

# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



## FINLAND: Owls and Wolverines Tour

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Tour Participants:** Kevin Bryan, Sue French, Mick Taylor, Tony Pollard, Stan Davies & Carole Davies

**Leaders:** Chris Townend & Antero Topp

### HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

**Hawk Owl:** After some frustrating near misses, we finally had superb views of an adult on the morning of the 4th.

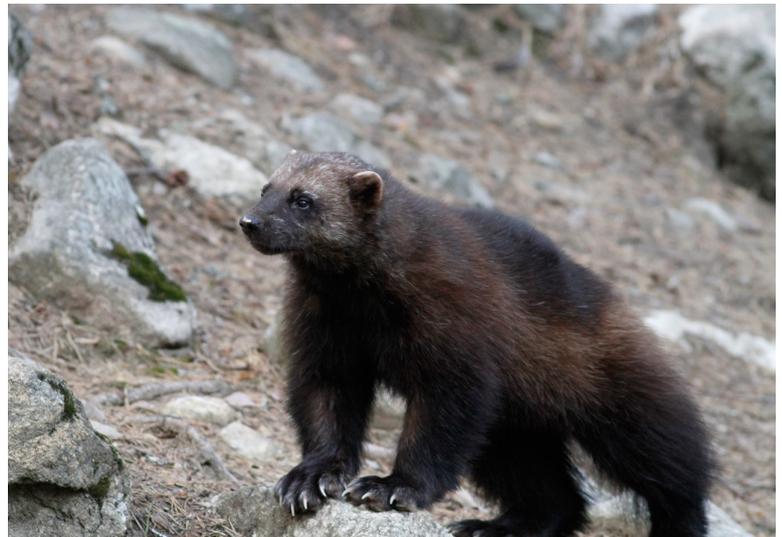
**Great Grey Owl:** Very close views of an incubating female on the nest on the 3rd.

**Ural Owl:** One of the first birds we saw on the trip was an adult and two juveniles!

**Terek Sandpiper:** Great views of this rare breeder in Kempele Bay.

**Wolverine:** We really couldn't have asked for better views as we were entertained by numerous animals on our two nights in the hides.

**Brown Bear:** A single animal wandered through the forest clearing for some of the group on our last morning in the hides



**The Wolverine and Hawk Owl were two of the highlights of this short break**

More photos from this and other tours can be viewed on our Flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/129663578@N06/albums>

### **Wednesday 1st June**

After a smooth connection at Helsinki we took the short flight of around one hour to a very relaxed, warm and sunny Oulu airport arriving at around 3pm local time. Our good friend Antero met us at the airport and was eager to take us to try for our first owl species! Our hotel was just 10 minutes away, so we checked into our rooms, dropped the bags and headed straight out to try for Ural Owl.

In the hotel garden we were treated to our first singing Redwings, Pied Flycatcher and a superb male Common Rosefinch. We then took a short drive and arrived at the Ural Owl nest site. As we quietly walked through the forest one of the attendant adult birds was seen briefly perched before it flew off to the forest edge. We then enjoyed views of two well developed juveniles as they both peered out from their nest stump and we stood quietly as their comical inquisitive faces checked us out before we left them in peace. A mammal highlight was a great full daylight encounter with two Elk that posed nicely by the roadside before vanishing into the forest! We then spent some time checking an area where a Pallid Harrier had been regularly hunting. We had no luck with the harrier though we did enjoy great views of a number of stunning Ortolan Buntings and up to three Whinchats all to the background noise of bugling Common Cranes! As we travelled back to the hotel we were treated to excellent views of another Elk by the roadside. Once back at the hotel we had dinner and everyone was pleased that the first owl target was safely "in the bag!"

After dinner, everyone took a short walk to the wetland area behind the hotel overlooking Kempele Bay. Here, a good selection of wildfowl and waders boosted our day list and included Ruff, Lapwing, Curlew, Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser and a booming Bittern. Despite the sun still being clearly visible, it was time for bed, ready for an early start!

