

Lapland

Abisko – land of the midnight ‘sun’

A Greentours Tour Report

6th – 13th July 2014

Led by Phil Benstead

Day 1 Sunday 6th July UK to Björkliden

The team travelled solo to Stockholm by various routes 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. As we came into land the captain informed us that it was 24°C – not bad at all. 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, not stopping.

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 excellent and we all had our fingers crossed that it would become fact over time. Pulling up at the hotel we quickly got ourselves sorted out into our rooms and headed for dinner. The sun showed no sign of setting, as we dined on tender beef and vegetables and icecream and cloudberry compote, 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 Njulla, the incomparable U-shaped hanging valley (Lapporten) and the snow-covered mountains along the Norwegian border. We knew we would enjoy staying in the hotel and some of us went for a post-prandial wander around the local area.

Day 2 Monday 7th July Vassijaure and Abisko

After a good breakfast we all took to the vehicle and we were soon on the road heading west to nearby Vassijaure. We did not get far though, stopping after just 75 metres to look at our first Iceland poppy by the road below the hotel. A thorough examination of the roadside here by a sharp-eyed team turned up numerous new species for our fledgling floral list including frog and fragrant orchid. The sun shone down on us and we started to apply sun-cream and hats. Glorious.

Arriving at Vassijaure, the pool by the Soviet-style station warehouse was mirror calm and bathed in sun and the temperature had already climbed into the twenties under the blue sky and relentless sun. A probable red-necked phalarope vacated the pool as we parked up sadly and we

failed to relocate it. A feisty pair of Arctic terns were nice here though and had at least one fluffy half-grown youngster to raise. But here it was the flora that entranced the group. We found our first mountain heath, trailing azalea, *Dryas octopetala* and common wintergreen. Fiona found us a lovely group of coral-root orchids and we browsed through the vegetation getting to grips with the often confusing *Vacciniums* and related heaths.

Heading east we continued on to Abisko to orientate ourselves. Searching out the supermarket was a priority for our packed lunch plans and we quickly did our picnic shopping and even bagged some souvenirs at the other shop. Whilst the team checked out the National Park Information Centre, Phil laid out the lunch and then we got stuck in.

After lunch we walked the trail which took us alongside the edge of the famous gorge and its roaring river. It took us through stunted birch woodland and allowing us to enjoy a ground flora that was studded with little gems. Stands of the diminutive and very attractive twinflower received a lot of attention. Banks beside the trail had two types of wintergreen, we found plenty of very striking dwarf cornel and chickweed wintergreen flowered in abundance. At the bridge we became acquainted with drooping and tufted saxifrage and the splendid northern catchfly. Cranberry blues became easy to find along the dirt track after the bridge. The lakeshore edge produced our first *Erigeron uniflorus* but searching out wetland birds was ultimately fruitless. Wandering back we took to the van once more after rehydrating (!) and took a short drive to the boat club. Here we poked about, Liz finding us the tiny *Gentianella* and an equally small but much-harder to identify *Euphrasia*. More Iceland poppies were found and then, beaten into submission by the relentless sun, we headed back to the hotel after a great first day.

Day 3 Tuesday 8th July

Njulla and Vassijaure

With blue skies and sun greeting us at breakfast there was only one place to go today and so we took the chairlift to the top 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, bought return tickets only to discover that they no longer run the chairlift till four o'clock but were stopping at two instead. The clock was ticking although we still had the option of walking back down if necessary. In the event we had enough time to find the special plants of this lovely patch of montane habitat. We enjoyed the journey to the restaurant at 900m, floating along quietly and spotting flowers and birds as we went. The weather remained sunny throughout but mercifully we had a light breeze to cool us as we walked on uphill.

The view looking back out over the lake and mountains was breathtaking. The flora looked great too and as we slowly walked the first part of the trail the botanical team stopped frequently to bag off the specialities of the high altitude fjell. The two beautiful *Cassiope* species were found side-by-side. The much-wanted *Diapensia* was located and we enjoyed the small alpine *Veronica*. Phil was pleased to find dewy ringlet and pale Arctic clouded yellow in abundance but the fritillaries that this site is well-known for remained high above us on the ridges as we browsed the vegetation in the lower areas. Finally reaching a nice patch of snow-melt we found the two high altitude

Ranunculus species growing together and settled down to eat our lunch. From here we headed back to our rendezvous with the chairlift. On the way Liz found some scraps of reindeer and Marion found us a much more alive Scotch burnet moth (*Zygaena exulans*).

