

Uzbekistan's Wildlife & Culture

Naturetrek Tour Report

19 – 28 May 2019



Po-i-Kalyan Complex



Yellow-breasted Tit



White-winged Woodpecker



Kalyan Minaret

Report & Images compiled by Alison Steel



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Tour participants: Alison Steel (leader) with 11 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Sunday 19th May

Eight clients departed from Heathrow on an evening flight to Istanbul. Tour leader, Alison, met them here for the onwards flight to Tashkent. Having successfully negotiated the huge new airport at Istanbul, with only a few initially going the wrong way, we boarded the flight to Tashkent.

Day 2

Monday 20th May

Arriving into the airport this morning, we were running a little late due to delayed take off. Once bussed to the terminal, we quickly cleared passport control. The luggage took a little while to arrive; however, this gave us some time to change money before leaving the airport.

Outside we were met by Husan, our interpreter for the tour, who guided us to the bus. After the bags were loaded, we headed through a surprisingly green city to the Hotel Uzbekistan, an imposing Soviet edifice in the city, for breakfast. Here we met the last few members of the group who had arrived earlier. Suitably refreshed, we gathered in the foyer and were joined by our bird guide, Alisher.

Back on the bus, we travelled north-east, out of the city. A new rail system is being built and there is a curious mix of western and eastern elements and buildings blended together. Very quickly, even before clearing the city limits, snow-capped ranges began to appear. Further out of the city, the air quality improved and there were incredibly clear views. We passed fields of fruit and nut trees, as well as stalls beside the roads selling produce. European Roller perched on the wires, White Stork nested on water towers and a number of terns could be seen above the river.

Clearing the top of the reservoir wall by Charvak Lake demanded a photo stop as there were stunning views across the turquoise waters to the peaks beyond. A little further round the shore we arrived at our hotel. The restaurant is on the upper floor so there were great views as we ate lunch.

Mid-afternoon we set off on an excursion to the river. Getting out of the bus, the track took us through a scrubby area. Other than Common Myna, one of the first birds we located by its song was a Red-headed Bunting. Common Nightingales were singing away on both sides of the track, but remained elusive. A Laughing Dove was seen on some wires, a Common Kestrel hovered above the ridge of the hill, Griffon and Cinereous Vultures circled above and several Spotted Flycatchers flitted about. Some female Rosefinches caused a little confusion in the dappled light as they hopped around high in some branches, until one came out into clear view for a few moments. All along there were frequent sightings of individual and groups of Painted Lady butterflies.

Down towards the river Hilary spotted a bird on the far side of the fast current: a Blue Whistling Thrush. It foraged around the boulders on the shoreline, occasionally disappearing from sight. A second one also showed a few metres away. In the shade it was harder to see their blue plumage, but they were still great to watch. Wandering back towards the bus, a Turkestan Tit (of the Bukhara race) was seen, along with many more Painted Ladies.

Back at the hotel we enjoyed dinner overlooking the mountains as the sun went down.

Day 3

Tuesday 21st May

Before breakfast a few of the group headed out into the hotel grounds for some birding. Just near the terrace we came across a Yellow-breasted Tit, a very smart-looking subspecies of Azure Tit. Down the garden a little way, a pair of Hoopoe flew over and perched on the pylon in front of us, preening and displaying their crests. A number of other birds were calling; however, we were unable to locate them in the dense undergrowth. Near the swimming pool was a Spotted Flycatcher, and plenty of Common Mynas could be seen and heard.

This morning we headed to the Bel'dersay region where we initially headed up the road from the chairlift station. Common Nightingale called loudly and some birds circling high up were identified as Griffon Vultures. More Yellow-breasted Tits moved through the branches of the trees. Some of the group are good on plants and recognised a number of the families or species growing in the area. Red-rumped Swallows were landing on a bare, damp face of the slope for a moment or two before swooping away again. A Penduline Tit nest was much admired, but the occupant wasn't seen until later on. Brief views were had of a White-winged Woodpecker, before it disappeared behind a trunk then flew off. Overhead we had Long-legged Buzzard and Booted Eagle.

From the end of the road we took a track up the hill, through mixed trees and shrubs. A number of warblers could be seen flitting through the branches, but we only got a good enough look at Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat to positively identify them. Under a tree near some buildings were a whole lot of ladybirds in one spot, with very few to be seen elsewhere in the vicinity. On reaching a blockage on the track we decided to turn back, after a short pause to look out over the valley. A Mistle Thrush with a huge beak full of food perched on some posts for a while before disappearing to feed its brood. More raptors circled high overhead, some too distant to identify, and lots of tits were calling from the tree tops. We managed to pick out a White-crowned Penduline Tit high in some branches. It hung around for a few minutes before flying off. Back near the road was a Lesser Whitethroat. Two more White-winged Woodpeckers were admired as they searched for the grubs of beetles that kill the trees.

