

# TURKEY 2004

REPORT OF A BIRDING TRIP TO THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN  
PARTS OF TURKEY – JUNE THE 26<sup>TH</sup> TO JULY THE 18<sup>TH</sup>



Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* by Wesley Overman

Kasper P Hendriks  
Leiden, August 16, 2004

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## A: GENERAL

### Introduction

After successful birding trips to Spain in 2002 and Eastern Europe in 2003, 2004 saw another successful birding trip by Ben Wielstra, Wesley Overman and Kasper Hendriks. Turkey was the main area visited, but a pit stop at Cyprus was made, too. The fourth member this year was good old Frank van Duijvenvoorde.

The trip can be entitled as a great success, probably a result of the many days of obtaining information in advance. A list of target species was made, supplying the places to find them. Many reading about good places has been done as well. Through EBN and EBN NL, quite some recent information got available. Turkey visiting guru Remco Hofland has been consulted few times as well, for which we'd like to thank him very much! Most target species have been found, including sometimes hard-to-find ones

such as Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius*, Caucasian Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi* and even Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*. A total list of birds observed can be found within this report, as well as a list of places. Additionally, small maps have been added where appropriate.

This trip report will be presented on the world wide web from about September 2004 onwards. It will have bigger maps, which will be printable as well. Hopefully, photographs of birds made during the trip by Wesley Overman can be added too. In due time, find it all at <http://home.planet.nl/~hend0845>! Any questions not answered within this report? Send me an email at [kphendriks@hotmail.com](mailto:kphendriks@hotmail.com).

### Participants

The usual crew comprises Ben Wielstra from Rijnsburg (21), Wesley Overman from Zoetermeer (21) and Kasper Hendriks from Leiden (21). Frank van

Duijvenvoorde from Katwijk aan de Rijn (between 50 and whatever) was added to the list.

### Writing Credits

The texts in this trip report, as well as the sketched maps, have been produced by Kasper Hendriks. Ben Wielstra has kept the systematic bird list up-to-date during the trip, which has later been used for the

making of this report. No rights reserved. Copy this report as many times as needed without any permission, but for non-commercial usage only!

### Strategy

Because others had found out that a period of two weeks was way too short to cover the whole of southern and eastern Turkey, a total of three weeks was expected to be necessary to visit all the places on our wish list. A flight between

Amsterdam and Antalya was booked through Corendon, a fairly young Turkish travel company, at a total cost of €1135.40 for the four of us. When arriving at the airport, a tax of €10 per person had to be paid.

## Hotel & Food

Nights were, except for one, always spent in hotels from various qualities. Expect to pay between €3 and €9 in most cities after haggling. Breakfasts were sometimes included and mostly used to beat down the prices more when not used. The only seriously expensive hotel had to be visited at Cyprus, for no inexpensive hotels were present.

Food in Turkey is very standard. Breakfast is almost without exception bread with some Turkish cheese, olives, tomatoes and cucumber. Tea is always

served and coffee can be asked for. Diner is mostly some meat with salad and bread. For vegetarians, the best option is to ask for a cheese pizza (*pide*). Otherwise, ask an English speaking Turk once to write the words "I do not eat meat" down and show this at the restaurants. I did, and at most times it worked properly.

Shops always sell bread, which costs very little. We ate it with cheese and cucumber. Otherwise, we ate lots of biscuits and some bananas and melons.

## Car Rental

Thanks to a tip through EBN, car rental was arranged at arrival, instead of a booking in advance. This indeed turned out to be a very good choice. Since our flight arrived at night and driving through the dark is seriously dissuaded in Turkey, we had some hours to negotiate with the various small offices from the various car rental companies present at the airport of Antalya before sunrise. Very important for future visitors: make sure you do not walk past these small offices, for going back inside the airport may take up to half an hour (luggage checks and stuff). We found Hertz to be the most inexpensive of the three companies opened at night. Unfortunately, the guy from the company tried to trick us in many ways, and we had to be very sharp. For instance, he showed us a diesel-engined Fiat in a leaflet, so when we tried to fit our luggage outside and had made the decision to rent that car. We went inside to sign the contract and again asked him whether the engine was a diesel, but now he said it was a petrol

engine! We seriously laughed at him and his excuse was that we had asked about the car pictured within the leaflet, and that that one was a diesel-engined car. How stupid is that?! Also, we had made the agreement that we would rent a car with two extra chauffeurs. Just a sec before we signed the final contract, he wanted to charge us for the second extra driver!

However, we rent a Hyundai Starex SV Van for a total amount of €1080 for the three weeks. This included two extra drivers, unlimited kilometres, CWD (collision damage waiver) and LIS, the latter being optional but very important. It means that wrecking another vehicle is no problem for you! Booking through the internet will mean you pay approximately twice this price!!! The car is powered by a 2.5L diesel engine, built from plastic in 300 B.C. and giving an immense power of ±5bhp. In total, we drove about 6700km without any problems.

## Reading & Maps

*Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik & Finding Birds in Eastern Turkey*  
by Dave Gosney

Unfortunately, these small booklets by Dave Gosney are still necessary to find the best places within Turkey. The booklets are now and then seriously dated and cost way too much (€8.50). What irritates me most, though, is the fact that these booklets make it virtually impossible for decent birders to publish about these spots. In my opinion, reports should be free from charge and available to other birders as much as possible. But, just like former visitors, I am compelled to refer to these booklets. But, extra places are described within this report.

*A Birdwatchers Guide to Turkey*  
by Ian Green & Nigel Moorhouse

A nice book to get an overall idea of the birds to be found within Turkey. You'd better have a copy! We especially used the book for tips on accommodation present in remote areas. Maps are not very helpful, though. But, the general

text that opens the book is, as well as the chapter 'selected species' at the back.

Various trip reports can be found on the internet. Most useful sites are [www.birdtours.co.uk](http://www.birdtours.co.uk) and [www.osme.org](http://www.osme.org). You will need them for recent information.

Buying useful maps is not an easy thing. Detailed maps of the eastern parts of Turkey are not available. The best we could find was a map by Freytag & Berndt. It shows the whole of Turkey on one side with a scale of 1:2 000 000 and the western part of Turkey on the other side with a scale of 1:800 000. Some searching through the internet found us a reasonably detailed map at [http://www.adiyamanli.org/MapofTurkey/turk\\_map.htm](http://www.adiyamanli.org/MapofTurkey/turk_map.htm). We printed most of it and took it with us. It turned out to be convenient at some times, especially in the far eastern parts of Turkey.

Finally, the best friends in route planning when still at home are surely [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com) and the superb route planner of BP at [www.bp.nl](http://www.bp.nl).

## Target Species

In advance, a list of *target species* has been made. In this list we included all birds seen in Turkey new to the list of at least one of us. Species marked with an asterisk, \*, have indeed been seen. In the following of this report, you will find more about them.

Note that the famous site for Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* at Cizre has not

been visited, thanks to mister George Wanker Bush. Of most other birds missed, it was never certain whether they were present at the time of our trip at all.

A total of 54 target species has been observed. Ben and Kasper had the time of their lives, with both a total of 51 new species, followed by Wesley with 50.

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Caucasian Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewicz* \*  
 Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius*\*  
 Chukar *Alectoris chukar*\*  
 See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis*\*  
 Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*\*  
 Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*  
 European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*  
 Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*\*  
 Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*\*  
 Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*\*  
 Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*\*  
 Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus feldeggii*  
 Grey-headed Swamp-hen *Porphyrio poliocephalus caspius*\*  
 Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*  
 Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursorius*  
 Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*\*  
 Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*  
 Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*  
 Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*  
 Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*\*  
 Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*\*  
 Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*  
 Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*\*  
 Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*  
 White-throated Kingfisher *Halycon smyrnensis*\*  
 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*\*  
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*  
 Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti*  
 Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*\*  
 Asian Short-toed Lark *Clandrella cheleensis niethammeri*\*  
 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*  
 Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla feldegg*\*  
 White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*\*  
 Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis*\*  
 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus*\*  
 White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis*\*  
 Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*\*  
 Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

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Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cyprica*\*  
 Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*\*  
 Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrna*\*  
 Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*\*  
 Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*\*  
 Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*\*  
 Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*  
 Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*\*  
 Olivaceous Warbler *Acrocephalus pallidus*\*  
 Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*  
 Ménétries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea*\*  
 Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*\*  
 Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppellii*\*  
 Bright-green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*\*  
 Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*\*  
 Caucasian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii*\*  
 Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*\*  
 Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*\*  
 Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota*\*  
 Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*\*  
 Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*\*  
 Pale Rockfinch *Carpodacus brachydactyla*\*  
 Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*\*  
 White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*\*  
 Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus*\*  
 Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguinea*\*  
 Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*\*  
 Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*\*  
 Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*  
 Cinereous Bunting *Emberizza cineracea*\*  
 Grey-necked Bunting *Emberizza buchanani*\*  
 Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberizza caesia*\*  
 Black-headed Bunting *Emberizza melanocephala*\*

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## Itinerary

A short day-to-day report of our journey follows. We found out roads are of various quality. The maximum speed in Turkey amounts to 90 km/h outside the cities, but at many times it is not even possible to reach this speed as a result of potholes as big as craters. At other times, driving through the mountains makes travelling very slow.

Since Turkish people are amongst the most friendly in the world, if not the most, drinking tea is a time-consuming

business as well. Especially outside the main cities, one tea-drinking invitation a day is standard. People are very interested but speak hardly any language other than Turkish. Some speak little German, French or English, but presenting a bird book explains much more.

On the map below, the route has been drawn. The numbers are referred to in the rest of this report.



### ***Day 0: Saturday, June the 26<sup>th</sup>***

Left Amsterdam for Antalya at 21:30h.  
Arrived at 02:00h local time.

### ***Day 1: Sunday, June the 27<sup>th</sup>***

Started by renting a car at 03:00h and started driving eastwards at 05:00h. Short stop behind supermarket "Metro", north of Alanya (place 1). Driving towards Silifke along the coast, passing Anamur (place 2). People, beware! This road is terribly slow, mainly because of the endless turns and slow trucks. Try to avoid it and drive via Karaman if you do not wish to visit it specifically. We ended up in Silifke at the end of the day, and checked in at one of the few hotels

opposite the autogar. We paid a total of 40 million TL or €22.25 for the four of us. Shower and toilet at the room. Room clean. Food obtained near the autogar, but very basic. A short trip into the Göksu Delta (place 3). Unfortunately we noticed that at sunset is at 20h, so not allowing much time to visit in the evening. This later turned out to be very inconvenient many times, because temperatures forced us to bird in the early mornings and evenings.

### ***Day 2: Monday, June the 28<sup>th</sup>***

Early start at the nearby Göksu Delta (place 3), birding from 05:30 to 13:00h. Drove towards Tarsus (place 4) and birded for several midday hours, although extremely hot and humid. Started driving north towards Demirkazik (place 5) at 18:00h and arrived at 21:00h. Our car turned out not to be built for steep

highways, not reaching speeds over 80km/h at some parts. We stayed at the famous Şafak brothers pension and paid €50 per person for the pension and a drive up the mountain next morning. Quite a sum! But, the pension was very proper and breakfast and many in between were included.

### ***Day 3: Tuesday, June the 29<sup>th</sup>***

Again an early start, this time at 03:00h. Drove into the famous Aladag Mountains behind Demirkazik (place 5) with Cavit Şafak and his Lada Niva 1.7i. Many new birds were added to our lists. Stayed in the mountains until 14:00h, had a late breakfast at Şafak pension and left at

15:15h. We drove north towards Kayseri and heading for Sivas, we ended up at a motel, belonging to a petrol station in Gemerek along the main road. Paid just 20 million TL or €11.15 for the total, but rooms and toilets were extremely dirty.

### ***Day 4: Wednesday, June the 30<sup>th</sup>***

A whole day of driving necessary! Finally some sleep and started driving northeast towards Sivas and Erzurum at about 08:00h. Birding along the road turned out to be very productive, especially between Sivas and Erzurum (place 6). Turned north 25km before Erzurum at 18:00h, heading for Sivri Kaya. Made a stop of an hour at Gelinkaya (place 7) for some birding. Drove further north and arrived at Sivri Kaya (place 7) at 21:00h. The last hour of driving had been in the dark, which was very unpleasant, mainly because of people and animals strolling

along the roadside. With many effort (because of the dark and the absence of a proper flashlight, so bring one!) found the famous Mustapha Sari, who lives in a small farm up on the hill on the eastside of the road in Sivri Kaya, just a few meters south of the minaret. Mustapha's friend offered us a place to sleep inside the wooden teahouse, which is one of the most northernmost wooden houses along the main road. Next day, he also received a good breakfast there and paid 30 million TL or €16.75 for the total sleeping and eating.

### ***Day 5: Thursday, July the 1<sup>st</sup>***

Early start at 04:30h for a rough drive with our hired car into the mountains east of Sivri Kaya (place 7) with Mustapha. Back down at 06:30h and breakfast. Some birding down the river just north of Sivri Kaya until 09:30h. Then drove back south a little towards Ovit Dagi Gecidi for an hour of high mountain birding. Drove

north towards Rize and further along the coast. Arrived at Savşat at 18:00h and settled at hotel Sahan in the middle of the town. After haggling paid only 25 million TL or €13.90 in total for a very proper room! Ate something next door and went to sleep at a reasonable time.

### ***Day 6: Friday, July the 2<sup>nd</sup>***

Left Savşat at 06:00h. Drove eastwards towards Ardahan (place 8). We visited the pass of Çam Geçidi at 2640m. Arrived at Ardahan at 09:50h and scanned for raptors in the wooded hills just east of Ardahan and checked also the valley south of Ardahan (place 9). Round midday we headed for Aktas Gölü (place 10) on the Georgian border. Here we drove past a suspicious military control post and parked the car to have a walk on the south side of the lake. Getting back to our car and driving along the military post, we were stopped by the militaries, which turned out to be customs officers. They said we had passed the border, but we had not noticed! After a cup of tea, we headed south again and passed Çildir Gölü on the east. We headed as fast as possible

towards Kars, because it has just an hour before dark. We ran into a very nice small lake, 35km north of Kars (place 11). Although we wanted to arrive at Doğubayazıt by sunset, we had to stop at Iğdir at 21:00h, because of the many vehicles on the road without any lights, which would inevitably turn out into an accident. As other days, it had got dark at 20:00h already! Iğdir turned out to be quite an unpleasant city, with much noise on the street and many vague drunk figures. Some good hotels are available along the main road through the village, but we checked in at the dingily hotel Tuncer for 20 million TL or €11.15 in total. The hotel was so filthy that sleeping on the beds was hardly reasonably possible.

### **Day 7: Saturday, July the 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Early start, driving towards the by now famous Işak Paşa Palace (place 13) at Doğubayazıt. Underway, birding turned out to be excellent (place 12), so we took our time for that! Therefore, we arrived at the Palace at 07:45h and watch the birds until 10:30h. Although the heat was abysmal, we found all target species and more. After this nice experience, we headed south towards the Van Lake area.