### **Thursday 2nd June**

We met at 03.30am eager to make the most of our time in this great country as we had a lot of target species to find! Our morning started very well as Mick spotted a female Black Grouse sat by the road and amazingly, our only sighting of the whole trip! We then added another owl to our tally as we enjoyed close views of a Eurasian Pygmy Owl at the nest. It was amazing to witness just how fearless such a tiny owl can be! A calling adult Black Woodpecker led us to a begging juvenile bird that was peering out from its nest hole. The adult seemed to be encouraging the youngster to take the leap of faith and leave the nest. Antero then took us to a regular place for Hazel Grouse and though a little late in the morning, we were in luck as a male bird came to check us out. You had to be quick, as it flew past very close! Other good birds in the forest included a very showy female "Northern" Bullfinch and some good views of Willow Tit before we headed back to the hotel for a great breakfast including some wonderful pancakes and lingonberry jam!

After breakfast we visited a number of different habitats and hence different target species. A superb breeding plumaged Slavonian Grebe gave exceptional views on a park lake in Oulu. Always stunning in breeding plumage and we were even close enough to see its "redcurrant eyes!" Next on the agenda was a more subtle species in plumage compared to the grebe, but a breeding speciality of the region in small numbers and often tricky to see. A Blyth's Reed Warbler soon gave itself up as it sang from within some dense nettles and scrub, but with a little patience it showed pretty well to its small crowd of admirers. The subtle plumage tones, supercilium and behaviour were most appreciated before we headed on to the Oulu Harbour area where we tried for another rare breeder, the Terek Sandpiper. This special wader has bred in very small numbers in recent years and despite much searching our

perseverance finally paid off as we located a bird close to the sea wall in Kempele Bay. Here we enjoyed some great scope views, taking note of its striking yellow legs and upturned bill. A brief stop at a random roadside meadow produced the hoped for calling Corncrake and although the grass was too long to see the bird, just hearing it was quite a treat. Our final site of the morning in Kempele Bay allowed us time to scan through various waders and ducks where the many highlights included a small group of summer plumaged Knot, a lone Curlew Sandpiper, a pair of Smew and a Marsh Harrier. We then returned to our hotel before midday for a long overdue siesta!

Later in the afternoon, we ventured back into the forests and braved the mosquitoes. Despite some annoyance from the insects we were all rewarded with some great views of a female Three-toed Woodpecker and our final key target for the day. We spent the rest of the evening trying again for the Pallid Harrier, but once again failed to connect with it, but seeing a small group of 80+ Common Cranes could hardly be called a bad day and we returned to our hotel for dinner.

Those still in need of more birding headed down to the wetland behind the hotel where the only new species to be seen was Little Ringed Plover, but it was a great place to be birding with the sun still shining at 10pm!

### **Friday 3rd June**

Today we enjoyed a relaxed start after such a long day the previous day and we all met for breakfast at 06.15am. With stomachs full and caffeine levels in a good state we packed our vehicle and started our journey north-east to the town of Kuuusamo. This is normally a journey of around three hours, but of course we needed to take a few diversions to try for some owls! Our first stop was in a lovely forest near the small village of Alavotto where, once again, we braved the mosquitoes and headed to our hoped for target species. Whilst walking through the forest a Greenish Warbler could be heard singing before we arrived at a huge nest in a tree above us. It was an old Goshawk nest and sat inside it was an incubating female Great Grey Owl! The viewing was fairly difficult through the branches, but with patience a telescope was set up in the best spot and the bird lifted its head every now and again allowing us to look into those yellow eyes and beautifully fine lined face discs. At one point the bird left the nest allowing us to get a feel for the great size of the bird, before it returned and nestled back down onto the nest which presumably had young chicks inside it.

