BIRDING IN TURKEY MAY 1986

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A REPORT OF A TRIP MADE TO TURKEY FROM 18TH MAY TO 2ND JUNE 1986 BY STUART WARREN, NICHOLAS J. WATMOUGH, MICHAEL G. WATSON AND Steve Williams.

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BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Birding in Turkey is cheap, enjoyable and rewarding in terms of both the number and variety of species that can be seen during a comparatively short visit. We followed the route favoured by British birders, travelling east from Antalya along the Mediterranean coast and the Syrian border as far as Cizre. Then heading North to Lake Van and the Pontic mountains before returning to Antalya across the Central Plateau (see Page 3). We saw most of the hoped for species during the trip, notably: Red-tailed Wheatear, Red-wattled Lapwing, Great Snipe and Most of the species we missed were those of Demoiselle Crane. the Eastern Pontics - a matter of choice. Two weeks is adequate although somewhat hectic to travel around Turkey by car, three weeks is desirable allowing all areas plus Cyprus to be visited. Travelling by hitching/public transport requires six-eight weeks and details are given in Mark Andrew's report from 1985.

TRAVEL

We flew to Istanbul from Heathrow and then on to Antalya on an internal flight. All of these were THY scheduled flights and the cost was approx. f220. The cost of hiring a car from Budget was approx. f440 for two weeks. The car hire was arranged in London through the travel agency (Steepwest Holidays Ltd., 449, Oxford Street, London WIR 1WA) prior to departure and Budget's representative in Antalya met us off the plane at midnight so allowing us to travel to our first site for dawn.

Roads were on the whole drivable if a little rough, especially in the East. The only damage sustained was to a sidelight when we drove off a wet road near Bulanik. On poorer metalled surfaces in the South-East especially between Urfa and Cizre the tar can become so fluid in the heat that it splashes over the bodywork of the car. This can be removed at minimal cost in an Antalya car wash before returning the car. Petrol is available in most areas although high octane 'super' tends to be found only in the west.

MAPS

For general purpose we used Hildebrande's Travel Map of Turkey (1:1,655,000) which is accurate and up to date. A slightly larger scale map (1:1,000,000) published by Kümmerly and Frey is available covering West and Central Turkey only. Site maps are in many earlier reports, those of Mark Andrews (1985), Simon Harrap (1984) and John Hewitt (1985) being the most useful.

ACCOMODATION

Cheap accomodation is available in most towns - if you are on a tight budget it is not necessary to pay more than about fl.50 per night. However by the time we got to Van we were a bit fed up and discovered that it was possible to stay in a "four star"

hotel for approx. f5.00 per night!

FOOD AND DRINK

Food is very cheap. A meal of lamb stew, rice and as much bread as you can eat costing approx. 80p. Such food is available in "Lokantas", "Restaurants" tend to be more expensive. Water (even in bottles) is a bit suspect, however minerals especially Coke are usually available. In addition there are myriad tea-shops and beer is available at low cost in some areas.

MONEY

Travellers cheques can only be cashed at branches of Turkiye I.S. Bankasi A.S. (TIB). These tend to located in the larger towns. Those close to the major birding areas are included in the site maps in Mark Andrews (1985) report.

PEOPLE

The Turks are friendly, reasonably honest and helpful - although as in any other country there are exceptions. They are however very inquisitive concerning Western tourists and optics and the novelty of people crowding around your car and wanting to look through 'scopes wears off very quickly! Furthemore pedestrians have little or no roadsense even in towns and are liable to leap in front of your car at any moment. However tempers kept, smiles given and being firm with questioners keeps everybody happy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for advice, information reports from previous trips or a combination of the three; Mark Andrews, Paul Dukes, Simon Harrap, John Hewitt, Dave Holman, Chris Murphy and Richard Webb.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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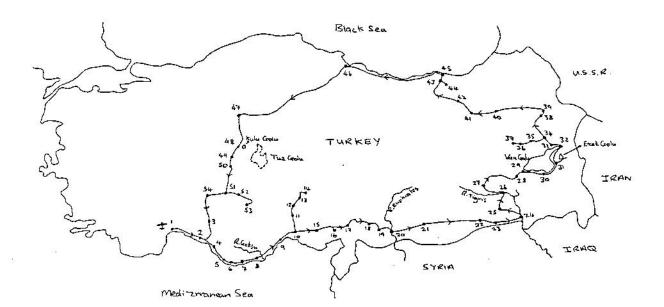
ROUTE TAKEN THROUGH TURKEY

The map shows the route taken by us through Turkey. For an idea of the timescale refer to the itinery (page 4). The place names are those used in both the itinery and the systematic list.

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١.	Antolya	12.	Kamisli	23.	Nusaybin	34.	Patnos	45.	Trabzon
	Manavaat	13.	Camardi	24.	Cigre	35.	malazgirt	46.	Samsun
	Akseki	14.	Demirkazik	25.	midyat	34.	Bulanik	47.	Ankara
	Alanya	ıs.	Adama	26.	Hasonkeyf	37.	Balatos	4 g.	Kulu
	Anamur	16,	Ceyhan	27.	Batman	38	Hamur	49-	Damlakuyu
6.	Tekmen		Osmaniya	28.	Bitlis	39.	Agri	50.	Agabeyli
7.	Gözce	18	Yessilce (Jsikli	29.	Tatyan	40.	Erzurum	51.	Konya
8.	Tarsucu	19.1	Gaziantep	30.	Akdamar	41.	Askale	52.	Yarma
A .	mersin	20.	Birecik	31.	Van	42.	Bayburt	53.	Hotamis
10.	Tarsus	71	Urfa	32.	Bendimahi	43.	Macka	54.	Beyschir
	Azanti		Kiziltepe		Ercis	44.	Sumeia Monastery		

ITINERY

18/5/86

Arrived Antalya around midnight, the car was waiting so we drove to Akseki. The morning was spent in three main areas; the pine woods north of the town, the overgrown graveyard in the town and the low hills to the south of the town. No sign of the Whitebacked Woodpeckers but Krüper's Nuthatch and Olive Tree Warbler proved to be no problem. Late afternoon and evening were spent driving to Tasucu.

