



Greg Beeton Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan 2026

TOUR REPORT

KAZAKHSTAN & KYRGYZSTAN

19TH MAY – 2ND JUNE 2026

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Tuesday 19 May 2026

The group assembled at Heathrow Airport for our overnight journey to Central Asia. Unfortunately, our Oriole tour leader, Dominic Mitchell, was unable to join the tour after being taken ill at the last minute.

Our early evening flight to Istanbul departed on schedule, accompanied by a sizeable contingent of Aston Villa supporters travelling to the UEFA Europa League Final. After a straightforward transit in Istanbul, we boarded our onward flight to Almaty, which departed shortly after midnight.

Wednesday 20 May 2026

After a rather bumpy and sleepless night, we landed in Almaty at 08:00 local time (+4 hours GMT). We were greeted in the arrivals hall by our guide, Ilyas Khan, interpreter Shynar and driver Oleg Piyusch, before boarding the minibus outside the airport. Our first bird of the trip was a **Collared Dove** perched on a nearby lamppost.

Progress was initially slow in the Almaty rush hour, but we were soon enjoying several birds from the vehicle, including our first **Common Mynas**. A **Great Cormorant** swam on a park lake, whilst several **Eurasian Magpies**, with their noticeably longer tails, looked rather different from those at home.

Eventually leaving the city behind, we headed south to Kaskelen, our birding site for the day. After completing the formalities at the gate and collecting our required 'minders', we began birding. A **Mistle Thrush** appeared in a garden, while the first **European Rollers** were seen perched on roadside wires and quickly rose to double figures. A roadside pull-in produced our first **Himalayan Vultures**, together with a **Black Kite**. **Barn Swallows** and **House Martins** were feeding overhead, and a **Chukar** posed on a rocky outcrop.

We eventually reached our al fresco lunch stop. While Shynar and Oleg prepared the food, we explored a nearby stream. Sadly, no **White-bellied Dippers** were found, but a pair of **Common Sandpipers** and a **Grey Wagtail** were present. Our other key target here was **Blue Whistling Thrush**. This impressive species initially gave excellent flight views, accompanied by its distinctive call, before eventually perching on a rock and allowing prolonged scope views. As the weather warmed, raptors began to appear, including **Booted Eagle**, **Long-legged Buzzard**, **Cinereous Vulture** and **Common Kestrel**.

Lunch was taken in a shady spot, although the birding continued throughout. A delightful pair of **Azure Tits** fed in a nearby tree, which also held **Common Rosefinch**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Blue Tit** and **Great Tit**. A **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** was added to the steadily growing raptor list.

After lunch, we took a walk further up the valley. The **Booted Eagle** and **Cinereous Vulture** both reappeared, again giving excellent views. A **Common Pheasant** looked rather more at home than the released birds we are used to seeing in Britain. Our main target here was **White-crowned Penduline Tit**. We located a couple of their intricately woven nests on the hillside and enjoyed good views of adults bringing food to the nests. A **Chukar** stood proudly on a prominent rock, while a chattering flock of **Grey-crowned Goldfinches** fed nearby. A **Common Cuckoo** called distantly.

Our other key target species was **Meadow Bunting**. A distant bird looked promising but could not be identified with certainty. Fortunately, we had several more opportunities later in the trip.

By now, the combination of heat and travel was beginning to take its toll, so we returned to our Almaty hotel for some much-needed rest after a productive first day.



Azure Tit © Greg Beeton

Thursday 21 May 2026

Following a leisurely breakfast, we left Almaty at around 08:00 and headed east towards Kokpek Pass and the Sogety Plain. A fuel stop produced our first **European Bee-eaters**, perched on roadside wires, together with a **Masked Wagtail**, the local form of **White Wagtail**. A brief stop to buy bread added **Black Kite** and **Common Tern**.

Our first proper birding stop was in an area of irrigated smallholdings, where we enjoyed a productive couple of hours. Several **Grey-crowned Goldfinches** were feeding alongside **Eurasian Tree Sparrows**, while **Common Nightingales** seemed to be singing from every patch of cover. A **Laughing Dove** perched on an aerial, whilst telegraph wires on the opposite side of the road held three **Long-tailed Shrikes** and a large flock of **Rosy Starlings**. **Blyth's Reed Warblers** sang noisily from the scrub and occasionally showed themselves. Several **Red-rumped Swallows** were flying in and out of an old farm building where they were nesting.

We had been hearing **Indian Golden Orioles** throughout the morning and eventually tracked them down to a particular tree where their nest was located. Retreating to a respectful distance, we enjoyed decent views of both male and female birds, noting the distinctive dark eye-stripe of the male.

A roadside lunch stop brought yet more good birds. **Blyth's Reed Warbler** and **Common Nightingale** again seemed to sing from every bush, while **Cetti's Warbler**, **Corn Bunting** and **Common Quail** were all heard. Three more **Long-tailed Shrikes** were present, together with two noisy **Lesser Grey Shrikes** feeding along the roadside. A **White-crowned Penduline Tit** was seen attending its nest in a small patch of woodland, whilst a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** showed well nearby.

On the opposite side of the road, a large colony of **Spanish Sparrows** and **House Sparrows** fed noisily in a tree, whilst a **Siberian Stonechat** perched atop a nearby reed stem. Three smart **Rock Doves** looked good for genuinely wild birds rather than feral descendants. A large flock of **Rosy Starlings** settled distantly on overhead wires, while the raptor tally increased with **Long-legged Buzzard**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** and **Common Kestrel**.

A long drive eventually brought us out onto the vast open expanses of the Sogety Plain and an entirely different suite of species. A short walk from the vehicle quickly produced our first **Isabelline Wheatears**,

characteristically standing upright on prominent perches. A much paler bird proved to be a **Desert Wheatear**. Shortly afterwards, a small pale warbler appeared atop a nearby bush. This was our other major target bird, **Asian Desert Warbler**. It did not remain in view for long, but everyone managed reasonable views.

Our first mammals of the trip were also recorded here, including several **Great Gerbils** and a distant **Goitered Gazelle**, whilst a **Steppe Agama** started the reptile list. As we returned to the vehicle, three small birds flew in and landed on a bush right beside the minibus. They proved to be **Mongolian Finches**, providing superb views before eventually flying off.