After lunch, we visited an area that had been a regular spot for Hawk Owl in recent days, but the strong wind hindered our searching, so we decided to continue to our hotel. Once checked in, we headed out to look for the specialities of this new region. First stop was a Siberian Tit stake-out where we enjoyed excellent views of a pair of adult birds visiting a nest box. A stop to scan a nearby lake was very worthwhile as we scoped a very close group of 24 Velvet Scoter, a redhead Smew, two Goosander, Whooper Swan, Little Gulls and a stunning Red-necked Grebe! We then tried another Hawk Owl site. Again, the weather wasn't ideal being a little windy but we spent some time scanning the small meadow and just as we were about to give up, we could hear the begging call of a juvenile Hawk Owl! After some careful investigation, we managed to find the nest but could not really see the bird, so we decided to leave and return later when we hoped the adult might re-appear. As we left the site, a feeding group of 34 Taiga Bean Geese were a welcome distraction and we travelled towards the Russian border. Here, we explored the more open boggy areas where almost immediately we managed to find both our target species within a matter of metres from each other! Firstly, a pair of superb Rustic Buntings gave fabulous views as they fed their newly fledged chick in front of us. Then within a 50 metre walk we were soon enjoying a singing male Little Bunting as it posed in a small tree adjacent to the track we were walking on. Mick then did well to pick up a Jack Snipe in flight before we reached the end of the road and the Russian border.

Feeling very pleased with our afternoon, we slowly returned to the hotel, but not before another final owl! This time, Antero took us to a secluded spot where we had fabulous views of an adult Tengmalm's Owl as it peered at us from within its nest box. We all had a great view before it returned to the box and we left the bird, adding our fourth key owl species to the list.

After dinner we took a late evening drive in the hope of finding any Capercaillie or Willow Grouse feeding on the side of the road but we had no luck.

### **Saturday 4th June**

Another early start today as we still had a lot of target species to try for before we transferred to Lieksa in the south of the country. We spent between 04.00hrs - 08.00hrs birding around the Kuusamo area and though still a little windy, we tried once more for the Hawk Owl. This time we were in luck as we enjoyed excellent views of an adult bird perched high on top of a tree close to the nest site. This great bird posed for us all and allowed for some great scope views for a good 10-15 minutes before it flew off presumably to hunt. Happy with our fifth and last key owl species in the bag, we headed off to try our luck with Siberian Jay. En route, a quick scan of a roadside lake produced excellent views of three immaculate Black-throated Divers and we then arrived at our Jay stake-out. We took a short walk uphill and it was distinctly cold compared to the last few days! However, we continued on the path for three hundred metres and before long we could hear the highly distinctive almost mewling-like calls of our target species. Before long we were face to face with two of these quite stunning and charismatic birds as they fed just metres from us along with a couple of nearby Brambling. Our next stop was certainly a memorable one as we literally came within touching distance of a male Capercaillie! At first the bird posed and simply watched us, but then there was a certain point where the bird ran towards us and we slowly backed off whilst Antero did his best to take the brunt of the charge! It was clearly an old "rogue" male and these birds sometimes become a little over excited when within their territory, so we enjoyed the moment but found a spot where the bird was happy and it slowly retreated giving some fabulous views before we tried for our final target species. We could soon clearly hear our target species as two birds sang from the pines above us and the beautiful song of Red-flanked Bluetails echoed around us. We waited for some time and scanned the trees, but sadly time was not on our side this morning. We simply had to make do with hearing this great bird in the wonderful atmospheric surrounding of the forest complete with sunshine and snow showers before returning to our hotel for breakfast.

At 09.00hrs we waved goodbye to good friend and excellent local guide Antero and welcomed Heini who was to escort us to the town of Lieksa where the mammal focus of our tour was to begin. The journey time was just under five hours and we arrived at our comfortable hotel in the quiet town of Lieksa where we had lunch and re-organised our bags ready for the first of two nights in our wildlife watching hides at Keljanpuro Wildlife Lodge. Heini collected us at 4pm and we transferred to our hides. The group was split to give us more room in the hides and between us we watched two sites, one overlooking a lake on the edge of the forest and the other located within the forest overlooking a cleared area. The following evening we swapped locations to ensure everyone experienced the same amount of time in each hide location. Both areas were baited in the hope of attracting our primary target, the Wolverine, usually notoriously difficult mammal to see!