19/5/86

Most of the day was spent on the Goksu Delta. Highlights here were 5 Broad-billed Sandpipers, Purple Gallinule and Great White Egret. Mid-afternoon took us back to Tasucu where we had 2 Audouin's Gulls in the harbour. After a brief interlude for shopping we drove to Demirkazik. Despite arriving at 01.00hrs we were made most welcome in the mountain hostel where we spent the night.

20/5/86

A pre-dawn start on the walk to the high snowfields got us Wallcreeper, Alpine Accentor and Radde's Accentor. We jammed Caspian Snowcock when a light aircraft flushed two from the high peaks. The rest of the morning was spent birding on the lower slopes. Returning to the hostel we were given lunch and a thrashing at football. We then drove to Ceyhan where we stopped the night.

21/5/86

We drove from Ceyhan to Isikli where we were delighted with Redtailed Wheatear and Eastern Rock Nuthatch. The surrounding low hills yielded Cinereous Bunting, White-throated Robin and Upcher's Warbler, whilst Bimaculated Lark and Desert Finch were in the Orchards and Fields. Evening drive to Birecik.

22/5/86

The day was spent around Birecik covering four main areas: The east bank of the Euphrates; the orchards c6km north of the town; the farmland south of the town; the 'main wadi'. Most of the expected species here including; Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Menétries Warbler, Little Swift and Yellow-throated Sparrow. We could not find Striated Scop's Owl in the park although an

Otus sp. seen near the park at dusk may have been of this species. A further visit to the park that night was discouraged by the police with machine pistols!

23/5/86

Early morning was spent in the 'main wadi' and on the raised plateau north of the town. Later we birded on the west side of the Euphrates where we found a Blue-cheeked Bee-eater colony. An afternoon drive to Cizre was enlivened by an electric storm, torrential rain, roadworks and the 'roadsense' of Turkish lorry drivers! The evening was spent birding by the Tigris where we saw 4+ Red-wattled Lapwing. Cizre was not over friendly so we decided to head for Batman, however we were stopped at a roadblock near Midyat and escorted into town where we were questioned. Despite the optics there were no problems except that the police held our passports overnight whilst we stayed in a hotel - of their choice!

24/5/86

From Midyat we drove to Van via Batman, Bitlis and Tatvan with many roadside stops especially by the shores of Van Gölü. The evening was spent around Ercek Gölü and in the hills east of Van where species included Great Snipe and Eagle Owl. The night was spent in the amazing Bürük Urartu Oteli.

25/5/86

Morning was spent covering North and South Van Marshes where wader passage was still much in evidence. The afternoon was spent exploring more of Ercek Gölü and the hills east of Van. Grey-necked Buntings were common here and the evening included another excellent performance by the Eagle Owl.

26/5/86

From Van we drove to Bendemahi marsh where we stopped for a couple of hours. An excellent spot with Caspian Tern, Citrine Wagtail and 50+ Red-necked Phalaropes. Then on to Bulanik in the valley of the River Murat via Ercis, Patnos and Malazgirt. More superb birding here with Demoiselle Crane, Great Bustard and 2 Great Snipe being the highlights. We stayed the night in Patnos.

27/5/86

A return to Bulanik to cover the marsh - another Great Snipe here! That afternoon was spent travelling towards Bayburt where we spent the night. Two hours in the evening were spent birding in scrub by the River Karusu just outside Askale. Here amongst a dense population of Bluethroats, Red-backed Shrikes and Scarlet Rosefinches we picked up Black Stork, 3 Corncrake and the inevitable Great Snipe.

28/5/86

From Bayburt we completed our crossing of the Pontic Mountains to get to the spectacular Sumela Monestary in the hills east of Macka. A walk through the forest yielded Green Warblers and a male Black Woodpecker. From Sumela we followed the Black Sea coast to Samsun where we spent the night.

29/5/86

We spent most of the day driving to Ankara where we stopped to do some shopping and banking. Late afternoon was spent birding on the southern shores of Kulu Gölü, thereafter to Konya where we spent the night.

30/5/86

This day was set aside for a visit to Hotamis, however when we arrived we found the marsh drained, the reeds burnt and the area planted out with cereals. Very disappointing! There are however some excellent marshes in this area (for details see the report of Richard Webb *etal*, 1986). We found one by the roadside 38km east of Konya. That evening we completed the return journey to Antalya via Konya, Akseki and Manavgat.

31/5/86-2/6/86

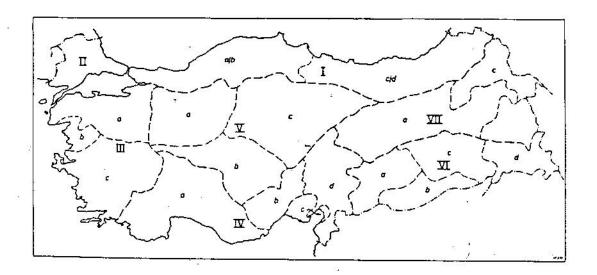
Duding on the beach in Antalya.

