

Baku, Azerbaijan: October 2018

Oscar Campbell & Mark Smiles



This short trip started as a quick city break from Dubai, a 2¾hr flight from Baku. But as soon as I had checked out some of the birding options around Baku and brought Mark Smiles on board to bring the birder to civilian ratio to something more reasonable, it became clear that this had the potential to involve some serious birding, even for just a few days. Given Azerbaijan's relatively recent appearance as a birding hotspot, and the general dearth of trip reports available online (and those existing written mainly by the same gang of European trailblazers) we felt it was worth putting a few logistical details - correct as of October 2018 - and birding notes out there. In just a couple of days we saw a ton of flyover migrants, a few top quality residents and masses of waterbirds and arriving winter visitors from central Asia. Baku itself is more like Barcelona than any memories of Soviet Russia - cafes and friendly people out on the streets everywhere, lovely temperatures and plenty of nice architecture and history. We're heading back as soon as we can.

Getting there

With several flights daily from Dubai (try, e.g. www.flydubai.com), this was dead easy. Visas are now very easily available online (see <https://evisa.gov.az> - the cost, at least for a UK passport with UAE resident visa, was a mere 20USD plus a minor admin fee) and we had ours via email within three days. There was a bit of delay at border control at the airport, but no worse than most. Apparently it is perfectly possible to get a visa on arrival on the airport; we saw people doing this and, other than adding a bit to the queuing time, the process looked simple.

Getting around

We got a hotel pick-up from the airport to the hotel; this cost c20USD and took 30mins. Booking the same on the way back was easy on the morning of our outward flight. Getting about Baku, we simply walked (but there were plenty of taxis to try too, and at least some of the drivers spoke a bit of English) but to go further afield we used the services of Caspian Tour / Olive Travel where the very helpful Haji (email h.imanli@hotmail.com) was prompt at replying and easily set everything up. He came to meet us at our hotel on the first night so that we could hand over the cash. This company was recommended to us by Tomas Haroldsson and Kai Gauger (see below) and we'd definitely recommend Haji for working out travel details for trips all over Azerbaijan. The cost for a car, all fuel and a driver for two full days (0700 departure on the first day; 0430 on the next; back 1900 each night) was 250USD, which was fairly reasonable between three of us.

Where to stay

We decided to stay each night in Baku and, via www.booking.com selected Seven Boutique Hotel (see www.booking.com/hotel/az/seven-boutique-baku.html) on the edge of the old city. This was bang in the middle (5min walk to the Maiden Tower; less than 10 to the Caspian) and very close to the old city walls; going out for dinner was dead easy with lots of nice streetside restaurants nearby. The streets around the hotel are a bit of a warren but the driver arranged by Caspian Tour had no problems finding us. Early morning starts, at least on Saturday and Sunday were no problem; there was a lot more traffic heading back in the evenings but not too bad.

Contacts

Scouring of trip reports put us in touch with Tomas Haroldsson and Kai Gauger and they proved very helpful indeed with logistical details re Besh Barmag, as well as giving us the details for Haji (see above). At Besh Barmag, Christoph Himmel and the rest of the team provided much help and information.

eBird

All bird records made on the this trip were recorded on ebird. Checklists made can be found at the in the table of links presented just before the systematic list.

Birding sites visited

South of Baku: Gobustan and Shirvan National Park



On account of many rock paintings on a bouldery ridge a little inland from the main highway south, **Gobustan** is a famous site c45mins drive south of central Baku, easily visited by any tour from town. We arrived just before 0800 to find that the centre closed and access to the site was not possible before 1000. Never mind; in the meantime, we instantly located a pair of **Finsch's Wheatear** right by the entrance gate (to be precise, at: **40.087229, 49.386792**); the male was singing from the metal signpost. When we returned just after 1000, the museum and visitor centre were already getting quite busy, The former was well worth a look with lots of information nicely presented. The surrounding gardens, holding the only proper vegetation for miles, was worth a kick before we headed up to the main petroglyph site (**40.110635, 49.378091**). Birds seen on our visited included **Western Rock Nuthatch** (easy at the petroglyphs; three pairs at least), another female **Finsch's Wheatear**, **Corn Bunting**, **Black Redstart**, **Spanish Sparrow**, **Red-billed Chough** and various small groups of migrating flyover finches, larks and the odd raptor.

