

**Oulu** Capital  
of Northern  
Scandinavia



**Birdwatching towers of  
Oulu and surroundings  
– find a fine wader or waterfowl!**

# Do you want to hear

*the booming of a bittern, the wheezing sounds of a displaying black-tailed godwit, the whitting song of a spotted crane or the galloping of a jack snipe?*



There are 24 birdwatching towers and platforms in Oulu and its surroundings. They are fit for keen bird enthusiasts, teaching purposes and for anybody interested in nature, landscapes or scenic views. Most of the birdwatching towers are located on the coast in important bird areas. Inland towers are mostly situated by lakes or mires. The towers allow you to observe birds without disturbing them.

You can reach some of the towers by car, and others on foot along nature and hiking trails. Some are also suitable for disabled people, indicated in the descriptions of the tower. For most of the towers there are guiding signs.

As you move around the nature trails or walk to the towers, stay on marked trails so you do not unnecessarily disturb the birds and other wildlife. Park your car in such a way that others can park and move around. Always take into account the local residents, and do not leave any rubbish behind.

*The Environment Office of the Oulu Region and Urban and Environmental Services wish you refreshing nature walks and a rich variety of experiences in the wilds of the Oulu region.*

*Bird photos:  
Heikki Orava ja Markku Karhu*



Long-tailed tit



## **BOOTS**

The path to the tower may be so wet that boots are necessary.



## **NATURE TRAIL**

Nearby the tower there are boards about nature and birds.



## **TOILET**

Nearby the tower there is a toilet or outhouse.



## **FIRE**

Nearby the tower there is a campfire, which is often associated with a canopy for eating packed lunches.



