

Southern Turkey

12 – 19 May 2007

Leaders:

Mike Langman

Neil Arnold

Efkan – Guide

Ruhi - Driver

Introduction

Southern Turkey provided us with a real adventure, some stunning birds and a taste of local life. Our thanks go to Efkan for smoothing our path and to Ruhi for his driving, both contributing to the success of the trip. Our sincere thanks also go to all of you, for your enthusiasm, good spotting and excellent company. We hope to meet you again soon.

Saturday 12 May

The group gathered at Heathrow and all checked in on time. Security is inevitably an issue during recent years but the queue through the X-ray machines seemed very long, although it was fast moving. The Turkish Airline flight left almost to schedule and arrived at Istanbul on time. The trek to the connecting flight, Visa and wait, as usual, were a little confusing but we all boarded our Adana flight which again ran perfectly to the timetable. Luggage collected, our friendly 'guide' Efkan met us with the TN Hobby logo and we quickly boarded the spacious air conditioned bus and were introduced to our driver Ruhi. The Hotel Aksoy was situated in the middle of Adana and was only 15minutes from the airport. A snack and drink was brought to our rooms so we could relax after a long day.

Sunday 13 May

Breakfast was at 7.30am - ready for our first days birding on the Adana Delta's rivers and lakes (Golu's). The bus left at 8.30 sharp and headed south though Adana leaving the lavish Sultan's Mosque with its Kestrels and Lesser Kestrels. Very close by on the Seyhan River were several Whiskered Terns. Passing the glitzy Hilton Hotel, we drove through the rather deprived outskirts of Adana. Our first special birds of the trip included the delightful Palm Doves and Yellow-vented Bulbuls. As we left the township behind, a raptor was shouted - a quick stop and fast exit from the two door bus confirmed the identification as a Honey Buzzard just before it soared into the low cloud cover. Turning off the main road we followed a good tarmac road that roughly followed the River Seyhan south. This area is probably the best place in the Western Palearctic to see White-breasted Kingfisher and it wasn't long before we clocked up our first when stopping for a Red-rumped Swallow. The same spot also provided Rufous Bush-chat, Serin, Graceful Prinia, Red-backed Shrike, Hobby and Olivaceous Warbler. Carrying on along the road we managed to see a minimum of fifteen White-breasted Kingfishers and two Pied Kingfishers!

Further stops brought birds thick and fast. The most productive spot was a small fresh water ditch, the remains of an old oxbow lake. Here there were dozens of Balkan Terrapins, 3-4 Little Bitterns, Great Reed Warbler, Reed Warbler- probably of the Caspian form, a showy male Penduline Tit, Little Terns and a singing Nightingale. Other roadside areas held a few Squacco and a single Purple Heron, Collared Pratincoles, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallows, Eleonora's Falcon, Lesser Grey and dozens of Red-backed Shrikes. It was late morning now, time to head for our lunch at Tuz Golu.

Tuz Golu was a fantastic area - a brief look over the saltwater lakes found hundreds of Greater Flamingos, Spoonbill, Great White and Little Egrets, Kentish Plovers, Little Stint, Slender-billed Gull and Black-winged Stilt. Efkam found a nice picnic spot beside the Golu but, before we could exit the Minibus, Spur-winged Plovers and shrikes were noted. The overcast skies of the previous evening and light southerly winds had brought a fall of migrants. In the next hour we had noted two Olive-tree Warblers (their feeding in open ground causing some id problems to start with), Barred, Willow, Wood and lots of Olivaceous Warblers, together with Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Masked, Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes and Spotted Flycatchers. While we were busy birding, Efkam and Ruhi had prepared a lovely buffet lunch which we all heartily tucked into, in the shade of an open beach hut porch. After lunch the Golu was equally as good; the highlights being Caspian, Gull-billed and White-winged Black Terns, Red-necked Phalaropes, Garganey and a good passage of Pratincoles including one Black-winged!

