

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Estonia 2025

Estonia, trip report and species lists, 7th to 14th April 2025

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	7 th April	Travel to Tallinn.
2	8 th April	Palivere, Virtsu, Laelatu and Saaremaa.
3	9 th April	Saaremaa Sadam, Odalätsi, Kalja, Laidevahe and Kuressaare.
4	10 th April	Sõrve, Salme and Kuressaare.
5	11 th April	Puhtu, Haeska Tee and Rannajõe.
6	12 th April	Haeska Tee, Haeska and Haapsalu.
7	13 th April	Hindaste, Põõsaspea, Sutlepa and Keskvere.
8	14 th April	Return to UK.

Leaders

Heleri Alles

Natourest

Jono Leadley

Wildlife Travel

Front: Cranes. All photos: Jono Leadley unless stated.

Day one: 7th April. Travel to Tallinn.

Our group assembled at Helsinki Airport after a rather anxious and long walk through the airport to our gate. Our flights from Manchester and Heathrow had been a few minutes late, meaning our transfer window had closed slightly. Fortunately, we needn't have worried as our flight to Tallinn was also slightly behind schedule, so we all made it in time.

The flight on our propellor-powered plane took slightly less time than our Helsinki dash and we were soon on the ground in Estonia, under bright blue skies, with bright early-spring sunshine. As arranged, we were met by Heleri and our driver Eduardo, who took us to the Santa Barbara Hotel, close to Freedom Square in the old part of Tallinn. Shortly, we reconvened and walked through Freedom Square and the parkland bordering the old city, to Poobel, our restaurant, where we sampled our first Estonian meal of breaded Baltic Herring, potatoes and cottage cheese, with a delightful summer fruits dessert.

For some of the group, Heleri then led a walk around the cobbled streets of the old city to a viewpoint offering wonderful views of the nighttime cityscape, where we learned a little of the city's history, including Thomas the peasant archer. We also almost bumped into the Polish President and his entourage who was on an official visit to Tallinn.

Day two: 8th April. Palivere, Virtsu, Laelatu and Saaremaa.

After a hectic day of travel, our first excursion of the day to the tranquil forest near Palivere was just what we needed to unwind and decompress. Our journey west from Tallinn had yielded a few skeins of Tundra Bean Geese and a couple of Ravens, among the common Hooded Crows.

At Palivere, the tall Spruce, Silver Birch and Scot's Pine were alive with birdsong, despite the temperature being a little above freezing. We spent a couple of hours walking along a forest road, with the songs of Chaffinches, Great Tits and Siskins a constant backdrop. Patches of delightfully blue Liverleaf, or Hepatica, shone on the forest floor and we saw signs of rootling Wild Boar. A Goshawk cruised past overhead, but didn't linger, but better views were had of Crested Tits, Treecreepers and at the end of our walk a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Back at the bus we picked up a dozen circling Cranes, which drifted north, continuing their migration, whilst the first Common Buzzards of the day circled up out of the forest.

Lunch was calling, so Heleri drove us a short distance to Virtsu where a rest area overlooked a tidal inlet, fringed with reedbeds and Juniper bushes. A large herd of Whooper Swans were loafing on the water, and we found several Smew, Goldeneye, Pochard and Wigeon, along with a flock of Tufted Ducks. Shortly, David spotted our first White-tailed Eagle, like a huge barn door, circling over the far end of the lake. To our astonishment, we soon realised there was not one, but four 'Sea-eagles' cruising around, including a golden-headed, white-tailed adult!

After our picnic lunch and a welcome coffee, we drove a short way to Laelatu, a wood-meadow, with an incredibly rich flora, with over 2,000 plant species per hectare, one of the richest in Europe. Oh, to come here in summer! Here, a short walk gave us much closer views of White-tailed Eagles, a booming Bittern and frustratingly, a White-backed Woodpecker that called close-by just the once. We saw it briefly in flight, but it vanished deeper into the woods.

Time was getting on, so we jumped back in the van and headed a few kilometres to the ferry terminal. Whilst waiting patiently for our ferry to dock, we spotted good numbers of Scaup and an obliging pair of Goosanders on the sea. The 27-minute crossing revealed several hundred Common Scoters, plus about six Velvet Scoters, a Red-throated Diver and then an impressive flock of nearly 1,000 Long-tailed Ducks, which scattered across the water as the ferry passed through. A little later, we arrived at Muhu Island, which we crossed, before crossing the causeway to Saaremaa Island. We paused briefly at Vaina Tamm, but there was little present on the sandbars or in the estuary, apart from a large flock of Tundra Bean Geese, before making our way to Kuressaare and the delightful Meri Spa Hotel.