The area in between (place 14) also turned out to be pretty, but less attractive than north of Doğubayazıt. Driving went on easy and we arrived at the north of Van Lake area (place 15) at 15:30h. At 17:00h we drove further south towards the Van town and checked in at hotel Arslan. This turned out to be reasonable and we paid 25 million TL or €13.90 in total.

### **Day 8: Sunday, July the 4<sup>th</sup>**

Started the morning at Erçek Gölü (place 15) and its surroundings. Headed for the Van Hills (place 15) and ended this place by a visit to the South Van Marshes at the start of the afternoon. The rest of the

day was spend driving north, towards the Bulanik area. We checked in at a reasonable hotel, Serhat, in Malzğirt, where we paid 26 million TL or €14.50 in total.

### **Day 9: Monday, July the 5<sup>th</sup>**

Once again an early start. With some effort we found the river Murrat near Bulanik (place 16) and spent the whole morning strolling along the river and its surroundings. Left for Nemrut Dagi (place 17) and arrived there at 12:30h. Harsh wind made bird finding a tough business, but we enjoyed the fantastic scenery and stayed until 15:30h. Drove westwards in the direction of Diyarbakir. The road, which is *the* road towards the east in Turkey, turned out to be tediously slow, caused by the many turns, the slow

trucks and the bad blacktop. At a lot of places, parts of the road had even disappeared into the near gorge. Tired or sick by the heat and the lack of a good sleep, we drove into Diyarbakir to find a hotel. Diyarbakir turned out to be enormous, as it forms the capital of Kurdistan. We checked in at, once again, a terrible hotel in probably the busiest street of all and paid only 20 million TL or €11.15 for the four of us. Good hotels are present, though.

### **Day 10: Tuesday, July the 6<sup>th</sup>**

We did not leave too early, and had a hard time leaving the city. As we finally found the right direction, we headed for Çermik. Our, apparently dated, map, showed this was the way towards the famous Nemrud Dagi. But, instead, we should have driven directly towards Siverek from Diyarbakir. From Siverek, the road goes westwards and we ran into a small and rusty ferryboat that could sail the whole population of Turkey at once. At least, that is what the captain thought. We were probably ripped off, but we paid about 15 million TL or €8.35 for this 5-minute crossing. At noontime, we could start to discover the very impressive area

of the Nemrud Dagi (place 18). We drove up the famous mountain and visited the attraction, being a set of heads cut out of stone. A considerable fee had to be paid, but tickets were valid the day after as well. Strangely, we were more impressed by the birds along the very steep road upwards than the stony heads! In the evening, we drove down and checked in at Pension Karadut, which is along the road between Narince and the mentioned attraction of Nemrud Dagi. We had a diner here and enjoyed the view meanwhile. The cost for this perfect pension was just 30 million TL or €16.70 in total.

### **Day 11: Wednesday, July the 7<sup>th</sup>**

From 05:00h to 08:00h, we birded along the road to the top of Nemrud Dagı (place18) and tried to obtain better views of the birds seen the day before. Afterwards, we drove to Adiyaman and further towards Birecik (place 19). The temperature was extremely high, and the wind felt like standing next to a huge wild fire. Luckily, the excellent motel Mirkelan

near the large pump, just west of the river Euphrates, provided rooms with air-conditioning. There was a price for this, though. We paid 60 million TL or €33.40 per night for the four of us. After a cold bath, we fought the heat and went to the most famous sites around the city till dark. The air-conditioned room made sleeping possible.

### **Day 12: Thursday, July the 8<sup>th</sup>**

Started at 05:30h at the Main Wadi (place 19) and visited most other places again in order to find the last species missed the day before, and also to obtain better views of species already seen. Visited Halfeti, but this town turned out

to be only very depressing and hardly any birds could be found, probably also because of the scorching heat. Spent the night once again at the perfect hotel Mirkelan.

### **Day 13: Friday, July the 9<sup>th</sup>**

Again visited the Main Wadi at 05:30h and then drove south along the river Euphrates towards Syria to find some 'new' places not described by Gosney. This turned out to be pretty good! We drove towards Gazi Antep and further towards Durnalik (place 20) later that morning. We arrived at the start of the afternoon, but the weather made bird finding hardly possible. When we arrived it was very hot, and after an hour or so, a

hard wind started to blow and even rain started to fall. We decided to drive to Tarsus (place 4) again, in order to do some better birding there in the morning to follow. We took the highway, which was very fast. Arriving in Tarsus and after some searching in the dark and heat, we found the hotel Cihan, which also had air-conditioning. We paid totally 50 million TL or €27.80 for a perfect room.

### **Day 14: Saturday, July the 10<sup>th</sup>**

In the morning we drove to the Tarsus Delta (place 4) again and saw quite some more birds than last time! Temperature was extremely high again, though. At the end of the morning we headed westwards towards Silifke and Tasucu, for we would travel to Cyprus by the ferryboat in the forthcoming night. We took the highway, which was very fast and cost only little. At 15:00h, we ordered tickets and tried to stay at the ticket office as long as possible for it was air-conditioned and the temperature and humidity outside was terrible. We paid a total of 307 million TL or €171 for this return voyage by the normal ferryboat! Ben and Kasper visited

some places in the Göksu Delta while Frank and Wesley went for a cold drink nearby. A small dinner was obtained within the summer village, south of Tasucu and even a shower was offered by the owner of the *lokantesi*. At 21:00h, we tried to get on the ferryboat, as said by the people at the office that afternoon. But, we could not enter the gates to the ferry before 22:30h. Customs office took about half an hour. We settled on the ferry and tried to get some sleep on the wooden benches. The ferry should leave at 00:00h and arrive at 05:00h, but left only at 04:30h because of another ship in its way in the harbour!!!

### ***Day 15: Sunday, July the 11<sup>th</sup>***

Day started at the ferryboat towards Cyprus (place 21). The idea was to arrive at 05:00h and take the ferryboat back towards Tasucu at 12:00h; it is possible to find the target species of the isle on one morning! But, the ferryboat arrived only at 09:30h and customs took us another hour and cost €10 per person. At 11:00h, we took a taxicab and did some birding above the Bellepais Monastery

(place 21). We went back at 17:00h or so and the taxi driver took us to a 'cheap' hotel, costing not less than 120 million TL or €66.75 for one night! The taxi itself cost 12 million TL or €6.70 per ride. Luckily, the hotel was air-conditioned for the temperature was again extremely high. The price did include a breakfast, which we got the evening before on our request.

### ***Day 16: Monday, July the 12<sup>th</sup>***

Start at 06:00h at the hotel. Same taxi as day before took us up to the Bellepais Monastery (place 21). We visited the same track and saw mainly the same birds. Little disappointed we decided to take the taxi to the ferryboat and try to arrange a return voyage by the fast boat. We managed to do so, and paid two strange taxes at two places (totalling €15 per person) and passed customs quite quick. At 09:30h we sat down and the ferry turned out to be air-conditioned, which was just perfect! At 12:30h we

passed customs at Tasucu, Turkey, and took the car. As quick as possible, we tried to leave the hot and humid coast and drive inland. In the afternoon, we reached Karaman, a very attractive little town with many Dutch Turks and nice people. Unfortunately, birds were calling and we drove towards Eregli (place 22). At Eregli, we found easily found a good place to sleep through the ever so nice Turkish inhabitants. The hotel cost 60 million TL or €33.35 in total, including a diner with cold drinks and friendly people.

### ***Day 17: Tuesday, July the 13<sup>th</sup>***

The morning was spent birding within the Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle (place 22). All lakes turned out to have dried up totally, but some nice birds were found. Also, a very poor family invited us for a drink. They were living in a small house of mud and rocks. We were offered a glass of milk, which was not emptied by all of us for understandable reasons. Suddenly in a hurry, we drove towards

Konya and from there towards Ankara. All roads were pretty good, especially between Konya and Ankara. About 100km south of Ankara, we visited the extremely nice Kulu Gölü (place 23) and afterwards went for a room at the city of Kulu. We checked in at hotel Atay and paid 40 million TL or €22.25 in total. The hotel was very good and tidy.

### ***Day 18: Wednesday, July the 14<sup>th</sup>***

At 06:30h, we arrived at the Kulu Gölü (place 23) and this time visited some more spots over there than the evening before. At 10:00h we left, got our stuff from the hotel and headed south towards Konya, Seydişehir and finally Akseki (place 24). We realised we had plenty of

time until the flight back and took things dilatorily. We found two hotels, both at a cost of 40 million TL or €22.25 totally per night. After we randomly checked in at the hotel Duruk we took a shower and a nap and at the end of the afternoon visited some famous spots near Akseki.

### **Day 19: Thursday, July the 15<sup>th</sup>**

From 06:00h we visited some spots around Akseki (place 24) and observed most target species for the site. By now, we had seen virtually all target species of this trip and the birding got more and

more relaxed. Until the evening, we searched nearby spots. The night was spent at the same hotel as the night before.

### **Day 20: Friday, July the 16<sup>th</sup>**

At 06:00h we started at the same place as the day before, just north of Akseki (place 24), in the hope to find more species. We failed and found less. Some other places around Akseki were visited, but at 10:00h we decided to leave. We drove towards Alanya (place 1) again.

You will know why as soon as you read the *list of visited places* section! The night was spent in one of the many cheap and dirty hotels, especially made for the numerous beach-going fat Germans and Dutch. We paid 45 million TL or €25 in total.

### **Day 21: Saturday, July the 17<sup>th</sup>**

A late start and some time for shopping in Alanya. Some cheap imitation designer clothing bought. With a lack of information for places to visit in the nearby surroundings, we drove into the mountains behind Alanya (place 1) and found some nice species. Though, no extreme birding possible here. In the

afternoon, we drove westwards towards Antalya and found ourselves a small hotel just east of a small park on the eastside of the huge bay at Antalya. Paid 60 million TL or €33.35 for the four of us, but the hotel was perfect and breakfast included. Little birding was done in the adjacent park.

### **Day 22: Sunday, July the 18<sup>th</sup>**

Slept until 09:00h and enjoyed a nice breakfast. Little birding at the adjacent park. Drove towards the airport at 14:00h and brought our car back to Hertz. Passed customs and had to wait

until 17:00h before we could check in. Plane terribly delayed, left at 19:30h. Arrived at Amsterdam at 22:30h local time.

## **B: LIST OF PLACES VISITED**

Following is a comprehensive list of the places visited during our trip. Per place visited, the following notes are presented:

### **SPECIES: SUB-ZERO**

Here our target species are listed. These might not be your sub-zero species, though.

### **SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS**

Here the other cool species are listed. The four of us have already seen these during other trips or as rarities in The Netherlands, but we still get thrilled seeing these!

### **SPECIES: REMAINING**

Other birds observed. Most might not be of interest to some readers, but they are

included to give a total view of the species present. In The Netherlands we have seen these often, at least.

### **NOTES ON THE AREA**

Since some areas have not properly been described before, I made an effort here. Also, additions and corrections to the literature used are included here.

### **NOTES ON ACCOMODATION**

A small tip on where to stay in the area if some sleep in needed.

This listing of the species is not always complete, though I have tried so. Names of the birds are according Duivendijk, N. van, *Dutch Birding Kenmerkengids*, 2002.

**1: Alanya surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Levant Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	27/6	adult male(?), see notes on the area
	16/7	adult male with prey, see notes area
Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	16/7	1 male, graveyard north of autogar

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	17/7	adult and immature, see notes
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	17/7	±6, see notes
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	17/7	3, see notes
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	17/7	±6, see notes

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	17/7	±6, hills behind Alanya
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	27/6	1 singing, behind Metro supermarket
	16/7	1 singing and seen, same place
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	-	very common

## NOTES ON THE AREA

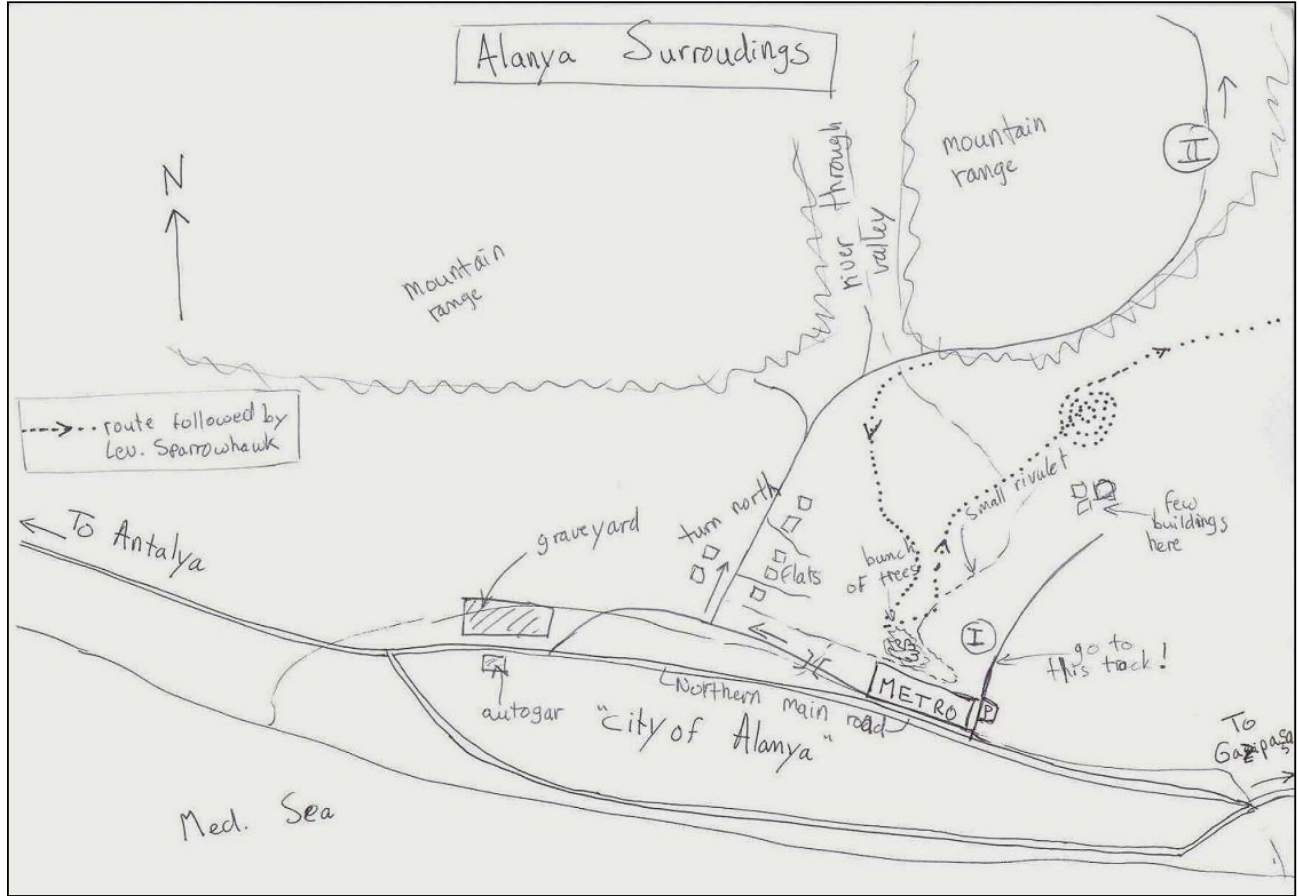
Anlanya has never been known as a special birding area within Turkey, which it surely isn't! The place has been prepared for fat and vulgar Germans and Dutchmen. Therefore, hardly any birders have searched the area recently. It was by accident that we stopped our car on the first day of our visit just north of Alanya, behind the supermarket "Metro", in order to obtain some food and water. As the supermarket turned out to be closed, we had a short break behind it, for the area looked little promising. When strolling along the small rivulet just north of the supermarket, a sparrowhawk spec. passed by at a high speed. Some of us immediately noticed the birds black wing tips, making this a serious candidate for the much sought-after Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*. Unfortunately, the bird disappeared even quicker than it appeared and dove behind a nearby collection of large trees. After half an hour, the bird had not been found and we left.