During the two nights (4/5th and 5th/6th) both groups were successful in seeing Wolverine with some excellent prolonged and very close views. Sightings varied over the two nights from both locations with up to three animals from the larger hide overlooking the lake and a minimum of six different animals from the smaller hides in the forest. Some of the group watching from the smaller hides set within the forest had some good luck with a brief sighting of a Brown Bear that wandered through the clearing early on the morning of the 6th.

### **Sunday 5th June**

After our first night in the hides, we were picked up at around 06.30am and transferred to our hotel in Lieksa where we enjoyed a very welcome breakfast! At 09.00am we were collected by another local guide Esa who took us to an area of nearby forest where we had an outside chance of seeing Siberian Flying Squirrel. We visited the nest hole of one of these very rare animals and learned a great deal about the animal's life cycle from Esa but failed to see an animal during our limited time. Another Black Woodpecker sighting was good to see in the vicinity before we returned to our hotel for lunch and a short siesta before being collected for our second night in the Wolverine hides at around 3pm.

### **Monday 6th June**

After our final night in the hides, we enjoyed a wonderful breakfast at the Keljanpuro Wildlife Lodge in the forest. We also had time for a shower/sauna and time to re-pack before Heini transferred us to the airport, just over an hour's drive from the lodge. As we travelled to the airport our final Elk sighting was seen from the minibus and we arrived in good time to the very small and very relaxed airport of Joensuu. Here, we took our flight to Helsinki to connect with our London flight and the tour concluded.

**Conservation Donation – Following this tour to Finland £200 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund. This will be used to support a conservation project in the future, yet to be determined.**

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to make a bigger difference to conservation it seems best to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will be used to support one single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. Some tours will continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from such smaller donations. Please visit our [Conservation News](#) and [Latest News](#) links to find out more.



Slavonian / Horned Grebe (above) and the stunning Black-throated Divers (below)





**Ortolan Bunting (above) and a male Common Rosefinch (below)**





**Whooper Swans (above) and Velvet Scoters (below)**





Siberian Tit (above) and Siberian Jay (below) are two highly sought after specialities





Tengmalm's / Boreal Owl (above) and a juvenile Ural Owl (below)





Northern Hawk Owl (above) and Great Grey Owl (below) are probably the two most “wanted” owls on a trip to Finland





**Male Capercaillie (above) and juvenile Black Woodpecker (below)**





**Terek Sandpiper is a rare breeder In Finland (above) and  
“Northern” Bullfinch (below) is a common forest edge species**