As we neared the bus there were some drops of rain, but that didn't deter the Blue Whistling Thrush from hopping around on by the stream. We waited out the heaviest of the shower beneath a small shelter, then from here we took the bus along the road to a larger stream, which we followed up a little way to our picnic site near a small waterfall. A Short-toed Eagle perched high up the very top of a tree and a Grey Wagtail was seen by some beside the water.

After lunch around half of the group decided not to come up for the next walk, but wandered along to the cafe by the road. From here they managed excellent views of a Booted Eagle, White Wagtail (masked) and another Blue Whistling Thrush.

The more intrepid in the group carefully stepped across the stream and headed up the hill. It was a little steep in places, before opening out to viewpoints. This group also had great views of a Booted Eagle as it displayed then came low over the ridge just beyond where they were. There were some short, light showers which seemed to have sent most birds into hiding. It's the start of the breeding season, so some are just starting to build nests while others are on eggs.

Both parts of the group met up again outside the cafe where two White Wagtails were flicking about. On the other side of the hill we stopped near the chairlift to walk along the valley. A variety of flowers grew in profusion and the extreme edges of the snow field could be seen up ahead. Along the stream a Grey Wagtail was seen. Just as it started to rain, David spotted a pair of Rock Bunting, one perched nicely on a bush. We searched a little longer, but as the rain got heavier, we decided to return to the bus. On turning back, a few Rock Doves flew in to an open area. More Myna called loudly and a final Blue Whistling Thrush was seen on the wire over the stream. The rain seemed to have set in for the day, so returning to the hotel to clean up and dry off before dinner was a good choice.

Day 4

Wednesday 22nd May

This morning's short walk from the hotel produced Long-tailed Shrike, Golden Oriole, Spotted Flycatcher, Roller and Oriental Turtle Dove. A Golden Oriole nest was discovered in one of the trees near the drive.

Following breakfast, we took the bus along the road to a river valley. After a slightly bumpy drive, we got out to a view of Big Chimgan ahead of us and a clear, tumbling stream to walk beside. Grey Wagtail foraged amongst the rocks, while Black Vulture soared overhead. At a works caravan we watched a Yellow-breasted Tit take food into a hole in the base, presumably where it has a nest.

As we walked up the valley, Alisher spotted a Himalayan Griffon Vulture above the ridge ahead. It stayed around for a good few minutes, gliding back and forth, allowing us good views of its almost white and black plumage. Eastern Orphean Warbler could be heard in the bushes, but remained elusive, as did the Chukar calling from the opposite hill. A foray over the hill resulted in an about-turn at the top as the downhill path had been made too slippery by the previous night's rain. Some good views of European Roller were had and another White-crowned Penduline Tit nest had adults going in and out.

The bus took us back to the hotel for lunch, before we packed up and set off for Tashkent (or Toshkent as it's spelt locally). After checking in at the Hotel Uzbekistan, we met Beck, our city guide for the afternoon, who took us to the Hast-Imam complex to start with. This is an area of mosques, mausoleums and madrassas ranging from around the 16th Century to some structures being currently built or extended. The turquoise domes and blue tile work made them very attractive. The newer mosque has two minarets. One area has workshops and hand crafts for sale. Across the square is the library which houses one of the oldest known copies of the Quran, along with other manuscripts. It has a highly decorative interior. The Quran is made from deer hide and the ink was made using olive oil. There is also a mausoleum for the man who credited with bringing Islam to Tashkent, Abu Bakr Muhammad Kaffal Shashi.

On returning to the new city, we disembarked at Broadway Street, full of artists, stalls and street performers. From here we walked past the young people's building where the president invites students to discuss business and other ideas regarding the direction that the country should go. Unfortunately for us, the president had chosen today to walk around Independence Square, meaning that we were only able to see the very edge of it where two multi-jetted fountains provide foreground to a large monument with a stork statue on the top. Instead we took the metro back towards the hotel. The stations are made from a combination of marble, of which Uzbekistan has 13 types, with intricate mouldings on the platform ceilings, and one had ornate light fixtures.

