

## NORWAY 2022

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This is a brief report on a short trip I made to Norway on 15.-22. August 2022 with a PhD student and my daughter. The main aim was to collect fern samples for our projects. Besides, we looked for the vegetation, scenery, birds, and mammals. My daughter also took to two horseriding tours at Hjerkin. Overall, we were quite unlucky with the weather, with lots of rain (3 nights plus often during the days) and low temperatures (down to freezing in the mountains), which limited mammal watching.

15.8.: Flight Zurich-Oslo; grocery shopping in Jessheim; afternoon in the hills to the west around Bjertnessjoen where we also camped.

16.8.: Fern hunting in the morning, then drive to Sjoa where we stayed in a hotel due to the miserable weather.

17.8.: Drive to Runde Island via Stryn; night at Goksoyr Camping.

18.8.: Drive to Hjerkin via Moa and Trollstigen; camping for 4 nights at Hjerkin Fjellstue.

19.-21.8.: Botanizing in the Dovre area, from Gjevilvasshytta to Alvdal.

22.8.: Drive to Oslo airport via Enden; flight back home.

11 species seen:

Northern Bat (*Eptesicus nilssonii*): Bat-detected and briefly seen in thermal scope at Runde Island.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea*): Several DOR in Dovre area.

Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*): A family group seen at Goksoyr Camping on Runde. This group lives in the bay and moves up and down the coast several times each day. We saw it at 9:20 am, the previous day they had been around at 10:00 am.

Gray Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*): One sticking it's head out some 50 m off the coast at Goksoyr Camping on Runde. Apparently in late summer the seals here mainly hang out on the more distant smaller islands and boat tours are needed to see them. In spring they also hang out in the harbor.

European Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*): 2 in a meadow south of Follidal.

Elk/Moose (*Alces alces*): 5 seen in the Dovre area, in one case a mother with a calf.

Muskox (*Ovibos moschatus*): A distant group from the muskox trail above Kongsvoll in Dovre NP. Also a group seen the next day horseback by my daughter who participated on a full day horse riding trip out of Hjerkin (highly recommended if you are into Iceland horses).

Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*): Quite common at night with the thermal scope around Hjerkin. Also several DOR.

Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*): Several closer to Oslo.

Gray-sided Vole (*Clethrionomys rufocanus*): 1 seen at night with thermal scope around Hjerkin; also 1 DOR.

Root Vole (*Microtus oeconomus*): Many runways in riverine vegetation between Hjerkin and Follal; 1 seen.