Our final stop of the day was at a small drinking pool created by a leaking pipe near a remote farm. As we turned onto the track, a rather unexpected **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen perched atop a roadside sign. On arrival, we flushed a **Tolai Hare**. A **Rock Sparrow** and several **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** were perched on a farm building, whilst **Isabelline Wheatears** and a **Pied Wheatear** occupied a nearby dung heap. Coming down to drink were several brightly coloured **Common Linnets** and a single **Mongolian Finch**. Careful searching also revealed a couple of **Horned Larks** feeding nearby.

A large raptor perched on a rocky outcrop proved to be a splendid **Golden Eagle**, which eventually took flight and drifted away across the plain.

Our accommodation for the night was a basic but atmospheric hunting lodge. We arrived after dark to the calls of a **European Scops Owl**. The bird sounded close at hand, but despite a diligent search by torchlight, it remained unseen.



Mongolian Finch © Greg Beeton

Friday 22 May 2026

We met at 05:00 for a pre-breakfast walk around the grounds of the hunting lodge. The habitat comprised mixed woodland alongside a stream, and the dawn chorus was already in full swing. **Common Nightingale**, **Greenish Warbler**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, **Azure Tit** and **Common Cuckoo** were all present.

A pair of **Oriental Turtle Doves** perched in a nearby tree, whilst close by we located a **White-winged Woodpecker**, its distinctive white wing patches immediately apparent. More open habitat held a pair of

Spotted Flycatchers, several **Grey-crowned Goldfinches**, **Pied Wheatear** and **Isabelline Wheatear**, as well as improved views of the pair of **White-winged Woodpeckers**.

Looking out towards the road, we added **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Black Kite** and, rather unexpectedly, a **White-tailed Eagle**. The pre-breakfast birding was not yet over, as a nearby clearing produced our first **Turkestan Shrike**. Ben, who had started birding slightly later and was exploring away from the group, also found the trip's only **Long-tailed Tits**.

After breakfast, we set off on a spectacular drive across the Sogety Plain towards a mountain pass before eventually reaching the Kyrgyzstan border.

A couple of birding stops were made en route. The first produced flocks of thirteen and three **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** respectively, together with a smart **Tawny Pipit**. Several **Eurasian Skylarks** were singing and displaying overhead, whilst another distant **Goitered Gazelle** was noted.

Our next stop was beside a line of roadside trees. One tree, directly adjacent to the road, held a highly visible **Long-legged Buzzard** nest containing two well-grown young birds. Three **Lesser Grey Shrikes** flew to the top of the same tree, whilst nearby bushes held **Turkestan Shrike**, **Spanish Sparrow** and **Red-headed Bunting**. A pale warbler seen only by the guide and one member of the group looked a good candidate for **Sykes's Warbler**, but unfortunately disappeared before everyone could connect. Another species to revisit later in the tour. We also heard our first **Eurasian Hoopoe** and **Common Raven**.

The scenery became increasingly dramatic as we entered more mountainous terrain. A stop overlooking the end of Charyn Gorge quickly produced our target bird, **Grey-necked Bunting**, which showed exceptionally well and gave the photographers plenty of opportunities. Visible migration was also evident, with twelve **European Rollers** passing through the valley. Among the **House Martins**, a single **Alpine Swift** powered overhead, while a **Common Cuckoo** also flew through.

As we continued, **Red-footed Falcon** and a probable **Bearded Vulture** were seen from the vehicle before an impromptu stop was made for outstanding views of a passing **Golden Eagle**. Nearby, a **Rock Bunting** sang from the hillside, and yet more **Turkestan Shrikes** were recorded.

We were now at Kegen Pass. A stop here produced **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush**, together with another **Tawny Pipit**, **Rock Bunting** and **Grey-necked Bunting**. At a small farm near the summit we added **European Bee-eater**, **Eurasian Hoopoe**, **Corn Bunting**, **Common Linnet**, **Northern Wheatear** and yet another **Golden Eagle**. It was proving to be an excellent day for this majestic species. Several **Bobak Marmots** on the hillside were also added to the mammal list.

Approaching the Kyrgyz border, a fuel stop yielded our first **Red-billed Choughs**, whilst **Rosy Starlings** decorated the rooftops.

The border crossing itself was straightforward, and we were soon through with passports stamped. However, watches needed to be advanced by an hour, making the day feel even longer.

A late lunch was taken beside a small lake just outside the village of San-Tash, where we added a number of new trip species. Initially, our attention was drawn to the surrounding meadows, where, after a short search, we eventually located our target, a **Richard's Pipit**, which gave good views.

Returning to the lake itself, a pair of nesting **Whooper Swans** were the most obvious birds. Nearby, two **Common Cranes** fed alongside a **Grey Heron**, whilst a **White Stork** made a brief appearance. Several wader species were present, including **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Redshank** and **Northern Lapwing**. A large raptor quartering the far side of the lake proved to be a ringtail **Hen Harrier**, while a **Eurasian Hobby** was also seen.

Attention then switched to the water, where a good selection of wildfowl was present. Highlights included numerous **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Mallards**, **Gadwall**, **Northern Pintails**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Ferruginous Ducks**, **Tufted Ducks**, **Eurasian Coots** and **Common Moorhens**, whilst several **Black-necked Grebes** fed towards the far end of the lake.

As we walked back towards the minibus for lunch, **Barn Swallows** and **Sand Martins** skimmed overhead. Suddenly, a brilliantly coloured wagtail landed on a nearby rock. It proved to be a stunning **Citrine Wagtail**, affording superb views for all.

Time was now pressing on, and the remainder of the day was spent driving to Karakol, where we would spend the next four nights at the Matsunoki Guest House.



Grey-necked Bunting © Sean Moore

Saturday 23 May 2026

Our first full day in Kyrgyzstan saw us heading into the Tien Shan Mountains, which had been tantalising us in the distance since our arrival.

It was a 05:00 departure for the long drive, made even more challenging by an ambitious Chinese road-building programme that had created miles of roadworks. After several sunny days, the weather had also deteriorated, making for a wet and rather gloomy journey.

After a bumpy couple of hours, we eventually reached the small town of Barskoon on the southern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul. Turning off the main road, we began a steady climb into the mountains. As we negotiated a series of switchbacks, the weather worsened dramatically and soon we were driving through a full-blown blizzard. A succession of parked Chinese lorry drivers looked on in amazement as we pressed on regardless.

Eventually, we reached an altitude of 3,844 metres above sea level and disembarked into what was effectively a whiteout. The obvious question was whether we would find any birds at all in these conditions.

