

Lapland

Abisko – land of the midnight ‘sun’

A Greentours Tour Report

7th – 14th July 2013

Led by Phil Benstead

Day 1 Sunday 7th July UK to Björkliden

The team travelled solo to Stockholm where they met up with Phil at the gate for the flight to Kiruna. This passed quickly and soon we were dipping low over moorland strewn with small waterbodies and rivers that glistened in the sunshine. The captain informed us as we came into land that it was 18°C (at seven o'clock in the evening!) – not bad. Kiruna airport was delightfully easy to get out of and before we knew it we were heading up the E10 for the hotel. The huge magnetite mining concern was obvious around town but we soon left that behind and motored steadily through an increasingly attractive landscape, stopping just once to admire two reindeer by the side of the road. No time to stop elsewhere though if we were to make last orders for dinner so we just kept going.

As we neared Abisko we started following the shoreline of Lake Torneträsk – a huge and very picturesque lake. The clouds closed around us as we headed into the hills, the weather forecast for the week was looking rather poor and we all had our fingers crossed that it would not be too bad. After a superb spring Lapland was making up for lost time and delivering some cold and rather wet weather. Pulling up at the hotel we quickly got ourselves sorted out into our rooms and headed straight for dinner. The sun showed no sign of setting as we dined on reindeer and arctic char and this was slightly disorientating. The restaurant windows offered an excellent view out over the lake and the panorama was breathtaking including the summit of Njolla, the incomparable U-shaped hanging valley (Lappporten) and (masked by dirty clouds) the snow-covered mountains along the Norwegian border. We knew we would enjoy staying in the hotel and then the Norwegian weather swept in, it started to rain and we went to bed!

Day 2 Monday 8th July Vassijaure and Abisko

Many of us found the midnight sun too exciting overnight. It just never got remotely dark and birds were still hopping about well after midnight when we turned in. Sadly with rain greeting us in the morning very few of us made it out the door before breakfast.

After a fine breakfast we all took to the car and we were soon on the road heading west to nearby Vassijaure. The pool by the station was being whipped by a brisk westerly wind and the outside

temperature was a rather bleak 7 degrees. Stepping out into light rain we hunkered into the lee of a small hut and examined the pool. At least one red-necked phalarope was flitting about but mostly remained hidden in the emergent vegetation and who could blame it. Also here; a teal (female), tufted duck (female) and a pair of Arctic terns with two fluffy youngsters. We stopped soon after leaving at a roadside and enjoyed fragrant orchids and starry and yellow saxifrage in a roadside ditch.

Heading east and thankfully out of the really poor weather we continued on to Abisko to orientate ourselves. Searching for the supermarket was a priority and we quickly did our picnic shopping. Next we checked out the National Park Information Centre, watching a short slide presentation on the national parks in northern Sweden.

Lunch was taken in the lee of the centre and afterwards we walked the trail which took us alongside the edge of the famous gorge and its roaring river, through stunted birch woodland and enjoying a ground flora that was studded with little gems. Stands of the diminutive twinflower received a lot of attention. Banks beside the trail had two types of wintergreen, we found dwarf cornel and Peter found our first frog orchid. Roosting Idas blues became easy to find once we got attuned to them and we got some decent photographs as they toughed out the weather. Roseroot (*Rhodiola rosea*) clung to the gorge sides. A dipper whizzed by on a mission. Arriving at the delta we could not find any wildfowl or waders but we had got to grips with a few passerines during the walk, bramblings were a firm favourite and we heard willow tits at one point. A male kestrel flew through, a scarce bird hereabouts. Arriving at the lakeshore we scanned in vain for divers and wildfowl amongst the waves and turned for the car and an early finish.

Day 3 Tuesday 9th July east of Kiruna

With more bad weather forecast for today we elected to leave the mountains behind us and head east to Kiruna in a bid to get out of the rain clouds and this worked well. The temperature during the day in Abisko struggled to get above 8 degrees but we recorded a dizzy 14 degrees by driving 125 km east! The rain stayed off most of the day too, finally catching up with us mid-afternoon.

A relatively early 0815 start saw us heading off down the road, the wet weather meant we saw little en route and we reached our first stop without delay. Yli Lompolo is a small subsidence lake within the boundaries of Kiruna town and in the shadow of the large magnetic mine slag heaps. It does not sound too attractive and the brisk wind and cool temperatures meant that we did not linger long, but long enough to enjoy the three adult and six juvenile Slavonian grebes floating about with the tufted duck and goldeneye.

