

Southern Turkey

10 – 17 May 2008



Leader:

Mike Langman

Local Guide & Driver:

Bülent Kıyan & Erkan Isikli

Saturday 10 May

The group gathered at Heathrow and all checked in on time. After working our way through security including two lots of X-ray machines the group rested in the departure lounge . The Turkish airline flight departed approximately 1hr late but we arrived at Istanbul only 20 minutes after our scheduled landing time. With limited time to get to our connecting flight we made our way directly to the internal flights departures and boarded our Adana flight which again ran perfectly to the timetable. Luggage collected, but there was no sign of our local guide – he had gone to the domestic flight arrival lounge. After a couple of phone calls we met Bülent and our driver Erkan and we quickly boarded the air conditioned bus.. The Pansiyon was about an hours drive from the airport and after being shown to our rooms we quickly went to the restaurant where the owner had prepared our supper – sea Bass for most of us it was be, after a long day we made our way to bed

Sunday 11 May

The pre-breakfast walk at 6am attracted the whole group. It was just beginning to stop raining so we started with a short seawatch, picking out a few terns turnstone and a couple of Shag. The rain had now stopped so we strolled through some small lanes and gardens. It was soon clear that there had been a fall of migrants as we notched up Red-backed Shrikes, and several species of Warbler and Black-headed buntings as well as the local Palm Doves, Rufous Bush-robins and Yellow-vented Bulbuls. Back for Breakfast at 7.30am we were ready for our first days birding on the Adana Delta's rivers and lakes (Golu's). The bus left at just after 8.30am and headed north toward Adana. Soon after leaving Karata_ we stopped to watch Rollers, Syrian Woodpecker and a fine Hobby perched in a Eucalyptus tree. Turning off several miles before reaching Adana we followed the Seyhan River south birdwatching enroute to Tuzla. The canal was in full flood and White-breasted kingfishers were difficult to find this year but after a couple of stops and fleeting glimpses eventually we all had great views of one bird. The same location also produced several Little Bitterns, Great Reed Warbler and many Balkan Terrapins. We arrived at Tuzla just after midday stopping on the causeway to watch many waders and a Short-toed Lark in bouncy display flight. This year there were hundreds of Little Stints and Ruff on the Golu, mixed with Black-winged Stilts, summer plumaged Curlew Sandpipers, and several other common species. The Flamingo's proved quite obliging giving us close views. After our picnic Lunch we strolled to the 2007 migrant hotspot and were rewarded with Olive-tree, Upcher's and several Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, also Masked Shrike, Hoopoe, several Spur-winged Plovers, many Collared Pratincoles and distant views of Great White Egret.

The short drive toward Akyatan Golu included short stops for Cattle Egret and Squacco Heron. At Akyatan Golu the water levels were low and birds distant, the main highlights being Slender-billed Gulls and a Spoonbill. The minor road back to Karata_ was impassable so we headed back north to the main road and then on to our Pansiyon at Karata_. 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 12 May

An early breakfast and loading up of the bus saw us on the road by 8am and heading back to Adana and after a fruitless stop for Lesser Kestrel and Whiskered Tern we travelled on the nearly empty toll Motorway toward the Goksu Delta arriving at about 11:45am. The journey was smooth and comfortable, bird's enroute included a flock of over 20 Rose-coloured Starlings, a couple of Rollers and near to our destination White Storks. Driving from Silifke to Paradeniz Golu our first stop was for a Long-legged Buzzard but then our attention was drawn to a skulking Graceful Prinia that despite being no matter than a few feet away proved difficult to see until it hopped out to sing for us. At Paradeniz we found a deserted cafe where we could sit in the shade watching Masked Shrike and Spanish Sparrows while tucking into our lunch prepared by Bülent and Erkan. A foray to the sea produced a colony of Sand Martins and an unseen calling Black Francolin.