About 10mins further south it is possible to visit a small area of mud volcanoes several km inland on rough tracks through the badlands. The ones we visited were at **39.996285, 49.402038**. At least on our visit, this arid, barren area was very quiet for birds but did produce another female **Finsch's Wheatear** and a few **Rock Sparrows** on wires.

Shirvan National Park: this fantastic steppe and wetland national park is easily accessed from the main highway about 30mins south of the mud volcanoes. From the gate (**39.751862, 49.143517**; look for a large elevated gazelle sculpture; easily visible from the highway). It is 100km back to Baku on the way home. Entrance was 2Manat per person, payable at the gate. Compared too much of the surrounding land (arid desert hills or, in some places, irrigated agriculture) this is a relatively intact and large patch of untouched natural steppe land. There is a track of c8-10km through the steppe leading eventually to an elevated viewpoint with a roofed building (at **39.670916, 49.182420**), overlooking an extensive area of reedbed and open water, with many large pools. Birding was great from here but, in addition, look for a pull in and short track from the road less than 1km before the viewpoint, leading to a short, screened walkway through the reedbed and a good, close view of one of the birdier pools (viewable at some distance from the viewpoint). The walkway is obvious on Google Maps at **39.679785, 49.186321**. Hanging around the viewpoint and walkway for a few hours was well worthwhile with excellent afternoon light, and lots of birds appearing during our visit. Our most notable



species included real pukka **Mute Swans** (two families), c1500 **ducks** of 12 species, including hundreds of **Red-crested Pochard** and a few **Marbled Teal**, up to 10 **Dalmation Pelicans** soaring together, 20 **Pygmy Cormorants**, **White-tailed Eagle**, 20 **Marsh Harriers**, **Grey-headed Swamphens**, 400 **Greater Flamingos** and a few **Caspian Gulls**. The edges produced **Water Rails**, **Penduline Tit**, **Siberian Stonechat** and **Common Kingfisher**.

The steppe on the drive in and out was rather quiet on the whole but did produce fine views of **Merlin** and **Long-legged Buzzard**, 50 evocative resting **Eurasian Curlews** and, late on near the gate both **Little Bustard** (four right by the track!) and several **Black Francolins** (in the scrubby and bushy stuff a little before the gate).

B North of Baku: Besh Barmag bottleneck and Cape Gilazi



This fantastic and recently discovered but justifiably (now very) famous migration watchpoint is located about 1hr:15min drive north of Baku. We departed too early (0430) and had half an hour in the dark at the truckers stop and roadside stalls below Besh Barmag mountain waiting for enough light so that we could find the track to the watchpoint. About 500m north of the last roadside cafe, there is a large junction with the road veering inland and, just off this, an easily drivable track heading north-north east. The track leaves the highway at **40.980536, 49.231572**. Follow this for c 2.5km, until about **40.999538, 49.218222**. From here, looking across the flat field to the right, a peculiar Z-shaped rusty pipe on a post (with a recently installed metal framed shelter a little to the south of it) is easily visible. Walk across the field to here, get set up and get ready for the great gig in the sky to unfold above you. From this slightly elevated viewpoint, the shore of the Caspian Sea is a few hundred metres to the east, and to west there are stubble fields and flatlands before a spur of the Caucasus starts to rise steeply a few km inland. The overall effect is a tight squeezing of the southbound passage in autumn into a band of few km, with many birds coming right overhead, although flight heights range from below you (as they bounce over the dunes and scrub behind the shoreline) to very high (corvids, raptors over the ridge to the west). You also need eyes on the back of your head, or a small crew, as you need to keep a careful eye on the sea as well. Bring clickers if you intend to do anything other than desultory counting.