Our bus picked us up again for dinner and we ate in a restaurant by the river. Some quirky neon lights in the shape of animals were in the park nearby. The building was open sided with drapes, almost feeling like a tent. We had a fairly traditional meal as the sunset painted the sky in oranges and pinks.

Day 5

Thursday 23rd May

An early start this morning with a 6am breakfast to allow us to catch the train to Samarkand. We arrived at the station in plenty of time to go through the security formalities and get on our train. Once settled in and on the move, we could see the change in landscape as we travelled. It was still quite green in May, but it was possible to see that there would be drier areas in the coming months.

In Samarkand we were met by Kamil, our guide for the city tour. We started at the remains of the observatory and museum devoted to Ulugh Beg. His astronomical calculations were very accurate and only a little out from more recent figures arrived at using more sophisticated technology. The museum has replicas showing what the full observatory is likely to have looked like.

From here we visited the mausoleum complex of Shah-I Zinda, or 'Tomb of the Living King', a series of intricately tiled buildings and rooms. Despite the fact that it has been looted of precious metals and stones, it is still an attractive sight, with an amazing range of tile work and carvings decorating each building. It's located next to a cemetery, and not far from the Bibi-Khym mosque, so we walked the short distance between the two to get a closer look at the mosque. Some of the tiling is incomplete, where it has fallen away, and like many older buildings in Samarkand, it sustained some damage in the earthquake of 1966. It has two minarets and a large open square in the middle. Lots of Common Myna are using the building crevices to nest in. Larry spotted a falcon flying over too, most likely a Peregrine. The bazaar next door is full of a variety of stalls from fruits, nuts and sweets to fruit and ceramics; there are also some persistent people trying to sell scarves or edibles.

After another large lunch, we set off for Gur-e-Amir mausoleum. This highly decorative building contains the throne of Amur Timur, a surprisingly plain marble block, while the interior of the building has fine gold leaf patterns incorporated into a complex ceiling pattern.

Our final destination was the famous Registan Square. Even in the damp weather it was an impressive sight. The three madrassas are covered in tile patterns in incredible detail, each a bit different from the other. Alpine Swifts flew overhead, and it was possible to sometimes see them swoop into small crevices and cracks in the buildings. In each building complex was a range of artist selling silk, ceramics and metal work items. From here we made our way to the hotel, where we checked in and freshened up, prior to going out to dinner.

Day 6

Friday 24th May

Today dawned wet again, and it meant that many fewer birds were flying. A few Rollers were seen on a wires as we drove, and a Kingfisher was spotted perched above a roadside pond. Arriving at Zeravshan National Park, we were greeted by the gentleman in charge of scientific study there. Two guides showed us one of the walking routes, initially heading towards the river. Two White-winged Woodpeckers were seen as we started the walk, and a number of other individuals were seen or heard throughout the morning.

There is a re-introduction programme for Bukhara Deer, a sub-species of Red Deer. Some individuals live in an enclosed area and one particular individual came right up to the fence looking to be fed. Around 100 other deer roam freely in the park and we did find a few of these later in the morning.

Turkestan Tits were heard calling frequently, and also seen. A bird of prey was seen at one point, and it was concluded that it was a Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Shikra and Hobby both sounded nearby, but we were unfortunately not able to see either species. In one area there are occasionally sightings of Golden Jackal, as they have den nearby; however, we were not fortunate enough to come across them. We were surprised by the number of Cuckoos that we saw, particularly so close together: there were at least four all showing at the same time. Nearby a couple of obliging Rufous-tailed Scrub Robins made an appearance.

On reaching the river we could see some Gull-billed Terns flying over the water some distance away. Either the rain, or the work going on over the water, left the area fairly quiet and the only other bird we saw here was a Black-crowned Night Heron.

A good number of Eastern Olivaceous Warbler were both heard and seen throughout the morning. One of the guides knew some botany, so was able to discuss some of the plant species with the interested members of the group.

We had a break over lunch, taking the bus to a restaurant a short way from the park. By the time we had finished eating the sun had come out, making the day considerably brighter and warmer. On our return to the park we took a different route through some more open areas. Lots of birds were calling, but very little was visible, except Common Myna and European Magpie. A few large hornets were spotted crawling around a bank and some butterfly species were enjoying the sunshine. A truck full of bees, and their keeper, were in one of the open areas where there were a number of flowers. Just as we crossed a small stream, some House Sparrows of subspecies *bactrianus* showed well at the top of a mulberry tree. By the bus we saw the White-winged Woodpecker again. They have a nest on the underside of a large tree branch and were busy feeding young.

