



Ruff • *Philomachus pugnax*



Tengmalm's Owl • *Aegolius funereus*



Temminck's Stint • *Calidris temminckii*



Siberian tit • *Parus cinctus*



Black Grouse • *Tetrao tetrix*



Black Woodpecker • *Dryocopus martius*

# Bird sites in Rovaniemi



Red-throated Diver • *Gavia stellata*

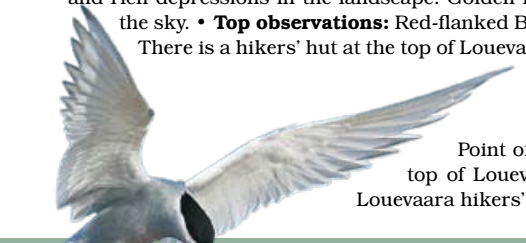


Red-flanked Blue-tail • *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Wagtail and Greenish Warbler. **Services available:** Lean-to, campfire place, and latrine equipped to be accessible by handicapped persons. A nature trail 3.5 km in length leaves from köngäs with a lean-to and campfire place halfway. The trail goes along the bank of Auttjoki and passes by Könkäänvaara where there is a tower. It takes a couple of hours to walk the trail. Village shop, bar, and petrol station at Vanttauskoski. **Coordinates:** Auttiköngäs parking area 7355131:3509202, Auttiköngäs 7355125:359276, and Könkäänvaara tower 7354822:3508816.

## 10 Louevaara

• **How to get there:** Drive from Rovaniemi south along Highway E4 24 km towards Muurola, turn west to Aavasaksantie Road and drive along it for 9.5 km. Turn north onto Torantintie Road. This intersection is about 1.8 before Pisantie Road, which turns to the south. Proceed along Torantintie for 1.5 km until you reach Kenttämaa fields. There is a trail which leaves from here northwards, to Louevaara ridge top and an old fire-watcher's hut. This 3 km long trail may be difficult to see in places and makes this a demanding destination. • **Surroundings:** Louevaara and Louepaljakka tops rise to elevations of 220–250 m. Vast boulder fields on the slopes. Herb-rich forests and luxuriant spring areas in gullies. Some of the herb-rich forests belong to the national herb-rich forests protection programme. • **Bird species:** These old-growth forests are home to Capercaillie, Three-toed Woodpecker, Siberian Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, and even Red-flanked Bluetail. Wren inhabits moist and rich depressions in the landscape. Golden Eagle may be seen circling in the sky. • **Top observations:** Red-flanked Bluetail. • **Services available:** There is a hikers' hut at the top of Louevaara. The trail to the top of the ridge is not marked. Village shop, bar, and petrol station at Muurola. • **Coordinates:** Point of departure of trail leading to top of Louevaara 7368233:3417526 and Louevaara hikers' hut 7370808:3148576.



Arctic Tern • *Sterna paradisaea*

## On the birds in and around Rovaniemi

A total of 264 bird species have been encountered in Rovaniemi. About 160 of them are known to definitely or probably nest in the area. The number of species noted during the winter months is 80. This is a high number of species as Rovaniemi is located within the transition zone of southern and northern boreal fauna. Examples of southern nesting species are Great Crested Grebe, Northern Shoveller, Eurasian Woodcock, Little Gull, Whittethroat, Wood Warbler, and Jackdaw. Northern boreal nesting species are represented by Smew, Temminck's Stint, Three-toed Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike, Siberian tit, and Siberian Jay. Rovaniemi is a town amidst the boreal nature.

## Bird species of interest

More than fifty bird species of interest from the viewpoint of birders nest in Rovaniemi. Due to their rareness and restricted distribution, interesting species include Smew, Golden Eagle, Hazel Grouse, Willow Grouse, Capercaillie, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Jack Snipe, Hawk owl, Eurasian Pygmy Owl, Ural Owl, Great Grey Owl, Tengmalm's Owl, Black Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Waxwing, Red-flanked Blue Tail, Greenish Warbler, Siberian tit, Great Grey Shrike, Siberian Jay, Rustic Bunting, and Little Bunting. Rare species elsewhere in Finland, and which nest specifically in the Rovaniemi area, include Spotted Nutcracker on Ounasvaara and Grey Wagtail at Auttiköngäs. Dippers along Raudanjoki River in the Vikajärvi locality present a lively subject of viewing in the winter months, owl-spotting (and listening) excursions are exciting events to take part at night in the spring season, and black grouse and capercaillie displays are further impressive nature experiences to enjoy in April and May.