Above: Liverleaf, a common sight of the early spring.



Above: one pair of the many Cranes we saw today.

Day three: 9th April. Saaremaa Sadam, Odalätsi, Kalja, Laidevahe and Kuressaare.

Leaden skies greeted the early birders, who took a short walk from the hotel, along the waterfront. A handsome White Wagtail posed for photos and a little further, the vista opened to reveal a large flock of Tufted Ducks and Coots, with a few Pochards scattered through. Lots of Great Crested Grebes cavorted in the shallows, and two White-tailed Eagles were on the look out for breakfast. The local flock of Barnacle Geese seemed restless, perhaps because of the presence of these magnificent predators. A flock of 11 Red-breasted Mergansers were new for the trip and heralded our return to the hotel for breakfast.

After an excellent breakfast, we drove north to Saaremaa Sadam. The rain fell steadily as we passed through the extensive Silver Birch and conifer woodlands. Here and there, stately Cranes paraded in pairs in small grassy fields. Brightness on the horizon looked promising and a few minutes before we arrived at the harbour, the cloud moved away, and the sun came out. This seemed to be a sign, as within minutes of arrival, Heleri spotted one of the key targets of our holiday, a stunning drake Steller's Eider! The sleepy drake was in immaculate plumage, loafing in the sheltered waters of the harbour, with to our surprise a small flock of Coots and a Little Grebe! We filled our boots with this 'Estonian special' duck before beginning a wider scan of the area. A big group of Red-breasted Mergansers were displaying nearby, while a sleepy drake Goosander looked on. Several Common Eiders were seen, along with Common Scoter, Goldeneye and lots of Long-tailed Ducks. Crossbills were heard calling from the nearby forest but remained out of sight in the strengthening wind.



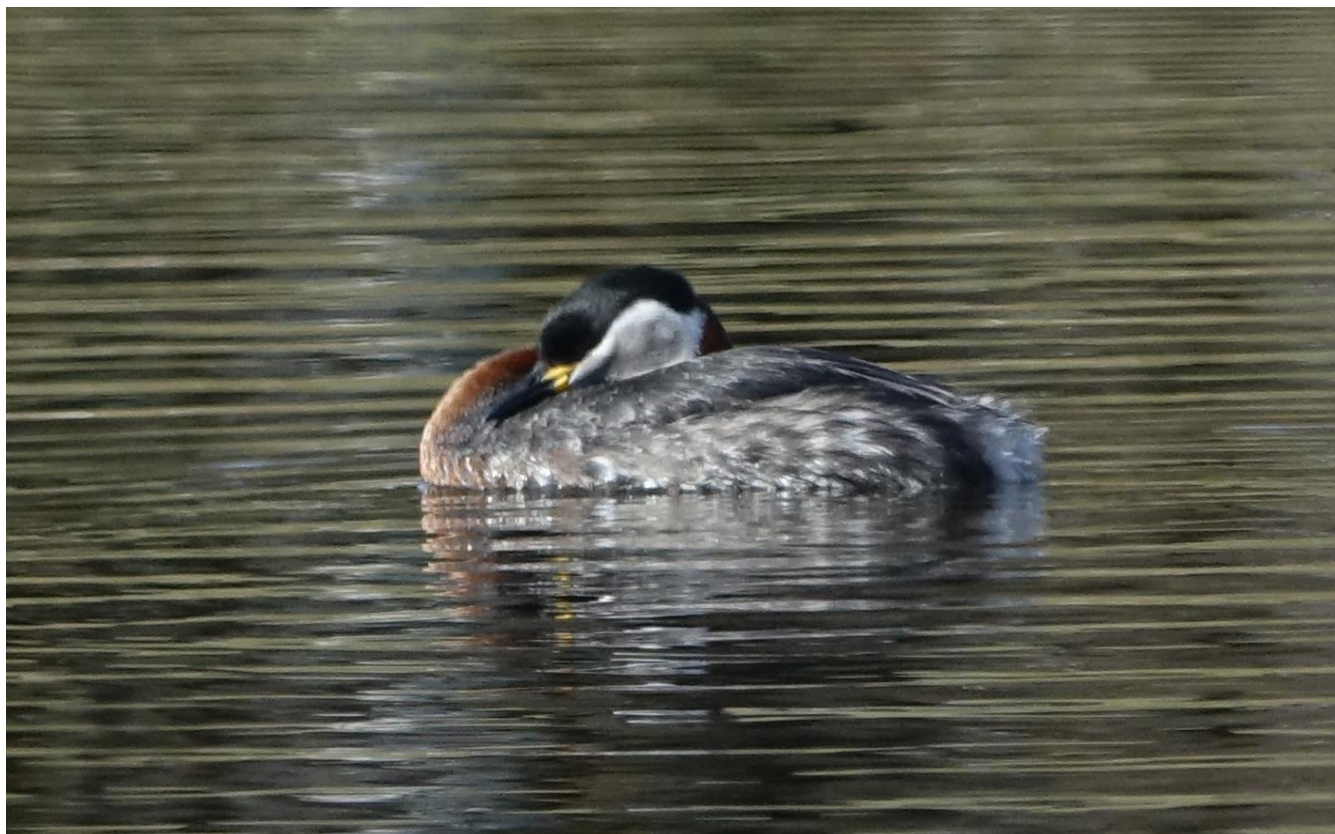
Above: drake Steller's Eider, flanked by two Coot.

