



## Trip Report

### Classic Georgia

An annual ten-day birdwatching to the Republic of Georgia | *Sakartvelo*  
From 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2023



Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla rubicilla*. Picture by Alexander Rukhaia

Tour leader: Alexander Rukhaia  
Trip report complete by: Alexander Rukhaia

## SUMMARY

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May:** The group arrives early in the morning, or at midnight, to be more precise. It seems that there are still a few hours left for a short nap before the start of the tour, and besides, the hotel is only twenty minutes away from the airport, but ☺ a spontaneous idea to visit Kumisi Lake before breakfast is announced that is grasped on the fly, and everyone, even at the expense of a sleepless night, agrees to this adventure with great enthusiasm. It was a good chance to please the guys with additional bonuses and enrich the achievements of the tour.

In short, we leave at 5 am. Even so, there was limited time, so we set out in advance to focus on more significant species. Everything else, say the smaller placeholders of the list were not in priority. We arrive at the lake. At night, it apparently rained and completely melted the dirt road. Driving too far is risky, so we take the safest position, and it's still quite convenient for the scopes. The number of **Barn Swallows** and **Common Swifts** cannot be described in words, and the entire shoreline across the lake is dotted with dozens of different waders, gulls, terns - hundreds of **White-winged Terns**, several **Gull-billed**, **Common** and **Whiskered**. As well as a few **Eurasian Hoopoes**, a couple of **White-tailed Eagles**, and so on. Then, next to a small group of **Common Pochards**, we spot one female **White-headed Duck**, and even later, just before leaving, Andreas picks one **Demoiselle Crane** on the opposite shore. This is exactly what we were looking for. Leaving the lake, we were escorted by **Rock Sparrows**, **Little Owl**, **Isabelline** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears**.

After breakfast at the hotel, we make another short excursion to the pine forest near Tbilisi. This is in the opposite direction from our route, but the visit is worth it - we get beautiful views of several bustling **Krüper's Nuthatches** as a reward. Now we can slowly and safely head to Kazbegi. After a couple of hours and a pair of **Horned Larks** seen on the mountain pass, we reach the alpine town of Stepantsminda, and the first thing we decide to drop into the buckthorn bushes for a preliminary inspection. The clearings along the road are dotted with **Water Pipits**, and a pair of **Common Rock Thrushes** sit motionless by the side of the path, and the bushes themselves are full of **Guldenstädt's Redstarts**... a wonderful sight and great activity! Also, there are several **Black Redstarts** and ordinary **Northern Wheatears**. A couple of **Mountain Chiffchaffs** and **Dunnocks** do not count. Later, as in the following days, they could be found almost on every bush, and their chant is quite loud and distinctive. At the end of the walk, as we decided to end the session, several **Great Rosefinches** poked out of the bushes and everyone immediately forgot about hunger ☺

Later, after a very belated lunch and check-in at our lovely family hotel, we intend to take a look at **Caucasian Grouse** and **Caucasian Snowcocks**, but the mountain slopes are hidden behind clouds, as luck would have it. Having spent almost the entire evening on the viewpoint, we come to the logical conclusion that not all of our desires are destined to come true today, and in order to cheer up and compensate for this failure, we spend this day once again sated with beautiful views of **Guldenstädt's Redstarts** and **Great Rosefinches**.



Common Rock Thrush  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May:** The morning begins with an elegant **Wallcreeper** and continues with several **Mountain Chiffchaffs** and **Green Warblers** in Stepantsminda Park. After breakfast, since the mountain slopes remain covered with a thick layer of fog, which forces us to continue exploring only the lower tiers of the town, we return to the same place as last evening in the hope of once again admiring **Guldenstädt's Redstarts** and **Great Rosefinches**. Almost all the same fascinating scenes and the same selection of passerines in decent abundance, plus hundreds of **Alpine Choughs** above the ridge. With all this, the migration of **Steppe Buzzards** is accelerating along with several **European Honeyeaters**. Even before that, on the way here, we witnessed a huge kettle of 40 **Griffon Vultures**, which soon scattered in different directions, but we continued to see vultures throughout the day, and later, while watching the migration, we even spotted one **Cinereous Vulture**, which is quite unusual for this region, and later another one.

Closer to noon, with the settling of the fog, we hurry to explore the slopes of Kuro Gorge. It doesn't last long and soon the westerly wind brings a stream of dark clouds that subsequently erupt into hail and rain, but before slipping away dry, we manage to observe another **Bearded Vulture** for today, and we get fleeting views of flying **Grouse** and **Snowcock**.

Delicious 'khinkali' (Georgian dumplings) in a decent restaurant does not change the weather, as well as our determination to move on despite this. A subsequent visit to the Sno Valley brings us several dozen **Twites** sitting on a wire in one line as in 'angry birds' and 12 **Guldenstädt's Redstarts** in a similar style, only on a bush. Later, the rain intensifies even more, and everyone clearly nods their heads in agreement to the offer to go to the hotel for a rest. This break, like the rain itself, unfortunately, will last until the end of the evening, so that's it for today.



Guldenstädt's Redstarts  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Goldenstädt's Redstart**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Goldenstädt's Redstarts**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari



**Great Rosefinch**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** This date should be fixed as the day of the return of the prodigal winter ☺ Heavy snowfall certainly gave us a surprise in the morning, but it entailed a rather interesting activity of passerines in particular. After almost an hour of diligently clearing our car of snow, we are finally ready to start and drive. It's still snowing and it's pointless to go far, but not necessary either. Fruit trees in the courtyards of houses along our street are teeming different little birds, and we are announcing a hunt for **Red-fronted Serins**. Not only this morning, but speaking for the whole day, we easily come to an estimate of at least 80 individuals. They could be observed even during breakfast, from the windows of the dining room. In addition to small birds, the day turned out to be successful from the point of view of raptors - an excellent action in the performances of several **Bearded Vultures** and **Golden Eagles**.

