



TOUR REPORT

Estonia

2nd-6th October 2025

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2nd October:

After a late arrival, a pre-dawn rise revealed a very chilly morning and both Long-eared and Tawny Owls were calling outside while a susurruration of stirring Barnacle Geese were to be heard in the distance out in the coastal bays. By just before seven it was light enough to see the flicking, ticking shapes of Robins outside (Tarvo had over 100 on the drive in from home) and Blackbirds and Redwings could be heard. We were soon on the vans and making the short drive down to Puise at the end of the headland.

What happened in the next one hour and forty-four minutes was the most exciting display of passerine visible migration any of us have ever seen. The list below can speak in numbers but it was the spectacle of hundreds of Tits on the move that will be engrained in the memory.

The first little white snowball Northern Long-tailed Tits barrelled through and I joyously made sure everyone saw them, unaware of what we were going to witness and by the time breakfast called



us back we had counted 966 of these super cuties moving through the headland in flocks of up to 70 but they were not all low down with some groups way up in the sky that was still thinking about colouring up for the day. It was an experience never to be forgotten.

But it was not just LTTs and we logged 222 Great Tits and 103 Blue Tits, three Coal Tits, a single Willow Tit and small groups of finches and thrushes were still on the move.



Boise 0715-0900 - epic

Northern Long-tailed Tit	966	
Coal Tit	3	Tree Creeper
Great Tit	222	Sparrowhawk
Blue Tit	103	White-tailed Eagle
Willow Tit	1	Wood Pigeon
Costed Tit	1	Jackdaws
Goldcrest	7	Cuckoo
Chiffchaff	3	Magpie
Reck Bunting	5	Jay
Yellowhammer	4	Raven
Wood Lark		White Warbler
Meadow Pipit	2	Crow
Blackbird	51	Pintail
Long Thrush	7	Gormant
Mocker Thrush	11	Chiffchaff
Fieldfare	185	Winter Sp. Wood
Redwing	19	Swallow
Starling	800	Tree Sparrow
Linnet	2	Dunlin
Siskin	32	Barnacle Goose
House Finch	6	Tundra Bean
Green Finch	12	Russian W.F. Geese
Goldfinch	8	Goldeneye
Black Redstart	1	Nutcracker
		Buzzard

Hawfinches circled and one came down and perched up and plump gleaming raspberry sorbet Bullfinches moved through too making loud tooting calls.

There were occasional Buntings and a few Tree Sparrows but oddly we did not hear a single Robin given how many there were around Altmõisa. Higher up Wood Pigeons were on the move with Barnacle and both Tundra Bean and Russian Whitefront flocks and three Cranes were picked up over a distant wood where we had also seen 40 Great Egrets leave their roost. Many others could be seen in the bays where White-tailed Eagles sat on rocks. Two immature birds did a full talon grapple tumble right in front of us!

We checked the local Starlings for Rose-coloured but had no joy and counted cold looking Swallows as they circled and waited for breakfast to warm up and take to the wing. Chiffchaff was the only Warbler and two icy white Treecreepers were seen in what we called the Tit Tree and down on a shoreline boulder a Black Redstart tail shivered. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker bounded over and it felt strange to see this species as a passage bird – in fact I do not remember the last time I actually saw one!



White-tailed Eagle

It was difficult to tear ourselves away. On the short drive back a Buzzard was sat up on the wires and I was delighted to find two Nutcrackers as they flew in front of the van but we could not stop at that point and I had to hope that we would get another chance. They were my first non-British ones and the one at Kingsdown in Kent in September 1998 seems a lifetime ago.

After a fine Altmõisa breakfast we headed back to the coast to start with and scanned the rocky bay at Põgari where we took up position on the old barn ramp like last summer. A group of Barnacle Geese on the meadow in front and the bay held a large number of dabblers as well as a raft of 600 Tufted Duck that contained a few Scaup and Pochard too. Gangs of Goldeneye snorkelled closer to shore where Lapwings and two Grey Plover were found.

Yellowhammers came up from the surrounding fields along with a few Skylarks and Tit passage continued

overhead with 12 Northern Long-tailed Tits, three Great and four Blue Tits. The flashing red tail and Black Redstart flicked by and she perched up in a bare Rowan for us.