With the main target of our morning safely under the belt, we decided to have a couple of short walks in the forest. Enroute, we got great looks at Cranes, White-fronted and Barnacle Geese feeding in fields by the road.

Our first walk at Odalätsi springs yielded some wonderful mature mixed woodland growing on ancient sand dunes. We flushed two Wood Sandpipers from the stream; they breed in the area and have just returned from Africa. The crystal clear springwater was reputed to have health benefits, so Jono sampled a handful. The forest was generally quiet and so we moved on to another guided trail, at Kalja, where we explored more karst and sand dune landscape, with pink-flowered Mezereum and Liverleaf in the leaf-litter, but few birds. The wind was getting stronger, so we decided we should lunch at a campsite by a lake and then head for the south coast and away from the trees.

After our sandwiches, we headed along a bumpy track to Laidevahe, a Natura 2000 site managed for its wildlife, especially fen meadow plants, such as Early Marsh Orchid. Sadly, we were too early in the season for the flowers, but there were plenty of birds to enjoy despite the stormy wind. With a dilapidated barn to shelter behind, we watched an adult White-tailed Eagle steal a Grey Seal's flatfish lunch, out of its mouth (!); large skeins of Barnacle Geese coasting past, along with our first Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull of the trip. The Slavonian Grebes that breed here were absent, possibly sheltering in the reeds growing in the fringes of the lake.

We drove back to Kuressaare and stopped on the edge of the city. We walked a short distance to the edge of the local golf course, where Heleria revealed a real treat: two Red-necked Grebes! We all enjoyed close views in the sunshine, though the strong, cold wind meant they refused to raise their heads. We would try again tomorrow!



Above: Red-necked Grebe at Kuressaare.

Day four: 10th April. Sõrve, Salme and Kuressaare.

An early morning walk in a beautiful wood meadow nature reserve just west of Kuressaare. This site is rare alvar habitat, with thin soils over limestone, with gnarled, old oak trees studding the meadow. It was a cold start but there were Song Thrushes, Blackbirds, Great Tits and Chaffinches singing, but best of all, a Woodlark, which gave good views overhead in the early morning sunshine, singing its liquid melody.

After breakfast we drove to the very southern tip of Saarmaa Island, to the lighthouse at Sõrve, at the end of a shingle peninsula. Large groups of Cormorants were roosting on the shingle islands offshore, occasionally flushed by a passing White-tailed Eagle. In the bay, large numbers of ducks included good numbers of Gadwall, Pintail, Wigeon, Teal and a few Shovelers. Five Bar-tailed Godwits included a handsome male, and we picked out a few Ringed Plovers and Redshanks. On the sheltered side of the peninsula, several Sandwich Terns were fishing, our first of the trip and a recently-arrived spring migrant in Estonia. With strong winds, no other migrants were in evidence, so we walked north up the peninsula, noting a few brave Daffodils and blue Siberian Squill near a derelict Russian barrack building. We had great views of an adult White-tailed Eagle, which flew straight overhead, joining an immature bird which was being mobbed by a comparatively tiny Common Buzzard. Another Woodlark appeared, but didn't hang around for photographs. Heleri

collected the van and picked us up as we walked north and we then drove to a café in Salme, where some of us bought a coffee or a sweet treat. Next, lunch in the park, followed by nice views of a loafing flock of Bewick's Swans, mixed with a handful of larger Whooper Swans and the local Mute Swans. The Bewick's were very sleepy, presumably tired after battling north into a headwind. They have a long flight to get northeast to their Siberian breeding grounds, so they need to regain their strength.