While the fog still lingers over Stepantsminda, the southern side of the valley looks much cleaner, and we are heading towards the Truso Gorge. It's surprisingly dry and sunny here. Having chosen a suitable place, we begin to scan the slopes in the hope of finding **Caucasian Grouse**. Then a **Golden Eagle** comes to the aid of the protracted quest, fluttering and flushing several birds from the roost, as if intentionally for us. Later we find several more in different parts of the gorge.

In the evening we make another attempt to see **Caucasian Snowcocks**. The weather is fine so far, the snow has melted, and we start with stunning views of **East Caucasian Turs** grazing on the lower reaches, but soon the weather changes, and a periodic influx of clouds from the north begins, which makes it almost impossible. The interval between waves, when we can see some parts of the slopes, is no more than two or three minutes, and then another long break ☺ It becomes almost like a prayer for speedy enlightenment, and what drives us now cannot be called anything but passion. The irony is that we constantly hear them from almost everywhere, as well as **Chukar Partridges**. In short, it lasts almost the whole evening. At some point, we still manage to get on one pair in the depths of the gorge before breaking camp. Alas, this is just a momentary pleasure, and the heart demands more, but we have one more full morning left.

We should also mention and thank our hostess for the excellent morning and evening feasts with which she pampered us all three days.



**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May:** Today we are going to Javakheti in the extreme south of Georgia. The morning is much clearer than yesterday, but the temperature is definitely lower. Starting off after an early breakfast, we make one farewell visit for the mountain chickens, which leads to a spectacle that exceeds all expectations. Just awesome. There is no other way to call these scenes. The lower reaches, where snow patches are still fragmentary, are invaded by **Caucasian Grouse** with typical scenes of males clashing in jumps and courtship dances, chasing each other with spectacularly raised tails and all that. Then, God knows from where, a pair of **Caucasian Snowcocks** flies in, lands not far from Grouse, perches on one of the bulky boulders and defiantly start singing, followed by others from neighboring slopes, and the distance is just superb, allowing us to see all the details.

Having seen enough, we continue our journey. Wet green fields on the mountain pass produce about two dozen **Ring Ouzels**, several **Horned Larks**, a couple of **Twites** and a lot of **Water Pipits**, while in the Ananuri Forest, during coffee break, we find several **Green Warblers** and **Red-breasted Flycatchers** along with other local woodland birds.

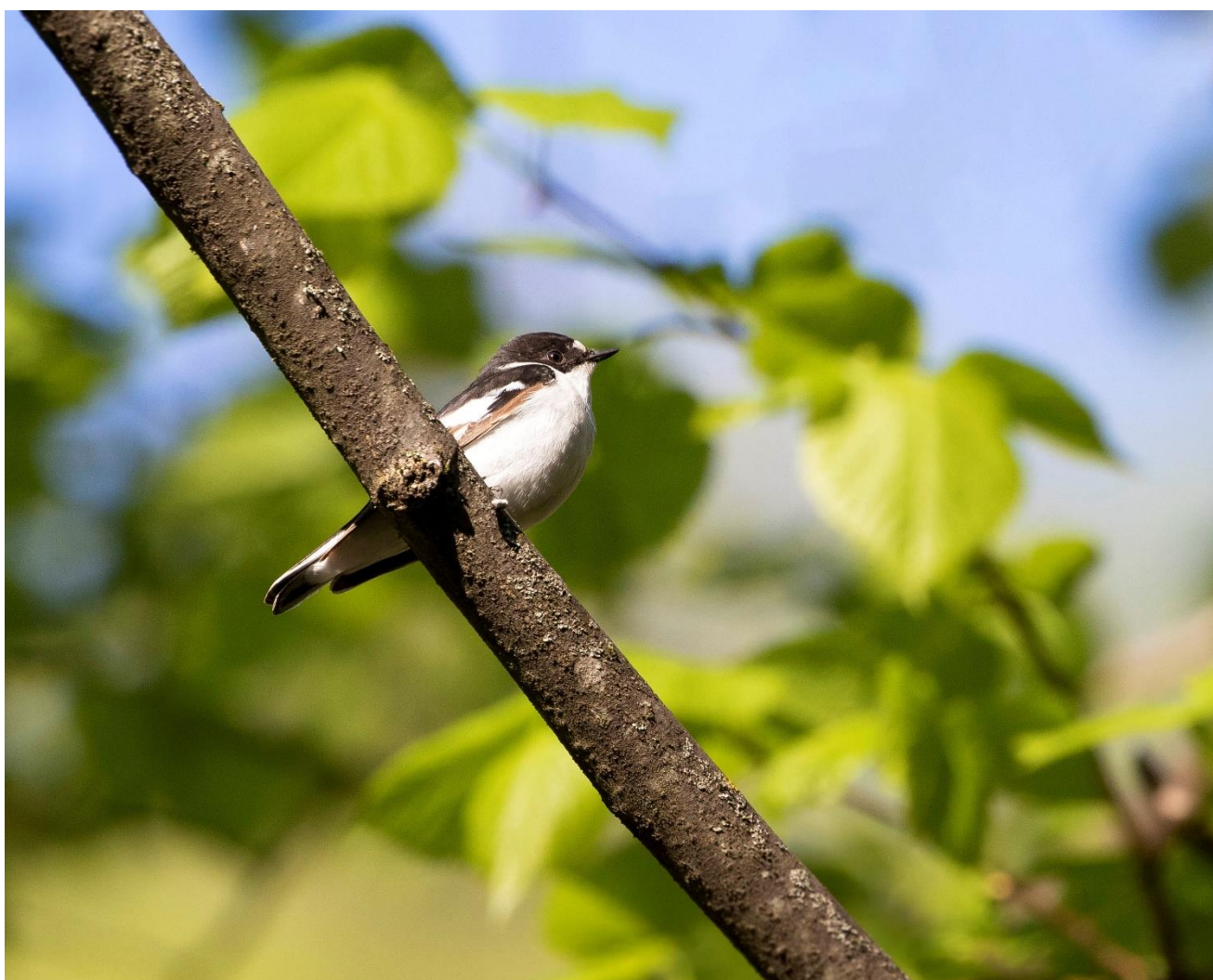
After lunch with an assortment of traditional 'lula-kebab' and fist-sized barbeques, we take a walking tour in the beautiful forest of the Borjomi Park. At the very beginning, our attention is attracted by the fussy mother of a **White-throated Dipper** feeding her insatiable chick, and at the end of the tour we make a great find by stumbling upon a nest of **Semicollared Flycatchers**.



