

# Kazakhstan

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 17 May 2015



Azure Tit



Pallas's Sandgrouse



Big Almaty Lake



Demoiselle Cranes

Report compiled by Reg Thorpe  
Images Courtesy of Inge van Leeuwen



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Tour Participants: Reg Thorpe and Dan Free (leaders) with fourteen Naturetrek clients

## Summary

It is always difficult to write a short summary of the Kazakhstan tour as it is so fantastic – excellent scenery and locations, wonderful birds and wildlife, and every year it just seems to get better and better.

Our trip took us from Almaty eastwards to the plains and steppe around the Charyn Gorge. Here we encountered most of the target species ranging from Crimson-winged and Mongolian Finches to Himalayan Vultures. We had the unexpected in the form of a singing Pine Bunting and a Little Bunting, but also, as usual, we had excellent views of many species.

In the Tien Shan Mountains the snowcocks, redstarts and accentors showed themselves, as did three Ibisbills. The couple of hours near the Observatory searching the juniper scrub was fantastic with great views of Himalayan Rubythroat, White-winged Grosbeak and Red-mantled Rosefinch as well as the usually elusive White-browed Tit-warbler.

Sorbulak lake, between the mountains and the deserts, provided fine views of waterfowl and pelicans, but the highlight was an immature Pallas's Fish-eagle; a scarce bird in Kazakhstan.

The desert around Kolshengol again produced just about everything we could have hoped for and it wasn't too hot: Pallas's Sandgrouse, a flock of Demoiselle Crane very close to our campsite, Macqueen's Bustard and a good range of small migrant passerines. Our trip to the Turanga Forest produced all the expected specialities including Saxaul Sparrow and Yellow-eyed Dove.

## Day 1

Friday 8th May

Flight from Gatwick (some delay, but we made the connection), flight from Manchester with no problems, and one client already in Istanbul and one in Almaty.

## Day 2

Saturday 9th May

We arrived at Almaty at dawn and after getting through customs, baggage reclaim, money exchange etc and our first taste of birding in Kazakhstan with Common Myna and Masked Wagtail at the airport, we were soon heading east out of the city. The first stop was in one of the many villages along the main road for two Long-tailed Shrikes which showed very well; and there were also three Red-rumped Swallows which only showed distantly. It was then on to a breakfast stop and here, as well as breakfast, we saw three Demoiselle Cranes, an Ortolan Bunting through the telescope, singing Hume's Warbler and a very showy White-crowned Penduline Tit.

We continued east and, turning off the main road, we headed to Malaybi where we had excellent views of 40 Pale Martins as they visited their nest holes in a small sand quarry. Also in the quarry were a few Indian Sparrows and on the wires several rollers and bee-eaters, our first Isabelline Wheatear, and overhead a dark Booted Eagle. After this we moved to the Kokpek Pass and although windy, we did manage to get close views of singing White-capped Bunting.

We then headed off towards our Guest House in Shunja. After lunch and for some a rest, for others a very windy experience in the vicinity of the Guest House, we headed back to the Sugaty Plain and found some shelter below a bank overlooking a leaking well. Here we had several visits from up to four Mongolian Finches, a male Crimson-winged Finch and a single Grey-necked Bunting, plus a fine Turkestan Shrike and a Giant Gerbill carrying its young.

We returned to the Guest House for our evening meal, the log and an early night.

## Day 3

Sunday 10th May

The wind had dropped overnight and the early risers were out walking around the edge of the village. A couple of Long-tailed Shrikes and two Grey-headed Goldfinches were the first birds of interest just outside the Guest House gates, but the walk also produced three Hobby, Oriental Turtle Dove, Barred Warbler and several very confiding Turkestan Shrikes.

After breakfast we set off to cross the Sugaty Plain on the southern road, stopping at regular intervals to scan for Macqueen's Bustard – finally finding one, but unfortunately it was rather distant. We also saw our first Cinereous Vulture and singing Short-toed Larks. One of the group managed to get onto two flying Pallas's Sandgrouse, but they landed out of sight before others could see them. After crossing the first part of the plain we dropped down to the bridge over the river Temirlik and here we found a Kazakhstan rarity in the form of a Little Bunting, plus two Rock Buntings, two much appreciated Azure Tits, a singing Hume's Whitethroat and several Pied Wheatear: a really excellent stop. We moved along the road westwards and stopped at the cemetery at Aksay where several Lesser Kestrels and Rock Sparrows showed well.