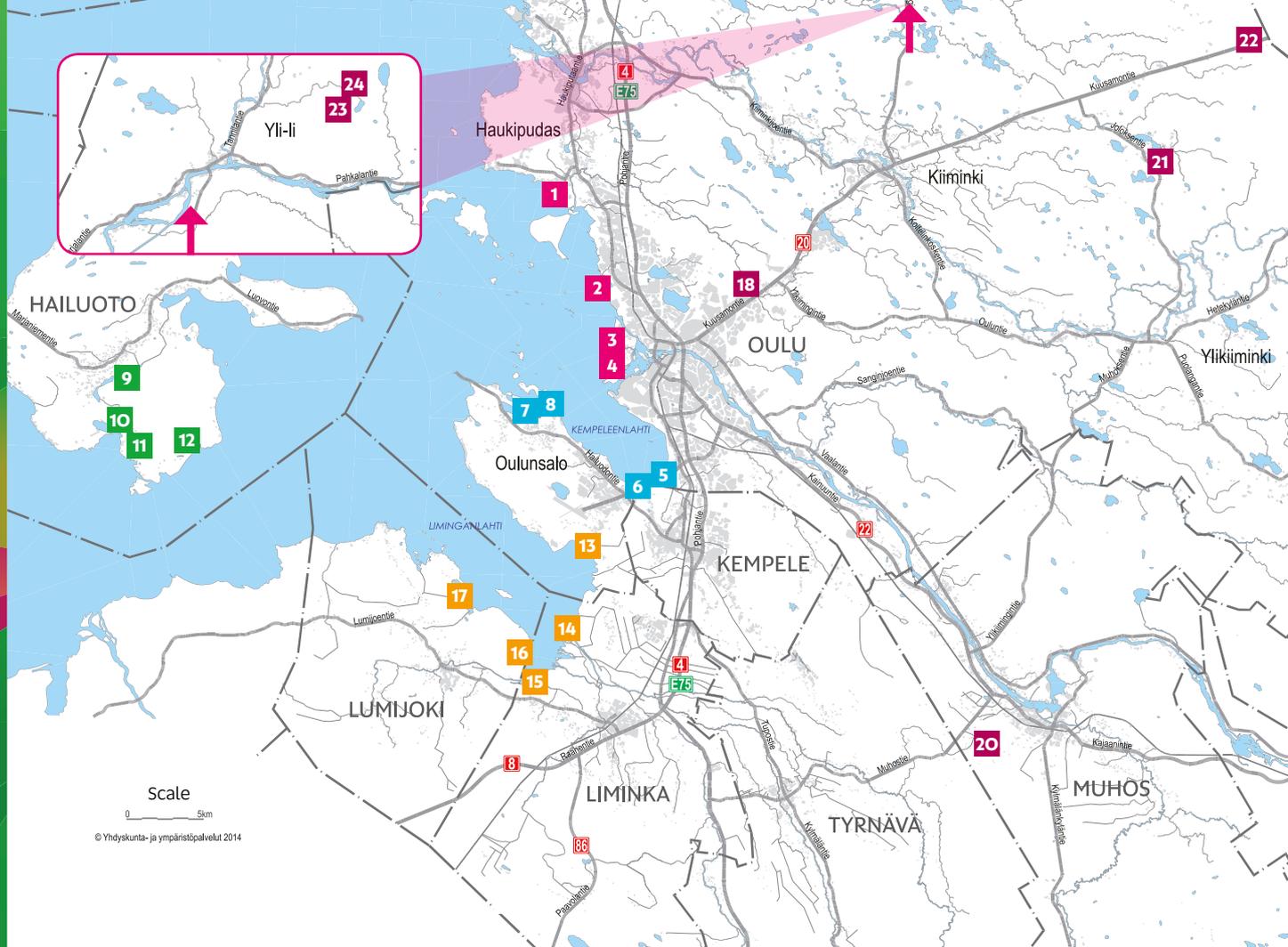
## **DISABLED**

The tower is also possible to reach with a wheelchair or a pram.



## **SHED**

Nearby the tower there is a shed for nature exhibitions or eating packed lunches.



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### 1. KIVINIEMI

At Kiviniemi you can observe the abundant and diverse population of **waterfowl** and **waders**. Most common bird species of the Bothnian Bay nest in the area. More uncommon species like **Arctic skua**, **gadwall** and **Temminck's stint** can be seen too. The tower can be used throughout the **open water season**. In **autumn** you can see migrating passerines.

Turn onto the Kiviniementie road (8484) from Haukiputaantie (847) and drive until the marina at Kiviniemi. The tower is located on the east side of the marina as a part of a marina building. The services of the marina are available.

65.11191785 N : 25.3281418 E



### 2. LETONNIEMI

The tower is situated on land uplift coast with new appearing land from the sea in the Lettonniemi nature reserve. Species typical to the seashore are easy to observe. For instance, **tufted duck** and **greylag goose** are abundant breeders. The tower can be used in **summertime** and it's very suitable for monitoring migration.

You can reach the tower from Rajahauta marina. Turn towards the sea from Haukiputaantie at the Rajakylä junction. A parking lot is located north of the marina gate. South from the marina there is a guided 1.5 km pathway leading to the tower.

65.05789 N : 25.39048 E



### 3. LOISTOKARI

Loistokari platform is situated in Hietasaari at the edge of a seashore meadow. You can observe abundant breeding birds and especially during the spring and fall migration lots of **waders**, **seagulls** and **wild ducks**. The best time to visit is in **spring** and **summer**.

Drive to the west end of Vaaskiventie and continue north on foot for 100 m. Alternatively, you can reach the platform by walking 500 m south from Nallikari. Easy to access for people with walking difficulties. A fireplace is situated south of the tower by the pathway.

65.02366144 N : 25.41350476 E



### 4. RANTAKURVI

The tower is situated in Hietasaari at the edge of a seashore meadow. You can observe abundant breeding birds and especially during the spring and fall migration lots of **waders**, **seagulls** and **wild ducks**. The best time to visit is in **spring** and **summer**.

Drive to Hietasaari, all the way past the archery track. Turn west on Johteenkuja. A parking lot is located at the end of the road. Continue on foot towards the west for about 450 meters.

A fire place is situated north of the tower.

65.01617861 N : 25.41428857 E



### 5. MYLLYOJA

The tower is situated in the Kempeleenlahti nature reserve, which consists of seashore and land uplift area with new land appearing from the sea. There are plenty of **waterfowl** (like **gadwall** and **shelduck**), **waders** and **passerines**. The tower can be used throughout the **open water season**.

Drive along Lentokentäntie (815) westwards if you are coming from Oulu. After Myllyoja bridge there are signposts for "Kempeleenlahti Luonnonsuojelualue" and "Lintutorni" on the right side of the road. Turn and drive 100 m to the end of the path. After parking, follow the boardwalk for 500 m to the birdwatching tower. There is a small shelter for eating in the parking lot.

64.95142 N : 25.47878 E



Tufted duck



### 6. VIHILUOTO

Vihiluoto tower is situated on land uplift shore with new land appearing from the sea in the middle of large reed beds. You can see **waterfowl** (ducks, swans, geese) and many other bird species, which are especially abundant during spring and fall migration. The tower can be used throughout the **open water season**.