A call immediately alerted us to a pair of **Ruddy Shelducks** on a frozen lake. Ahead, barely visible through the snow, stood a couple of farm buildings. Making our way slowly towards them in the thin mountain air, we were relieved to find a smart male **Güldenstädt's Redstart** perched on a rooftop, soon joined by a female. Success!

The rest of the day was spent birding our way back down the mountain.

Our first stop was at a snowy roadside bend. We could hear our first **Himalayan Snowcocks** calling high above us, while birds began to appear around us. A female **Eastern Black Redstart** hopped between the rocks before being joined by a stunning **Himalayan Rubythroat**. Then another small bird appeared on top of a low bush: a **Brown Accentor**, the first of the three accentor species we hoped to find during the trip.

Further down the mountain, we stopped again. Here we braved a constant procession of Chinese fuel tankers heading towards the nearby border. We could also hear the continuous sound of rockfalls caused by melting snow. Two **Himalayan Snowcocks** were seen briefly in flight. A distant perched bird briefly raised hopes before proving to be only a **Mistle Thrush**. **Alpine Choughs** were constant companions, as were small flocks of **Plain Mountain Finches**. A **Northern Wheatear** perched prominently nearby, while two pigeons flying past showed broad white tails, identifying them as **Hill Pigeons**, a very welcome sighting.

Another stop beside a small pasture allowed closer views of **Plain Mountain Finches**, while several **Water Pipits** were also feeding nearby.

Lunch was taken beside a small bridge. Although the Chinese were constructing a new cement works nearby, the birding was excellent. On the river we eventually located a **White-bellied Dipper**, while **Grey Wagtails** were nesting beneath the bridge. Promising-looking scrub on the hillside produced several excellent birds. A male **Eastern Black Redstart** looked considerably more at home than the individual recently seen on Sheringham Promenade. He was joined by a striking male **Eversmann's Redstart**, which showed particularly well. A couple of singing **Himalayan Rubythroats** also performed nicely, while a **Hume's Leaf Warbler** moved constantly through the bushes.

A small *Phylloscopus* warbler was then picked up feeding on bare ground beneath a bush. It lacked a wing-bar and showed a striking yellow supercilium. This proved to be a **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, a species recorded only once in Britain.

Our final stop of the day was in an area of mixed woodland and scrub. Although there was still some rain in the air and a cool breeze persisted, it provided an excellent final hour of birding. Star of the show was a superb **Blue-capped Redstart**, which showed very well. It was accompanied by **Eversmann's Redstart** and a pair of **Eastern Black Redstarts**. In the pines, **Goldcrest** and our first **Coal Tits** of the trip were heard. A larger bird then appeared at the top of a pine tree, revealing itself as a brightly coloured male **White-winged Grosbeak**. Shortly afterwards, a small flock flew into a nearby treetop. These were **Red-fronted Serins**, with the males looking particularly striking with their bright red foreheads.

Eventually, we had to drag ourselves away for the long drive back to Karakol through the roadworks. Despite the challenging weather, it had been a superb day's birding in a remarkable mountain landscape.



Himalayan Rubythroat © Sean Moore



Sulphur-bellied Warbler © Greg Beeton

Sunday 24 May 2026

Thankfully, the rain and snow from the previous day had moved on. It was another 05:00 start as we headed for another mountain valley, this time at Chon-Ashuu.

Before reaching the valley, however, we stopped at a steep-sided hillside overlooking a river. Birdsong was everywhere and we quickly began adding species to the day list. **Common Rosefinches** were singing constantly, while our first **Grasshopper Warblers** reeled from the vegetation. A pair of **Oriental Turtle Doves** perched in a nearby tree. **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Common Whitethroat** were both seen, the latter appearing noticeably paler than birds familiar to us in Britain. **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Greenish**

Warbler and **Blyth's Reed Warbler** were also present. A **Black Kite** drifted overhead, accompanied by a pair of **Mallards** and a **Ruddy Shelduck**. **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** fed in the morning sunshine.

Our target bird took some finding, but eventually a male **Pine Bunting** appeared on a distant rock before obligingly flying onto a telegraph wire, much to the delight of the photographers.

Time was pressing on, and we continued towards Chon-Ashuu. The scenery here was magnificent but, once again, under pressure from development. A gold mine further up the valley had resulted in major road construction works. Unfortunately, this appeared to have affected one of our principal targets, **White-browed Tit Warbler**, with no recent groups, us included, connecting with the species despite considerable effort.

However, there were plenty of other birds to enjoy. As on the previous day, our strategy was to start high and work our way down.

On the drive up the valley, we added **Himalayan Rubythroat**, **Citrine Wagtail**, **Plain Mountain Finch** and, best of all, seven **Hill Pigeons** to the day's list. Attention then turned to the surrounding mountain slopes. A **Golden Eagle** appeared over a ridge and, shortly afterwards, we finally obtained excellent views of two **Himalayan Snowcock**, perching on rocks and feeding. We spent some time enjoying these striking birds.

A little further down, another **Golden Eagle** appeared, accompanied by two **Himalayan Vultures**. Then another large, long-tailed raptor was spotted against the mountainside. It was a magnificent **Lammergeier**, which provided superb views as it approached. Turning our attention to the roadside bushes, we enjoyed our best views yet of a singing **Himalayan Rubythroat**. Another **Eversmann's Redstart** was present and we also added two important new species. The first was a **Black-throated Accentor**, which showed exceptionally well. Shortly afterwards, a male **Red-mantled Rosefinch** perched briefly in a bush, its deep rosy-pink plumage standing out brilliantly.

We eventually made our way down to the river on the valley floor, where the search for **Ibisbill** began. The first stop proved unsuccessful, although a pair of **Red-footed Falcons** chasing a **Black Kite** provided an enjoyable distraction.

As we headed back towards the minibus, our interpreter Shynar suddenly began pointing excitedly above our heads. Looking up, we were astonished to find a **Lammergeier** directly overhead, apparently inspecting us at close range. The views were unforgettable.

Following another excellent picnic lunch, we made a second attempt to find our target species. This time we were successful, locating an **Ibisbill** feeding beside a small waterfall. Although superficially similar to a wader, this remarkable species is sufficiently distinctive to occupy its own family. It is an impressive bird and undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip.

Our final birding of the day involved climbing a steep hillside. Your author eventually ran out of energy and stopped to rest while the remainder of the group continued higher. However, the decision was rewarded with outstanding point-blank views of a pair of **Red-mantled Rosefinches**.