**Caucasian Snowcocks**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari... uncropped.



**Caucasian Grouse**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari... *uncropped*.



**Semicollared Flycatcher**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May:** In the early fresh morning, while everyone is sleeping, there is nothing better than a good walk in the park of the Abastumani, and we find dozens of **Red Crossbills** with chicks, several **Eurasian Bullfinches**, a couple of **European Serins**, and the squeaking of **Krüper's Nuthatches** comes from somewhere, while **Green Warblers** are singing with might from everywhere.

After breakfast and a short walk through the Rabati Fortress, we set off towards the Vardzia Cave Town. A few short stops here and there, including one for an al fresco lunch, bring us a couple of **Egyptian Vultures**, **Woodlarks**, **Western Rock Nuthatches** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears**, which we observe also later, and **Armenian Gulls** are already everywhere, all over the river valley.

Vardzia is as always irresistible, especially in the evening, with the outgoing sun creating palette of thousands of colors and chiaroscuro. Today, in addition to the above species, our portfolio of observations includes **Griffon** and **Cinereous Vultures**, **Black Redstarts**, **Blue Rock Thrushes**, **Siberian Stonechats**, several **Red-fronted Serins**, **Rock** and **Ortolan Buntings**, as well as hundreds and thousands of **Common Swifts**, **Eurasian Crag Martins**, **Barn Swallows** and **Common House Martins**. The day ends with a great homemade dinner and wine by the fireplace.



**Western Rock Nuthatch**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari



**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May:** A nice morning and we go to the alpine lake Tabatskuri, hoping to see **Velvet Scoters** nesting here. This is the only preserved population of this species in the Caucasus, which adds to the meaning of our excursion. On the way to the lake, before turning off the main road towards the mountain pass, we find a **dark morph Long-legged Buzzard** along the green fields. On the way back we will find two more, but with the usual form of plumage.

There are numerous **Western Marsh Harriers**, three roosting **White-tailed Eagles** and a pair of **archibaldi** subspecies of **Common Cranes** in the swamp at the beginning of the lake. Soon we reach the lake and settle down comfortably near the shore, with a good view of the small island. Today we intend not only to watch, but also to count **Velvet Scoters**, as accurate as possible in our situation. Thus, we have the opportunity to provide at least some technical assistance for a local conservation project. As a result of several repeated attempts, we get a total of 110 birds. As it turned out later, we overdid the calculations a little, since the result of the official count made a few days later showed 105 birds. In addition to those special ducks, there were other aquatic birds on the lake - mostly ordinary species, as well as several hundred **Armenian Gulls**, which negatively affects the population growth of the priority species. Among other things, the pine forest behind our spot produced a good numbers of smaller birds, including **Green Warblers** and **Common Rosefinches**.

On the way back we meet **Booted Eagles**, **European Rollers**, **Black-headed Wagtails**, even one **Ring Ouzel** and much more, so this day was a success.



**Common Rosefinch**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May:** Leaving our cozy nest, we are going on a long trip to the far east of the country, to the wine region of Kakheti. The first short stop is a small pond near an abandoned factory, where we get the first visual contact with the small flock of **Rosy Starlings** that flash by ☺ Lake Khanchali produces several **Great White** and **Dalmatian Pelicans**, **archibaldi** subspecies of **Common Cranes**, numerous **Western Marsh Harriers**, several hundred **White-winged Terns**, one and only **Lesser Spotted Eagle** for the entire tour, and much more, while the fields around the lake, as well as on the way to the east are full of **White Storks**. This region is known for a good population of this species, nesting on the rooftops and telegraph poles in almost every village.

The weather changes dramatically and we leave the lake before the rain gets the ground wet, which may cause us to get stuck in the mud. In such situations, there is no better place than a small lake

Bughdasheni a few kilometers to the east, where we can shelter from inclement weather in a bird hide. **Ruddy Shelducks** and **Black-crowned Night Herons** are especially showing well, and **Ruffs** are present on almost every water body today, as are **Black-headed Wagtails**. A single **Cetti's Warbler** and a **Red-throated Pipit** are the first sightings these days. After lunch, we continue on our way, and another short stop at a roadside pond leads to excellent views of a pair of **Citrine Wagtails**. The rest of the way we spend on wheels and get to our lovely lodge at sunset.