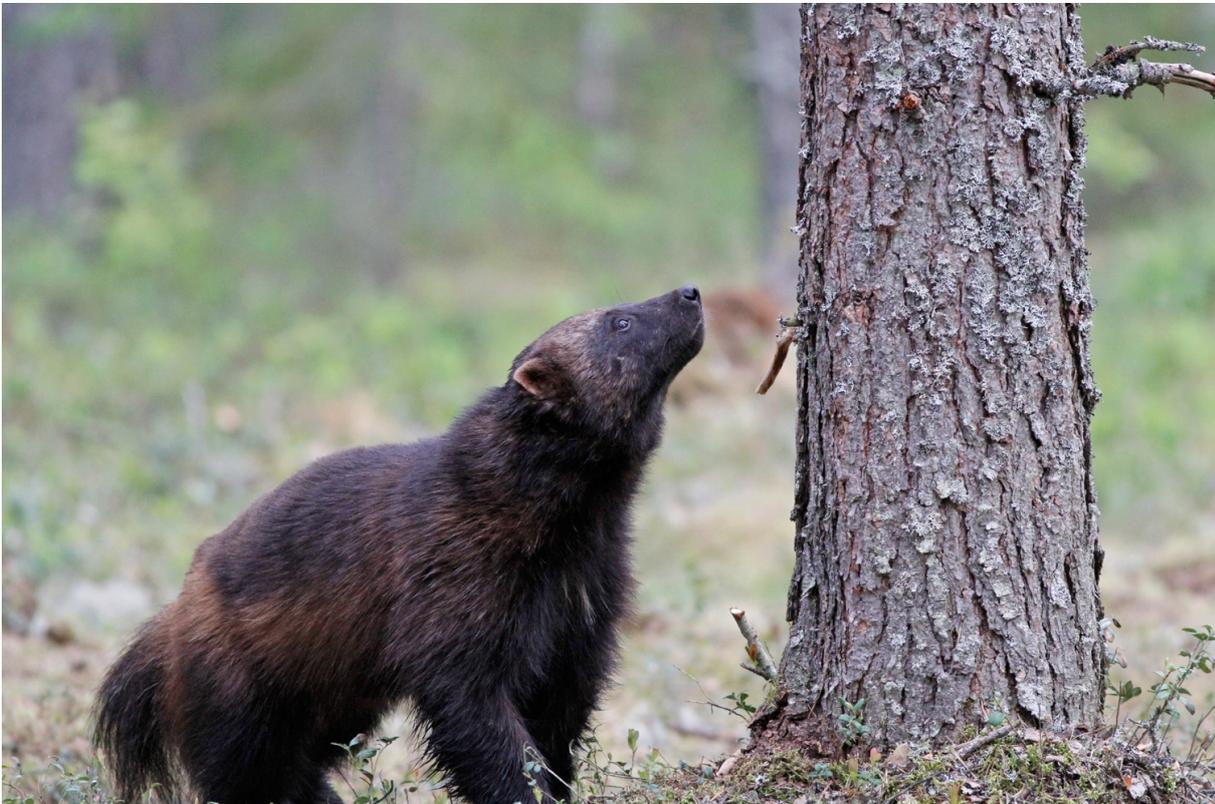


**Little Bunting (above) and Rustic Bunting (below) both showed very well within metres of each other near the Russian border**





**We were treated to many fabulous views of the usually elusive Wolverine!**





**More Wolverines!**





**Wolverine (above) and birding the forest near the Russian border (below)**





**One of the Wolverine hides (above) and the  
Brown Bear seen on our final morning (below)**





## Wise Birding Holidays Ltd

3, Moormead, Budleigh Salterton, DEVON, EX9 6QA

Website: [www.wisebirding.co.uk](http://www.wisebirding.co.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wisebirdingholidays](https://www.facebook.com/wisebirdingholidays)  
Email: [chris@wisebirding.co.uk](mailto:chris@wisebirding.co.uk)  
Telephone: **07973 483227**

# Wise Birding Holidays

*Bird and mammal watching tours*



### Wise Birding Holidays Bird & Mammal Checklist for Finland 1st - 6th June 2016

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	Recorded on three days
2	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	2	Recorded on four days
3	Hazel Grouse	<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	3	A brief but very close view of a singing male as it flew across the path in front of us
4	Western Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	4	Amazingly close views of a "rogue" male in the Valta Vaara region of Kuusamo
5	Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	5	A lone female during the early morning of the 2nd was amazingly our only sighting of the trip!
6	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	6	Great views of this commonly encountered but beautiful species on five days
7	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	7	Recorded on two days
8	Bean Goose (Taiga)	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	8	Good views of a group of 34 birds on the 3rd and a group of six birds on the 4th
9	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	9	Great views on two days including a flock of 34 birds on a lake near Raapyslampi on the 3rd
10	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	10	This handsome duck was recorded on three days
11	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	11	Two drakes seen on the 2nd and a single redhead on the 3rd
12	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	12	Recorded on the 2nd and the 3rd
13	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	13	Recorded on the 1st and the 2nd
14	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	14	Recorded on two days around Kempele Bay
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	15	Recorded on three days
16	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	16	Recorded on two days around Kempele Bay
17	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	17	Recorded on two days around Kempele Bay
18	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	18	Recorded on four days
19	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	19	Recorded on four days
20	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	20	Recorded on two days around Kempele Bay
21	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	21	Recorded on five days
22	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	22	A single breeding plumaged bird on the 3rd near Kuusamo was certainly a grebe highlight!
23	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	23	Recorded on the 2nd only around Kempele Bay
24	Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	24	Amazingly close views of a breeding plumaged adult on a lake near Oulu
25	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	25	Recorded on five days