We then headed to the hills on the east side of the Charyn Gorge and stopped for lunch with the odd Himalayan Griffon Vulture overhead. With nice weather we set off towards the Charyn Gorge enjoying more vultures, a fine singing Pine Bunting, a pair of Horned Larks of the race *albigula* (also known as 'Caucasian' Lark), and a male of the *vitata* white-throated form of Pied Wheatear. The walk was proving productive, but then incoming mist meant we had to abandon our plans and retreat to the coach. Of course on arrival back at the coach the mist lifted.

A couple of stops as we left the hills produced a pair of Rock Thrush, more Rock Buntings and Pied Wheatear. After leaving the hills we went and looked at the Charyn Gorge from the bridge in excellent late afternoon light before heading back to the Guest House.

## Day 4

Monday 11th May

Before breakfast we walked around Shunja village and saw a similar mix of birds as yesterday, but at least five singing Barred Warblers, one of the singing Eastern Nightingales showed well, a White-winged Woodpecker and a Black Stork were new for the trip, as was a pair of 'Desert' *balimodendri* Lesser Whitethroat nest building.

After breakfast we loaded the bus with a few swifts overhead. We then travelled west over the Sugaty Plain, stopping for excellent views of Desert Wheatear, Asian Desert Warbler, the steppe race of Shorelark (also known as 'Steppe' Lark), and a Steppe Eagle which flew directly overhead after leaving its nest.

Next stop was the Kokpek pass which was less windy than on our first visit. We saw singing Rock and White-capped Buntings, a displaying Blue Rock Thrush, and a close pair of Pied Wheatear. After this we headed towards Almaty, stopping for lunch with adjacent Lesser Grey Shrike and Golden Oriole. Moving on, we met traffic and unfortunately light rain as we hit the city. By the time we reached the mountains it was heavy rain which made birding very unproductive for the last hour or so of light.

## Day 5

Tuesday 12th May

The weather forecast we had been given yesterday was wrong – it wasn't heavy rain all day; it was a calm, pleasant day (except for the brief thunderstorm) with fantastic birding.

The early risers were out at first light and saw Nutcracker and heard Blue Whistling Thrush. After breakfast we headed up to the Kosmostation. En route, between the Observatory and the Kosmostation, we had good views of Himalayan Snowcock calling from rocks and in flight, and small groups of Plain Mountain Finches and Red-fronted Serins. As we approached the end of the road a male Guldenstadt's Redstart appeared, and as we were getting off the coach we saw our first Altai Accentor. With snow on the ground there were few birds around the station but we saw Water Pipits and a pair of Chough. We walked down the road and found two Brown Accentors and three Brandt's Mountain Finches – a scarce species on this tour.

Having seen the key high altitude species, our next location was the Marmot Valley just south of the observatory. Here the bank of juniper provided some intense birding with the complete set of species associated with this habitat including the usually elusive White-browed Tit-Warbler, but also the expected Himalayan Rubythroat, Black-throated Accentor, White-winged Grosbeak, Sulphur-bellied Warbler and Red-mantled Rosefinch which all showed very well.

After lunch we descended further to a lake and walked along the path to overlook the rivers and boulders to search for Ibisbill. It didn't take long before we found three individuals that gave good views. Unfortunately a thunderstorm with heavy rain made us hurry back to the coach, but as the weather improved quickly, we were able to walk down the road from the lake towards Almaty with the highlight being a male Blue-capped Redstart.

We returned to the hotel and after a quick cup of coffee and waiting for another shower to pass, we had a brief excursion in the grounds. The birding here was again excellent and we saw another Blue-capped Redstart, more Black-throated Accentors, Himalayan Rubythroat, Nutcracker, Songar Tit, and the final good bird of the day was a bubbling Black Grouse – even though we couldn't see it.

We had enjoyed a really fantastic day in the Tien Shan mountains, seeing just about everything we could have expected to see at the higher altitudes.

## Day 6

Wednesday 13th May

The day started in the Tien Shan Mountains and ended in the Taukum desert.

Birding before and after breakfast in the mountains produced some of the birds we had missed yesterday with several fine Blue Whistling Thrushes and three Brown Dippers. Also one member of the party found a drumming Three-toed Woodpecker.

After leaving the mountains we went into Almaty for some shopping and then headed north to Sorbulak Lake. The first part of the lake complex was a Caspian Gull colony, but we also found a few Garganey, and a flock of Demoiselle Crane flew overhead. On our way to the main lake we found probably the most unexpected bird of the trip in the form of an immature Pallas's Fish Eagle. It was originally perched on a pylon close to the bus and later seen sitting on the lake shore with a White-tailed Eagle. On the lake itself were large flocks of Red-crested Pochard, both White and Dalmatian Pelicans, more Garganey, and a nice group of summer-plumage Spotted Redshank. Near the dam were a few Ferruginous Ducks and three White-headed Ducks. The final Sorbulak stop was a reed fringed pool with more White-headed Duck, Black-necked Grebe and a few waders: Wood and Green Sandpipers, Temminck's Stint and Black-winged Stilt.