Suddenly all the wildfowl were up in the air and flying manically in all directions. It was not the co-ordinated attack of a Peregrine but the sneakily lumbering approach of not one but four White-tailed Eagles. They look cumbersome but can turn and drop on a slow bird in an instant! Three Woodlark came by as we got back on the vans and a Kestrel was hovering alongside the road.

On to Haapsalu to check out the lagoon that they town overlooks. Tarvo had told the crew that if they did not get to ten White-tailed Eagles then there would be no cake. We managed 13... There were vast rafts of feeding Coot and associated Gadwall and Wigeon – two prime weed thieves and 700 Pochard in a single group was exceptional for this nationally declining species. Four Great Crested Grebes and female Goosander were also new along with six Whooper Swans that flew through but there were no other wild swans amongst the countless Mute Swans.

One of the local massive Great Black-backed Gulls were attempting to take down an out of range Polar Bear. There were four species of Tits in the trees and the local Rooks, Hooded Crows and Jackdaws were all looking smart.

Having earnt our cake we looped through the rather splendid castle grounds before fish soup followed by cinnamon buns and coffee.

On again and a stop at the 'Moorhen Pond' immediately gave us two of this tricky Estonian bird. Like last June the closest one dived immediately and was never seen again and in fact I think half the group never saw either of them before they vanished!

However, there were no tears as a male Grey-headed Woodpecker put on a superb show in the lakeside



Great Polar Gull

trees and gave me my best ever views and all Moorhen related thoughts dissipated. A Hawfinch was sat up on a dead snag and Nuthatch called while in the sunny verges there were Migrant Hawkers and Common Darters sunning themselves and a few Hoverflies on the Dandelions which seemed to be *Helophilus pendulus* and *Eristalis pertinax* but I will have to check whether both species are found in Estonia.

We made our way back through the lanes towards Altmõisa for a 'rest' but were forced to stop and watch a Grey Ghost male Hen Harrier patiently quartering the fields. Always a joy.



Grey-headed Woodpecker

A rest for some of us meant a walk down to the sea and back on the boardwalk across the road. Judith and I did quite well with a few left over thrushes and tits, ticking Robins and a Reed bunting while three Sparrowhawks were on the prowl. Down at the end a decoy duck on a pond had me puzzled for a while and a Northern Wheatear was picked up on the rocks.

There were plenty of insects including a very loud Cricket that I just could find and I never even saw any movement. It was not Bog Bush Cricket which was seen along with Field Grasshopper. There were many Darters with Ruddy and Common and several dainty Black and the odd Migrant Hawker.

Downed apples and pears were attracting Commas and Red Admirals and several Hornets that looked slightly odd and that I presume are new Queens. *Sericomyia silentis* was the pick of the flies noted and there were both *Bombus terrestris* type and *pascuorum* Bumbles.



Great Grey Shrike

We were back on the road by 5pm and heading towards Haeska where the fields were slowly checked for Lynx and Elk with no joy but we did pick up a fine Great Grey Shrike and a small mixed flock of grey geese going over. We tried for Pygmy Owls but had no joy so headed for the massive Haeska viewing tower where we stayed until the sun dipped below the horizon.

The view was superb and the light perfect for identifying waders at range which gave us Spotted Redshank, about 50 Snipe, Grey Plover, Lapwings, 20 Dunlin and a couple of Ringed Plovers. There were plenty of dabblers and Great Egrets and flights of Barnacle Geese moved across the landscape where White-tailed Eagles periodically appeared. The homestead gardens were alive with five thrushes and it still felt odd to keep finding Mistle Thrushes with these migrating flocks – it is just not something we see at home. There were pasty orange Robins lurking and the odd Chiffchaff hu-weeting while a Great Grey Shrike flew over as we were trying to board the vans and hovered for long enough to get the camera back out and pointed in the right direction!

We had dinner at the lovely Tänäva farmstead where the home cooking was excellent before a final drive around the lanes gave us no Ural Owls on a dark Haeska forest tracks or large furry cats either but it had been a fabulous day and the morning session alone would remain with everyone for a very long time.