At the end of our trip, some time to spend was left and we decided to take a donkey shot at the aforementioned spot behind the supermarket. Although we did not expect this, a male Levant Sparrowhawk appeared within an hour, soaring in front of the hills north of Alanya. We were lucky,

because the bird decided to fly in our direction and catch a prey not too far from us. We had very pretty views of the bird as it flew off with its prey and disappeared into the direction of the mountains again.

On the map below, I pointed out where we observed this bird. To reach the place, numbered I, follow the northern main road through Alanya and follow the signs to supermarket "Metro". You will surely find it easily.

If you'd like to cool down a bit, go to the place numbered II on the map. From the Metro supermarket, take a narrow asphalt road westwards across a branch of the rivulet and follow this for several hundred meters. Turn north as soon as you have found a 'main' road northwards between the many small blocks of flat. You will reach a bigger road. Constantly follow the north-eastern direction into the mountains and always choose the roads that lead you directly high up into the mountains. After a few kilometres (maybe up to ten), you will reach some very high points and temperature becomes agreeable. On the way up, we saw at least three European Rollers *Coracia garrulous* and two Short-toed Eagles *Circaetus gallicus*.



### NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Many cheap and expensive hotels are found all along the coastline in and round Alanya.

Expect many hotels to be fully booked by beach tourists!

**2: Mediterranean coast road (along Gazipaşa and Anamur)**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>	27/6	1 light morph, near Bakilar
White-spectacled Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	27/6	at any expected place, in families
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus</i>	27/6	male singing, near Gazipasa
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus</i>	27/6	1, near Gazipasa
Rüppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia rueppellii</i>	27/6	male singing, near Bakilar
Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	27/6	±10, near Gazipasa
		1, east of Gazipasa

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	27/6	±50, hills near Gazipasa
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	27/6	2, east of Gazipasa

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	27/6	2, near Bakilar
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	27/6	breeding in sand next to road, Demirtas
Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	27/6	constant flying past, resting on beaches
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	27/6	abundant, at every expected place
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	27/6	along most of the road

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Stop at several places along the coastline. Everywhere can be good, but some places look extremely promising and mostly are!

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Hotels in most of the towns along this coast road, even in the smaller towns.

**3: Göksu Delta and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	28/6	3 males calling, Gosney site 3 and 4
	10/7	male on path, Gosney site 4
Grey-headed Swamp-hen <i>Porphyrio poliocephalus caspius</i>	28/6	6 birds, from tower, Gosney site 4
Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	28/6	±50, Gosney site 9 (nowhere else!)
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	28/6	±20, incl. Males, Gosney site 12
	28/6	few, Gosney site 9
White-spectacled Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthopygus</i>	28/6	few, roads to Gosney site 9 (Kurtulus)
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus</i>	28/6	4, Gosney site 4
	28/6	many singing, Gosney site 9
Graceful Prinia <i>Prinia gracilis</i>	28/6	many, e.g. Gosney site 3,4,9 and 13
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus</i>	28/6	1, Gosney site 4

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	28/6	2, Gosney site 4
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	28/6	male, Gosney site 13
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	28/6	8 migrants, Gosney site 9
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	28/6	1, towards Gosney site 12
Calandra Lark <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	28/6	male singing on ground, Gosney site 13
Lesser Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	28/6	2 on ground, Gosney site 9
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	28/6	2, towards Gosney site 12
	10/7	±8, Gosney site 14
Caspian Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>	28/6	±5, Gosney site 3 and 4
Eurasian Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus caspius</i>	28/6	1 calling, Gosney site 4
Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	28/6	5, Gosney site 12

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Red-crested Pochard <i>Rufina rufina</i>	28/6	6, Gosney site 4
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	28/6	5, Gosney site 12
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	28/6	1, Gosney site 13
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	28/6	2, Gosney site 13
	28/6	few, Gosney site 9
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	28/6	2, Gosney site 12
Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	28/6	1, Gosney site 4
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	28/6	2, Gosney site 4
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	28/6	calling, Gosney site 4
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	28/6	±10, Gosney site 9
	28/6	1, Gosney site 13
Northern Little Owl <i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	28/6	2, holiday village south of Tasucu
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	28/6	abundant everywhere
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>	28/6	few, towards Gosney site 12
	28/6	many, Gosney site 9
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	10/7	2, Gosney site 14
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	28/6	irritatingly abundant

## NOTES ON THE AREA

In the morning we visited the west side of the delta, site 3 and 4 in Gosney. Very nice were the Black Francolins *Francolinus francolinus*, of which we could view one calling male very well. Not mentioned by Gosney (which is dated), we found the track across the beach closed. So, driving far south was not possible anymore. Beach tourists use the northern part of this beach. The southern part is hopefully destined for breeding Loggerhead Turtles *Caretta caretta*, which are numerous along the coast west of the delta. At least, we found about 8 individuals within the sea, about a few kilometres west of Tasucu. Here, day-trippers and swimmers use an inlet, but turtles are swimming there as well. Try to check from the rocks near the road. We observed a few big individuals as well as some smaller ones. Few European Shag *Stictocarbo aristotelis* were also present.

Since the beach is not a possibility to reach Gosney site 4, we drove through the holiday village south of Tasucu, which was not

very easy to find. We drove south out of this holiday village and followed a small sandy track towards the now viewable watching tower as far as possible. With a four wheel driven car, one can surely reach the tower and drive way further south than we did! Other turtles we found were numerous Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca* and Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo antakyensis* on the path towards the watching.

On our return voyage (westwards from Birecik), we visited the Göksu Delta for a second time while waiting for the ferryboat towards Cypres. This time, we drove north out of Silifke, into the mountains. Gosney describes this place as excellent for raptor watching (Gosney site 14). Strangely, we did not find any raptor within a two-hour search! Our only conclusion can be the time of the year of our visit. Gosney visited in August and most have been observing migrating raptors, not resident to the area.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Finding a reasonably prices hotel or pension is not too hard in nearby Silifke. Camping within the delta is also very well possible, especially

at Gosney site 4. But, beware of heat and mosquitoes!

**4: Tarsus Delta**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

White-throated Kingfisher <i>Halycon smyrnensis</i>	28/6	2, see notes
	10/7	±10, various places, see notes
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus</i>	10/7	common round woods of Gosney site 1
Graceful Prinia <i>Prinia gracilis</i>	10/7	many small groups present
Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	10/7	common
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	28/6	male singing, just north of Bahsis

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus brookei</i>	10/7	1 subadult, see notes
Greater Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	28/6	1 singing
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	28/6	common
Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	-	common

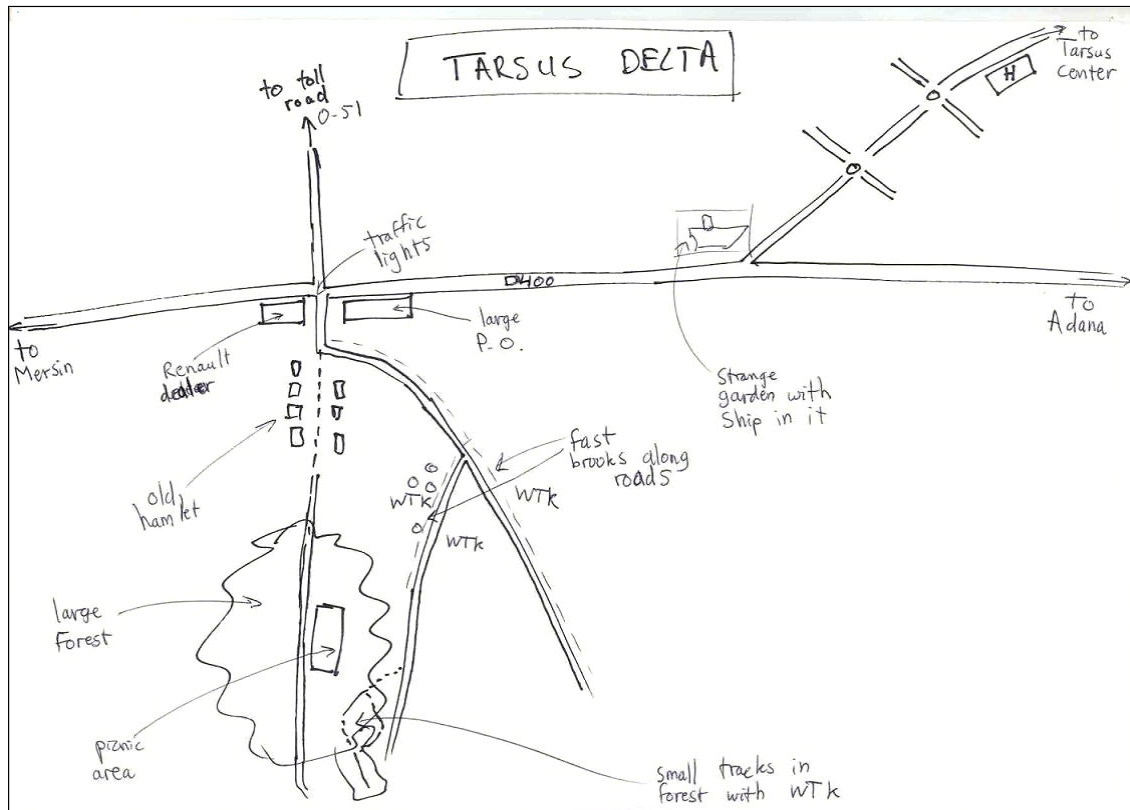
## SPECIES: REMAINING

European Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	28/6	calling, picnic area, Gosney site 1
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	-	abundant
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	10/7	2, Gosney site 1
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	10/7	common

## NOTES ON THE AREA

We visited this place twice, on our outward voyage (28/6), as well as on our return voyage (10/7). The first visit did yield the fantastic White-throated Kingfisher *Halycon smyrnensis*, but we were not very pleased, for we had only very quick views. So, we decided to visit the place again later and first had to Aladag Mountains and Demirkazik before dark. We would pass the place anyway, so no extra driving was necessary.

On our return voyage, we took a whole morning to search the area. We found the maps and site descriptions in the Gosney guide painfully unhelpful, probably caused by new asphalt roads being constructed in the last decade. Therefore, I drew my own small sketch, as can be found below. The letters WTK indicate the places we found White-throated Kingfishers.



North of Tarsus, a huge toll road has been constructed. The formally main road (D400) goes *through* Tarsus, and runs west to east. Make sure to drive this road, and coming from either side, you will find a Renault dealer on the south side of this road. Next to it, a large Petrol Ofisi petrol station can be found. Right in between these, an asphalt road runs south. Take this road south and turn left following this road, as soon as you can also follow an indistinct sandy track straight on into a vague little hamlet. By the way, following this sandy track through the hamlet and continuing straight on brings you to the picnic place described by Gosney. We ourselves found the picnic place not a good spot for the kingfisher at all, though we did find a very nice European Glass Lizard *Ophisaurus apodus* at the place. Best views of the kingfisher were obtained by following the asphalt road to the left, as said. A fast brook accompanies this road immediately. White-throated Kingfishers were hunting along this brook and resting on the

few wires across it, but best views were obtained by turning westwards after a few hundred meters into another asphalt road and driving for a few hundred meters again, until you reach a fence on the south side of the road and some large single trees on the north side of the road, across, again, a fast brook. Moreover, a splendid Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus brookei* was found in one of those trees. Note the following. The kingfishers were very shy and the way to get good views might be by just staying inside your car!

If you did not have had any good views of the kingfishers yet, follow this road further along the canal and head for the eucalyptus forest in front of you. By driving through this forest on small sandy tracks, we heard and saw about 6 kingfishers more, although views were bad. Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus* and Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus* were common though, and both species showed fantastic.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

A proper, reasonably priced and air-conditioned hotel can be found as follows, see the accompanying map as well. Few hundred meters east of the junction you turned south for the kingfishers, a strange garden is visible north of the road. Within this garden, a large ship has been placed. Precisely east of this

garden, take the road northwards, which leads you towards the centre of the city. After the second roundabout, if my memory is correct, you will find a hotel to the right and directly after that, another to the left. We did not see any accommodation within the delta.

