

Limosa

FINLAND: OWLS AND TAIGA SYSTEMATIC LIST



The group enjoyed fantastic views of all the likely owl species on our 2025 tour to Finland including this magnificent nesting Great Grey Owl © Tracey Barber

FINLAND: OWLS AND TAIGA

24 – 30 May 2025

Systematic List

The taxonomy and English names used in this systematic list for the birds generally follows the recommendations of the IOC's *World Bird List* with revisions made where an alternative name/taxonomy is considered more appropriate.

For mammals, we have largely adopted the treatment proposed in the *Handbook of Mammals of the World* series by Lynx Editions.

BIRDS

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* - Common and seen on four days.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* - Only seen on 25 May with over 20 present.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* - Common and seen on all days of the trip.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* - Just the one male seen on 25 May.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* - Seen on three days.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* - Three seen on 26 May.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* - Seen on four dates.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* - Common and seen on all days of the trip.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* - Just two birds on 25 May.

Common Teal *Anas crecca* - Common and seen on five days.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* - Common and recorded on five days.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* - Four seen together on the morning of 25 May.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* - Small numbers on the first day (24 May) with a single on 27 May.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* - Common and seen on six dates.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* - Seen in small numbers on four days and mostly at river crossings.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* - Three birds seen on 25 May including a really nice close drake.

Hazel Grouse *Tetrastes bonasia* - A male and female on the road during our evening drive around Kuusamo on 27 May. The male stayed on view for long enough for decent views.

Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus* - A pair was seen well on a track on 27 May.

Western Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* - Three females on our early morning drive on 29 May.



Black Grouse © Tracey Barber

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix* - Found on three days around Kuusamo with a high count of seven cock birds at one lek.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* - Recorded on two dates.

Common Swift *Apus apus* - There seemed to be an arrival of this species on 26 May with hundreds around.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* – Initially we struggled to see this species, having heard quite a few, but finally got there on 27 May during our evening drive.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* - Recorded on two days.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* - Common and seen on six days.

Common Crane *Grus grus* - Common and seen on five dates with high counts of 50 on both 25 and 26 May.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* - Lovely to see this species in breeding plumage. Our first bird was on 27 May followed by six birds on 29 May.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* - Large numbers were found on both 25 and 26 May.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* - Four on a lake near Oulu on 26 May. All were in full breeding plumage and a real treat.



Slavonian Grebe © Tracey Barber

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* - A large roost of around two hundred birds on 26 May at Varessaikka.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* - Two at Varessaikka on 26 May.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* - Good numbers at Varessaikka.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* - Fairly common around the Oulu area.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - Seen on two dates (27 and 29 May).

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* - Common and seen on six days.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* - Just two seen on 25 May in Liminka Bay.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* - Common and seen or heard on five days.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* - A single bird on territory, calling and displaying on 27 May in an industrial area near Oulu.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - Not recorded in big numbers but found on four dates.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* - Just the one on 27 May during our evening drive.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* - Good to see this lovely wader on four days of the trip, with a high count of ten on 28 May.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* - Small numbers on the coast around Oulu.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* - Small numbers on four days.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* - Seven males at Varessaikka on 26 May.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Caladris falcinellus* - Two seen well at Varessaikka on 26 May.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* - Five seen really well at Varessaikka on 26 May.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* - One distant bird at Liminka Bay on 25 May.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* - One distant bird at Liminka Bay on 25 May.



Arctic Tern © Tracey Barber

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* - Two roosting birds allowed close views at Varessaikka on 26 May.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* - Common and seen on six days of the trip.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* - Common and seen on six dates. It was a treat to be taken to a breeding colony of over 200 birds on 27 May outside Kuusamo.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* - Common throughout the trip.

Common Gull *Larus canus* - Common and seen on five dates.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* - Seen on three days. All were of the 'omissus' variant with yellowish legs.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* - Three birds were found on two days.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* - Three seen on two days of the trip. All three appeared to be good candidates for 'Baltic Gull' *fuscus*.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* - Seen on four dates with a high count of 15 birds on a lake near Kuusamo on 27 May.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* - One flew over our vehicle on the 27 May evening drive.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* - Just one on 25 May.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* - Three on two dates (25 and 26 May).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* - A fine male performed beautifully on our evening drive around Kuusamo on 27 May.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* - Seen on three dates with the best views from the bear hide on the evening of 28 May.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* - Just the one seen as we drove back to Oulu on 30 May.

Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl *Aegolius funereus* - Two well grown youngsters were peering out of a natural nest hole near Oulu on 25 May.

Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl © Tracey Barber



Northern Hawk Owl *Surnia ulula* - A real bonus as no nest sites had been located in the areas we were visiting this year, nor were there any sightings prior to our trip. An adult bird was found by a local just 10 minutes from the Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl site whilst we were having our coffee break. We arrived very quickly and saw the bird for a good 20 minutes before it disappeared.