3rd October:

Another early start but with take-away breakfast saw us making our way to the famous headland of Spithami. As we approached through the summer cottages it was apparent that Thrushes had arrived with Fieldfare in particularly visible.

With many layers added we set up at the end where a local counter was already in place and spent the next couple of hours logging our sightings as ducks, divers and geese headed south-west through the strait between the promontory and the island of Osmussaar. Scaup were the commonest duck with shimmering lines containing a few Tufted Duck noted but Scoter were not moving and we only saw a small flock of Commons. All three Geese were seen again with most being Barnacle and it was good to be able to hear the louder, deeper calls of the Tundra Beans over the White-fronts as they followed the coast-line. There were Cormorants on the rocks and in the bays all around us but we also saw hundreds of high flying birds on the same line as the geese while amongst the loafing Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls a smart 1w Caspian and Baltic Gulls were found.



Passerines were incoming but were difficult to pick out in the crisp blue sky but we soon got our eye in and located all the same Tit species along with Tree Sparrows, a few finches and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. There was panic from the beach area and every duck, gull, Cormorant and Grey Heron fled out to open water while Wood Pigeons came out of the trees. A Goshawk was the likely suspect and was quite probably the large raptor skimming through the canopy a short while later.

From here we ventured into the Pines and Rowans behind where more Tits were to be found including ten more Willow Tits in one group, 20 or so Long-tails and 11 Coal Tits. Treecreepers were found actively insect hunting on Spruce cones and a churring Crested Tit revealed itself and performed for its audience while flocks of Goldcrests entertained in a single Rowan tree.

More finches moved overhead and included our first Crossbill, a Hawfinch and several more tooting Northern Bullfinches and we briefly saw another incoming Lesser Spotted Woodpecker too. Just outside the wood on the common land there were thrushes tumbling out of the sky and the light was magnificent as we watched the Mistle Thrushes jostle the Fieldfares from the highest Spruce tops before everyone piled into a stand of heavily laden Rowen trees.

Tarvo and I retrieved the vans and picked up the crew and we stopped on the way out to watch a flock of 22 Yellowhammers and a Tree Sparrow feeding in one of the gardens while a Great Grey Shrike snuck overhead.

The woods at Roosta were the next stop not too far down the road and we frustratingly heard a Nutcracker but it was too far back but had much better luck with a Pygmy Owl which gave a proper Oscar winning performance in midday sunshine to the delight of everyone. It was not



Pygmy Owl

bothered by us in the slightest and even gave a strange call that is only heard in the autumn. Siverly Nuthatches, sneezing Marsh Tits and churring Crested Tits kept our eyes and ears active.

Lunch at Roosta Resta was excellent and then it was back to Altmõisa where rest time was suggested and largely ignored! A winter male Common Redstart was parading around the garden and I found a pallid 1w female type as well while a couple of Wrens popped up at last and the nearby copse held a good party of foraging Blue Tits on the Alders with other species in tow including a vocal party of four Treecreepers that made some very strange calls including the Dunnock-like peep of Short-toed TC.

Sparrowhawks, Buzzards and Barn Doors circled in the blue and I found a few more flowers in bloom and even some leaf mines! Seven Cranes circled off in the distance.



Redstart

Back at the hotel a White-backed Woodpecker was 'chicking' and a male Great Spot did likewise but actually showed. It was frustrating and as soon as Tarvo came back it decided to come out and play(ish) and after several tree trunk views it flew over our heads looking like a Great Spot jammed into a Green Woodpeckers body.

The Redstart reappeared for Tarvo too and there were both Marsh and Willow Tits in the gardens.

A pre-dinner drive was to give us our last chance of Lynx and Ural Owl and we started well with some Roe Deer in a favoured field but the big cat eluded us. We did

find about 200 Golden Plover with Lapwings, Gulls, Starlings, Linnets and Corvids in a big ploughed field. Once back on the Haeska tracks we followed each other slowly along in the vans with myself being slightly askew so that we could also see down the track which meant that some of both vans saw the Hazel Hen fly across the track before a Black Woodpecker did likewise for long enough that everyone connected. Our short stops to try for Ural Owl gave us no owls but a Goshawk was very vocal and Tarvo suddenly called Nutcracker at the same time that I heard one. He pointed to a dead tree where one was perched and I pointed the other way where another was grating away before flying off in the same direction! An excellent bird for the whole group to get.