**5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Caspian Snowcock <i>Tetraogallus caspius</i>	29/6	±5 heard of which 2 seen, see notes
Chukar <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	29/6	2 flying, down the gorge
Radde's Accentor <i>Prunella ocularis</i>	29/6	male singing, but sneaky, high in mountains
	29/6	female, near start of the gorge downward
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	29/6	very common high up in mountains
Red-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	29/6	many flying by, few seen well, mountains
	29/6	many, down the whole gorge
Crimson-winged Finch <i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	29/6	couple of families, high in mountains

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	29/6	1 immature, high in mountains
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus brookei</i>	29/6	1, high in mountains
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	29/6	10s, down the gorge
Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	29/6	common, down the gorge
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>	29/6	male with food, high in mountains
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	29/6	female and juv., down the gorge
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i>	29/6	common
Wallcreeper <i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	29/6	1, high in mountains
	29/6	3 gave splendid views, down the gorge
Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>	29/6	±5, few km driving north out of Demirkazik
Alpine Chough <i>Pyrrhonorax graculus</i>	29/6	common, high in mountains
Red-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>	29/6	common, high in mountains
	29/6	few, down the gorge
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	29/6	±10, down the gorge near Demirkazik
Rock Bunting <i>Emberizza cia</i>	29/6	2, high in mountains
	29/6	male and female, down the gorge

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	29/6	4 in total
Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i>	29/6	few
Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	29/6	2+1, down the gorge
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros</i>	29/6	very common in whole area
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	29/6	very common
Lesser Whitethroat <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	29/6	1, down the gorge
Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	29/6	few, down the gorge, Gosney site 2
Common Linnnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	29/6	2 males

## NOTES ON THE AREA

We arrived at the famous Şafak brothers pension late in the evening, which didn't turn out to be a problem. We met Cávít Şafak, who took us up into the mountains the next morning. Since we were with the four of us and the weather was tolerable, he chose to drive up the mountain with his Lada Niva instead of the usual tractor. After much rain, this would not have been possible, so we were lucky! We arrived (too) early. Weather was very cold. After some hours, we had not seen nor heard any Caspian Snowcocks *Tetraogallus caspius*, so we started to get uncomfortable. Normally, people at least hear the birds! Our problem was simple, though: a very harsh wind had started to blow over the mountains. Cávít drove down at 06:00h and we decided to wait and walk down later that morning, although Cávít told us our chances had got very ill. Irritated by the fact that we didn't observe any Caspian Snowcocks, we walked as far as possible up the mountains by ourselves. Suddenly, only at 09:40h, we

heard the Curlew *Numenius arquata*-like call of a bird! Very tense, we sat down and waited for a bird to show itself. After half an hour, we found one flying and saw it through the telescope as it landed. Later, we observed one bird more. It was a crazy view, seeing a chicken run over a high and snowy mountain ridge!

Although the Caspian Snowcocks proved hard to find, almost all other birds were fairly easily found, as was Wild Goat *Capra aegagrus*. After observing the Snowcocks, we walked down the gorge described in Gosney as site 2. This gorge is very steep and at times absolutely dangerous for people with little climbing experience (such as us). But, Cávít told us to walk back through the gorge, so we trusted him and kept walking/climbing down. Very many birds were present there as well, so we do recommend this route to anyone, especially over driving back down!

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Accommodation at Şafak brothers pension recommended. See Gosney for the exact address. One can contact the pension through

the following telephone number as well: 0090 388 724 70 39. Or, just email at [safakpansion@hotmail.com](mailto:safakpansion@hotmail.com).

**6: Between Sivas and Erzurum**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Bimaculated Lark <i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	30/6	male singing, see notes
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	30/6	2, small lake at Nasir
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	30/6	very common, wires along the road

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	30/6	common along whole the road
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	30/6	1 immature, between Erzincan and Erzurum
Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	30/6	1 intermediate morph, few km east of Erzincan
Common Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	30/6	2, small lake at Nasir
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	30/6	few at various spots along the road
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	30/6	±8, between Erzincan and Erzurum
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	30/6	few, along whole the road
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	30/6	2 males, just east of Erzincan
Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>	30/6	male, small lake at Nasir
	30/6	various places along the road

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	30/6	±20, small lake at Nasir
Red-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	30/6	2, small lake at Nasir
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	30/6	3, west of Sivas along the road
Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	30/6	2, river crossing the road
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	30/6	2, small lake at Nasir
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	30/6	2, river crossing road
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	30/6	abundant along whole the road

## NOTES ON THE AREA

We followed this road, since it is the shortest from Demirkazik towards the famous Sivri Kaya. The drive was very long, but most of the roads were reasonable. Along the road, species such as Black-headed Bunting *Emberizza melanocephala* and Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* turned out to be very common. A great number of larks *Alaudidae* and wheatears *Oenanthe* spp. flew up along

the road almost constantly. Unfortunately, only a little number was checked because of a lack of time and the busyness on the road at most places. We suspect many, if not most, of the larks to have been Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*. As we stopped at a suspect bird, it indeed turned out to be a very nice showing individual.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

It is possible to drive from Demirkazik or the not too far Sultan Marshes to Sivri Kaya within one day, but a very early start is necessary. We left Demirkazik at the end of the afternoon and had a sleep in a dirty motel at Gemerik,

about 80km northeast of Kayseri. If you'd like to stop at all the promising looking places, I'd advice you to take two whole days for the mentioned drive. It is surely worth it!

**7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Caucasian Grouse <i>Tetrao mlokosiewiczi</i>	1/7	5 males seen well, see notes
Bright-green Warbler <i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	1/7	3, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
Caucasian Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii</i>	30/6	±15, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
	1/7	1, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
Semi-collared Flycatcher <i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	30/6	1 juv., Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	1/7	female, mountains east of Sivri Kaya
	1/7	±10, Ovit Dagi
Rock Bunting <i>Emberizza cia</i>	1/7	male, sitting on teahouse Sivri Kaya
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	30/6	male hit by our car, survived
	30/6	few along road between Gelinkaya and Ispir

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	30/6	1, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>	1/7	±20, Ovit Dagi
White-throated Dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1/7	1, river through Sivri Kaya
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>	30/6	female, just north of Gelinkaya
Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1/7	1 singing, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	30/6	2 calling, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius atricapillus</i>	1/7	1, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris</i>	1/7	1 flying by, Ovit Dagi

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	30/6	1 family, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	30/6	singing, just north of Gelinkaya
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta coutelli</i>	1/7	mountains east of Sivri Kaya
	1/7	common, streams round Ovit Dagi
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1/7	river through Sivri Kaya
White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	1/7	river through Sivri Kaya
Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1/7	along river through Sivri Kaya
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	1/7	mountains east of Sivri Kaya
Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	30/6	few, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros</i>	1/7	common, Ovit Dagi
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	30/6	common, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1/7	along river through Sivri Kaya
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	1/7	few, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
Marsh Tit <i>Parus palustris</i>	1/7	1, just west of river through Sivri Kaya
European Blue Tit <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	30/6	1, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	30/6	2, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Eurasian Penduline Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus caspius</i>	30/6	calling, Gelinkaya, Gosney site 5
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	1/7	very common near water
Eurasian Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	1/7	2, just west of river through Sivri Kaya

## NOTES ON THE AREA

As we started driving north from the road towards Erzurum, we immediately visited Gelinkaya, described by Gosney. The site is truly worth a visit and must be the easiest place to observe Caucasian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii*.

When arriving at Sivri Kaya, which is a very tiny village, ask for Mustapha Sari. Unfortunately, he hardly speaks English. But, he is very friendly and is willing to show Caucasian Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi* ("Blackcock") for a reasonable amount of money. And he knows the best places for sure! We drove up the mountains east of Sivri Kaya with him. The road we took was very narrow and steep and certain parts, and had even more narrowed were parts had disappeared into the gorges. So, steel nerves are absolutely necessary! But, in spite of our visit in July, which is about a month too late, Mustapha showed us five males foraging! We were absolutely relieved by this observation, because lots of stories were read about people searching for this bird for two days, and they

would only see a flying bird. The birds we saw were at quite a distance, but we did not have to disturb them and had many time to have a good look. If you join Mustapha, you will be amazed by his sharp view.

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* was also present on one of the facing hillsides.

Near the northern wooden buildings at Sivri Kaya, we walked a small dirt track down towards the river. We crossed the river and saw the many species mentioned above by following the track north along the river for just a few hundred meters. On the track, Mustapha showed us recent excrements of Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*.

At the end of our visit, we had a look at Ovit Dagi as well. Place described by Gosney. Here, a glacier can be found, as well as streams and a pool with very fresh melt water. A very interesting place. Too bad thick clouds came up as we visited the place, for it is said to be a good site for Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

As we did, try to sleep at the teahouse in Sivri Kaya. The owner will not ask very much, make you a breakfast and is very friendly.

Otherwise, there is a hotel a few kilometres north of Sivri Kaya. But, it is said this hotel is very expensive and employees are unfriendly.

**8: Between Savşat and Ardahan**

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	2/7	1, Çam Geçidi
Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>	2/7	1, just east of Savşat
Black Woodpecker <i>Dryocopus martius</i>	2/7	1 calling, just east of Savşat
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>	2/7	±10, Çam Geçidi
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	2/7	east of Çam Geçidi
Rock Bunting <i>Emberizza cia</i>	2/7	2 males and female, between Savşat and Çam Geçidi
Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberizza hortulana</i>	2/7	1 pair, just east of Çam Geçidi

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	2/7	1 calling, just east of Çam Geçidi
Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2/7	1 adult, Çam Geçidi
Northern Little Owl <i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	2/7	2, just east of Çam Geçidi
Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2/7	2, just east of Savşat
Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2/7	few singing, Çam Geçidi
Common House Martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	2/7	east of Çam Geçidi
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta coutelli</i>	2/7	common, Çam Geçidi
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2/7	2 males, just east of Çam Geçidi
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2/7	common, Çam Geçidi
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2/7	singing, between Savşat and Çam Geçidi
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	2/7	just east of Savşat
Short-toed Treecreeper <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	2/7	just east of Savşat
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	2/7	2, between Savşat and Çam Geçidi
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2/7	±30,e east of Çam Geçidi
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2/7	singing, between Savşat and Çam Geçidi
Common Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2/7	±10, Çam Geçidi
Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris</i>	2/7	male and female, Çam Geçidi
Common Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	2/7	4, just east of Savşat
Common Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	2/7	common, east of Çam Geçidi
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	2/7	common, east of Çam Geçidi

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Gosney has not described this area. The idea to visit came from *A Birdwatchers Guide to Turkey* by Ian Green and Nigel Moorhouse. Also, we did not read about the area in past trip reports. Still, the area is surely worth a visit and an excellent combination is possible if you are to visit Aktas Gölü or the Işak Paşa Palace after a visit to Sivri Kaya.

Between Savşat and Ardahan we encountered a high plateau, which is said to be a pass called Çam Geçidi, but is not recognizable as one. Some mountains species live here, and the weather is very cold and cloudy. Apart from the birds, we noted a Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* with a remarkably light-colored fur.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Good hotels are to be found at Savşat. Ardahan should have some, too.

**9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	2/7	present where habitat suitable
	2/7	many, along river in direction of Yalnisçam
Caucasian Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii</i>	2/7	1 singing, pine forest hills east of Ardahan

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	2/7	1, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	2/7	few south of Ardahan
	2/7	1, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>	2/7	2 adult, along main road south of Ardahan
	2/7	1, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	2/7	1 dark morph, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	2/7	±10, along river in direction of Yalnisçam
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	2/7	1 male, along main road south of Ardahan
Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberizza hortulana</i>	2/7	male, south of Ardahan

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	2/7	1 calling, just west of Ardahan
Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2/7	1, south of Ardahan
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	2/7	few, river in direction of Yalnisçam
Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	2/7	1, direction of Yalnisçam
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	2/7	common, direction of Yalnisçam
Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2/7	few singing
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	2/7	1, direction of Yalnisçam
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2/7	1, along main road south of Ardahan
	2/7	1, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	2/7	few, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	2/7	1 singing, along river in direction of Yalnisçam
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2/7	1 singing, along river in direction of Yalnisçam
Western Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula soemmerringii</i>	2/7	common, around Ardahan
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	2/7	common, around Ardahan
Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2/7	few, pine forest hills east of Ardahan
Common Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2/7	various spots round Ardahan
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	2/7	common

## NOTES ON THE AREA

The Ardahan area borders directly to the area described at the section "Between Savşat and Ardahan". We drove from the Çam Geçidi pass towards Ardahan, had a look just east of Ardahan at the pine forest hills for raptors and drove a few kilometres south to a river and its valley.

When exploring this area, try to drive south out of Ardahan and in the direction of

Erzurum. After a few kilometres, turn west towards a small town called Yalnisgam. You will cross the river after some kilometres. The scenery is extremely green and the weather agreeable. As at many places more, we ran into some friendly locals, some of who spoke English. More about the area and about where to find the best places for raptor watching can be found in *A Birdwatchers Guide to Turkey* by Ian Green and Nigel Moorhouse.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Hotels are most probably present at Ardahan and surely at Kars.

**10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	2/7	±5, Aktas Gölü, see notes
Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	2/7	±20, Aktas Gölü, see notes
Armenian Gull <i>Larus armenicus</i>	2/7	±500, Aktas Gölü, see notes
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	2/7	±10, Aktas Gölü, see notes

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2/7	10s, Aktas Gölü
	2/7	3, eastside of Çildir Gölü
Velvet Scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i>	2/7	8, Aktas Gölü, see notes
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	2/7	few, road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	2/7	3 juv., road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	2/7	2 males, along road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
	2/7	male, road east of Çildir Gölü
Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberizza hortulana</i>	2/7	1, along road east of Çildir Gölü

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Tufted Duck <i>Netta fuligula</i>	2/7	4, south Aktas Gölü
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2/7	±10, eastside of Çildir Gölü
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2/7	±15, Aktas Gölü
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2/7	10s, shore and island around Aktas Gölü
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	2/7	male, along road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
	2/7	2 pairs, islands within Aktas Gölü
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	2/7	eastside of Çildir Gölü
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2/7	2, shore at village west of Aktas Gölü
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	2/7	few, south Aktas Gölü
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	2/7	1, along road east of Çildir Gölü
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	2/7	1, along road east of Çildir Gölü
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	2/7	many, along road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2/7	abundant, east of Çildir Gölü
Common Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis icterops</i>	2/7	1, along road east of Çildir Gölü
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	2/7	male, road between Çildir and Aktas Gölü
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	2/7	common

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Çildir Gölü is described in *A Birdwatchers Guide to Turkey* by Ian Green and Nigel Moorhouse as a good place to see both Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*. Through our friend Remco Hofland, we understood the nearby Aktas Gölü on the Georgian border was to be a much better place to see them, though. This surely turned out to be the case. As a good start, Aktas Gölü is much, much smaller and can be viewed in total at once. The diameter of Aktas Gölü is not more than a few kilometres.

To reach Aktas Gölü, follow the road D010 from Ardahan eastwards in the direction of Çildir. After about 30 kilometres, turn north

towards Çildir and drive along the main road through Çildir and directly out of it, northwards. After about 10 to 15 kilometres, you will see the lake on your right side. This is a truly impressive view, as you are standing way above the lake and you have a vast panorama over the lake and Georgia, which starts north of Aktas Gölü. The road up to this point is very much birding fun. We had our best views of Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* along this road. On the west side of the lake, you will see a very small village. Drive towards this village.

