

Ruben Vlot  
The Netherlands  
rubenvlot@gmail.com

# Trip report Turkey

9 - 30 July 2011





Blue-cheeked Bee-eater



Western Brown Fish Owl

I hope this trip report will help you in preparing your trip through Turkey. If you have any questions left after reading the report do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to help you along.

As you probably can imagine, some of the sites described in this report are vulnerable for disturbance, so go there with respect.

Enjoy reading!

**Ruben Vlot**  
The Netherlands

rubenvlot@gmail.com  
www.pbase.com/ruben\_jorrit

Cover photo: *from left to right: Ruben Vlot, Mark de Vries, Arie Kolders, Richard Houtman & Jorrit Vlot*

## Introduction

During the summer break of 2011, five Dutch friends planned to go to Turkey for three weeks. Not for the beach, not for the girls, not for the parties... but for the birds. With three weeks of die-hard birding in prospect, we left Holland on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

In July 2008 we have successfully been birding in Poland and in August 2009 we spent four weeks of intensive birding covering the Iberian peninsula. Both these trips were very nice, and yielded total trip lists to be contented with. After the trip to Spain we immediately deliberated the next summer trip for 2010 and Turkey came out as a logical option. Many, for us kind of mythical species reside in Turkey and quite a few of them appear to be (pseudo-)endemic for the Western Palearctic. Moreover, the country can rather easily be travelled without assistance of any guides, which provides opportunities to schedule everything completely your own way; a way we started to like since we planned Poland in 2008. Unfortunately the crew could not be complete in 2010, but still a few of us travelled to Turkey in summer 2010. After a very successful trip, it was decided that we would go to Turkey again in 2011. The crew changed again, with only two of us who visited Turkey in 2010. That proved to be very helpful in finding the right locations immediately. The crew consisted of Arie Kolders (21 years old), Richard Houtman (27), Mark de Vries (30) and Ruben & Jorrit Vlot (22 and twin brothers).

The trip turned out to be great, exactly what we were hoping for! We managed to find almost all main targets and only failed to find a handful of species. An unexpected high total of 255 species were seen, including the most wanted Mongolian Finches, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Cream-coloured Coursers, Caucasian Grouse and Caspian Snowcock. But the absolute highlight of the trip waited for us till the last day. A Western Brown Fish Owl drove us totally crazy! Too good to be true! We have covered almost 6000 km spread over a three-week period and it was worth it! Quite a distance, but well doable. Particularly driving in turn with the five of us was such a delight, providing enough time for both sleeping and to stay sharp.

## Highlights

**Great White Pelican · Dalmatian Pelican · Eastern Imperial Eagle · Lammergeier · Caucasian Black Grouse · Caspian Snowcock · Chukar · See-see Partridge · Black Francolin · Grey-headed Swamphen · Cream-coloured Courser · Spur-winged Lapwing · Greater Sand Plover · Black-winged Pratincole · Broad-billed Sandpiper · Armenian Gull · Pallid Scops Owl · Western Brown Fish Owl · White-throated Kingfisher · Pied Kingfisher · Blue-cheeked Bee-eater · Little Swift · Syrian Woodpecker · Bimaculated Lark · Citrine Wagtail · White-spectacled Bulbul · Radde's Accentor · White-throated Robin · Siberian Stonechat · Finsch's Wheatear · Kurdistan Wheatear · Graceful Prinia · Eastern Moustached Warbler · Paddyfield Warbler · Upcher's Warbler · Olive-tree Warbler · Menetries's Warbler · Eastern Orphean Warbler · Rüppells Warbler · Green Warbler · Caucasian Mountain Chiffchaff · Semi-collared Flycatcher · Iraq Babbler · Sombre Tit · Krüper's Nuthatch · Western Rock Nuthatch · Eastern Rock Nuthatch · Wallcreeper · Masked Shrike · Rosy Starling · Dead Sea Sparrow · Pale Rockfinch · Yellow-throated Petronia · Red-fronted Serin · Turkish Twite · Asian Crimson-winged Finch · Desert Finch · Mongolian Finch · Eastern Cinereous Bunting · Grey-necked Bunting · Cretzschmar's Bunting**

## Flight and Car Rental

We booked through cheaptickets.nl a German Sky charter flight from Eindhoven Airport to Antalya. The total costs became €1825 including all taxes and insurances. We booked pretty late since the crew was not complete until late spring. Hence, prices can be fairly lower by booking earlier in advance. After we arrived at the Antalya airport we have bought our Turkish visa, which cost €15 per person for a maximum visit of one month per visit.

