

# Uzbekistan's Wildlife & Culture

Naturetrek Tour Report

17th – 29th May 2025

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Eurasian Eagle-Owl



Persian Fritillary



Bladetail



Turkestan Ground Jay

Tour report by Martin Pitt



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Tour participants: Martin Pitt (leader), Timur Abduraupov (local co-leader and naturalist) and drivers, with twelve Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Naturetrek's wildlife and 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 and drivers, we visited the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara, with their blue-tiled mosques, madrasas and mausoleums, and the natural wonders around them. We headed high into the 'Switzerland of Uzbekistan' at 2500m in Za'amin, and the low plains of red sand in the Kyzylkum desert. We also experienced the hospitality of the Uzbek people and their unique cuisine, a tasty blend of Persian, Turkish, Indian and Chinese food.

Despite early and hot spring weather, we recorded 134 birds, seven mammals, 22 butterflies, 10 reptiles, 12 dragonflies, and some interesting species of plants. We escaped the blistering temperatures of the previous couple of weeks, but had sunny weather throughout. No doubt because of the weather, both plant and insect life were more advanced than normal, explaining the high numbers seen. However, many of the bird migrants had already passed through and breeding was in full swing, and with some early nesters even having young. Many of these species are localised to this region, while others are familiar from further east, south or west, creating a 'melting pot' of a region. Highlights included Turkestan Ground Jay, Blyth's Rosefinch, Rufous-naped Tit, Himalayan Vulture, Secret Toadhead Agama, Rapid Racerunner, Great Gerbil, Turkman Goitered Gazelle, and Onager (Turkmenian Wild Ass).

Butterflies and dragonflies were also active; many of the species are little-known, including Turkestan Goldenring, Sandy Darter, Turkestan Winter Damselfly, Persian Fritillary, and marbled whites, hairstreaks and graylings that have yet to be given English names. In all, this was a stunning introduction to this double-landlocked and historic country in central Asia.



Za'amin National Park

## Day 1

**Saturday 17th May**

### Flight to Tashkent via Istanbul

Eleven clients and Martin departed from Heathrow on an evening flight to Istanbul. The transfer was straightforward, if convoluted: THY seemed determined to show us all of Istanbul airport by changing our departure gate a couple of times. We departed for Tashkent on time. All flights were comfortable and made good time.

## Day 2

**Sunday 18th May**

### Tashkent, Za'amin

We arrived at Tashkent on time, and quickly cleared passport control. Baggage reclaim and money change took longer, but we were entertained by an army band welcoming some of their comrades back from a sporting tour. Once outside, we were met by Timur, our guide, and we travelled the short distance to Hotel Shamsan for breakfast, spying flocks of Swifts and numerous Common Mynas on the way. We had a welcome chance to have a bit of breakfast and to freshen up.

We then headed through the Tashkent traffic, for once relatively quiet, as it was a Sunday morning. With our local cultural guide, our focus was the Hazrati-Imam complex of historical buildings. We passed the memorial to the 1966 earthquake that had destroyed so much of the city, and started our explorations at the Hazrati Imam Jome Mosque, before heading to the Uthman Qur'an museum (which houses the world's oldest known Qur'an), the Muiy Mubarak Madrassi, and finally the Hazrati Imam mausoleum. The sites themselves were wonderful; however, building works meant that the peaceful setting within squares and gardens was somewhat lost. We then headed to our lunch stop via the new town, the Senate House and Independence Square. Our final member of the group joined us, having delayed their London departure due to the FA Cup Final: fortunately, their team had won! Suitably refreshed, we headed out of the city towards the mountains.

The transfer to Za'amin is long, and initially we crossed agricultural plains. We stopped at a White Stork colony where every power pylon seemed to hold five or six nests. Other species were limited to a couple of Purple Herons and Marsh Harriers. We continued onwards, breaking for a comfort stop, when one of the buses found a group of Rosy Starlings. We tracked the Tajikistan border, and then in Za'amin town we started to climb from the lowland plain into the mountains. A roadside halt gave good views, plus both Rollers and a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes, but we soon took on the final push to our hotel at 2400m, arriving with the sun dipping. We had enough time to check in and have a quick meal before the jet lag kicked in and we headed to bed.