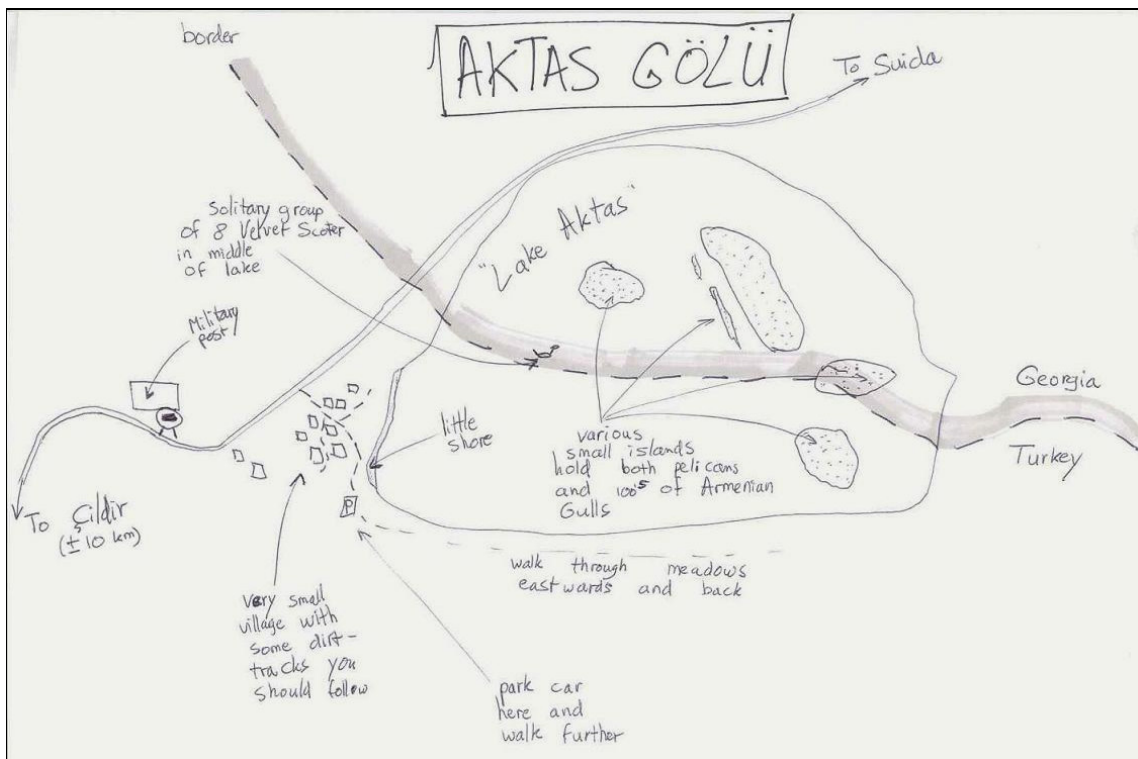
A very important matter is the following. As we drove towards this village, we passed a military control post, see the

accompanying map below. We thought this was just one of the many military control posts present in this area. We waved at the soldier and he waved back friendly. On our way back a few hours later, we were stopped. A soldier present in the small village down the lake had seen us with a camera and alarmed the others at their post. They searched the car and started to make some trouble. Luckily, a boss of the soldiers, or something like that, turned out to be married to a German and spoke with us. Within five minutes, we drank tea with him along the road and we talked about birds, optics and Germany. So, for future visitors, we strongly advice to stop at the military post and ask for permission first. Most probably, militaries will not have a problem with your presence as long as you explain your purposes.

On the map below, our most interesting observations are presented. After you have passed the military post, turned right onto the small dirt roads of the small village. Drive towards the shore. Here, we observed a few Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* and Ruddy

Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*. The first pelicans can we seen, but are very far away. Park your car and walk along the southern shore of the lake, eastwards, through the meadows. Here, you will surely see the nice Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla feldegg*. You should walk as far as you want and as close as you want to get to the pelicans. We had nice views of about five Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* and 20 Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* flying above the lake and sitting on the small gravel islands. The distance to the birds is still considerable, though. On the middle of the lake, we observed a small and solitary group of eight Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, a species that can be seen on just a few high altitude lakes in eastern Turkey.

After our visit to Aktas Gölü, we drove south towards Kars. By following the signs, we were automatically sent along the eastern side of Çıldır Gölü. On this lake we hardly observed any specialities, let alone pelicans. This lake is immense and searching for pelicans must be a huge job.



## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Hotels at Ardahan and Kars. Camping in the wild is dissuaded because of the many soldiers present; situation seems very tense here.

**11: "Small Mast Lake"**

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* 2/7 3 drakes, 1 female, 3 downy young

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	2/7	few
Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>	2/7	few pairs
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	2/7	2
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	2/7	single drake
Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	2/7	±8
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	2/7	at least 10 pairs
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	2/7	common
Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	2/7	1
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	2/7	large breeding colony

## NOTES ON THE AREA

As we drove from Kars towards Dogir and further towards Iğdir, we passed -by incident- a small lake with lots of reed. It looked very promising and it turned out to be just that. This area will not be found in other publications and implies only a small lake along the road we followed, not a vast area.

If you are travelling in this area, say from the Ardahan area towards, most logical, the Işak Paşa Palace, it is a good idea to visit this small lake. For sure it is the easiest place in Turkey to have perfect views of White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* at a close range, or one of the best at least. These birds even breed here.

You can reach this spot by driving towards Dogir and Iğdir from Kars, along the D070. After ±35 kilometres, you will reach a very high television mast or something that looks like it. It is situated on a high green hill. The small lake is between this mast and the road. We observed all interesting species from the road with ease.

When driving a little further south, you'll pass the small village of Dogir. Just after this village, there is a rocky hillside on the west side of the road. Here, we observed a single Chukar *Alectoris chukar*, as well as a single Northern Little Owl *Athene noctua indigena* just before dark.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Plan a visit during a passage as mentioned above. You can find all birds within an hour.

**12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

pelican spec. <i>Pelecanus</i> spp.	3/7	1 flying at considerable distance, little lake at Karabulak
Bimaculated Lark <i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	3/7	some along road D975, seen very well!
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	3/7	2, along road D975
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	3/7	common along road D975

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	3/7	±5, just south of Iğdir along road D975
Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	3/7	±10, little lake at Karabulak
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	3/7	few, little lake at Karabulak
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	3/7	few, little lake at Karabulak
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	3/7	common along road D975
	3/7	few, little lake at Karabulak
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	3/7	3, along road D975
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	3/7	3, along road D975
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i>	3/7	common along road D975 in suitable Habitat
Rose-coloured Starling <i>Sturnus roseus</i>	3/7	many 100s, see notes
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	3/7	near stony houses and ruins along road D975
Ortolan Bunting <i>Emberizza hortulana</i>	3/7	few along road D975

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	3/7	6, little lake at Karabulak
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	3/7	4, little lake at Karabulak
Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	3/7	few foraging, little lake at Karabulak
Northern Little Owl <i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	3/7	2, stony village of Karabulak
Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	3/7	1, along road D975
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	3/7	few, along road D975
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3/7	100s, little lake at Karabulak
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	3/7	common

## NOTES ON THE AREA

In the morning of July the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we drove from our hotel at Iğdir towards the İşak Paşa Palace along the D975. This road, by coincidence, turned out to be a birder's paradise. As we drove out of Iğdir, we observed Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and European Roller *Coracia garrulous*. Also, Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata* sang along the road and could be observed during its song-flight. The most unexpected surprise was a huge group of Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*, just a few kilometres south of Iğdir, where the road cuts through a habitat of lava. Large groups flew by as we stopped and huge groups were foraging on the ground. Few

birds even came quite close to the road, and we had perfect views!

As we drove further along the road, we observed many more species. Unfortunately, we could not take all the time needed, for we had to visit the İşak Paşa Palace before temperatures would start to get extreme again. But, behind the village of Karabulka, ±15 kilometres north of Doğubayazıt, we found a beautiful lake with on its background the very impressive Ararat Mountain. We had a quick search at the lake and found some waders *Charadriiformes* and terns *Sternidae*. Also, we observed a distant pelican spec. *Pelecanus* spp.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Hotels at Iğdir and the very touristic Doğubayazıt.

**13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Finsch's Wheatear <i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	3/7	1 male, beyond palace, see notes
White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	3/7	2, beyond palace
Red-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	3/7	few, mainly flying by, beyond palace
Crimson-winged Finch <i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	3/7	2, along road up towards palace
Mongolian Trumpeter Finch <i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>	3/7	±8, beyond palace, see notes
Grey-necked Bunting <i>Emberizza buchanani</i>	3/7	2 males singing, beyond palace, see notes

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Lammergeier <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	3/7	2 adults and 1 subadult, beyond palace
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	3/7	1 immature, beyond palace
Alpine Swift <i>Apus melba</i>	3/7	±30, above palace
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i>	3/7	common beyond and around palace
Red-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	3/7	few, hills beyond palace
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	3/7	10s, around and beyond palace

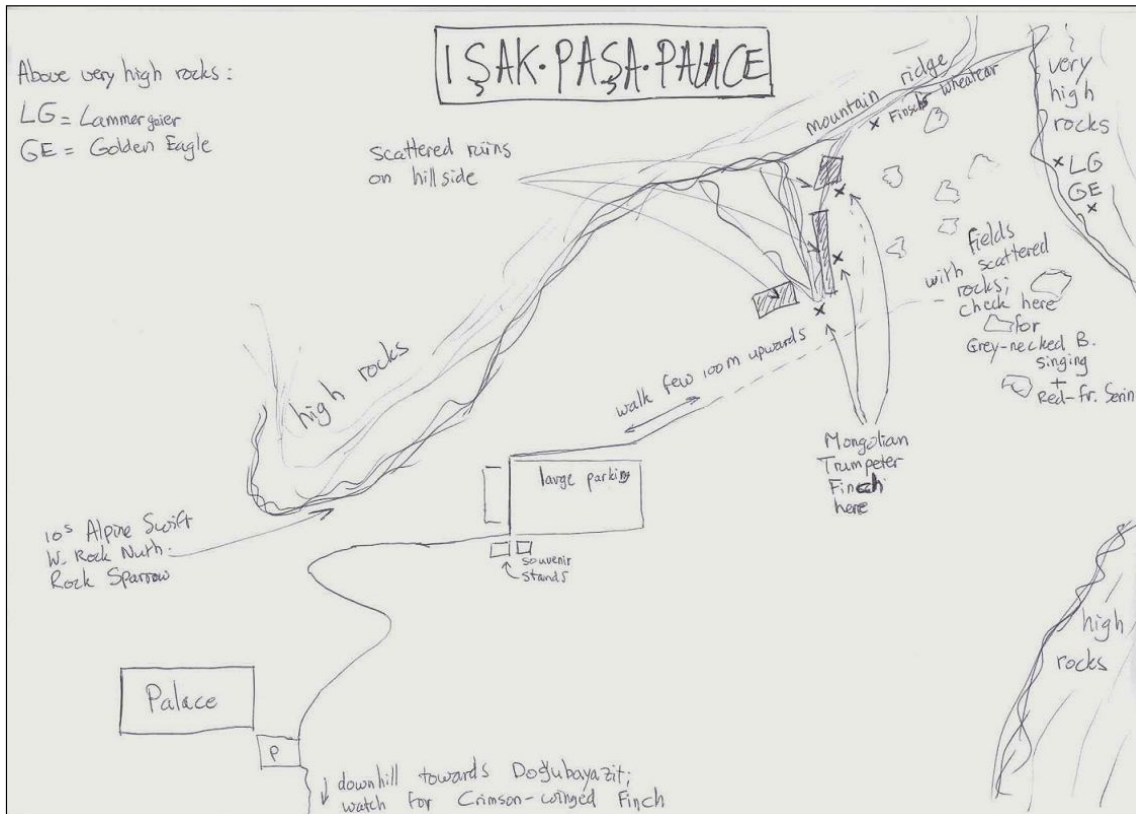
## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3/7	beyond palace
Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	3/7	1, beyond palace
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	3/7	10s, above and around palace
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3/7	few, beyond palace
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	3/7	abundant, around palace

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Many people have visited the Işak Paşa Palace since the discovery of Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus* at this site in the early 90's. Ever since, it has been the only regular site for this species within the Western Palearctic. This site has not been properly discussed by Dave Gosney, probably because this site has been 'discovered' after the publication of this guide. *A Birdwatchers Guide to Turkey* by Ian Green and Nigel Moorhouse does describe this area properly. To offer something extra, I made a sketch of the area

surrounding the palace and pointed out where we found the important species. In recent trip reports, I noted some people have missed the Mongolian Trumpeter Finches. This might be caused by the fact these birders did not explore the area that is a few hundred meters beyond the palace, probably caused by other trip reports only mentioning the Işak Paşa Palace as the place they observed their species. It is important, though, to visit the area that lies *beyond* the palace!



As can be seen on the above map, one can park their car at the palace, as well as a few hundred meters further. You will not miss very much by parking at the higher second and larger parking. From here, walk upwards a few hundred meters along the mountain ridge on your left. Along the track, Asia Minor Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus xantoprymnus* is abundant. A bulge coming towards you from the high mountain ridge holds some old ruins, being not more than a few stones put together. This bulge turned out to be our best place for Mongolian Trumpeter Finch. A male Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii* also

appeared in front of the ridge on our left. The fields in front of you as you walk upwards hold Grey-necked Bunting *Emberizza buchanani*; we had two singing males at least. Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* passes by calling regularly. If you are lucky, you can see them sit on the same rocks scattered through the field that are used by the buntings as singing posts. They never sit down for a long time, unfortunately. Nice bonuses here for us included a fabulous threesome Lammergeiers *Gypaetus barbatus*, joined by a single immature Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Accommodation is available at nearby Doğubayazıt.

**14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

White-winged Snowfinch <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	3/7	few, rocky parts along road D975
Crimson-winged Finch <i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	3/7	±10, rocky parts along road D975
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	3/7	5, on wires along road D975

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	3/7	4, along road D975
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	3/7	few, along road D975
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	3/7	4
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	3/7	common, along road D975
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	3/7	5 males, rocky parts along road D975

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	3/7	few, shallow lakes along road D975
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	3/7	3
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3/7	common, along road D975
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	3/7	10s, on wires along road D975

## NOTES ON THE AREA

As along the road between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt, the road between Doğubayazıt and the Van Lake area is a very nice birding experience. Probably because we drove this road, numbered D975, in the afternoon, we did not see as many species as along the former mentioned part of this road.

A few kilometres south of Doğubayazıt, the road crosses a lava-covered rocky landscape. Here, we observed some of the interesting high-mountain species, including Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys*

*sanguinea*, foraging close along the road and therefore easily visible from the car. Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* seemed to be common along great parts of this road.

About 10 or 20 kilometres north of the city of Muradiye, the road crosses an area of shallow lakes. They look very promising, but we hardly saw any interesting birds there. Some Northern Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* were present and, more interesting, two Dice Snakes *Natrix tessellata* in the water next to the road.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Not really applicable. One can bird along this road during the driving trip between Işak Paşa

Palace and the Van Lake area, or make a daytrip from the Van Lake area only.

