lunch and a Hobby going over, we dragged ourselves away and carried on back to our base of the first night to check back in. We had a lovely dinner once more and then met up with local guide Zombor, who took us out for an evening's birding.

It was a brilliant few hours as we first had super views of a pair of Montagu's Harriers with the female bird perched for excellent telescope views. This species is doing well in Sweden in the north of its range which is expanding. We carried on and enjoyed a White-tailed Eagle in a tree top. We slowly checked an area where there had been recent Lynx sightings but had no luck. We enjoyed Roe Deer with a fawn, a Badger in the spotlight and even a cheeky Hedgehog before stopping to listen to the wonderful song of Thrush Nightingale, with Grasshopper Warblers reeling. We went on to have great views of the Thrush Nightingale sat proud and in the open. A rare treat indeed! It was a super session and we then headed back to our base.

Day 8

Wednesday 31st May

Today it was time to leave. A few of us got up early for a morning walk with an Icterine Warbler singing away in the hotel grounds and eventually showing itself. After breakfast and checking out, we went the short distance to Flackenbo lake. Here there were some Black Terns, Whimbrel was seen and a large female Peregrine powered over being mobbed by Marsh Harriers. A Great Reed Warbler was also heard.

We continued on but pulled over on hearing Common Rosefinch singing and had great views of a young male bird in a garden. Another new species for the trip!

It was then time for some lunch and our final stop before the airport. We stopped at a wonderful wetland reserve which was teeming with birds. Cranes were nesting, Red-necked, Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes were seen and at least 40 pairs of Little Gulls were nesting and seen very well. A smart Northern Chequered Skipper was seen very well and another Osprey went over as we enjoyed lunch. We enjoyed the scene and the amazing number and range of birds. Just before leaving, a Temminck's Stint was spotted on one of the islands where the gulls were nesting. We all challenged ourselves to get views of this tiny wader!

We really had to drag ourselves away and after just 20 minutes or so, we were at the airport for our flight home. It had been a truly spectacular week's birding with so many star species seen so well and a lot of fun and laughs along the way. We all said our farewells and headed back to the UK with heads full of wonderful wildlife.

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Species Lists

Birds

- Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*: Seen often in small numbers.
- Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*: 1 seen with Greylag and Canada Geese.
- Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: Around 40 seen.
- Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*: 3 seen.
- Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*: Seen daily with nice close up views.
- Gadwall *Anas strepera*: Just 2 seen on one day.
- Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope*: 2 or 3 seen on a few days.
- Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: Small numbers.
- Northern Shoveler *Anas chrypeata*: A drake seen on one day.
- Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*: A few seen.
- Common Pochard *Aythya farina*: 1 drake seen.
- Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: Small numbers seen.
- Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*: Small numbers seen on a few days; 6 maximum. Some very nice telescope views on various lakes.
- Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*: Similar numbers to Velvet Scoter and again seen well on lakes.
- Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*: Super close-up views of 2 pairs on the high tundra pools.
- Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*: Common and seen daily on any lake.
- Goosander *Mergus merganser*: Around 5 seen.
- Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*: A few seen: around 10 over the week.
- Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*: 2 females seen: 1 in the road and another just into forest.
- Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*: 7 and 3 seen. Seen very well in a small tree near to a Great Snipe lek. Heard lekking .
- Rock Ptarmigan *Lagopus muta*: Great views of a pair.
- Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus*: Around 5 seen: 1 very well in the telescope on open tundra.
- Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: Heard only.
- Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellate*: 1 seen close up and a pair later with 1 on a nest.
- Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*: A few seen very well in their stunning summer plumage.
- Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*: 1 seen well on the last day.
- Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: A few seen.
- Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*: Amazing nesting pair a few metres from the bank of a small lake. Around 5 seen on final day too.
- Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*: 1 seen on same lake as Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes.
- Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: Around 5 seen over week.
- Great Egret *Ardea alba*: 1 seen
- Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: 4 seen in total and some very good views.
- European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*: 1 bird seen very briefly and only by some.
- Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*: Wonderful views of a nesting pair. Young seen on the nest being fed by the female after the male had come in with prey. Later a younger bird seen in same area being chased away.
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: Just 1 seen.
- Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: A few seen and excellent views.
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*: 1 stunning male flew close by on the tundra.
- Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*: Super views of a pair with the female perched for some time
- White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*: 1 adult seen in a rather distant tree top.
- Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*: 1 seen high overhead but well while on high tundra.
- Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: Regularly seen in the lowland areas.

Corn Crane *Crex crex*: 1 heard by all and glimpsed by Sam.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*: Just a few seen.

Common Crane *Grus grus*: Seen regularly and many breeding pairs seen occasionally with young.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*: Regularly seen in small flocks.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*: Small numbers of c.6-7 seen on two days. Smart in breeding plumage.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: A few seen on high tundra and lake edges.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*: Amazing views of 2 pairs. 1 seen on a nest. Stunning birds.

Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*: Seen daily and very common.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media*: A wonderful experience watching around 15 birds at a lek site. Telescope-filling views of the display and a real spectacle.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: Seen daily, great views of the drumming display flight.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: A few seen well.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*: Around 10 seen over week.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*: Around 15 seen through week.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: A few seen. One on wires was different and displaying.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*: 1 seen

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: Commonly seen displaying.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: A few seen on various days. A common wader here.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Around 5 seen.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*: Around 15 birds seen on high tundra, displaying together and seen very well.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: 1 seen on the last day.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: A few seen displaying on high tundra.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: Just 1 seen briefly.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*: Seen.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*: Super views of around 40 on the last day. Many sat on their nests and great flight views.

Common Gull *Larus canus*: Common.

European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*: A few seen.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: A few seen.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*: Around 20 when up in tundra area. 1 on nest.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: Around 30 seen on the final day.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*: 4 seen on the high tundra. Super views in flight and scoped on the tundra with some display seen.

Rock (Feral) Dove *Columba livia var. domestica*: Seen.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*: Just a couple seen.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*: Seen.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: Heard daily with a few seen well: 3 together at one site.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*: 3 of these impressive owls seen at a quarry.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*: Amazing views of Ural Owl. A natural nest site found with 3 young and adult nearby. Went ringing 3 young at a box as part of a long term study with point bank views of the female who stooped onto the ringer.

Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa*: Truly breath-taking views of this amazing owl. One seen hunting and perching within a few metres of us for around an hour.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*: Superb views of a single bird.

Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl *Aegolius funereus*: A box was checked but sadly 3 dead young were found. A poor year for them with a lack of food.

Common Swift *Apus apus*: Seen regularly.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: Seen well on the first day in the telescope for prolonged views and heard after that.

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*: 1 female seen very well and heard drumming later in the tour.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: Commonly seen.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*: Rather brief flyby views.

European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*: Heard and 1 seen.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: Seen frequently.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*: 4 seen with 3 on high tundra and 1 seen perched for telescope views.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: 4 seen on 3 days.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus*: The female seen sat on her nest and superb views.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: A large female seen being mobbed on final day.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: Superb views. 1 male seen; then 5 at the same site.

Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus*: 1 seen by a few then superb close up views of 3 birds.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: A few seen.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*: Seen.

Western Jackdaw *Coloemus monedula*: Common.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*: Common.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*: A few seen.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*: A few seen.

European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*: A few seen well.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*: Seen well in small numbers.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*: Commonly heard and also seen well.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*: Seen.

Great Tit *Parus major*: Seen.

Eurasian Skylark *Alda arvensis*: A few seen and heard.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: Just a few seen on 1 day.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Seen daily.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*: Commonly seen.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*: The northern white-headed race seen well but not common.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*: Very common: heard regularly and seen well.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: Heard and seen with singles on 2 days.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: Heard only.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: 1 heard only

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: Seen and heard on 1 day.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*: 1 seen well from vehicle then a singing bird in hotel grounds on final day.

Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*: At least 2 heard.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: A few heard and seen.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*: Heard and seen.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: Heard and a few seen: 1 mobbing the Pygmy Owl.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*: A couple seen. 1 on final day.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*: Heard and seen.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*: Heard and seen on 1 day.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*: Seen regularly.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: A couple seen.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Common.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*: 1 seen when watching the Gyr Falcon and 1 near hotel.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*: Common.
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*: Very common on all verges and fields.
Redwing *Turdus iliacus*: Seen daily in smaller numbers than Fieldfare.
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*: Seen in small numbers.
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*: Regularly seen in twos and threes.
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: Seen on multiple days. Quite common and nesting near final hotel.
European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*: Common and seen most days.
European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*: A few seen.
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*: Superb views of around 5 on one day; singing and displaying.
Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*: 1 Heard and seen very well.
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrurus*: Just 1 seen at quarry.
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: A few seen well.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*: A few seen on multiple days.
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*: Around 8 seen over the week.
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*: 1 seen very well (dark-bellied race).
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Seen.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: A few seen.
Dunnock *Prunella modularis*: c.5 seen.
Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*: Regularly heard and seen with good views.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: A couple seen.
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Seen daily.
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*: Small numbers seen on 3 days.
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*: Regularly seen.
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: Common.
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*: Common and seen daily when further north.
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: 4 seen at feeding station and 1 at hotel further north.
Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*: Seen on 3 days.
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*: 1 immature male seen on final day well.
European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*: Regularly heard and seen.
Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*: Just a few seen mostly flying over and 3 perched.
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*: Seen on 1 day and heard.
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: Small numbers seen.
Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*: Common.
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*: A few seen.
Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*: 1 seen very well.
Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*: 3 seen on one day.
Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*: Around 6 seen on the high tundra: great views.

Mammals

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*: Just 2 seen in road briefly.
Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*: Common
Reindeer (feral) *Rangifer tarandus*: Herds on the tundra
European Elk *Alces alces*: A few seen well further north.
European Hare *Lepus europaeus*: Common
Mountain Hare *Lepus timidus*: Around 10 seen on a night drive further north: 1 very tame!
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*:
Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*: A few seen well.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*: 2 adults seen with young.

Pine Marten *Martes martes*: 1 seen crossing the road.

Badger *Meles meles*: 1 seen by some in spotlight

European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*: One seen by all and very close by some

Butterflies

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamn*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Comma *Polygonia c-album*

Northern Chequered Skipper *Carterocephalus silvicola*

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Ural Owl by Colin Brown



Siberian Jay by Rachel Oakley