We arrive back in Samarkand with a bit of time back before dinner to either relax or explore nearby.

Day 7

Saturday 25th May

Today we had to say goodbye to Samarkand. To allow us to go over the Takhta-Karacha Pass, we loaded our luggage into the big bus before getting into two smaller vehicles. Not far out of Samarkand we stopped to watch as two Booted Eagles circled close to the road, and were delighted as a good-sized flock of Rosy Starlings flew over.

As we wound our way up the mountain road the terrain got rockier. Just past the crest we turned off onto a gravel track. As we drove along, a Red-tailed Shrike was spotted. Stopping for a closer look, we found that there was a pair of them, likely nesting nearby.

A little further on we got out for a walk and quickly noticed a number of large birds circling over the rocks - some Griffon and Cinereous Vulture. Some smaller birds flitted among the rocks and the first that we were able to get a good look at was a White-throated Robin. It was perched atop a bush, singing away. There were also

Indian Sparrow and Egyptian Vulture. The vulture came lower and lower before landing on the hillside near some horses.

A heavy rain shower sent us under some larger rocks for shelter then, as we returned up the track, Hilary spotted a bird in a crack in a rock - an Eastern Rock Nuthatch. We were able to watch it for a good few minutes. A couple more were picked up on the other side of the track too.

The end of the rain had made the foals frisky, and four of them were charging around the hillside as a Hobby flew over. Back towards the main road were a Crested Lark and Corn Bunting. Some of the group also found a gentian species growing freely along a fence line.

From a viewpoint down the other side of the hill some more sparrows called between the bushes. Amongst this was another call which David pinned down to a bush atop the rocks - a White-capped Bunting. Lower down the sandy banks played host to Myna, Roller and European Bee-eater. At one site there was also a Red-headed Bunting singing. At this point we swapped back into the big bus to continue our journey. Our lunch stop was at Kitab and from here we drove on to Bukhara. The journey was a little longer than expected, in the region of five hours, and we passed through a range of scenery as we went. Quite a few camels grazed by the roadside and several Marsh Harrier flew by. It was quite bouncy in places, so a great relief to arrive into Bukhara. Our hotel was in the old city, where some of the streets were blocked off for the silk and spices festival. There were lots of people making their way to the area and some highly colourful dresses to be seen.

Dinner tonight was a short walk away, on the upper story of the restaurant – an al-fresco meal with a lovely sunset.

Day 8

Sunday 26th May

Some of the group couldn't resist the lure of the festival, so chose not to come out to the desert today. For those who did, it was an earlier-than-normal start, heading out towards the Jeyran Eco Centre by the Amu-Bukhara Canal. We stopped en route at a point overlooking the sands to look for bustard. Instead we found Kulan (Wild Ass), Goitered Gazelle, Black-bellied Sandgrouse and Marsh Harrier.

On arriving at the centre, we were met by one of the staff who showed us the way to a series of lakes. As we walked through the scrub, we found Steppe Agama Lizard, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin and the almost-luminous Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. These were much greener than some of us had expected, helping us to understand their local name of 'green bee-eater'.

At the first small lake we could see where the water level had been. Out on the muddy areas were a number of Kentish Plover, another Black-bellied Sandgrouse and some other small waders that were difficult to identify through the heat haze. A number of gazelle were edging out of the vegetative cover, looking to come down for a drink.

Towards the next pool a couple of Red-tailed Shrike were flushed, and on the approach a White-tailed Lapwing heralded our arrival. Several more of these were around the banks of the water, along with Collared Pratincole and Black-winged Stilt. We surprised a Horsfield Tortoise with our approach - it can move surprisingly quickly

for a short-legged creature. From a bush a Clamorous Reed Warbler called, and a Marsh Harrier caused a bit of a stir among the wading birds as it flew over. A few Little Tern could also be seen on the shoreline.

The day was starting to heat up now and our foray to the next lake was fairly unproductive, with just a couple of Common Terns and a Marsh Frog being seen. Returning from here to the centre, we followed the Amu-Bukhara Canal. Tamarisk trees grow along the banks, with a few being in flower. As we walked, we flushed a Eurasian Sparrowhawk from a tree and another Steppe Agama ran across the sand. A Laughing Dove sat on some wires, while back at the centre Barn Swallow swooped in and out of the building.

