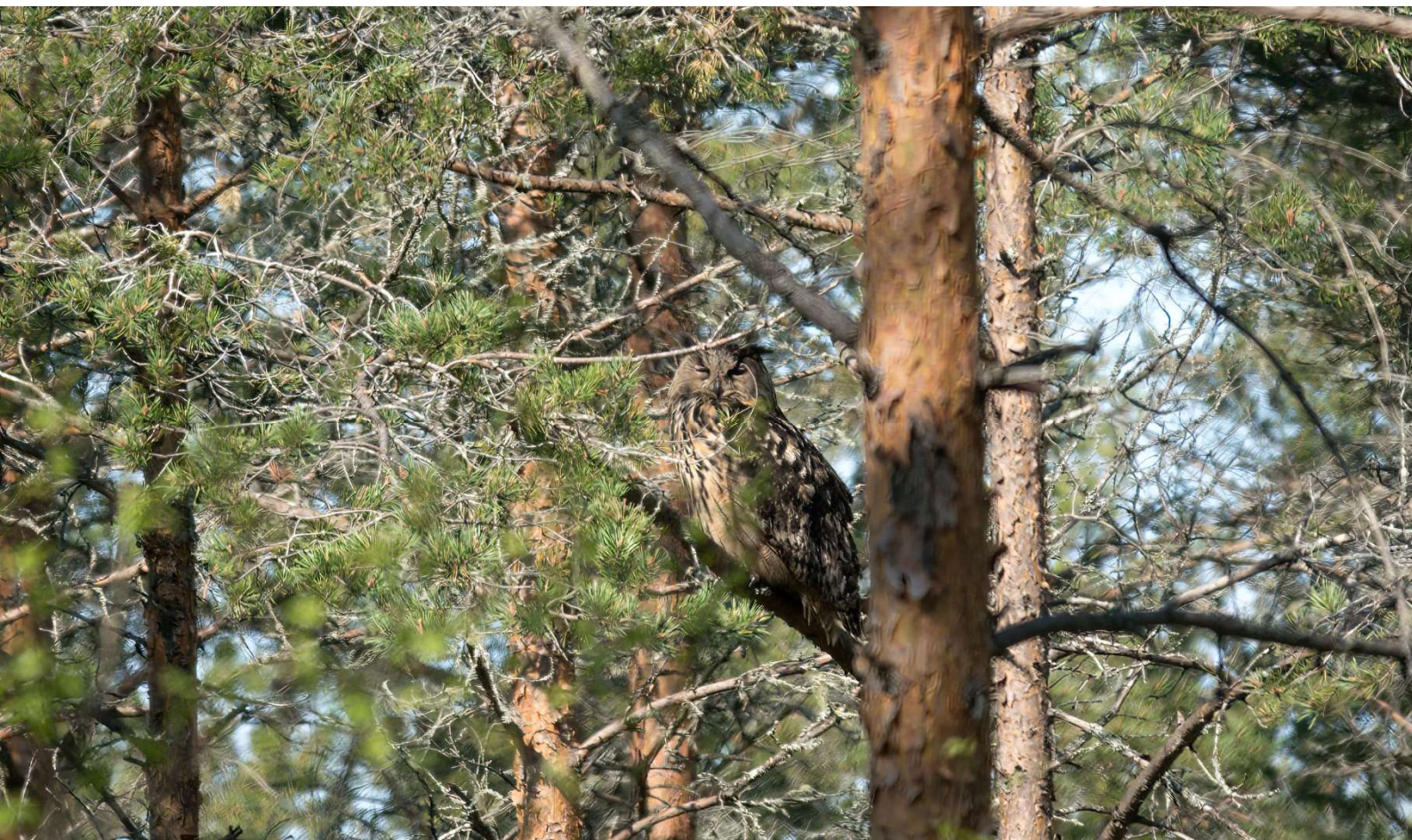




Eurasian Eagle Owl – Oulu – June 2025 – © Andrew Kinghorn

Finland – The Owls Tour – 3rd to 8th JUNE 2025

written by Andrew Kinghorn

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TUESDAY 3RD JUNE – *Pleasantly warm.*

Our first stop of the tour was made to a site very close to our hotel, our hope was to get good views of Terek Sandpiper, a range restricted European breeder that is very hard now to connect with anywhere else in Europe. Whilst we were not successful on this visit, we did manage to connect with our first **Common Rosefinchs** of the trip, offshore we were successful in seeing our first **Caspian Terns** of the trip and a few **Little Gulls** loafed offshore on the Gulf of Bothnia.

