

# TAJIKISTAN

## 05-20 April 2021

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It is fair to say Tajikistan is not among the best-known birding destination. This should be corrected, as this small Central Asian republic has much to offer. From the Tien Shan and Pamir mountains to the western deserts, Tajikistan doesn't lack impressive vistas and interesting habitats worth visiting.

At the same time, it is a very safe country with rich history and fascinating culture where foreign tourism is increasingly important (the Pamir Highway is a must for adventure travellers) and convenient access for those who want to explore further into its neighbours.

Reading a few trip reports at Mammal Watching <https://www.mammalwatching.com/> picked my interest and, after a while, an April trip was arranged for me and my wife by Mirzo Mirzoev from ANCOT <https://tajwildlife.com/>.

ANCOT includes a number of community-run conservancies all over the country promoting nature-based tourism, a model a really like. The trip was intended to nail as many birds as possible and other wildlife, with high hopes of nailing specials from Tibetan Sandgrouse to Snow Leopard.

Our flights to Dushambe were booked with Turkish Airlines and these were hassle-free. Requesting a visa through the country's e-Visa website was also uncomplicated but it took a while for the actual visas to be issue, apparently because of the pandemic.

Security was no issue during our visit, although stops at checkpoints were mandatory when we left Kulob and entered the border with Afghanistan. People were always very nice and welcoming, the hospitality is a highlight of the country.

I really enjoyed the food, from plov (the national dish) to shurbo (soup), always with copious amounts of green tea and non (flat bread). A highlight are the dairy products made from yak milk in the Pamirs.

We did not have any health issues and the gradual climb to the Pamirs meant altitude sickness was not a problem for (most of) us. Drives can be very long as many roads do not allow high speed driving, so breaks to stretch and the usual ways to avoid back pain are mandatory.

### **Birds & Wildlife in Tajikistan 1: tiger forests and Siberian tourists**

After departing in the night flight from Istanbul to the capital city of Dushambe, we greeted Mirzo on arrival and soon were lodged in the extremely nice Atlas hotel. A day of sightseeing in Dushanbe included visits (and first birds) to beautiful Rudaki Park, local cuisine with the best plov in the world and introductory mountain birding at the Kondara botanical garden preceded.

Next day, after a good rest, we departed to the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve. This 460 km<sup>2</sup> protected area sits where the Vaksh and Panj rivers meet to form the famous Amu Darya, the Oxus of the ancient Greeks. The reserve is at the border with Afghanistan, with Uzbekistan next door, and is known as one of the last confirmed strongholds of the extinct Caspian Tiger. You guessed where its name came from.

The rivers cut through a desert landscape where the terrain creates a mosaic of habitats. Apart from the lagoons made by the meandering rivers and the desert itself, one of the most important features of Tigrovaya is the Tugay forest growing along the rivers and their floodplains. Made of poplars and Russian olives with a varied grassy to scrubby understory, the Tugay is the habitat of **Ring-necked (Turkestan) Pheasants**, wild boars, rare Bukhara deer [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bactrian\\_deer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bactrian_deer) and was haunted by tigers until 1958 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/bio.2010.60.11.3>.

The reserve currently lacks a lodge (the historic “King’s Dasha” needs repairing), so this leg of the trip was a camping affair, our meals (all local, with litres and litres of good tea) taken in a nearby sufa (low platform) overlooking one of the many lakes.

The drive to Tigrovaya introduced us to local snacks like qurut and had yielded some good birds, especially raptors such as **Cinereous Vulture**, **Eurasian Griffon** and **(Asian) Shikra**, plus **Eastern Rock Nuthatch**, but the cool stuff was at the reserve itself. Tigrovaya is an Important Bird Area <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/tigrovaya-balka-nature-reserve-iba-tajikistan> with over 160 bird recorded species. eBird lists just 81 for this hotspot <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L13631858>, understandable given the few visiting birders and even fewer uploading their lists there.

Benefiting from the expertise of local ranger Davron, Mirzo and his birding disciple Rasul, we managed 66 species in two days, not a bad tally in early April. The lakes had flocks of **Northern Shovelers**, **Gadwalls**, **Ferruginous Ducks**, **Green-winged Teals**, **Red-crested Pochards**, **Black-headed Gulls**, **Coots**, **Pygmy Cormorants** and other waterbirds, haunted by hunting **Greater Spotted Eagles**, **Montagu’s** and **Marsh Harriers**.

