

Uzbekistan's Wildlife & Culture

Naturetrek Tour Report

15th – 24th May 2023



Turkestan Ground Jay



Fringed Toad-headed Agama



Indian Paradise Flycatcher



Red-headed Bunting

Tour report and images by Martin Pitt



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Summary

Naturetrek's Wildlife & Cultural trip to Uzbekistan was a successful introduction to this diverse and ancient land, with its mix of mountains, deserts and the icons of the Great Silk Road. Expertly assisted by Timur as wildlife guide together with local cultural guides we visited both the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand & Bukhara and the natural wonders around them. We experienced not only the spectacular physical historical monuments of the Great Silk Road but also the hospitality of the Uzbek people and their unique cuisine, a tasty blend of Persian, Turkish, Indian and Chinese food.

Overall, we recorded 125 species of bird, 7 of mammals, 16 of butterflies, 9 of reptiles, 7 of dragonflies and other interesting species. Some of these are localised to this region whilst many are familiar from further east, south or west but some a special to this 'melting pot' of a region and these include species that are rarely seen. Highlights included the Turkestan Ground Jay, Rufous-naped Tit, Himalayan Griffon, Frilled Toad-headed Agama, Turkestan Goldenring, Great Gerbil & Turkman Gazelle. During our tour we visited a wide range of habitats from mountains to deserts via wetlands and fertile valleys. In all, a stunning introduction to remote part of the central Asia.

Day 1

Monday 15th May

Flight to Tashkent via Istanbul

Eleven clients & Martin departed from Heathrow on an evening flight to Istanbul. The transfer was straightforward, and we departed for Tashkent only slightly behind schedule. All flights were comfortable and made good time.

Day 2

Tuesday 16th May

Tashkent, Charyak Reservoir and Beldersoy

We arrived at Tashkent on time and despite the apparent queues, cleared passport control, baggage claim and money change in good time. Once outside we were met by Timur our guide and we travelled the short distance to Bon! for breakfast, spying flocks of Swifts and numerous Common Mynas on the way. Here we had a welcome chance to have a bit of breakfast and meet up with the remainder of the group. Once suitably refreshed we headed out of the city to the north-east, making for the foothills of the Tien Shan mountains. For the main part of the journey, we followed the Chirquik river valley, and few birds were seen as we headed to our destination on the shores of Charyak reservoir.



Soon enough we arrived in our hotel for the next two nights, the Lake House B&B and we had a break to unpack and freshen up before heading out. In the fields adjacent to the hotel a pair of Long-tailed Shrike were present. We climbed up to near Amirsoy and had a typically Uzbek lunch of shashliks and salads before heading the Beldersoy. This valley is at c 1600m and although access is now limited, we spent time walking the road edge on the way in. Found our first Booted Eagles, Indian Golden Orioles and Yellow-breasted (Azure) Tits. It was the Blue Whistling Thrushes we were trying for however, they never perched for long in the open. We then headed down a short way beyond the hotel in an attempt to find Red-headed Bunting. As we arrived at the meadows a Black Stork flew over and the grasslands were alive with butterflies, including Queen of Spain Fritillary. Singing bunting males were around us but it took a while to actually see one, however one came close and gave good views. With time pushing on we decided to head back to the hotel, stopping for a hunting Short-toed Eagle, and finding both Pied Wheatear & European Bee-eater at the same place. We had enough time for supper and the list before the jet lag hit and we headed for bed.

Day 3

Wednesday 17th May

Amirsoy, Beldersoy & Chatkal

Armed with our packed breakfasts, we all boarded the bus at 6 am and headed to Amirsoy and the juniper forest areas at around 1600m asl. The dawn chorus was still continuing as we walked through the ever-growing number

of ski cabins around the ski lift area. Hume's Whitethroat was singing, distinctively without the rattle so diagnostic of the European version, Hume's Leaf Warblers and more Yellow-breasted Tits were found.

