

Kazakhstan

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 12 May 2018



Rose Coloured Starlings at a village near Kolshengol



Hills above the Charyn Gorge



Kokpek Pass



Collared Pratincole seen in the desert near Koshengol

Report compiled by Reg Thorpe
Images courtesy of Paul Goodman



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Reg Thorpe (Leader) and Andrey Kovalenko (Local Guide) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

Summary

This was another enjoyable tour to the steppes, desert and mountains of SE Kazakhstan which was packed with good birds, spectacular scenery and great experiences. Highlights were many, but included the Crimson-winged Finches coming to drink on the Sugaty Plain, the roadside Demoiselle Cranes, vultures and both Pine and Meadow Buntings in the hills above the Charyn Gorge, the stunning Wallcreeper feeding on the Big Almaty Wall and the very smart Blue Whistling Thrushes. The day in the mountains that produced Himalayan Snowcock, singing White-tailed Rubythroat, male Guldenstadt's Redstarts and Ibisbill will not be forgotten quickly. The extensive Sorbulak Lakes complex with White-tailed Eagles at their nest, and good numbers of ducks, terns and waders, the trees around Kolshengol that held so many migrants including Little Bittern and Pale Scops Owl and the village Artesian Well, that was alive with drinking larks and buntings and a very close male Garganey on one very hot afternoon were particularly memorable, as were the "bus-shelter" Saxaul Sparrows, the close fly-over Pallas's Sandgrouse, the two perched Oriental Honey Buzzards and White-winged Lark around Kolshengol.

Day 1

Friday 4th May

A day of travel to Almaty.

Day 2

Saturday 5th May

After arriving in Almaty at around 0500 the group were met by the local Ken Tengri staff and after loading the bus we headed eastwards out of the city. Our first stop was for breakfast in an area of scattered scrub. Here, while breakfast was being prepared, we heard several Nightingales and got good views of one or two, while also on view were a few White-crowned Penduline Tits.

After breakfast we made our way onto a new road that resulted in us reaching Bayseit in rapid time, the key here being to purchase beer for the evening, but it also produced excellent views of two Azure Tits. Next was a roadside stop for Pale Martin at Malabai where a flock of c170 birds was present, along with our first Tawny Pipits, Isabelline Wheatears, and a low flying Booted Eagle. Moving on to the Kokpek Pass we walked up a beautiful side valley enjoying the flowers and butterflies as well as a group of Rock Buntings and a single Hume's Whitethroat, before a lunch stop where White-headed Buntings showed well. We then dropped out of the pass on to the Sugaty Plain where we headed for a small Artesian Well with a few puddles of water nearby. We were greeted by two local Kazakh men standing by the puddles, but fortunately they moved away soon after we arrived. It was slow to start with, but in the 45 minutes we were there a couple of Crimson-winged Finches, three Mongolian Finches, two Grey-necked Buntings and several very smart Linnets came in to drink.

This was our final stop of the day and we headed to Shonzhy and our guest house, and after a meal and going over the checklist it was an early night for all.

Day 3

Sunday 6th May

Following breakfast at 0600 we left the Shonzhy Guest House at around 0700 and headed west across the Sugaty Plain, but on a more southerly road than yesterday. We stopped a couple of times to scan for Macqueen's Bustard, and although we missed out on them, we did see four flying Black-bellied Sandgrouse, a couple of '*brandii*' Shorelarks, a Short-toed Eagle and our first Short-toed Lark.

On reaching the gorge we headed off on a parallel track which enabled us to look down into the gorge and here we had a superb adult Egyptian Vulture, Alpine Swifts, Crag Martins and two Golden Eagles. After this we drove to the Temerlik Bridge where White-crowned Penduline Tits at a nest, two Azure Tits and two Grey-capped Goldfinches provided the highlights. An unscheduled stop for two Demoiselle Cranes by the roadside provided amazing views as did our stop for Lesser Kestrel and Rock Sparrows at the Aksay Cemetery. It was then a drive towards the main part of the Charyn Gorge before heading into the hills on the northern side. Here the array of flowering plants were impressive as was a singing male Pine Bunting.

