

Lapland

Abisko – land of the midnight sun

A Greentours Tour Report

3rd – 10th July 2008

Led by Phil Benstead

Day 1 Thursday 3rd 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 glinted in the bright sunshine. The captain informed us as we came into land that it was 23°C (at seven o'clock in the evening!) – not a bad bit of weather. 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. No time to stop however 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 sun shone, the light was phenomenal and we all hoped the weather would hold just like this for the next week. 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 browsed on salmon and this was curiously slightly disconcerting. 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 the snow-covered mountains along the Norwegian border. We knew we would enjoy staying in the hotel.

Day 2 Friday 4th July

Vassijaure and Abisko

Many of us found the 'night-time' challenging. It just never got remotely dark and birds were still hopping about well after midnight when we turned in. A pre-breakfast walk around the hotel revealed some great plants and a few great birds including bluethroats feeding young. What a location and the weather was something special today with hardly a cloud in the sky.

After a fine breakfast we all took to the car and went to orientate ourselves in Abisko. We checked out the National Park Information Centre and then searched out the supermarket. Foraging for lunch items and paraphernalia was undertaken quickly and efficiently and we were soon on the

road heading west to nearby Vassijaure. We parked by the railway station and whilst we got ready for a short walk watched a collection of red-necked phalaropes on a nearby pool. The most we could see at any one time was six but there was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing which made an accurate count impossible. Also here we had some very noisy redpolls and an elusive northern wheatear. Eventually when we were all kitted out we walked back to the E10 and crossed the road taking a small trail into some great boggy upland habitat. This was our first look at the flora and we happily pottered about the moorland and birch woodland acquainting ourselves with the yellow *Viola biflora*, attractive pink *Phyllodoce caerulea* and a many more. Boggy patches held abundant mosquitoes but we also found our first dragonfly (a sun-bathing *Aeshna caerulea*) and a pair of grey-headed wagtails busy feeding young. Eventually the bog got the better of us and we headed back to the carpark and walked a little way up the railway trail. Stopping overlooking a small lake we took in the fantastic scenery and Jo found us a superb summer-plumage black-throated diver. Lunch was taken on a bench by the E10 and went down well.

After lunch we drove back to the Abisko NP Information Centre and had a look around and a chat with the staff. We spent the afternoon walking the nature trail which took us along the roaring river, through birch woodland with an abundant ground flora that was studded with little gems. The *Pinguicula alpina* were little stunners and we had our work cut out cataloguing our finds later. A firm favourite was the dwarf cornel (*Cornus sueica*) which was found in large numbers. *Pyrolas* occurred in drifts. Open areas held our first good butterfly species and stands of *Gymnadenia* and *Pseudorchis straminea*. All in all a very interesting walk. Suitably tired we headed back to the hotel and dinner.

Day 3 Saturday 5th July

Abisko Gorge and Stordalen

Phil went for a pre-breakfast recce, finding a good boggy patch near the road close to the hotel and hearing a singing Arctic warbler. Also here were singing song thrush, garden warbler and the oh-so dreary brambling.

After another slap-up breakfast nose-bag we headed out and worked the boggy patch. It produced our first yellow saxifrage (*Saxifraga aizoides*), small cranberry (*microcarpon*), as well as *Geum rivale* and an unidentified *Dactylorhiza*. Moving on we parked near the trail-head for the gorge trail and walked alongside a bank with patches of coralroot orchid (*Coralorhiza trifida*). We enjoyed splendid views of the rocky gorge and the huge press of water surging through the tunnel. Roseroot (*Rhodiola rosea*) clung to the gorge sides. A dipper whizzed by on a mission. Walking through low birch woodland admiring yet again the abundant ground flora we came across the remains of a recent merlin kill. Reed bunting feathers were everywhere and strangely were being carted off by a tribe of ants (were they making duvets?). We finally found the beautiful but diminutive twinflower (*Linnea borealis*), a splendid little plant.

Walking on we stopped to look at a close female bluethroat and then continued on to the look-out point for the river delta. Here we looked at a few new birds notably two red-breasted mergansers

and a collection of common scoter. A black-throated diver loafed offshore. Time was marching on however and we had to tear ourselves away from this arresting spot. Crossing the river on the bridge we stopped to admire a number of large grayling that were feeding in the eddies on both sides. We also got brief views of another azure hawker (*Aeshna caerulea*) sunning itself on the trunk of a birch tree.