Above: Bewick's Swans, resting ahead of the next leg of their journey.

The west side of the peninsula was our afternoon destination, yielding a couple more White-tailed Eagles, one of which, an adult, nonchalantly caught a large flatfish in the shallow water in front of us, before returning to the grassland to eat its catch! A large flock of migrant Fieldfares was feeding in the short turf between the many Juniper bushes, and we managed to pick out a couple of Redwings, complete with white eyebrows and rufous sides. We made our way back north and Jono spotted a raptor out of the side window which flashed a white tail-base - Rough-legged Buzzard was the shout, so Heleri pulled up and we all jumped out to watch this buffy juvenile Rough-leg slowly flapping north. A classic individual with white tail with a broad black tip, dark belly patch and carpal patches, and a golden head and neck. A very nice bird to see!

With an early dinner planned we made our way back towards Kuressaare, stopping briefly at the golf course for another look at the Red-necked Grebes. With a little gentle encouragement by Jono's phone, the birds briefly raised their heads, called and did a brief courtship display, before settling back to rest. Having had great views of these beautiful grebes, we made our way back to the hotel for an early dinner before our next adventure.



Above: An adult White-tailed Eagle, a frequent sight during our trip (Charles Waters).

Back to the forest for an evening drive in search of the tiny Pygmy Owl. Heleri took us to a protected forest area in the west of Saaremaa. On the way, two Red Deer hinds, which are scarce in Estonia, dashed away from the roadside into a clearfell area, giving us all a view. Large numbers of White-fronted Geese passed over the van on their way to roost and a few Cranes were spotted as we drove past. Into the forest, we tried a few locations for Pygmy Owls, but sadly to no avail. Perhaps we were thwarted by the strengthening wind and the arrival of snow! Six more Red Deer ran across the forest road at dusk, and shortly a sharp squeak heralded the passing overhead of a roding Woodcock, beating the bounds of his territory over the woodland canopy. Sadly, no owls for us, but a nice way to spend an evening.

Day five: 11th April. Puhtu, Haeska Tee and Rannajõe.

Today, we had to say goodbye to the wonderful island of Saaremaa and head back east to the mainland. We stopped at Vaina Tamm, the dam which connects the island with the smaller island, Muhu, and the ferry port. Despite the strong, cold wind, we picked out our first Avocets, and a Common Tern flew past the van, calling.

As we boarded the ferry, waves washed across the ramp, giving our van a liberal sprinkling of seawater! Out on deck for our 27-minute crossing, we saw some Scaup, Common Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks and a solitary Grey Seal.

A short distance after arriving on the mainland, and we parked at a protected forest reserve, Puhtu. The beautiful woodland was carpeted with Liverleaf, Winter Aconite and Wood Anemones, with

some Yellow Star of Bethlehem too. The usual woodland birds were singing despite the cold, grey conditions, but we pressed on scouring the trees for woodpeckers. After exchanging some good energy with the mightiest oak in the forest, we approached the sea and to our surprise, Dave mentioned that he could see a woodpecker. We all gathered and were delighted to see not one, but two Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. Although reasonably close, the tangle of branches and twigs made viewing difficult and only half the group managed to see the birds. We had a quick scan of the sea, before making our way back. A short drive away was a huge area of dry heath and bog, studded with stunted pines. Few birds were in evidence, and we walked along the boardwalk to a seating area for a rather chilly packed lunch.

Back in the bus, we warmed up as we drove to Matasula National Park and the beautiful, thatched Altmoisa Guest House, where we would spend the next three nights. On the way we drove the Haeska Tee (Haeska Road), which revealed first a ghostly grey male Hen Harrier hunting a stubble field for buntings, followed by an equally spectral Great Grey Shrike, on roadside wires. Both are icons of open landscapes, and it was great to get good views of both.

Late afternoon, we went for a short drive and a local walk at Rannajõe. Despite improving weather conditions, it was quiet, until Gerry mentioned she thought she had a call of a woodpecker. Heleri played the White-backed Woodpecker call on her phone and moments later, and to our amazement in flew a White-backed Woodpecker! One of the rarest woodpeckers in Europe, this was a real treat to see, and we all got scope-views as it drummed on a broken branch. This was great and a new bird for most present, including our leader, Jono. Smiles all round!