Over lunch both Himalayan and Black Vulture showed well overhead. After lunch a walk down to the gorge itself produced a pair of '*albigula*' Shorelark on the way, excellent views of nesting Himalayan Vulture and brief flight views of four Daurian Partridge. Those that didn't walk to the gorge spent their time scanning for vultures and all saw a fine adult Bearded Vulture. The very dark clouds, that had looked threatening for some time, eventually produced some large hail stones for a short period. On the way back to the road a stop produced very close views of five Meadow Buntings in hillside scrub. It was then a quick look, due to strong winds and blown sand, at the Charyn Gorge from the road before heading back to Shonzhy, with one quick stop for another unsuccessful scan for Macqueen's Bustard.

Day 4

Monday 7th May

We were ready to leave the guest house at Shonzhy by 0700, but were delayed when a White-winged Woodpecker which flew over the garden was found initially in a tree and then on a pole behind the guest house buildings. We then walked back to the bus and a Long-tailed Shrike flew over, which again we relocated behind the buildings. Finally we left and our first stop was at the petrol station just outside the town. Here, while the vehicle was being filled, we walked to a group of trees where we found a probable Booted Warbler which showed very well, but seemed to show some Sykes's Warbler characters. In the past a race of Booted Warbler ("*annectens*") from this area, which showed intermediate characters between Booted and Sykes's, was considered a valid race, but is now included within the range of variation shown by Booted. After this we crossed the Charyn Gorge and then searched again for Macqueen's Bustard, unfortunately unsuccessfully, but we did find two Asian Desert Warblers which gave us excellent views. Our next stop was a drinking pool on the plain where we saw more Mongolian Finches and Grey-necked Buntings. After this we moved west, but before leaving the plain we watched a pair of Steppe Eagles near a nest which contained two small young. After travelling through the Kokpek pass we stopped in Bayseit for a restaurant lunch before heading to Almaty.

Being a public holiday the traffic through the city was slow and the road up into the mountains was congested and there were 100s of people enjoying the good weather. Despite the people, and the noise, we located a superb Wallcreeper on the Big Almaty Wall and then a Brown Dipper that eventually showed well. Moving back down the road we stopped for a walk which produced a distant Bearded Vulture, a Golden Eagle being mobbed by a

Buzzard, another Brown Dipper and a White-throated Dipper, and finally a pair of really smart Blue Whistling Thrushes. It was then time for our evening meal at a local restaurant before heading to our hotel.

Day 5

Tuesday 8th May

A glorious day walking around in the Tien Shan Mountains above Almaty in fantastic weather. We left the hotel just before 0700 and headed up to the Big Almaty Lake. A stop along the way for an Eversmann's Redstart was prolonged when Songar Tit, Red-fronted Serins and Blue-capped Redstarts were found. Moving higher, a short walk produced a drumming Three-toed Woodpecker, although we couldn't see it, and a Black-throated Accentor. We then moved above the Big Almaty Lake and searched a sunny juniper bank where we saw White-tailed Rubythroat and distant Ibisbills on the lake.

Our next stop was the Kosmostation where a couple of hours of walking around the buildings resulted in a single Himalayan Snowcock, a couple of Brown Accentors and five Guldenstadt's Redstarts. After lunch we walked part way down the road from the Kosmostation and then a few followed the local leader on a quest (unsuccessfully) for White-browed Tit-Warbler and the others had a more sedate, less adventurous walk down the road. Our final visit was a walk along the side of the Big Lake with better views of the Ibisbill and White-winged Grosbeak. A relatively short list of species seen today, but they were of real quality in an amazing setting.

Day 6

Wednesday 9th May

We left the hotel and then, after a brief shopping trip, we were out of Almaty by 0800. We headed to Sorbulak Lakes and spent several hours visiting the many lakes and pools. We saw good numbers of Garganey, Gadwall and Red Crested Pochard, a selection of waders including some superb summer plumaged Spotted Redshank, an array of heron species, and an adult White-tailed Eagle at a nest which contained two young. The reeds on one pool contained 10 Siberian Stonechat, three Paddyfield Warbler and a Bluethroat. We had lunch by a lake that held White-headed Ducks and Ferruginous Ducks and many Black-necked Grebes.