PRESENTATION OF RECORDS

Records are indexed according to the biogeographical divisions used by the Editorial Committee of the Turkish Bird Report (Sandgrouse 8 1-41). The records for each species are arranged primarily according to these divisions and secondarily according to the dates of observations. For example:

Slender-billed Gull Larus genei IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 19 Kulu Golu, 29/5. VIIb: 2 Ercek Golu 25/5.

Map of Biogeographical Divisions of Turkey



- I: Black Sea Coastlands
- a. Western Coastal
- b. Western Inland
- c. Eastern Coastal
- d. Eastern Inland
- II: Thrace

III: Western Anatolia

- a. Marmara
- b. Bergama
- c. Izmir
- IV: Southern Coastlands
 - a. Western Taurus
 - b. Main Taurus
 - c. Seyhan Lowland
 - d. Anti Taurus

- V: Central Plateau
- a. Sakarya
- b. Enclosed Basins
- c. Kizilirmak
- VI: South Eastern Turkey
 - a. Middle Euphrates
- b. Mesopatanian Rise
- c. Upper Tigris
- d. Kurdish Alps
- VII: Eastern Turkey
 - a. Upper Euphrates
 - b. Van
 - c. Upper Aras

SYSTEMATIC LIST

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis IVa: 3 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 Kulu Gölü, 29/5.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 2 Akdamar, 24/5.

RED-NECKED GREBE Podiceps grisigena Vb: 1 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: 2 Akdamar and 2 Van Gölü, 24/5

BLACK-NECKED GREBE Podiceps nigricollis Vb: 20 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: up to 36 Ercek Gölü, 24-25/5; 25 Bendimahi/Uriseli, 26/5.

CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo Ic: 1 west of Espiye, 28/5.

PYGMY CORMORANT Phalacrocorax pygmeus IVa: 5 Goksu, 19/5. VIIa: 3 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 3 near Balatos and 10 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5.

SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotalis IVa: 1 Tasucu, 19/5.

WHITE PELICAN Pelicanus onocrotalus IVa: 12 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: approx. 300 Bendimahi 26/5.

LITTLE BITTERN Ixobrychus minutus IVa: 19 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 3 South Van Marsh, 25/5.

NIGHT HERON Nycticorax nycticorax VIIa: 2 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 5 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 12 South Van Marsh, 25/5.

SQUACCO HERON Ardeola ralloides IVa: 2 Manavgat, 18/5; 2 Goksu, 19/5. VIb: 3 Birecik, 23/5. VIIa: 3-4 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 4 south shore of Van Gölü, 24/5.

LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta IVa: 10 Manavgat-Tasucu, 18/5; 5 Goksu, 19/5. VIb: 1 Birecik 23/5. VIIa: 1 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5.

GREAT WHITE EGRET Egretta alba IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea Noted in suitable habitat in many areas.

PURPLE HERON Ardea purpurea IVa: 4 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 near Konya, 30/5. VIb: 1 Birecik, 23/5. VIIa: 1 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 1 South Van Marsh, 25/5.

BLACK STORK Ciconia nigra Id: 1 on the River Karusu near Askale, 27/5. WHITE STORK Ciconia ciconia Noted in all areas visited. IVb: 37 soaring north near Camisli, 20/5. **GLOSSY IBIS** Plegadis facinellus Vb: 19 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIa: 1 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. BALD IBIS Geronticus eremita VIb: Approx. 10 free flying birds Birecik, 22-23/5. SPOONBILL Platalea leucorodia IVa: 16 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 near Yarma, 30/5. VIIa: 2 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 18 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. GREATER FLAMINGO Phoenicopterus ruber IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 400 Kulu Gölü and 800 Agabeyli, 29/5. VIIb: 10 Ercek Gölü, 25/5; 150 Bendimahi, 26/5. RUDDY SHELDUCK Tadorna ferruginea IVa: 3 broods Goksu, 19/5. VIIa: 2 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 2 South Van Marsh, 20 North Van Marsh, 3 west over Van Gorge and 250 Ercek Gölü, 25/5. SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna VIIb: 2 Ercek Gölü, 24/5; 10 North Van Marsh and 20 Ercek Gölü, 25/5. EUROPEAN WIGEON Anas penelope IVa: 3 Goksu, 19/5. GADWALL Anas strepera Vb: 2 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIa: 2 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh and 3 South Van Marsh, 25/5. TEAL Anas crecca IVa: Noted on the Goksu, 19/5. MALLARD Anas platyrhynocus Noted in suitible habitat throughout the trip. PINTAIL Anas acuta Vb: 1 pair Kulu Gölü, 29/5 GARGANEY Anas querquedula Vb: 1 pair near Yarma, 30/5. VIIb: 1 Akdamar, 24/5; 2 North Van Marsh 25/5; 1 Bendimahi, 26/5. SHOVELLER Anas clypeata IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. MARBLED DUCK Marmaronetta angustirostris IVa: 11 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 2 North Van Marsh, 25/5.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD Netta rufina Vb: Pair Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: 3 North Van Marsh, 25/5. POCHARD Aythya ferina Vb: Noted at Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: 50+ near Akdamar, 24/5; 50+ North Van Marsh and 10+ South Van Marsh, 25/5; 60+ Bendimahi, 26/5. FERRUGINOUS DUCK Aythya nyroca IVa: 4 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 5 Akdamar, 24/5; 20 North Van Marsh and 20+ South Van Marsh, 25/5; 2 Bendimahi, 26/5. TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula A few noted in suitable habitat throughout the trip. WHITE-HEADED DUCK Oxyura leucocephla Vb: 10 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: 4 Van Gölü near Akdamar, 24/5; 1 pair Bendimahi, 26/5. BLACK KITE Milvus migrans Id/VIIa: 4 Patnos-Askale, 27/5. Vb: 1 Konya-Hotamis, 30/5. VIc: 1 Batman-Bitlis, 24/5. VIIa: 1 Patnos 26/5. VIIb: 1 Van 24/5. EGYPTIAN VULTURE Neophron percnopterus Ic/Vc: 2 Samsun-Ankara, 29/5. IVb: 2 Pozanti, 20/5. VIc: 15 Midyat-Bitlis, 24/5. VIIb: 1 Van Gorge, 25/5. **GRIFFON VULTURE** Gyps fulvus IVa: 1 Akseki, 18/5. IVb: 2 near Camisli 20/5. VIc: 1 Batman-Bitlis 24/5. SHORT TOED EAGLE Circaetus gallicus VIb: 1 North of Birecik, 22/5 MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus Vb: 1 Konya-Hotamis, 1 Hotamis, 1 near Yarma and 1 Beysihir, VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 9 Bulanik Marsh, 30/5. 27/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek, 24/5 & 25/5; 2 South Van Marsh, 25/5; 2 Bendimahi, 26/5. MONTAGU'S HARRIER Circus pygargus IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 South of Kulu and 12 Damlakuyu, 29/5; 1 near Yarma and 1 near Konya, 30/5. VIIa: 7 Patnos-Bulanik, 26/5; 12+ River Murat near Balatos, 26/5 & 27/5; 1 Patnos, 27/5. GOSHAWK Accipitar gentilis IVa: 1 North of Akseki, 18/5. SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus IVa: 1 North of Akseki, 18/5.