At Akyatan Golu the water levels were low and birds distant, the main highlights being a singing Savi's Warbler and a nesting colony of Spanish Sparrows in some nearby Eucalyptus trees. It was time to head back to Adana via the Mosque and a small supermarket. The log call that night rattled through our impressive list of exciting species. After our evening meal we all headed for an early night ready for an 8am departure from the Hotel in the morning.

Monday 14 May

An early breakfast and loading up of the bus saw us on the road by just before 8am and heading straight for the Goksu Delta, arriving at about 11am. The first part of the journey saw us motoring between the seemingly endless urban sprawl of Adana, Tarsus and Mercin before seeing some countryside and then the blue Mediterranean Sea. Birds en route included a flock of about fifteen Rose-coloured Starlings and, near to our destination, White Storks and a Short-toed Eagle. Our first stop at the Goksu Delta was at the relatively new tower 'hide' which gave great views over the vast area of reed fringed lake. Several good species were soon found including four or more Grey-headed Swamphens (Purple Gallinules), Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Marbled Duck, Spoonbill and Bearded Tits. A walk to the next hide was hot and quiet for birds and, just as we were about to arrive at the small reedy marsh, a scooter with two young men and dogs following behind ruined any chance of seeing something interesting! Back to the coach and we drove on to find a way around the edge of the Golu and a place for lunch. Some keen eyed members of the group found our first Black Francolin, ignoring the books and singing in the midday heat at the top of a fifteen foot post! Next a flutter beside the coach and a shout of stop saw us looking at a Nightjar, giving us all fantastic views as it crouched on the sand.

The tracks east all looked damp and probably slippery so we returned north to find a place for lunch. Just before we stopped bedlam broke loose on both sides of the coach with shouts of stop, Francolins and what's that! On the right a pair of Francolins burst from the track and flew into cover- but still

showing, while on the left there was some confusion over another bird right beside the coach – it turned out to be a Corncrake! While Efkan and Ruhi prepared our lunch, the group wandered into a small area of scrub and eucalyptus where there were a few migrants including Turtle Doves and Blackcap. Most surprising was a couple of Brown Hares that bolted from the scrub.

Lunch eaten, we headed back north and east of the holiday villas to an area that used to be paddy fields – the area was sadly drained but ploughed attracting a dozen or more White Storks and several Spur-winged Plovers. In the sky a few raptors were picked out. After watching them rather distantly and trying positively to identify them, one passed over much closer. We could pick out the paler fore wing and obvious white patch on the upper primaries – Lesser Spotted Eagles! Just as we were ready to head off, the information warden from Goksu caught up with us to request we returned to fill in the visitor book. We could only oblige as perhaps it might help the conservation of the area. There was no time to go to the Eastern Golu so a quick trip into a nearby gorge was an alternative. It was rather hot but a couple of stops proved very worthwhile with a tally of three Golden Orioles, three Black-headed Buntings, Black-eared Wheatears, two Rock Nuthatches and a Syrian Woodpecker.

It was time to head for the Lades Hotel, a very pleasant place, with friendly staff and lots of bird trip reports!

Tuesday 15 May

An early pre-breakfast trip started at 5.30am as we headed for the tower hide at Goksu. Soon after we left the bus Black Francolins were heard and a quiet, mimicking, sub-song from the bushes, Marsh Warbler was suggested but without hearing the full song it was difficult to be sure. At the hide good views were had by all of Grey-headed Swamphen, Spoonbills, Ruddy Shelduck and family, White-winged Black Tern, Purple Herons and a couple of Savi's Warblers were heard singing. A rather large discarded snake skin was found on the floor of the hide but despite some nervous searching of the rafters there was no sign of the owner!

Walking to the next hide we were treated to some great views of a Marsh Warbler in song, its more olive upper parts and slightly yellower underparts than the local race of Reed Warbler made it easier to separate. Graceful Prinia, Lesser Grey Shrike, and other migrant warblers were seen. The walk back to the bus that had driven down to meet us was interesting, with fly over 'Yellow' Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, two Ortolan Buntings, Peregrine Falcon and perhaps another Rose-coloured Starling that was against the light so difficult to positively identify. Back in the bus there was time to stop for a male Peregrine that had caught some prey and landed on the beach. Trying the 'Stork' corner from the previous day we found several Black-headed Wagtails, two more Squacco Herons, a Common Buzzard and a couple of Collared Pratincoles - it was now nearly 7.30 - time for breakfast.