The tower is situated on a nature trail in Vihiluoto, Kempele. You can reach the trail from behind Hotel Vihiluoto. There are signposts leading to the trail. The pathway is occasionally wet.

64.94690 N : 25.44955865 E



### 7. AKIONLAHTI

Akionlahti is a shallow and eutrophic lake with an abundant population of **waterfowl** and **waders**. You can see species like **shelduck**, **gadwall**, **sedge warbler** and **swans**. The best time to visit area is **May-June** and **September-October**.

Drive 6.4 km towards Hailuoto (816) from Oulunsalo and turn right to Varjakka. After a 2.1 km drive take a smaller path to the left and you'll arrive at Akionsaari. You can park your car here and continue to the tower on foot via the pathway.

64.98723831 N : 25.30423272 E



### 8. VARJAKKA

The platform is situated on a small hill near the marina at Varjakka. The view from the platform opens over the seashore meadow to the strait between Akionsaari and Varjakansaari. You can observe several kinds of **waterbirds**. The best visiting times are **May-June** and **September-October**.

Drive 6.4 km towards Hailuoto (816) from Oulunsalo and turn right to Varjakka. Drive a little over 2 km to Varjakka Marina. You can park your car in the parking lot of the marina and continue on foot. The birdwatching platform is located on top of a mound south of the parking lot.

64.98952848 N : 25.31951754 E



### 9. KIRKKOSALMI

Kirkkosalmi is a shallow and eutrophic lake, and its birdwatching tower is good for observing spring migrations of **birds of prey** and other large species like the **great cormorant**, **whooper swan** and **crane**. Breeding birds are numerous. The best season is in **spring**, but lots of birds can be seen throughout the **open water season**.

Turn left from Luovontie (816) onto Viinikantie and drive about 1.5 km. The birdwatching tower is located behind the bridge over Kirkkosalmi.

65.00243142 N : 24.7466578 E



### 10. KUTUKARI

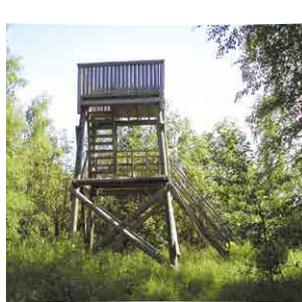
Kutukari is located on the northern shore of Viinikanlahti bay. Different **waterfowl** like the **red-breasted merganser** and the **common redshank** are abundant in the area. The best visiting time is **April-June**.

Turn left from Luovontie (816) onto Pölläntie (8162) and drive about 2.2 km. Turn left to Kutukarintie and park your car in the parking lot on the left side of the path. Continue about 1 km on a pathway leading to the birdwatching tower.

64.97808229 N : 24.73768099 E



Chaffinch



Common tern



### 11. SYÖKARINLAHTI

Situated on a pond surrounded by reed beds, Syökarinlahti tower is a good place to observe **waterfowl** and **waders**. Birds like the **bittern** breed in the area. The best visiting time is **April-June**.

Turn left from Luovontie (816) onto Viinikantie and drive about 5.3 km. There's a wooden sign on the right side of the road guiding to the Syökarinlahti trail. Park your car here and continue on foot for about 1 km via the pathway, which can be wet.

64.96332349 N : 24.76392721 E



### 12. MAASYVÄNLAHTI

Maasyvänlahti Bay is a shallow overgrowing pond with wide reed beds with typical species that prefer reed, like the **water rail**, **sedge warbler** and **bittern**. The best visiting time is **April-June**. The tower is also good for monitoring spring and autumn migration.

Turn left from Luovontie (816) to Viinikantie and drive about 6.3 km, until you come to the junction of Rautaletontie and Ristopintie. Turn left to Ristopintie.

After 3.5 km there's a parking lot by the route. Leave your car here and continue 1.2 km south on foot following the signposts. The path can be wet.

64.96687851 N : 24.83137565 E



### 13. PAPINKARI

Papinkari tower is situated on a sea-shore meadow. There are many **waterfowl** and **waders**. Birds like the **common coot** and **garganey** breed in the area. It is also a good place to observe forest birds. Most birds are seen in **May-August**. Camping allowed.

In Oulunsalo, turn south on Ky-länpuolentie from the roundabout. Drive about 2.3 km and turn south to Letto. Drive about 1.5 km. There's a parking lot right before the bridge that crosses over Salmioja. Continue on foot to the birdwatching tower following the boardwalks for 1 km.