At least throughout autumn 2018, and more intermittently in previous years, a dedicated international band of migration addicts have manned this site, and the results are truly impressive – see <http://www.trektellen.org/maps/index/0/1533> for a start to exploring the data.



With only a day here, we were simply dipping a toe in the water and despite the much too favorable weather (flat calm and very bright and clear) on our visit, we still managed a ton of birds. Even though Christophe rated it 4 / 10 by their standards, we had a ball. Our highlights included large numbers of passing **Stock Doves** sweeping by at close range, **Corn Buntings** and, for the first few hours, an almost unstoppable movement of **Starlings** with many flocks of **Calandra Larks** as well, again some very close. Other highlights included hundreds of **Great Cormorants**, **White Stork**, some close passing **Sparrowhawks** and **Marsh Harriers**, 5000 **Rooks**, **Red-throated** and **Buff-bellied Pipits** over and a good selection of **finches** and other things; **Eastern Imperial** and **Booted Eagles** with more **Black Kites** were latter hanging around all day and the resident **White-tailed Eagle** put in a fine appearance. Taking a break from the visible passage, there were plenty of dune scrub to kick through; probably better on a cooler, cloudier day but we added **Red-breasted Flycatcher** and a few other passerines. More interested was the actual beach; we had hundreds of **Caspian Gulls** here giving good close views, with **Little Gulls** even

closer and then hawking right over our heads. In summary, this is a superbly exciting area that would surely justify a much longer stay to get a full sampling of passage. Birds flood through from August to well into November (and beyond, subject to cold snaps further north); only a few Little Bustard had passed by the time of our visit (October 21st) but flocks of this would be a big draw a little later in the season.

On the way back, we were keen to try another site, so headed south c20mins of Besh Barmag to try **Cape Gilazi**, an obvious headland protruding into the Caspian Sea accessible from a narrow road from the village of Shurabaad (40.810921, 49.468231). The road is good and paved all the way to the very end (40.780304, 49.552427); the road goes further on here but was gated when we visited. Birding was quiet initially but steadily picked up during late afternoon; species of interest included **Mute Swan**, many **Little** and **Caspian Gulls**, **Hen Harrier**, **White-tailed Eagle**, **Little Owl**, flocks of **Calandra Larks** still landfalling and **Great Grey Shrike** on the wires on the way back. The fields between Shurabaad and the highway were partly tilled and irrigated and also had some nice birds on our return; four **Black Storks** down to roost were best be we also had several **Long-legged Buzzards** and **Peregrine**.

C Within Baku

Compared to outside the city, birding within Baku wasn't too hot. Mind you, we didn't try too hard, just kicking around on the first afternoon and last morning. One place easy to access and a nice touristy visit was a climb up to the memorial gardens (**40.356311, 49.828633**). Early morning on the last day this was quite birdy, with various flyover finches, lots of vocal **Red-breasted Flycatchers**, **Chiffchaffs** and close-ups of **Mediterranean Gulls** (and more distant **Caspian Gulls** and **Marsh Harriers**) from the waterside park between there and the old city. We also had a



visit to the Botanical Gardens, which wasn't really worth it from a bird point of view, although a flyover **Woodcock** was of some interest from a UAE perspective, along with a few of the inevitable **Red-breasted Flycatchers**. There must be more to see during busier passage periods or perhaps in mid-winter, so don't let our slack score put you off.