We arrived at Antalya Airport around 09.00 p.m. and tried to rent a car as soon as possible, since we also had to find a place to sleep that night, and preferably not in Antalya itself. However, only a few rental car companies were opened, so we were rather forced to deal with them. We got a good car though, with five drivers included. You should specifically emphasize on that, as they will let you drive the car with two persons instead! Make sure the insurances are all risk and that you may drive unlimited kilometres!

Ultimately we hired a Ford Tourneo Connect, Diesel. We were really looking for that kind of car, as we need large space and a good overview. Although the engine was not really powerful, we have not experienced major troubles on that. You should sometimes kick its ass on steep slopes, and everything will work out eventually! The petrol prices in Turkey are extremely high: (Euro-)Diesel cost about 3,85TL (€1,61 per litre)! The mountainous areas sometimes asked the cars full capacity, but each time it survived. Finally, for the car, taxes, insurance and five drivers we have paid €1150 for three weeks driving (excluding fuel costs).

### Literature and Maps

Whilst planning our route and our daily schedule we have used the generally known Gosney guides. In this trip report I will mention the various 'Gosney sites' as much as possible and specify the sites were the Gosney's are outdated. Please note, the scale at which the maps had been drawn deviates from reality on many occasions, though one almost cannot work without them.

#### Published literature:

- Finding Birds in Turkey, Ankara to Birecik. Dave Gosney, 1996 (mentioned as Gosney<sup>A</sup>)
- Finding Birds in Eastern Turkey. Dave Gosney, 1994 (mentioned as Gosney<sup>B</sup>)
- Collins Bird Guide, The most complete bird guide to the birds of Britain and Europe. Lars Svensson, et al., 1999

#### Trip reports:

- Report of a birding trip to the Southern and Eastern parts of Turkey (2004) Hendriks, Kasper P.
- South & East Turkey (2008) Simpson, Fraser
- Central and East Turkey, May 2005, 2006, 2007 (2007) Malling Olsen, Klaus.
- Turkey – From Cappadocia to Nemrut Dagi (2010) Occhiato, Ernesto G.
- A day trip to Turkey to see Western Brown Fish Owl (2011) Albegger, Ernst.

#### Personal comments:

- Garry Bakker (2008), Thomas van der Es (2010), Raymond Galea (2010), Daniel Velasco Lopez (2010) Peter de Rouw (2010), Pieter van Veelen (2010).

#### Map:

We have navigated our way through Turkey using the Freytag and Berndt, 1:800.000 road map of Turkey (ISBN 9783707909616). Driving the 'large route', using this map you have sufficient information to find your way properly. Many road constructions are going on nowadays and signposts are being renewed and added. We did not have any problem finding our way.

Furthermore, we would really like to thank the authors of the trip reports for your sometimes even excellent site descriptions and updates. Most information was very useful and on a few species we had stunning views all because of your detailed instructions. Especially for the Mongolian Finch thanks to Daniel Velasco Lopez, for the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater thanks to Raymond Galea, and for the Cream-coloured Courser thanks to Garry Bakker and Marijn Prins.

### The Route

From Antalya we headed to Akseki, and further to the Northeast to Demirkzık. From there we left for a long drive to Sivrikaya. We went along the Black Sea coast through the valley of Ardahan to Aktas Gölü, located exactly at the Georgian border. From there we left southwards along the Armenian border to Doğubayazıt, and travelled further south, along the Iranian border heading for Van. We took the northern route around Van Gölü to Bingöl and from there we went to Nemrut Dagi (near Kahta). We avoided Silvan and Diyarbakır, since the PKK seemed to very active in those days. Just a few days before we planned to travel there, 13 soldiers were shot, so we expected a lot of military activity. And since we could easily avoid the area without too many extra kilometres, we decided to do so. From Nemrut Dagi we went back via Siverek to Birecik. From there we left to the west to Tuzla in the Tarsus delta. The same day we went to Taşucu in the Göksu delta. Finally we went back to Antalya via Manavgat and flew back to Eindhoven from Antalya. In the daily itinerary the route will be described more specifically when needed.