Photos: Markus Varesvuo / Kuvalliteri.fi

## Rovaniemi Bird Atlas Project



Bohemian Waxwing • *Bombycilla garrulus*



Siberian Jay • *Perisoreus infaustus*

## Bird sites in Rovaniemi

The best bird-watching spots and their species composition within the Rovaniemi district have been studied and analysed in connection with the Rovaniemi Urban Bird Atlas project funded by ERDF and carried out in 2009-2012.

Funding for the project was granted also by the Lapland ELY-Centre, the University of Lapland Lapin and the Town of Rovaniemi. Collaborators in the project included the Ornithological Society of Lapland, BirdLife Finland, and the Finnish Museum of Natural History of the University of Helsinki.

## Further information

For further information on bird-watching in Lapland and about species observations, please visit the Ornithological Society of Lapland's website: [www.lly.fi](http://www.lly.fi).



Great Grey Shrike • *Lanius excubitor*

## 1 Harjulampi (a small lake)

• **How to get there:** Harjulampi is located about 1 km from the centre of Rovaniemi in the direction of the University of Lapland. What are appropriately called duckboards leave from the corner of Yliopistonkatu and Korvanranta and lead to the bird tower on the shore of Harjulampi. You can leave your car at the nearby Susivouti sports ground car park. • **Surroundings:** Eutrophic small lake or pond. • **Bird species:** Almost a hundred bird species have been seen at Harjulampi. One third of the species are species regularly nesting here. Harjulampi is home to species such as Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Common Redshank, and Little Gull. This small lake is also home to one of Lapland's largest Black-headed Gull colonies. Occasionally, one can spot a Peregrine Falcon preying on gulls. In the autumn, waders gather on the silted areas of the lake. • **The best bird-watching months:** May and August–September. • **Top species observations:** Canada goose, Great Cormorant, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Little Stint, and Curlew Sandpiper. • **Services available:** Bird tower and duckboard trail. • **Coordinates:** 7377799:3443272.

## 2 Ounasjoki River delta

• **How to get there:** Ounasjoki River joins with Kemijoki River close to where the town centre is, in the Ounasjoki River delta. This is located on the western side of Highway E4 and it includes several good spots for bird-watching: River bank alongside Arktikum, Koivusaari, Vitikanpää, and Aronperä. You can get to the river bank from Arktikum's car park and then via underpass or by coming along the road alongside Kemijoki River. Koivusaari Island nature trail and the floating bird tower can be accessed by turning (after crossing the river) from Highway E4 to Kittiläntie Road and then onwards to the Ounaspaviljonki riverside area. The nature trail to Koivusaari Island leaves from the boat harbour. To get to Vitikanpää, you need to drive about 320 metres from the Ounaspaviljonki intersection in the direction of Kittilä and then turn left to get on the riverside road. The land-fill areas of Aronperä is located on the south bank of Ounasjoki River. You can reach this destination from Arktikum by driving about 2 km along Road No. 79 in the direction of Pello and then turning to Ylikylä. About 100 metres to the right there is a turn-off to Aronperä. The gate at the beginning of the dirt road is occasionally locked. • **Surroundings:** Flood-prone river delta with islands. • **Bird species:** Ounasjoki River delta is an area where some 150 bird species have been observed, with 70 during their nesting time. Southern species are represented by Marsh Harrier, Little Gull, Garganey, Woodcock, Garden Warbler, and Whitethroat. Northern species are: Smew, Temminck's Stint, Long-tailed Duck, Greater Scaup, and Velvet Scoter. This site is suitable for observing migration of birds. Ounasjoki River delta is where hundreds of swans will stop-over to rest in September–October. Aronperä is the site where the majority of Finland's Little Buntings, Rustic Buntings, and Bluethroats are banded in the autumn. • **The best bird-watching months:** May–June and August–September–October. • **Top species observations:** Great Egret, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Caspian Tern, Spotted Crane, Grasshopper Warbler, and Marsh Warbler. • **Services available:** Koivusaari Island has a trail made using duckboards and a floating bird tower. Ounaspaviljonki area has a cafe in the summer, swimming place, and a lean-to. Arktikum's surroundings have an arboretum and a riverside path. • **Coordinates:** Arktikum's riverside 738059:3443469, Koivusaari Island 7380932:3443868, Vitikanpää 7382965:3442966, Ounaspaviljonki 7381384:3444386, and Aronperä 7381952:3442742.