**Citrine Wagtail**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Armenian Gull**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May:** We start at dawn, heading for the so-called Black Mountain. The road leading to this part of the Vashlovani National Park, which it is impossible to pass by indifferently because of the boiling bird life, is decorated on both sides by the vast agricultural fields of Shiraki, like a carpet spread at the feet of the Greater Caucasus mountains. **Common Quails** are whistling from the fields, the trees are full of various passerines and **Rosy Starlings**, a **Short-eared Owl** is napping on one the branch, and **Montague's Harriers** are already actively drifting over the fields where **Long-legged Buzzards** are resting. This place is just the dream of any birdwatcher. With such scenes, it is difficult to keep up with the time schedule, but we still manage to arrive at our destination at the right time and soon find several **Common Pheasants**.

Since the job is done, we do not stay for long and continue our way towards the Pantishara Gorge. Along the way we come across a beautiful male **Levant Sparrowhawk** sitting right on the road. Further along the way we find **Tawny** and **Red-throated Pipits**. In general, this day turned out to be super with countless **Eurasian Hoopoes**, **European Rollers**, **European Bee-eaters**, all three **Red-backed**, **Lesser Grey** and **Woodchat Shrikes**, **Crested** and **Calandra Larks**, **Isabelline Wheatears**, **Corn Buntings** and especially **Black-headed Buntings**... a lot of those buntings.

In the Pantishara Gorge, of course, no way to avoid a meeting with a local specialists like **Chukar Partridge**, **Eastern Orphean Warbler**, **Western Rock Nuthatch**, **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin**, **Eastern Black-eared** and **Pied Wheatears**, as well as **Alpine Swifts** gave us a decent show. We were also incredibly lucky to find a cow carcass. Unfortunately, it lay on the main road, where cars of local farmers and tourist groups pass from time to time, so the restaurant was not destined to take place, at least during the daytime, but **Egyptian**, **Griffon** and **Cinereous Vultures** constantly circled over this place. By the way, today we were also lucky to find **Levant Vipers** in the gorge. Sometimes it's hard to find even one, and here there are 4 beautiful individuals at once for one excursion, but the fact is that one of the participants, Craig from the US Forest Service, was especially interested in herpetology and desperately wanted to see these deadly beauties, so from time to time we purposefully looked at the ground ☺ As it turned out, not in vain.



**Short-eared Owl**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Levant Sparrowhawk**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari



**Calandra Lark**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari



**Black-headed Bunting**  
Picture by Andrea Ferrari



**Black-headed Buntings**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



**Red-throated Pipits**  
Picture by Alexander Rukhaia



Levant Viper  
Pictures by Andrea Ferrari



Levant Viper  
Pictures by Andrea Ferrari

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May:** Today we intend to explore another famous protected area, called Chachuna Reserve. Along the road running through the rolling steppes, in addition to many different small birds, including **Rock Sparrows**, we observe several **Eastern Imperial Eagles**. After this, other raptors no longer make a big impression on us, and yet, today we again repeatedly see all three **Egyptian, Griffon and Cinereous Vultures**. Observations of the flocks of **Rosy Starlings** become more and more regular as we approach the reserve, but otherwise, the selection of birds is practically the same as yesterday.

Having reached the reserve, we arrange a halt and breakfast next to the thickets, while watching **Black Francolins**. We saw 3 nice males up close, even before the coffee boiled, but judging by the calls, there were much more of them around. Then, examining the bushes on the other side of the bridge, we find 3 **Eastern Orphean Warblers** and a couple of **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robins**.

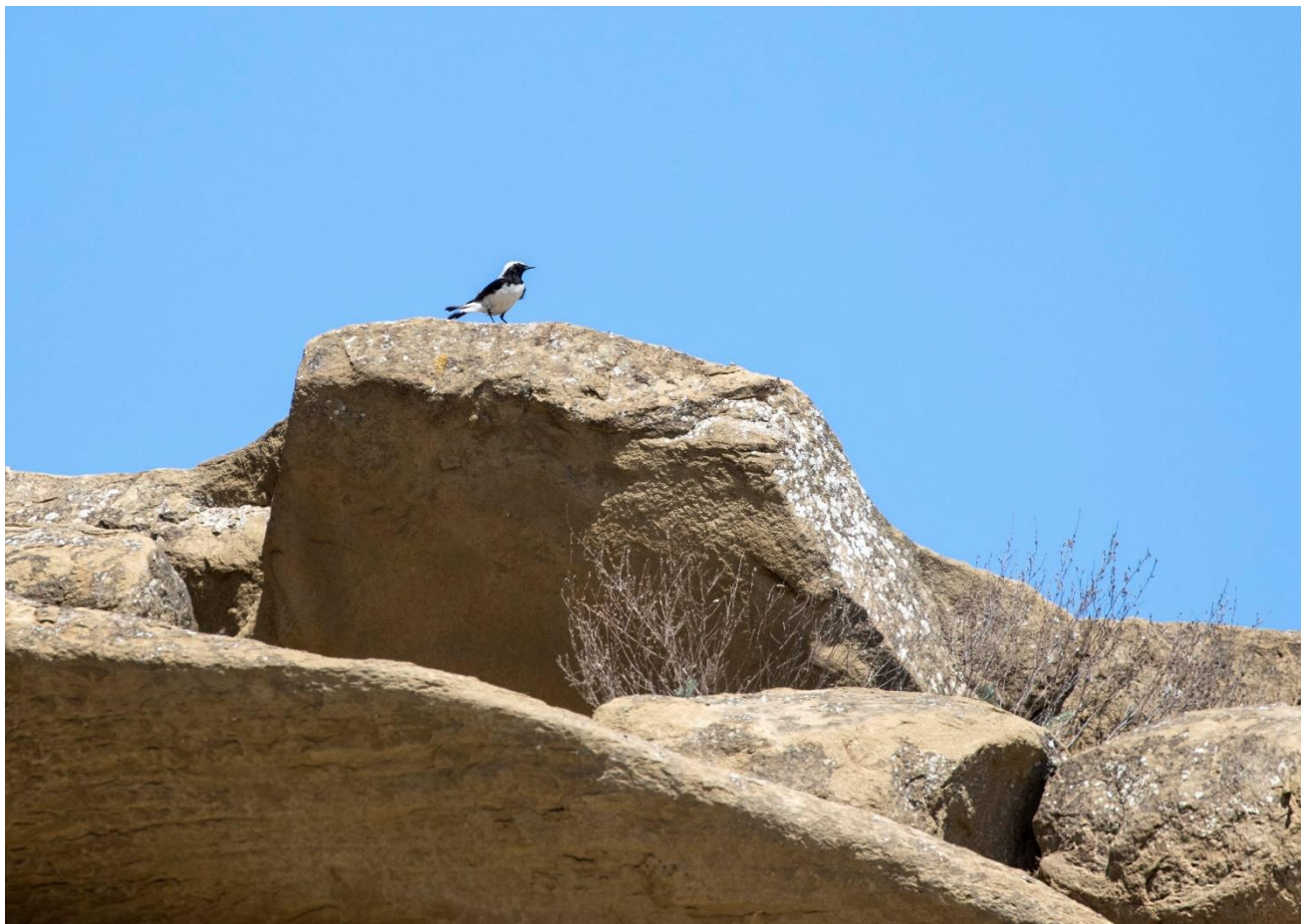
By lunchtime we get to the mud volcanoes, and around here we find several pairs of **Turkestan Short-toed Larks** along with **Greater Short-toed**. The last hours, meeting a beautiful sunset, we spend at the abandoned administrative building of the Dali reservoir, famous for its colony of **Lesser Kestrels**. Today we didn't have the opportunity to admire the vipers again, but we had 5 giant **European Legless Lizards** that was more than enough to make Craig happy 😊 actually all of us.