After our evening meal we headed out to the Vihiluoto Bird Watching Tower, this fantastic outlook gave us some excellent late evening birding; overhead we had **Greenshank** calling and a distant **White-tailed Eagle** was skilfully picked up by tour participants. Quartering in the distance a brief male **Marsh Harrier** was well received and displaying **Ruff** are always fantastic to see, there were also displaying **Black-tailed Godwits** and at this location there is the ever present ‘chipping’ of **Common Snipe**. With the evening now getting on we all decided to call it a day and get some rest ahead of our first full day birding around Oulu.

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE – *Another warm day, though not too unpleasant to birdwatch in.*

Today was primarily focused around the owls, Oulu is famous in European birding for being one of the best places in Europe to see most of the iconic ‘northern European owl species’, particularly in years when the nomadic Hawk Owl erupts and occurs around Oulu. We stopped to look at a fantastic flyover **White-tailed Eagle**, which was understandably well received. A quick stop for a Blyth’s Reed Warbler at the entrance to Liminka drew a blank, and so we headed onto our first Owl of the trip. As we pulled up the roadside forest it did not take long before we spotted our first target; the truly magnificent **Eurasian Eagle Owl**. The bird flew a very short way, giving some fantastic views as it sat around observing the forest below. After a short drive on we stopped to listen to a **Corncrake**, some lucky tour participants heard it but sadly it had gone quiet, a brief calling **Brambling** was heard before we decided it was time to move on. Our next owl was the impressive **Great Grey Owl**, after a very short walk to a disused Goshawk nest, we were enjoying truly fabulous views of this iconic species. We did look for the male but drew a blank on this occasion, two brief **Rustic Buntings** would not cooperate and show for the rest of the group. After a much-needed coffee break we moved on to yet another owl site, this time the target species was the **Tengmalm’s Owl**. The bird performed well and indications were the species had a good breeding year in Finland.

In the afternoon we headed for a **Greenish Warbler** that had been recorded passing through, this species will have just arrived in Finland and will be making its way north/north-east. We called in to see the bird and after a bit of patience it started to sing and showed briefly (but well) for most. There was plenty else to see, with **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Pied Flycatcher** going about their business. With the afternoon now getting on, we headed to some nearby fields in the hope of connecting with **Ortolan Bunting**, our very first stop provided us with views of two of these increasingly difficult to connect with passerines. We had just enough time to check in on the **Terek Sandpiper** that was just 10 mins from our hotel and this time most has brief flight views of at least two individuals on the shoreline. An exciting first day birding around Oulu.

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE – *Remaining warm but also with showers.*

We headed for **Pygmy Owl** first today, we walked through some stunning Finnish forest to a small nest hole in a tree, after some patience we got good views of **Pygmy Owl** as it came down to the nest hole with prey, the sounds coming from the nest hole itself suggests the chicks were actually of a considerable size already. From here a short walk through the forest and we had really good views of a female **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and with a bit of patience most tour participants glimpsed a **Hazel Grouse** as it sang from the undergrowth. Our final target at this location was a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** nest hole, the chicks seemed likely to be sizeable as the adults were away some time, but with some patience we eventually had a male attending to the nest site and then watched him depart again. It is quite extraordinary how even just flying a few meters can result in a bird simply

melting away into the forest. Not only did we have decent views of **Grey-headed Woodpecker**, but we also had a coffee and biscuit at the same time, what's not to like?

Our final owl of the Oulu stretch was a visit to a **Ural Owl** site, and it wasn't long before we were watching at least two downy chicks in their nest box, we looked hard for the adults but to no avail on this occasion. We headed to Liminka Bay in the afternoon to the nature reserve and viewing platform there, on arriving at the viewing platform a distant mammal turned out to be a very well received **Moose**! From the viewing platform itself we enjoyed good views of numerous **Caspian Terns**, and it was hard to keep an accurate account of how many **White-tailed Eagles** we saw, with good views of varying age classes. Waders here included more **Black-tailed Godwits** and good views of **Ruff**. A stunning pair of **Garganey** on a small pond were skilfully picked out by two tour participants, as was a male **Red-backed Shrike**. Though sadly the shrike departed just too quickly for most of the group to enjoy. Arriving back at the car park a flyover adult **White-tailed Eagle** was nice to see. The **Terek Sandpiper** male refused to show for everyone, flying off out of view on a quick check before heading back to our hotel for the evening.