BUZZARD Buteo buteo Most appeared to be STEPPE BUZZARDS B.b.vulpinus . Id/VIIa: 5 Patnos-Askale, 27/5. IVa: 1 Akseki, 1 Manavgat and 1 near Ayolvacik, 18/5. VIc: 1 Cizre, 23/5; 5 Batman-Bitlis, 24/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 1 on the South shore of Van Gölü and 1 Ercek Gölü, 24/5. BUZZARD sp. Buteo sp. VIb: 1 South of Birecik, 22/5. This was probably a LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD B.rufinus, but was too distant for certain identification. **STEPPE EAGLE** Aquila rapax VIc: 2 immatures Zigaret, 24/5. GOLDEN EAGLE Aquila, crysaetos IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. **BOOTED EAGLE** Hieraaetus pennatus IVa: 1 pale phase Grozce, 18/5. LESSER KESTREL Falco naumanni VIb: A pair in the 'main wadi' Birecik, 22/5. VIIb: 2 males South Van Marsh, 25/5. 1 **KESTREL** Falco tinnunculus Many noted during the trip including some naumanni/tinnunculus not specifically identified. **RED-FOOTED FALCON** Falco vespertinus IVa: 1 North over Akseki, 18/5. HOBBY Falco subbuteo Ic: 1 Samsun, 29/5. IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIb: 1 over the River Euphrates near Birecik, 22/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos 26/5. CASPIAN SNOWCOCK Tetraogallus caspius IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. CHUKAR Alectoris chukar IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. SEE-SEE PARTRIDGE Ammoperdix griseogularis VIb: 3 (2 males) in the 'main wadi' Birecik, 23/5. QUAIL Cortunix cortunix Id: 2 near Askale, 27/5. Vb: 1 Hotamis, 30/5. VIIa: 1 Patnos-Bulanik and 5-6 Balatos, 26/5; 1 Patnos-Erzurum, 27/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek Gölü, 24/5. CORNCRAKE Crex crex Id: 3 near Askale, 27/5.

MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus Not systematically recorded but noted in all areas visited. PURPLE GALLINULE Porphyrio porphyrio IVa: An adult feeding 2 young Goksu, 19/5. COOT Fulica atra Not systematically recorded but noted in all areas visited. **CRANE** Grus grus VIIa: 1 pair near Bulanik and approx. 10 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 3 Bulanik and 1 calling Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 1-2 Ercek Gölü, 24-25/5. DEMOISELLE CRANE Antropoides virgo VIIa: A pair by the River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. GREAT BUSTARD Otis tarda VIIa: A subadult male near Balatos, 26/5. OYSTERCATCHER Heamatopus ostralegus Id: 6 River Karusu near Askale, 27/5. VIIa: 1 Patnos-Bulanik and 4 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. BLACK-WINGED STILT Himantopus himantopus IVa: 20 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 40 Kulu Gölü and 10 Damlakuyu, 29/5; 10 near Yarma, 30/5. VIIb: 20 Ercek Gölü, 24/5; 20 North Van Marsh, 25/5; 30+ Bendimahi, 26/5. **AVOCET** Recurvirostra avosetta Vb: 40+ Kulu Gölü and 30+ Damlakuyu, 29/5. VIIb: 3 SW shore Ercek Gölü, 24/5. 6 pairs North Van Marsh and 30+ W shore Ercek Gölü, 25/5. STONE CURLEW Burhinus oedicnemus IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 Hotamis, 30/5. VIc: 1 Cizre, 23/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 1 Patnos-Bulanik 27/5. **COLLARED PRATINCOLE** Glareola pratincola IVa: 30+ Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 1 near Yarma, 30/5. VIC: 2 River Tigris at Cizre 23/5. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius Id: 1 River Karusu at Askale, 27/5. IVa: 3 Goksu 19/5. VIb: 2 Birecik 23/5. VIc: 1 River Tigris at Cizre 23/5; 5 Batman-Bitlis, 24/5. VIIb: 5 Ercek Gölü, 24/5; 10 North Van Marsh, 25/5. **RINGED PLOVER** Charadrius hiaticula VIIb: 20+ North Van Marsh, 25/5; 4 Bendimahi, 26/5. KENTISH PLOVER Charadrius alexandrius IVa: 20+ included 2 pairs with 3 young Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 15 Damlakuyu, 29/5. VIIb: 3 Ercek Gölü, 24/5; 10 North Van Marsh, 25/5; 4 Bendimahi, 26/5.