The chairlift ride down was memorable – had we really been that far off the ground on the way up? Phil spotted a nice male bluethroat from his chair and redwing, dunnock, brambling and willow tit were noisy in the stunted birch forest either side of the ride. With an unexpected two hours on our hands we headed west back to Vassijaure to check a short and rather boggy trail on the other side of the main road. En route we stopped for ‘scope views of a single black-throated diver loafing on the surface of the lake. The short boggy trail was worth the effort with some nice starry saxifrage, our first flowering bogbean and a nice small *Epilobium anagalladifolium* getting plenty of attention. Our only small whiteface dragonfly put in an appearance and an unidentified emerald dragonfly hawked for mosquitoes overhead...

Driving back we stopped to photograph some roadside yellow saxifrage and Alban found us some fantastic lesser twayblades in a nearby ditch, a great end to the day. After checklists we had another tasty dinner and then retired many of us watching the incredible spectacle of the Germany-Brazil semi-final in the World Cup.

Day 4 Wednesday 9th July Stordalen and Björkliden

A slightly earlier 0830 start this morning saw us heading east towards the nearby Stordalen Nature Reserve to walk the bog boardwalk. Walking carefully through the fringing birch woodland and associated rocky moraine we finally connected with our first bluethroat, a pair scolding us from the tops of the stunted birches nearby. The heavily glaciated nature of the landscape was really apparent here with big drifts of boulders to be negotiated and huge erratics scattered about. Dragonflies started to appear as we neared the boggy areas, more *Somatochloras* and our first teneral *Aeshna caerulea* fluttered out of the trees.

The boardwalk was a delight, our first we wandered amongst dense stands of tufty *Eriophorum* and picked our way through wet sphagnum patches enjoying the calls of the resident whimbrel and wood sandpipers all around us and even spooking a snipe. Comical whimbrel chicks were fun to watch but a little elusive. Butterflies were surprisingly scarce although we did eventually pick up our first idas blues of the trip. Dragonflies though were on the wing and we had good views of egg-laying *Aeshna caerulea* and Phil was pleased to find that the patrolling emerald (*Somatochlora*) here was indeed an *alpestris* when the flight photos were checked at the end of the day.

Driving back we picked up fresh supplies at the supermarket and ate our lunch back at the hotel on the benches outside under the merciless sun. Afterwards we walked up to the top of the golf course and enjoyed the lovely 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 including the tiny *Pseudorchis* and enjoyed reacquainting ourselves some of the species from yesterday. Bluethroats showed well on a number of occasions and were well-watched as they gathered caterpillars for hungry youngsters and scolded us if we got too close to their nests. But the easy bird highlight was

the splendid long-tailed skua that greeted us when we got to Kratersjön. It hunted around us, hovering like a kestrel, as we enjoyed a rest before retracing our steps back to the hotel. Another great day in the field.

Day 5 Thursday 10th July Norway

Today we headed east up to the nearby border and over into another country. Driving into Norway we were struck by the incredible change in geology and landscape. It was a different country, no doubt. With the sun blazing down we experienced our hottest day of the tour so far, with temperatures hitting 31 degrees at times! Normally we save this trip for a rainy day so it was quite surreal doing it to be in bright sunshine and we saw some great wildlife as a result. Our first stop by a gigantic troll produced singing bluethroat and several additions to the floral list including our first common spotted orchids.

Winding down to Ofotfjorden 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 unreal after the preceding days in the nearby high fjell. The vegetation just above the strandline netted us some new plants including the beautiful oysterplant and offshore Phil found a few red-throated divers and a small group of harbour porpoises! Herring gull and greater black-backed gull were also new species for the list. Butterflies here consisted of our first common blues and Arran browns.

Driving on we drove into Narvik, orientating ourselves we headed above town to a scenic look out, from here we could look out over the town and the fjord, the ice-free harbour that allows the iron ore to flow to the world from the Swedish mines at Kiruna and Gällivare. Nice. Picnicking here we munched our sandwiches and did not have to wait long for the 1 o'clock man-made geysir, a pipe attached to the hydrostation punching a jet of water 75 metres into the air over the car park and creating a beautiful curtain of water vapour under which numerous children scampered about cooling down in the midst of the incredible heatwave we were experiencing. We were more than a little envious but practical considerations prevented us from joining them.