We stopped for a singing bunting, and it came out to top of the conifers, giving great views of the White-capped Bunting. Later we were able to compare with singing Rock Bunting. However, the main target was Rufous-naped Tit a juniper specialist, and we found a pair. After tracking them for a while it was clear that they were feeding young. Oddly, another pair were then found, but in contrast they were still nest building. Despite the cloud, as the morning progressed a few raptors appeared including our first Cinereous Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard. A few interesting plants were also found including the blue flowered gentian (*Gentiana olivieri*), the Lavender Mountain Lily (*Ixiolirion tataricum*), Black Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and Foxes-tail (*Eremurus regelii*). With the cloud thickening, we headed back to the buses and returned to Beldersoy In the cool conditions it was very quiet but the Blue Whistling Thrush hopped into view before we started. As the rain started, we decided to return to the hotel for lunch and hope for a change in the afternoon.

At 2pm we headed back to Chatkal towards the national park and the Kyrgyzstan border. The scenery was spectacular as we headed around the top end of the reservoir. The lakeside road attracts a large population of Rollers and they nest in the sand banks here. We stopped to get good views. Chatkal is impacted by the building of a new dam, but the area here gave us access to the mix of riverine and sub-alpine habitat. The dull weather didn't help the level of activity however a good number of vultures drifted past and we added both Crag Martin and Alpine Swift to our lists. A sad note was finding two glass lizards that had obviously been killed by people, no doubt as they mistook these harmless animals for snakes. With more rain threatening we headed back to the hotel.

Day 4

Thursday 18th May

Charyak Reservoir, Chirquik river & Tashkent

After breakfast we met for a walk down to the lake shore, where again we found Rollers and Indian Golden Orioles. A pair of Indian Paradise Flycatchers flew around us but only gave the briefest of views as they flew from tree to tree. More surprising was a calling Scops Owl, that led us to search the bushes and we found two birds together here. As the temperature rose, more butterflies appeared but only of species already seen. Back at the hotel, we loaded the bus and headed back down the mountains to Tashkent. As previously we followed the Chirquik river and at a suitable place we stopped. The first stop had Black-winged Stilts, Little & Common Tern and Great Egrets. The second and third stops were on spec, finding Black-crowned Night Heron and Black Stork, and at the latter stop finding both Marsh Frog and Golden Jackal as well.

We had lunch at Jumanji and then were able to check into Bek hotel. After a quick turn-around we headed into Tashkent initially heading to the old town We arrived at the Hazrati Imam mausoleum, the memorial to the man credited with bringing Islam to the area, Mui Mubarak Madrassi, and the Uthman Qur'an museum (the world's oldest known Qur'an) each giving us an introduction to what was to become the familiar mix of blue tiled facades and domes that is a feature of the oldest buildings along this part of the Great Silk Road. The gardens around were full of Blythe's Reed Warblers and Shikra were displaying overhead. We then walked through the Chorsu bazaar, the central market built in the Soviet era. Everything you ever think of from dried fruit and nuts to jewellery and clothing were piled high. We went to the bakery section and watched the traditional loaves being baked. We returned to the bus and toured the new town and Amir Timor Square before heading back to the hotel. Later we headed out for our meal at Caravan restaurant for our first plov (traditional Uzbek pilav) of the trip.

Day 5

Friday 19th May

Samarkand

A transfer day started with an early breakfast and then we left the hotel at 6.30am for the city rail station. After a relaxed check-in, we boarded our train; a modern, and clean Spanish Talgo type that sped us towards Samarkand at speeds of up to 230 km/h. Out of the windows we crossed flat farmland for most of the journey as the tracks followed the main valley south-westwards. Crossing some wetlands some of the group managed to spy a mix of herons and White Stork. We arrived two hours later in a warm Samarkand.

After the initial hiccup of a broken bus that was soon replaced, we headed directly to the Gur-i Amir complex that includes the Amir Timur mausoleum, the tomb of the founding ruler of Uzbekistan whose 14th & 15th century empire stretched from Delhi to Istanbul. We then moved on to the Olug Bek observatory with its museum and ancient astronomical building followed by lunch at the Caravan restaurant. After lunch we checked in to the Wellfort hotel before heading to Shakhi Zindak Necropolis & finally Bibi Khanym Mosque before returning back to the hotel. As usual we dined out, but on loading up we were astonished to see a Nightjar perched on a telegraph pole next to where the bus was parked. After our meal before heading to our much-needed beds, we stopped at the Registan to experience the nightly light show, an event that seems to pull the whole of Samarkand to this neighbourhood.