Our final stop was at the 'Magic' Tree at Aldarly. Now only partly alive, it still held a nice mixture of birds: Lesser Grey Shrike, Red-headed Bunting, Barred Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat and Hume's Warbler. The nearby trees also held similar species.

We arrived at the Kolshengol campsite just after 7pm and enjoyed the singing larks before the evening meal, log and then bed.

## Day 7

Thursday 14th May

Today we had an early start and were away after breakfast by 6.45am. We headed west along the edge of the desert and saw Macqueen's Bustard both flying and, briefly, on the ground. We also saw a nice selection of birds including Calandra, Bimaculated, Short-toed and Lesser Short-toed Larks, Pallas's Sandgrouse, Greater Sand Plover with young, Rufous Bush Robin, and Steppe Eagle. On returning to the camp we came across a party of Demoiselle Cranes at the Artesian Well and two very confiding Pallas's Sandgrouse.

After lunch and a short sharp thunderstorm with heavy rain and strong winds, we took the bumpy road to Tamgaly, but before reaching the road we had excellent views of a young Imperial Eagle. The road to Tamgaly was littered with larks and quite a few Long-legged Buzzards. At Tamgaly we enjoyed the Petroglyphs and a pair of Eastern Rock Nuthatch feeding their young.

We headed back to Kolshengol and whilst stopping for petrol, saw a pair of Red-backed Shrikes, a Blyth's Reed Warbler and the usual supporting cast of Common Rosefinch, Lesser Whitethroat and Lesser Grey Shrike etc.

## Day 8

Friday 15th May

We had a brief look at the Artesian Well before breakfast and then left camp early, heading north. We soon stopped to look at a Long-legged Buzzard nest with accompanying Spanish and Indian Sparrows, and probably of more interest, an active Steppe Grey Shrike nest with the adults giving excellent views.

Our next stop in the Taukum Desert was to search for an Eagle Owl nest. We found several remains of hedgehogs but couldn't locate the nest, but we did see two showy Rufous Bush Robins.

We continued through the desert and arrived at Topar Lakes. At the bridge we had quite a few singing Paddyfield Warblers, three Citrine Wagtails, our first Sykes's Warbler, five Little Bitterns, a couple of singing Bluethroats, Reed Bunting, a flock of over 50 Black Terns, and a Goldeneye. Leaving Topar we located a pair of Saxaul Sparrows that showed well, and then it was on to the Turanga Forest near Zhelturanga. At the forest we had lunch, but probably more importantly we had Turkestan Tits and Yellow-eyed Pigeon.

Our return journey saw us stop again at the Topar Bridge and then at Kolshengol where we enjoyed the migrant passerines as they flitted along the fence and adjacent trees before we headed back to camp. A few of us left the bus at the well and saw three Pallas's Sandgrouse and a few Black-bellied Sandgrouse, plus a Demoiselle Crane to round the day of nicely.

## Day 9

Saturday 16th May

We started off by checking the Artesian Well where we saw a few Pallas's and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and a nice flock of Mongolian Finches were the highlight. After breakfast we travelled east along the edge of the dunes and had really good views of Oriental Honey Buzzard and Montagu's Harrier, the 21st raptor species of the trip. Next we checked the isolated goat pen and associated trees which produced our first Greenish Warbler, plus a Golden Oriole and three Ortolan Buntings.

After the goat pen we headed to the main road and then back to Kolshengol, checking the Artesian Well in the village and the trees and bushes. There were lots of Blyth's Reed and Hume's Warblers and Oriental Turtle Dove, but nothing new for the trip.

Leaving Kolshengol on the return to Almaty, we stopped again at the 'magic tree' at Aldarly. A male Citrine Wagtail of the black-backed *calcarata* race showed well, but star bird for the photographers was a very confiding Long-tailed Shrike, and the most unusual was an Icterine Warbler.

We moved on and stopped for lunch at one of the reed fringed pools near Sorbulak Lake. Here we had a nice selection of ducks and waders including White-headed Duck and our first Little Stints. Our last stop was at Sorbulak dam where we scanned the water, sand and shoreline until we had to leave to get back to Almaty at a reasonable time.