Garganey – Liminka, Oulu – June 2025 – © Andrew Kinghorn

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE –*Still warm, though weather cooling and some showers as we headed due east toward Kuusamo*

Today was mostly about Kuusamo, though there was time to take in some more birds around Oulu. We started out at a spot where we heard both **Corncrake** and **Thrush Nightingale**, whilst we were listening for both, we saw two different **Short-eared Owls** flying around, one paler than the other, this allowed for a good comparison of plumage differences. Our next stop at Oulunlahti Beach was a resounding success, we had a look over to the offshore island where we added **Barnacle Goose** to the trip list and our sole **Great-black Backed Gull** of the trip, and a **Peregrine Falcon** was buzzing the **Black-headed Gull** colony we took a short walk along the reedbed edge and eventually we heard the distinctive song of the **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, after a short scan of the brambles and trees the bird was eventually located sitting up singing proudly. This allowed for reasonable scope views, but there can be no question that when it comes to this species it is all about the song! This species remains hard to catch up with in Europe, with Finland being one of the best places in Europe in which to connect with it.

We took the long drive to Kuusamo and arrived mid-afternoon, a drive through the forest didn't produce some of the hoped for species, but we did see **Osprey** briefly and had our first **Waxwing** of the trip. We then headed to a well-known **Little Bunting** site. Initially the male played hard to get, but eventually he started singing with a **Reed Bunting** also singing nearby allowing for a good comparison of song differences. With a planned 'grouse drive' for the evening, we retreated back to our accommodation to give us enough time to relax before the evening ahead.

After our evening meal we headed out to look for the woodland grouse. It didn't take too long before we were seeing both female and male **Black Grouse**, they showed well and the fields were alive with the songs of breeding waders, there were some interesting sounds coming from **Common Snipe** and a stunning **Wood Sandpiper** was well picked out by the group. We watched as the male **Black Grouse** eventually melted away into the forest for the evening. We stopped at a lake where we had fantastic views of a pair of **Black-throated Diver** in fantastic evening lighting, a real charismatic species of Kuusamo. A brief roadside **Hazel Grouse** was inadvertently flushed from the leading van and flew off into the forest. We arrived back at our hotel close to midnight and settled down for the night.



Siberian Jay –Kuusamo – June 2025 – © Andrew Kinghorn

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE – *A pleasant and calm day, with little wind and bright sunshine.*

After breakfast we headed out to the famous Oulanka national nature reserve, this is an expansive area and is often visited by tour groups when visiting the region. We tried to offer up some breakfast sausage to the Siberian Jays on one of their favoured trees where they come to visit to look for food, but on this occasion lady luck was not on our side. We headed up for a walk, though the target species of Red-flanked Bluetail eluded us, though we did get some nice views of a tame **Red Squirrel** and **Northern Bullfinch** is always a treat to hear and see. With the forests being quiet for us we headed out to check out a nearby lake, this was definitely worth a visit and we saw our only drake **Smew** of the trip, and some distant **Taiga Bean Geese** were a welcome addition to the trip list too! Two distant **Common Cranes** flew over the landscape, and **Little Gulls** dip fed over the lake in front of us. We also enjoyed watching nesting **Red-necked Grebes**, and a flyover calling **Spotted Redshank** was

the only one of our trip. Checking the muddy edges of any lake in Finland often pays dividends and this was no exception, with plenty of **Wood Sandpiper** and **Greenshank** on offer.

After lunch we headed out to look for Willow and Hazel Grouse, our first stop sadly failed to produce either, but a check of another spot eventually produced two **Hazel Grouse**, which most of the group saw, albeit briefly. We headed to a spot to look for **Siberian Tit**, sadly the species has had a poor breeding year in Kuusamo and nest boxes that have been provided to assist the birds were empty, as a result the species didn't perform for us, though we did get **Siberian Jay** thanks to a tip off from a birder. We watched as two birds unobtrusively went about their business in the forest, often feeding on the floor and allowed for some good views of their Redstart-esq pattern as they flew around the forest.



Black-throated Divers – Kuusamo – June 2025 – © Christopher Darby

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE – *Pleasant for most, though as the day went on becoming cloudier with rain.*

We started early to make the most of our final day in Finland, we headed out to look for 'woodland grouse' species. We were rewarded for our efforts with good views of a singing male **Rustic Bunting**, this was well received as most of the males had stopped singing, a distant singing male **Little Bunting** was also heard nearby. A frustratingly brief male **Capercaillie** showed only for the two guides and couldn't be relocated. We made another drive to check the ditches and roadside forest in the hope of more woodland grouse, we did see **Black Grouse** and it was of course fantastic to come across four fairly close **Black-throated Divers** the lakeside itself had a smart **Baltic Gull** which was taken in by all.