An attempted drive to a tower hide was aborted when the road turned into sand! We headed for another tower platform beside Akgol Golu. This proved to be spectacular if a little rickety! Just before we reached this point a brief stop on the dusty track gave us views of distant Red-footed Falcons, closer Short-toed Eagles lots of Marsh Harriers and two Lesser Spotted Eagles, one of which eventually glided directly over us at some height. The walk to the tower platform gave us all great views of Purple Heron and then we heard several singing Moustached Warblers of the less rufous eastern form *mimica* one of which was located by Jim as it sang from the top of a reed for us all to see. The view of the Golu from the platform was

astonishing and the birds seen even better the highlights included 3 Grey-headed Swamphens (Purple Gallinules), Marbled duck and Red-crested Pochard with young numerous herons and egrets, 4 Ferruginous Ducks, Whiskered Tern, a flight of calling Ruddy Shelduck and Glossy Ibis, if only other marshes in Europe could be this good! It was all too soon to head back to the Hotel just a few kilometres away but only after two quick stops for Woodchat Shrike and Black Kite.

We were quickly booked into our comfortable rooms at the Lades Motel by our friendly host - Nurullah and given the chance to rest on our balconies overlooking the Mediterranean sea or stroll to the harbour town or bar on a beautiful warm still evening. The log call that night was lengthy with so many great birds to note.

Tuesday 13 May

An early pre-breakfast trip started at 5.30am we headed for the tower platform at Goksu. Soon after we arrived on the dunes a Black Francolin was located fairly close to the old runway another two were heard and one more was seen as we walked to the tower platform. At the viewing point a Savi's Warbler could be heard reeling away but it took some time to find it as it was a fair way out in a reedy island. About 45-50 White pelicans could be seen in two groups and a single Grey-headed Swamphen emerged from the rushes on a couple of occasions but the morning sunlight showed off its colours well. Other good species included a showy Great Reed Warbler, 8 Whiskered Terns, 9 Spoonbills, Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard and a single Marbled Duck that flew off into the sun. Perhaps the highlight of the morning was an eyelevel fly past of a flock of over 30 Rose-coloured Starlings but as ever they did not hang around! 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! But several stops of the minibus notched up Rock Nuthatch, Black-headed and Cretzschmar's Buntings also Blue Rockthrush, Ruppell's Warblers, Black-eared Wheatears and Sombre Tit, a pretty Persian Squirrel was also seen well. Arriving at the Temple Zeus at 10.30am we strolled down a dusty track, eventually we had some brief views of several Olive-tree, Orphean, and Ruppell's Warblers. Showing well were Masked Shrikes a couple of Syrian Woodpeckers, 4 Rock Nuthatches and a lesser-spotted Woodpecker. The strangest moment came when we noticed a tortoise tumbling down a rocky slope; luckily it righted itself at the bottom!

Lunch was prepared for us in the shade of a large tree on our return from the impressive temple and birds. As we indulged ourselves Bülent informed us about the old city and temple. Following lunch some of the group went off to look at the ruins while the other walked down the track one more time and were treated with fantastic views of an aptly named Barred Warbler and an Orphean Warbler. It was time to head off back down toward our hotel.

After a short drive we stopped to check out some old pine woods for Krupers Nuthatch and were soon having great views of at least three birds. The next stop produced a couple of showy Olive Tree Warblers, six Cretzschmar's Buntings a party of the grey Turkish race *tephronotus* Long-tailed Tits and the Asia Minor form of Coal Tit and Jay. The best sight was a pair of Short-toed Eagles that were so close in a display flight we could see their talons! A couple more stops were made for Little Owl and we heard a Scops Owl calling from a small clump of trees but it was impossible to see.

Back at the hotel we had time to stroll out onto the pier (some of us tucking into ice creams) where 3-4 turtles were seen just before we departed in the morning, after a few minutes we had counted at least 5 and identified them as Green Turtles. Some of the group diverted into town to buy souvenirs while the rest went back to the hotel to relax and have a cold drink before the log call and dinner.