GREY PLOVER Pluvalis Squatarola IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5. SPUR WINGED PLOVER Hoplopterus spinosus IVa: 20+ (inc. 1 chick) Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 1 South Van Marsh, 25/5. **RED WATTLED LAPWING** Vanellus indicus VIc: 4+ River Tigris at Cizre, 23/5. LAPWING Vanellus vanellus VIIb: Noted as being common in suitable habitat around Van Gölü, 24-26/5. SANDERLING Calidris alba IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. LITTLE STINT Calidris minuta IVa: 70+ Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 50+ Damlakuyu, 29/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 200+ North Van Marsh 25/5; 80+ Bendimahi, 26/5. TEMMINCK'S STINT Calidris temminckii VIIb: 2 Ercek Gölü, 24/5. CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea IVa: 50+ Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 10 North Van Marsh, 25/5; 1 Bendimahi, 26/5. DUNLIN Calidris alpina IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5; 1 Bendimahi, 26/5. BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER Limicola fallcinellus IVa: 5 Goksu, 19/5. **RUFF** Philomachus pugnax VIa: 6 Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 10 North Van Marsh and 1 South Van Marsh 25/5. GREAT SNIPE Gallingo media Id: 1 near Askale 27/5. VIIa: 2 near Balatos, 26/5; 1 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek Gölü, 24/5. BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. **REDSHANK** Tringa totanus Widespread in all areas visited. MARSH SANDPIPER Tringa stagnatilis VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia IVa: 4 Goksu, 19/5. WOOD SANDPIPER Tringa glareola 6 North Van Marsh and 2 South Van Marsh, 25/5. **COMMON SANDPIPER** Actitis hypoleucos Id: 1 on the River Karusu near Askale, 27/5. VIC: 1 on the River Tigris at Cizre 23/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5. TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres VIa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** Phalaropus lobatus VIIb: 50+ Bendimahi, 26/5. MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus Vb: 8 Ankara-Kulu and 15+ Kulu Gölü, 29/5. LITTLE GULL Larus minutus VIIb: 2 (adult and first summer) Bendimahi, 26/5. BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus Noted in suitable wetland habitat throughout the trip. SLENDER-BILLED GULL Larus genei IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 19 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIb: 2 Ercek Gölü, 25/5. AUDOUIN'S GULL Larus audounii IVa: 2 (adult and second summer) Tasucu, 19/5. YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING GULL Larus argentatus cachinnans IVa: Noted as being common in the coastal strip between Manavgat and Tasucu, 18-19/5. **ARMENIAN HERRING GULL** Larus argentatus armenicus VIIb: Birds noted at several sites around the shores of Van Gölü 24-26/5 were considered to belong to this subspecies. LESSER-BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus Vb: 1 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. GULL-BILLED TERN Gelochelidon niloticta Vb: 4 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIIa: 4 Bulanik and 10 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 8 Bulanik, 27/5. CASPIAN TERN Sterna caspia VIIb: 2 Bendimahi, 26/5. **COMMON TERN** Sterna hirundo IVa: 20+ Goksu, 19/5. VIIb: 10+ Bendimahi, 26/5

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons IVa: Noted Goksu, 19/5. VIc: Noted in all river vallies Midyat-Tatvan, 24/5. VIIa: Noted on the River Murat at Balatos 26-27/5. VIIb: 4+ North Van Marsh, 25/5. WHISKERED TERN Chlidonius hybridus Vb: 25+ near Yarma, 30/5. BLACK TERN Chlidonius niger VIIb: 2 North Van Marsh, 25/5. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN Chlidonias leucopterus IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 2 Kulu Gölü, 29/5. VIc: 5 River Tigris Cizre, 23/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5. **BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** Pterocles orientalis VIb: 20+ River Euphrates North of Birecik, 22/5; 5 flying over the raised plateau Birecik, 23/5. VIIa: 3 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 2 Bendimahi, 26/5. **PINTAILED SANDGROUSE** Pterocles alchata VIb: 10 River Euphrates North of Birecik, 22/5. ROCK DOVE Columba livia Noted in most areas, but especially in Vb where it appeared very common. WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus IVa: 3 in woodland North of Akseki, 18/5. **COLLARED DOVE** Streptopelia decaocto Noted close to settlements in all areas visited. TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur Noted as common in most areas throughout the trip. VIC: Large numbers between Midyat and Bitlis, 24/5 may have included many passage birds. LAUGHING DOVE Streptopelia senagelensis VIb: 4 Birecik, 23/5. CUCKOO Cuculus canorus IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIa: 1 Patnos-Bulanik, 27/5. VIIb: 1 Van Gorge, 25/5. EAGLE OWL Bubo bubo 1 Van Gorge, 24/5 & 25/5. SCOPS OWL sp. Otus sp. VIc: 1 near the park Birecik, 22/5 eluded specific identification. LITTLE OWL Athene noctua Vb: 7 Konya-Hotamis, 30/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek, 24/5; 1 Van Gorge, 25/5.