**15: Van Lake area, including Erçek Gölü and Van Hills**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Armenian Gull <i>Larus armenicus</i>	4/7	10s, South Van Marshes
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	3/7	±10, including juv., Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	10s, meadows round Erçek Gölü
	4/7	10s, South Van Marshes
Moustached Warbler <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus</i>	4/7	1 singing, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus</i>	3/7	1, Bendimahi Marshes
Pale Rockfinch <i>Carpospiza brachydactyla</i>	4/7	±10, Van Hills, see notes
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	4/7	2, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	4/7	1000s, north and eastern Erçek Gölü
White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	4/7	drake with pull, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	1 drake, South Van Marshes
Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	4/7	few calling, male flying, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	4/7	100s, north and eastern Erçek Gölü
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	4/7	1, Van Hills
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	4/7	±10, round Van Castle
Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	3/7	4, foraging, Bendimahi Marshes
Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	4/7	at least 30, Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	10s, South Van Marshes
Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	4/7	1 flying past, Bendimahi River
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	4/7	±300, along eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	±10, South Van Marshes
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	3/7	2, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	1, south side of Erçek Gölü
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	3/7	1, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	1, south side of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	2, South Van Marshes
Lesser Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	3/7	3 pairs on ground, Bendimahi Marshes
Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola werae</i>	4/7	2 males, 2 females, 1 juv., South Van Marshes, see notes
Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola maura armenica</i>	4/7	3, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	4/7	male + 2 juv., Van Hills
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i>	4/7	common, Van Hills
Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>	4/7	2, southeast of Erçek Gölü along road D300
Common Reed Bunting <i>Emberizza schoeniclus reiseri</i>	3/7	male, Bendimahi Marshes

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	3/7	±15, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	±10, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	±10, South Van Marshes
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	4/7	2, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	4/7	calling, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	calling, South Van Marshes
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	4/7	±10, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	4/7	±200 seen on the south side of Erçek Gölü, from the main road D300
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	4/7	2, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	4/7	2, South Van Marshes
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	3/7	10s, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	10s, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	10s, South Van Marshes
Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4/7	8, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	4/7	±10, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	±20, South Van Marshes
Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	4/7	South Van Marshes
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	4/7	South Van Marshes
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	4/7	2, South Van Marshes
Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	4/7	±10, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	South Van Marshes
Common Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>	3/7	±10, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	±20, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	South Van Marshes
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4/7	±20, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	South Van Marshes
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	4/7	±10, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	South Van Marshes
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	4/7	±10, eastern shore of Erçek Gölü
	4/7	South Van Marshes
Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	4/7	South Van Marshes
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	4/7	2, South Van Marshes
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	3/7	2, Bendimahi Marshes
Caspian Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>	4/7	1, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	3/7	4 singing, Bendimahi Marshes
	4/7	±8, south of Erçek Gölü, see notes
	4/7	2, South Van Marshes
Bearded Reedling <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	3/7	1, Bendimahi Marshes
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	4/7	common, south of Erçek Gölü

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Places mentioned above are all described in *Finding Birds in Eastern Turkey* by Dave Gosney, unless explicitly stated. It is generally true that all areas around Van Lake should be visited as early as possible in the morning. Unfortunately, because there are so many, we have not done this, for it would take quite some days.

At our arrival at the area, we visited the Bendimahi Marshes. Gosney's guide seems to be hopelessly dated here! As a start, the road from Muradiye drawn does not connect to the main road along the marshes south of the bridge crossing the River Bendimahi, but north! Gosney site 4 cannot be reached without crossing a military camp, so we did not try not to get in trouble. Also, site 2 is hardly viewable for the reed has grown very tall.

A nice observation was the large-billed subspecies of Common Reed Bunting *Emberizza schoeniclus reiseri*. Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* was easy on the cut cornfields south of the bridge and west of the road.

An early morning visit to a small marshy lake south of the road that runs south of Erçek Gölü turned out to be a good idea. Quite some ducks were present, including White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. A Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* of the eastern subspecies *mimicus* sang next to the road and could well be observed. Along a track southwest of this small lake, Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura armenica* was present in the fields.

The eastern shore of Erçek Gölü itself was also worth the visit. A good number of Slender-billed Gulls *Larus genei* was present on the water, as was an immense number of Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*. Of course, many Greater Flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* were present, too. We

found the best place to watch the birds on the water and shore to be around a small river entering the large lake. It can be reached by following the main track through the village of Erçek southeast of Erçek Gölü that runs northwards for some kilometres. The water along this track after some kilometres north of Erçek holds many Caspian Terrapins *Mauremys caspica*.

After a visit to Erçek Gölü, we drove to the Van Hills that can be found quite nearby. We hoped to get good views of Grey-necked Bunting *Emberizza buchanani* at this site; it is well known for this species. We did not see it though, but instead found quite some singing Pale Rockfinches *Carpospiza brachydactyla*. The boss of the adjoining quarry invited us for tea, which of course could not be refused. He was surely interested in the birds, but shooting them seemed more logical to him...

At the start of the afternoon, after our visit to the Van Hills, we headed for the South Van Marshes. The site numbered 1 by Gosney cannot be reached through the small track that runs north along the Van Castle. So, we drove a perfect sandy track south of the Van Castle westwards to site 2. The area is very much visited by local day-trippers and therefore very busy. We did not find many marshes: all reeds had been cut and replaced by a rubbish heap! It shocked us a little, especially seeing all the children playing in the water amidst the garbage. Some ducks *Anatidae*, terns *Sternidae* and waders *Charadriiformes* were still present. We were especially very happy with the observation of a total of five Citrine Wagtails *Motacilla citreola werae*, foraging along a small creek that runs along the sandy track mentioned, about 200 meters from the Van Lake itself. Some Lesser Kestrels *Falco naumanni* hunting near the Van Castle were also very amusing and could be telescoped from a short distance.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Many hotels of variable quality present in the centre of Van town.

**16: Bulanik Area**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	5/7	2, Gosney site 4
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	5/7	common, whole Bulanik Area
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	5/7	common, whole Bulanik Area

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	5/7	2 seen, Gosney site 4
Calandra Lark <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	5/7	2 heard and seen, along river Murat common, along road between Bulanik and Yoncali
Lesser Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	5/7	common, along road between Bulanik and Yoncali
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	5/7	adult and imm., along river Murat
Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	5/7	2, Gosney site 4
European Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	5/7	1, calling in early morning, behind hotel Serhat, Malazgirt
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	5/7	few, along road between Bulanik and Yoncali
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	5/7	±10, along road between Bulanik and Yoncali
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	5/7	2, along road between Bulanik and Yoncali

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	5/7	6, ditches along road between Bulanik and Yoncali
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5/7	2, Gosney site 4
Great Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	5/7	1, Gosney site 4
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	5/7	1, Gosney site 4
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	5/7	2, Gosney site 4
Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	5/7	1, along river Murat, Gosney site 4
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	5/7	2 singing, Gosney site 4
Corn Bunting <i>Miliaria calandra</i>	5/7	abundant, whole Bulanik Area

## NOTES ON THE AREA

We followed the Gosney guide here, and also a report by Spanish birders. Gosney site 4 could be located with some effort. The petrol station mentioned by Gosney has almost gone and is a bit unrecognisable. Though, this is *the* key to find the good road north towards the river Murat. The sand track towards the river was very well drivable (no rain), but unfortunately interrupted by a man-made stream to carry off rainwater. We therefore

walked the last kilometres to the river and also searched a few kilometres along the river Murat itself. Very nice area, but no sign of the regularly sought-after Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*. Since a network of small sandy tracks is present between the river and the main road through Balatos and Yoncali, it might well be possible to get a car to the river itself, especially if you bring a four-wheel driven car.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Both a very chic and a reasonable hotel present in nearby Malazgirt. Accommodation said to be available in Bulanik. We did not visit this city ourselves. If people ever go search for Demoiselle Crane in the future, it'd

suggest taking a tent to the river and camp along it. Beware though, that from sunrise onwards many shepherds visit the river with their cattle.

**17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Armenian Gull <i>Larus armenicus</i>	5/7	2, flying past, Gosney site 4
Red-fronted Serin <i>Serinus pusillus</i>	5/7	few flying past, Gosney site 4
Pale Rockfinch <i>Carpospiza brachydactyla</i>	5/7	at least 6 singing, Gosney site 1
Black-headed Bunting <i>Emberizza melanocephala</i>	5/7	±10, Gosney site 4

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Booted Eagle <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	5/7	1 light morph, Gosney site 1
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>	5/7	5, highest points within crater
Siberian Stonechat <i>Saxicola maura armenica</i>	5/7	2 juv., Gosney site 4
Sombre Tit <i>Parus lugubris anatoliae</i>	5/7	adult and juv., Gosney site 4
Rock Bunting <i>Emberizza cia</i>	5/7	male singing, Gosney site 4

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	5/7	1 calling
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	5/7	1, Gosney site 4
Common Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis icterops</i>	5/7	2, Gosney site 4

## NOTES ON THE AREA

The area, being an inactive volcano crater, is well described by Dave Gosney in *Finding Birds in Eastern Turkey*. Our visit to this area was not quite a success, which was partly our own mistake. We arrived in the afternoon (heat) and a heavy wind blew in the crater. Because of the afternoon, almost all birds were quiet, while the heat made it impossible

to view the large crater lake present. So, to have a decent birding experience here, try to visit in the morning!

It is noteworthy that roads up and through the crater are very well drivable, contradictory to Gosney. It looked like they had been renewed recently.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Nearby city of Tatvan should have hotels. A campsite is present near the lake within the crater, but might be private.

## **18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings, between Siverek and Adiyaman**

### SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	6/7	few, along road near ferryboat crossing
White-throated Robin <i>Irania gutturalis</i>	6/7	2 females, along new road, see notes
	7/7	6 females, along new road, see notes
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus</i>		
	7/7	few singing, just north of Narince
Red-tailed Wheatear <i>Oenanthe xanthopyrna</i>	6/7	±5 males + females and many juv., along new road, see notes
	7/7	even higher number than on 6/7, also near military post near entrance to new road
Upcher's Warbler <i>Hippolais languida</i>	6/7	few, along new road, see notes
Olive-tree Warbler <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	6/7	2, along new road, see notes
	7/7	2, just north of Narince
Eastern Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta tephronota</i>	7/7	few along new road, see notes, including 2 on rocks near military post at the entrance
Pale Rockfinch <i>Carospiza brachydactyla</i>	6/7	few singing, high bare parts along new road, see notes
	7/7	±10, same place as 6/7
Cinereous Bunting <i>Emberizza cineracea semenowi</i>	6/7	few juv./female, along new road, see notes
	7/7	singing male + family, along new road, see notes

### SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

European Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	6/7	calling near pension Karadut
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	6/7	common within most of the area
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	6/7	common within whole area
Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>	6/7	few, along new road, see notes
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	6/7	common in the whole area
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>		
	6/7	white-throated male, along new road, see notes
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	7/7	1 juv., along new road, see notes
Blue Rock Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	7/7	1 juv., along new road, see notes
Eastern Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	7/7	2 females, along new road, see notes
	7/7	1 female/juv., near military post, see notes
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus</i>	7/7	few juveniles, near military post at entrance of new road, see notes
Sombre Tit <i>Parus lugubris anatoliae</i>	7/7	1, along new road, see notes
Rose-coloured Starling <i>Sturnus roseus</i>	7/7	±200, just north of Narince
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	6/7	few, along new road, see notes

### SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	6/7	2, along new road, see notes
Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	6/7	few, near military post along new road, see notes
Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	6/7	male flying, near ferryboat crossing
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>	6/7	3, along new road, see notes

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Nemrud Dagi and surroundings can we reached from the east by driving from Diyarbakir to Siverek and from here by taking a new road westwards (towards Kahta?). This road brings you to a ferryboat that crosses the river. The boat leaves once every two hours in both directions. If I remember this right, it left from the Siverek-side at 12:30h, 14:30, 16:30h etc. By the way, how many people do you think fit a 30-meter ferryboat?

The area surrounding the famous archaeological site of Nemrud Dagi, with its heads of stone on the top of an extremely high mountain, probably constitutes the best site in Turkey to find two important specialities. These are Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrna* and Cinereous Bunting *Emberizza cineracea* of the subspecies *semenowi*.

A short note in Birding World volume 14, number 8, by Daniele Occhiato explains where some good places can be found. We found this quite useful, and especially scored along the

'new road' to the top of the Nemrud Dagi, starting from Narince. A payment for this road is necessary if someone posts near the entrance, which in mainly not the case as we noted. The road is at times horrible, but birds compensate. Above that, the scenery from the top of Nemrud Dagi is truly magnificent! For mentioned specialities, try the bushes in the shallower gorges along the road. The wheatear also favours the stony gorges at lower altitudes, even near the military post near the entrance to the old road.

We paid a late-morning visit to the Settimo Severo's roman bridge too, but found little. The heat was probably the malefactor. Daniele Occhiato found singing males Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis* over here. I assume they should be present in May, though. Surely, they are easier to discover by then. Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* was also a species that wasn't easy to find! With a lot of effort, we had some lousy views, though, just north of Narince.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Campsites, as well as pensions, are present along the road north of Narince towards the entrance to the touristic road to the top. We found 'Karadut Pansiyon' a good one and had

a fine meal in their garden. From the garden, we heard European Scops Owl *Otus scops* and Green Frogs *Hyla savigny*.