A brief shop stop saw us loaded up with food for lunch and a pair of walking poles for Ann. We took lunch on a flat picnic rock by the E10 and especially enjoyed the strawberries. Our next stop was the nearby Stordalen Nature reserve. We found a vague path in by a horseshoe-shaped pond that lead in a short way to a great sphagnum pool. The pond had single redshank and Arctic tern. The sphagnum pool produced some busy little ruby whitefaces (*Leucorrhinia rubicunda*) and we watched a pair egg-laying in tandem into the water-logged sphagnum mat. Walking out we saw another bog fritillary. Our last stop of a busy day was a short walk down a gated track near Abisko. Here we found our first Arctic bramble (*Rubus arctica*) and a few Iceland poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*) in disturbed areas along the roadside. A good end to the day.

Day 4 Sunday 6th July

Njulla and Abisko boatyard

Phil was up early again to recce a path into Stordalen Nature Reserve and had several compensatory sightings including a family party of great grey shrikes and a large male reindeer. The weather looked rather overcast and poor but started to clear up 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. We were serenaded by redstart and pied flycatcher en route and before we knew it our chairs were slowed to a halt expertly and we were stepping off above the treeline at the restaurant.

The view looking back out over the lake and mountains was breath-taking. The flora looked great and as we walked the summit trail we stopped to bag off the specialities of the high altitude fell. The two *Cassiope* were found side-by-side. Several saxifrages were added to the list. Reaching the two small waterbodies we heard some irate long-tailed skuas harassing a raptor. Incredibly it turned out to be a gyrfalcon carrying prey. Also in hot pursuit of the falcon was a rough-legged buzzard. The falcon dwarfed the skuas and approached the size of the buzzard – enormous. This was to remain the bird highlight despite much scanning whilst botanising we failed to turn up a ptarmigan or a dotterel. We climbed up to the summit where *Pedicularis hirsuta* suddenly appeared and enjoyed superlative views as we ate our lunch. Dropping back down onto the flat area took next to no time and we walked over to the lakes to sit and enjoy our surroundings. Ann painted and the rest of us sat and watched the skuas as they scrambled into the air to chase passing rough-legged buzzards. A pale Arctic clouded yellow (*Colias nastes*) perched obliging for photographs. What a splendid place. Reluctantly we walked back to the restaurant to catch the last chair down.

The chairlift ride down was exciting – 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. Pleasantly situated on the shores of the lake we had a poke around enjoying a large clump of Iceland poppies and spotting a male common scoter, a female teal and two fine long-tailed ducks.

Day 5 Monday 7th July

Stordalen and Abisko

Another bright and sunny day – how lucky can you get? This morning we headed for Stordalen to walk the bog boardwalk. Walking through the fringing birch woodland we noticed amongst the abundant mosquitoes a few insects that were on our side – dragonflies. Azure hawkers (*Aeshna caerulea*) sallied out from their sun-bathing spots on birch trunks to grab prey and a number of stunning Alpine emeralds (*Somatochlora alpestris*) were examined here too. 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 greenshank all around us. Small whitefaces (*Leucorrhinia dubia*) perched on the boardwalk ahead of us and Idas blue butterflies sunned themselves along the fringes. Tufted duck and common scoter bobbed about on the pools. A pleasant walk.

We ate our lunch back at the hotel on the benches outside and met back up with Jo. Afterwards we walked the 3 km up to Kratersjön. The walk was a pleasant one over a series of ridges of glacial moraine to the small, deep lake. En route we added further species to our flora list and enjoyed watching redshank chasing off common gulls. A rough-legged buzzard flying through revealed the presence of at least one pair of irate long-tailed skuas. We finally found a ringlet on the deck and were able to identify it as a dewy ringlet (*Erebia pandrose*). At the lake we stopped briefly enjoying good 'scope views of a red-throated diver. On the way back the sun shone, the lake looked glorious and all was well with the world. We arrived back in time for a sauna to relax our weary muscles before dinner.

Day 6 Tuesday 8th July

Trollsjön

Having got the team up to fitness and having yet another glorious sunny day (no clouds at all) we elected to tackle a 12 km trek into the stunning glaciated valley that leads to the ice 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. Crossing the bog we flushed a snipe which cursed us scratchily as it flew off. Climbing the spur to get into the valley took us just one hour, en route we stopped to admire many new additions to our growing list of flora. Several species that we had previously overlooked were very pleasing including frog orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*) and *Thalictrum alpinum*. The sward here was a mass of *Viola biflora*, *Trollius* and *Ranunculus* – a riot of yellow. A female merlin shot past close by. Glacial