Our efforts to find Ural Owl eventually proved successful and a female responded before sneaking closer and then gliding low over our heads illuminated by the very last glow of the golden hour.

I do not think anyone lifted their bins (or even needed to) and



we all stood and gawped and the silent beauty as she drifted over. She was briefly seen in the tall Polars before moving further in, at which point the male responded some way off in the distance.

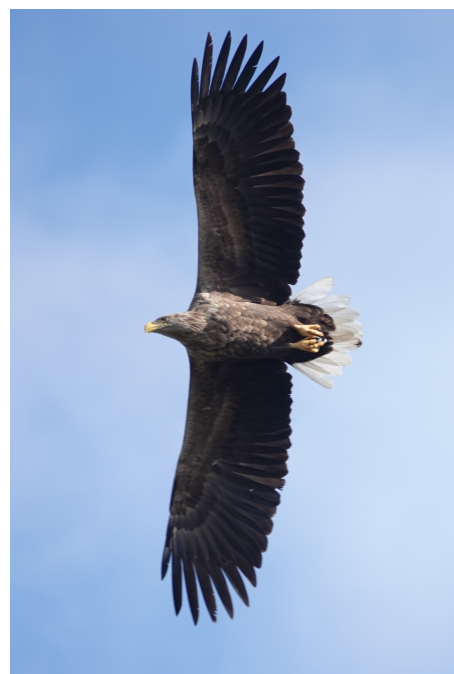
A huge moon illuminated the track as the light faded and the drive back gave us eight Woodcock in the afterglow of a glorious and successful day.

4th October:

The crew were efficiently up and out front at 0650 so that we could get down to the tower at Puise before dawn. The weather had other ideas and a thick sea mist was rolling across the fields with a brisk breeze behind it. We still gave the tower a go but birds were not really moving although we did see (just about) a few more Tits and Goldcrests and one or two Brambling. Barnacle Geese drifted in and out of view but as the rain increased we opted to drive the local Haeska fields in search of 'big game' but Roe Deer were all we managed once again.

Breakfast time and then we packed the vans and made our way east then south-west towards the port of Virtsu. A few bits and bobs were seen as we drove along but it was the Tuhu fields and bogs that gave us the birds with ten Black Grouse taking flight from several fields back. A couple circled back and one landed close enough to scope. They are such fast and powerful birds in flight.

A vocal Great Grey Shrike was giving a Kestrel some grief and three more were noted in the area along with four Common Buzzards.



As we neared the port a Kingfisher zipped across the front and a White-tailed Eagle lumbered overhead. On checking in I had flashbacks to February 2011 on our 'interesting' three day Baltic adventure. It was a challenging trip in many ways but I remember queuing in the dark, getting out of the +25c car and scurrying across to the waiting room and loos with the big port sign reading -27c. It was windy too and

despite all the layers my eyeballs felt like they painfully froze in my head!

Things were very different this time and as we pulled up in the sunshine a Northern Wheatear hopped up on a rock and on the pool behind there were snorkelling Goosanders with a few Mallard. The main bay held a raft of Scaup with a few Tufted Ducks and Great Crested Grebes.

With the vans loaded on board we had to walk past a tired female Great Tit that was also hitching a lift to Muhu while a Migrant Hawker was patrolling the car deck! There is no hanging around and we were soon under way. It is only a short crossing but we all stayed on the sun deck enjoyed great views of two flocks of mostly male Long-tailed Ducks barrelling south. Tarvo thought that they were the first proper movement of the season and indeed Spithami had a large count that morning. A single Common Scoter, four Red-



throated Divers went the same way and a 2w Caspian Gull cruised by. Nearer the dock at Muhu there were Goosanders, Scaup and Tufted Ducks. Lunch in town where six Great Tits foraged under the vehicles in the car park perhaps suggested things to come. The last time I took this ferry ride the ship had to break its way through the ice and Goosander dropped in to feed in the briefly open waters and we even saw Roe Deer crossing over the ice.