After a delightful home-cooked early dinner, we had an evening drive around the local area, trying for owls. At a watchtower, we counted 130 Cranes and two Marsh Harriers. Our luck didn't seem to have improved on the owl front, and we failed to find any. We did see several roding Woodcocks, and best of all, two majestic Elk (Moose), which trotted away from the road verge, before pausing to graze in the middle of a meadow about 100m away, giving us all great views. This more than made up for the lack of owls and we drove home through the gathering dusk for a welcome rest.

Day six: 12th April. Haeska Tee, Haeska and Haapsalu.

A snowy start to the day, with the forecast wintry weather arriving ahead of schedule. We cancelled our woodpecker drive and instead had a short walk in the gardens behind the guesthouse. Best bird was a female Northern Bullfinch, eclipsed by the hotel manager's beautiful white wolfdog, which joined us for a stroll.

Breakfast completed, we began to gather for our excursion when Jono yelled 'Waxwings!' and we looked up to see a flock of 17 of these bohemian winter visitors flying overhead, trilling as they went! After that brief excitement, we headed to Haeska Tee to try for woodpeckers. Conditions were still against us, being cold, windy and wet, but we persevered and got nice views of Siskins and Goldfinches, and a single Hawfinch. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming, but we couldn't locate it, although later Alan and Jono saw it briefly flying. With the arrival of rain, we gave up and headed for Haeska.

On the entrance road to this fantastic coastal reserve, we saw Ruff on the roadside pools, along with Curlew and many White-fronted and Barnacle Geese. We walked towards the coast and began

to scan for birds. Hundreds of Bewick's and Whooper Swans were resting on the water, with good numbers of ducks, including Pintail. Redshank and Ringed Plover were displaying on the marsh and Skylarks sang overhead. Next, we climbed up the fabulous watchtower for further views over the marsh. Back at ground level, we picked up first two, then three, mighty Caspian Terns, one of which gave fantastic views hovering over the water in front of us. A few Black-tailed Godwits were seen, one of which was in fine, gingery summer plumage.

Lunch was served at the van and once satisfied, we headed north to Haapsalu, seaside retreat of Catherine II. Arriving at the seafront, we found two exquisite Slavonian Grebes, complete with ruby-red eyes and golden yellow ear tufts. They did a circuit of the lake and came within a few metres of us to our utter delight. Splendid birds in splendid surroundings. To cap it off, the sun came out!



Above: Slavonian Grebe.

Across the road, the sea held at least 47 Smew (!), some Scaup and many other ducks. Time was getting on, so we had a brief visit to see some of the historic sights of central Haapsalu including the wonderful castle. With an early start planned for tomorrow, we had a relaxing evening, enjoying the milder temperatures and sunshine before an early night.

Day seven: 13th April. Hindaste, Põõsaspea, Sutlepa and Kesivere.

A very early start, but well worth it! We departed at 5.30am, with mist lying over the fields and the sound of birdsong in the trees around. Our first destination was the protected forest and bogs around Hindaste. Capercaillie was our target; the females collect calcium-rich grit from a roadside track to help with eggshell formation ahead of the breeding season, so we hoped to be the first

vehicle on the forest roads, to give us the best chance of seeing the world's largest and shyest grouse. We drove the road without success, though did see a Red Squirrel. It was still early and with no other vehicles, so we decided to do a U-turn and give it another try. Still no sign on the second pass, but then, halfway along our third try, Heleri spotted a female Capercaillie right by the roadside! We all got good views before she flew up onto a pine branch, where some of the group got great photos. This was a great start to our day, as whilst this place is a good location to see them, they are no means guaranteed.



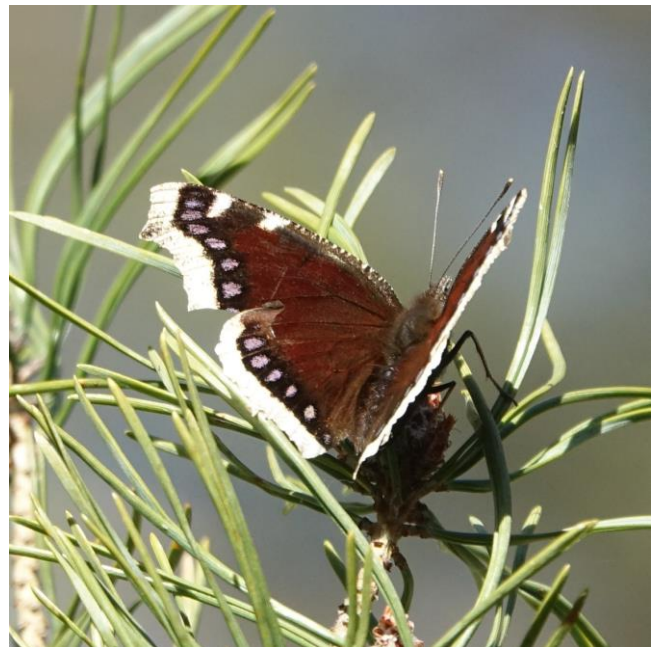
Above: female Capercaillie (Charles Waters)