Great Grey Owl  
• *Strix nebulosa*

## 3 Niskanperä

• **How to get there:** Drive 6 km along Highway E4 from Rovaniemi in the direction of Kemi and then take the turn eastward to Niskanperä as shown by road signs. The road forms a loop, and from the first fork it is 1.8 km to the bird tower and from the second fork it is 1.3 km. The bird tower is located by the shoreline of inlet of Kemijoki River, alongside the road. • **Surroundings:** Fairly large field area, inlet of Kemijoki River which at times in May–June is widely silted up. • **Bird species:** In the spring there are usually numerous representatives of the following waders genera: Tringa, Calidris, Phalaropus, and Philomachus in places where silt has accumulated. This site is also used as a resting and feeding place by species such as Northern Shoveller, Red-throated Diver, Great Crested Grebe, and Swan. Even hundreds of swans may be in view from the tower in early summer and in autumn. European Golden Plover, Lapland Bunting, and birds of prey may be seen on the surrounding fields. • **The best bird-watching months:** May–June and September–October. • **Top species observations:** Caspian Plover, Pallid Harrier, Lesser Grey Shrike, Common Stonechat, Great Snipe, Red Knot, Sanderling, and Curlew Sandpiper. • **Services available:** Bird tower. • **Coordinates:** 7374398:3438295.

## 4 Paavalniemi

• **How to get there:** Drive from Rovaniemi across the Jätkänkyläntie Bridge and then along Kajaanintie Road in the direction of Kajaani for about 3.5 km and then turn off to the road on the eastern side of Kemijoki River, and proceed along this road for 2.4 km and take the turn to Paavalniemi. Drive for 3.5 km along the village road to the end of the road, and there is a path leading to the bird tower 300 metres away. • **Surroundings:** Luxuriant, marshy inlet of Kemijoki River, bushy areas along Paavalniementie Road. • **Bird species:** A wide variety of waders and ducks nest here. The following are examples of species encountered here at nesting time: Smew, Marsh Harrier, Slavonian Grebe, and Gadwall. In the field areas one may hear the song of Whitethroat and Common Rosefinch. Dozens of swans tend to feed here in the autumn. The bird tower is a popular place from which to monitor the migration of birds. • **The best bird-watching months:** May and September–October. • **Top species observations:** Great Skua, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Terek Sandpiper, Long-tailed Skua, and Red Knot. • **Services available:** Bird tower. • **Coordinates:** 7375598:3439620.

## 5 Ounasvaara

• **How to get there:** Ounasvaara is a high ridge located quite close to the centre of Rovaniemi. You need to cross the Jätkänkyläntie bridge and then drive along Kajaanintie road for approx. 900 m and then turn left to Ounasrinne and drive another 300 m and turn left to Hiihtomajantie. About 900 m along this road and you arrive at a parking area from which jogging and nature trails leave. The destination can be easily reached by using the nature trails (3.4 km and 4.4 km in length). • **Surroundings:** Old forest, network of trails, old stands of spruce at the south edge of the ridge. • **Bird species:** About 150 bird species nest in the area. Ounasvaara is home to old-growth forest species such as Capercaillie, Hazel Grouse, Black Woodpecker, and Siberian Jay. Other species to be encountered in the area are Coal Tits, Goldcrests, and Chiff-chaff. Common Redstart and Mistle Thrush occur here in great numbers. This area's definite speciality is Siberian Nutcracker, which nests and overwinters there. • **The best bird-watching months:** All year; the bird species composition in the winter is plentiful. • **Top species observation:** Nesting Siberian Nutcracker. • **Services available:** Jogging trails and nature trails, lean-to, Sports College, indoor swimming pool, panorama restaurant at the top of Ounasvaara ridge. • **Coordinates:** Starting point of nature trail 7378960:3446009 and starting point of trail network leading to spruce stands on the south-facing slope along Ounasrinteentie 7377804:3447481.

## 6 Kivijärvi lake

• **How to get there:** Kivijärvi Lake is located in the village of Kivitaipale, some 25 km from Rovaniemi in the direction of Ranua along main road no. 78. Turn off the main road to the left in the direction of Kivitaipale and drive along Ulkulantie Road then after 330 m turn to the left and drive another 550 m. The lake comes into view on the left and you can leave your car at this point. • **Surroundings:** Drained lake, eutrophic and becoming overgrown by vegetation. • **Bird species:** Kivijärvi is the best bird-watching lake in the Rovaniemi district. It is home to numerous waders and aquatic species. Species nesting here include Black-headed and Little Gull, Swan, Crane, Shoveller, Smew, and Common Rosefinch, and possibly also Garganey, Marsh Harrier, and Coot. Hobby, Peregrine Falcon, and Osprey can often be seen looking for prey over the lake. At times as many as 100 swans may be encountered. • **The best bird-watching months:** May–June. • **Top observations:** Spotted Crane, Canada Goose, and Tundra Swan. • **Services available:** None. • **Coordinates:** 7359808:3452466.