The cloud had arrived at the wind picked up once again and we made a couple of stops on the causeway between Muhu and Saaremaa and scanned both sides. There were 73 Great Egrets dotted around and hundreds of Mute Swans and the Tufted Ducks, Goldeneye, Coots and dabblers were outnumbered but a vast flock of 3500 Pochard which Tarvo was especially pleased about. I think he said that it may have been the largest count in the country for ten years? Four female type Marsh Harriers quartered the vast reedbeds.

Now on Saaremaa, we entered a landscape of pines and arable fields that I last saw 14 years ago covered in a thick blanket of snow. I seem to recall one Great Grey Shrike back then! This time we found a flock of at least 300 Common Cranes and managed to get quite close to where they were feeding. The sound as they took off was, as usual a very special experience and there were a few gasps of wonderment.

As we first found the Cranes I had picked up a Red Kite which I knew to be a quality Estonian bird and once around the lanes with the Cranes we found what we presumed to be the same bird but the photos clearly show it to be a different bird. Tarvo was very pleased indeed. Flights of Tundra Bean and White-fronts drifted in and a flock of 14 Ravens tumbled with Hooded Crows along a woodland edge and a pale Buzzard got the pulses racing momentarily.



The wind was seriously getting up as we neared Kaaressaare and the Asa Spa Hotel – our home for the next two nights. It looked tired outside but was very smart, modern and clean inside and we were very well looked after. I dropped my bags and decided to stretch my legs across the road to the impressive fort and harbour lagoons. It was so windy that you could barely stand up and the flotillas of Coots were all jammed in a corner with some Tufted Ducks and Gadwall and a female Smew was actively feeding close in to the beach which was a cool addition. Thankfully Judith appeared and got to see it too and so it went on the group list that evening at the log!

A flock of 52 very miserable looking Great Egrets were hunkered along the reed edge and a gang of blue eyed, white collared Jackdaws were working the lawn and I wondered if they had been targeted by an avian predator and found feeding in a group a safer option. Ten Swallows were being blown around the hotel and were getting ready to find somewhere to roost for the night – as was I.

5th October:

An enforced late breakfast due to it being Sunday saw us queuing with two coach loads of Latvians but we all eventually got fed and met at the vans where 20 Swallows and some White Wagtails were already foraging around the hotel. We then headed along the coast and down the long Sörve peninsular beyond Sääre.

We spent the rest of the day exploring the landscape with its scattered Juniper scrub, grasslands, mixed trees, ponds, bays and stoney beaches. A few Tits were on the move when we arrived and after a quick look around near the lighthouse we followed the trails towards the ringing station where holidaying Finnish birders were manning the observatory but it was a bit breezy so no nets were out.



We picked up a few Goldcrests, Robins, our first Blackcaps, moving finches and a scattering of the regular Thrushes. Single Tree and Rock Pipits were both new to the trip list and there were a few



Northern Long-tailed Tit

Yellowhammers, Reed Buntings and a single Treecreeper. As the cloud lifted and the sky brightened Tits started to move and as we walked back to the car park it was obvious that they were going to make a dash for the Latvia coast just across the sea.

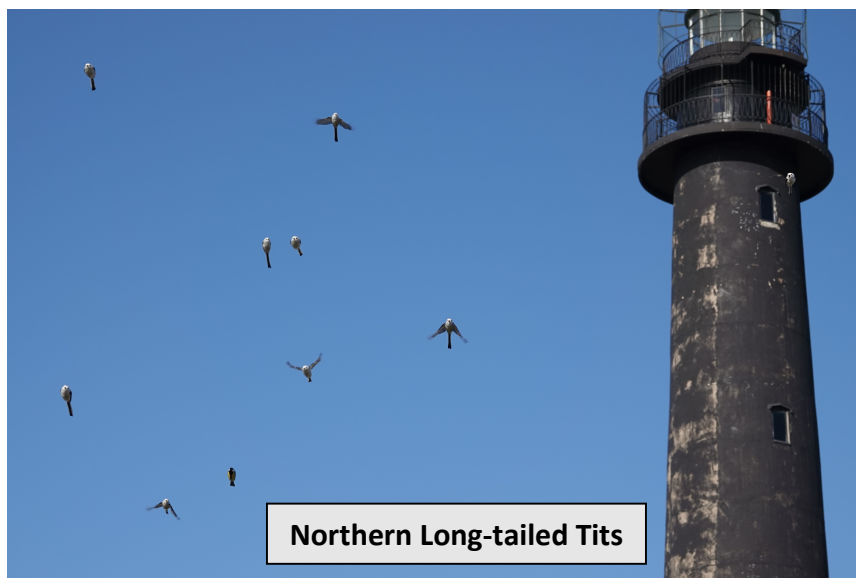
Tarvo and I were now in full count mode and the crew got to be amongst some full in your face passerine migration with waves of mostly Northern Long-tailed and Great Tit passing around us at all heights. There were many Blue Tit too and quite a few Coal Tits and Goldcrests while Siskin