We continued our quest, heading next to a wide expanse of grassy fields, golden in the early morning sunshine, with a cacophony of Skylarks overhead. On our approach, a raptor flew past - a Rough-legged Buzzard. This adult flushed a second bird and stole its perch on top of a nearby birch. We all jumped out and enjoyed great views through Jono's 'scope. Onwards to our next stop where the strange sounds of lekking male Black Grouse drifted across the plain. Through the 'scope we sighted 16 Blackcocks all puffed up, hissing and bubbling as they fought for the best position in the centre of the lek. Not close views, but great to see, nonetheless. Our second silver male Hen Harrier cruised past and another four (!) Rough-legged Buzzards were hunting in the area. We watched one successfully pounce on an unsuspecting vole and devour it in one mouthful. This reminded us that we hadn't yet had breakfast, so we handed out hot coffee and food and enjoyed the sunshine.

With this many good birds already logged, we could have been forgiven for calling it a day early, but we pressed on to our next stop at the famous migration watchpoint of the Põõsaspea headland. The most north-westerly point of Estonia, the headland juts out into the Baltic and huge numbers of

birds can be counted passing by on their travels in spring and autumn. We met a local birder who counts the migrants every day. She logged 2.7 million birds last year! Movement was slow this morning due to bright, clear skies, but even so we saw lots of seaducks, a few Sandwich and Common Terns, several Red-throated Divers and two Black-throated Divers including a smart summer adult. Barnacle Geese and Cranes were also on the move, and we saw many of each. Shortly, we decided to check out the forest and fields for landbirds, with Brambling, Goldcrest and Woodlark the highlights. Heleri found us a Small Pasque Flower which is a rarity. As Charles predicted, the warm sunshine enticed some butterflies out and we saw several Brimstones as we walked back to the van.

Lunch was a buffet at Roosta and as we still had a little energy left, we headed to the twin watchtowers at Sutlepa, which gave impressive views over vast reedbeds. Bitterns could be heard booming, Water Rails squealing and Bearded Tits pinging. Out on the water, several Red-necked Grebes were courting, and we learnt that the Estonian name means 'Grey-cheeked Grebe'. Three flocks of Cranes drifted in, riding the thermals and heading east along the coast; we counted 130 in three flocks. More butterflies were in evidence, with the best appearing in the car park, a fabulous Camberwell Beauty, or Mourning Cloak, which glided around before settling perfectly on a pine twig, allowing us all to get great photos.



Left to right: Large Tortoiseshell (Charles Waters); Camberwell Beauty.

We headed home, pausing to admire a White Stork on its nest atop a house chimney, having had a great day. After a well-earned rest, some of the group explored the local area, adding a few birds and butterflies to our growing list, including three Large Tortoiseshells in the garden.

After tea, we headed out to another forest area, at Keskvere for a last chance to find some owls. Our first stop revealed no Pygmy Owls, and we began to lose hope that we would see one. We moved on, flushing a Green Sandpiper from the trackside ditch. Dave shouted 'Elk!' and we stopped the van to see two more Elk watching us from inside the birch scrub at the side of the trail.

Wonderful! Never easy to find, it was great to get closer views of these large mammals going about their business.

Another stop and another try for owls, to no avail. As dusk was gathering, we were not surprised to see our first Woodcock flying low over the forest. Heleri suggested we should try the original location for Ural Owl as it was now dark enough, so we rode the bumpy track back to there. As Jono jumped out he was surprised to hear the distinctive call of a Pygmy Owl. Alan's sharp eyes shortly spotted it atop a large conifer right next to us! This tiny owl called from his lofty perch seemingly unbothered by our presence and allowed us all to enjoy the moment. He silently zipped away into the forest, but shortly returned to another conifer top where we got another more distant look.