## 7 Vaattunki

• **How to get there:** Vaattunki is located within the Arctic Circle hiking area, on the eastern side of the road from Rovaniemi to Sodankylä. About 20 km north from Rovaniemi, turn to the right as indicated by the road sign and drive along the dirt road 2 km to the Vaattunkiköngäs hiking trail gate. There is another 3 km from the gate along a marked trail to the Vianaava bird tower. • **Surroundings:** The surroundings are formed of a rich mosaic of forests, mires, and water systems. • **Bird species:** The nearby forests are home to old-growth forest species such as Siberian Jay, Siberian tit, Capercaillie, Hazel Grouse, Pygmy Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Wren, and Common Treecreeper. Vianaava mire and its edges are home to Willow Grouse, Crane, Short-eared Owl, Great Grey Shrike, Swan, Bean Goose, Jack Snipe, and Rustic Bunting. Dipper overwinters in the free-flowing waters of Raudanjoki River. • **The best bird-watching months:** June. But there is a plentiful species composition also in winter. • **Top**

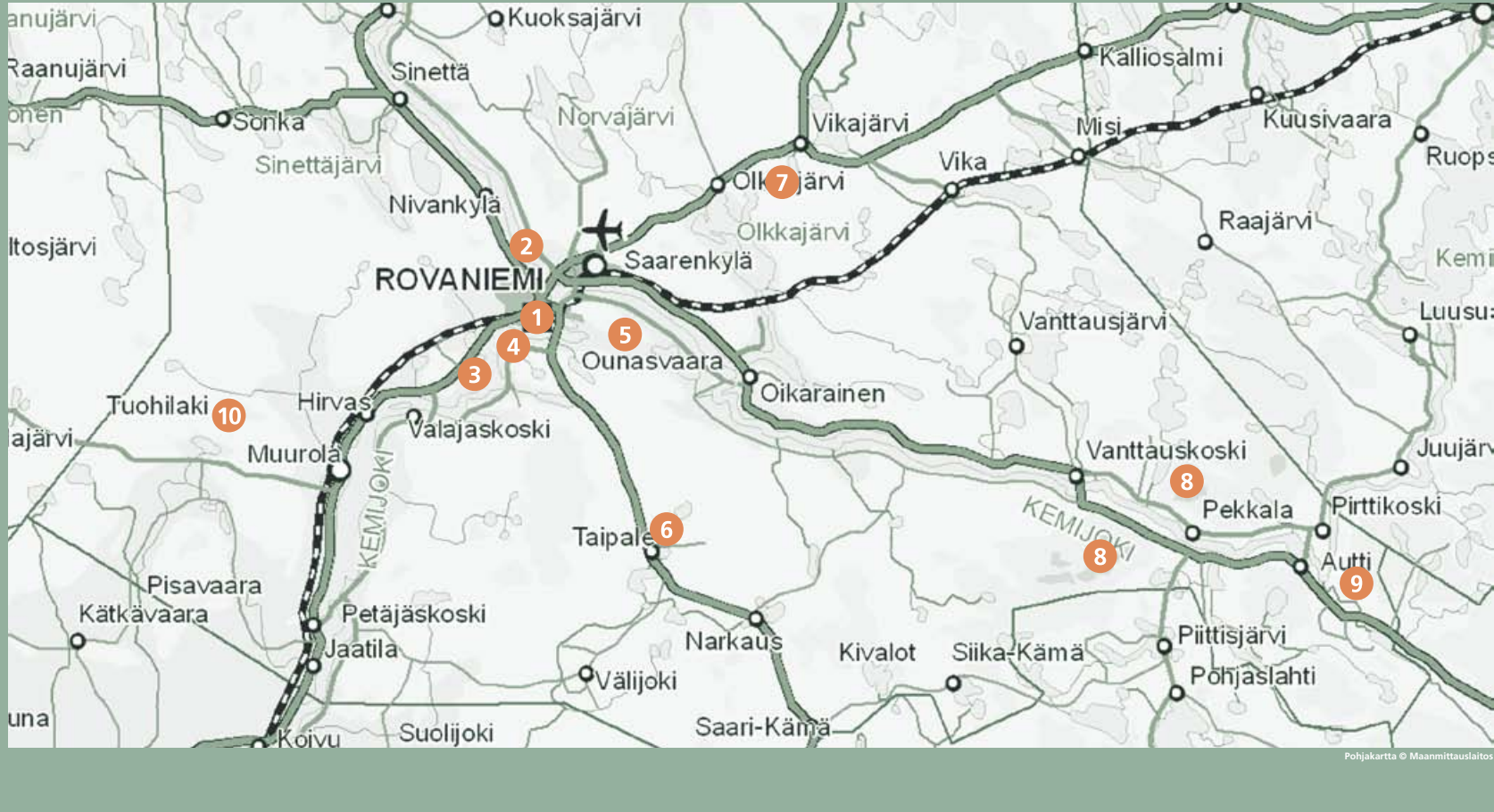
**observations:** Great Grey Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) and Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*). • **Services available:** A diversity of routes, including unobstructed routes and nature trails with lean-tos and campfire places. • **Coordinates:** Vaattunki routes' starting point 7389655:3481117 and Vianaava bird tower 7387420:3462087.