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco IVa: 2 calling North of Akseki, 18/5. NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europeus IVa: 2 calling North of Akseki, 18/5. VIIb: 2 Van Gorge, 24/5 & 25/5. SWIFT Apus apus Not systematically recorded, but noted in all areas. ALPINE SWIFT Apus melba IVa: 1000+ Alanya-Tasucu, 18/5. IVb: 8 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIb: 30+ Birecik, 22/5. **LITTLE SWIFT** Apus affinis VIb: Approx. 15 came in to the colony 1-2km North of Birecik, 22/5. LESSER-PIED KINGFISHER Cervle rudis VIb: At least 2 pairs on the River Euphrates at Birecik, 22-23/5. VIc: 1 River Tigris Cizre, 23/5. BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER Merops persicus VIb: 2 South of Birecik, 22/5; 10+ in the colony opposite Birecik Cemetary, 23/5. BEE-EATER Merops apiaster Noted in good numbers in all areas visited. Peak counts were as follows:- VIb: 20+ Birecik area, 22-23/5. VIc/VIIb: 25 Batman-Tatvan, 24/5. VIIa/VIIb: 21 Bendimahi-Patnos, 26/5. VIIa: 26 Patnos-Bulanik, 26/5. VIIb: 33 Tatvan-Ercek, 24/5. **ROLLER** Coracias garrulus Noted in small numbers in all areas visited except Ic/Id. Peak numbers were as follows:- VIa: 6 Manavgat-Tasucu, 18/5. VIb: 5 Birecik area 22-23/5. VIIb: 17 Tatvan-Ercek, 24/5. HOOPOE Upupa epops IVa: 2 Akseki, 18/5. Vb: 1 Hotamis, 30/5. VIb: 5 Birecik 22-23/5. VIC/VIIb: 1 Batman-Tatvan, 24/5. VIIa: 3 Patnos-Bulanik, VIIb: 1 Akdamar, 24/5; 2 South Van Marsh and 1 Ercek Gölü, 26/5. 25/5. BLACK WOODPECKER Dryocopius martius Id: 1 male Sumela, 28/5. GREEN WOODPECKER Picus viridis IVa: 1 calling North of Akseki, 18/5. SYRIAN WOODPECKER Dendrocopus syriacus IVa: 1 Akseki, 18/5. IVc: 1 near Ceyhan 21/5. IVd: 1 Durnalik and 1 Yesilice, 21/5. VIb: 2 6km North of Birecik, 22/5. DESERT LARK Ammomanes deserti VIb: 1 on the raised plateau Birecik, 23/5.

CALANDRA LARK Melanocorypha calandra Small numbers noted in the following areas; Vb, Vc, VIb, VIc, VIIa & VIIb. Peak numbers were:- Vb: 40+ Ankara-Konya 29/5. BIMACULATED LARK Melanocorypha bimaculata IVd: 2 Isikli and 3 Yessilce, 21/5. VIIb: 5 near Ercek, 24/5; 2 Van-Bendimahi, 26/5. SHORT-TOED LARK Calandrella brachydactyla IVa: 10 Goksu, 19/5. IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek Gölü, 24/5. LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK Calandrella rufescens Vb: 4 Damlakuyu, 29/5; 15+ Hotamis, 30/5. VIIa: Common in the River Murat Valley near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek Gölü, 25/5; 1 Bendimahi, 26/5. CRESTED LARK Galarida cristata Noted in all areas visited. WOODLARK Lullula arborea IVa: 1 North of Akseki, 18/5; 1 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. SKYLARK Alauda arvensis VIIb: 1 Ercek Gölü, 24/5; 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5. SHORELARK Eremophila alpestris IVb: 20+ Demirkazik, 20/5. SAND MARTIN Riparia riparia Noted in all areas with the following maximum counts:- VIc: 2500+ over the River Tigris Cizre, 23/5. VIIb: 5000+ North Van Marsh, 25/5. CRAG MARTIN Ptyonoprogne rupestris IVb: 20+ Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIb: 5 Van Gölü, 24/5. SWALLOW Hirundo rustica Not systematically recorded, but noted in all areas. **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** Hirundo daurica IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. IVc: 3 Ceyhan, 21/5. IVd: 1 Durnalik, 21/5. HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbica Not systematically recorded, but noted throughout the trip. TAWNY PIPIT Anthus campestis VIIa: 1 Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek, 24/5. BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL Montacilla flava feldegg VIIa: Common around Bulanik and in the River Murat valley, 26-27/5. VIIb: 2 Akdamar, 24/5; 5 Ercek, 25/5; 20+ Bendimahi, 26/5. GREY WAGTAIL Montacilla cinerea Id: 4 Bayburt-Sumela and 1 Sumela, 28/5.