## Day 3

**Monday 19th May**

### Za'amin National Park

At 6.00am the sun was starting to wash the snow-capped peaks to our south, and the group met up for a pre-breakfast walk and a chance to see where we had come to. We could now see that our hotel was set in subalpine juniper forest, and the first birds were typical of this habitat: we found Rufous-naped and Yellow-breasted Tits

close to the hotel, although pride of place perhaps went to a showy White-winged Grosbeak. We then returned the hotel for breakfast and to meet up with the rest of the group.



A hairtsreak (*Satyrium mirabilis*)



White-winged Grosbeak

At 8.30am, we all boarded the buses and headed deeper into the park, bypassing the tourist trap of the glass bridge, and trying our luck at a picturesque river valley. The stream was in full spate, and the Common Sandpipers were bickering for territory. A pair of showy Siberian Stonechats looked as though they were on territory, we found a Yellow Wagtail of the race *thunbergi* by the stream, and a Golden Eagle flew over. As the cool of the early morning burned off, butterflies were soon all around, including a stunning Cardinal and Queen of Spain Fritillary. The ditches were alive with the tadpoles of Pevzov's Toads and Four-spotted Chasers, the latter perhaps surprisingly the only dragonfly species present.

We headed back down the entrance road to try a few more stopping places before lunch. The first was an overlook where a pair of Rufous-naped Tits had a nest in the roadside bank. A noisy crow drew our attention to a fly though Eastern Imperial Eagle, and a Long-legged Buzzard that had caught a snake. Lower still, we stopped again, and although the targets were the passerines, our luck with raptors continued with a flyover Bearded Vulture and Short-toed Snake Eagle. We decided to head back for lunch as activity had dropped in the heat, but not before more raptors treated us: we added Griffon Vulture and Booted Eagle on our way.

We had a siesta until 4.00pm, and then headed downhill again for an early evening session by a river, below the main park gate. This area of poplars has a different mix of species, and we soon found Indian Paradise Flycatchers, including one on a nest, and singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. Indian Golden Orioles were in the poplars as well; however, we were limited to glimpses as they chased from tree to tree. An Oriental Turtle Dove seemed to take pity on us as it sat in full view, seemingly unconcerned by our presence, although both Common Rosefinch and the Nightingale reverted to the skulking theme.

We decided to head back up the entrance road, with a plan to find some of the missing passerines. This changed when Timur glimpsed a Long-tailed Shrike by the roadside, and with effort we tracked it down as it torn into it prey. Our final stop was at a hairpin close to the top, and as we had hoped a couple of pink Blyth's Rosefinches perched out in the evening light. With that, we returned to the hotel for the checklist and supper.

## Day 4

Tuesday 20th May

### Za'amin National Park and Samarkand

We met at 6.00am and walked out of the hotel to take a track into the juniper forest that had been used to construct new water tanks for the hotel complex. Surprisingly, we were not alone, as twice we met Uzbek ladies taking their morning constitutional. The commonest species were Rock Buntings, and the by now familiar tit species were also present. We soon found one of our missing targets: a pair of Hume's Leaf Warblers showed well. A female Pied Wheatear should have been on territory, but we couldn't find her mate anywhere. More Blyth's Rosefinches and a showy Chukar were the further rewards for the early risers.

The rest of the morning was spent at lower levels in the park, attempting to find species we had missed to date. We left at 8.30am and stopped at key vantage points. The first added more rosefinches, the next was a rest stop with day beds in the shade of Poplars, and although it was popular with Indian Paradise Flycatchers we struggled to add anything new, until we found a singing White-capped Bunting on the adjacent hillside. As on the previous day, the warm conditions were affecting activity, so we went higher and the last stop offered flyover Himalayan and Bearded Vultures. Timur was refusing to give up on one last speciality, and soon enough a male White-browed Tit-warbler came into view. They are notoriously difficult to see and often show only once; this one showed four or five times as we waited. With our luck perhaps expended, we headed up to the hotel to pack and have lunch.

With the buses loaded, we left for the drive to Samarkand. We had a final stop outside the National Park at the river we had visited the day before. The attempt to find a showy Indian Golden Oriole was partially successful, and another Long-tailed Shrike was found. A Blue Whistling Thrush was heard singing, but we couldn't find a vantage point. So we left, stopping briefly for a comfort stop at Za'amin town, and then drove on to Samarkand. We were staying in the new town and walked to a nearby restaurant. After dinner we headed to Registan Square to see this iconic heritage madrasa lit up, although this year there was not a full son-et-lumière show.