In addition to all the highlights, we christen this day as 'the day of all five wheatears'. We had several **Northern**, numerous **Isabelline**, a couple of **Eastern Black-eared**, a single **Pied** and 3 **Finsch's Wheatears**, so today we again returned home with decent observations of many prestigious birds. At the dinner, the food is as always plenty on our table and we enjoy a Velvet Scoter wine, the exclusive one, produced in support of the conservation of Velvet Scoters 😊



**European Roller**  
Pictures by Alexander Rukhaia





**Finsch's Wheatear**  
Pictures by Alexander Rukhaia



**Isabelline Wheatear**  
Pictures by Andrea Ferrari



**Turkestan Short-toed Lark**  
Pictures by Alexander Rukhaia

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May:** This is the last day of our tour. Before heading to Tbilisi, we make a short excursion along Shiraki plains once again, with repeated sightings of several **Montague's Harriers**, **Long-legged Buzzards**, a single **Short-eared Owl**, and some others. Then we drive into the Eagles Gorge shortly. That gives us several resident **Griffon Vultures** flying over the gorge. The observations of vultures were much more impressive later, during our visit to the monastery of David Gareji, with all three **Egyptian**, **Griffon** and **Cinereous Vultures**, plus **Short-toed Snake Eagles** and some other species of raptors. As it was promised earlier, on the way to the monastery we meet large flocks of hundreds of **Rosy Starlings**. A lovely pair of **Penduline Tits** appears to be a lifer for our American guests, while the distant raptors migration reveals a potential **Steppe Eagle**.

After lunch and a walk around the monastery, we move on, and through the steppes packed with courtship **Calandra Larks**, we get on to the main road. Before reaching Tbilisi, there is a nice forest park where we intend to spend the last hours of the tour. A wonderful variety of woodpeckers, including **Middle Spotted**, **Lesser Spotted**, **Syrian**, and **Black**. With all this, we are diligently trying to spot a **Eurasian Scops Owl** that are calling from different sides, but, alas, nothing came of it, however, in compensation, we find a **Levant Sparrowhawk**. This is how our ten-day voyage comes to its logical end. The last leg of the way through traffic jams to the hotel, and then a farewell dinner.



**Penduline Tit**  
Pictures by Alexander Rukhaia



**Middle Spotted Woodpecker**  
Pictures by Alexander Rukhaia



**Levant Sparrowhawk**  
Pictures by Andrea Ferrari

### Annotated List of Birds

Developed on the basis of the IOC World Bird List (v 12.1) 2022,  
The names of subspecies used mainly for the breeding birds.

#### Observation status code:

- Number = quantity seen and counted
- Number + = more than mentioned quantity seen (roughly counted)
- n/f = numerous or frequently observed (uncounted)
- H number = heard a certain amount, but not seen
- H s = heard several, but not seen
- (m) = male
- (f) = female

**Total** = **193 species**; 192 seen and 1 heard

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
<b>Anatidae Swans, Geese &amp; Ducks</b>												
1	<i>Anser anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose							1			
2	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	20+					6	35			3
3	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Garganey	1 m									
4	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler	2					1	1			
5	<i>Mareca strepera strepera</i>	Gadwall							13			
6	<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard						7	8			
7	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	6						4			
8	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	5						39		3	
9	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter						100+				
10	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	White-headed Duck	1 f									
<b>Phasianidae Pheasants &amp; Allies</b>												
11	<i>Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi</i>	Caucasian Grouse		1 m	7 m	17						
12	<i>Phasianus colchicus colchicus</i>	Common Pheasant							1 m	4 m		
13	<i>Francolinus francolinus francolinus</i>	Black Francolin									3/Hs	
14	<i>Tetraogallus caucasicus</i>	Caucasian Snowcock		1	2	3						
15	<i>Coturnix coturnix coturnix</i>	Common Quail								1/Hs		
16	<i>Alectoris chukar kleini</i>	Chukar Partridge			Hs					3	3	
<b>Caprimulgidae Nightjars</b>												
17	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus meridionalis</i>	European Nightjar									1	
<b>Apodidae Swifts</b>												
18	<i>Tachymarptis melba melba</i>	Alpine Swift			6		1			4		
19	<i>Apus apus apus</i>	Common Swift	n/f				n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
<b>Cuculidae Cuckoos</b>												