Wednesday 14 May

After an early breakfast we said our good-byes to Nurullah at the Lades Hotel and after a couple of brief stops were we picked up Marsh Warblers, Graceful Prinia and a Rufous Bush Robin we got on the road for Camardi. It was a longish drive, which was livened up with stops for Black Stork, just as many of us were about to board the bus Bülent asked us we could take our time – we noticed he was just finishing his cigarette – but it was his cigarette got us a couple of Saker Falcons which we picked up soaring over the toll road as we waited! There was some fantastic scenery just before we reached Pozanti, we had a welcome comfort break and coffees in Pozanti, as we relaxed a couple of Griffon Vultures were picked out high over the distant mountains.

After a short picnic stop at Findikli we were on the road again to Camardi and the Safak Pansiyon in a beautiful location with its amiable owner Hassan. Following a quick greeting, our rooms were soon occupied and we were off to investigate the magnificent gorge at Demirkazik. It was bit of a scramble but this year the stream was dry. Several Ground Squirrels (Suslik) were noted, one being quite tame. The towering limestone cliffs made birds look deceptively small. The *ochorus* form of Black Redstart was quite common here and looked stunningly black and orange. Other birds seen were both species of chough, Rock Bunting, Rock Doves, Blue Rock Thrush and Crag Martin but no sign this year of the Golden Eagle, the nest appeared deserted. Heading back to the coach a Golden Jackal was seen by just two of the group as it scurried through gully of the dry stream carrying a dead Suslik.

Hassan and his wife Zeynep prepared a Trout supper which we ate in inner dining room cosily heated with a central wood burner. It was time for an early night as there was an optional early morning trip up the mountains leaving at 4am - the whole group volunteered to go!

Thursday 15 May

An early call and just enough time for a coffee and biscuits before we all loaded into the tractor by 4am. Hasan had prepared the trailer with foam and cushions for the bumpy journey up to Demirkazik. As we worked our way up the mountainside in the dark, lightening flashes lit up the skies in the distant valleys. The whole group was 'shaken but not stirred' and all in good spirits as we arrived on top of the plateau soon after dawn. Already the Caspian Snowcocks could be heard wailing their eerie curlew like calls. We all scanned the imposing crags high up in the mountains and Hassan soon spotted the first – very distant Snowcock then another closer but still high up on the crags. A few drops of rain threatened, so we quickly turned our attentions to finding the Radde's Accentors after a while we had seen 3 well and several Alpines to boot! Hassan was still searching for the Snowcocks that sounded closer but instead spotted several Bezoar Ibex. Snowfinches and Northern Wheatears hopped around the mountainside but due to the wind we could not pin down the calling Crimson-winged Finches other birds here included both Choughs and a pair of Rock Thrush and Horned lark of the blacker throated subspecies *pencillata*.

We headed back to the tractor for a welcomed tea or coffee and our packed breakfast, after which we trundled back down the mountain stopping to watch the striking Finch's Wheatears in full flight display. Then on to find Red-fronted Serin they proved a little flighty but at least six were noted together with Rock Sparrow and Isabelline Wheatears just as we were about to head back for breakfast a pair of Crimson-winged Finches flew in to feed – it had been a fantastic morning.

We were back for breakfast at 10am. A cooked Breakfast that was welcome after our morning's adventure, the offer of a chance to sleep fell on deaf ears when there was also the option to look for some Larks! The Lark fields were windy but we did manage to see a close Tawny Pipit and several Tree Sparrows. Two obliging Red-fronted Serins were admired near the Ski Centre. A search for White-throated Robin drew a blank but we did have some wonderful views of Ortolan and Rock Buntings. A snack lunch was served back at the Pansiyon as our trip into the Emli Valley looked in doubt as the rain and started to close in but the valley looked clear in the distance. Luckily we decided to go and were soon watching 30+ Red-fronted Serins at close range, then an incredible call of Wallcreeper was given by Hasan as a dot, on a rock about 300ft away, was picked out without binoculars from a moving minibus! The minibus was emptied in double quick time and we were revelled in some great lengthy views of this notoriously difficult species. Within minutes of the bird departing the rain came in and we headed back 'home' rather than running the risk of being stuck up a gorge with a bus in the mud! On our way back Nicola gave a clear call of Great-spotted Cuckoo, after reversing back a short distance we found two birds.