## Day 5

Wednesday 21st May

### Samarkand

Today we had a more relaxed start and left the hotel at 8.30am for a cultural day. We headed directly to the Gur-i Amir complex, which includes the Amir Timur mausoleum, the tomb of the founding ruler of Uzbekistan whose fourteenth- and fifteenth-century empire stretched from Delhi to Istanbul. It was relatively quiet at the site, and we could enjoy the splendour of the decoration. We then moved on to the Registan and, unlike the previous evening, entered the complex, touring the three madrasas before walking down to the Bibi Khanym Mosque, which was once the largest mosque in Samarkand. The temperature was in the low thirties by the time we experienced the main Samarkand market, just next door to the mosque. The rows of spices, dried fruit and nuts and the fresh vegetables made an impressive and colourful display.

We headed off to lunch, experiencing the traditional Samarkand *plov* (beef pilaf) at the best restaurant for the dish. Suitably refreshed, we headed to the Olug Bek observatory with its museum and ancient astronomical building, followed by Shakh Zindak Necropolis with its blue-tiled mausoleums of Timur the Great's family. Before heading back to the hotel, we walked along the Siab Aryk River to the Khoja Dardor Mausoleum site. This was a wildlife



focused end to the day, and as promised we found three of the target owl species, including Little, Pallid Scops and Eurasian Eagle-Owl, the latter giving great views of both the adult and a young bird which was wandering from the nest. A Kingfisher and a Common Tern were also new to our list and reflected the importance of water in this arid land; good views of a Muskrat was a surprise. Back at the hotel, we headed out for evening meal at the Karimbek restaurant, before returning to prepare for an early start the next day.



Registan Square, Samarkand

## Day 6

Thursday 22nd May

### Samarkand and Takhta-Karacha Pass

It was a bright dawn and at 5.00am, we joined a fleet of taxis for the 70km journey to the mountains south of Samarkand. We headed to the top of the Takhta-Karacha Pass at 1700m, before turning off at a café. The day was set to be hot and bright, so we started straight out for a pre-breakfast explore. The café had Grey-crowned Goldfinch singing above the cars, and in the early stages of the climb we saw Indian Golden Oriole and added Red-headed Bunting to our list.

The whole area was alive with butterflies. They seemed to be particularly attracted to the Viper's Bugloss, and each plant was covered in Essex Skippers, Black-veined Whites, 'Uzbek' Marbled Whites, Hummingbird Hawk-moths dashing from plant to plant, and Apollos (more elusively) on the higher slopes. More of the target species showed: our first Turkistan Rock Agama was sunning itself in the top branches of a tree. An Upcher's Warbler was singing strongly, and both Eastern Orphean Warblers and Turkistan Shrikes were new. A pair of Eastern Rock Nuthatches were obviously nest prospecting amongst the gritstone boulders, and the whole area was alive with Red-headed Buntings. We returned to the café, where we ate our packed breakfasts before heading back up to the col and a short distance along the ridge line. In an area of sandy grassland, a couple of pairs of Hume's Larks were surprisingly

quickly found, and we soon added a distant Egyptian Vulture and male Pied Wheatear, both perched atop the boulders.

We moved on again, picking up Tawny Pipit on the way to another overlook. Of the hoped-for White-throated Robin there was no sign; we later learned that a bird poacher had been active here the previous week, and this species is particularly popular in the illegal cagebird trade. Again, butterflies were active: we found Persian Fritillary, Uzbek Marbled White and an endemic hairstreak (*Satyrium mirabilis*). Pride of place, however, went to a large and spectacular Turkestan Goldenring dragonfly quartering the area.

We drove further and stopped at a side valley, where the normally skulking Nightingales and Cetti's Warbler showed well, but little else was present. Lower still, another stop in a poplar wood was similarly quiet. We therefore headed for lunch at a streamside restaurant. After lunch we headed back to the bottom of the mountains.