Driving on we stopped briefly in Kiruna for food supplies and then headed for the Astrophysics lab (Rymdcampus) just down the road (as you do!). Taking the track behind it we drove into some great forest, infested by vicious mosquitoes but producing some great birds and a few new plants. The small car park at the end of the short dirt road produced a cracking bird right off when Phil located an obliging Siberian jay. Nearby a wood sandpiper scolded us from a tree in a boggy clearing. Walking one of the trails we listened carefully for Siberian tits but eventually headed

back to the car and worked the track back out towards the main road. Some new plants were pleasing additions to our fledgling floral list, Caroline found *Moneses* and *Botrychium* and we also found *Orthilia* here too. Nearby Gill found us a roosting cranberry blue. Phil heard some tits and he and Peter managed to spot at least two Siberian tits before they were swamped by willow tits and we lost them in the confusion...

Driving to the river and picnic area at Laxforsen, we lunched whilst enjoying a brood of goosanders, our first red-throated diver and common sandpiper. After lunch Caroline found our first Arctic bramble (*Rubus arctica*) and we photographed some impressive *Pyrola norvegica*.

Last stop of the day and just squeezed in before the rain caught up with us was Pikkupalo. Here we stopped abruptly for a pair of roadside waxwing and enjoyed the startling song of a male redwing. We pottered down a nearby track botanising and Gill found us another new roosting butterfly (large heath). Then the rain swept in and we motored home for another early shower.

Day 4 Wednesday 10th July Njulla and Abisko boatyard

With a poor weather forecast for the whole of our stay in Lapland on this tour, it was a question of picking the least bleak day of the week for our trip up on the chairlift to the top of Njulla. The weather looked rather overcast and poor but nevertheless over breakfast so we decided to stay with Plan A and go up to the summit of Njulla, the mountain we had been staring at from the restaurant since we arrived. After a quick shop and sandwich preparation session we reported to the chairlift. We enjoyed the journey to the restaurant at 900m, floating along quietly and spotting flowers and birds. The temperature at the top was a chilly 6 degrees and there was a brisk northerly wind blowing...

The view looking back out over the lake and mountains was worth it all though – breathtaking. The flora looked great and as we walked the trail the botanical team stopped frequently to bag off the specialities of the high altitude fjell. The two *Cassiope* were found side-by-side. Several new saxifrages were added to the list. During the day though despite much searching by Phil and Peter we failed to turn up a ptarmigan or a dotterel. Birds were very scarce indeed and we managed just four species on the top, the best being some noisy golden plover. Meanwhile the botanists were still head down getting to grips with high-altitude *Ranunculus*, *Diapensia* and *Pedicularis*. What a splendid place. Eventually and decidedly wind-blown we walked back to the restaurant to catch the chair down.

The chairlift ride down was memorable – had we really been that far off the ground on the way up? We just had time to check out the boat club at Abisko for Iceland poppy but stopped by the railway near the chair-lift station when Caroline spotted a nice drift of this special plant. There were a few poppies at the boatyard too when we eventually got there. Pleasantly situated on the shores of the lake we had a flyby little gull on arrival, swiftly followed by a female wigeon. Exciting! Despite patient scanning the lake was apparently devoid of waterfowl. Along the edge we found grey-headed wagtails and a reed bunting. Tired we turned for home and another checklist session before dinner.

Day 5 Thursday 11th July Stordalen and Björkliden

Another very blustery but occasionally sunny day which meant another rather tiring full day in the field for us. This morning we headed for Stordalen to walk the bog boardwalk. Walking carefully through the fringing birch woodland we were untroubled by the usually abundant mosquitoes but also sadly by any dragonflies or butterflies. The heavily glaciated nature of the landscape was really apparent here with big drifts of boulders and huge erratics scattered about.

The boardwalk was a delight, we wandered amongst dense stands of tufty *Eriophorum* and picked our way through wet sphagnum patches enjoying the calls of nesting whimbrel and ruff all around us and occasionally spooking a red-necked phalarope. At the end of the boardwalk we bumped into a pair of red-throated pipits and spotted our first black-throated diver on a nearby lake. A pleasant walk.

We ate our lunch back at the hotel on the benches outside and met back up with Ruth. Afterwards we walked up to the top of the golfcourse and walked the trail towards Kratersjön. The walk was a pleasant one over a series of ridges of glacial moraine. En route we added further species to our flora list (Peter found us a new orchid) and enjoyed finding some of the species from yesterday. A pair of golden plovers called plaintively but we failed to connect with the resident pair of long-tailed skuas before we turned for home.