After breakfast we were off to the hills and Uzuncabuc. The road was winding but spectacular with deep gorges and narrow roads! With the exception of a pretty Asia Minor race of Jay, not many birds of note were seen so we arrived at the temple and amphitheatre at 9.30am. A stroll down a dusty track gave us all fantastic views of several Olive-tree Warblers that were not at all shy and singing from exposed perches! Masked Shrike, at least two more Marsh, Olivaceous, Sedge, a superb Rüppell's and showy Orphean Warbler were all seen well, together with a couple of Syrian Woodpeckers, Rock Nuthatch, Short-toed Eagle and Lesser Spotted Eagle.

Many species of butterfly were present including Eastern Orange Tip, False Apollo, several species of fritillary, and blues. A pretty Persian Squirrel also showed off at the top of an ancient column.

Lunch was prepared for us in the shade of a large tree on our return from the impressive temple and birds. We all indulged ourselves with a cold beer or Coke while the Orphee Warbler sang above our heads. Efkan had again prepared a nice spread of food including some fresh ripe cherries and very sweet halva. Just as the group was polishing off the remnants of lunch, a River Warbler started to sing only a matter of feet away. Its rhythmic chugging song could be heard well but the bird could not be seen – what a turn up! It was time to head slowly back down the hills. Our first stop gave some distant views of Cretzschmar's Bunting and a Woodlark was heard. A tiny Snake-eyed Skink quickly writhed its way into the pine needles. A short walk on from the coach and some cunning field craft brought out a pair of Krüper's Nuthatches at very close range. The next stop produced three Cretzschmar's Buntings, two of which gave us all wonderful views, and the striking Asia Minor form of Coal Tit. A few more stops were made to look for Upcher's Warbler to no avail; the middle of a hot afternoon probably did not help our cause.

Back at the hotel we had time to relax and have a cold drink before the log call and dinner.

Wednesday 16 May

After an early breakfast we said our good-byes to the friendly and very pleasant Lades Hotel and hit the road at 8am for our next destination, Demirkazik. It was a longish drive, but very comfortable with our careful driver Ruhi. There was fantastic scenery after Tarsus and interesting birds along the way. A short comfort stop at Pozanti brought our first good raptors of the day with Short-toed Eagle and Griffon Vulture (although we had seen a Long-legged Buzzard a few miles before). Alpine Swifts also cruised over at distance. After a few mock stops at potential picnic spots we pulled off the main road – a good looking open location with shade and views of the mountains. The predicted Wood Lark soon put in an appearance with a fine supporting cast of birds including Short-toed Treecreeper, Ortolan Bunting, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Booted Eagle and Redstart of the form *samamiscus* with the white wing panels.

Next stop was Cukurbag, a beautiful location and very comfortable Pansyon with its amiable owner Hasan. He had every thing sorted, our rooms were soon occupied and we were off following him to the magnificent gorge at Demirkazik. It was a bit of a scramble but we took it slowly, especially with a couple of small steam crossings. The towering limestone cliffs made birds look deceptively small until a huge raptor drifted down the valley – a Golden Eagle, giving stunning views. The *ochruros* form of Black Redstart were quite common here and looked stunningly black and orange. Other birds seen were both species of chough, Rock Bunting, Snowfinch, Rock Doves, Blue Rock Thrush and Crag Martin. A short walk along the road from the coach added several Susliks, Rock Thrush, and Horned Lark of the blacker throated subspecies *pencillata*.

Hassan and his wife Zeynap prepared a lovely dinner which we ate, being serenaded by Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler. The meal was interrupted several times by some very strange flypasts; first a Purple Heron heading north, followed by Eleonora's Falcon and finally a Great-spotted Cuckoo heading south! It was an early night as there was an optional early morning trip up the mountains at 4am, for which the whole group volunteered!