The drive home was punctuated with a few stops for plants, landscape photography and WW2 memorials inside Norway. Low down we stopped to check out a florally-rich area and picked up our only small pearl-bordered fritillary. High up and just before the border we had a lengthy stop in an interesting landscape. We walked over scarified granite, scattered with erratics. It was dry up here and many of the plants here had finished flowering but we found some nice pools at the base of the cliff that were alive with azure hawkers and a few alpine emeralds too. The hawkers were excellent value, occasionally using us as perches and whipping mosquitoes away from in front of our faces. Wandering back we drove on checking the war memorials en route and eventually pulling up in the hotel car park rather frazzled by the heat of a very hot day.

Day 6 Friday 11th July

Abisko

A chance to walk the excellent nature trail in the park for us today. Overnight the weather had finally broken, putting some clouds in the sky to relieve the monotony and bringing cooler temperatures (with a high of just 22 degrees today!). Birdwise things remained quiet although we managed brief views of willow tit and common redstart and heard a three-toed woodpecker closeby. Dragonflies and butterflies were obvious and we found our first moorland clouded yellow (*Colias palaeno*) as the blues danced around us along the paths. Both emerald dragonflies were nailed down at last, *Somatochlora metallica* finally giving good confirmatory views and yet more *alpestris* appearing, what a year!

The nature trail is a very 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 a small lake and Scots pine littered moraine ridges. The clearings produced some great botanising and we puzzled as usual over the possibility of *Pinguicula villosa* (sadly also not flowering). Also in the clearings were numerous nordic mountain grasshoppers - *Melanoplus frigidus* – and another Scotch burnet moth. 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 a common sandpiper on the river.

After lunch back at the park information centre, we headed back down to Abisko boat club and walked along the lake edge for a little while after failing to find any waterbirds to look at on the lake. The walk was great for flowering Arctic bramble and leaving the group to walk the short distance up to the road Phil back-tracked for the van and picked up the team by an incongruous clump of toadflax growing out of the roadside gravel on the E10. Our last stop was just east of Abisko where a short walk produced numerous emeralds and hawkers hawking over the wet heath and one glorious mountain fritillary. A great end to another enjoyable day in Lapland.

Day 7 Saturday 12th July Trollsjön walk

Having got the team up to fitness and with yet another glorious sunny day ahead of us we elected to tackle the 12 km trek (this is an optional walk – and indeed group members can come along as far as the desire and fitness takes them) into the stunning glaciated valley that leads to the icy blue Trollsjön (a lake). Before we headed out we made up our lunches and packed our bags. The trail took us from the E10 through a thin fringe of birch woodland and over a bog to the railway station. Climbing the spur to get into the valley took us just over an hour. The sward here was a mass of *Viola biflora*, *Trollius* and *Ranunculus* – a riot of yellow. Rough-legged buzzards mewed from the cliffs. A polar bumblebee (*Bombus polaris*) scurried about on the ground visiting flowers. Glacial erratics and mounds of moraine were a joy to examine, each a little rock garden. We had our first encounters with flowering purple saxifrage, *Veronica fruticans* and some of us found *Pedicularis hirsuta*. Fiona found some delicate *Saxifraga cernua* growing in the crevices of a large erratic.

The view once we reached the valley proper was spectacular in every direction. The bottom of the valley was covered in a jumble of huge rocks left behind by a glacier long since gone. The view

down to Vassijaure where we had spent the morning of the first day was also appealing.

At the top of the walk we stopped for a dried fruit break and drank in the scenery – a magic place. Contouring into the valley with high cliffs looming on one side and the valley on the other we made our way towards the lake. A little further on a tame long-tailed skua sat on a rock looking out over its domain. After another hour it was time for some of us to lighten our loads by eating our packed lunches. From here it was one final push to the lake for most of the team. Trollsjön was deep and blue, a perfect little corrie lake, still with a fringe of ice at the far end. Phil and Marion stayed below the final climb and whilst they chatted they were entertained by a superb ring ouzel. Walking back we again enjoyed the spectacular views. A great walk.

Day 8 Sunday 13th July to Kiruna and home

I doubt this tour will ever experience the amazing weather we have had over the last week, blazing temperatures throughout and until yesterday we had barely seen a cloud since the day we arrived. We nearly found a rainshower on the drive to Kiruna, it had obviously bucketed down on one stretch of road just before we got there but we managed to complete the 8 days without seeing rain. A staggering outcome.

Loading the car we bid farewell to the hotel and the staff who had looked after us so well during the week. The drive to Kiruna took no time at all and we only stopped once to check a bird and had a driveby teal (our first and last of the tour). Yli Lompolo was our first stop and here we enjoyed the splendidly plumaged Slavonian grebes and and comical broods of wigeon and goldeneye. A sedge warbler sang from the marginal vegetation.