Surely worth a look would be the east end of the peninsula on which Baku sits. Absheron National Park and, perhaps Pirallahi Island next time for sure.

eBird checklists

19-Oct	Baku Memorial Cemetery	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49340670
20-Oct	Highway south of Baku to Shirvan NP	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49345072
20-Oct	Gobustan Nature Museum	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49340713
20-Oct	Gobustan Mud Volcano	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49340790
20-Oct	Shirvan NP	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49340820
21-Oct	Besh Barmag bottleneck	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49345206
21-Oct	Cape Gilazi	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49345272
22-Oct	Baku Memorial Cemetery	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49393621
22-Oct	Baku Botanical Garden	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S49393684

SPECIES LIST (111 species, IOC World Bird List 8.2 (June 2018))

Common name	Scientific name	Count	Location	Date	Notes
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	15	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	8	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Pair & 2y; ad & 3y.
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Juvenile flying.
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	20	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	10	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Bakı	19/10/2018	
		500	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		10	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
		15	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	500	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	50	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	200	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	200	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	4	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Black Francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	40	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		8	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	15	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	400	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	Juv on pool by road.
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	4	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Roosting in fields 1715.
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	Juv, S @ 1400.
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	10	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	8	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		2	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		10	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	15	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		3	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	10	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	20	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	

Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	100	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		2	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		5	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		300	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	On offshore platforms. None migrating.
		400	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	All S.
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Dark phase.
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	3	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Ad, 2cy and juv.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		5	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Shikra/Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter badius/nisus</i>	1	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	Brief flyby.
		1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	Brief view.
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		20	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		10	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Ad male.
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	15	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Immature.
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Adult at end.
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Ad.
		1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		2	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	4	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Flying up from track edge.
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Heard only.
Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	4	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	100	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		250	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		100	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		3	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	50	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	Flying over high.
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	250	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		10	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		100	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		500	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	

		30	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	15	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		25	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	4	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	Flyover.
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	3	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		15	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		200	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		300	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	5	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	3	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	10	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		200	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		100	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		10	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		20	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	600	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	6	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	5	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		1	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		5	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	5	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Lesser/Common Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni/tinnunculus</i>	12	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Distant. On wires near entrance.
		2	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	Seen distantly.
		3	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Distant. Probably Eurasian.
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		4	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Adult.
Saker/Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug/peregrinus</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Distant. Peregrine / Saker type.
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	2	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	Calling and 2 seen along waterfront.
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	Ad on telegraph poles.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	20	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		8	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		4	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		15	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	4	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		4	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	

Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		200	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	500	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		50	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		50	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		50	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		5000	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	All S. Very high. Still passing 1400.
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	150	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		15	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		20	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		20	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		30	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
		25	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	4	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		5	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Heard only.
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	10	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		1000	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	4	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		4	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
		6	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		3	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		4	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	30	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	Migrating south.
		75	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	2 flocks. Coming in high off Caspian.
		3000	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	Mainly before 1000 but still 60 1400.
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens</i>	2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		8	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	Heard.
		1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	6	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	100	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		100	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
		10	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		750	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	Flocks migrating south.
		750	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		10000	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyāzān	21/10/2018	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	6	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		4	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	

Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Heard.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	2	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	One seen well, other heard.
		1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		3	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		2	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	1	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	Female type.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	3	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	Pair, male singing, at gate; female at Petroglyphs.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	50	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		5	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		15	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	3	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		15	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	3	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	3	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		2	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
		4	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		2	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		15	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		50	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	4	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		20	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Mainly heard.
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	One heard, one seen.
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Calling clearly 0730. ID by Christoph Hummel. Not seen.
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	5	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		1	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		20	Highway M2 & M3 Baku to Shirvan NP	20/10/2018	
		10	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
		50	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		10	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		1	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	3	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		2	Gobustan Mud Volcano	20/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	

European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
		2	Baku Memorial Cemetery, Baki	19/10/2018	
		10	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	30	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		1	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		2	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	1	Baku-Botanical Gardens, Baki	22/10/2018	
		15	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		10	Qobustan Nature Museum, Baki	20/10/2018	
		100	Cape Gilazi, Xizi	21/10/2018	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	300	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	
		10	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	All flyovers. Mainly heard. Assumed not Pine Bunting
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	3	Shirvan NP--General Area, Salyan	20/10/2018	
		50	Besh Barmag bottleneck, Siyazän	21/10/2018	Mainly heard; 2 perched.