Day 6

Saturday 20th May

Samarkand & Takhta-Karacha Pass

A brighter dawn but a 5am start as we joined a fleet of taxis for the 70km journey to the mountains to the south of Samarkand. We headed to the top of the Takhta-Karacha Pass at c 1700m asl before turning off. Here, the subalpine meadows and gritstone outcrops gave views into Tajikistan a mere 20km or so to the east. south. We walked along the track to find singing Hume's Short-toed Larks, but not before we viewed Turkestan Shrike, Eastern Orphean Warbler and Eastern Rock Nuthatches. We also found our first sparrows, with both 'Indian' House and Rock Sparrows present.



We moved on to a wooded stream and had our picnic breakfast in the teahouses there. We then walked up into the alpine meadows to areas of juniper and gritstone boulders. Soon we were treated to a singing male White-

throated Robin. A bit further up, the stakeout for Upcher's Warbler proved to be a bit trickier, but ultimately successful. Further up the valley both Lesser Grey Shrikes and Indian Paradise Flycatchers were on territory and the stream was home to a couple of basking Turkistan Rock Agama and patrolling Turkistan Goldenring Dragonflies. We wandered back to the cars sporting a mix of butterflies including Black-veined and Uzbek Marbled Whites. We then headed downhill for a short stop at a lower wooded valley. Here nesting Indian Paradise Flycatchers shot back and forth under the canopy and we found the nest of an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. A further drop in altitude took us to our lunch stop in a complex of teahouses along a wooded stream. Here again we found Greenish Warbler and White-winged Woodpecker, plus more paradise flycatchers. We also found a pair of the grey-headed *paropanisi* form of Goldfinch that are so different to ours, but typical in Central Asia.

Our last stop was at Shlem D'Yavola where granite outcrops for a local landmark of a heart shaped rock. Here a brief stroll on a breezy afternoon where we added Finsch's Wheatear and three more fly-over Black Storks. After this brief stop, we drove back to the city.

After a rest, we headed out into the city for the tour focusing Registan square – the main cultural site of the city. Although heavily repaired in the Soviet era, these show the richness of the post Timur period and the influence of China, India and Persia along the Great Silk Road. Today these historic universities are a home to many local crafts and artisan workshops, including silk, ceramics, metal work and Arabic calligraphy in addition to a museum to the founders.

Day 7

Sunday 21st May

Zarafshan NP & Bukhara

At 7am, we loaded our bags, left the hotel and headed directly to the Zarafshan NP. We walked the entrance road and we were focused on woodpeckers and almost immediately we heard the White-winged and shortly after were able to watch first a male and then a female. We had our breakfast at the headquarters building and a roosting Scops Owl entertained us as it sat sleepily at its day roost. The following walk through the poplar forest was quiet although a pair of Hobbies flew over and an immature Blue Emperor Dragonfly added interest.



From here we embarked on the long drive to Bukhara, stopping for lunch at a river-side fish restaurant. After a chance to unpack we embarked on a tour of the old town. Here, unlike the previous cities, the historic centre is

tightly packed and mostly contained within a pedestrianised area making this a walking tour not only to many sites, but also a wander through bazaars and streets. Furthermore, being clear of the earthquake zone, more of the buildings had escaped the ravages of natural disaster, even if most earlier buildings had not survived the 'scorched earth' policy of Genghis Khan. We started at the Mir-i-Arab Madrasa & the Kalan Mosque, the latter with the 12th century minaret (one of the few structures to survive Genghis Khan's ravishes), and then walking through the old centre taking in the three trading domes and a range of caravanserai and madrasas ending at the heart of the old city at Lyabi House. We had supper nearby at a traditional restaurant in a former Caravansari before returning to our hotel.

Day 8

Monday 22nd May

Kyzylkum Desert & Bukhara

We needed to brave a 4am start to be in the desert before the heat & wind defeated us, especially as road works and poor roads meant that the target area was nearly three hours away. However, this was our only chance for one of the most special birds of Central Asia. Most of the group snoozed on the journey, rather than watch the coming dawn, and by 6.55 were refreshed enough to head out in the sandy plain with its covering of scrubby tamarisk and *artemisia*.