Thursday 17 May

An early call and just time for a coffee and biscuits before we all loaded into the tractor and jeep to set off at 4am. Hasan had prepared the trailer with foam and cushions for the bumpy journey up to Demirkazik. The whole group was in good spirits as we arrived on top of the rocky platform soon after dawn. Already the Caspian Snowcocks could be heard wailing their eerie curlew like calls. We all scanned the crags high up in the mountains and found a male Ibex. It wasn't long before Hasan had located two snowcock on a muddy area with a several Ibex, despite their large size, their grey plumage merged very well into the boulder strewn hillside and it was sometime before the whole group had seen the birds. Snowfinches and Northern and Back-eared Wheatears hopped around the mountainside near us and a few Crimson-winged Finches tempted us up the steep slope for better views. Hasan then took the group a little higher for Radde's Accentor, one of which performed brilliantly; other birds here included Golden Eagle, both choughs and a pair of Rock Thrush.

We headed back to the tractor for a welcome tea or coffee and our packed breakfast, after which we trundled back down the mountain, stopping for a short walk for the striking Finsch's Wheatear and a close Horned Lark. Then it was on to find Red-fronted Serin, as a beautiful party of these tiny finches foraged around some scrub. A White-throated Robin was another treat as it moved down the valley and stopped to sing nearby. A pair of Isabelline Wheatears were also new for the trip.

We were back for breakfast at 10am and enjoyed a Rock Sparrow wheezing away its song on a telegraph pole, a flyover Honey Buzzard and a couple of Long-legged Buzzards. A cooked breakfast/lunch was served, followed by a walk into Cukurbag. Syrian Woodpecker and singing Orphean Warbler were the only notable birds. Our trip into the Alacadag Valley was delayed due to a thunderstorm and heavy rain. Hasan served tea and coffee while we went through the morning's log call in the shelter of his veranda. At the first sign of some debated blue skies we jumped on the bus and headed into the hillside. The terrain changed from steppe to a dramatic stony high mountain gorge. The mountains looked perfect for Lammergeier but we were not lucky, however we did see several Chukar, Red-fronted Serin, Tawny Pipit, Hoopoe, Rock Bunting and an incredibly well picked out Peregrine high up on a rockface!

After dinner a few of the group strolled across the road to try and see the Scops Owl. Despite imitation calls and a torch, only a few managed to see the bird. The highlight of the expedition was a brief view of a Beech Marten as it 'lolloped' across the road close to the group and then up a bank – the Americans missed it!

Friday 18 May

A short unplanned pre-breakfast stroll, proved very successful with at least three Golden Orioles, Marsh Warbler, Cetti's and two Sedge Warblers plus a showy Nightingale.

After breakfast we said our farewells to Hasan and Zeynep and headed up the mountainside in search of larks. It wasn't long before we found some suitably good looking habitat. The birds here were good and the views of most even better, with several subtly bright Crimson-winged Finches, Rock Sparrows, Long-legged Buzzards, Bee-eaters and then the more earthy coloured Isabelline Wheatears, Sky, Shore, Short-toed and our target Calandra Lark, that even displayed for us.

We headed south for Adana and the rain, nibbling on Turkish Delight, figs and nuts. A comfort stop at Pozanti - our raptor spot - yet again produced a good bird, albeit distant, a Booted Eagle; then en route we passed a close Black Kite near the city.

A brief visit to the Seyhan River Reservoir was very quiet for birds so we headed for Tuz Golu encountering a couple of White-breasted Kingfishers along the way. It was raining lightly at the lake but undeterred we headed off to see what we could find. The expected Flamingos were present though in smaller numbers than previously, but Slender-billed Gull numbers were up and we found Black-headed, Little and Lesser Black-backed Gull probably of the Baltic race *fuscus*. Two Red-necked Phalaropes disappeared into the emergent vegetation and small numbers of Dunlin and Little Stint fed with the resident Kentish Plovers. The rain was getting heavier so it was back for our late picnic lunch, as always prepared so well by Efkan and Ruhi.