After this we headed north towards Kolshengol and stopped at the wishing-tree in Aldarly. Here we found a Long-tailed Shrike and a couple of Red-backed Shrikes, an obliging Sykes's Warbler, Barred Warbler, plus many Spotted Flycatchers, Lesser Whitethroats and Hume's Warblers. Next was a brief bit of birding at the Kolshengol Garage where again the trees were full of migrants and a Shikra put in an appearance. We then purchased beer in the village and then headed to the camp, arriving at 1830. Some of the group settled in and a few ventured to the Artesian Well where groups of Temmincks and Little Stints and several Yellow Wagtails of two races were present, plus a couple of Bimaculated Larks. Later, back at the camp, a male Red-headed Bunting interrupted the meal.

Day 7

Thursday 10th May

We started after our 0600 breakfast and headed west out of the camp to search the steppe. We soon found groups of Greater Sandplover and quite a few Black-bellied Sandgrouse, but the first "target" birds were a couple of White-winged Larks. After this we visited an isolated group of trees that held good numbers of migrants including a Pallid Scop's Owl, Little Bittern and Wryneck. Then more searching of the steppe resulted in finding

a pair of Caspian Plover that gave good views. We then headed across to the main road and back towards Kolshengol, stopping briefly by an isolated tree that again held many warblers, flycatchers and a few shrikes.

We went back to the camp for lunch, stopping to admire four Demoiselle Cranes at a well as well as a black-mantled Citrine Wagtail at the well near the camp. After lunch we took the rather poor road to Tamgaly along which we had many larks including more White-winged Larks and many shrikes. At Tamgaly we failed to find the Eastern Rock Nuthatch, but enjoyed the pteroglyphs. On the way back a Little Owl showed well.

Day 8

Friday 11th May

On leaving camp we headed through Taukum Desert, stopping to look at a Steppe Grey Shrike and then later a Bluethroat and a pair of Rufous Bush Robins. We then continued on to the lakes at Topar, again stopping to look at some passing Oriental Honey Buzzards low overhead. On reaching Topar Lakes we walked along the road and over the bridge, where we found a single Bittern and watched a stunning male Bluethroat at only a few metres range for several minutes. Also here was a “large-billed” Reed Bunting and a male Little Bittern showed briefly. Next on the agenda was the bus Shelter just beyond Topar where we had excellent views of 10 Saxaul Sparrow as well as ‘*karelini*’ Turkestan Shrike and some ‘*halimodendri*’ Lesser Whitethroats also showed well.

Lunch was next on the agenda at the Turanga Forest at Zhelturanga. Here, as our picnic was being prepared, we all saw the Yellow-eyed Stock Doves and Turkestan Tits, and after lunch we found a single White-winged Woodpecker. We then headed back to Kolshengol and visited a well near the village where impressive numbers of larks and buntings were coming to drink, the weather being very hot by now, while wagtails fed around the cattle. Interesting here was a Water Pipit, and a male Garganey at less than 10m range was much admired. With most of the group going off to buy drinks three of us searched the trees and scrub in the village compound and found two Long-eared Owls as well as many warblers. Final stop was the camp well where the star bird was a close fly-by Pallas’s Sandgrouse.

Day 9

Saturday 12th May

After our usual early breakfast we spent a couple of hours around the camp before heading to Kolshengol via a small farmstead. The trees here were full of migrants with Thrush Nightingale being a new species for the tour. In Kolshengol itself there were still impressive numbers of migrants with a Wryneck, Rufous Bush Robin and Bluethroat adding variety. There were also two Oriental Honey Buzzards that gave exceptional perched views and one was joined by a fine male Golden Oriole. After leaving Kolshengol we stopped at Aldarly to check the trees which again held quite a few migrants with a well-marked Barred Warbler one of the highlights. We continued our journey back towards Almaty and stopped for lunch at Sorbulak Lakes in the same location as when we were heading for Kolshengol. After lunch and some birding we moved on and next walked across the dam at the main Sorbulal Lake before continuing to our hotel in Almaty arriving there around 1730. Then a hot shower, meal, checklist and an early bedtime.