Although tracks were plentiful, seeing or even hearing anything was proving to be difficult. Streaked Scrub Warbler was an immediate find, and although a couple of glimpses were had, our main target was elusive. Turkistan (Panders's) Ground Jay is localised to these deserts and then all of a sudden, we found an adult feeding a young close to the coach. Tracking back, we had good views and took a pause for an al-fresco breakfast. Here we watched Great Gerbils at the burrow complex between the carriageways and found a Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin. A Reticulated Racerunner and Lichtenstein's Toad-headed Agama reminded us of another special and we drove a short distance to try our luck with Frilled Toad-headed Agama, the largest of its genus. Before we got far, we were treated by another, and closer, encounter with the Ground Jays, an adult feeding two young. Our attention then transferred to the Agama, a charismatic male kept us entranced with its ink-dipped tail. We drove a bit further to a cafe, whose enclosed garden was a bit of a migrant trap here we found three Red-backed Shrikes, but it was the toings and froings in an apricot tree that kept us entranced. The ripe fruit was attractive to the local sparrows, but was the migrants that interested us. Common Rosefinch were joined by *balimodendri* Lesser Whitethroats and a female Barred Warbler lumbered around. Common Redstart, Spotted Flycatchers and the ubiquitous Blyth's Reed Warbler added to the mix.



Great Gerbil

As the wind built, we headed back in the direction of Bukhara to another cafe-oasis. Although we were able to have our picnic lunch here, we only found Great Reed Warbler and Black Pennant dragonflies that were new. As we headed closer to Bukhara, a few fly-over Purple Herons kept us awake.



Back in Bukhara by 3pm we had a pause before heading out again at 5pm. Today we tackled the remaining cultural sites just outside the pedestrianised centre, heading first to the Fort with its winter palace known as the Ark, then to Bolo-Hauz Mosque and finally two Mausoleums, namely the Chashma-Ayub Mausoleum which is now a museum of water supply but is built upon the well of the Prophet Job (with supposed restorative powers) and then finally to the Samanid Mausoleum that dates from the 10th century and another of the few buildings that survived the wrath of Genghis Khan, We then returned to the hotel for supper

Day 9

Tuesday 23rd May

Jeyran Ecocentre, Bukhara & Tashkent

Our last full day in Uzbekistan started early, with another 5am departure from the hotel, but this time heading southeast. We stopped at the entrance to the Jeyran Eco-centre, but initially walked to the east away from the reserve along the Bukhara canal. The tamarisk was alive with warblers, mainly Blyth's Reed, but including Eastern Olivaceous and the much-wanted Sykes's. We spied a male pheasant, although even here they were released in the past by the Russians for shooting. We tried for a known pair of Menetries's Warblers and although briefly seen, they wouldn't show well. We moved on to a small pool, startling a Tolai Hare in the process and finding our first White-tailed Lapwings & Clamorous Reed Warbler. We then entered the park on foot and soon started finding new species Steppe Agama and Rapid Racerunner for reptiles, Plain Tiger and Idas Blue for butterflies and perhaps more excitingly plenty of Turkman Gazelle, Przewalski's Horse and Yellow Ground Squirrel for mammals. New birds were not surprising in this different habitat, including Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Collared Pratincole and a flock of Garganey. Plentiful Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters were also good to see. Back at the centre, we all enjoyed our picnic breakfast whilst being serenaded by our only Eurasian Turtle Dove of the trip.

We arrived back in Bukhara by 11am leaving a bit of time for last-minute purchases before checking out of the hotel by 12.30. After lunch, we headed to the station for the train to Tashkent. The journey back, again by the fast

Talgo train, arrived at the appointed time at Tashkent. Despite the delays brought about by the arrival of the Singapore President in the city, we were soon on our way to the hotel and from there it was a short walk to the restaurant for our final supper together where we reflected in the trip and thanked our guide.

Day 10

Wednesday 24th May

Tashkent to home via Istanbul

At 7am the group breakfasted (all except the one early traveller) and then at 8am headed out for one last trip, in this case to the Botanic gardens. We entered via the Institute where Timur works and then walked around for a couple of hours. The nesting Long-eared Owls could not be found and few birds were present, but we saw the introduced Siberian Squirrel, Marsh Frogs and a mix of butterflies & dragonflies. We then returned to the hotel for final packing and onwards to the airport for the afternoon flight to London via Istanbul arriving on time and with little problem.