64.90872584 N : 25.38082758 E

Liminganlahti Bay



### 14. TEMMESJOKISUU

The tower is situated in the Temmesjoki river delta on a seashore meadow and you can see a view over Liminganlahti Bay. The river is open early in spring. **Waterfowl** and **waders** are numerous, and birds like the **red-necked grebe**, **bittern** and **black-tailed godwit** breed in the area. The best visiting time is **April-May** and **July-August**.

There is a sign "Liminganlahti 5" 2 km north of Liminka on Tupoksentie. Turn and drive west to Temmesjoki marina and park there. Follow the boardwalks (2 km) to the birdwatching tower.

64.86125025 N : 25.35149704 E



### 15. VIRKKULA

Virkkula tower is situated on a sea-shore meadow in front of the Liminka Bay Visitor Centre. It is easily accessed even with prams. There you can see huge numbers of migrating, resting and breeding waterfowl and waders, especially **curlews**, **shanks** and **ruffs**. The best visiting time is from **late April until the end of September**. In the centre there are exhibitions and information on the area. Binoculars can also be borrowed.

The visitor centre is located 6 km west of Liminka towards Lumijoki. There are signposts along the boardwalks to guide you to the birdwatching tower.

64.82913339 N : 25.31046446 E



### 16. PUHKIAVANPERÄ

The tower is situated on a seashore meadow with wide reed beds. There are lots of breeding **waterfowls** and **waders** in the area. The area is important for breeding **grey-lag geese**. It's suitable for birding in **May-September** and also good for monitoring migratory birds.

Drive Lumijoen tie (813) from Liminka towards Lumijoki for about 8.5 km. Turn right from a junction signed "Letto" and "Puhkianperä" and drive 2.6 km until you reach a parking lot on the right. Continue on foot for 800 m following the boardwalks to the birdwatching tower.

64.84628 N : 25.28790 E



### 17. SANNANLAHTI

Sannanlahti is a wide and shallow bay and part of Liminganlahti Bay. There are wide shore meadows and reed beds there. The tower is very good for monitoring migratory birds. Breeding **waterfowl**, **waders** and other bird populations are numerous. You can see, for instance, **marsh and hen harriers**, summering **whooper swans** and **cranes**. The tower can be used throughout the **open water season**. Camping allowed.

Drive along lumijoen tie (813) to Lumijoki centre. After the bridge at Lumijoki there's a sign to "Kari" on the right side. Turn and drive straight for 1.5 km and then behind the fields turn left following the sign "Lintuvesi". Continue on this road for 3.5 km until you reach a parking lot. Continue on foot following the boardwalks to the birdwatching tower.

64.87925013 N : 25.20447673 E



### 18. HUUTILAMPI

Huutilampi is an overgrowing pond with wide boggy shores nearby. There is a nature trail around the pond. From the tower you can see lots of breeding birds in **May and June**. The **black-headed gull** has one of its biggest colonies in the Oulu area there. You can find **tufted ducks** and **Slavonian grebes**.

Turn to the Heikinharju direction from the Oulu-Kuusamo road (20). Drive for about 200 meters and turn onto Tukkasotkantie. The birdwatching tower is located by Tukkasotkantie, in the shade of trees, 170 meters from the junction.

65.05968637 N : 25.59429893 E

Inland

### 20. MATOKORPI

Matokorpi tower is situated in the middle of a vast open field area, where you can see a good number of **cranes** (mainly in autumn), **geese**, **wild ducks** and **swans** in the **spring and fall** migratory time. In spring-time also **waders** can be seen.

Coming from Oulu, drive towards Muhos (22) and turn to the Tyrnävä direction (road 827) slightly before Muhos. Continue for 3.5 km. On the left side there's a sign "Lintutorni", at which you should turn and drive for another 3.5 km. The birdwatching tower is on the right side of the way.

64.79538464 N : 25.92672647 E

Robin



## 21. JOLOSJÄRVI

Jolosjärvi is a shallow protected lake surrounded by fields with a diverse population of breeding birds, especially waterfowl. You can also see **ruffs** and **coots** there. The best time to visit the lake is **May-June**.

Drive 31 km from Oulu in the direction of Kuusamo. Turn right onto Joloksentie (8341). Drive for 8.5 km and turn left to Korteso. The bird-watching tower is on the left side less than a kilometer from the junction.