After log call and dinner we headed for bed after a long but extremely rewarding day.

Friday 16 May

A short unplanned pre-breakfast stroll, proved a little quiet and distinctly cool. The planned trip to the Sultan Marshes was cancelled as they were not only dry but also burnt during the winter meaning they were proving very poor for birds, this extremely upsetting to hear as the marshes were one of the birdwatching jewels of central Turkey. Hasan recommended the Barrage at Nigde which apparently held both Dalmatian and White Pelican and it was only 60km away, the programme was changed accordingly. The group boarded the minibus at 8.30 after breakfast and we headed first to the lark fields as the wind had died down the usual species were noted and two brief flying Calandra Larks flew past. One last attempt for the elusive White-throated Robin drew a blank but we did have excellent views of Isabelline Wheatears, Red-fronted Serins and Rock bunting.

The morning was passing quickly so we headed for Nigde with the inevitable birding stops. The shortcut over the hills to Nigde proved worthwhile and we had soon stopped to watch Golden Eagle, Long-legged and Honey Buzzards, displaying Calandra Larks and our first Lesser Grey Shrike that looked stunning with its pink body flush and so close to the minibus after Erkan had reversed a little back up the hillside road. After a comfort stop and picking up some freshly baked bread we headed for the Barrage which we soon found. There were no Pelicans but the other species were impressive, including 17 White-headed Ducks, Red-crested Pochards, Greater Flamingos, Black-necked Grebe, Spur-winged Plovers, Little Bittern, Squacco and Purple Herons, Whiskered Terns and half a dozen singing Great Reed Warblers. Whilst we were tucking into our picnic overlooking the marshes a man (Dr. Ahmet Karata_) in a suit arrived, we thought to turf us off the land, but he had seen us from his office window and come to say hello, as he was also birdwatcher and didn't see many birders on the site! He then gave up his afternoons work grabbed his camera and showed us around the site, starting with some nesting Penduline Tits, followed by Gull-billed Terns, Ruddy Shelduck, Asian Short-toed Lark (a new bird for Mike!) then on to an amazing corner of the marsh with 5 male Citrine Wagtails, Garganey, Black-winged Stilts, whiskered Terns that you could almost touch and to top it off a Great Snipe! We also found a Golden Jackal apparently new for the area, certainly a site to be included on any future trips to the area.

We dropped of Ahmet and filled up with petrol and had a comfort stop then headed back to Camardi, it had been a great day. After dinner Jim worked out it was our best bird total in a day of the whole trip with over ninety bird species recorded. Plans were made for the trip back to the airport and we head to bed to pack.

Saturday 17 May

After Breakfast we said our farewells to Hasan and Zeynep and hit the road at 7.30am. There was a brief comfort stop at Pozanti and then back on the road again heading for Adana airport noting Griffon Vulture, White Storks and Roller enroute. We arrived soon after 10am and said our goodbyes to our superb guide Bülent and driver Erkan who had been patient and careful all week. We headed for the airport bar and restaurant for a meal to relax and reflected on a great week during which the whole group had worked together to find the impressive 182 bird species recorded. The Adana to Istanbul flight departed and arrived on time and our flight back to Heathrow from Istanbul was trouble free.

The flight back was to schedule and after the entire group's luggage was collected we headed our separate ways, after a truly wonderful week.