The rest of the group did not add any new species but also enjoyed views of **Red-mantled Rosefinch**, **Black-throated Accentor**, **White-winged Grosbeak** and **Eversmann's Redstart**.

Another excellent day in the mountains had come to an end.



Ibisbill © Greg Beeton

Monday 25 May 2026

For our final day in the mountains, we opted to return to Barskoon in the hope that improved weather would allow us to connect with a few remaining target species.

At the top of the valley, where we had endured a blizzard just 48 hours earlier, bright sunshine now greeted us. The pair of **Güldenstädt's Redstarts** did not take long to relocate and gave excellent views perched on rocks. They were soon joined by our third accentor species of the trip, **Altai Accentor**, which also showed well while feeding nearby.

Bobak Marmots were abundant, and there was a brief moment of excitement when several began chasing a small weasel. Judging by its size, it was probably a **Least Weasel**.

As we continued down the road, two **White-bellied Dippers** were found on a small pool. A flock of **Plain Mountain Finches** attracted our attention, but among them were several different birds. Their distinctive calls and bounding flight identified them as four **Brandt's Mountain Finches**, another of our key targets for the day.

Back at the cement works bridge, bird activity was noticeably quieter than during our previous visit. The **White-bellied Dipper** remained present, as did the **Grey Wagtails**, which were joined by a pair of **Common Sandpipers**.

We then moved further down the valley. While another excellent picnic lunch was being prepared, we made our way through the trees towards the fast-flowing river. A couple of group members briefly glimpsed a dipper flying downstream. Remarkably, Ilyas managed to spot where it had disappeared beneath a large boulder. Positioning ourselves carefully on the opposite bank, we could just make out the bird perched on a branch. It proved to be a **Brown Dipper**, our other principal target species for the day.

Our final birding stop was on a boulder-strewn hillside, where the best bird was another **Black-throated Accentor**. Several **Himalayan Vultures** appeared overhead, while a passing raptor briefly generated excitement before eventually being identified as a **Steppe Buzzard**. We would become very familiar with this species during the long journey home, often seeing them perched along roadside fence lines.

As we enjoyed our final meal at the excellent Dastorkon Restaurant in Karakol, we reflected on three superb days in the mountains, filled with outstanding birds and set against some truly spectacular scenery.



Brown Dipper © Rob Dazley

Tuesday 26 May 2026

Today was largely a travelling day as we made the long journey back to Almaty, although a series of birding stops along the way produced several new species for the trip list.

Just outside Karakol, we turned off the road near the local rubbish tip. Overhead were dozens of **Black Kites**, together with one or two **Caspian Gulls**. We then made our way to a small lake adjacent to a river, with several scattered pools nearby. It looked promising and quickly proved to be so.

Our attention initially focused on the lake itself. Wildfowl numbers were low, with just a few **Mallards** and a couple of **Ruddy Shelducks** present. A pair of **Common Terns** flew overhead, accompanied by a **Black-headed Gull**. A mixed flock of hirundines included **Barn Swallow**, **House Martin** and **Sand Martin**, together with our first **Common Swifts** of the trip. Along the margins we found **Northern Lapwing**, **Common Redshank** and **Little Ringed Plover**, while **Common Cuckoos** seemed to be everywhere. A brief **Citrine Wagtail** appeared on the riverbank and a **Common Moorhen** fed nearby.

One of the ponds held a **Temminck's Stint**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Eurasian Coot**. Turning our attention to the surrounding scrub, a **Turkestan Shrike** briefly raised hopes of **Brown Shrike** until better views of the tail settled the identification. A **Barred Warbler** then popped up and posed nicely in some bare branches, while **Cetti's Warbler** added to the soundtrack.

Our next stop was in an area of meadow and scrub on the outskirts of a small town. As we stepped off the minibus, a pair of **Eurasian Hobbies** were already circling overhead. An **Oriental Turtle Dove** delighted the photographers, while the surrounding bushes held **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler**, **Common Rosefinch** and **Cetti's Warbler**. More **Common Cuckoos** were seen, a **Grey Heron** flew over

and a **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** perched atop a bush. A pale grey warbler with a long bill prompted considerable discussion before we eventually concluded that it was a **Sykes's Warbler**.

We then visited some farmland fringed with reedbeds, which added several new species to the day list. First up was a pair of **Paddyfield Warblers** singing from the tops of the reeds. **Common Grasshopper Warblers** had started reeling and we eventually enjoyed excellent views of one bird in a crop field. A **Corncrake** called repeatedly from deep cover, whilst **Corn Bunting** and the ever-present **Common Cuckoo** were also heard. A **Siberian Stonechat** showed particularly well for the photographers.

Time was moving on and we still had a border to cross. Before doing so, we paid a return visit to the lake at San-Tash for lunch. Much the same selection of wildfowl was present as on our previous visit, although we added three **Garganey** (including two males), four **Eurasian Teal** and a lone **Eurasian Wigeon**.

The border crossing back into Kazakhstan went smoothly. In fact, thanks to the one-hour time difference, we arrived back in Kazakhstan earlier than we had left Kyrgyzstan. A **Eurasian Hoopoe** perched obligingly on the border fence.

A stop in a small mountain valley produced a **Tawny Pipit** at the roadside. Overhead, a **Golden Eagle** drifted across the valley, whilst **Chukar**, **Pied Wheatear**, **Isabelline Wheatear**, two **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **Corn Bunting** and **Common Linnet** were also recorded.

After a long day, time was beginning to run short, but we still had one final birding stop planned in a side valley at Kokpek Pass for a couple of key target species. We climbed some way up the valley, flushing dozens of White-veined Butterflies and enjoying good views of **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** and a brief **Blue Rock Thrush**. Three small birds perched atop a rocky crag proved to be **Mongolian Finches**, whilst two **Golden Eagles** soared overhead. It was proving to be an excellent trip for this species.

One of our principal targets here was **White-capped Bunting**. Although we heard several birds, frustratingly none showed themselves. However, as we returned to the minibus, we were rewarded with excellent views of our other key target, **Meadow Bunting**.

As we neared Almaty, two flyover birds were added to the trip list. First came a **Great White Egret**, followed shortly afterwards by a **Black-crowned Night Heron** seen by a couple of the group. **European Rollers** were also a constant presence on roadside telegraph wires.