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
20	<i>Cuculus canorus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo		2	Hs				1	H1	H1	3
<b>Columbidae</b>			<b>Pigeons &amp; Doves</b>									
21	<i>Columba livia livia</i>	Rock Dove	n/f	70+	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
22	<i>Columba palumbus columbus</i>	Common Wood Pigeon								3	3	1
23	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove	4	1					n/f	n/f	Hs	n/f
24	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	Laughing Dove							1	1		2
<b>Rallidae</b>			<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots</b>									
25	<i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen					2					
26	<i>Fulica atra atra</i>	Eurasian Coot	n/f					30+	130+			
<b>Gruidae</b>			<b>Cranes</b>									
27	<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	1									
28.1	<i>G. g. archibaldi</i>	Transcaucasian Common Crane						2	26			
<b>Podicipedidae</b>			<b>Grebes</b>									
29	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i>	Little Grebe	4									
30	<i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	20+					16+	3		1	
31	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe	2					6+				
<b>Recurvirostridae</b>			<b>Stilts &amp; Avocets</b>									
32	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Black-winged Stilt	80+						20			
<b>Charadriidae</b>			<b>Plovers</b>									
33	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing							15			
34	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	5									
35	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	10+		2							
<b>Scolopacidae</b>			<b>Sandpipers &amp; Snipes</b>									
36	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff	12		6				80+			
37	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	1									
38	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint	2									
39	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	n/f	3	2		H1	1	2			
40	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	n/f						7			
41	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	2									
<b>Laridae</b>			<b>Gulls, Terns &amp; Skimmers</b>									
42	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	n/f					3	n/f			
43	<i>Larus armenicus</i>	Armenian Gull	4				n/f	400+	n/f		n/f	
44	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Gull-billed Tern	3									
45	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Common Tern	1									
46	<i>Chlidonias hybrid</i>	Whiskered Tern	3						1			
47	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	White-winged Tern	400+							300+		
<b>Ciconiidae</b>			<b>Storks</b>									
48	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	3									
49	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	3					10+	n/f			
<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>			<b>Cormorants &amp; Shags</b>									
50	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	n/f				3	4	n/f		1	
<b>Threskiornithidae</b>			<b>Ibises &amp; Spoonbills</b>									

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
51	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Eurasian Spoonbill	9									
<b>Ardeidae</b>		<b>Herons &amp; Bitterns</b>										
52	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	60+				1	2	25			n/f
53	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Western Cattle Egret							4			30+
54	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	n/f					n/f	n/f			
55	<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron		1								
56	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	2					2	2			
57	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	n/f						1			1
<b>Pelecanidae</b>		<b>Pelicans</b>										
58	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Great White Pelican							4			
59	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican							5			
<b>Accipitridae</b>		<b>Kites, Hawks &amp; Eagles</b>										
60	<i>Gypaetus barbatus barbatus</i>	Bearded Vulture		2	5							
61	<i>Neophron percnopterus percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture					2			1	1	3
62	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	European Honey Buzzards	80+	6	2						1	
63	<i>Gyps fulvus fulvus</i>	Griffon Vulture		40	7	1	2			16	6+	20
64	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Cinereous Vulture		2			1			1	3+	2
65	<i>Circaetus gallicus gallicus</i>	Short-toed Snake Eagle								1		2
66	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	Lesser Spotted Eagle							1			
67	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Eagle						1		1 dar	1	
68	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle										1
69	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle								4	3	
70	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	1	2	3+							
	<i>Aquila sp.</i>	Large Eagle - unidentified								3		
71	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Levant Sparrowhawk								1 m	1	1
72	<i>Accipiter nisus nisus</i>	Eurasian Sparrowhawk		2	1	1			1		1	1
	<i>Accipiter sp.</i>	Sparrowhawk - unidentified	1					1				
73	<i>Accipiter gentilis marginatus</i>	Northern Goshawk										1
74	<i>Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus</i>	Western Marsh Harrier	1					13	18	1	2	
75	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Montagu's Harrier		1 m						6+		5
76	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite		1	1				4			
77	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla</i>	White-tailed Eagle	2					3			1	
78	<i>Buteo rufinus rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard						3	1	7+	2	3
79	<i>Buteo buteo menetriesi</i>	Common Buzzard	1	1		1	1	1	4	2		1
	79.1   <i>B. b. vulpinus</i>	Steppe Buzzard	2	500+	4+	1	2					n/f
<b>Strigidae</b>		<b>Owls</b>										
80	<i>Athene noctua indigena</i>	Little Owl	1						1	1		
81	<i>Otus scops scops</i>	Eurasian Scops Owl						H2	H1			H4
82	<i>Asio flammeus flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl								1		1
<b>Upupidae</b>		<b>Hoopoes</b>										
83	<i>Upupa epops epops</i>	Eurasian Hoopoe	5	1	1		1	1	2	8+	6+	2
<b>Coraciidae</b>		<b>Rollers</b>										