Mike Langman

CHECK LIST

KEY

ADA	Adana Delta
KAR	Karatas
EML	Emli Gorge
CUK	Cukurbag area
DEM	Demirkazik – Alacadaq
GOK	Goksu Delta
POZ	Pozanti
UZU	Uzuncabuc
NGD	Nigde Barrage
[]	Total count
()	Peak count
>	from road While travelling toward
E	Estimate

BIRDS

Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	and five GOK and [E 30] NGD
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	[E 30] NGD
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	one ADA and 9 NGD
White Pelican	Pelecanus crispus	forty five GOK
Shag	Phalacrocorax asistotelis	three of race desmarestii KAR
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	eleven ADA and one NGD
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	[E 33] GOK and 2 NGD
Great White Egret	Egretta alba	one ADA and three GOK
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Noted in nearly all the wetlands
Cattle Egret	Ardeola bubuclus	two ADA
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	two ADA five GOK and three NGD
Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutes	Seven ADA three GOK and one NGD
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus rubber	Common ADA[E300]one GOK 165 NGD
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	five ADA twenty two GOK three >POZ twenty >NGD
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	two flew over motorway >POZ
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	one ADA ten GOK
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	only genuine birds GOK

Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	thirteen GOK and three NGD
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	one male NGD
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	two NGD
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	one NGD
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	two, one with eight chicks GOK
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	fourteen GOK and fifteen NGD
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	[E 150] NGD
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	four GOK
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyra leucocephala</i>	seventeen NGD
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	one >NGD
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	one GOK and one >POZ
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	two >CUK
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	two POZ and one >ADA
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	one >POZ
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circetus gallicus</i>	three GOK, four >UZU 32
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Only in the wetlands [E 50]
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygarrus</i>	one GOK
Common (Eurasian) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	two GOK and one CUK
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	three GOK one >POZ and four >NGD
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	two GOK
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	one >NGD
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Widespread [11]
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	one ADA and two GOK
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	three ADA three NGD
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	pair >POZ
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	one ADA one >POZ
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	2 EML one DEM and several heard
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	Four seen GOK and several heard
Caspian Snowcock	<i>Tetrao gallus caspius</i>	two DEM and three more heard
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Scattered records in the wetlands
Purple Swamphen (Gallinule)	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	four of the race caspius, known as Grey-headed Swamphen GOK
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	twenty ADA [E 300] GOK and [E 150] NGD
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	16+ ADA, eight GOK and three NGD
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	20 ADA
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	[E 60] ADA and four GOK
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	10+ NGD
Spur-winged Plover (Lapwing)	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	At least six ADA, 10+ GOK and six NGD
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	One KAR thirteen ADA
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Common at ADA three GOK
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	one ADA
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	one NGD
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	one ADA
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	One ADA
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	two GOK and two NGD
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	two KAR
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	300+ ADA one GOK and twelve NGD
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine</i>	two ADA
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	20+ ADA
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	150-200 ADA
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Several in coastal locations
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	one ADA of apparent race fuscus
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	nine NGD
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	30+ ADA and one GOK
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	ten GOK and 20+ NGD
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	two NGD
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	five ADA one GOK
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	three ADA
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common on the deltas [47+]
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Common on the deltas [E 160]