Day 10

Sunday 13th May

A travel day back to UK

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Himalayan Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>				2				
2	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	12	2				3		
3	Daurian Partridge	<i>Perdix dauurica</i>		4						
4	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2	1		1	5		6	
5	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						2	1	
6	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	2		2	3	50	12	12	20
7	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					6			3
8	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					80		2	2
9	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					230		10	30
10	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					12		1	8
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1				25	1	5	2
12	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					6			
13	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>					50		10	20
14	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					8			2
15	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					21		3	10
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					10			
17	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>					7			
18	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1							
19	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					90			6
20	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					40		2	20
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					5		6	
22	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus minutus</i>						1		
23	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>						1	1	
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1		1		12		12	4
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					10		10	
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					8			
27	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					4			
28	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1			1	30		4	2
29	Black-eared Kite	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	7	12	6	1	125	4	50	320

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
30	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						1			
31	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		1	1						
32	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		1							
33	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>		20							
34	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		1							
35	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		2							
36	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		4							
37	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>							24	6	4
38	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>						6		6	2
39	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>								1	
40	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						2	1	1	
41	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>						1	1	3	1
42	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2	3	2	2			1	2	3
43	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			2						
44	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	2	4	6			6	10	10	10
45	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>			2						
46	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1	3	2						
47	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	2	6							
48	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	1	25	2						
49	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	2	2	1	4	4	4	4	3
50	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		5	1	1	2			4	1
51	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>						3			
52	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						12		6	2
53	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		1	30
54	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>		4				28	8		
55	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>				3					
56	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						12		6	12
57	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						5			
58	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	6		1			10	3	2	4
59	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						7			
60	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>						3	3	6	3
61	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii scythicus</i>							30		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
62	Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>							2		
63	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						8			10
64	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						20			12
65	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						12			12
66	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	2					6		1	
67	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		3				10		3	
68	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						6			2
69	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						6	1	4	50
70	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						1	1		1
71	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	60		60			✓		✓	✓
72	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>						✓		2	5
73	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>						3			1
74	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2					30		20	6
75	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>						1			
76	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						6			
77	Eurasian Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger niger</i>						10		20	
78	Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>								1	
79	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>		3				4	50	20	25
80	Rock Dove /Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Yellow-eyed Pigeon	<i>Columba eversmanni</i>								9	
82	Cinnamon-necked Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus casiotis</i>	12	1							
83	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2					2			
84	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>	1					1	5	25	90
85	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	1	6			✓	1		1
86	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		1	1						1
87	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	6	2	1	2	6	10	15	3	
88	Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>						1			
89	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			1h	1h	1h				
90	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1			
91	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>								2	
92	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1							2	
93	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>		3							

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
94	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		20					3	3	6
95	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	25	5	20		120	6	20	10	
96	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1				3				
97	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	5		15		6	20	50	20	
98	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	8	1	2		7	15	6	20	
99	White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>			1				2		
100	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>				1h					
101	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						1		1	
102	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>					1	20	1	1	
103	Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>	4	3	2		4	100	20	5	
104	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>			1		1			1	
105	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						4			
106	Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>			1				1		
107	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								1	
108	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	2	6	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
109	Northern Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes rothschildi</i>				1					
110	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax centralis</i>				2					
111	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>				12					
112	Russian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	50	12	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
113	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	25		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Oriental Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	2	3	6	10	✓		✓	✓	
115	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>							1		
116	Brown-necked Raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>					1	25		3	
117	Eurasian Raven	<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>		8							
118	Songar Tit	<i>Poecile montanus songarus</i>				3					
119	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater rufipectus</i>				8					
120	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	10	3	6	2	6			4	
121	Turkestan Tit	<i>Parus major turkestanicus</i>							20		
122	Azure Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus tianschanicus</i>	2	2	3		2			6	
123	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus coronatus</i>	8	6						1	
124	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa</i>					40	✓	✓	✓	
125	Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata torquata</i>					2	✓	✓	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
126	White-winged Lark	<i>Melanocorypha leucoptera</i>							6	5	
127	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis</i>		1	1			6	✓	✓	✓
128	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens heinei</i>							4	2	4
129	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris brandti</i>		2	5						
	Pamir Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris albigula</i>		2							
130	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata magna</i>			4			12	10	✓	✓
131	Asian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis dulcivox</i>		12				6			
132	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		8				6	6	1	
133	Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>	170								
134	European Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	40	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	5	15							
136	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	6	20	1			✓	1	1	
137	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica rufula</i>	6	2				1			
138	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti albiventris</i>	4h					2h	1	4	2
139	Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>		1				5	2	3	10
140	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei humei</i>	2	8	6	40		✓	15	10	25
141	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>									2
142	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi</i>						3			
143	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola agricola</i>						4		6	1
144	Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>						4	4	4	15
145	Caspian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>						3			
146	Booted Warbler	<i>Iduna caligata</i>			1						
147	Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>						1	1		
148	Eastern Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia straminea</i>							1		1
149	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						1h			
150	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria merzbacheri</i>						1	2	2	5
151	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>			1			20	20	40	50
152	Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>	4								
153	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i>			2						
154	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis rubicola</i>						1	2		1
155	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes tianschanicus</i>				6					
156	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			1						