After breakfast we went to look for Red-throated Diver at an undisclosed breeding site, sadly the birds were off elsewhere feeding, but we did have **Greenshank** here in this very idyllic spot. Enroute here we did have a flyover **Osprey**, which was only the second of the trip. Our final birding stop of the tour was at Vattukuru Nature Trail. We walked this fantastically picturesque wood to see what we could find, we had a heard only **Whimbrel** here (a new bird for the trip), and it was pleasant to hear so many **Pied Flycatchers** in such fine voice. One bird that was also easy to see and hear he was **Brambling**, a species that as British birders we chiefly only see in its winter plumage as opposed to its summer finery. One last treat for the second van on the way back to Oulu when a **Hazel Grouse** flew across the road between the two vehicles.

We then headed back to Oulu airport, from here we then took our flight to Helsinki and then onto Heathrow where the tour ended.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

** DISCLAIMER: Please note that the comments are by no means exhaustive, their intention is to give a rough outline of what was seen and the frequency at which it was seen. This checklist includes species seen on journey as well as whilst birding. **

No.	Species List	Scientific name	Comments
1)	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Easy to see around Oulu.
2)	Taiga Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Presumed non breeding flock at Kuusamo.
3)	Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Seen roosting on the island off Oulunlahti Beach.
4)	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Seen on the Oulu stretch of the tour.
5)	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Seen with ease on most days, they are a breeding bird in Finland.
6)	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Present.
7)	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Pair seen on a small pond by Liminka observation tower.
8)	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Present.
9)	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Present.
10)	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Present.
11)	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Present.
12)	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Seen from our hotel birding spot in Oulu.
13)	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Present.
14)	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Present.
15)	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Breeding species in Finland.
16)	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	One of the commonest ducks in Finland during the breeding season in Oulu and Kuusamo, seen on most days.
17)	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Drake seen on the Kuusamo stretch.
18)	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Present.
19)	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Seen on the Oulu stretch of the tour, most notably from the observation tower by the hotel.
20)	Hazel Grouse	<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	Seen and heard on both stretches of the tour, at both Oulu and Kuusamo.
21)	Western Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	Seen only very briefly in flight by guides only.
22)	Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	Both males and females seen in Kuusamo.
23)	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Recorded/present.
24)	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Bird seen sitting on nest during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
25)	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Breeding plumage birds seen at Kuusamo.
26)	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Present.
27)	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Present.
28)	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Seen on farmland around Oulu.
29)	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Present.
30)	Collared Dove (Eurasian)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Present.
31)	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard and seen briefly.
32)	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Present.

33)	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	Singing male heard during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
34)	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Seen primarily on the Oulu stretch of the tour, noted in singles as well as flocks.
35)	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Present.
36)	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	An easy bird to see in Finland.
37)	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Present.
38)	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Single bird at an inland breeding site.
39)	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Heard at Vattukuru Nature Trail.
40)	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Common and breeding in a variety of habitats in appropriate habitat in the Finnish countryside.
41)	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Seen from the viewing platform at our accommodation in Oulu.
42)	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Seen from the viewing platform at our accommodation in Oulu and at Liminka.
43)	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Most often seen 'roding' whilst looking for grouse on an evening.
44)	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Breeding birds seen in a variety of habitats.
45)	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Seen at undisclosed site in Oulu, a rare breeding bird in Europe and of particular note.
46)	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Present.
47)	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Breeding bird in Finland, noted primarily flying over and on shallow roadside ditches.
48)	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Flyovers mostly, a breeder in Finland.
49)	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Flyover during the Kuusamo stretch.
50)	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Breeding birds, easy to see in Finland.
51)	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Present.
52)	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Common and easy to see.
53)	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Breeding bird in Finland and easy to see in stunning plumage.
54)	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Present.
55)	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Present.
56)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Present, of race <i>fuscus</i> ('Baltic Gull').
57)	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Single bird seen as viewed from Oulunlahti Beach.
58)	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Flypast at Oulu, a scarce and notable bird in this region of Finland.
59)	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Seen from viewing platform from accommodation in Oulu as well as multiple individuals at Liminka.
60)	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Seen at inland breeding sites on the Oulu stretch of the tour.
61)	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Seen with some regularity, the easiest tern species to see on this tour.
62)	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Breeding plumage adults seen well in Kuusamo.
63)	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Present.
64)	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Present.