Oriental Turtle Dove © Sean Moore

Wednesday 27 May 2026

Today was another travelling day as we journeyed from Almaty to our yurt camp in the Taukum Desert. A planned visit to Sorbulak Lake had to be abandoned because of a road closure, so we instead diverted to the town of Konaev on the shore of Lake Kapchagay, where we stopped at a small, sheltered bay.

As we walked towards the water, we encountered our first **Yellow Wagtails** of the trip. These were of the striking black-headed form and looked particularly smart. A **Great Reed Warbler** sang loudly from the reeds, whilst nearby a **Paddyfield Warbler** was also in full voice. On the water were numerous **Great Crested Grebes**, whilst three **Red-crested Pochards** flew overhead.

Several **Black Terns** were feeding just offshore alongside a few **Common Terns**. Across the bay we could see several **Little Terns** amongst **Caspian Gulls** and **Black-headed Gulls**, whilst a lone **Dalmatian Pelican** stood among them. Several **Little Ringed Plovers** scurried around a muddy puddle and a **Common Cuckoo** perched on a telegraph wire. A **Western Marsh Harrier** over the reedbed provided another trip tick.

Our next stop was in a dry, scrubby area on the outskirts of Konaev. The star bird here was a **Sykes's Warbler**, which eventually gave excellent views from the top of a bush. Nearby, a smart **Red-headed Bunting** sang from a prominent perch. A **Tawny Pipit** and two **Eurasian Hoopoes** were also seen, whilst several members of the group who remained closer to the minibus recorded the first **Calandra Larks** and **Crested Larks** of the trip.

Just off the main road, we stopped beside a small quarry that hosted a breeding colony of around 500 **Rosy Starlings**. It was fascinating to watch the birds interacting and provided some excellent photographic opportunities.

A brief fuel stop allowed the rest of the group to catch up with **Crested Lark**, whilst a flyover **Egyptian Vulture** proved to be our only sighting of the species during the trip.

The drive into the desert was punctuated by impressive camel farms, with several hundred animals grazing close to the roadside.

Lunch was taken at an abandoned petrol station. Strewn with rubbish and assorted debris, it was not the most attractive location and generated quite an odour in the midday heat. However, despite having only a handful of small trees and bushes, it proved remarkably productive for birds.

A pair of **Spotted Flycatchers** were feeding in the first tree, which also held **Lesser Whitethroat**. They were joined by both **Sykes's Warbler** and **Blyth's Reed Warbler**. From seemingly nowhere, a **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** appeared, disappeared and then reappeared again. A **Barred Warbler** also dropped in briefly. On nearby telegraph wires, **European Bee-eater** and **Red-headed Bunting** perched side by side in a blaze of colour. A **Eurasian Hoopoe** sat atop a nearby farm building. Overhead, numerous **Black Kites** were joined by a **Booted Eagle**, our first since the opening day of the trip.

A short walk after lunch produced a family party of **Pied Wheatears** around a farm outbuilding, but our attention was soon drawn to a large finch with a stout black bill and a distinctive pink flash in the wing. It proved to be a male **Desert Finch**, which remained in view for several minutes while preening.

Our final birding stop of the day was a brief foray into the Taukum Desert itself. A **Long-legged Buzzard** sat on the ground, whilst four **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew across the landscape. **Calandra Larks** appeared to be everywhere, accompanied by numerous **Isabelline Wheatears**.

After leaving the vehicle, we began scanning the vast open landscape. It was not long before I picked up a **Caspian Plover**. In such a huge area, it took a little while to get everyone onto the bird, but eventually we were all enjoying good views. It was a splendid male showing a broad chestnut breast-band and the distinctive pale rear supercilium that separates it from the sand plovers.

In the distance, we also noted a couple of **Goitered Gazelles**.

We then continued to the yurt camp, our home for the next two nights. However, the day's drama was not quite over. Ilyas, our guide, was taken ill and had to leave the tour to seek medical treatment. Machiel, owner of Rubythroat Birding, was enlisted as a replacement guide and made the long journey from Almaty through a spectacular thunderstorm, arriving shortly before midnight.



Red-headed Bunting and Bee-eater © Sean Moore

Thursday 28 May 2026

It was an early start as we emerged from our yurts at 04:30. Thankfully, the overnight rain had cleared, and we were greeted by singing **Calandra Larks** and **Greater Short-toed Larks**.

We began the day at a small farmstead with a pool and a scattering of trees. The star bird was an **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler**, although unfortunately it was seen only by the leader and a couple of group members. **Common Chaffinch** was a surprising trip tick. **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, **Hume's Leaf Warbler** and **Oriental Turtle Dove** were also present. A nearby pool created by a leaking pipe held a **Temminck's Stint** and a pair of **Little Ringed Plovers**. A **Eurasian Hoopoe** was also nearby, whilst a **Booted Eagle** (possibly the same individual seen the previous day) drifted overhead.

We then returned to the desert and a waterhole used by livestock. After a short wait, several **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** arrived to drink. **Calandra Lark**, **Greater Short-toed Lark** and the paler **Turkestan Short-toed Lark** were all present, whilst two **Eurasian Hoopoes** flew through. Several **Yellow Wagtails** were also present, this time of the blue-headed form.

It was not long before Machiel spotted a pair of sandgrouse feeding nearby. We were in luck: they proved to be **Pallas's Sandgrouse**, a key target species for many members of the group. The male was particularly handsome, showing long pointed wings, warm buff plumage, an orange face and a grey breast-band. We watched the pair feeding for some time before returning to camp for breakfast.

The main focus of the day was the Turanga Woodland, and we headed there after breakfast. We soon stopped, however, when a **Steppe Grey Shrike**, the local form of **Great Grey Shrike**, flew into a roadside tree. Shortly afterwards, we stopped again for a **Horsfield's Tortoise** crossing the road. It was carefully moved to safety at the roadside.

Eventually we reached a bus stop that was known to be a breeding site for **Saxaul Sparrow**. As we stepped out of the vehicle, several birds could be heard calling and all looked promising. Unfortunately, a sudden sandstorm blew in, sending us scurrying back to the minibus to protect both ourselves and our optics. Visibility deteriorated rapidly and we decided to move on.

We soon arrived at our principal site in the Turanga Woodland, only for a thunderstorm to strike almost immediately. Carrying metal tripods was suddenly less appealing, so we sheltered in the minibus and enjoyed an excellent early lunch while waiting for conditions to improve.