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral-common towns. Rock -a twenty or so DEM
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	widespread in coastal towns the coast
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	two CUK and two EML
Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Two ADA and two CUK. Heard UZU
Eurasian Scops-owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	one heard >UZU two heard CUK
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	One GOK, three near UZU and one >NGD
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	several in the mountains and smaller flock on the coast
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread
White-breasted (-throated) Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Only ADA – three sightings
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i>	three KAR, four >GOK one GOK and one >NGD
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	twenty four ADA, six GOK one CUK
Eurasian) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i> one	ADA, two GOK one DEM and 3 >NGD
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	one UZU
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Widespread in the hills
Calandra Lark	<i>Melancorypha calandra</i>	One CUK and ten+ >NGD
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	one ADA one GOK and several CUK
Asian Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella cheleensis</i>	10+ NGD
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common on the coast and two NGD
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	one seen and two heard at DEM
Eurasian) Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	ten + CUK-DEM of race <i>pencillata</i>
Shore (Horned) Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Common on the deltas, a few CUK and NGD
European Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	40+ CUK-DEM and five >NGD
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Widespread and numerous
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	A few breeding pairs in the lowlands and two NGD
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	widespread in small numbers
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	only Black-headed race <i>Feldegg</i> five ADA thirty+ GOK and ten+ NGD
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	four only seen in mountain areas
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	five males NGD
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	seven DEM
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	one DEM
Spectacled (Yellow-vented) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	Common in the lowlands
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	good numbers of migrants on the coast and breeding birds inland [80+]
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	just two birds one >NGD and one NGD
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	two ADA, one GOK, fourteen UZU and one en route CUK
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	One GOK
Radde's Accentor	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>	three DEM
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	five DEM
(Rufous-tailed) Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	two DEM
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Two >UZU one DEM
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread in small numbers
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	two >UZU and three >CUK
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	three ADA and at least three CUK
Rufous Bush-chat (-robin)	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	three KAR, one GOK, Black Black Redstart
Northern Wheatear	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	five DEM of race <i>ochorus</i>
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Only CUK-DEM and foothills
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	two DEM
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	ten or more UZU
Bearded Reedling	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	two CUK-DEM many >NGD
Graceful Prinia	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	four GOK
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>	three GOK
Savi's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Only CUK-DEM
	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	two seen ADA-GOK

Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	One NGD
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	nine heard one seen of race <i>mimica</i> at GOK
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	two GOK,
(Eurasian) Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Common in reed beds on the deltas of pale race <i>fuscus</i>
Great Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	three ADA and 1 GOK 10+ NGD
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	six KAR-ADA, one GOK, 1 NGD
Olive Tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	one migrant ADA and six UZU
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>	one migrant ADA
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	three migrants KAR one NGD
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	six KAR, six GOK
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	seven DEM
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Two migrants KAR one UZU sixteen CUK-DEM
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	single migrants KAR, ADA and UZU
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	three UZU of race <i>crassirostris</i>
Ruppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>	four UZU
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	three KAR, one GOK and one UZU
(Eurasian) Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	two NGD
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Two en route UZU
Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>	two >UZU
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread but just six noted
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	three records in foot hills and NGD
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	six >UZU of grey race <i>tephronotus</i>
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	one EML
Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	seven UZU area, and five DEM
Kruper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	Two pairs near UZU
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	eight Records in the hills of race <i>atricapillus</i>
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 Istanbul airport and 30+ NGD
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common throughout
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Two ADA, one GOK and heard at NGD
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	Brief views of 30 >GOK and 35 flew past at GOK
Common (European) Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common in the hills
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	two GOK, one DEM and several >NGD
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	five records DEM
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	six DEM
Cretzschmar's Bunting	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>	seven >UZU
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Very widespread [30+]
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common in upland cultivated areas
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	forty two DEM and EML
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	four ADA and two DEM
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	common CUK-DEM
Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	Three DEM
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>	nine records CUK
Rock Sparrow (Petronia)	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	30+ CUK-NGD
Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>	40 + records DEM

Total Species recorded 182

OTHER NOTABLE WILDLIFE

Golden Jakal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	one DEM, and one NGD
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Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	one >NGD
Bezoar Ibex (wild Goat)	<i>Capra aegagrus</i>	25+ DEM
Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>	two >UZU
Ground Squirrel (Suslik)	<i>Spermophilus xanthroprymnus</i>	common in mountain areas
Marsh/pond Frogs		a confusing mixture in all lowland marshes
Starred Agama	<i>Laudakia Stellio</i>	one AD and five UZU
Erhards Wall?	<i>Podarcis erhardii</i>	numerous on dry ground
Skink sp??		One GOK
Spur-thighed Tortiose	<i>Testudo greacca</i>	one ADA one UZU
Balkan Terrapin	<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>	common in lowland Marshes
Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	at least five from hotel and pier in Tasucu

Mike Langman, May 2008

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