The scrub around had many **Siberian Stonechats** and **Siberian Chiffchaffs** and gave us **Red-tailed (aka Turkestan) Shrike**, **Isabelline (aka Daurian ) Shrike**, **Variable Wheatear** (both *picata* and *capistrata* morphs), **Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin**, **Menetrie’s Warbler** and **Rusty-tailed Flycatcher**.

Exploits into the Tugay found **White-winged Woodpecker**, **Turkestan Pheasants** <https://www.birdguides.com/articles/ornithology/genetics-suggest-common-pheasant-may-be-three-species/>, **Turkestan Tits** (sometimes considered a form of the Great Tit ) and ubiquitous **Common Mynas**. Scoping in the early morning gave us Bukhara Deer and Wild Boar feeding in the open before they took shelter in the woods.

The desert away from the rivers and its forest belt was the home of **Little Owl**, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, **(Asian) Scrub Warbler**, **Spanish Sparrows**, **Crested Larks** and migrating **Tree Pipits** and **Red-rumped Swallows**. We also came across small herds of Djeiran (aka Persian or Goitred Gazelle), Corsac Fox, Golden Jackal, Tolai Hare, Small Five-toed Jerboa and Sunwatcher Toadhead Agama.

This just scratched the surface but was a satisfying start for our Tajikistan trip. Next would come the M-Sayod Conservancy, at the Hazrat Shah Mountains in southern Tajikistan, and the Alichur area in the heart of the famed Pamirs.



An Eastern Rock Nuthatch we found by the road to Tigrovaya



Common Mynas are quite common in Tajikistan



The Tugay-fringed Vaksh river



Menetrie's Warbler was common in bushy areas



Early morning scoping



A smart Red-crested Pochard



A Turkestan / Red-tailed Shrike...



... and a Daurian / Isabelline Shrike



Siberian Stonechats were everywhere



Into the Tugay forest, where the Caspian Tiger used to roam



... and White-winged Woodpecker was easy to find



A small group of Djeiran (or Persian Gazelles) in the desert



A cool-looking Small Five-toed Jerboa



A *picata* Variable Wheatear



We came across a few Long-legged Buzzards ...



... but we found Rusty-tailed Flycatcher only once



One of the many Siberian Chiffchaffs. Quite unlike European ones



Black-bellied Sandgrouse (or grice?) were not camera-happy

## **Birds & Wildlife in Tajikistan 2: Markhors and Laughing Thrushes**

The next leg of our Tajikistan trip organised by ANCOT <https://tajwildlife.com/> took us for the long drive from Tigrovaya Balka reserve to the M-Sayod Conservancy <https://tajwildlife.com/partners/m-sayod/>. The 200km<sup>2</sup> reserve in southern Tajikistan is one of several communal reserves where carefully managed (and very expensive) sport hunting has allowed the recovery of populations of once near-extinct Markhor (the largest wild goat <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markhor>) and Siberian Ibex [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian\\_ibex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siberian_ibex).

Hunting is certainly not for me, but I am pragmatic enough to recognise results when I see them (more on that later), especially when we see the dismal situation of the same species next door (more on that later too).

Our driver Khurshed took us from Tigrovaya through rolling hills with pistaccio forest (or savannas?) where we came across several raptors and our first **Citrine Wagtails** and **Finch's Wheatears**. We also found several Afghan or Central Asian Tortoises quite active after a long hibernation.

The way to M-Sayod passes through the town of Kulob (Khatlon of old) with its fortress before heading still further east to drop into the steep valley of the Panj river. There the road follows the fast-flowing river with Afghanistan just across the torrent, the steep valley walls and snowy peaks afar creating a great scenery.

A short side road took us to the conservancy's lodge sitting amid an orchard. After camping in Tigrovaya it was nice to have a twin bed and hot shower, and to listen **Streaked Laughingthrushes** and (at night) **Eurasian Scops Owls** from the room.

During our stay at M-Sayod we were in the good hands of Mahina, who works for ANCOT and was our minder through the rest of the trip, local guide Golib and manager and spotter Khudoidod. Several times we had delicious meals at his home at the nearby village of Zigar, where we tasted the best cherry juice (*kampot*) in the world, home-baked *non* bread, dried fruit and local specials such as *plov*, *sambusa*, *shurbo*, *laghman* and *tushbera*.

Birding is still a new thing here and this was very much a "let's discover what is around" affair.

For four days we explored the road along the Panj, with long stints at Sphear and around the Zigar village to spot the local wildlife and birds. We also paid a visit to the local botanical garden, a small gem with a nice collection of local varieties of fruit like apples and apricots.