Phil searched for bluethroat near the hotel before dinner, finding a juvenile but no adults. Nearby more Iceland poppies were growing out of the gravel on the roadside.

Day 6 Friday 12th July Abisko

A catch-up day in the park for us today. After the daily food shopping session we drove the short distance to the Abisko nature trail. Overnight the wind had finally dropped although the cool temperatures and overcast skies remained. The change in weather conditions really got some birds moving around and we had a fantastic morning for bluethroats, bumping into two or three family parties. Caroline heard a woodpecker but it did not call again. Whilst most of us were photographing one particularly obliging male bluethroat, Peter nipped off to find a tree and bumped into a spectacular pair of three-toed woodpeckers. The rest of us gave chase but failed to connect, having to be content with looking at the gripping photos...

The nature trail is a pleasant walk, it winds its way through the stunted birch forest that we had all become used to, through clearings packed with cloudberry and fragrant orchids and onto to a small lake and Scot's pine littered moraine ridges. The lake had a single red-throated diver but we failed again to find any 'sea' ducks. The clearings produced some purple saxifrage (sadly it had finished flowering and we puzzled over the possibility of *Pinguicula villosa* (sadly also not flowering). Also in the clearings, and despite the low temperature, a surprise nordic mountain grasshopper - *Melanoplus frigidus*. Eventually the trail joins the popular Kungsleden hiking trail and we rejoined society. The riverside trail back to the car produced several new plants (including *Lychnis alpina* and herb paris) and we bumped into spotted flycatcher and common sandpiper on

the river.

After lunch back at chilly Björkliden, during which the weather deteriorated, we headed back down to Abisko and walked down the gorge to the delta again. The delta had a few more birds than last time; including some sand martins, a ringed plover and more juvenile bluethroats. Plantwise things were quieter though with just some lakeside *Saxifraga caespitosa*. Turning for home we wandered back after a pleasant day in the park.

Day 7 Saturday 13th July Vassijaure and Norway

Our last day dawned misty and deteriorated markedly during the morning, with plenty of rain... Our first stop along the main road was for another look at Vassijaure, the fat little Arctic tern chicks were starting to colour up nicely and two red-necked phalaropes flew in briefly did a twirl and then flew off again. Frustrating.

Driving on into Norway we were struck by the incredible change in geology and landscape. It was a different country, no doubt. With rain still falling we seldom left the comfort of the car, doing a bit of drive-by botany that netted some common spotted orchids. Winding down to the fjord, it finally stopped raining and we stopped for a wander along the gravel beach, a huge mountain towered over the far side of the fjord. Very Norwegian it was. It was splendid to be on the beach and rather surreal after six days in the high fjell. The vegetation just above the strandline netted us some new plants including the beautiful oysterplant and offshore Peter found us two puffins! Also here a number of other new bird species including common tern, herring gull and greater black-backed gull, as well as two red-throated divers.

Driving on we drove on into Narvik, orientating ourselves we headed above town to a scenic look out, the weather was clear enough for us to look out over the town and the fjord. Nice. The hydro station here was also the trailhead for a network of walking trails and we climbed a little way up the trail before lunch picking up some common hitherto unrecorded species as well as *Viola palustris* (sadly not flowering) and *Aquilegia vulgaris* (ditto). Picnicking here we munched our sandwiches and enjoyed the 1 o'clock man-made geysir, a pipe attached to the hydrostation punching a jet of water 30-40 metres into the air over the car park and creating a beautiful curtain of water vapour. Driving down into the town we headed for a coffee and cake stop – a well-deserved treat after a week of battling the elements.

The drive home was punctuated with a few stops for plants and landscape photography. At one stop we heard a chiffchaff and glimpsed our first blackbird. High up and just before the border we had a short stop in an interesting landscape. Caroline saw a mystery vole – a Norwegian tundra vole perhaps? Last stop of the day was for a pair of sleeping black-throated divers on Torneträsk and then we were back at the hotel. Over dinner we celebrated Ruth's birthday and then got packing, our stay in Swedish Lapland was over.

Day 8 Sunday 14th July to Kiruna and home

I doubt this tour will ever experience the weather we have had over the last week, temperatures have remained unseasonally low through out and until this morning we had barely seen the sun since the day we arrived. So it was like some sort of joke that we woke to bright sunshine on our last morning and arrived at the breakfast table blinking like moles.