65)	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Heard on the Oulu stretch.
66)	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Two seen on the Kuusamo stretch.
67)	Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Present.
68)	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Seen in Oulu and Kuusamo stretch, though most memorably at Liminka where the species can often be seen in good numbers.
69)	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Notable roadside bird at undisclosed site on the Oulu stretch, bird was presumed to have young that were out of sight.
70)	Eurasian Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	Noted on the Oulu stretch, an adult tending to chicks in a natural nest cavity.
71)	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	Two chicks seen at a nestbox during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
72)	Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Female seen on an old Goshawk nest during the Oulu stretch of the tour, understandably a trip highlight for many.
73)	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Birds seen during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
74)	Tengmalm's Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Single adult bird seen at nest site during the Oulu stretch.
75)	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Easiest woodpecker to see, with good views obtained.
76)	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	A singing male seen attending to a nest hole during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
77)	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	A bird flew across the road in front of the leading van during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
78)	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Present in farmland.
79)	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Seen only during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
80)	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Attempting to hunt Black-headed Gulls as viewed from Oulunlahti Beach.
81)	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Single adult male seen at Liminka.
82)	Siberian Jay	<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	Very hard to connect with on this trip, though two were eventually seen. This species is always on the Kuusamo stretch of the tour.
83)	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Present.
84)	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Present.
85)	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Present.
86)	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Present.
87)	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Present.
88)	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Birds primarily noted flying over.
89)	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	Seen around the accommodation in Kuusamo.
90)	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Present.
91)	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Present.
92)	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Primarily singing males in suitable breeding habitat.
93)	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Heard and seen, most notably around our hotel in Oulu.
94)	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	Singing male seen well and heard at Oulunlahti Beach.

95)	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Present.
96)	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Present.
97)	House Martin (Common)	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Present.
98)	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Single bird heard singing at the Great Grey Owl site.
99)	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Easy to both see and hear in both Oulu and Kuusamo, the most numerous warbler species to hear and see in Finland.
100)	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Only singles heard, most males will be paired up and breeding at the time of our visit.
101)	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Singing male heard and seen on the Oulu stretch, this bird will have been a passage migrant.
102)	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Present.
103)	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Present.
104)	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Easy to see and hear in Finland.
105)	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Singles heard during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
106)	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Primarily heard.
107)	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Present.
108)	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Single birds noted enroute around Oulu.
109)	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Harder to see and hear than Redwing and Fieldfare.
110)	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Numerous and easy to see/hear.
111)	Blackbird (Eurasian)	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Present.
112)	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Numerous and easy to see/hear.
113)	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Very easy to see and hear this year.
114)	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Present.
115)	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	Singing migrant male around Oulu, was understandably heard but not seen, which is rather typical of this species.
116)	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	An abundant species in Finland, seen and heard on every day.
117)	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Present.
118)	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Good views of various males obtained.
119)	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Present.
120)	Waxwing (Bohemian)	<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>	Seen and heard in Kuusamo.
121)	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Present.
122)	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Present.
123)	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Very easy to see around Liminka and a male was seen well in Kuusamo, birds in Finland are of the race <i>thunbergia</i> .
124)	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Present.
125)	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Present.
126)	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Abundant in suitable habitat.
127)	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Singing males understandably easier to locate this time of year, easy to see and hear.



128)	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Seen and heard on both legs of the trip, though much easier to connect with in Kuusamo.
129)	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Singing males most notable, an easy species to both hear and see in the Oulu area.
130)	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	'Northern' Bullfinches, seen well at Oulanka where birds were seen by the feeding station.
131)	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Present.
132)	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Present.
133)	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Brief flyovers were both heard and seen.
134)	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Heard around Kuusamo, though mostly around the hotel accommodation rather than whilst out birding.
135)	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Present.
136)	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Present.
137)	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Easy to see and hear during the Oulu stretch of the tour.
138)	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Males noted in suitable farmland on the Oulu stretch, showed well on field margin reeds and on the deck.
139)	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Easy to see and hear in Finland.
140)	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	Two during the Oulu stretch of the tour, though did not show for most. Male seen and heard during the Kuusamo stretch of the tour.
141)	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Singing birds in Kuusamo, a joy to hear and see.



Little Bunting – Kuusamo – June 2025 – © Christopher Darby