Lunch was a picnic below the trees. After we had eaten, one of the staff explained a little about the centre and its breeding programme for endangered local species. One of the team also agreed to take us out to a lake that our bus couldn't get to, so after a short rest, we set off. He took us as close as he could to the water. Initially we had mostly been looking at the wrong area due to a strong mirage and wondered at the direction we were driving in. Some parts of the sand were a little soft, where they hadn't fully dried out for the year yet. There were lots more Kentish Plover here, along with Black-winged Stilt. A good number of Black-headed Yellow Wagtail flitted around the small bushes, once or twice alarming at an approaching Marsh Harrier. Alisher showed us footprints of a Jungle Cat and Goitered Gazelle in the sand.

Just before we set off in the vehicle again, we had a couple of Przewalski's Horse pointed out to us in the distance. On the return drive Hilary spotted a lizard up on the top of a bush and we stopped to look at a lark on a post by the road, deciding eventually that it was a Calandra Lark. David also spotted a Yellow Ground Squirrel on the sand. Back at the centre, we re-boarded our bus, setting off back to the city.

Meeting up with those who had stayed back, we heard about the dancing, embroidery and shopping that had been done. Tonight we had to say goodbye to Husan and Alisher, as they both had to be back in Tashkent on the morrow. The rest of the group had a meal in a nearby restaurant then walked back to the hotel.

Day 9

Monday 27th May

Today was our last full day in Uzbekistan, and our city tour of Bukhara. We met our guide, Maksuma, just after breakfast, then set off for the summer palace. It was built by one of the emirs and is heavily influenced by the Russian style, being reminiscent of the St Petersburg winter palace. The guesthouse and reception rooms are ornately decorated with tiles and gilt work.

From here we returned to the city and the Samanid Mausoleum. It is built entirely of bricks that are all the same size, just positioned differently to create over 20 patterns on the exterior and interior of the building. Much of the Ark Citadel was damaged in the bombing of 1920, so is under extensive renovation; however, one of the mosques, the throne room and the stables survived. Across the road is the Bolo-Hauz Mosque, where the craved columns outside are made from elm and are a later addition. A short walk from here is the burial site of Job, a name found in Jewish, Christian and Islamic texts. There is an underground well incorporated into the building that is thought to have healing properties.

The Kalyan minaret complex and the Ulugh-bek madrassa are right next to each other, so we explored both of these on foot. There are areas of detailed tiling and carving, but also some plain areas inside that are designed for

contemplation. In the older streets is one of the most recent monuments, Chor Minor, a four-turreted mosque that is away from much of the hustle and bustle of the busier traffic streets.

Lunch was in the house of a local miniature artist and, as well as the usual soup and salad, we were treated to a version of the local plov - a dish made of meat, carrots and rice principally, with other ingredients such as chick pea, boiled egg and raisins being added. This traditional dish is often served before a wedding.

After lunch it was time to head to the railway station for our journey back to Tashkent. This took around four hours, with a stop in Samarkand. We could again see the snow-topped Pamir Mountains in the distance.

Once we had checked in to the hotel, most of the group headed out for one final meal. The restaurant was decorated in a sumptuously ornate style and we were treated to live music while we ate. This evening we had to say goodbye to those not travelling back to London in the morning.

Day 10

Tuesday 28th May

For those departing to London this morning, we made an early start to the airport. Check-in was straightforward and we were soon through security, into the departure lounge. Our flight departed more or less on time. Following a change of flight in Istanbul, we all too soon arrived back into Heathrow where we said our goodbyes.

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Lake Charvak Panoramic

Species Lists

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

	I = Introduced		May							
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		H	H			H		
2	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	H	H			H		H	
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓					
4	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					2			
5	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				✓				
6	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>					✓	✓		
8	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>							3	
9	Rock Dove - (feral pigeon)	<i>Columba livia var. domestica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		4						
11	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus casiotis</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓
16	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>								✓
17	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>								✓
18	Sand Plover sp.	<i>Charadrius sp.</i>								✓
19	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								✓
20	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								✓
21	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								✓
22	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					✓			
23	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>								✓
24	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓		✓					✓
25	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	10		✓	✓	✓	✓		
26	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>				✓				
27	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					2			
28	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓					
29	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						✓		
30	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>						1		
31	Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>			1					
32	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	3	2				✓		
33	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	3	2	✓			1		
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	✓		✓				
35	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓				✓	✓	
36	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		2						
37	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>					H			
38	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					✓		✓	
39	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	4			✓		✓	✓	
40	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		✓	✓					
41	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1							✓
42	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H				H			
43	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		2				✓		
44	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					1			
46	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>								✓
47	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓	✓	✓	