Loading the car though we noted that it was still rather chilly. The drive to Kiruna took no time at all and we did not stop until we got there. In town we enjoyed once again the Slavonian grebes and an attendant brood of mallards (our first and last of the tour) and that was that.

Looking back on the week we had recorded more birds (70) than have ever been seen on this tour before, done well with plants (although the early flowering of some of the species meant we missed some regulars) but had done appallingly badly for butterflies (three species) and seen no dragonflies at all. A freak week weatherwise and one I hope will not be repeated on this tour.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

CLUB MOSSES

Lycopodium clavatum Abisko and Björkliden

EQUISETALES

Equisetum arvense Field horsetail Abisko
Equisetum pratense Shady horsetail Abisko
Equisetum fluviatile Björkliden
Equisetum sylvaticum Wood horsetail Abisko
Equisetum palustre Marsh horsetail Abisko

PTERIDOPHYTA

Athyrium filix-femina Lady Fern Abisko
Gymnocarpium dryopteris Oak Fern Björkliden
Botrychium lunaria Moonwort Rymdcampus, Abisko and Norway

PINACEAE

Picea abies Norway spruce Kiruna
Pinus sylvestris Scots pine Abisko

CUPRESSACEAE

Juniperus communis Juniper widespread.

SALICACEAE

Salix reticulata Net-leaved willow Abisko
Salix herbacea Njulla and Björkliden
Salix lanata Woolly willow Abisko
Salix lapponum Downy willow Björkliden

BETULACEAE

Betula pubescens Hairy birch Abisko
Betula nana Dwarf birch Abisko

URTICACEAE

Urtica dioica Stinging nettle Narvik

POLYGONACEAE

Bistorta viviparum Alpine bistort Abisko
Oxyria digyna Mountain sorrel Björkliden, Njulla
Rumex acetosa Common sorrel recorded
Rumex acetosella Sheep sorrel recorded

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Stellaria nemorum Wood stitchwort recorded
Stellaria graminea Lesser stitchwort east of Kiruna
Stellaria media Narvik
Cerastium alpinum Alpine mouse-ear Björkliden
Cerastium arcticum Arctic mouse-ear Abisko

<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	Abisko
<i>Lychnis alpina</i>	Alpine catchfly	Abisko (Kungsleden)
<i>Silene wahlbergella</i>	Northern catchfly	Abisko, Njulla
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	widespread
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss campion	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>		Narvik
<i>Arenaria norvegica</i>	Arctic sandwort	Abisko and Njulla
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Pearlwort	Björkliden, Abisko and Norway
<i>Honkenya peploides</i>	Sea sandwort	down by the fjord in Norway
RANUNCULACEAE		
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	widespread
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	recorded
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	east of Kiruna
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow buttercup	Njulla
<i>Ranunculus glacialis</i>	Glacier buttercup	Njulla
<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Dwarf buttercup	Njulla
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globe flower	widespread
PAPAVERACEAE		
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Iceland poppy	Abisko, Björkliden and Narvik
BRASSICACEAE		
<i>Cardamine pratensis ssp polemonoides</i>	Cuckoo flower	recorded
<i>Cardamine amara type</i>	Large bittercress	recorded
<i>Arabis arenosa</i>	Sand rockcress	Abisko
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine rockcress	Björkliden
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	Abisko
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>		Narvik
CRASSULACEAE		
<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>	Roseroot	widespread
SAXIFRAGACEAE		
<i>Saxifraga caespitosa</i>	Tufted saxifrage	Njulla and Abisko
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple saxifrage	Abisko (not flowering)
<i>Saxifraga rivulais</i>	Highland saxifrage	Njulla
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	Drooping saxifrage	Njulla
<i>Saxifraga stellaris</i>	Starry saxifrage	Abisko and Njulla
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow saxifrage	widespread
PARNASSIACEAE		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus	widespread
ROSACEAE		
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	recorded
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	recorded, abundant in Norway
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Cloudberry	Widespread and enjoyed stewed on icecream at dinner. Incredible amount of berries at Stordalen.