The storm soon passed and the sun reappeared, allowing us to start birding properly. Within minutes we had one of our main targets, **Yellow-eyed Pigeon**, with three birds flying past. Next came a **Saxaul Sparrow**, perched in dead branches and showing its distinctive black-and-buff head pattern. Calls then alerted us to a **White-winged Woodpecker**, which gave decent flight views.

Our final target was **Turkestan Tit**. Although still officially treated as a subspecies of **Great Tit** by some authorities, many observers consider it sufficiently distinctive in both appearance and genetics to warrant full species status.

We then began the journey back to camp, making several productive roadside stops. The first produced a pair of **Black-winged Stilts** on a roadside pool. The next yielded another **Sykes's Warbler** together with a **Red-headed Bunting**, whilst the final stop produced a **Bimaculated Lark**, which obligingly landed on the road and showed its heavy bill and distinctive head pattern extremely well. A **Lesser Grey Shrike** was also seen from the minibus.

Our final birding stop of the day was back at the waterhole visited earlier. A large herd of horses was now grazing nearby. Among them was a **Citrine Wagtail**, whilst a **Eurasian Hoopoe** fed close by. Four **Pallas's Sandgrouse** flew overhead, giving excellent views.

The main excitement, however, came from a **Eurasian Hobby** in hot pursuit of a **Greater Short-toed Lark**. The lark did everything possible to evade capture, at one point flying between our legs and beneath the minibus, with the Hobby coming perilously close to colliding with us. It was a thrilling spectacle.

After dinner, we took a short walk into the desert armed with a thermal imager in search of nocturnal mammals. Distant **Goitered Gazelles** were quickly located, followed by a **Small-toed Jerboa** and finally a **Long-eared Hedgehog**. The thermal imager even detected the eye-shine of a wolf spider, allowing us to take a closer look at this fascinating desert predator.



Pallas's Sandgrouse © Greg Beeton



Saxaul Sparrow © Greg Beeton

Friday 29 May 2026

We were up early once again and headed back to the area where we had seen **Caspian Plovers** a couple of days earlier. It did not take long to relocate two birds, and, with some wider scanning, we also picked up a distant **Greater Sand Plover**, although heat haze made viewing difficult. A **Pallas's Sandgrouse** flew overhead, whilst **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** were widespread, many feeding around roadside puddles.

Our main target was **Macqueen's Bustard**, and despite a determined search we were ultimately unsuccessful. Compensation came in the form of a magnificent second-calendar-year **Steppe Eagle**. This huge bird sat on the ground for several minutes before eventually taking flight.

Our next stop was the small farmstead visited the previous day, which was once again full of birds. Much the same selection of species was present, but a female **Common Redstart** completed our list of redstart species for the trip. Another new trip bird was **European Goldfinch**, whilst a **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** fed in scrub behind the garden.

We then moved on to a small farm with several pools behind it. A **Temminck's Stint** was easily located as it fed alongside the somewhat incongruous remains of a dead cow's head. Also present were three **Little Ringed Plovers**, whilst two **Black-winged Pratincoles** flew overhead. A **Spanish Sparrow** and **Red-headed Bunting** were also noted.

That effectively concluded the birding for the day as we began the long drive back to Almaty in preparation for the final stage of the tour. On arrival, we said farewell to Oleg, our driver, and Shynar, our interpreter, who very kindly presented each of us with a bar of Kazakh chocolate, which proved to be delicious.



Steppe Eagle © Sean Moore

Saturday 30 May 2026

A 03:30 alarm call signalled the start of another long day, this time involving a flight to Astana. Fortunately, the flight departed on time and proceeded smoothly. We arrived in Astana at around 08:30 and, after collecting our luggage, met our new driver and interpreter, both named Bofan.

Heading south from the city, we stopped for a late breakfast at an area of wet meadows. After enjoying some excellent savoury pastries, we began birding. A pair of **Bluethroats** appeared to be nesting nearby, with both male and female showing well from the tops of bushes. A **Hooded Crow** also flew into the same area. A **Eurasian Penduline Tit** then flew between bushes, providing good flight views.

Crossing the road, we began working our way along a footpath. A **Common Grasshopper Warbler** reeled continuously, whilst a **Siberian Stonechat** perched atop a reed stem. A small pale warbler then appeared. Being much further north than earlier in the trip, this was identified as a **Booted Warbler** rather than the similar **Sykes's Warbler**. A **Sedge Warbler** sang nearby, and we also glimpsed our first **Common Reed Buntings**. A **Common Rosefinch** sang from a bush, whilst a **Caspian Gull** and **Great White Egret** flew overhead.

As we crossed back over the road, we spotted a harrier. Although **Pallid Harrier** is generally the more frequent species here, this bird showed obvious black wing-bars and was quickly identified as a **Montagu's Harrier**. We enjoyed prolonged views before continuing.

It did not take long to find a **Pallid Harrier**, with one quartering at our next roadside stop alongside a **Western Marsh Harrier**. On nearby pools were a **Dalmatian Pelican**, four **Whooper Swans** and several **Common Pochards**. We also recorded our first **Pallas's Gulls**, **Steppe Gulls** (the local form of **Lesser Black-backed Gull**) and large numbers of **White-winged Black Terns**. A **Common Quail** called repeatedly from nearby cover. We also glimpsed our first **White-winged Lark**, a species we would see much better later in the day.

Another roadside pool produced several new trip species. A pair of elegant **Demoiselle Cranes** fed in the distance. On the water were several **Black-necked Grebes**, **Great Crested Grebes**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Garganey**, **Whooper Swans**, **Common Shelducks** and, rather surprisingly, a **Common Goldeneye**. Waders included **Black-winged Stilt**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Common Redshank** and **Black-winged Pratincole**. A distant **Black Lark** sat on the far side of the pool, although better views would follow later.

There were also numerous **White-winged Black Terns**, together with a **Caspian Tern**, its distinctive orange bill standing out clearly. **Common Swifts** and **Barn Swallows** fed overhead. It was an excellent site, but time was pressing.

Our next stop was beside a large arable field, where it thankfully did not take long to find our target species: a pair of **Sociable Lapwings**. With a global population estimated at only 15,000–24,000 birds, this Critically Endangered species was one of the trip's most important targets. Seeing them on their breeding grounds was a genuine privilege. They are striking birds, with a bold black crown and eye-stripe.