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
84	<i>Coracias garrulous garrulous</i>	European Roller						2	1	20+	n/f	n/f
<b>Meropidae</b>		<b>Bee-eaters</b>										
85	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater	Hs	6+	Hs		13	1	3	n/f	n/f	n/f
<b>Picidae</b>		<b>Woodpeckers</b>										
86	<i>Dendrocoptes medius caucasicus</i>	Middle Spotted Woodpecker										2
87	<i>Dryobates minor colchicus</i>	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker										2
88	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus transcaucasicus</i>	Syrian Woodpecker								1	2	4
89	<i>Dendrocopos major tenuirostris</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker				1	2					
90	<i>Dryocopus martius martius</i>	Black Woodpecker										1
91	<i>Picus viridis karelini</i>	European Green Woodpecker										3
<b>Falconidae</b>		<b>Falcons</b>										
92	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Lesser Kestrel									6+	
93	<i>Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel			2			2	n/f	n/f		n/f
94	<i>Falco peregrinus brookei</i>	Peregrine Falcon		1								
<b>Laniidae</b>		<b>Shrikes</b>										
95	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike			2		3	1	3	n/f	n/f	n/f
96	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike						1	3	n/f	n/f	n/f
97	<i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>	Woodchat Shrike							1	n/f	n/f	n/f
<b>Oriolidae</b>		<b>Orioles</b>										
98	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Eurasian Golden Oriole			1 m	H1			1	5+	3	n/f
<b>Corvidae</b>		<b>Crows &amp; Jays</b>										
99	<i>Garrulus glandarius krynicki</i>	Eurasian Jay	3	2		3	1	2	2	2		3+
100	<i>Pica pica bactriana</i>	Eurasian Magpie	n/f				n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
101	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax docilis</i>	Red-billed Chough		2+	6	1	3	1				
102	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus graculus</i>	Alpine Chough	20+	500+	n/f							
103	<i>Coloeus monedula soemmerringii</i>	Western Jackdaw						50+	n/f		n/f	n/f
104	<i>Corvus frugilegus frugilegus</i>	Rook							7			
105	<i>Corvus cornix sharpii</i>	Hooded Crow	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
106	<i>Corvus corax corax</i>	Northern Raven	3	4+	n/f	n/f	n/f	6	n/f			1
<b>Paridae</b>		<b>Tits</b>										
107	<i>Parus ater michalowskii</i>	Coal Tit	Hs	2	1	2	4	6+	Hs			1
108	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus satunini</i>	Eurasian Blue Tit	1			2	3					Hs
109	<i>Parus major major</i>	Great Tit	Hs	n/f	4	n/f	n/f	n/f	2			2
<b>Remizidae</b>		<b>Penduline Tits</b>										
110	<i>Remiz pendulinus pendulinus</i>	Eurasian Penduline Tit										2
<b>Aegithalidae</b>		<b>Bushtits</b>										
111	<i>Aegithalos caudatus major</i>	Long-tailed Tit				2						
<b>Alaudidae</b>		<b>Larks</b>										
112	<i>Lullula arborea pallida</i>	Woodlark					2					
113	<i>Alauda arvensis cantarella</i>	Eurasian Skylark						2	n/f			2
114	<i>Galerida cristata caucasica</i>	Crested Lark	n/f							n/f	n/f	n/f
115	<i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>	Horned Lark	2			3			1			

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
116	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla artemisiana</i>	Greater Short-toed Lark									15+	2
117	<i>Melanocorypha calandra calandra</i>	Calandra Lark								n/f	n/f	n/f
118	<i>Alaudala heinei heinei</i>	Turkestan Short-toed Lark									15+	
<b>Hirundinidae</b>		<b>Swallows &amp; Martins</b>										
119	<i>Riparia riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin	4						4			
120	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag Martin				1	n/f			n/f		
121	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	n/f	n/f			n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
122	<i>Delichon urbicum urbicum</i>	Common House Martin	1		6	200+	n/f			1	n/f	n/f
<b>Cettiidae</b>		<b>Cettia Bush Warblers &amp; Allies</b>										
123	<i>Cettia cetti cetti</i>	Cetti's Warbler						H1	1			
<b>Phylloscopidae</b>		<b>Leaf Warblers &amp; Allies</b>										
124	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler			9			1			1	
125	<i>Phylloscopus sindianus lorenzii</i>	Mountain Chiffchaff	2	18+	2							
126	<i>Phylloscopus collybita caucasicus</i>	Common Chiffchaff	H1			2	n/f	3+	n/f			
127	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	Green Warbler	H1	3		3	n/f	H2				H1
<b>Sylviidae</b>		<b>Sylviid Babblers</b>										
128	<i>Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla</i>	Eurasian Blackcap			1 f	2						
129	<i>Sylvia borin woodwardi</i>	Garden Warbler				H1						
130	<i>Curruca curruca curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat			2							
131	<i>Curruca crassirostris crassirostris</i>	Eastern Orphean Warbler								1	4	H1
132	<i>Curruca communis communis</i>	Common Whitethroat					1		2	4+	1	2
<b>Troglodytidae</b>		<b>Wrens</b>										
133	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes hyrcanus</i>	Eurasian Wren				2	1			1		
<b>Sittidae</b>		<b>Nuthatches</b>										
134	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	Krüper's Nuthatch	4				H2					
135	<i>Sitta neumayer neumayer</i>	Western Rock Nuthatch					3		H1	1	1	
136	<i>Sitta europaea caucasica</i>	Eurasian Nuthatch				2	1					1
<b>Tichodromidae</b>		<b>Wallcreeper</b>										
137	<i>Tichodroma muraria muraria</i>	Wallcreeper		1								
<b>Certhiidae</b>		<b>Treecreepers</b>										
138	<i>Certhia familiaris caucasica</i>	Eurasian Treecreeper	H2			1	1					
<b>Sturnidae</b>		<b>Starlings</b>										
139	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	Rosy Starling							6	12+	400+	600+
140	<i>Sturnus vulgaris caucasicus</i>	Common Starling	n/f			n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
<b>Turdidae</b>		<b>Thrushes</b>										
141	<i>Turdus philomelos philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	1	H1			2					
142	<i>Turdus viscivorus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush						4				
143	<i>Turdus merula aterrimus</i>	Common Blackbird	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f		n/f	n/f		n/f
144	<i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>	Ring Ouzel	1		7+	16		1				
<b>Muscicapidae</b>		<b>Chats &amp; Old World Flycatchers</b>										
145	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin								1	2	1
146	<i>Muscicapa striata neumanni</i>	Spotted Flycatcher					1		2			2