From the tiny to the large, Heleri tried the Ural Owl tape and to our delight, we heard the deep, booming hoot of a Ural Owl reply from deep in the forest. Within a minute, the large shape of this magnificent owl came flying past and landed out of sight - amazing! It began calling again before flying along the forest edge, to resume calling. This was a tremendous end to our day, and trip, finding our two target owls at the same spot, deep in the Estonia forest. It was time to head for home and a welcome rest after a fantastic day.

Day eight: 14th April. Return to UK.

With punctuality that would have impressed the German birders staying in the same guesthouse, we were ready to go by 9am to head for the airport. With typically quiet roads, we made good time, seeing our last Cranes and White Storks of the trip, with a few skeins of Barnacle and White-fronted Geese overhead. Ninety minutes later and we arrived at the small, quiet airport at Tallinn. We said goodbye and farewell to Heleri, a wonderful guide and driver, and began the next leg of our journeys home.

Jono Leadley, Wildlife Travel. April 2025.



Above: White Stork

ESTONIA 2025: some highlights

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Family Anatidae (ducks, geese and waterfowl)										
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X
Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>			X			X			
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			X			X			
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>					X		X		
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			X		X	X	X	X	
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			X	X	X	X		X	
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					X			X	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					X		X		
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			X	X	X		X	X	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>			X			X	X	X	
Steller's Eider	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>				X					
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>				X				X	
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>			X					X	
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>			X	X	X	X		X	
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			X	X		X		X	
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>			X				X		
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Family Phasianidae (pheasants, grouse and allies)										
Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>								X	
Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>						X		X	
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>								X	
Family Columbidae (pigeons and doves)										
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			X	X			X		
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Rallidae (rails, crakes and coots)										
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								X	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	

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Family Gruidae (cranes)										
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Recurvirostridae (avocets and stilts) X										
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						X			
Family Haematopidae (oystercatchers)										
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Charadriidae (plovers and lapwings)										
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				X	X		X		
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Scolopacidae (sandpipers and allies)										
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							X	X	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				X	X	X			
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							X		
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>					X	X		X	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>							X	X	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								X	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				X					
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				X	X				
Family Laridae (gulls, terns and skimmers)										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				X	X			X	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				X					
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>							X		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						X		X	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					X			X	
Family Podicipedidae (grebes)										
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				X					
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>							X		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>				X	X			X	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Gaviidae (divers)										
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			X					X	
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>								X	
Family Ciconiidae (storks)										
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>								X	X
Family Phalacrocoracidae (cormorants)										
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Ardeidae (herons)										
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>								X	
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	

Estonia, trip report and species lists, 7th to 14th April 2025

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Accipitridae (hawks, eagles and vultures)										
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			X	X			X	X	
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			X						
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						X	X	X	
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						X		X	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>					X			X	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Strigidae (owls)										
Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>								X	
Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>								X	
Family Picidae (woodpeckers)										
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>						X			
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>			X			X			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			X				X	X	
Family Falconidae (falcons)										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>						X		X	
Family Laniidae (shrikes)										
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>						X			
Family Corvidae (crows, jays and magpies)										
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						X	X		
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			X				X	X	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Paridae (tits)										
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			X	X		X			
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			X						
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>							X	X	
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			X		X				
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Alaudidae (larks)										
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					X			X	
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Panuridae (bearded tit)										
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								X	
Family Aegithalidae (long-tailed tits)										
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>							X	X	

Estonia, trip report and species lists, 7th to 14th April 2025

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Family Regulidae (kinglets)										
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Family Sittidae (nuthatches)										
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			X			X	X	X	
Family Certhiidae (treecreepers)										
Common Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Troglodytidae (wrens)										
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sturnidae (starlings)										
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Turdidae (thrushes and allies)										
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>				X	X	X		X	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					X	X	X	X	X
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>				X	X		X		
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Family Muscicapidae (Old World flycatchers)										
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			X						
Family Bombycillidae (waxwings)										
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>							X		
Family Prunellidae (accentors)										
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			X					X	
Family Passeridae (Old World sparrows)										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			X				X		
Family Motacillidae (wagtails and pipits)										
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>					X	X	X	X	
Family Fringillidae (finches and allies)										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>								X	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>							X		X
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				X	X	X	X	X	
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curivrostra</i>				X					
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>						X	X	X	
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Emberizidae (buntings)										
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					X	X	X	X	