We next visited a series of reed-lined channels. As we walked along the track, a **Eurasian Bittern** flew out of the reeds, giving excellent flight views. A **Great Reed Warbler** sang nearby, whilst a **Red-necked Grebe** showed briefly.

We had now entered the Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, and our next stop proved particularly memorable. An area of woodland near a village held a small colony of 10–15 **Red-footed Falcons**, nesting alongside **Rooks**. We spent some time watching the falcons hawking dragonflies over the surrounding fields.

However, they also had a special guest. A male **Amur Falcon** had taken up residence among them, far from its normal breeding range. We quickly located it and enjoyed excellent views of its distinctive black-and-grey underwing pattern. Shortly afterwards, a **Steppe Merlin** flew from the woodland and perched briefly in the open. If that was not enough, we also added a new mammal to the trip list in the form of a **Yellow Ground Squirrel**.

Driving across the open steppe, we soon encountered two separate groups of **Saiga Antelope**, amounting to five animals in total. **White-winged Larks** were widespread and several posed obligingly for photographs.

Our final stop of the day was at another pool, which added **Northern Pintail** and at least ten **Garganey**. There were also numerous **Black-winged Pratincoles**, together with three **Marsh Sandpipers** and several **Black-winged Stilts**.



Amur Falcon © Greg Beeton



Pallas's Gull © Greg Beeton

Sunday 31 May 2026

By now, the 04:30 alarm calls were becoming routine.

Much of the day was spent exploring the vast steppe and the many shallow lakes created by winter snowmelt. Bird numbers were extraordinary, making for a truly memorable day's birding.

Most birders would probably consider themselves fortunate to have seen a few dozen **Red-necked Phalaropes** during their lifetime. We could now add several zeros to that figure. One lake alone appeared to hold as many as 10,000 birds.

The signature species featured in much of the advertising for Korgalzhyn is **Greater Flamingo**. Surprisingly, however, we encountered only a single small group.

Gull numbers, on the other hand, were extremely impressive. There were excellent numbers of **Pallas's Gulls** and **Steppe Gulls**, together with several **Slender-billed Gulls** and a couple of **Common Gulls**. We were also pleased to locate a sleeping **Little Gull** amongst them.

White-winged Black Terns, **Black Terns** and **Black-winged Pratincoles** seemed to be everywhere, feeding over the wetlands whilst simultaneously providing a food source for the seemingly endless mosquitoes that were feeding on us! Various forms of improvised headgear appeared in an effort to keep them at bay.

There were also some new trip species. **Ruffs** in breeding plumage were particularly impressive, whilst **Mute Swan** was another welcome addition to the list.

Other highlights included several hundred **Little Stints** feeding along the lake margins alongside **Little Ringed Plovers**. **Black-necked Grebes** numbered well into the hundreds, whilst **Red-necked Grebe**, **Garganey**, **Northern Pintail** and **Red-crested Pochard** all showed well.

Approaching a village, we encountered a pair of **Demoiselle Cranes**, which were briefly displaying. They were close to the road and provided excellent views, with one of the distinctive Kazakh cemeteries providing an atmospheric backdrop. The cemetery itself held several **Eurasian Tree Sparrows**.

We returned to the reed-lined channels visited the previous day. The **Eurasian Bittern** remained hidden, although it boomed regularly from deep cover. A **Pallid Harrier** drifted overhead together with a fine male **Western Marsh Harrier**, whilst a **Marsh Sandpiper** showed well beside the road.

Another shallow lake held many of the same species recorded earlier, although we did manage to add **Whimbrel** to the trip list.

The day concluded at a gull roost, where we enjoyed excellent views of 30–40 **Pallas's Gulls**, more than ten **Slender-billed Gulls**, two **Common Gulls**, together with numerous **Steppe Gulls** and **Caspian Gulls**. Several **Caspian Terns** were also present.



Black Lark © Greg Beeton



Black-winged Pratincole © Greg Beeton

Monday 1 June 2026

Our final full day before the journey home.

One key species remained missing from the trip list, and so we returned for a third visit to the reed-lined channels. This time our persistence paid off. After prolonged scanning, we finally located a pair of **White-headed Ducks**. Although distant, we were delighted to connect with them at last.

Both **Pallid Harrier** and **Western Marsh Harrier** were again present, with the latter showing particularly well for the photographers.

Elsewhere, we found **Rosy Starlings** drinking from roadside puddles, whilst a **European Bee-eater** perched on a wire and a **Siberian Stonechat** showed well.

We noticed that the **Black Larks** were regularly perching on a low roadside bank. As nobody had yet obtained the photographs they wanted, we decided to use the minibus as a mobile hide. After some patient waiting, one eventually landed on a convenient wire perch, allowing everyone to secure excellent photographs of this striking species, perhaps best known in Britain for the individual that visited Anglesey some twenty years ago.

A stop at another lake produced excellent views of two **Red-necked Grebes**. A **Dalmatian Pelican** flew the length of the lake, which also held good numbers of **Whooper Swans**. **White-winged Black Terns** and **Black-winged Pratincoles** were abundant, whilst we also enjoyed flight views of **Red-necked Phalaropes**.

We returned to our guesthouse for a final lunch before beginning the journey back to Astana. Several stops were made along the way. The **Sociable Lapwings** remained in the same arable field and were perhaps slightly closer than before, with one bird flying over our heads to the opposite side of the road. The pair of **Demoiselle Cranes** remained at their usual location, as did the pair of **Bluethroats**.

We arrived back in Astana during the late afternoon and checked into the Ibis Hotel for our final night. With its broad boulevards and striking modern architecture, Astana came as something of a culture shock after our time in the steppe.

En route to the hotel, we enjoyed a brief city tour, taking in landmarks including the Bayterek Tower, Nur-Astana Mosque, Hazret Sultan Mosque, the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, and the Presidential Palace.

That evening we shared a final meal together, reflecting on what had been a memorable and highly successful tour.



Tuesday 2 June 2026

Today was devoted to the journey home.

We left the hotel at 06:00 for the short drive through Astana to the airport. The flight departed on time and proved considerably less turbulent than the outbound journey. After a smooth connection in Istanbul, we arrived back at London Heathrow at around 17:00, where we said our farewells.

It had been a remarkable trip, producing an outstanding selection of birds and mammals against a backdrop of some truly spectacular scenery. The weather had provided plenty of variety too: warm sunshine, rain, snow, thunderstorms, sandstorms and strong winds all featured at some point during the tour.