CITRINE WAGTAIL Montacilla citreola VIIb: A pair at Bendimahi, 26/5. WHITE WAGTAIL Montacilla alba Noted in small numbers in most areas visited. YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL Pycnonotus barbatus IVa: 3 Manavgat-Tasucu, 18/5. 1 Antalya, 1/6. **DIPPER** Cinclus cinclus Id: A pair Sumela, 28/5. WREN Troglodytes troglodytes Id: Several Sumela, 28/5. IVa: 1 North of Akseki, 18/5. RADDE'S ACCENTOR Prunella ocularis IVb: 1-2 Demirkazik, 20/5. ALPINE ACCENTOR Prunella collaris IVb: 3 Demirkazik, 20/5. RUFOUS BUSHCHAT Cercotrichas galactotes IVa: 3 Goksu, 19/5. IVd: 5 Yessilce, 21/5. VIb: 2 Birecik, 22/5. **ROBIN** Erithacus rubecula Id: Noted at Sumela, 28/5. BLUETHROAT Luscinia svecica Id: 3+ near Askale, 27/5. WHITE-THROATED ROBIN Irania gutteralis IVa: 1 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. IVd: Common in areas of low scrub in Yessilce-Durnalik area, 21/5. BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochrurus IVb: 3 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIb: Family party of 4 Van Gorge, 25/5. All records of P.o.semirufus . **COMMON REDSTART** Phoenicurus phoenicurus IVa: 1 Akseki, 18/5. Of race P.p.samurensis . STONECHAT Saxicola torquata VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5; 2 Patnos-Bulanik, 27/5. All were very striking males with white semi-collars, extensive white in the wing and white rumps. Possibly of the race S.t.armenica . **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** Oenanthe isabellinus

IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIa: 2 Patnos-Bulanik, 27/5. VIIb: 1 Ercek and 1 Van Gorge, 25/5; 2 Van-Bendimahi, 26/5.

WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe IVa: 3 Demirkazik, 21/5. VIIa: 2 Patnos-Bulanik, 27/5. BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe IVa: Common around Akseki, 18/5. IVd: Very common in Yessilce area, 21/5. Small numbers noted in suitable habitat elsewhere. FINSCH'S WHEATEAR Oenanthe finschii IVb: 6 including a pair carrying food Demirkazik and 1 near Camisli, 20/5. VIIb: 2 Van Gorge, 25/5. **RED-TAILED WHEATEAR** Oenanthe xanthoprymna IVd: A pair on the crags above Isikli, 21/5. ROCK THRUSH Monticola saxatilis IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. BLACKBIRD Turdus merula IVa: Noted North of Akseki, 18/5. MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus Id: Noted at Sumela, 28/5. IVa: Noted in woodland North of Akseki, 18/5. **CETTI'S WARBLER** Cettia cettia Id: 20+ near Askale, 27/5. VIIa: 5+ River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. **GRACEFUL PRINIA** Prinia gracilis IVa: Many Goksu, 19/5. VIb: 1 Birecik, 23/5. SAVI'S WARBLER Locustella lusciniodes VIIa: 1 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. MOUSTACHED WARBLER Acrocephalus melanopogon VIIa: 2 Bulanik Marsh, 27/5. VIIb: 2 Bendimahi, 26/5. SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenbaenus VIIb: 2 North Van Marsh, 25/5; 5+ Bendimahi, 26/5. MARSH WARBLER Acrocephalus palustris Id: 5+ near Askale, 27/5. VIIa: 4 in scrub by the River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus IVa: 2 Goksu, 19/5. Vb: 25+ Hotamis, 30/5. GREAT REED WARBLER Acrocephalus arundinaceus Noted in good numbers in suitable habitat throughout the trip. **OLIVACEOUS WARBLER** Hippolais pallida IVa: 1 Akseki, 18/5; 20+ Goksu, 19/5. VIb: 1 Birecik, 22/5.

UPCHER'S WARBLER Hippolais languida IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5 arrived in a 'fall' of Blackcaps Sylvia atricapilla . IVd: 6+ Yessilce area, 21/5. VIb: 5 Birecik, 22/5. **OLIVE-TREE WARBLER** Hippolais olivetorum IVa: At least 4 singing males in the graveyard at Akseki, 18/5. MENÉTRIES WARBLER Sylvia mystacea VIb: At least 10 noted in the Birecik area, 22/5. RÜPPELL'S WARBLER Sylvia ruppelli IVa: 1 Akseki and 1 8km South of Akseki, 18/5; 1 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. ORPHEAN WARBLER Sylvia hortensis IVa: 4 Akseki and 2 8km South of Akseki, 18/5; 1 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. IVd: 3 Yessilce, 21/5. BARRED WARBLER Sylvia nisora Id: 4 near Askale, 27/5. LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca IVa: 2 Akseki, 18/5; 1 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. IVb: 4 Demirkazik, 20/5. IVd: Noted in the Yessilce area, 21/5. VIIa: 2 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis Id: 1 near Askale, 27/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin Id: 3-4 near Askale, 27/5. BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla IVa: A light 'fall' of 15+ Goksu, 19/5. GREEN WARBLER Phylloscopus nitidus Id: 7+ Sumela, 28/5. CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita VIb: 1 Birecik, 22/5. VIIa: 3 North Van Marsh and 1 Ercek Gölü, 25/5. **GOLDCREST** Regulus regulus Id: 1-2 Sumela, 28/5. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata IVa: 1 Goksu, 19/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. VIIb: 1 North Van Marsh, 25/5. **BEARDED REEDLING** Panurus biarmicus

Vb: 7 Hotamis, 30/5.