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
157	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	✓
158	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>			2		3000	✓	✓	✓
159	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris porphyronotus</i>	3				15	1	4	30
160	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>			2					
161	Chinese Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula intermedius</i>	2	1	1	2	1			1
162	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus bonapartei</i>		2	1	6				
163	Red-spotted Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica pallidogularis</i>					1		4	5
164	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Erythropygia galactotes familiaris</i>							3	2
165	White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis ballioni</i>				1				
166	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>								1
167	Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos hafizi</i>	8	6	2h		12	4	6	10
168	Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>				5				
169	Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>			1	4				
170	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					2	5	1	6
171	Güldenstädt's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus grandis</i>				5				
172	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>		2			10	20	8	2
173	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	20	100	30		10	12	10	6
174	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica</i>				1		6	2	1
175	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	12	10	2		3	10	3	4
176	Eastern Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti deserti</i>	1	1						
177	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>				1	1	1		
178	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	2							
179	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					20	40	✓	✓
180	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus leucogaster</i>			1					
181	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>			3	2				
182	Saxaul Sparrow	<i>Passer ammodendri ammodendri</i>							10	
183	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30
184	House Sparrow [bactrianus]	<i>Passer domesticus bactrianus</i>						10	10	6
185	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus</i>						10	4	
186	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus dilutus</i>	15		6		6		6	
187	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		6	2					
188	Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>				2				

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
189	Black-throated Accentor	<i>Prunella atrogularis huttoni</i>				4						
190	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					35	15	40	10		
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>							1			
191	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>					2	1	8			
192	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>						1		2		
193	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea melanope</i>		2	2	1	3	3	12	5		
194	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>					20	3	10	6		
	Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>	2	3	4		6	1	4	4		
195	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	2	6	6		6	10	1	2		
196	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	5	1		8		2	6			
197	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta blakistoni</i>				15			1			
198	Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>				25						
199	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris turkestanica</i>	4	2	1							
200	Grey-crowned Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parapanisi</i>	2	2								
201	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina bella</i>	12		6							
202	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola altaica</i>				20						
203	Mongolian Finch	<i>Eremopsaltria mongolica</i>	3		8							
204	Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>						3		2		
205	Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	2		1							
206	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis</i>					3	15	2	6		
207	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>				4						
208	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra buturlini</i>		2				8		1		
209	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>	10	2								
210	White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	4									
211	Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani neobscura</i>	2	3	4		2	1	6	1		
212	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>					1	1	20	3		
213	Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>					2	30	50	30		
214	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus pyrrhuloides</i>							1			
215	Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>		1								
216	Meadow Bunting	<i>Emberiza cioides</i>		5								

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Mammals

1	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutterosa</i>		20							
2	Grey Marmot	<i>Marmotta baibacina</i>		3							
3	Desert Hare	<i>Lepus Tolai</i>				✓					
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1							
5	Corsac Fox	<i>Vulpus corsac</i>					2				
6	Giant Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>	✓								
7	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Steppe Lemming	<i>Lagurus lagurus</i>				✓					
9	Tien Shan Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus relictus</i>			✓						

Butterflies

1	LargeWhite	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓							
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓							
3	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓							
4	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	✓	✓							
5	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	✓								

Reptiles and Amphibians

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>				✓					
2	Horsefield Tortoise	<i>Agrionemys horsfieldii</i>					✓				
3	Agama Lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>									
4	Toad-headed Lizard	<i>Phrynocephalus przewalskii</i>					✓				
5	Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓							
6	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>					✓				

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

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 is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Bluethroat seen at Topar Lakes



Garganey at a village near Kolshengol