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
26	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	26	Recorded on three days
27	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	27	Singles recorded on four days with birds seen on two days and heard on the other two days
28	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	28	A calling bird on the 2nd was good to experience, but the vegetation was too high to see it!
29	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	29	A single bird on the 1st near our hotel was an unusual sighting for the area
30	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	30	Recorded on our first three days with a max. count of 80+ birds on the 2nd
31	Arctic Loon (Black-throated Diver)	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	31	Excellent views of three adults early morning on the 4th near Kuusamo
32	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	32	A booming bird was heard by some of the group on our first evening near our hotel in Oulu
33	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	33	Recorded on the 2nd only around Kempele Bay
34	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	34	Recorded on the first two days around Kempele Bay
35	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	35	A single bird on the evening of the 2nd behind our hotel
36	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	36	Recorded on five days
37	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	37	Recorded on five days
38	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	38	A single bird on the 2nd in Kempele Bay
39	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	39	Five breeding plumaged birds on the 2nd in Kempele Bay
40	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	40	Small numbers recorded on the first two days around Kempele Bay
41	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	41	A single breeding plumaged bird on the 2nd in Kempele Bay was a good record
42	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	42	Chris had a bird roding late on the evening of the 1st by the hotel
43	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	43	Recorded on two days
44	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	44	Mick did well to alert the group to a single bird in flight near the Russian border on the 3rd
45	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	45	Great views of a single adult feeding in Kempele Bay/ Oulu harbour area on the 2nd
46	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	46	Recorded on the 2nd only
47	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	47	A single bird on the 2nd
48	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	48	Recorded on the first two days around Kempele Bay
49	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	49	A singing bird was heard on the 3rd
50	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	50	Small numbers of this beautiful gull were seen on three days
51	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	51	Recorded on four days

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
52	Mew (Common) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	52	Recorded on three days
53	Lesser Black-backed / "Baltic" Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	53	Recorded on the 4th
54	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	54	Recorded on the 1st and the 4th
55	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	55	Recorded on one day around Kempele Bay
56	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	56	Recorded on the first evening in Kempele Bay near our hotel
57	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	57	Good views on the 2nd and the 3rd around Kempele Bay
58	Northern Hawk-owl	<i>Surnia ulula</i>	58	After a frustrating view of a juvenile in the nest on the 3rd near Kuusamo, we finally saw an adult very well during the early morning of the 4th as it visited the nest site to feed the young
59	Eurasian Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	59	A single bird at a nest box on the 2nd near Oulu allowed very close views
60	Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	60	Great views of an adult peering out of its nest box on the evening of the 3rd near Kuusamo
61	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	61	We were lucky to see an adult and two juveniles on our first evening before the birds fledged just a matter of hours after we left the site!
62	Great Grey Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	62	A huge female was watched as it incubated young birds on the nest near Alavotto
63	Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	63	A male seen hunting around Kempele Bay on the evening of the 1st
64	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	64	A single bird was seen by Chris at Taivalkoski on the 3rd whilst looking for Hawk Owl
65	Eurasian Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	65	A fairly sparse number of sightings recorded on just two days
66	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	66	A good number of sightings with one adult and one juv on the 2nd near Oulu and 1 adult and 2 juvs on the 5th near Lieksa
67	Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	67	A female bird showed very well in forest near Oulu on the 2nd
68	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	68	Recorded on three days
69	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	69	Recorded on two days with a max. count of 2 birds on the 2nd
70	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	70	A single bird was seen on the 5th whilst we waited at the Siberian Flying Squirrel nest hole
71	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	71	Recorded on three days
72	Collared Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	72	Recorded on the 2nd only near Oulu harbour
73	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	73	Recorded on five days
74	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	74	Recorded on one day only
75	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	75	Recorded on two days
76	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	76	Recorded on three days