We had intended to build our lunches in the car park but the hotel had frozen our food bag instead of the usual refrigeration so we withdrew to a nearby Co-op for supplies. We took these to the nearby Astro-physics research facility and found a bench. Lunch made we just had time to do some spotting along the mosquito-infested track. Here we heard willow and Siberian tit and cruising slowly back along the track finally produced moonwort for the floral list. A short drive brought us to the airport and the end of an enjoyable tour with an eagle-eyed team.

Looking back on the week we had recorded very few birds but done well with the plants and amazingly well for butterflies (eleven species) and dragonflies (7 species). But in many ways Lapland under a blue sky was the highlight, a special place.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

CLUB MOSSES

<i>Huperzia selago</i>	Fir clubmoss	widespread
<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>		recorded on the first day and doubtless overlooked thereafter.
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>		Abisko and Björkliden
<i>Diphasiastrum alpinum</i>		recorded.

EQUISETALES

<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	Shady horsetail	Abisko
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>		Björkliden, east of Abisko
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood horsetail	Abisko

PTERIDOPHYTA

<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Abisko and elsewhere
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	widespread
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort	Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna).

PINACEAE

<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	Kiruna
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	Abisko

CUPRESSACEAE

<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	widespread.
---------------------------	---------	-------------

SALICACEAE

<i>Salix reticulata</i>	Net-leaved willow	widespread
<i>Salix herbacea</i>	Dwarf willow	Njulla
<i>Salix glauca</i>	Bluish willow	Trollsjön
<i>Salix lanata</i>	Woolly willow	Abisko
<i>Salix lapponum</i>	Downy willow	Björkliden
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow	recorded
<i>Salix phylicifolia</i>		Norway

BETULACEAE

<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Hairy birch	Abisko
<i>Betula nana</i>	Dwarf birch	Abisko

POLYGONACEAE

<i>Bistorta viviparum</i>	Alpine bistort	widespread
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain sorrel	Björkliden, Njulla, Trollsjön
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	recorded
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep sorrel	recorded

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood stitchwort	Norway
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser stitchwort	widespread
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine mouse-ear	recorded on at least four dates

<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	Abisko
<i>Cerastium cerastoides</i>	Starwort mouse-ear	Abisko
<i>Lychnis alpina</i>	Alpine catchfly	Abisko (Kungsleden)
<i>Silene wahlbergella</i>	Northern catchfly	Abisko
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	widespread
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss campion	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>		Norway
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Pearlwort	Björkliden, Abisko and Norway
<i>Honkenya peploides</i>	Sea sandwort	down by the fjord in Norway
 <i>RANUNCULACEAE</i>		
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh marigold	widespread
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	recorded
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	recorded
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow buttercup	Njulla and Trollsjön
<i>Ranunculus glacialis</i>	Glacier buttercup	Njulla
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globe flower	widespread
 <i>PAPAVERACEAE</i>		
<i>Papaver croceum</i>	Iceland poppy	Abisko and Björkliden
 <i>BRASSICACEAE</i>		
<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>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	Norway
 <i>CRASSULACEAE</i>		
<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>	Roseroot	widespread
 <i>SAXIFRAGACEAE</i>		
<i>Saxifraga caespitosa</i>	Tufted saxifrage	Abisko
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple saxifrage	Abisko and flowering along the Trollsjön
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>	Drooping saxifrage	Njulla, Abisko and Trollsjön
<i>Saxifraga stellaris</i>	Starry saxifrage	Vassijaure, Abisko, Njulla and Trollsjön
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow saxifrage	commonly found growing out of roadside gravel
 <i>PARNASSIACEAE</i>		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus	widespread
 <i>ROSACEAE</i>		
<i>Ribes spicatum</i>		recorded in leaf
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	recorded
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	recorded, flowering abundantly 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 in numbers along the lake edge of the lake at Abisko and Stordalen. A few elsewhere.
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Stone bramble	Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	Norway and a few elsewhere
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water avens	widespread
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Marsh cinquefoil	Vassijaure
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Abisko
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	widespread
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Alpine cinquefoil	Njulla and Trollsjön
<i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	Sibbaldia	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Alchemilla spp.</i>		recorded
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain avens	widespread and excellent
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	Abisko
FABACEAE		
<i>Astagalus alpinus</i>	Alpine milk-vetch	widespread and common
<i>Astragalus frigidus</i>		rather scarcer than normal this year, only recorded at Abisko
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	recorded
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch	recorded
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	recorded
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	recorded, common roadside plant
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	Norway
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	Norway
GERANIACEAE		
<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	Wood cranesbill	common
VIOLACEAE		
<i>Viola palustris</i>	Bog violet	widespread
<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow wood violet	widespread
<i>Viola tricolor</i>		A single plant by the railway at Abisko.
ONAGRACEAE		
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb	widespread
<i>Epilobium davuricum</i>		recorded on day 3
<i>Epilobium anagsalladifolium</i>		recorded in the boggy dell at Vassijaure
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
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica	recorded
DIAPENSIACEAE		
<i>Diapensia lapponica</i>	Diapensia	Njulla (flowering beautifully), wreckage noted elsewhere lower down