reached almost a 1000 birds! It was amazing how our experience on the first morning at Puise which was the best vis migging any of us had ever seen was suddenly eclipsed.

And there were not just passerines. Large flocks of Tundra Bean Geese dropped in throughout the day and there was a good sprinkling of Russian White-fronts, Barnacles and a single Greylag amongst them while Mergansers, Goosanders and dabblers were in the bay where we also found eight Grey and 17 Golden Plover and a flight of four Snipe. Sparrowhawks were a constant presence harrying the Tits and Finches which were probably easy pickings and the most I could see at one time was four. White-tailed Eagles periodically came down to poke the Goose flocks and Buzzards circled over the trees and gave the Hooded Crows something to have a go at. A slightly injured Fox lolloped down the road and through the car park.

5th October Sörve			
Long tailed Tit	1965	Tundra Bean Geese	400
Blue Tit	217-2200	Russian W.F.	100
Great Tit	1230	Greylag	1
Coal Tit	23	Barnacle	100
Willow Tit	1	Dabblers + Tufted	
Chiffchaff	2	Merganser	12
Goldcrest	40	Goosander	4
Redstart	1	Grey Plover	8
Redpoll-Nealy	4	Golden Plover	17
Siskin	854	Jaegers	30
Green Finch	32	Snipe	5
Gold Finch	6	Sparrowhawk	6
Chadwick	339	Peregrine	1
Brambling	174	White Tailed Eagle	4
Robin	850	White Wag tail	8
Linnet	2	Yellow Warbler	7
Skylark	4	Reed Bunting	12
Woodlark	2	Admiral T. Disher	1
Meadow Pipit	3	Fox	
Tree Pipit	1		
Rock Pipit	1		
Blackcap	7		
Wren	2		
Robin	6		
Thrush	1		
Redwing	4		
Blue Thrush	13		
Blackbird	6		
Midle Thrush	40		
Fieldfare	1		
Tree Creeper			

Kaaressaare 9 Swallow 20



Northern Long-tailed Tits

Suddenly it was gone 4pm and time to go and by then we had counted nearly 2000 Northern Long-tails and 1300 Great Tits! Tales of the previous day when 13,000 Great Tits were counted seemed unthinkable given how mad our afternoon had been. Little did we know...

Back at Kaaressaare some of us had a much calmer walk to look at the Smew before a lovely dinner in town.



Smew

6th October:

An earlier breakfast meant that we were on the road earlier on the way down the Sõrve peninsular. It had been raining hard overnight and it was still spitting as we travelled south but as we reached the pines on the last mile it cleared and as if by some magic signal birds started to move. We could see them either side of us - flocks of bounding finches and tits.

What followed may result in a very short blog post about quite possibly the most astonishing three hours and 15 minutes of any of our birding lives. We bundled out of the vans with Tarvo shouting 'Start counting!!' Thankfully the crew were onboard with what was needed and why we had to become part of this very special day.

Waves of birds swept towards us, coming over and through the garden of the big derelict house before funnelling straight around. The vans had to be moved almost immediately to be end on to each other as Goldcrests in particular were prone to bumping. The café took many strikes too but most were soft bumps and the group brought me stunned Goldcrests that I snuggled in my palm until they were ready to move on again of their own accord. It was not cold but I think they appreciated the warmth and shelter provided. In all the time we were there we only found one dead Goldcrest and Great Tit.