<i>Rubus arcticus</i>	Arctic bramble	Pretty little bramble noted at Laxforsen and Stordalen but never common.
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Stone bramble	Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	Norway
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens	widespread
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Marsh cinquefoil	widespread
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	Norway
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Alpine cinquefoil	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	Sibbaldia	Abisko and Björkliden
<i>Alchemilla spp.</i>		recorded
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain avens	widespread
FABACEAE		
<i>Astagalus alpinus</i>	Alpine milk-vetch	widespread and common
<i>Astragalus frigidus</i>		widespread and common
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	recorded
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch	Norway
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	recorded
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	recorded, common roadside plant
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	Norway
GERANIACEAE		
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood cranesbill	common
VIOLACEAE		
<i>Viola palustris</i>	Bog violet	Narvik
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow wood violet	Njulla and Björkliden
ONAGRACEAE		
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb	widespread
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>		Njulla and Stordalen (plus some sterile hybrids doubtless involving this species)
CORNACEAE		
<i>Cornus suecica</i>	Dwarf cornel	common understorey and fjell plant, a great favourite
APIACEAE		
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	recorded
<i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Garden angelica	recorded at scattered localities.
DIAPENSIACEAE		
<i>Diapensia lapponica</i>	Diapensia	Njulla
PYROLACEAE		
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Common wintergreen	widespread
<i>Pyrola norvegica</i>	Round-leaved wintergreen	widespread
<i>Orthilia secunda</i>	Toothed wintergreen	Rymdcampus and Abisko
<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	One-flowered wintergreen	Rymdcampus

ERICACEAE

<i>Phyllodoce caerulea</i>	Mountain heath	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>	Wild azalea	Njulla
<i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i>	Arctic rhododendron	Abisko
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>		Njulla
<i>Cassiope hypnoides</i>	White Arctic heather	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	east of Kiruna
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog rosemary	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	Black bearberry	Abisko
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	recorded
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	recorded
<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Northern bilberry	east of Kiruna and Abisko

EMPETRACEAE

<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	recorded
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PRIMULACEAE

<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Chickweed wintergreen	widespread
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GENTIANACEAE

<i>Gentiana nivalis</i>	Snow gentian	Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Gentianella tenella</i>		Njulla, Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Gentianella amarella</i>		Abisko and east of Kiruna
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog bean	widespread, some still flowering

BORAGINACEAE

<i>Myosotis cf. sylvatica</i>		Abisko
<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Oysterplant	along the shores of the fjord in Norway – a nice birthday present for Ruth

SCHROPHULARIACEAE

<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine speedwell	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common cow-wheat	widespread
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Wood cow-wheat	widespread
<i>Bartsia alpina</i>	Alpine bartsia	widespread
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	An eye-bright	recorded
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>		Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Pedicularis lapponica</i>		Njulla only this year

LENTIBULACEAE

<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common butterwort	widespread
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PLANTAGINACEAE

<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	Yli Lompolo (Kiruna) and Norway
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CAPRIFOLIACEAE

<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	widespread and often flowering abundantly, a bonus of the warm spring in Lapland this year (till we arrived that is)
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CAMPANULACEAE

Campanula rotundifolia Harebell widespread

ASTERACEAE

Solidago virgaurea Golden rod Abisko
Erigeron uniflorus widespread
Gnaphalium norvegicum Highland cudweed Abisko and Björkliden
Gnaphalium supinum Dwarf cudweed Njulla and Björkliden
Antennaria dioica Mountain everlasting Njulla and Björkliden
Triplospermum perforatum Abisko
Matricaria maritima Sea mayweed Abisko
Matricaria discoidea Pineapple mayweed Norway
Tussilago farfara Colt's-foot Norway
Taraxacum group Dandelion recorded
Hieracium group Hawkweed recorded
Sonchus arvensis Norway
Cicerbita alpina Alpine blue sowthistle widespread
Tanacetum vulgare Tansy Norway
Saussurea alpina Alpine saw-wort widespread
Achillea millefolium Yarrow recorded
Achillea ptarmica Sneezewort Abisko and east of Kiruna

LILIACEAE

Paris quadrifolium Herb paris Abisko
Tofieldia pusilla Scottish asphodel widespread

ORCHIDACEAE

Gymnadenia conopsea Fragrant orchid Abisko and Björkliden
Pseudorchis straminea Abisko and Björkliden
Coeloglossum viride Frog orchid Abisko
Dactylorhiza maculata Heath spotted-orchid Norway

GRAMINAE

Phleum alpinum Alpine cat's-tail Njulla and Björkliden
Deschampsia flexuosa Stordalen and Norway
Deschampsia caespitosa Norway
Elymus arenarius Lyme grass Norway
Eriophorum latifolium Broad-leaved cottongrass Stordalen
Eriophorum vaginatum Hare's-tail cottongrass Stordalen
Eriophorum angustifolium recorded
Eriophorum scheuchzeri recorded
Trichophorum alpinum recorded
Luzula pilosa Abisko
Carex vesicaria Abisko

Systematic list Number 2 - Butterflies

Idas blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	Abisko
Cranberry blue	<i>Vacciniina optilete</i>	One at the Rymdcampus.
Large heath	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	One at Pukkupalo. A caterpillar at Abisko.