PYROLACEAE

<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Common wintergreen	widespread
<i>Pyrola grandiflora</i>	Round-leaved wintergreen	widespread
<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	One-flowered wintergreen	Norway (under pines)

ERICACEAE

<i>Phyllodoce caerulea</i>	Mountain heath	widespread
<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>	Wild azalea	widespread
<i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i>	Arctic rhododendron	Jennie found a single flower at Abisko!
<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>		Njulla
<i>Cassiope hypnoides</i>	White Arctic heather	widespread
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling	Norway and the Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna)
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog rosemary	Njulla, Stordalen and Björkliden
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	Small cranberry	Stordalen
<i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	Black bearberry	widespread
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	recorded on the nature trail at 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
------------------------	-----------	----------

PRIMULACEAE

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

GENTIANACEAE

<i>Gentiana nivalis</i>	Snow gentian	Njulla, Björkliden and Abisko
<i>Gentianella tenella</i>		only recorded at the boatyard (Abisko) this year
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog bean	widespread, some still flowering

BORAGINACEAE

<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>		Abisko
<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Oysterplant	along the shores of the Ofotfjorden in Norway

SCHROPHULARIACEAE

<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Toadflax	roadside east of Abisko
<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine speedwell	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Veronica fuscans</i>	Rock speedwell	Trollsjön
<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</i> sp.	an eye-bright	several recorded, possibly <i>salisburgensis</i> at the boatyard at Abisko
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>		Trollsjön only this year
<i>Pedicularis lapponica</i>		widespread

<i>LENTIBULACEAE</i>		
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common butterwort	widespread
<i>Pinguicula alpine</i>	Alpine butterwort	Njulla, Björkliden and Trollsjön
<i>PLANTAGINACEAE</i>		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	recorded
<i>CAPRIFOLIACEAE</i>		
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	widespread and often flowering abundantly
<i>CAMPANULACEAE</i>		
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	widespread
<i>ASTERACEAE</i>		
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Golden rod	widespread
<i>Erigeron acer politus</i>	Bug fleabane	Abisko and Björkliden
<i>Erigeron borealis</i>	Alpine fleabane	Trollsjön
<i>Erigeron uniflorus</i>		widespread
<i>Gnaphalium norvegicum</i>	Highland cudweed	widespread
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain everlasting	widespread
<i>Matricaria maritima</i>	Sea mayweed	Abisko
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple mayweed	recorded
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle	Norway
<i>Cirsium helenoides</i>	Melancholy thistle	Björkliden and en route to Kiruna
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	recorded in leaf
<i>Taraxacum group</i>	Dandelion	recorded
<i>Hieracium group</i>	Hawkweed	recorded
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>		Norway
<i>Cicerbita alpina</i>	Alpine blue sowthistle	widespread but none in flower this year
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Norway
<i>Saussurea alpina</i>	Alpine saw-wort	widespread but not in flower this year
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	recorded
<i>LILIACEAE</i>		
<i>Paris quadrifolium</i>	Herb paris	Abisko
<i>Tofieldia pusilla</i>	Scottish asphodel	widespread
<i>ORCHIDACEAE</i>		
<i>Listera cordata</i>	Lesser twayblade	Kopparåsen
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant orchid	widespread
<i>Pseudorchis straminea</i>		widespread
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog orchid	widespread
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted-orchid	Norway
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coralroot orchid	Vassijaure and Björkliden
<i>GRAMINAE</i>		
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail cottongrass	Stordalen
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>		recorded
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>		recorded

Systematic list Number 2 - Odonata

Azure hawker	<i>Aeshna caerulea</i>	Large numbers near most waterbodies visited and often seen hawking away from water. Fantastic views with individuals even perching on us at time.
Moorland hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	Rymdcampus on last morning, probables elsewhere occasionally.
Brilliant emerald	<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>	Not positively identified until day 5 but doubtless most of the emeralds we saw were this species.
Alpine emerald	<i>Somatochlora alpestris</i>	A male photographed at Stordalen. Another patrolling male on the montane pools inside Norway and our first female egg-laying there. At least one female on the nature trail at Abisko.
Small whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	Just one in the boggy bit at Vassijaure.
Ruby whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia rubicunda</i>	One fleetingly at Vassijaure on the first day.