Our last stop was near Shlem D'Yavola, where granite outcrops form a local landmark of a heart-shaped rock. Here we took a brief stroll in hot and surprisingly humid conditions. The local wheatears didn't appear to mind, and we soon found a couple of male Finsch's and a close Pied which enabled comparison of these similar species. We also found another *mirabilis* hairstreak and the grayling *Chazara enervate*, an eastern version of the more familiar Hermit, and a mix of new plants. After this stop, we drove back to the city, arriving around 3.50pm, enabling a relaxing break to do the checklist and to prepare for dinner at the hotel.

## Day 7

Friday 23rd May

### Bukhara

After a 7.00am breakfast, we left by 8.00am for the long drive to Bukhara. This passed uneventfully: although we added Pied Bushchat at our first comfort stop and sampled freshly squeezed beetroot and carrot juice at the second. We stopped at the site of the Rabat-i-Malik *caravanserai*; the portal remained, together with a preserved 'sardoba', one of the ancient covered wells that used to be located every 30km along the Silk Roads. Today, only four of them remain. We drove on, making good time.

We arrived at lunchtime and headed to a restaurant overlooking the Kalon Minaret, and then checked in to the Omar Khyyam hotel in the traffic-free centre of the old city. At 4.00pm we headed into the old town. Here, unlike the previous cities, the historic centre is tightly-packed and mostly contained within a pedestrianised area, allowing not only a walking tour to many cultural 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 and the Kalon Mosque, the latter with a twelfth-century minaret (one of the few structures to have survived Genghis Khan's ravages), and then walked through the old centre, taking in the three trading domes and a range of *caravanserais* and madrasas, ending at the heart of the old city at Lyabi House.

We ate dinner at Old Bukhara restaurant sampling the Bukhara form of *plov*, which is cooked slightly differently compared with the one eaten in Samarkand earlier in the trip. We returned to our hotel to prepare for the expedition to the desert the following day.



Kalon Mosque, Bukhara

## Day 8

Saturday 24th May

### Kyzylkum Desert and Bukhara

We needed to brave a 4.00am start to be in the desert before the heat and wind might defeat us. It was still dark when we left the hotel, and most of the group snoozed on the journey, rather than watch the coming dawn. Despite the local police's best endeavours to slow our progress with enforced rest stops, by 6.20am we were refreshed enough to head out on the sandy plain with its covering of scrubby tamarisk and *Artemisia*.

This was our only chance for one of the most special birds of Central Asia: Turkestan (formerly Pander's) Ground-Jay is endemic to these deserts. Although Ground Jay tracks were plentiful, seeing or even hearing anything was tricky. An early bird showed distantly, but we lost it when we tried to get closer. Streaked Scrub Warblers were noisily playing tag amongst the bushes. We recorded both Steppe Great Grey Shrike and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater while we hunted for the Ground Jay. We found another: as we moved closer, it disappeared, but as is typical of this species, it suddenly reappeared closer to us! We broke off to have breakfast, finding Long-clawed Ground Squirrel and Lichtenstein's Toadhead Agama on the way. We moved a bit further along the road, stopping at a Great Gerbil colony and then heading out into a sandier location, where we found another four Ground Jays, which came closer: they were obviously a family group. We spotted a large locust, and no sooner that we had spied it than a Secret Toadhead Agama pounced and devoured the grasshopper, then carted away the remnants of its prize. We were later to see many more locusts; they seemed to be moving on a broad front across the desert.

We headed on to the café/oasis where it became clear that this was not a 'migration day', and although we found Common Redstart, Common Rosefinch and both Arctic and Greenish Warblers, it was all a little subdued. We ate our lunch and then moved on to another café. We found a party of Desert Finches, and more *Phylloscopus* warblers.



However, it was the number of dragonflies that was impressive. Large numbers of Black Pennants and Turkestan Winter Damselflies were attracted by the water. Lesser Emperor, Black Percher, and Red-veined Darter were also added to our lists with a little searching.

Our final stop was some pools, almost back at Bukhara. Viewing from the roadside was tricky but brought our first waders, but knowing that we would be seeing most of the same species the following day, we headed back to Bukhara, arriving just before 3.30pm. After a pause, we headed out again at 5.00pm. Today, we tackled the remaining cultural sites just outside the pedestrianised centre, heading first to the Bolo-Hauz Mosque with twenty wooden columns on its façade. We drove around to the Samanid Mausoleum, which dates from the tenth century CE, and another of the few buildings to have survived the wrath of Genghis Khan. It sits in a park that was preparing to receive graduating high school students from across the city for their prom night party. Our final stop was at the Fort, with its winter palace known as the Ark. This was the final palace of the last Emir of Bukhara, 80% of which was destroyed in a fire initiated, so it is said, by the Soviets. The remaining areas gave a glimpse of the final days of independent-rule in the 1920s, and the ramparts offered wonderful views over the city. We then returned to hotel and went on for supper, watching the sun set over the Kalon minaret as we ate.