Eurasian Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum* - A real star of the show and one of the major highlights of the trip, with an adult male sitting on a branch outside a nesting hole near Oulu on 26 May.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* - One seen hunting as we drove back to our hotel on 25 May.

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo* - We had decent views from the vehicle of a bird sat on a branch in the woods at a site near Oulu on 25 May.

Ural Owl *Strix uralensis* - Great looks at a female sitting on eggs in a nest box near Oulu on 26 May.

Great Grey Owl *Strix nebulosa* - Fantastic views of a female sitting in a natural nest at a site near Oulu on 25 May. Another major highlight of the trip for most of the group.



Great Grey Owl © Tracey Barber

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* - A male showed incredibly well close to the Great Grey Owl nest on 25 May. There were possibly two birds present.

Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker © Tracey Barber

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* - A female feeding near a nest hole very close to the Eurasian Pygmy Owl nest on 26 May.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker © Tracey Barber



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* – Found during our coffee break on 26 May.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* - Another top bird with an adult feeding a youngster close to the Tengmalm's (Boreal) Owl nest on 25 May. Surely best views ever!!

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* - Three on two days (25 and 27 May).



Siberian Jay © Tracey Barber

Siberian Jay *Perisoreus infaustus* - One of the important 'Sibes' and they did not disappoint, with at least three coming down for 'sausages' on 28 May and another two on our morning drive on 29 May.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* - Common and seen on all days of the trip.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula* - Common and seen on five dates.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* - Uncommon with six birds near Oulu on 25 May.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* - Common and seen on all days of the trip.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax* - Seen on two days of the trip (28 and 29 May).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* - Just the one seen by the group as we walked to the Ural Owl nest on 26 May.

Coal Tit *Parus ater* - Just one on 26 May.

Siberian Tit *Poecile cinctus* - Another important 'Sibe' with one bird seen well near Kuusamo on 28 May.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* - Two at the 'Siberian Jay feeding station' on 28 May.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* - Fairly common and seen on four days.

Great Tit *Parus major* - Common and seen on six dates.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* - Heard on 24 and 25 May.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* - A few seen on 25 May at Liminka Bay.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* - Common and seen on five dates.

Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum* - Fairly common and seen on three days of the trip.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* - Common and seen or heard on every day of the trip.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* - Seen on two days.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* - Common and recently arrived in the marshes around our hotel in Oulu.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* - Seen on two days of the trip, with a male on territory just outside our rooms at the hotel in Oulu.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* - Heard on two dates.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* - Heard on three days.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* - Three birds on 26 and 29 May.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* - Single birds were seen on four dates.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* - Two birds on 25 and 26 May.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* - Very common and seen on six days of the trip.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* - Quite common and seen on four days of the trip.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* - Very uncommon, with just one bird seen on 26 May.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* - Common and seen on four dates.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* - Our perseverance was rewarded with a male bird near Kuusamo on 29 May.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* - Seen on four days of the trip.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* - Four birds present on just the one day at Liminka Bay on 25 May.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* - Found on both 26 and 27 May with three birds in total.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* - Seen at a nesting site near Kuusamo, with an adult bird feeding young.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - Commonly seen in towns.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* - A couple on 26 May.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* - Singles on three dates, all of the '*thunbergi*' subspecies.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* - Common and seen on six days of the trip.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* - Heard on 25 May.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* - Heard on at least four dates but only seen on 27 May near Kuusamo.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* - Common and seen or heard on six days.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* - Fairly common and seen on three days of the trip near Kuusamo.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* - Common and seen on four days of the trip.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* - Seen well on 25 and 26 May.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* - One male on 26 May.

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus* - Common and seen or heard on five days of the trip.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* - Seen or heard on four dates.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* - A pair was seen well on farmland near Oulu on 26 May.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* - After much searching, we finally found a pair of these delightful birds on a track near Kuusamo on 29 May.

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* - Common and seen on five dates.

MAMMALS

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* - One near Oulu on 26 May.

Mountain (Blue) Hare *Lepus timidus* - Good numbers around Kuusamo on three dates, with a high count of ten on both 28 and 29 May.

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* - A couple seen at a feeding station by the roadside near Kuusamo on 28 and 29 May and they seemed to like the breakfast sausages as much as the Siberian Jays !!



Red Squirrel © Tracey Barber

Eurasian Elk (Moose) *Alces alces* - Two on 28 May and a single on 29 May near Kuusamo.

Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus* - Common in the Kuusamo area.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* - One seen near our hotel in Kuusamo on 27 May.

Brown Bear *Ursus arctos* - A two-year-old female came to the open area in front of our hide near Kuusamo on the evening of 28 May. Another major highlight of the trip.