**19: Birecik and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

See-see Partridge <i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i>	8/7	4, only seen flying above main wadi, Gosney site 2
	9/7	1, same story as 8/7
Black Francolin <i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	8/7	male calling, Gosney site 9
Northern Bald Ibis <i>Geronticus eremita</i>	7&8/7	±30 in cage at WWF breeding site, many other individuals flying round; 1 'wild' breeding pair in beginning of main wadi, Gosney site 2
Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	8/7	1, flying past, Gosney site 10
Pallid Scops Owl <i>Otus brucei</i>	7/7	adult +3 juv., seen well in the afternoon (16:00h), Gosney site 8
Little Swift <i>Apus affinis</i>	9/7	±15 at nests, next to gravel pit on eastern bank of river Euphrates, just 200m north of the market at Birecik
Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	8/7	2, flying over river Euphrates past Kiyi restaurant, Gosney site 9
	9/7	4, south of Birecik along river, see notes
White-spectacled Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>	8/7	6, main wadi, Gosney site 2
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin <i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus</i>	7/7	singing birds common in orchards north of Birecik
Graceful Prinia <i>Prinia gracilis</i>	-	small groups in reed beds all along river Euphrates
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus</i>	7/7	very common at virtually all sites
Ménétries's Warbler <i>Sylvia mystacea rubescens</i>	7/7	female with food, Gosney site 4
	8/7	few, no adult males, main wadi, Gosney site 2
	8/7	1 male, calling, behind electricity substation, Gosney site 5, see notes
	8/7	1 family, hard to see, Gosney site 4
	9/7	many, including 3 males, quite far inside the main wadi, Gosney site 2
Dead Sea Sparrow <i>Passer moabiticus</i>	7/7	common in orchards north of Birecik, e.g. Gosney site 4 and 5
	8/7	few, between Gosney site 9 and 11
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia <i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	8/7	±10, main wadi, Gosney site 2
	8/7	1 male, behind electricity substation, Gosney site 5, see notes
Desert Finch <i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	7/7	4, just west of Gosney site 4, where main road bends northwards from the river
	8/7	regularly small groups flying by calling, main wadi, Gosney site 2
	8/7	few flying past, Gosney site 4
	8/7	few, between Gosney site 9 and 11

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	9/7	±15, Euphrates south of Birecik, see notes
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	-	quite common all along the river Euphrates, singles as well as small groups
Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	8/7	2, between Gosney site 9 and 11
	9/7	2, river Euphrates south of Birecik
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	8/7	2 ad., Gosney site 4
	8/7	2, between Gosney site 9 and 11
	9/7	very common, river Euphrates south of Birecik, see notes
Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	9/7	6, Euphrates south of Birecik, see notes
Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	8/7	8 immatures, flying south, river Euphrates past Kiyi restaurant, Gosney site 9
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	9/7	2, Euphrates south of Birecik, see notes
European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	7/7	quite common, especially Gosney site 11
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	8/7	2, very close views, between Gosney site 9 and 11
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	8/7	1, main wadi, Gosney site 2
	8/7	3, Gosney site 4
Syrian Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	8&9/7	4, main wadi, Gosney site 2
Eurasian Crag Martin <i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	8/7	Gosney site 4
Eastern Orphee Warbler <i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	7/7	1, Gosney site 4
Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	9/7	few, main wadi, Gosney site 2

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	9/7	±10, river Euphrates south of Birecik
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	8/7	1 adult, Gosney site 4
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	9/7	1, Euphrates south of Birecik, see notes
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	8/7	1, between Gosney site 8 and 11
	9/7	2, Euphrates south of Birecik
Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	9/7	1, Euphrates south of Birecik
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	9/7	±10, Euphrates south of Birecik
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	8/7	riverbanks, Gosney site 4
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	9/7	±10, along Euphrates south of Birecik
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	8/7	riverbanks, Gosney site 4
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	9/7	1, river Euphrates south of Birecik
Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	9/7	±10, main wadi, Gosney site 2
	9/7	10s, along Euphrates south of Birecik
European Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	9/7	2 foraging, along river Euphrates
Northern Little Owl <i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	9/7	1, very tame, along river Euphrates, south of Birecik, see notes
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	7/7	3 nestlings, tea garden, Gosney site 8
Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	8/7	Gosney site 4
	9/7	±20, same site as Little Swift
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	8/7	common, between Gosney site 9 and 11
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	9/7	common, Euphrates south of Birecik
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	8/7	Gosney site 4
Common House Martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	8/7	Gosney site 4
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	9/7	2 singing, Euphrates south of Birecik
Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	9/7	2, main wadi, Gosney site 2
Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>	8/7	1 family, main wadi, Gosney site 2
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	-	abundant everywhere
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	-	common at most sites

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Birecik has always had the Western Palearctic sub-zero status for birding areas amongst birders. Our expectations were very high, and luckily the birding indeed turned out to be stunning. A lot of target species were easily found, whereas other needed more than a day to be found, especially Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*. It should be noted that temperatures are extremely high (up to 40°C), starting from 09:00h until dark. Really good birding can therefore only be done in the very early morning. After 09:00h, only though guys will be able to walk around.

The areas visited have all been described by Dave Gosney in *Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik* and references are made above. Some extra comments need to be given, though. The village of Halfeti came across very dead. We actually saw not one bird, but this might have been caused by us visiting in the afternoon. The spot formerly known to have breeding Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*, Gosney site 6, was totally empty. In 2003, these birds have been seen again though, by two Dutch birders. A species formerly breeding on the west banks of the river Euphrates, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*, has not been found here since quite some years. Unfortunately, we did neither. Last but not least, the electricity substation described at site 5 has

been overgrown by some trees and is hard to find. Watch out for a split of the road westwards. The substation is here at the east side of the road. To see Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*, check the electricity cables behind the nearby houses.

South of Birecik, birding along the eastern bank of the river Euphrates is very interesting. Gosney does not describe this area, unfortunately. If you have found the tea gardens where Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* breed, drive further south through the outskirts of the village and keep the direction of the river. After a while, it is possible to ascend the dike along the river southwards. We travelled along this dike for many kilometres, which was very fruitful. The number of herons *Ardeidae* was impressive. Quite some ducks *Anatidae* could be found as well. Pied Kingfisher turned out to be easily found hunting above the pools on the landside of the dike.

Apart from birds, we observed a very beautiful butterfly, Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*, closely related to the well-known Monarch *Danaus plexippus*. This was in the orchards north of Birecik, Gosney site 5. Try to find it, as I found it more stunning than many birds in the area!

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

We stayed two nights in the air-conditioned hotel Mirkelam, which can be found at the Petrol Ofise gasoline station just east of the river Euphrates and south of the main road.

Smaller and less expensive hotels should be found on the west side of the river, in the centre of Birecik. Though, the air-conditioning was truly needed!

**20: Durnalik and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

White-throated Robin <i>Irania gutturalis</i>	9/7	few in orchards, hard to see well, single males have been observed, Gosney site 4
Upcher's Warbler <i>Hippolais languida</i>	9/7	1 family, Gosney site 2
Olivaceous Warbler <i>Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus</i>	9/7	common, Gosney site 2 and 4
Eastern Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta tephronota</i>	9/7	4, Gosney site 4
Desert Finch <i>Rhodospizza obsoleta</i>	9/7	few flying past, calling, Gosney site 2

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	9/7	2, Gosney site 4
Syrian Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	9/7	1 noisy family present, Gosney site 4
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	9/7	±10, Gosney site 4
Eastern Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	9/7	2, Gosney site 4
Sombre Tit <i>Parus lugubris anatoliae</i>	9/7	at least 3, Gosney site 4

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	9/7	abundant
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## NOTES ON THE AREA

Durnalik, famous for being the best place in Turkey to see Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrna* and Cinereous Bunting *Emberizza cineracea*, was visited by us on just one single hot afternoon. Our target species here was actually Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberizza caesia*, for we had somehow missed this bird at a more reliable site: Aladag Mountains at Demirkazik. Probably because of

the weather, the time of the day and our short visit, we found none of these. Some other nice birds were found, though. We advise everyone to visit this area during an early morning.

Places referred to above are taken from Gosney's *Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik*.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

We only visited during a day of travel and therefore have no experience with this.

## 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

### SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Eleonora's Falcon <i>Falco eleonora</i>	11/7	1 light morph, above Bellepais Monastery
	12/7	same bird (?) at same site as 11/7
Cyprus Wheatear <i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i>	11/7	few families, easily found, see notes
	12/7	same as 11/7
Cyprus Warbler <i>Sylvia melanothorax</i>	11/7	regularly juv. seen, see notes
	12/7	female and few young, see notes
Cretzschmar's Bunting <i>Emberizza caesia</i>	12/7	2, above Bellepais Monastery

### SPECIES: REMAINING

Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	11/7	1, above Bellepais Monastery
Common Wood Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	11/7	common
Desert Little Owl <i>Athene noctua lilith</i>	11/7	1, above Bellepais Monastery along road
	12/7	same bird and same place as 11/7
Common Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	11/7	few
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix pallescens</i>	11/7	common along whole Cyprus coastline

### NOTES ON THE AREA

A tactful birder will only travel to Cyprus from mainland Turkey to see just two species not found in Turkey itself: Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* and Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*. Other species that can be found are possible on mainland Turkey, too. Note also that both these Cyprus specialities can be found in Israel on passage. Cyprus Wheatear is easily found at a variety of places, e.g. behind the Bellepais Monastery. At this same spot, Cyprus Warbler can be found reasonably easy. Although we had about 10 skulking individuals, we did not manage to see a nice male.

As written in the itinerary section, travelling to Cyprus by ferryboat was horrible. Timetables

### NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Many hotels are present on the island. We had our taxi driver choose one. Maybe he just brought us to a friend, but the hotel was very

mean nothing in Turkey, customs are extremely time-consuming and temperatures are very high. As we arrived at the island, we took a taxi towards the Bellepais Monastery and walked from there upwards against the mountains. The walking was tough, but Cyprus Wheatear was easily found. No good views of Cyprus Warbler could be obtained, so we went back the next day. Again no good views of the warbler. A very tame young Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes anatolica* was present.

A perfect site about bird watching and other nature-related topics at Cyprus is found at [www.northcyprusbirds.com](http://www.northcyprusbirds.com). Go check it!

good with air-conditioning. The hotel was very expensive, but expect every hotel on the island to be so.

**22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis niethammeri*

12/7	quite some small groups, along road between Karaman and Eregli
13/7	small groups, near Anbar along the road south of Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	12/7	1, road between Karaman and Eregli
	13/7	3, road south of Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	12/7	few along road between Karaman and Eregli
	12/7	±25 in colony, see notes
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	12/7	5 on wires, road towards Bogecik
Syrian Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	13/7	1, road south of Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Calandra Lark <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	12/7	±20, road between Karaman and Eregli
Greater Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	12/7	10s, road between Karaman and Eregli
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	12/7	very common, even abundant at places, especially at Gosney site 4
Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>	13/7	1 adult, Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	13/7	common breeder in village of Bogecik

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	12/7	1, road between Karaman and Eregli
Eurasian Collared Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	13/7	common round civilisations
Northern Little Owl <i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	13/7	2, along road south of Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	12/7	young calling, garden of hotel in Eregli
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	13/7	common at most sites
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	13/7	10s, Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	13/7	10s, Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	12/7	male, garden of hotel in Eregli
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	13/7	few, Eregli Marshes
Common Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	13/7	100s, Eregli Marshes, Gosney site 4
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	12/7	abundant, especially near villages

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Places visited are described by Gosney in *Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik*.

Birding in the area is quite some fun, with our main special bird being Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis niethammeri*. Along the road between Karaman and Eregli, larks *Alaudidae* are numerous and we made many stops to check them. Here, Asia Minor Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus xantoprymnus* is abundant. Therefore, one would expect high numbers of *Accipitriformes* here, but we saw little. A probable Saker *Falco cherrug* was resting along this road in an electricity pole, but was too distant. As we drove closer, the bird had gone and could not be found again.

It is important for future visitors that, at the time of our visit, no water could be found at the Eregli Marshes or anywhere else in the surroundings. At the Sultan Marshes, this is

said to be the same case. I'm not sure whether this is caused by the time of the year or permanent. At least many reeds were still present, so water could not have been absent for too long.

A good tip is that of a colony of breeding Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* near the small village of Bogecik. To reach it, drive the main road between Karaman and Eregli a few hundred meters further eastwards than where you can find a small indistinct sign pointing northwards towards Bogecik, and turn north onto a smaller road. This road is partly covered with asphalt and partly with gravel and makes a strange turn around some sort of dike. After a few hundred meters, just before a very small settlement, the birds breed on the left side of the road. We saw many fresh juveniles being fed by adult males and females. Perfect site for photographers!

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Good hotels are available in both Karaman and Eregli. Truly recommended. People here

are extremely friendly and fairly western-orientated in these cities.

**23: Kulu Gölü**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	14/7	2 subad., on small island on eastside of main lake
Asian Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella cheleensis niethammeri</i>	13/7	±10, along tracks near small lake, see notes
Black-headed Wagtail <i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	14/7	common, east of main lake
	14/7	few, around both lakes

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Ruddy Shelduck <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	13/7	some 100s, main lake
White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	13/7	±10, small lake, see notes
	14/7	±25 drakes + same amount other plumages, small lake, see notes
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	14/7	±50, around whole area
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	13/7	some 100s, main lake + small lake
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	13/7	2, along sandy tracks west of lake
Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	13/7	1 flying past, small lake, see notes
Greater Sand Plover <i>Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus</i>	13/7	1 juv., north side small lake, see notes
	14/7	3 juv., same place as 13/7
Marsh Sandpiper <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	13/7	1, north side small lake, see notes
Slender-billed Gull <i>Larus genei</i>	14/7	quite common, along eastern shore of main lake
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	13/7	10s, all around the lake
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	14/7	±10, small lake, see notes
White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	14/7	±50, south side main lake + small lake
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	13/7	4, tracks around lake
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	13/7	10s, along sandy tracks

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	14/7	±20
Red-crested Pochard <i>Rufina rufina</i>	14/7	±20, small lake, see notes
Common Pochard <i>Aythya farina</i>	14/7	few, small lake, see notes
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	13/7	eclipse drake, small lake, see notes
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	13/7	10s
Black-necked Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	13/7	10s
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	14/7	few
Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	14/7	2, small lake, see notes
Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	14/7	±10, small lake, see notes
Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	14/7	4, east shore main lake
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	14/7	±15, small lake, see notes
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	13/7	10s, mainly small lake, see notes
Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	13/7	4, small lake, see notes
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	13/7	±10, small lake, see notes
Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	13/7	common
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	14/7	few
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	13/7	10s, small lake, see notes
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	14/7	±30, small lake, see notes
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	14/7	few with juv., east shore main lake
Pontic Gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>	14/7	common, mainly east shore of main lake
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	14/7	4, main lake
Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	14/7	common, all around the lakes
Tawny Pipit <i>Anthus campestris</i>	13/7	±8, near small lake, see notes

## NOTES ON THE AREA

Kulu Gölü has been described by Dave Gosney in *Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik*. The area is relatively small and therefore easy to bird. The main lake is said never to dry up fully, contrary to e.g. the Eregli Marshes. Driving round the lake was possible at the time of our visit and we found it very much fun. Many birds can be approached quite well when staying inside the car. Beware that driving round the eastern part requires you

leave the sandy tracks and drive of road along the shoreline, where you might get stuck at very dusty parts.

Apart from driving a circle around the main lake, a sandy track can be driven around a small separate lake south of the main lake (by Gosney drawn as a part of the main lake). Here we found most waders *Charadriiformes* and terns *Sternidae*.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Some hotels are present at nearby city of Kulu.