## 8 Kivalot

• **How to get there:** To get to the Kivalot area, you first need to drive 46 km from Rovaniemi along the Kuusamontie Road to Vanttauskoski and then turn to the right in the direction of Kuusamo. Drive across Kemijoki River along the Vanttauskoski dam bridge. After driving 1.5 km turn to the left and drive another 2 km and turns to Kivalot along a forest truck road. A road some 15 km in length passes around this ridge area. Kaihuavaara is located on the northern side of Kemijoki River and it belongs to Kivalot ridge formation. To get to Kaihuavaara, drive on from Vanttauskoski towards Kemijärvi. At the village of Kaihua, about 6 km from Vanttauskoski, turn to the north along Kaarnijärventie Road and drive along it for 2 km and then turn onto a forest truck road going eastwards. This road passes around Kaihuavaara and returns to its starting point after making a loop of 17 km. • **Surroundings:** Kivalot and Kaihuavaara are areas characterised by old forests, and splendid views open up from Kaihuavaara over Kemijoki River. The Finnish Forest Research Institute has research forests in the area, including stands of larch. By accessing the forest truck roads, it is fairly easy to become acquainted with the area. However, some of the roads are closed to traffic during times when the road surface is soft. Kemijoki River passes through this area. • **Bird species:** The bird species composition shows wilderness features. Capercaillie, Willow Grouse, Golden Eagle, Northern Eagle-owl, Black Woodpecker, and Raven all nest in the area. Old spruce stands growing on luxuriant slopes and on the banks of brooks are home to Wren, Arctic Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Three-toed Woodpecker, and even Red-flanked Blue-tail. Sand Martin is plentiful along Kemijoki River where it nests in the sand banks and Osprey catches fish by the Vanttauskoski power plant. • **Top observations:** Red-flanked Blue-tail, Arctic Warbler, and Greenish Warbler. • **Services available:** Hiking routes, nature trails and lean-to looked after by the Finnish Forest and Park Service. Village shop, bar, and petrol station at Vanttauskoski. • **Coordinates:** Kivalo road loop's western end point of departure 7363731:3488103, Kivalo road loop's eastern end point of departure 7360301:3494326, Hyypiökivalo lean-to 7358736:3487034, and Kaihuavaara road loop's end point of departure 7365189:3493208.

## 9 Auttiköngäs

• **How to get there:** Drive along Kuusamontie Road from Rovaniemi for 46 km to Vanttauskoski, cross Kemijoki River along the dam bridge, and drive on for about 29 km towards Autti and Kuusamo. Turn left as indicated by road signs and drive 1 km or so to Auttiköngäs parking area. • **Surroundings:** Auttiköngäs was declared an ancient forest site in 1955 and it has subsequently been declared to be a wilderness management forest. It belongs to the Northern Finland protection programme of old-growth forests. The forest at Auttiköngäs has never had felling work done on it. The foremost sight on the site is a köngäs (waterfall), which is 16 m high. • **Bird species:** Many old-growth forest species: Capercaillie, Bohemian Waxwing, Siberian Jay, Crested Tit, Wren, Common Treecreeper, and Pygmy Owl. Rovaniemi's only Dipper pair nests at this köngäs. Grey Wagtail has often nested at this köngäs. Northern Eagle-owl may be heard in springtime at night. • **Top observations:** Nesting Grey



Pohjakartta © Maanmittauslaitos