	I = Introduced		May							
	Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
48	White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>		3				✓		
49	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2		1			✓		
50	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2	1			2	H	✓	
51	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1	✓						
52	Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>			✓			✓	✓	
53	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>			✓					
54	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		✓	✓		1			
55	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor pallidirostris</i>		✓						
56	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	✓		✓					✓
57	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	
59	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
60	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>	✓		✓			✓		
62	Rufous-naped Tit	<i>Periparus rufonuchalis</i>					H			
63	Yellow-breasted (Azure) Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus flavipectus</i>	✓	✓	✓					
64	Great Tit	<i>Parus major bokharensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
65	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus coronatus</i>		3	2		H			
66	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata magna</i>						✓	✓	
67	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa</i>								✓
68	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓					
69	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓		✓			✓		
71	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica rufula</i>		✓	✓					
72	Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>								✓
73	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>		✓						
74	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>		✓						
75	Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>					H			✓
76	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>								H
77	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		✓		✓	✓			
78	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca halimodendri</i>		✓						
79	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>			H					
80	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes subpallidus</i>		✓			H			
81	Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>						✓		
82	Common Myna	<i>Acrideres tristis tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>						100+		
84	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris porphyronotus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
85	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula intermedius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
86	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus bonapartei</i>		✓	✓					
87	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes familiaris</i>					2			✓
88	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
89	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos golzii</i>	H	✓	H		H	H		
90	White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>						1		
91	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	3	✓	✓					
92	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>			✓			✓	✓	
93	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus bactrianus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
94	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus dilutus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
95	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>								✓
96	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓					
97	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
98	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis</i>	4F							

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
99	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra buturlini</i>		1					1	
100	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>		2						
101	White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>								✓
102	Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	✓							✓

Mammals

1	Goitered Gazelle	<i>Gazella subgutterosa</i>								✓
2	Yellow Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus fulvus</i>								✓
3	Bukhara Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus bactrianus</i>					✓			
4	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						✓		
5	Wild Ass	<i>Equus hemionus</i>								✓
6	Przewalski's Horse	<i>Equus przewalskii</i>								✓

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>								✓
2	Horsfield Tortoise	<i>Testudo horsfieldi</i>								✓
3	Desert Monitor	<i>Varanus griseus</i>								✓
4	Steppe Agama	<i>Trapelus sanguinolentus</i>								✓

Butterflies

Scarce Swallowtail, *Iphiclides podalirius*

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Orange-tip, *Anthocharis cardamines*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Green-veined White, *Pieris napi*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias croceus*

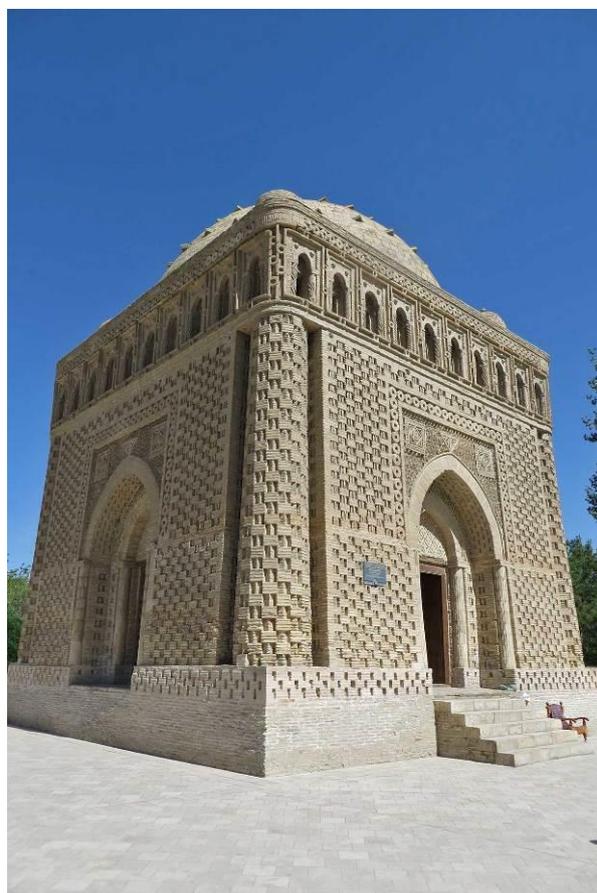
Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*



Oriental Turtle Dove



Group Photo by Alisher Atahodjaev



Samanid Mausoleum