Systematic list Number 3 - Mammals

Species in brackets were recorded by sign or found dead on road (DOR)

Reindeer	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Just two en route to Björkliden on the first day. Sign elsewhere.
[Moose]	<i>Alces alces</i>	Dung east of Kiruna...
[Mountain hare]	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	Dung noted everywhere but could we find one...
[Red fox]	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	DOR cub at Abisko.

Systematic list Number 4 – Amphibians

Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	A few at Abisko and one large one seen by the team at Stordalen.
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Systematic List Number 5 Birds

Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Total of five seen, including two on the sea in Norway.
Black-throated diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Single at Stordalen and a pair on Torneträsk.
Slavonian grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	At least three pairs at Yli Lompolo on the Kiruna day. More there on the last day.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Four logged in Norway.
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Single female flying past Abisko boat club.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Single females at Vassijaure and Abisko.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A female with young on the last day at Yli Lompolo.
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Small numbers at Vassijaure and a few other waterbodies.
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Females with young at Yli Lompolo and Laxforsen.
Red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Two on the sea in Norway.
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Female with eight youngsters at Laxforsen.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Single males twice at Abisko. Two around Kiruna.
[Grouse spp.]	<i>Lagopus spp.</i>	Sign of both ptarmigan and willow grouse but neither seen sadly.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Single on the beach in Norway.
Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Single at the delta in Abisko.
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	One seen on Njulla and others heard. Two more on the track to Kratersjön.
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Single agitated female at Stordalen.
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Singles over the E10 and at Stordalen.
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Two roding for Peter along the E10 on our way back from the Kiruna day out.
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Two pairs at Stordalen. Heard at Vassijaure on our second visit.
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Just one recorded at the Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna).
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Singles at Laxforsen.
Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Just one in appalling weather at Vassijaure on the first day. Another equally unobliging individual at Stordalen.
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Small numbers daily.
Little gull	<i>Larus minimus</i>	Single close past the boat club at Abisko.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Single on Torneträsk and a few more on the fjord in Norway.
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Single on the fjord in Norway.
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	At least one on the fjord in Norway.
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisea</i>	Pair at Vassijaure with two small youngsters. Two more over Torneträsk and two pairs at Stordalen.
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Two on the fjord in Norway were a surprise.
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Two in Kiruna on the last day.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Two recorded east of Kiruna. Another couple in Norway.

Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	One at Laxforsen for Caroline – a good bird in Lapland.
Three-toed woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	The pair found and photographed by Peter were the birds of the trip but it was sadly a solo effort, although Caroline heard them first. A great find.
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Small party one day at the Abisko delta. Four or five at Yli Lompolo on the last day.
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Noted at Abisko and Laxforsen.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Occasionally found, widespread.
Red-throated pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Pair at Stordalen. A trip highlight.
Grey-headed wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	Small numbers in boggy habitats.
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Occasionally recorded.
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Single in the gorge at Abisko.
[Dunnock]	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Singing male near the hotel (Björkliden).
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Three from the car en route to Björkliden on the first day. Two seen well at Pukkupalo (east of Kiruna).
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Very few this year. A juvenile near the hotel.
Common redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Small numbers in woodland throughout, often seen from the hotel windows.
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Occasionally encountered in the mountains, smaller numbers lower down.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Frequently encountered.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common.
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Two along the Kungsleden (Abisko).
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Scattered records.
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	Common and widespread.
Siberian tit	<i>Parus cinctus</i>	Two or three at Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna).
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Scarce, noted around Abisko and elsewhere.
[Jay]	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Heard on the nature trail at Abisko.
Siberian jay	<i>Perisoreus infaustus</i>	One at the car park south of Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna).
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Small numbers daily.
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Small numbers daily.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Small numbers, almost daily.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Abisko.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Abisko.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Small numbers almost daily.
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Common, frequently heard.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Small numbers in Kiruna.
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	A few at Björkliden, Abisko and Yli Lompolo (Kiruna).
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Occasional in boggy areas.
[Yellowhammer]	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Caroline heard one at Abisko.