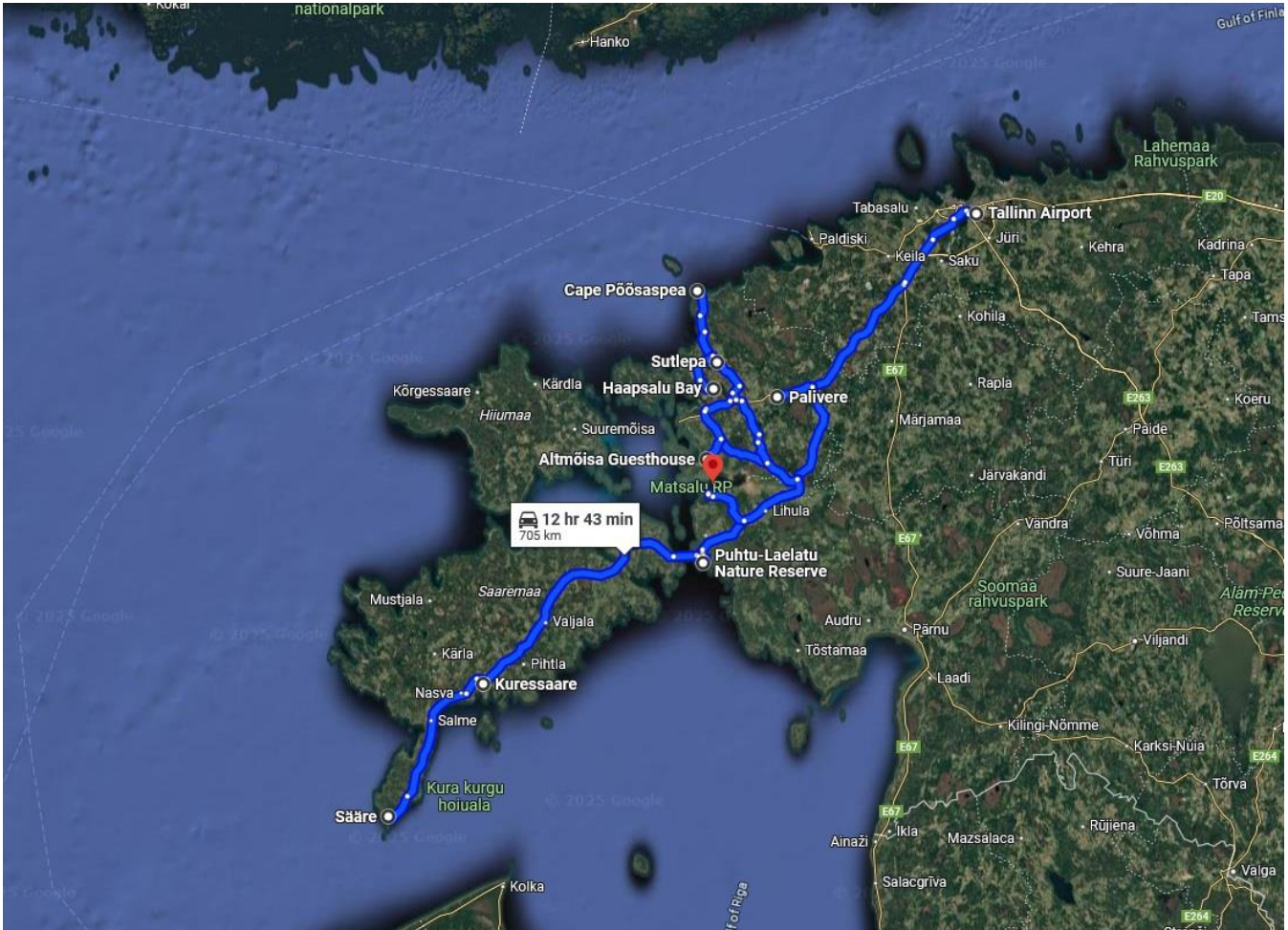
Estonia, trip report and species lists, 7th to 14th April 2025

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MAMMALS										
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								X	
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>								X	
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			X		X				
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>				X					
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			X		X			X	
Elk	<i>Alces alces</i>					X			X	
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europeus</i>					X	X			
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>						X			
Vole sp.	<i>Microtus sp.</i>								X	

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MISCELLANY										
Liverleaf	<i>Anemone hepatica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mezereum	<i>Daphne mezereum</i>			X						
Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Gagea lutea</i>			X				X		
Small Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla pratensis</i>								X	
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>				X					
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>								X	
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>								X	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>								X	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>								X	
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>								X	
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>								X	
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>								X	
Orange Underwing	<i>Archiearis parthensis</i>			X						

Route Map

This map shows some of the locations we visited and the routes we took.



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thank you for travelling with us

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