That evening after log call and dinner we reflected on the trip and the birds that we had seen, a quite fantastic mixture and almost all seen well by the whole group.

Saturday 19 May

After packing our belongings and breakfasting we had time for some shopping in the busy City of Adana. Efkan took us to a Turkish Delight shop where we could chose from the many flavours and types. Efkan then treated us all to a real Turkish Coffee in an old side street. Then it was time to load the coach for the airport. We said our fond farewells to Efkan and Ruhi and checked in for our flight to Istanbul. Cynthia and Pat were staying on in the city for a few more days so we said our good-byes and headed for the international departures lounge.

The flight back took off on time but arrived nearly half an hour earlier than scheduled. After the entire luggage was collected we headed our separate ways, after a truly wonderful week.

CHECK LIST

KEY

ADA	Adana Delta
CUK	Cukurbag area
DEM	Demirkazik – Alacadaq
GOK	Goksu Delta
POZ	Pozanti
UZU	Uzuncabuc
[]	Total count
()	Peak count
E	Estimate

BIRDS

Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Four ADA and twelve GOK
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Widespread in wetlands [32]
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Five records in wetlands and one CUK
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	Two ADA and two GOK
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Noted in all the wetlands and one CUK [51]
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Five ADA and two GOK

Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Seven ADA
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Common ADA [E 1000]
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Fifty one GOK and two near ADA
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Seven ADA and at least three GOK
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	A scattering of records in the wetlands
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	A pair with chicks and at least ten others GOK
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A male ADA
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Seven ADA
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Seven ADA
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	One GOK
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Five GOK
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	Two ADA
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	One ADA and one DEM
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	One near Adana
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Five en route CUK
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Three en route CUK
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	One GOK, one UZU and one near POZ
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Only in the wetlands [16]
Common (Eurasian) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	One GOK and three en route CUK
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Six sightings in the highlands
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	Three GOK and one UZU
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	An adult at a nest DEM
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	One en route CUK and one POZ
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Two Adana
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Widespread [18]
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One ADA
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	One ADA and one CUK
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	A pair GOK and two DEM
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Heard Fefka Gorge and at least ten DEM
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Four seen GOK and many heard
Caspian Snowcock	<i>Tetrao gallus caspius</i>	Three DEM
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	One GOK
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Scattered records in the wetlands
Purple Swamphen (Gallinule)	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Six sightings of the race caspius, known as Grey-headed Swamphen
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Six ADA and at least twenty five GOK
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Six ADA and five GOK
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	Five ADA
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Forty ADA and six GOK
Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	One ADA
Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	At least six ADA and eighteen GOK
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Twelve ADA
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Several ADA
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Common on both deltas
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i> Two ADA	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	One ADA
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	One ADA
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Two ADA 13 th and two 18 th
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Two ADA
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Common ADA
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	At least ten ADA and one GOK
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Common ADA

Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	At least twelve ADA
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Common in coastal locations
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Three ADA of apparent race fuscus
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Eight ADA
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Twenty three ADA
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	Seventy or so ADA and one Tasucu
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutes</i>	One ADA
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Common ADA (30) and GOK (10)
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	One ADA and one GOK
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Three ADA
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Up to seven ADA
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	At least twenty ADA
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common on the deltas [20]
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Common on the deltas [E 100]
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral-common towns. Rock-a dozen or so DEM
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Widespread. GOK (22) [37]
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	widespread on the coast
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	One CUK
Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Two ADA and two CUK. Heard UZU
Eurasian Scops-owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Two CUK
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	One near UZU and one Silifke
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	One ADA
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Very common in the mountains and smaller flock on the coast
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Two ADA
White-breasted (-throated) Kingfisher		<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> Only ADA – eighteen sightings
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Widespread, more often heard than seen [32]
(Eurasian) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Two UZU and two CUK
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Widespread in the hills
Calandra Lark	<i>Melancorypha calandra</i>	One CUK
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Several ADA and two CUK
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common on the coast
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Heard near UZU and seen en route CUK
(Eurasian) Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Five CUK
Shore (Horned) Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Fourteen CUK-DEM of race pencillata
European Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Common on the deltas, a few CUK
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Only CUK-DEM
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread and numerous
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	A few breeding pairs in the lowlands
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Common
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Four ADA and eight GOK
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Two ADA and twenty or so CUK
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Two DEM
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Three DEM
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	One in flight GOK
Spectacled (Yellow-vented) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	Common in the lowlands
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Large numbers of migrants on the coast and breeding birds inland [132]

Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Seventeen ADA and nine scattered records
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	Five ADA, two GOK, six UZU and one en route CUK
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	One GOK and one UZU
Radde's Accentor	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>	Five DEM
(Rufous-tailed) Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Three DEM
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Two males DEM
Common (Eurasian) Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
Three en route UZU		
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard ADA and at least six CUK
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>	A fine male DEM
Rufous Bush-chat (-robin)	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	Seven ADA, one GOK, four Fefka Gorge and four UZU
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Four DEM of race ochorus
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	One en route CUK race samamiscus
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Only CUK-DEM and foothills
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	Four DEM
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Widespread [35]
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Four CUK-DEM
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Fourteen GOK
Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	Only on the coast
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Only CUK
River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	One heard UZU
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Heard ADA-GOK
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	One UZU and two CUK
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Three GOK, three UZU and one CUK
(Eurasian) Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Common in reed beds on the deltas
Great Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Five ADA and two GOK
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais</i>	pallida
Widespread		
Olive Tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	two migrants ADA and seven UZU
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Migrants ADA-GOK [16]
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Two migrants ADA
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Nine coastal records and a dozen in the foothills
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Only GOK (5) and CUK (16)
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Two migrants on the coast and thirty CUK
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	One migrant ADA
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Four UZU and heard CUK of race crassirostris
Ruppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	Two UZU
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Widespread, even on the coast
(Eurasian) Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Two ADA
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Two en route UZU
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Ten records in the foothills
Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	Two Fefka Gorge, six UZU and four DEM
Kruper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	Two pairs near UZU
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	One en route CUK
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Thirteen Records in the hills of race atricpillus
Black-billed (Common) Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	A few pairs CUK
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Common CUK-DEM
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax glauculus</i>	Common DEM

Eurasian (Western) Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Several coastal records and a few en route CUK
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common throughout
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Two male and a female Fefka Gorge
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	Brief views of fifteen Mercin and twelve Tarsus
Common (European) Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Local in the hills [33]
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Five GOK and five CUK
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Nine records DEM
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Two over GOK and three CUK
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	Five UZU
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Very widespread [47]
(Eurasian) Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Seven ADA
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common in upland cultivated areas
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Twenty three DEM
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Widespread
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Only CUK-DEM
Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	Three DEM and eleven CUK
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Common in the coastal fringe
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Seventeen records CUK
Rock Sparrow (Petronia)	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	One DEM and ten CUK
Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>	Sixteen records DEM

MAMMALS

Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	One CUK
Bezoar Ibex (Wild Goat)	<i>Capra aegagrus</i>	A male and three females DEM
Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>	Two UZU
Souslik (Asia Minor Ground Squirrel)	<i>Spermophilus xanthoprymus</i>	Common CUK-DEM
Brown Rat	<i>Ratus norvegicus</i>	One ADA
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Two GOK and one DEM

AMPHIBIANS

Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Heard GOK
'Levant' Water Frog	<i>Rana bedriagae</i>	Widespread in the marshes
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia stellio</i>	Common in dry areas
Wall Lizard sp	<i>Podarcis sp</i>	Common in dry areas
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>	One UZU
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Widespread [5]
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	Common in rivers and on the deltas

BUTTERFLIES

The following were noted

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Eastern festoon	<i>Zerynthia cerisyi</i>
False Apollo	<i>Archon apollinus</i>
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small white	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Eastern bath white	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Eastern Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>
Clouded yellow sp	<i>Colias sp</i>
Brimstone sp	<i>Gonepteryx sp</i>
Blue-spot Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium spini</i>
Painted lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Small skipper	<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> was also noted

Mike Langman & Neil Arnold, May 2007

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