erratics and mounds of moraine were a joy to examine, each a little rock garden. 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 climb 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 pair of rough-legged buzzards called nearby and we could hear their young begging pitifully from the nest high on the crag. Cliff-nesting house martins were a novelty. Another pair of long-tailed skuas entertained us with their graceful flight and occasionally harrassed the buzzards. Phil spots three reindeer on the other side of the valley and we get great views through the telescope of a huge white male and two females as they climb up through the snow patches and away. After another hour it was time to lighten our loads by eating our packed lunches. From here it was one final push to the lake. Trollsjön was deep and blue, a perfect little corrie lake, still with a fringe of ice at the far end. A pair of twite fed inconspicuously amongst a jumble of rocks on a nearby scree slope. Walking back we again enjoyed spectacular views. In a wet area we found our first *Saxifraga stellaris*, a lovely little plant. A female ring ouzel flew past nearby scolding us. Arriving back at the car we felt justifiably pleased with ourselves, reflected on a splendid day and looked forward to another sauna before dinner.

Day 7 Wednesday 9th July Tornehamn, Norway and Abisko

Our last day dawned fine but deteriorated markedly with a cool breeze and overcast conditions making things feel rather chilly after the heatwave we had been experiencing over the preceding week. Our first couple of stops along the main road were warm enough though and we botanised happily along the old 'Navy' Road. Driving on into Norway we were struck by two things, the rapidly changing weather and the incredible change in geology. It was a different country, no doubt. We spent some time botanising the roadsides here and admiring the turf-roofed houses. New plants included the splendid *Orthilia secunda* and the drifts of orchids were much admired. We scrambled up rocks to examine a *Campanula*. Towards lunchtime we tried to find somewhere to sit and have our lunch in Norway but could not find any picnic benches. Eventually we drove back into Sweden and had a chilly meal on the verandah of a commandeered holiday home.

It was so cold we decided to head back to Abisko for some sun and this worked out well although a strong breeze kept things on the cool side. We walked down the gorge again, finding *Saxifraga nivalis* on rocks by the river and enjoying a brisk walk along the shore of the lake. After shopping for Swedish goodies in the supermarket we headed back for our last dinner in the hotel and the delights of packing.

Day 8 Thursday 10th July to Kiruna (Yli Lompolo) and home

The last day dawned a bit grey and very light drizzle fell as we packed the car. Our first rain! We had been most fortunate with the weather during the trip and knew how lucky we were. Paying

our bills we said our goodbyes and headed for the petrol station. Here we managed to extract enough fuel for us to limp into Kiruna on vapour. The fully automated pump was either empty or suffering a serious malfunction. Phil's credit card got cancelled for 'suspicious activity' during the process but luckily was carrying a spare.

The drive passed quickly and we had a pleasant hour-long walk around a small wetland on the outskirts of town (Yli Lompolo). Here we had a number of species that we had not seen on the trip, including delightful Slavonian grebes and chicks, goldeneye and the more prosaic sand martin, greenfinch, yellowhammer and siskin. Ann enjoyed adding a few new species to the flora list here too. That just left us with a quick lunch in a nearby supermarket restaurant, complete with hordes of burly miners tucking into plates of food that were truly mountainous. Luckily our baked potatoes were sensibly sized and we were able to eat them before we had to leave for the flight to Stockholm. Before we knew it we were boarded and on our way home.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

<i>CLUB MOSSES</i>		
<i>Huperzia selago</i>		Abisko
<i>Diphasiastrum alpinum</i>		Abisko
<i>EQUISETALES</i>		
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail	Abisko
<i>Equisetum pratense</i>	Shady Horsetail	Abisko
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>		widespread
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood Horsetail	Abisko
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	Abisko
<i>PINACEAE</i>		
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	Norway!
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Abisko
<i>CUPRESSACEAE</i>		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	widespread.
<i>SALICACEAE</i>		
<i>Salix reticulata</i>	Net-leaved Willow	Abisko
<i>Salix lanata</i>	Woolly Willow	Abisko
<i>Salix lapponum</i>	Downy Willow	Abisko
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Abisko
<i>BETULACEAE</i>		
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Hairy Birch	Abisko
<i>Betula nana</i>	Dwarf Birch	Abisko
<i>Alnus incana ssp kolaensis</i>	Grey Alder	Abisko
<i>URTICACEAE</i>		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	Abisko
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead nettle	Yli Lompolo (Kiruna).
<i>POLYGONACEAE</i>		
<i>Bistorta viviparum</i>	Alpine Bistort	Abisko
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Björkliden
<i>Rumex longifolius</i>	Northern dock	Yli Lompolo (Kiruna)
<i>Rumex acetosa acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	recorded
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel	recorded
<i>CARYOPHYLLACEAE</i>		
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort	recorded
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine Mouse-ear	Björkliden
<i>Cerastium cerastoides</i>	Starwort Mouse-ear	Recorded
<i>Lychnis alpina</i>	Alpine Catchfly	Abisko
<i>Silene wahlbergella</i>	Northern Catchfly	Njulla