A fitting end to an unforgettable journey through Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Special thanks to Greg Beeton, Rob Dazley and Sean Moore for the photos.



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[illegible]

66	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>																
67	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>																
68	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>								Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
69	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			Y	Y				Y		Y		Y	Y	Y		
70	Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>												Y		Y		
71	Caspian Plover	<i>Anarhynchus asiaticus</i>								Y			Y					
72	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>											Y					
73	Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>																
74	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>													Y			
75	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>																
76	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>																
77	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				Y								Y		Y		
78	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>																
79	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>																
80	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>																
81	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		Y				Y	Y	Y								
82	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>												Y	Y	Y		
83	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>																
84	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>												Y	Y	Y		
85	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>																
86	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				Y				Y				Y	Y	Y		
87	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>																
88	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>												Y	H	Y		
89	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>																
90	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>													Y			
91	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>																
92	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>																
93	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								Y		Y	Y		Y			
94	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>																
95	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>												Y				
96	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>												Y	Y			
No.	Species Name	Scientific Name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments
97	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>											Y	Y	Y	Y		
98	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>																
99	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>									Y			Y				

[illegible]

[illegible]

168	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>																
169	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>																
170	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>																
171	White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>				Y						Y						
172	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>																
173	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>																
174	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
175	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				Y		Y						Y	Y	Y		
176	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>												Y				
177	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				Y					Y		Y					
178	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>																
179	Barbary Falcon	<i>F p pelegrinoides</i>																Subspecies
180	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>																
181	Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>			Y													
182	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>																
183	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>																
184	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>L e pallidirostris</i>											Y					Subspecies
185	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			Y	Y						Y	Y					
186	Isabelline (Daurian) Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>																
187	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>																
188	Red-tailed (Turkestan) Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>				Y				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			
189	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>			Y													
190	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>					Y	Y	Y									
191	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>				Y	Y	Y	Y									
192	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
193	Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>																
194	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
195	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
No.	Species Name	Scientific Name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments
196	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>										Y	Y					
197	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				Y	Y		Y									
198	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
199	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus</i>		Y	Y													
200	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>												Y				
201	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus</i>		Y		Y				H								

202	Great Tit (Turkestan Tit)	<i>Parus major</i>		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
203	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>					Y											
204	Willow Tit (Songar Tit)	<i>Poecile montanus</i>																
205	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>																
206	White-winged Lark	<i>Alauda leucoptera</i>												Y	Y	Y		
207	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>																
208	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				Y		Y		Y				Y	Y	Y		
209	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristatus</i>									Y	Y	Y	Y				
210	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			Y													
211	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>										Y	Y	Y				
212	Hume's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>																
213	Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>										Y						
214	Black Lark	<i>Melanocorypha yeltoniensis</i>												Y	Y	Y		
215	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>									Y	Y	Y					
216	Asian Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala cheleensis</i>																
217	Turkestan Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala heinei</i>										Y	Y					
218	Booted Warbler	<i>Iduna caligata</i>												Y			Y	
219	Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>								Y	Y	Y						
220	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>										Y						
221	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>												Y			H	
222	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>																
223	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								Y	Y							
224	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>			Y	Y		H		Y	Y	Y	Y					
225	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>																
226	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>																Caspian Reed Warbler
227	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>									Y			Y	Y	H		
228	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>																
No.	Species Name	Scientific Name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments
229	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>																
230	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>						H		Y				Y		H		Eastern form
231	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				Y				Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		
232	Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>																
233	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				Y												
234	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
235	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				Y		Y		Y	Y			Y				

236	European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>			Y													
237	White-browed Tit-warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae</i>																
238	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				Y												
239	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H			H		Y								
240	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>																
241	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>		H	H	H	Y	Y	H	Y		Y	Y					
242	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>					Y											
243	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>																
244	Common Chiffchaff (Siberian)	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>																
245	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				Y		H	H	Y			Y					
246	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>																
247	Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria</i>								Y	Y							
248	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y					
249	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>																
250	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Curruca nana</i>			Y													
251	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					Y	Y		Y								
252	Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>																
253	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>					H											
254	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>																
255	Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronata</i>																
256	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>																
257	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>																
258	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
259	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>			Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		
260	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
261	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					Y	Y	Y									
No.	Species Name	Scientific Name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments
262	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>							Y									
263	White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera aurea</i>																
264	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
265	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		H	H	H	Y	Y	Y	Y	H		H	H				
266	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>																
267	Black-throated Thrush	<i>Turdus atrogularis</i>																
268	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>									Y	Y	Y					
269	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			Y	Y					Y	Y	Y					

[illegible]

304	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>						Y										
305	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>																
306	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>										Y	Y					
307	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carniipes</i>					Y	Y										
308	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		Y	H	Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	H				
309	Red-mantled Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>						Y										
310	Great Rosefinch (Spotted)	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>																
311	Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>																
312	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>			Y					Y								
313	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>					Y	Y	Y									
314	Brandt's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>							Y									
315	Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>									Y	Y						
316	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			H	Y		H										
317	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>																
318	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			Y	Y				Y								
319	Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>																
320	Red (Common) Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>																
321	Grey-crowned Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis caniceps</i>		H	Y	Y												
322	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>											Y					
323	Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>					Y											
324	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>																
325	Lapland Longspur (Bunting)	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>																
326	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>												Y	Y			
327	Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>				Y					Y	Y	Y					
No.	Species Name	Scientific Name	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments
328	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			Y	Y				Y								
329	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>								Y								
330	Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>				Y												
331	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>																
332	White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>								H								
333	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>						Y										
334	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>																
335	Rock Bunting					Y				Y								
336	White Stork					Y												
337	(Rufous Tailed) Rock Thrush					Y				Y								

338	Blue Rock Thrush									Y								
339	Amur Falcon												y					
No.	Other Wildlife																	
1	Tolai Hare			Y		Y	Y		Y			Y						
2	Goitered Gazelle			Y	Y					Y	Y	Y						
3	Great Gerbil			Y														
4	Steppe Agama			Y						Y								
5	Bobak Marmot				Y	Y	Y	Y										
6	Weasel sp (likely Least)							Y										
7	Mountain Goat								Y									
8	Horsefield's Tortoise										Y							
9	Small Five-Toed Jerboa										Y							
No.	Other Wildlife	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Comments	
10	Long-Eared Hedgehog										Y	Y						
11	Yellow Ground Squirrel												Y					
12	Saiga Antelope												Y	Y				