## Day 10

Sunday 17th May

Today we had an early start to the airport with only singing Nightingales and Great Tits recorded. The stop at Istanbul produced Alpine Swifts, Laughing Dove and Red-backed Shrike. Thankfully it was an uneventful journey home to end another Naturetrek adventure.

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Himalayan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>				5	1h			
2	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>			1			6		
3	Black Grouse	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>				1h				
4	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			1h					
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					1			
6	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>					55			
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		2		1	12	2		40
8	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					4			2
9	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					50		12	10
10	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>					12			
11	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>					4		1	5
12	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2				30		6	2
13	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>					2			
14	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					90		1	30
15	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					10			
16	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					200		20	50
17	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>					4		5	5
18	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					15		25	6
19	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>							1	
20	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>					18			1
21	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							12	
22	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					120		10	25
23	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					10			1
24	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			1					
25	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							2	
26	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutes</i>							5	
27	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					30		20	1
28	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					3		8	1
29	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					30			

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
30	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					70		4	1
31	Pelican sp	<i>Pelecanus sp.</i>								250
32	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					400		2	6
33	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	5	30	12		30		20	12
34	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>								1
35	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					2			
36	Pallas's Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>					1			
37	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>		15						
38	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		5						
39	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>						2	1	
40	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					3		2	1
41	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								1
42	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	1				1		3	2
43	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2	1	1	1			
44	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1	4	5		8	15	12	10
45	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>			1			1		
46	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		1				1		
47	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1	2		1				
48	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	1	2			3		1	
49	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		10				1	1	
50	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	2	4	10	4	8	6
51	Kestrel sp	<i>Falco naumanni/tinnunculus</i>	6		8		6	6		4
52	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	5	5	8		4		4	1
53	Macqueen's Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis macqueenii</i>		1				1		1
54	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					10		6	10
55	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					200		25	40
56	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>	3	1			47	140	50	60
57	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>				3				
58	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					12	2	2	12
59	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					2			2
60	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1				6		6	6
61	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>					4		2	6



	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
62	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris</i>						14		10
63	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					1			1
64	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								1
65	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					6			8
66	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>					6			4
67	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					2			1
68	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					4			
69	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					6	1		2
70	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		4	2	2	2			1
71	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								5
72	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					40	1	25	50
73	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	6		4		75		8	60
74	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>					200		4	1
75	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					3		35	4
76	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					2		1	
77	Eurasian Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i>							60	
78	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>		2				15	3	5
79	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>		17				86	12	50
80	Rock Dove /Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Yellow-eyed Pigeon	<i>Columba eversmanni</i>							8	
82	Cinnamon-necked Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus casiotis</i>	10		6		6		1	
83	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>		2	3		1	1	10	60
84	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓		2			
85	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	2	1						
86	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	2	6	6	1	3	2	14	2
87	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			1h					
88	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1		
89	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>							1	2
90	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		3						
91	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			8		2			
92	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i>	40	6	15		50	30	30	25
93	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>							1	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
94	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	6	4	2		3	6	10	1
95	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	8	4		3	2	12	10
96	White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>			1				5	
97	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>					1			
98	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>						2		
99	Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>	1	15	8			6	10	1
100	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>	3	2	4					1
101	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	3	1	2		6	2	2	5
102	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>							3	
103	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		3	9					1
104	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes rothschildi</i>				3	2			
106	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax centralis</i>				6				
107	Russian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
108	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
109	Oriental Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	2	1		12	8			
110	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>						1		
111	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>						30		4
112	Eurasian Raven	<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>		4	2		2			
113	Songar Tit	<i>Poecile montanus songarus</i>				2	8			
114	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater rufipectus</i>			2	10	12			
115	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	12		6	6	15		1	
116	Turkestan Tit	<i>Parus major turkestanicus</i>		2					12	
117	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus tianschanicus</i>		2					6	1h
118	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus coronatus</i>	2	4	1h					
119	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa</i>						120	45	50
120	Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata torquata</i>						40	12	10
121	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis</i>	1	20	2		40	30	10	30
122	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens heinei</i>						2	2	2
123	Short-toed Lark sp	<i>Calandrella sp.</i>						150	40	50
124	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata magna</i>		1	6		20	1	6	4
125	Horned ('Steppe') Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris brandti</i>			2					