<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion	widespread
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Campion	widespread
RANUNCULACEAE		
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	widespread
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Recorded
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>	Snow Buttercup	mountains
<i>Ranunculus glacialis</i>	Glacier Buttercup	Njulla
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globe Flower	Widespread
<i>Thalictrum alpinum</i>	Alpine Meadow Rue	Trollsjön
PAPAVERACEAE		
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Iceland Poppy	Abisko
BRASSICACEAE		
<i>Cardamine pratensis ssp polemonoides</i>	Cuckoo Flower	recorded
<i>Cardamine amara type</i>	Large Bittercress	recorded
<i>Arabis alpina</i>	Alpine Rockcress	Björkliden
<i>Erysimum cheranthoides</i>		Abisko
DROSERACEAE		
<i>Drosera anglica</i>	Great Sundew	Stordalen
CRASSULACEAE		
<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>	Roseroot	widespread
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	mountains
SAXIFRAGACEAE		
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	Tufted Saxifrage	Njulla
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple Saxifrage	mountains
<i>Saxifraga stellaris</i>	Starry Saxifrage	Trollsjön
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>	Yellow Saxifrage	widespread
<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>		Abisko Gorge
PARNASSIACEAE		
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus	Widespread
ROSACEAE		
<i>Ribes spicatum</i>	Downy Currant	recorded
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	recorded
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	recorded
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Cloudberry	Widespread and sampled in jam at breakfast.
<i>Rubus arcticus</i>	Arctic Bramble	Pretty little bramble noted at Abisko and Stordalen but never common.
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Stone Bramble	Norway
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	recorded
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	Björkliden
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Marsh Cinquefoil	Widespread
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Alpine Cinquefoil	Njulla

<i>Alchemilla</i> spp.		recorded
<i>Dryas octopetale</i>	Mountain Avens	widespread
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	
FABACEAE		
<i>Astagalus alpinus</i>	Alpine Milk-Vetch	Widespread and common.
<i>Astragalus frigidus</i>		Abisko (scarce)
<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
<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
ONAGRACEAE		
<i>Chamerion –(Epilobium) angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	widespread
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.
PYROLACEAE		
<i>Pyrola minor</i>	Common Wintergreen	widespread
<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Wintergreen	widespread
<i>Orthilia secunda</i>	Toothed Wintergreen	Norway
ERICACEAE		
<i>Phyllodoce caerulea</i>	Mountain Heath	Recorded everywhere
<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>	Wild Azalea	mountains
<i>Cassiope tetragonal</i>		Njulla
<i>Cassiope hypnoides</i>	White Arctic Heather	Njulla
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i> subspecies <i>microcarpum</i>	Small Cranberry	Noted near Björkliden.
<i>Arctostaphylos alpina</i>	Black Bearberry	Abisko
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry	recorded
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry	recorded
EMPETRACEAE		
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	Recorded

PRIMULACEAE		
<i>Trientalis europaea</i>	Chickweed Wintergreen	widespread
GENTIANACEAE		
<i>Gentianella tenella</i>		Njulla
<i>Gentianella amarella</i>		Yli Lompolo (Kiruna)
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog Bean	widespread
BORAGINACEAE		
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not	recorded
SCHROPHULARIACEAE		
<i>Veronica alpina</i>	Alpine Speedwell	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	Yli Lompolo (Kiruna)
<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>		Njulla
<i>Pedicularis lapponica</i>		widespread
LENTIBULACEAE		
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	widespread
<i>Pinguicula alpina</i>	Alpine Butterwort	beautiful butterwort frequently encountered.
PLANTAGINACEAE		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	Norway, Yli Lompolo (Kiruna)
CAPRIFOLIACEAE		
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	Abisko Gorge
CAMPANULACEAE		
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	Norway
ASTERACEAE		
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Golden Rod	Abisko Boat Club
<i>Erigeron acer politus</i>	Bug Fleabane	recorded
<i>Erigeron uniflorus</i>		Trollsjön walk
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting	Njulla and Björkliden
<i>Petasites frigidus</i>	(a butterbur)	Björkliden
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	Björkliden
<i>Taraxacum group</i>	Dandelion	recorded
<i>Hieracium group</i>	Hawkweed	recorded
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	recorded
LILIACEAE		
<i>Paris quadrifolium</i>	Herb Paris	Abisko
<i>Tolpeltia pusilla</i>	Scottish Asphodel	Widespread