## Day 9

Sunday 25th May

### Jeyran Ecocentre, Bukhara and Tashkent

Our last full day in Uzbekistan started early, with another 5.00am departure from the hotel, but this time we headed south-east. Short of the Ecocentre, we stopped on a small hill to the side of the road and scanned the reserve, finding lots of Turkman Gazelle and a party of three Kulan (aka Onager, aka Turkmenian Wild Ass). We searched for Asian Houbara, but could not get clear views, so we moved on and took the track opposite the entrance to the Jeyran Ecocentre. We walked to the east, away from the reserve and along the Bukhara canal.



Onagers / Turkmenian Wild Asses / Kulans

The tamarisks were alive with warblers, mainly Blyth's Reed, but also including Eastern Olivaceous and the much-wanted Sykes's. We tried for a known pair of Menetries's Warblers, and although they wouldn't show well, we had multiple brief views of them. We moved on to a small pool, finding our first White-tailed Lapwings and Clamorous Reed Warbler. Six Marbled Ducks flew up and down the pool and were joined by Red-crested Pochard. In the surrounding area, an Oriental Skylark sang and there were lots of dragonflies including Bladetail, Slender Skimmers, and a Lesser Emperor. The field edges held Steppe Agama and Rapid Racerunner, and where they were no longer cultivated, the rough scrub held a singing Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin. We moved to a viewpoint overlooking a

distant pool. Both Common and Ruddy Shelduck were present, but it was more difficult to make out the waders. With care Red-necked Phalaropes and a Greater Sand Plover could be distinguished. A flyover Black-bellied Sandgrouse was a reminder that we were still in the desert.

We had breakfast by the track and then moved on. Sykes's Warblers were common in the Tamarisks. A flyover Caspian Gull and Pygmy Cormorant illustrated the attraction of the pools and canal in this arid land. More dragonflies were also found; we added Southern Skimmer, Sandy Darter, and a bright yellow Syrian Clubtail to the mix.

We arrived back in Bukhara by 11.15am, leaving a bit of time to clear our rooms before checking out of the hotel by noon. Lunch was taken in Bella Italia, and we took the opportunity to say goodbye to Timur and our drivers, who had supported us throughout the trip. We then headed to the nearby station, catching the 4.10pm service to Tashkent. The high speed Talgo train arrived in Tashkent just before 8.30pm, and there we had a short transfer to our hotel. We had our final meal together in the hotel restaurant, during which we reflected on the trip and the wonders of Uzbekistan.

## Day 10

Monday 26th May

Our travel day started with an early breakfast; we left the hotel at 6.50am for the airport. The flight left on time and was smooth and trouble-free, via a transfer at Istanbul where we said goodbye to those staying on in Türkiye for a few days. Our onward flight to Heathrow was on time, and we said our final farewells there before heading home.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>								✓		
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>								✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								✓		
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>								✓		
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>							✓	✓		
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>								✓		
Chukar Partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				✓						
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>								✓		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓							
Feral Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓						
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>							✓	✓		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>							✓			
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>								✓		
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>								✓		
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>							✓	✓		
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>							✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓					✓			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							✓			
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>							✓			
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>							✓			
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							✓			
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>								✓		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>								✓		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓				✓		
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>								✓		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>								✓		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓						✓	✓		
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>								✓		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</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>	✓						✓			
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		✓	✓							
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>					✓					
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>			✓							
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓								
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓								
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓	✓		✓					

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		✓								
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓	✓							
Shikra	<i>Tachypiza badia</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓	✓				✓		
Pallid Scops Owl	<i>Otus brucei</i>				✓						
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>				✓						
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓				H		✓			
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓						
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>							✓	✓		
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>		✓								
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Indian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus kundoo</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor pallidirostris</i>							✓			
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	✓									
Red-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>					✓					
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>		✓	✓							
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Turkestan Ground Jay - N	<i>Podoces panderi</i>							✓			
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</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>			✓	✓	✓					
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>								✓		
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Hume's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>					✓					
Pale Martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>								✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓									
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					✓					
Streaked Scrub Warbler	<i>Scotocerca inquieta</i>							✓			
White-browed Tit-warbler	<i>Leptopoecile sophiae</i>										
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>			✓							
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							✓			
(Siberian) Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>			✓				✓			
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>							✓			
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>							✓			