One morning I hiked 11 km up the valley with Golib and a local gentleman who was a lot steadier than myself despite being 20 years older. The vistas were great, and the upper slopes were shaded green with tulips and irises showing their blossoms. Besides at least 50 Siberian Ibex and 10 Brown Bears (2 lone males, plus 3 females with cubs of various sizes) we got nice views of **Himalayan Snowcock**, **Chukar**, **Hume's Warbler**, **Blue Whistling Thrush**, **Brown Dipper** and **White (Masked) Wagtail**.

Searching from the road produced several herds of the famed Markhor (here the Tajik Markhor, a distinct subspecies) and once I hiked up a ridge to watch a displaying **Golden Eagle** and have a better view of a herd with over 30 Markhor, including 6 adult males. With huge horns, they reach over 1.1 m at the shoulder and weight some 110 kg. Their nervous behaviour suggested a Snow Leopard was around, but we never saw it.

Golib told us how stopping poachers and carefully regulated hunting of the older males have allowed the populations of Markhor and Ibex to increase several times to the point some cross the Panj into Afghanistan to search for new territories. Just to be quickly killed by the Afghans.

The steep, thinly vegetated slopes (or walls) along the Panj produced great views of **Golden Eagle, Lammergeier, Cinereous and Egyptian vultures, Eurasian Griffon, Alpine Swift, Northern Raven, Red-billed Chough, Rock Pigeons, Eurasian Crag Martins and Eastern Rock Nuthatch** (with active nests).

Of course, we took the opportunity to scope for species on the Afghani side and build a modest list and to watch the neighbours next door. Quaint villages with terraced fields and fruit trees, groups of girls going to school and people sifting the Panj's sands over carpets looking for gold caught our attention. I wonder how things are now.

Areas with more bushes had tricky **Mountain Chiffchaffs** (which are common breeders in the Pamir valleys) and a few **Plain Leaf Warblers, Azure (Yellow-breasted) Tits, Turkestan Tits, Eurasian Blackbirds, Black-throated Thrushes and White-capped Buntings**, while the villages had lots of **Tree Sparrows, Mynas, Hawfinches** and the occasional **Woodpigeon**.

This was a pleasant stay and M-Sayod does seem a worth place to explore further. There are many trails up the mountains and who knows what may be in the alpine pastures, forests and above? With Afghanistan and the Hindu Kush mountains next door one wonders if **Afghan Snowfinch** is around.



The village of Zigar from above. Afghanistan lies across the Panj river



The green roof of the M-Sayod Conservancy lodge above the Panj valley



Watching Himalayan Snowcocks and Brown Bears



Finch's Wheatear found on the way to Kulob



White-capped Buntings preferred the scrubbier areas



A Lammergeier carrying a bony snack



A nice Blue Rock Thrush



Woodpigeon of the *casiotis* subspecies. A future split?



Streaked Laughingthrush is easy to find at M-Sayod



One of 10 Brown Bears seen in one morning



Masked Wagtail, the distinctive *personata* subspecies of White Wagtail



This herd of some 30 Markhor included a few big males



A Markhor ewe and her lamb were quite comfortable grazing by the road



Cinereous Vulture



Golden Eagles were seen several times every day



A smart-looking Citrine Wagtail



A Brown Dipper takes food to its nest

### **Birds & Wildlife in Tajikistan 3: the snows of the Pamirs**

The last leg of our Tajikistan trip organised by ANCOT <https://tajwildlife.com/> began with a nice breakfast with the mandatory tea and non bread and a last check at the Cetti's Warbler singing by the lodge before Khurshed and Mahina took us to the road.

It was a very scenic, and long, drive along the Panj towards Khorogh, the old city once disputed by the Emir of Bukhara, the Shah of Afghanistan, Russia and Britain. The road took us past the regional capital of Darvoz and then dozens of small villages where apple, almond and apricot trees were beginning to blossom.

On the way we saw our first **Himalayan Griffons**, more **Lammergeyers** and, closer to Khorog where the Panj broadens and was lined by still-dry reeds, **Grey Herons** and **Mallards**.

Our arrival in Khorogh barely gave us time to settle in our nice hotel and visit the beautiful Ismaili mosque and cultural centre (with a **Brown Dipper** in the river by it) before dinner in a local Indian restaurant.