SOMBRE TIT Parus lugubris IVa: 3 Akseki and 1 8km South of Akseki, 18/5. IVd: 1 Yessilce and 1 Durnalik, 21/5. COAL TIT Parus ater Id: Noted at Sumela, 28/5. IVa: Common in the pine woods North of Akseki, 18/5. **BLUE TIT** Parus caeruleus Id: 1 Sumela, 28/5. GREAT TIT Parus major Id: Noted Sumela, 28/5. IVa: Noted in woodland North of Akseki, 18/5. KRÜPER'S NUTHATCH Sitta kruperi IVa: At least 12 including a family party of 5 North of Akseki, 18/5. GREAT ROCK NUTHATCH Sitta tephronota IVd: A pair nesting in the crags above Isikli and 1 in the orchards South of Yessilce, 21/5. ROCK NUTHATCH Sitta neumaver IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 19/5. IVd: 1 Yessilce, 21/5. WALLCREEPER Tichodroma muraria IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. GOLDEN ORIOLE Oriolus oriolus VIC: 1 Batman-Tatvan, 24/5. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** Lanius collurio Id: Common Askale, 27/5; 1 Tirebolu, 28/5. IVa: 1 Akseki and 1 Tekmen, 18/5; 1 Goksu, 19/5. IVb: A pair Camisli, 20/5. LESSER GREY SHRIKE Lanius minor Ic: 2 near Espiye, 28/5. IVa: 1 Akseki-Manavgat, 18/5. VIIa: 5 Patnos- Bulanik and 1 Patnos-Erzurum, 27/5. VIIb: 1 Van-Bendimahi, 26/5. VIIb/VIIa: 1 Bendimahi-Patnos, 26/5. WOODCHAT SHRIKE Lanius senator IVd: 2 Durnalik, 21/5. MASKED SHRIKE Lanius nubicus IVa: 3 Akseki and 1 Tekmen, 18/5. JAY Garrulus glandarius Ic/Vc: 2 Samsun-Ankara, 29/5. Id: 2-3 Bayburt-Sumela and 2 Sumela, 28/5. IVa: 2 Akseki, 18/5. VIc: 2 Batman-Tatvan, 24/5. MAGPIE Pica pica Ic: Noted as quite common in the Black Sea coastal strip.

CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax IVb: 50+ Demirkazik, 20/5. ALPINE CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax graculus IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. JACKDAW Corvus monedula Few noted thoughout the trip. **ROOK** Corvus frugilegus Noted as being quite common in the North and East. HOODED CROW Corvus corone Many noted in all habitats throughout the trip. RAVEN Corvus corax . Id: 3 Bayburt-Sumela and 1 Sumela, 28/5. IVa: 2 Akseki and 1 Aydvacik, 18/5; 1 Goksu, 19/5. STARLING Sturnus vulgaris Common in all areas. ROSE-COLOURED STARLING Id: 28 Bayburt-Sumela, 28/5. Id/VIIa: 42 Patnos-Askale, 27/5. VIC: 6 Cizre, 23/5. VIIb: 33 Ercek, 24/5; 13 South Van Marsh, 25/5. HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus Common in all areas. SPANISH SPARROW Passer hispaneolensis IVa: A pair Akseki, 18/5; A pair Goksu, 19/5. VIb: Common around Birecik 22-23/5. DEAD SEA SPARROW Passer moabiticus VIb: Good numbers noted around Birecik, 22-23/5. TREE SPARROW Passer montanus IVb: 3 Demirkazik, 20/5. YELLOW-THROATED SPARROW Petronia xanthocollis VIb: 3 6km North of Birecik, 22/5. ROCK SPARROW Petronia petronia IVb: 1 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIb: A pair with a nest in the House Martin Delichon urbica colony in the 'main wadi' Birecik, 22/5. VIIb: 2 Van Gorge, 24-25/5. **SNOWFINCH** Montifringilla nivalis IVb: 20+ Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIb: 4 Van Gorge, 25/5. **CHAFFINCH** Fringilla coelebs Id: Noted Sumela, 28/5. IVa: Noted North of Akseki, 18/5.

RED-FRONTED SERIN Serinus pusillus IVb: 10+ Demirkazik, 20/5. SERIN Serinus serinus IVa: Common around Akseki, 18/5; Several 76km North of Akseki, 30/5; 2 Antalya, 1/6. **GREENFINCH** Carduelis chloris IVa: Noted North of Akseki, 18/5. LINNET Acanthis cannabina IVb: Few Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIa: 1 River Murat near Balatos, 26/5. BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula Id: A pair Sumela, 28/5. CROSSBILL Loxia curvirosta IVa: 30+ North of Akseki, 18/5; 3 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. CRIMSON-WINGED FINCH Rhodopechys sanguinea IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. VIIb: 2 Van Gorge, 25/5; 4 Bendimahi, 26/5. DESERT FINCH Rhodopechys obsoleta IVd: 1 Isikli, 21/5. VIb: Pair Birecik, 23/5. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** Carpodacus erythinus Id: 4 males Askale, 27/5. ROCK BUNTING Emberiza cia IVb: 2 Demirkazik, 20/5. CINEREOUS BUNTING Emberiza cineracea IVd: 1 Isikli and 2 Yessilce, 21/5. **ORTOLAN BUNTING** Emberiza hortulana VIIb: 1 Van rubbish tip, 25/5. GREY-NECKED BUNTING Emberiza buchanani VIIb: 3 Van Gorge, 24-25/5. CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING Emberiza caesia IVa: 4 76km North of Akseki, 30/5. IVd: 1 Durnalik, 21/5. **REED BUNTING** Emberiza schoeniclus VIIa/VIIb: Common around Van and Bulanik. BLACK-HEADED BUNTING Emberiza melanocephalus UBIQUITOUS!!!!!! CORN BUNTING Emberiza calandra Noted as common and widespread.