N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Clamorous Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>								✓		
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sykes's Warbler	<i>Iduna rama</i>								✓		
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓		
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>					✓		✓			
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca halimodendri</i>							✓	H		
Hume's Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca althaea</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca crassirostris</i>					✓					
Menetries's Warbler	<i>Curruca mystacea turcmenica</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		
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>								✓		
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>			H							
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>							✓			
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>							✓	✓		
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>		✓								
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>			✓		✓					
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>					✓					
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓		
(Indian) House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus bactrianus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓						✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓			✓					
White (Masked) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba personata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					✓					
White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>		✓	✓							
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis</i>		✓					✓			
Blyth's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus grandis</i>		✓	✓							
Desert Finch	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>							✓			
Grey-crowned Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis caniceps</i>					✓					
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>		✓	✓							
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	H	✓	✓		H			✓		
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>		✓	✓		✓					
White-capped Bunting	<i>Emberiza stewarti</i>			✓							
Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>					✓					

## Mammals

I=Introduced		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Onager / Kulan	<i>Equus hemionus kulan</i>								✓		
Turkman (Goitered) Gazelle	<i>Gazella (subgutturosa) gracilicornis</i>								✓		
Tolai Hare	<i>Lepus tolai</i>	✓						✓			
Long-clawed Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilopsis leptodactylus</i>							✓			
Yellow Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus fulvus</i>	✓		✓		✓					
Great Gerbil	<i>Rhombomys opimus</i>							✓			
Muskrat - I	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>				✓						

## Reptiles and amphibians

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Pevzov's Toad (tadpoles)	<i>Bufo peszewi</i>		✓								
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundas</i>	H							H		
Turkestan Thin-toed Gecko	<i>Tenuidactylus fedtschenkoi</i>					✓					
Lichtenstein's Toadhead Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus interscapularis</i>							✓			
Secret Toadhead Agama	<i>Phrynocephalus mystaceus</i>							✓			
Turkestan Rock Agama	<i>Paralaudakia lehmanni</i>					✓					
Steppe Agama	<i>Trapelus sanguinolentus</i>								✓		
Rapid Racerunner	<i>Eremias velox</i>								✓		
Reticulate Racerunner	<i>Eremias grammica</i>							✓			
Tessellated Water Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>				✓						

## Butterflies

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				✓	✓					
Apollo	<i>Parnassius apollo</i>					✓					
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓		✓	✓					
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>					✓					
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓	✓							
Persian Fritillary	<i>Melitaea perseae</i>					✓					
Turkestan Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium mirabilis</i>					✓					
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		✓								
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>		✓						✓		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓								
Scarce Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis xanthomelas</i>		✓								
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓		✓					
'Uzbek' Marbled White	<i>Melanargia parca</i>					✓					
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓								
Dark Rockbrown	<i>Chazara persephone</i>					✓					
'Eastern Hermit'	<i>Chazara enervata</i>					✓					
Dark Wall	<i>Lasiommata menava</i>					✓					

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>					✓					
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>				✓						
Striped Hawk-moth	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>							✓	✓		
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>					✓					

### Damselflies and dragonflies

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Turkestan Winter Damselfly	<i>Sympecma gobica</i>							✓			
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax partenope</i>	✓						✓	✓		
Bladetail	<i>Lindenia tetraphylla</i>								✓		
Syrian Clubtail	<i>Stylurus ubadschii</i>								✓		
Turkestan Goldenring	<i>Cordulegaster coronata</i>				✓						
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>		✓								
Slender Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum sabina</i>								✓		
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>				✓						
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>							✓	✓		
Sandy Darter	<i>Sympetrum arenicolor</i>								✓		
Black Percher	<i>Diplacodes lefebvreii</i>							✓	✓		
Black Pennant	<i>Selysiothemis nigra</i>							✓			

### Other invertebrates

		May 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Turkestan Jewel Bug	<i>Julodis variolis</i>							✓		