Next morning greeted us with a mix of snow and rain, enlightened by a **Lammergeier** seen from our breakfast table. After some shopping for food to take with us we had a quick (and wet) visit to the local botanical garden that produced flocks of the local **Wood pigeons**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Black-throated Thrush**, **Variable Wheatear** and the only **Blue-capped Redstarts** of the trip.

It was another long drive up to the Murgob plateau, where the small town of Alichur waited for us at 4,000 m. The weather quickly changed from rainy to snowy and the landscape turned white as we climbed up. We soon found our first **White-winged (aka Gldenstdt's) Redstarts**, hardy **Eurasian Magpies** and **Rock Buntings**. As we reached higher, flocks of **Horned Larks** started to show along the roadside.

It was a slow and hard drive along the icy Pamir Highway cutting through the white landscape where the only colour came from some exposed rock and the derelict electricity poles lining the damaged tarmac. We later learned this was part of an unseasonably late snowfall that caused important losses among the livestock.

Our arrival in Alichur was greeted by swarms of **Horned Larks**, both **Red-billed** and **Yellow-billed Choughs**, **Common Ravens** and a sad-looking **Upland Buzzard** weathering the snow on a road marker. After lunch in the quaint Gold Fish restaurant we settled in the Umar homestay, run by gentle and efficient Tamara. She quickly made us feel at home; our room, warmed by a stove, had a couple of potted begonias bringing a green that contrasted with the snow and earth landscape outside.

The first walk around the village, something to become a daily routine prior and after our outings, found lone **Demoiselle Crane** and **Black Kite**, both migrants waiting for the weather to improve, **White (aka Masked) Wagtails** and lots of the ubiquitous **Horned Larks**.

Soon, we had a hearty dinner with our local guides Mahan and Sherali to discuss the programme for the next days and to learn the local history. Mahan is one of the local leaders who set the Burgut Conservancy <https://tajwildlife.com/partners/burgut/>, a 950 km<sup>2</sup> area where poaching has been stopped thanks to community rangers paid by the money brought by sport hunters.

Their main target is the Marco Polo Sheep, the largest among its kind with horns reaching over 1.7 m. From a few tens, protection and the harvest of just 3-5 old males per year has allowed

the population to recover and it is said to be in the low thousands. Other species such as Siberian Ibex and Snow Leopard have also benefited.

We were among the first tourists visiting Alichur and Burgut with the aim of watching birds and the local wildlife. Actually, because of the pandemic, we were the first tourists in quite a while as the usual flow of bikers, hikers and adventurers along the Pamir Highway had ceased.

The next 5 days saw us engaging in the daily routine of checking the birds around the homestay as the sun rose, having breakfast, meeting Mahan and Sherali and departing to different areas where we tried to find birds and other wildlife.

Several times we engaged in real off-road driving, Mahan taking our valiant Land Cruiser through the snow and over rocks and frozen rivers with amazing skill. Soft-speaking Sherali would tell us about the area, its people and history, and we learned we were in one of the branches of the fabled Silk Road, ruins of caravanserais and other mementos dotting a landscape rich with history.

Some days we would stop to have very welcome hot tea and lunch in a local house or farm, local hospitality never failing and giving us a chance to learn more about the local culture.

Our exploits took us to broad desert valleys with ancient Kyrgyz tombs, snowy slopes where yak herds tried to find forage and herds of magnificent Marco Polo Sheep and Siberian Ibex were so common we soon started to see them as part of the landscape.

There was not a green leaf to be seen, birds in these dry habitats looking for food among the dry grass and low shrubs. Besides the overabundant **Horned Larks**, we found **Chukars**, **Snow Pigeon**, **Hill Pigeon**, **Himalayan Griffons**, **Lammergeiers**, **Golden Eagles** (once feeding on a recent Wolf kill), both **Yellow-billed** and **Red-billed Choughs**, **Common Ravens**, **Black-headed Mountain Finches**, **Brown Accentors**, **Hume's Larks**, **White-winged Snowfinch**, **Desert Wheatear** and **Black Redstart**, among others.

Despite the freezing temperatures, hot springs or high salt content kept a few lakes ice-free. Lake Ak Balik, considered sacred, had our first waterfowl with **Ruddy Shelduck**, **Common Merganser** and **Palla's Gull**, while the only **Bar-headed Geese** were at Tuzkul (Salt Lake).