**24: Akseki and surroundings**

## SPECIES: SUB-ZERO

Lilford's White-backed Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi</i>	15/7	single calling bird, identification not 100% certain, Gosney site 4
Olive-tree Warbler <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	15/7	1, Gosney site 1
Rüppell's Warbler <i>Sylvia rueppellii</i>	15/7	female/juv., Gosney site 1
	16/7	1 female, Gosney site 1
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>	15/7	3, Gosney site 4
	16/7	1, walled plantation, Gosney site 1
Krüper's Nuthatch <i>Sitta krueperi</i>	14/7	±10, Gosney site 3
	15/7	abundant, Gosney site 4
Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>	15/7	few, near main road, Gosney site 4
	15/7	5, Gosney site 1
Cretzschmar's Bunting <i>Emberizza caesia</i>	15/7	1 family, Gosney site 1

## SPECIES: HIGHLIGHTS

Short-toed Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	14/7	1, between village and Gosney site 3
European Scops Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	14/7	1 calling, heard from hotel at night
European Roller <i>Coracia garrulous</i>	15/7	1, Gosney site 1
Eurasian Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	15/7	1, Gosney site 1
Syrian Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	15/7	few, Akseki graveyard, Gosney site 2
	16/7	1 family, walled plantation, Gosney site 1
Middle Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	15/7	3, Gosney site 4
Red-rumped Swallow <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	15/7	±10, Gosney site 1
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	14/7	white-throated male, along road between Akseki village and Gosney site 3
	15/7	male with 3 juv., Gosney site 4
	15/7	1 family, Gosney site 1
Eastern Orphean Warbler <i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>	16/7	1 juv., Gosney site 1
Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus</i>	16/7	1 small group, Gosney site 1
Sombre Tit <i>Parus lugubris anatoliae</i>	15/7	3, Gosney site 1
	16/7	ad. + juv., Gosney site 4
Western Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta neumayer</i>	14/7	few, between village and Gosney site 3
	16/7	few, Gosney site 1
Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius atricapillus</i>	15/7	2, Akseki graveyard, Gosney site 2
Cirl Bunting <i>Emberizza cirlus</i>	15/7	male feeding juv., Gosney site 4; according to <i>Birds of the Middle East</i> this might be one of the most easterly breeding Cirl Buntings in Turkey

## SPECIES: REMAINING

Eurasian Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	16/7	female, Gosney site 1
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	15/7	1 calling juv., heard from hotel at night
European Green Woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	15/7	1 juv., Gosney site 4
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	16/7	1, Gosney site 4
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	15/7	1, Gosney site 4
Common Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	15/7	1 pair, Gosney site 1
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	16/7	few, round walled plantation, Gosney site 1
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	14/7	common, Gosney site 3
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	15/7	common, Gosney site 4
Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	14/7	±30, Gosney site 3
Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	15/7	few, Gosney site 4
Hooded Crow <i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	15/7	±10, Gosney site 2
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	15/7	±30, above hills north of Gosney site 1
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	15/7	5, Gosney site 1
Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	15/7	Gosney site 4
European Serin <i>Serinus serinus</i>	14/7	1 juv., Gosney site 3
	15/7	±10, Gosney site 4
European Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	15/7	Gosney site 4
European Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	15/7	Gosney site 4
	15/7	2, Gosney site 1
Common Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	15/7	±10, nice views, Gosney site 4

## NOTES ON THE AREA

The descriptions of the area by Gosney in *Finding Birds in Turkey – Ankara to Birecik* are very good. Therefore, references to this booklet are made above. Because of a remainder of time, we spend two nights in the small and cosy village of Akseki. From here, we did some relaxed birding at all spots described by Gosney. Though, the area can be birded within half a day if you only want to see the real speciality, being Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*. Other interesting species can also be found in the same morning, but cannot be guaranteed, or at least not in summer. These include Lilford's White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi*, Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* and Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberizza caesia*. Species easily found are Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*, Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris anatoliae* and Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*.

The graveyard described by Gosney turned out to be hardly interesting at the time of our visit. Most important, trees and shrub were way too dense. Did not seem very good for Olive-tree Warbler, at least. If one is in a hurry, do omit Gosney site 3, but go straight ahead to Gosney site 4, the "new" White-backed Woodpecker site. Here you will find lots of species more, including all species present at site 3. Moreover, it can be more easily accessed. The place is also housing an extreme amount of Persian Squirrels *Sciurus anomalus*. Gosney site 1, the 'walled plantation', holds these animals as well. Besides, the Damla restaurant mentioned by Gosney is called Toros these days and it is just a hundred metres south of the junction with the road towards Akseki from the main road D695, instead of the drawn one kilometre.

## NOTES ON ACCOMODATION

Two large and good quality hotels are present at Akseki, both with their own restaurants. Hotel Duruk and hotel Star are both in the

small centre of the town and cost the same. Strange to note that we were the only visitors in a hotel with over 30 rooms!

## C: LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED

Following is a comprehensive systematic list of the 244 birdspecies we observed during our three-week trip through Turkey. The list follows Duivendijk, N. van, *Dutch Birding Kenmerkengids*, 2002. Target species observed are marked with an asterisk, \*, and are new to the life list of at least one of the participants.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Pochard *Aythya farina*  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"  
 → 15: Van Lake area

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 → Present at all wetlands

Garganey *Anas querquedula*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Teal *Anas crecca*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"

Numbers of the areas refer to part B of this trip report, *LIST OF PLACES VISITED*. One can find more about the specific observation and the area there. Note that, although all observed species are included, not every single observation is necessarily recorded. This holds especially for the commoner species.

Caucasian Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*\*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings

Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius*\*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*\*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"

See-see Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis*\*  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*\*  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*  
 → 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*  
 → Present at most wetlands

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*  
 → 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*  
 → 11: "Small Mast Lake"  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmeus*  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
 → Common along Black Sea coast  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings

- European Shag *Stictocarbo aristotelis desmarestii*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*\*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*\*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutas*  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*  
→ 16: Bulanik Area  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 16: Bulanik Area  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
→ 16: Bulanik Area  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*  
→ 16: Bulanik Area
- Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 16: Bulanik Area
- Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 16: Bulanik Area  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*  
→ 16: Bulanik Area  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*\*  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 16: Bulanik Area
- Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle
- Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*  
→ 2 ad, ±10km north of Mut, southern Turkey
- Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*  
→ 1: Alanya surroundings  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*\*  
→ 1: Alanya surroundings
- Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*  
→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
→ 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 20: Durnalik and surroundings  
→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*  
→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
→ 17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 15: Van Lake area
- 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

- 2: Mediterranean coast road
- 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık
- 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

- 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 15: Van Lake area
- 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

- 2: Mediterranean coast road
- 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus brookei*

- 4: Tarsus Delta
- 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Grey-headed Swamp-hen *Porphyrio poliocephalus caspius\**

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- 11: "Small Mast Lake"
- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Crane *Grus grus*

- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum
- 15: Van Lake area

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 15: Van Lake area

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

- 15: Van Lake area
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

- 16: Bulanik Area

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 15: Van Lake area
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

- 2: Mediterranean coast road
- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum
- 15: Van Lake area
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

- 15: Van Lake area
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus\**

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- 16: Bulanik Area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area
- 15: Van Lake area

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

- 11: "Small Mast Lake"
- 15: Van Lake area
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

- 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

- 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- 11: "Small Mast Lake"
- 15: Van Lake area

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*

- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

- 2: Mediterranean coast road

Pontic Gull *Larus cachinnans*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*\*

- 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- 15: Van Lake area
- 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

- 15: Van Lake area

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum
- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

- 23: Kulu Gölü

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias**leucopterus*

- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 15: Van Lake area
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 23: Kulu Gölü

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

- 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

- 4: Tarsus Delta
- 19: Birecik and surroundings

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*\*

- Diyarbakir city center
- 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- Adiyaman city center
- Small coastal park in eastern Antalya

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

- 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings

Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei*\*

- 19: Birecik and surroundings

European Scops Owl *Otus scops*

- 16: Bulanik Area
- 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- 24: Akseki and surroundings

Northern Little Owl *Athene noctua indigena*

- 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings
- 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- 11: "Small Mast Lake"
- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

Desert Little Owl *Athene noctua lilith*

- 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

- 19: Birecik and surroundings
- 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle
- 24: Akseki and surroundings

Common Swift *Apus apus*

- 1: Alanya surroundings
- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- 19: Birecik and surroundings

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

- 1: Alanya surroundings
- 2: Mediterranean coast road
- 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık
- 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

- 19: Birecik and surroundings

White-throated Kingfisher *Halycon smyrnensi*\*

→ 4: Tarsus Delta

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*\*

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

→ 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area

→ 16: Bulanik Area

→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

European Roller *Coracia garrulus*

→ 1: Alanya surroundings

→ 2: Mediterranean coast road

→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

→ 15: Van Lake area

→ 16: Bulanik Area

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings

→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings

→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

→ 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area

→ 15: Van Lake area

→ 16: Bulanik Area

→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

→ 23: Kulu Gölü

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

→ 20: Durnalik and surroundings

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

→ 16: Bulanik Area

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata*\*

→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum

→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella*

*brachydactyla*

→ 4: Tarsus Delta

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens*

→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

→ 15: Van Lake area

→ 16: Bulanik Area

Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis niethammeri*\*

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

→ 23: Kulu Gölü

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

→ 2: Mediterranean coast road

→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings

→ 4: Tarsus Delta

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

→ 23: Kulu Gölü

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings

→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan

→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan

→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris penicillata*

→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings

→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan

→ 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan

→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle

Eurasian Crag Martin *Hirundo rupestris*

→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik

→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan

→ 19: Birecik and surroundings

- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings  
 → 20: Durnalik and surroundings  
 → 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle
- Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*  
 → 1: Alanya surroundings  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 4: Tarsus Delta  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings  
 → 20: Durnalik and surroundings  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Common House Martin *Delichon urbica*  
 → 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
 → 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü
- Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta coutelli*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings  
 → 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla feldegg\**  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 16: Bulanik Area  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü
- Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola werae*  
 → 15: Van Lake area
- Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- White-spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus xanthopygos\**  
 → 2: Mediterranean coast road  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings
- White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- Dunnock *Prunella modularis*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis\**  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık
- Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes syriacus\**  
 → 2: Mediterranean coast road  
 → 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
 → 4: Tarsus Delta  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- White-throated Robin *Irania gutturalis\**  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings  
 → 20: Durnalik and surroundings
- Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*  
 → 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maura armenica*  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan
- Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina\**  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area  
 → 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü
- Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
 → 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
 → 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- Cyprus Wheatear *Oenanthe cyprica\**  
 → 21: Cyprus: Bellepays Monastery and surroundings

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe melanoleuca*  
 → 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
 → 23: Kulu Gölü

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*\*  
 → 13: İřak Pařa Palace and surroundings

Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe xanthopyrna*\*  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 14: Between Dođubayazit and Van Lake area  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus amicornum*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*  
 → 4: Tarsus Delta  
 → 17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan  
 → 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*  
 → 8: Between Savřat and Ardahan

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*  
 → 8: Between Savřat and Ardahan  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*  
 → 1: Alanya surroundings  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan

Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*\*  
 → 3: Gökusu Delta and surroundings  
 → 4: Tarsus Delta  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*\*  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
 → 20: Durnalık and surroundings

Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*\*  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings

Caspian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*  
 → 3: Gökusu Delta and surroundings  
 → 15: Van Lake area

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
 → 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
 → 16: Bulanık Area

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus*\*  
 → 15: Van Lake area

Olivaceous Warbler *Acrocephalus pallidus elaeicus*\*  
 → 2: Mediterranean coast road  
 → 3: Gökusu Delta and surroundings  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
 → 15: Van Lake area  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Ménétries's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea rubescens*\*  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings

Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*\*  
 → 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppellii*\*  
 → 2: Mediterranean coast road  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris*  
 → 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
 → 19: Birecik and surroundings  
 → 20: Durnalık and surroundings  
 → 24: Akseki and surroundings

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*  
 → 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis icterops*  
 → 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings  
 → 17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings

Bright-green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*\*  
 → 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings

- Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*\*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Caucasian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii*\*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*\*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings
- Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*  
→ 15: Van Lake area
- Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus*  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings
- Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris anatoliae*  
→ 17: Nemrut Dagı near Tatvan  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
→ 20: Durnalik and surroundings  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Coal Tit *Parus ater*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- European Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings
- Great Tit *Parus major*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi*\*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota*\*  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
→ 20: Durnalik and surroundings
- Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik  
→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik
- Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus caspius*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings
- Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings
- Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik  
→ 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 23: Kulu Gölü
- Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator niloticus*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagı and surroundings  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*\*  
→ 1: Alanya surroundings  
→ 2: Mediterranean coast road  
→ 4: Tarsus Delta  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius atricapillus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagı Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Common Magpie *Pica pica*  
→ Common in whole of Turkey
- Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik
- Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula soemmerringii*  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan

- Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
→ 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix sharpii*  
→ Common in whole of Turkey
- Common Raven *Corvus corax*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  
*tauricus/purpurascens*  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle
- Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*  
→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
→ Common in whole of Turkey
- Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*  
→ 3: Göksu Delta and surroundings  
→ 4: Tarsus Delta  
→ 22: Konya-Karaman-Eregli triangle
- Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus*\*  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık
- Pale Rockfinch *Carpodacus brachydactyla*\*  
→ 15: Van Lake area  
→ 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Petronia xanthocollis*\*  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
→ 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings
- White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*\*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
→ 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area
- Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus*\*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
→ 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan
- European Serin *Serinus serinus*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
→ 4: Tarsus Delta  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- Twite *Carduelis flavirostris brevisrostris*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings
- Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodospiza sanguinea*\*  
→ 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazık  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings  
→ 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area
- Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta*\*  
→ 19: Birecik and surroundings  
→ 20: Durnalik and surroundings
- Mongolian Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*\*  
→ 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings
- Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings  
→ 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
→ 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- Cirl Bunting *Emberizza cirrus*  
→ 24: Akseki and surroundings

Rock Bunting *Emberizza cia*

- 5: Aladag Mountains: Demirkazik
- 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan

Cinereous Bunting *Emberizza cineracea semenowi\**

- 18: Nemrud Dagi and surroundings
- 20: Durnalik and surroundings

Ortolan Bunting *Emberizza hortulana*

- 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 10: Aktas Gölü and surroundings
- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt

Grey-necked Bunting *Emberizza buchanani\**

- 13: Işak Paşa Palace and surroundings

Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberizza caesia\**

- 21: Cyprus: Bellepais Monastery and surroundings
- 24: Akseki and surroundings

Common Reed Bunting *Emberizza schoeniclus reiseri*

- 15: Van Lake area

Black-headed Bunting *Emberizza melanocephala\**

- 4: Tarsus Delta
- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum
- 7: Gelinkaya, Sivri Kaya, Ovit Dagi Gecidi and surroundings
- 12: Between Iğdir and Doğubayazıt
- 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area
- 15: Van Lake area
- 16: Bulanik Area
- 17: Nemrut Dagi near Tatvan

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

- 6: Between Sivas and Erzurum
- 8: Between Savşat and Ardahan
- 9: Hills east and valley south of Ardahan
- 14: Between Doğubayazıt and Van Lake area
- 15: Van Lake area
- 16: Bulanik Area