Tarvo took Long-tailed Tits and Siskins and I prioritised Great Tits and Blue Tits and we sought of split the rest. Occasionally there was a few second pause when I would shout numbers at Tarvo and keep counting everything while he was momentarily distracted.

It was non-stop. Great Tits were moving in large flocks at various heights but sometimes incredibly high up while when the Blue Tits really started to move they were mostly at very low level like the Goldcrests. Depending on the flock make up you would count a few individuals and then start block off two species at once and I found calling out the odd birds like Coal and Willow Tit, Pipits and Buntings made it easier to remember so many counts at once.



At one stage a Long-tailed Tit landed in front of us and I picked it up as the Fox was back. It seemed fine and sat on my finger for a while but I needed my hands for bins and so popped it on my hat as it seemed almost ready to go. It stayed there for a few more minutes before flying up to join some of its buddies as they passed overhead.

It was exhausting and the crew even supplied us with coffee but could not help with toilet duties and so counting duties had to be handed over for a couple of minutes! We had all spread out and each person was having their own migration experience from Eric sitting with a coffee and collecting Goldcrests to Barbara quietly sitting as a wave of over 100 Long-tails surrounded her down near the point. The skeins of grey Geese barely got a look in and a brief Merlin dashed through while a juvenile Hobby hung above us eating some hapless passerine on the wing.

A 12pm deadline had been set as we had to get off the island and get to Tallinn to catch our evening plane and we used every single minute to keep counting. The final figures for our short session was almost incomprehensible. A staggering 27,576 Tits and 8331 Finches were logged along with 595 Goldcrests! Even then our counts were probably on the low side as it was almost too much for just two of us to count. Tarvo had kept in touch with the Finnish counters at the tower and although we had more Long-tails and Blue Tits which had been keeping quite low, they counted over 40,000 Great Tits during the course of the whole day!

A couple of Finnish birders told us that the Crested Lark had been found on the beach by the lighthouse and we collected everyone together and made our way over but Tarvo and I had to walk backwards to keep up with the counting. My years of walking backwards around Rainham came in handy! A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker bounded through and a Great Grey Shrike circled before dropping in and I suspect a quick snack before it headed south would have been an easy option. The chances of a rarity were slim or at best brief but we did find three Firecrest, two Chiffchaffs, Treecreeper and a Nuthatch. There were no thrushes.

The Crested Lark was feeding amongst the tideline seaweed and we put the scopes up on it and then continued to log Tits and Finches! I will admit to not paying it too much attention. The number of Siskins was building and as we reached the third hour Great Tit number slowed a little while Blue Tits increased dramatically.



6th October Sörve		
Long-tailed Tit	5291	5000
Great Tit	17147	17000
Willow Tit	7996	8000
Blue Tit	135	100
Coal Tit	2	0
Chiffchaff	3	0
Firecrest	595	600
Goldcrest	1	0
Blackcap	1	0
Treecreeper	1	0
Nuthatch	1	0
Robin	2	0
Siskin	5883	6000
Chaffinch	2193	2200
Redpoll	44	0
Crabapple	196	200
Shylark	2	0
Yellow Redstart	1	0
Woodlark	9	0
Tree Pipit	1	0
Meadow Pipit	8	0
5000 Thrush	1	0
Starling	13	0
Great Grey Shrike	1	0
Lesser Spotted W'pecker	1	0
Yellowhammer	6	0
Reed Bunting	9	0
Swallow	6	0
Goldfinch	4	0
Greenfinch	11	0
Hobby	1	0
Parus Major	1	0
Sparrowhawk	5	0
White-tailed Eagle	4	0
100's Grey Geese - mostly		
Tundra Swans		



Goldcrest rest time

About two miles down the road Tarvo pulled over and released a Goldcrest that had somehow managed to end up on the inside and I was still worried that an earlier Blue Tit was still somewhere in my own van! The drive back across the islands gave us the 300 Cranes once again along with two ringtail Hen Harriers, Four White-tailed Eagles and several big Barnacle Geese flocks.

We made the 2pm ferry and enjoyed a smooth ride back to the mainland counting 650 Long-tailed Ducks heading south in superfast snaky lines. A small seal popped its head out of the water and I

raised my bins and called Harbour Seal but Tarvo was quick to point out that if it was of that shape it would be a Ringed Seal out here. Unfortunately it did not come back up for anyone else.