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
77	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	77	Single birds seen on the 4th and 5th
78	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	78	Birds were heard on the 3rd and the 4th but escaped being seen!
79	Northern Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	79	A single bird on the 4th
80	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	80	Recorded on the 2nd only
81	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	81	A calling bird on the 4th
82	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	82	Recorded on four days
83	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	83	A very common species recorded on five days
84	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	84	Recorded on the first two days only
85	Orange-flanked Bush-robin (RF Bluetail)	<i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	85	Frustratingly due to lack of time, we had to make do with hearing two singing birds on the morning of the 4th at the traditional site of Valta Vaara
86	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	86	Recorded on two days
87	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	87	Recorded on the first 2 days with up to 3 birds on the 1st
88	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	88	Recorded on the 1st only
89	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	89	Recorded on three days and seen well in the hotel garden at Oulu
90	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	90	Recorded on three days
91	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	91	Singing birds seen well on the 1st and 2nd around Kempele Bay
92	Blyth's Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	92	A singing male showed well on the 2nd near Oulu
93	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	93	Recorded on five days
94	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	94	A single bird heard on the 2nd
95	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	95	A singing bird on the 3rd whilst walking to the Great Grey Owl nest site
96	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	96	Recorded on the 2nd only near Oulu
97	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	97	Recorded on the 2nd only near Oulu
98	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	98	Recorded on the 2nd only near Oulu
99	Greater Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	99	Recorded on the 2nd only near Oulu
100	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	100	Great views of a calling bird on the morning of the 2nd near Oulu
101	Siberian Tit	<i>Poecile cinctus</i>	101	Excellent views of two adults attending a nest box near Kuusamo on the 3rd
102	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	102	Recorded on four days

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
103	Common Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	103	Recorded on five days
104	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	104	Recorded on the 1st only
105	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	105	Recorded on two days
106	Siberian Jay	<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	106	Great views of two typically vocal birds at Valta Vaara early morning on the 4th
107	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	107	Recorded on five days
108	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	108	Recorded on five days
109	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	109	Recorded on three days
110	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	110	Recorded on four days
111	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	111	Recorded on three days
112	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	112	Recorded on the 1st only
113	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	113	Two birds were seen very well on the 2nd in the hotel gardens
114	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	114	Recorded on five days
115	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	115	Recorded on two days
116	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	116	Recorded on the 2nd only
117	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	117	Recorded on five days
118	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	118	Excellent views of two breeding plumaged adult males on the 1st and heard again on the 2nd
119	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	119	Heard on the morning of the 6th after leaving the Wolverine hides
120	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	120	Some great views of these very distinctive sounding “northern” birds on four days
121	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	121	Recorded on the first two days
122	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	122	Very close views of a up to three singing males on the 1st and also recorded on the 2nd
123	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	123	A wonderful view of a singing male on the evening of the 3rd near the Russian border
124	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	124	Superb views of a pair of birds feeding a newly fledged juvenile near the Russian border
125	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	125	Recorded on three days

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1	A single animal was seen on the 4th near Kuusamo
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	2	A single animal was seen by some of the group at around 04.20hrs on the morning of the 6th from the Wolverine hides. It wandered through the clearing very close to the hides and took some of the bait
3	Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	3	Seen regularly throughout the two nights spent in the hides with a minimum of 8 individuals seen between both hide locations. Fabulously close views with a variation of coat markings and behaviour - Simply fantastic!
4	Forest Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus fennicus</i>	4	Recorded on two days travelling en route to Kuusamo and whilst in the Kuusamo region
5	Eurasian Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>	5	Wonderful views of three different animals on our first evening near Oulu
6	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	6	Two animals were recorded on the first two days
7	Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	7	A single animal still half in winter coat seen by some on the morning of the 4th near Kuusamo
8	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	8	Recorded on two days

# Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours