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
126	Horned ('Caucasian') Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris albigula</i>		2							
127	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2						3	1	
128	Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>	42							1	
129	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	50	40	30		40	50	70	50	
130	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	30	60	40		20	10		1	
131	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica rufula</i>	5					2	1		
132	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti albiventris</i>		1h					5		
133	White-browed Tit-warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae sophiae</i>				2					
134	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	1h	1	1		2	1	6	5	
135	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>				2					
136	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei humei</i>	4	10	6	20	45	12	30	30	
137	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>								1	
138	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi</i>					4		3	3	
139	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola agricola</i>							15		
140	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>		2			1h	3	5	30	
141	Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>						1	2		
142	Eastern Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia straminea</i>				1			1h		
143	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					5h		2	1h	
144	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria merzbacheri</i>		2	5		1	1		1	
145	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>			2						
146	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca blythi (includes some halimodendri)</i>					5	4	6	10	
147	Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>		1							
148	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>			2						
149	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis rubicola</i>	3				1			5	
150	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>								1	
151	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>							3		
152	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus tristis</i>				1	1				
153	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus</i>				5	2h				
154	Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>						2			
155	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	1	✓	
156	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>		6			2000	750	20	500	
157	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris porphyronotus</i>	4	20	20		✓		4	10	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
158	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>				1h	6			
159	Chinese Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula intermedius</i>	3	5	4	4	4			2
160	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus bonapartei</i>		4	2	8	3			
161	Red-spotted Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica pallidogularis</i>		1						2
162	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Erythropgia galactotes familiaris</i>						1	2	
163	White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis ballioni</i>				6	1			
164	Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos hafizi</i>	1h	3h	4		1h		6	8
165	Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>				3				
166	Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>				2	1			
167	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					1		2	5
168	Güldenstädt's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus grandis</i>				5				
169	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>		3		2	1		1	
170	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	10	100	30		12	40	30	30
171	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica</i>		1		3		1		
172	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>		6	2		1			1
173	Eastern Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti deserti</i>			4					
174	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>		3						1
175	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitaries</i>			1					
176	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1	1	4	10	25	30
177	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus leucogaster</i>					1			
178	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>					3			
179	Saxaul Sparrow	<i>Passer ammodendri ammodendri</i>							3	
180	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
181	Indian Sparrow	<i>Passer indicus bactrianus</i>	10	4	6			2	12	12
182	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus</i>							1	
183	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus dilutes</i>		6	2		6		1	
184	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		12						
185	Altai Accentor	<i>Prunella himalayana</i>				3				
186	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>				2				
187	Black-throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogularis huttoni</i>				8	4			
188	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						2		1
189	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>							5	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
190	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>					2			
191	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>							3	3
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea melanope</i>		1		2	4	4	1	2
193	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>						1		
194	Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>	3	15	5		3		2	1
195	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		16	3				3	2
196	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		5		12	3			
197	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta blakistoni</i>		4		10				
198	Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>		2		35	3			
199	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris turkestanica</i>	4	4	10	1				
200	Grey-crowned Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parapanisi</i>		4	2	2	4			
201	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina bella</i>	5	6						
202	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola altaica</i>				70				
203	Brandt's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>				3				
204	Mongolian Finch	<i>Eremopsaltria mongolica</i>	9					3	2	11
205	Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>		1						
206	Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	1							
207	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis</i>		2			3	25	50	70
208	Red-mantled Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>				3				
209	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>				5	1			
210	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra buturlini</i>		1						
211	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>	1h	4	2					
212	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>		1						
213	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>		2						
214	White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	2		3h					
215	Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani neobscura</i>	1				3			
216	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	1						2	4
217	Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>					20	50	40	35
218	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhuloides</i>							4	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

## Mammals

1	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutterosa</i>		5					5	3	
2	Turkestan Red Pika	<i>Ochotona rutila</i>	1			2					
3	Red-cheeked Sauslik	<i>Spermophilus fulvus</i>								1	1
4	Grey Marmot	<i>Marmotta baibacina</i>		5		6					
5	Desert Hare	<i>Lepus Tolai</i>	5	3	2					6	
6	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		2	2						
7	Corsac Fox	<i>Vulpus corsac</i>							1		
8	Giant Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>	3	2	12						
9	Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				8					
10	Stoat	<i>Mustella erminea</i>				1					
11	Polecat			1							
12	Vole sp					2					
13	Bat sp						1				

## Reptiles &amp; Amphibians

1	Horsefield Tortoise	<i>Testudo horsfieldi</i>							12	2	1
2	Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>			1						6
3	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>					✓				
4	Toad-headed Lizard	<i>Phrynocephalus przewalskii</i>			10						

## Butterflies

1	Orange-tip type				1						
2	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			2				2		
3	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>						1			

## Other Taxa

1	Camel Spider	<i>Solifugae</i>							1		
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## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Sogeti Plain



White-tailed Rubythroat