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Species lists

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>									✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓							
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									✓	
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			H				H		✓	
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>					H					
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				✓						
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	H	✓					
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>									✓	
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>									✓	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									✓	
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>		✓	✓					✓		✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>									✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓						✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>									✓	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									✓	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									✓	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>									✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									✓	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			✓				✓		✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓				✓		✓	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓		✓		✓					
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				✓					✓	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓				✓			
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓			✓		✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>								✓	✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓							
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓							
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	✓				✓					
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	✓	✓								
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓								
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓				✓					
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓	✓								
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓								
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		✓	✓		✓					

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>			✓		H	✓				
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					✓		✓	✓		
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>							✓	✓		
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓			
White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓		✓				
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓				✓			
Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>					✓		✓			
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					✓					
Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor pallidirostris</i>							✓			
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>								✓		
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	✓	H	✓		✓					
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turkestan Ground Jay - N	<i>Podoces panderi</i>							✓			
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	✓									
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>					✓	✓		✓		
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	✓									
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>		✓			✓					
Rufous-naped Tit	<i>Periparus rufonuchalis</i>		✓								
Azure (Yellow-breasted) Tit	<i>Cyanistes cyanus flavipectus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Great (Turkestan) Tit	<i>Parus major bokharensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Hume's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>					✓					
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							✓			
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓								
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓									
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica rufula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					✓					
Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>							✓			
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>		✓		✓						
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>		✓			✓		✓		✓	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							✓			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi</i>							✓			
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>								✓		
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>								✓		
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>			✓		✓			✓		
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>					✓					

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Barred Warbler	<i>Curruca nisoria merzbacheri</i>							✓			
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca halimodendri</i>			✓				✓	✓		
Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Curruca althaea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Eastern Orphee Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>					✓	✓				
Menetries's Warbler	<i>Curruca mystacea turcmenica</i>								✓		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓				✓	✓			
Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>					✓					
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	✓	✓					✓			
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			✓	✓						
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓	✓								
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>							✓	✓		
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H	H		H	✓	H		✓		
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>					✓					
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	✓	✓			✓					
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>							✓			
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>						✓	✓			
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>							✓			
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>							✓			
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>					✓					
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>					✓					
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					✓					
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓				
(Indian) House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus bactrianus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓			✓					
White (Masked) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					✓					
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	H									
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis</i>							✓			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	H	✓			✓					
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis paropanisi</i>					✓					
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>		✓								
White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>	H	✓								
Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	✓				✓					

Other species

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Mammals											
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			✓							
Przewalski's Horse - I	<i>Equus ferus przewalskii</i>								✓		
Turkman (Goitered) Gazelle	<i>Gazella (subgutturosa) gracilicornis</i>								✓		
Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>								✓		

Siberian Red Squirrel - I	<i>Sciurus vulgaris exalbidus</i>									✓	
Yellow Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus fulvus</i>									✓	
Great Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>								✓		
Amphibians & Reptiles											
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>				H					H	✓
Turkestan Rock Agama	<i>Paralaudakia lehmanni</i>							✓			
Lichtenstein's Toad-headed Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus interscapularis</i>									✓	
Friiled Toad-headed Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus mystaceus</i>									✓	
Steppe Agama	<i>Trapelus sanguinolentus</i>										✓
Reticulated Racerunner	<i>Eremias grammica</i>									✓	
Rapid Racerunner	<i>Eremias velox</i>										✓
European Glass Lizard	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>				d						
Spotted Whip Snake	<i>Hemorrhoids ravergieri</i>	✓									
Butterflies											
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓		✓				✓			✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>										✓
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>							✓			
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>							✓			
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓		
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	✓		✓							
Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>										✓
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>							✓			
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>										✓
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>										✓
Uzbek' Marbled White	<i>Melanargia parce</i>							✓			
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Hermit	<i>Chazara briseis</i>							✓			
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>							✓			
Dragonflies											
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>								✓		✓
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax partenope</i>										✓
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>									✓	
Turkestan Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster coronata</i>							✓			
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>										✓
Sandy Darter	<i>Sympetrum arenicolor</i>										✓
Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>									✓	
Others											
Oriental Hornet	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>							✓		✓	✓
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓						✓			