One of the most enjoyable experiences was to hike to Bulun Kul lake from the namesake village (said to be the coldest in the country) through a white flatness and be greeted by a warmish creek gushing into a lake teeming with **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Coots**, **Common Mergansers**, **Palla's**, **Black-headed** and **Brown-headed gulls**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Eurasian Wigeons**, **Garganeys**, **Mallards** and **Pintails**.

**Green Sandpipers** and **Common Redshanks** foraged on the shore while 10 **White-winged Redstarts** with a few **Desert Wheatears**, **Black Redstarts**, **Northern Wheatears** and **Black-throated Thrushes** looked for food among the yak and goats grazing in the patches their minders had cleared of snow, being watched by fearsome-looking guardian dogs.

One of the best findings of the trip was a flock of 42 **Tibetan Sandgrouse** foraging in a seemingly desolate area the ground was finally exposed after some snowmelt. That day we saw our first Golden Marmots out of their lairs, a sure sign spring was finally coming.

The last check around the village before our departure showed newcomers looking for food on the recently exposed ground. Groups of **Bramblings**, **Common Chaffinches** and **Asian Short-**

**toed Larks**, plus a lone **Red-fronted Rosefinch** had joined the regulars. One wonders what more could be found if the snow was not so heavy or we came one week later.

We reluctantly departed Alichur for the 2-day drive back to Dushambe. The Pamirs had a lot more to offer and learning of possibilities like a yak safari to the border with Afghanistan grabbed our imagination.

Also, we never saw a Snow Leopard. Yet another reason for us to be back.



The fabled Pamir Highway near Alichur



Part of our off-road / on-the-frozen-river experience



This Demoiselle Crane was waiting for the weather to improve



One of the farms we had tea and lunch. The enclosures for livestock are Snow-Leopard-proof



Yellow-billed Chough



Tibetan Sandgrouse



Lakes like Ak Balik are refuges for Common Mergansers and other waterfowl



Siberian Ibex was commonly seen



Marco Polo Sheep were nice enough to pose



Desert Wheatear



White-winged Redstart



Ruddy Shelduck



Bar-headed Geese



Himalayan Griffons



Brown Accentor



Horned Larks were everywhere



Common Ravens were tame around Alichur



I had to include these guys...



Hume's Lark showed around our homestay as the snow melt...



.... together with Bramblings



The herald of spring: a Golden Marmot

Species List (see also the Trip Report with links to eBird lists here:  
<https://ebird.org/tripreport/2237> )

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*  
Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*  
Garganey *Spatula querquedula*  
Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*  
Gadwall *Mareca strepera*  
Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*  
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*  
Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*  
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*  
Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*  
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*  
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*  
Common Merganser *Mergus merganser*  
Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*  
Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis*  
Chukar *Alectoris chukar*  
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*  
Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*  
Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris*  
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota*  
Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*  
Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
Tibetan Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes tibetanus*  
Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*  
Alpine Swift *Apus melba*  
Common Swift *Apus apus*  
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*  
Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*  
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*  
Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaeus*  
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*  
Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus*  
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*  
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus*  
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*  
European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*  
Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*  
Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*  
Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*  
Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*  
Greater Spotted Eagle *Clanga clanga*  
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*  
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*  
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*  
Shikra *Accipiter badius*  
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*  
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*  
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*  
Eurasian Scops-Owl *Otus scops*  
Little Owl *Athene noctua*  
Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*  
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*  
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
White-winged Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucopterus*  
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*  
Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*  
Merlin *Falco columbarius*  
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*  
Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*  
Lesser Gray Shrike *Lanius minor*  
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*  
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
Yellow-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*  
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*  
Common Raven *Corvus corax*  
Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus*  
Great Tit *Parus major*  
Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*  
Hume's Lark *Calandrella acutirostris*  
Asian Short-toed Lark *Alaudala cheleensis*  
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*  
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*  
Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*  
Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*  
Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*  
Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*  
Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus*  
Mountain Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus*  
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*  
Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*  
Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta*  
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*  
Menetries's Warbler *Curruca mystacea*  
Streaked Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron lineatum*  
Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota*  
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*  
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii*  
European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*  
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*  
Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*  
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis*  
Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*  
Blue Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus*  
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher *Ficedula ruficauda*  
Plumbeous Redstart *Phoenicurus fuliginosus*  
White-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus leucocephalus*  
Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala*  
White-winged Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus*  
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*  
Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*  
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*  
Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii*  
Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens*  
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*  
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*  
Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*  
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*  
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*  
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*  
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*  
Blyth's Rosefinch *Carpodacus grandis*  
Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus*  
Black-headed Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti*  
European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*  
Twite *Linaria flavirostris*  
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*  
Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*  
White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*