Systematic list Number 3 - Butterflies

Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Abisko (1).
Green-veined white	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	Björkliden, Abisko.
Pale arctic clouded yellow	<i>Colias nastes</i>	widespread, confusingly called <i>Colias tyche</i> by the Swedes.
Moorland clouded yellow	<i>Colias palaeno</i>	At least one male encountered around the Abisko nature trail.
Idas blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	widespread
Cranberry blue	<i>Vacciniina optilete</i>	widespread
Mountain fritillary	<i>Boloria napaea</i>	One seen well east of Abisko.
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>	One seen well in Norway.
Arran brown	<i>Erebia ligea</i>	Norway.
Dewy ringlet	<i>Erebia pandrose</i>	Abundant in upland areas.

Systematic list Number 4 - Mammals

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

Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Four or five on Ofotfjorden (Norway), some showed well, close-in in flat-calm conditions.
[Red fox]	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Scat at Abisko.
[Reindeer]	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Sign throughout but no animals.
Mountain hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	Dung noted everywhere but only seen once on the last evening from the restaurant.
Water vole	<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>	One at Stordalen.
Field vole	<i>Microtis agrestis</i>	A few recorded, often crossing roads or even the hotel carpark. Root vole may have been involved...

Systematic list Number 5 - Amphibians

Common frog

Rana temporaria

Recorded daily in very small numbers.

Systematic List Number 6 Birds

Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Total of five seen on the sea in Norway.
Black-throated diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Single on Torneträsk.
Slavonian grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	At least two birds at Yli Lompolo on the last day in Kiruna.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	One at Vassijaure. A few logged in Norway.
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A single male and a female with youngsters at Yli Lompolo on the last day in Kiruna.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Single female en route to Kiruna on the last day.
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Small numbers around Vassijaure.
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Females with young at Yli Lompolo.
Red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Two at Abisko.
Rough-legged buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Small numbers almost daily.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Single at Abisko.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Two on the beach in Norway.
[Golden plover]	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Heard only this year.
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Single at Stordalen.
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Two pairs at Stordalen. A pair along the nature trail at Abisko.
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Just one recorded at Abisko. A few pairs at Stordalen.
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Odd singles.
Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Just one at Vassijaure on the first day.
Long-tailed skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Two singles at Björkliden and Trollsjön.
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Small numbers daily.
Little gull	<i>Larus minimus</i>	Single adult seen very well at Stordalen.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	A few on the fjord in Norway.
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	A few on Ofotfjorden in Norway.
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisea</i>	Pair at Vassijaure with a small youngster. A few more over Torneträsk and two pairs at Stordalen.
[Cuckoo]	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Occasionally heard at Abisko and Björkliden.
[Three-toed woodpecker]	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	Heard at Abisko.
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Small party one day at the Abisko delta. One at Yli Lompolo on the last day.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Abundant and widespread.
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 along the river between Björkliden and Vassijaure.
[Duncock]	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Singing male from the Njulla chairlift.
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Occasionally encountered, always a treat.
Common redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Just two males this year.
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Very few this year, a territory between

Ring ouzel	<i>Turdus torquata</i>	Björkliden and Vassijaure. One in Norway.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Trollsjön (2).
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered.
[Sedge warbler]	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Frequently encountered.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Singing at Yli Lompolo (Kiruna) on the last day.
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Common.
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	Just one at Abisko.
[Siberian tit]	<i>Parus cinctus</i>	Rather scarce this year.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Heard at Rymdcampus (east of Kiruna) but we ran out of time.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	One at Abisko.
Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Small numbers daily.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Small numbers daily.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Small numbers, almost daily.
[Chaffinch]	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Abisko.
[Brambling]	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Heard only (Abisko).
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Heard only.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common, frequently heard.
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Small numbers in Björkliden and Abisko.
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	A few in Norway.
		Occasional in boggy areas.