65.13214933 N : 26.1605372 E



## 22. HIRVISUO

Hirvisuo tower is situated on the Hirvisuo mire reserve, which consists of a wide minerotrophic mire with a valuable bird population. Waterfowl, like **teal** and **pintail**, are abundant. Most birds can be seen in **May-August**.

Hirvisuo is located at the border of Oulu and Pudasjärvi by road 20. There's a rest stop by the road from where the boardwalks lead to the birdwatching tower.

65.20520811 N : 26.28755225 E



## 23. VITSASUO

Vitsasuo tower is situated on a minerotrophic bog. There you can observe mire and pond species, like the **greenshank**, **whimbrel**, **teal**, **whooper swan**, **buzzard**, **Arctic loon**, **pintail** and **goldeneye**. The best visiting time is **May-June**.

Drive to Yli-li and continue driving towards Pudasjärvi (Pahkalanatie, 8540). A hundred meters after Pahkakoski hydroelectric plant, turn left onto Seljänmaantie. Drive for 3.5 km and turn left onto a smaller path. Drive for 3.4 km and leave your car there. Follow nature trails for about 1000 m to reach the birdwatching tower.

65.40059398 N : 26.00328905 E

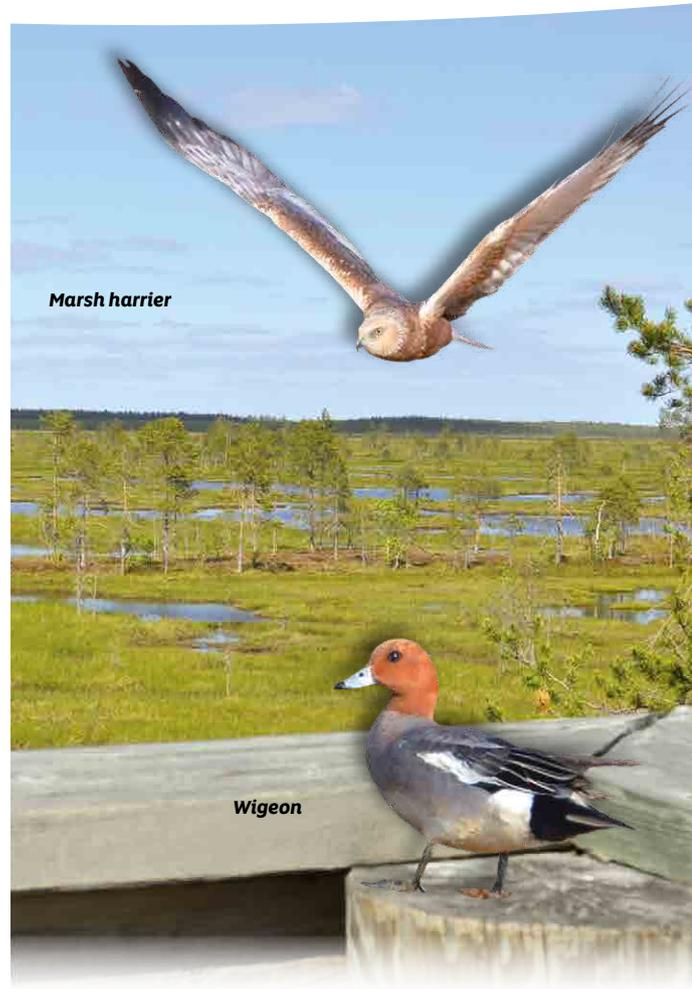


## 24. ISO MÄTTÄISJÄRVI

The tower is situated on a minerotrophic bog facing an overgrowing pond. Species to be observed are the **bean goose**, **teal**, **wigeon**, **hobby** and **kestrel**. Most birds can be seen in **May and June**.

Drive to Yli-li and continue driving towards Pudasjärvi (Pahkalanatie, 8540). A hundred meters after Pahkakoski hydroelectric plant turn left onto Seljänmaantie. Drive for about 6.5 km and turn left onto a smaller path. Drive for about 2 km and park your car where the path ends. Continue on foot following the nature trails: first north-west and then from the cross-section of two trails continue north-east. A hut and the bird-watching tower are located 500 m from the parking area.

65.41624365 N : 26.02078401 E



Marsh harrier

Wigeon



*Do you want to see*

*– hundreds of cranes, swans or geese? – Ducks gathering for migration?*

*– A gadwall? – A grey heron? – A shelduck?*

**OULU**

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