N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
147	<i>Erithacus rubecula caucasicus</i>	European Robin				2	1					
148	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos africana</i>	Common Nightingale								n/f	Hs	Hs
149	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Red-breasted Flycatcher				4						
150	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	Semicollared Flycatcher				3						
151	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros</i>	Black Redstart	20+	15+	n/f	n/f	5	1	1			
152	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Common Redstart		1	1							
	152.1   <i>P. p. samamisticus</i>	Ehrenberg's Redstart						1	1			
153	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastrus erythrogastrus</i>	Güldenstädt's Redstart	20+	30+								
154	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Common Rock Thrush	2	1 m	1 m							
155	<i>Monticola solitarius solitarius</i>	Blue Rock Thrush					4			H1		
156	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	2	3	4+			3	3	3	2	1
157	<i>Saxicola rubicola rubicola</i>	European Stonechat					2		1	2		
158	<i>Saxicola maurus maurus</i>	Siberian Stonechat										
	158.1   <i>S. m. hemprichii</i>	North Caspian Stonechat					2	1				
159	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica</i>	Northern Wheatear	10+	n/f	n/f	1			2	2	3	
160	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabelline Wheatear	2							15+	n/f	n/f
161	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>	Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	1 m				4			1 m	2	1
162	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Pied Wheatear								1 m	1 m	
163	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	Finsch's Wheatear									3	
<b>Cinclidae</b>		<b>Dippers</b>										
164	<i>Cinclus cinclus caucasicus</i>	White-throated Dipper		3		2						
<b>Passeridae</b>		<b>Old World Sparrows</b>										
165	<i>Petronia petronia exigua</i>	Rock Sparrow	3							1	5	
166	<i>Passer montanus transcaucasicus</i>	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	4				4	n/f	n/f		1	
167	<i>Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus</i>	Spanish Sparrow								8+	25+	n/f
168	<i>Passer domesticus (ssp uncertain)</i>	House Sparrow	n/f	n/f		n/f		n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
<b>Prunellidae</b>		<b>Accentors</b>										
169	<i>Prunella modularis obscura</i>	Dunnock	2	n/f	Hs	Hs						
<b>Motacillidae</b>		<b>Wagtails &amp; Pipits</b>										
170	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	Western Yellow Wagtail		6	2						25	
	170.1   <i>M. f. feldegg</i>	Black-headed Wagtail						2	n/f	1		
172	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	Citrine Wagtail							2			
173	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail				2	2					
174	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	White Wagtail	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f		n/f	n/f
175	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Tawny Pipit					2			3	2	
176	<i>Anthus trivialis trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit						7+				
177	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Red-throated Pipit							1	4	4	
178	<i>Anthus spinoletta coutellii</i>	Water Pipit	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f			2			
<b>Fringillidae</b>		<b>Finches</b>										
179	<i>Fringilla coelebs coelebs</i>	Common Chaffinch	n/f	n/f	1	4	n/f	2	n/f			n/f
180	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula rossikowi</i>	Eurasian Bullfinch		2			4					

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
181	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus kubanensis</i>	Common Rosefinch		H1			H1	6				
182	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla rubicilla</i>	Great Rosefinch	9	5	5							
183	<i>Chloris chloris bilkevitchi</i>	European Greenfinch	n/f	1		n/f	n/f	Hs		1		
184	<i>Linaria flavirostris brevirostris</i>	Twite		30	3	2						
185	<i>Linaria cannabina cannabina</i>	Common Linnet	2	2	12+		2	4	1	2		1
186	<i>Loxia curvirostra guillemardi</i>	Red Crossbill					8					
187	<i>Carduelis carduelis brevirostris</i>	European Goldfinch	n/f	n/f	9	6	n/f	12	n/f	n/f		
188	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Red-fronted Serin	4	Hs	80+	1	3					
189	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	European Serin					2					
<b>Emberizidae</b>			<b>Buntings</b>									
190	<i>Emberiza calandra calandra</i>	Corn Bunting	Hs			Hs		5+	n/f	n/f	n/f	n/f
191	<i>Emberiza cia prageri</i>	Rock Bunting	2	3	2		2	Hs	1	1		Hs
192	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Ortolan Bunting	1	1			2					1
193	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Black-headed Bunting								n/f	n/f	n/f

### Annotated List of Mammals & other wildlife

N	Family   Scientific Name	English Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May	May
1	<i>Capra cylindricornis</i>	East Caucasian Tur			30							
2	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox							1		2	
3	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	European Hare									1	
1	<i>Macrovipera lebetinus obtusa</i>	Levant Viper								4		
2	<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>	European Glass Lizard									5	
3	<i>Lacerta strigata</i>	Caucasus Emerald Lizard					2			1		
4	<i>Paralaudakia caucasia</i>	Caucasian Agama					5			5 n/f		
5	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Greek Tortoise										

Thank you for reading our report!

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