Near port a White-tailed Eagle was cruising around and the Scaup flock shone in the lowering sun. From here the weather turned and we spent the rest of the journey driving in and out of squally showers. The landscape turned grey but we still managed to see three Great Grey Shrikes and several White-



Long-tailed Ducks

tailed Eagles before Tarvo took us to a friend's 'house' for dinner. We were greeted warmly and shown around the Käesalu Art Centre in the grounds of the garden where local artists exhibited their eclectic work. After a fantastic final dinner we bid our farewells and after watching a Black Redstart on the new roofed but derelict old manor house we repacked the bags and made the final short run to Tallinn airport for a late but painless flight home after one of the most memorable days birding that I think any of us, including Tarvo, had ever had.

I am sure I can still hear those Long-tailed Tit flocks bimbling determinedly overhead on their way across the sea to Latvia and beyond. I have named the condition Titinnus.



Northern deterred counting

	Birds	66	Long-eared Owl
1	Mute Swan	67	Kingfisher
2	Whooper Swan	68	Grey-headed Woodpecker
3	Greylag Goose	69	Great Spotted Woodpecker
4	Russian White-fronted Goose	70	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
5	Tundra Bean Goose	71	White-backed Woodpecker
6	Barnacle Goose	72	Black Woodpecker
7	Mallard	73	Crested Lark
8	Gadwall	74	Woodlark
9	Pintail	75	Skylark
10	Shoveler	76	Swallow
11	Wigeon	77	Tree Pipit
12	Teal	78	Rock Pipit
13	Pochard	79	Meadow Pipit
14	Tufted Duck	80	White Wagtail
15	Greater Scaup	81	Wren
16	Common Scoter	82	Dunnock
17	Long-tailed Duck	83	Song Thrush
18	Goldeneye	84	Redwing
19	Goosander	85	Mistle Thrush
20	Red-breasted Merganser	86	Blackbird
21	Smew	87	Fieldfare
22	Black Grouse	88	Robin
23	Hazel Grouse	89	Common Redstart
24	Black-throated Diver	90	Black Redstart
25	Red-throated Diver	91	Northern Wheatear
26	Great Crested Grebe	92	Common Chiffchaff
27	Cormorant	93	Blackcap
28	Great White Egret	94	Firecrest
29	Grey Heron	95	Goldcrest
30	White-tailed Eagle	96	Great Tit
31	Red Kite	97	Blue Tit
32	Marsh Harrier	98	Coal Tit
33	Hen Harrier	99	Marsh Tit
34	Buzzard	100	Willow Tit
35	Goshawk	101	Crested Tit
36	Sparrowhawk	102	Northern Long-tailed Tit
37	Kestrel	103	Nuthatch
38	Hobby	104	Treecreeper
39	Peregrine	105	Great Grey Shrike
40	Merlin	106	Starling
41	Moorhen	107	Jay
42	Coot	108	Magpie
43	Common Crane	109	Jackdaw
44	Ringed Plover	110	Rook
45	Golden Plover	111	Hooded Crow
46	Grey Plover	112	Nutcracker
47	Lapwing	113	Raven
48	Ruff	114	Starling
49	Dunlin	115	House Sparrow

50	Spotted Redshank	116	Tree Sparrow
51	Woodcock	117	Chaffinch
52	Snipe	118	Brambling
53	Black-headed Gull	119	Linnet
54	Common Gull	120	Mealy Redpoll
55	Herring Gull	121	Goldfinch
56	Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull	122	Greenfinch
57	Great Black-backed Gull	123	Siskin
58	Caspian Gull	124	Bullfinch
59	Feral Pigeon	125	Hawfinch
60	Stock Dove	126	Reed Bunting
61	Wood Pigeon	127	Yellowhammer
62	Cuckoo		
63	Ural Owl		
64	Eurasian Pygmy Owl		
65	Tawny Owl		

	Other Wildlife
1	Roe Deer
2	Red Fox
3	Brown Hare
4	Ringed Seal
5	Brimstone
6	Comma
7	Red Admiral
8	Migrant Hawker
9	Ruddy Darter
10	Common Darter
11	Black Darter