<i>ORCHIDACEAE</i>		
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	Abisko area
<i>Pseudorchis straminea</i>		Abisko and Björkliden
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid	Trollsjön walk
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted-orchid	Norway
<i>Coralorhiza trifida</i>	Coralroot Orchid	Abisko and Norway
<i>GRAMINAE</i>		
<i>Trichophorum alpinum</i>		recorded
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>		recorded
<i>Eriophorum scheuchzeri</i>		recorded

Systematic list Number 2 – Odonata

Order and nomenclature follows Dijkstra and Lewington (2006)

Azure hawker	<i>Aeshna caerulea</i>	Small numbers throughout, common at Stordalen.
Alpine emerald	<i>Somatochlora alpestris</i>	Good numbers at Stordalen. Other emeralds glimpsed at other sites were probably this species.
Small whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	Stordalen.
Ruby whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia rubicunda</i>	Stordalen and Abisko.

Systematic list Number 3 - Butterflies

Small white	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Small numbers.
Green-veined white	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	Small numbers.
Pale Arctic clouded yellow	<i>Colias nastes</i>	Njulla
Wood white	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>	Abisko
Idas blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>	Abisko
Cranberry blue	<i>Vacciniina optilete</i>	Abisko
Bog fritillary	<i>Proclossiana eunomia</i>	Abisko

Systematic list Number 4 - Mammals

Reindeer	Single at Stordalen and three on the walk into Trollsjön
Snow hare	Singles near Björkliden. An excellent showy individual paraded past during dinner on the last night.

Systematic List Number 5 Birds

Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Small numbers, almost daily. One seen very well at Kratersjön.
Black-throated diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Small numbers on large waterbodies.
Slavonian grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	At least four pairs at Yli Lompolo on the last day.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Single just over the border in Norway.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Single female on Torneträsk.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Small flocks at Stordalen and a few other waterbodies.
Common scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Single male on Torneträsk on a couple of days and two females at Stordalen.
Long-tailed duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Small numbers on Torneträsk.
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Single female at Yli Lompolo on the last day.
Red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Small numbers on Torneträsk.
Rough-legged buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Frequently encountered in the mountains.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Single at Låktatjåkka.
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Single female on way into Trollsjön.
Gyr falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Single carrying prey (feeding young?) on Njulla. The highlight of the trip.
[Grouse spp.]	<i>Lagopus spp.</i>	Plenty of signs of both ptarmigan and willow grouse but neither seen.
[Golden plover]	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Heard at Stordalen.
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Singles at Stordalen, Trollsjön and Kiruna.
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Two pairs at Stordalen.
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Single at Stordalen.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Noted at Vassijaure and Stordalen.
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A maximum of 6 noted at Vassijaure.
Long-tailed skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Pairs frequently encountered on walks in the mountains.
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Small numbers daily.
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Single at Stordalen.
[Cuckoo]	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard occasionally.
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Four or five briefly at Yli Lompolo on the last day.
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Noted in Abisko and Trollsjön, the latter nesting on the cliffs.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common and widespread.
Grey-headed wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>	Small numbers in boggy habitats.
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Small numbers daily.
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Pair in the gorge at Abisko.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Singing males near Björkliden.
[Robin]	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Singing male near Björkliden.
Bluthroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Noted daily in small numbers. A pair feeding young near the hotel.
Common redstart	<i>Pheonicurus phoenicurus</i>	Small numbers in woodland throughout, often seen from the hotel windows.
Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Frequently encountered in the mountains, smaller numbers lower down.

Ring ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Single female on the Trollsjön walk.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Widespread and frequently encountered.
[Song thrush]	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Heard in woodland near Björkliden.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Frequently encountered.
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Two males in woodland near Björkliden.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common.
[Arctic warbler]	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Single male heard singing near Björkliden.
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Small numbers daily.
Willow tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>	Single at Abisko.
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Scarce, noted around Abisko.
Great grey shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Family party at Stordalen.
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.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Just one on the first night as we drove to Björkliden.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Abisko
[Chaffinch]	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Heard in woodland near Björkliden.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Small numbers daily.
Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Common, frequently heard.
Arctic redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	At least two encountered on the walk to Trollsjön.
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Pair on way to Trollsjön.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Small numbers in Kiruna.
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Single male at Yli Lompolo.
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Common in boggy areas.
Snow bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Single scoped high up on the crags on the Trollsjön walk.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Single male at Yli Lompolo on last day.