- Demirkazik: **Pension Safak**
- About 75 TL p.p. per night
  - Including breakfast, lunch, dinner and tractor trip. With wifi connection.
  - Expensive, but worth it! Highly recommended.
- Sivrikaya: **Hotel Genesis**
- 70 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast and dinner included. wifi.
  - Since there is no other option, we would recommend it (although it is pretty expensive for Turkish standards). Close to all the best birdwatching areas. We slept in a cabin outside, which was quite okay.
- Kelkit: **Hotel Kelkit**
- 24 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast included.
  - It was just a hotel while we were in transit, but when you have to sleep somewhere near Kelkit, we can highly recommend this hotel. Clean rooms, nice bathrooms, and a good breakfast included. Kelkit itself is also a pretty nice little town.
- Ardahan: **Otel Kura**
- 24 TL p.p. per night.
  - Breakfast included. wifi.
  - Altogether a very decent hotel. Recommended.
- Doğubayazıt: **Murat Hotel**
- 22 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast *not* included.
  - Not recommended! I am pretty sure you could find a better hotel in town for a similar price.
- Van: **Hotel Kahraman**
- 25 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast *not* included. wifi.
  - Highly recommended. Nice rooms, decent bathrooms, friendly staff and in the middle of town.
- Bingöl: **Otel Cinar**
- 30 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast included. wifi.
  - Very nice hotel, although Bingöl itself is not a nice town to stay.
- Nemrut Dagi: **Pension Cesme**
- 40 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast and dinner included. wifi.
  - Decent hotel. Dinner included proved to be nice, since restaurants are not well-spread. Also close to the national park, which makes birding around the hotel more interesting.
- Birecik: **Motel Mirkelam**
- 21 TL p.p. per night
  - Breakfast *not* included.
  - Only the air-condition makes this motel great! Cool rooms after a morning of birding in the hot sun is very welcome. Altogether a simple, but good place to stay.

Taşucu:

**Pension Dilara**

- 32 TL p.p. per night.
- Breakfast included. wifi.
- Nice pension, just next to the beach. Small rooms, but with air-conditioning. Highly recommended if you like a swim in the Mediterranean Sea after a morning of birding beneath the burning sun.

Manavgat:

**Hotel Andria**

- 40 TL p.p. per night
- Breakfast included, and dinner is possible by surcharge. wifi.
- Highly recommended when trying to see the Fish Owls. A very decent and reasonably priced hotel in this area along the main road. Nice air-conditioned rooms, swimming pool and a bar. By far the best hotel we visited (but also the most expensive).

### Daily Itinerary

Whilst travelling through Turkey we have encountered various striking things along and on the road. On average the roads were fine and we drove many newly constructed roads anywhere through the country. However, deep and large holes in the pavement were no exception. In addition, several roads were still partly under construction. In the cities the maximum speed is 50 or 60 kmph and outside the cities the maximum speed is 90 kmph. We noticed there are only a few people strictly following these rules. One seems to maintain only a few rules and further anticipate on other vehicles and go with the flow. Once a truck almost crashed into our rear end of the car when we stopped for a red light. Stopping for red lights appeared to be uncommon on many occasions. Moreover, pay attention onto the wild dogs. These dogs sometimes try to attack the car when you pass. We have seen many road killed dogs along the verges.

We have added several pictures to this report, but for more pictures you can have a look at [http://www.pbase.com/ruben\\_jorrit/turkey\\_2011](http://www.pbase.com/ruben_jorrit/turkey_2011). On our website you can also find pictures of our trip to Turkey in 2010.

### Day 0 9 July | Sliedrecht (Holland) – Serik (Turkey)

After three weeks in Spain and one week in Germany it finally became time to go to Turkey for a three-week during birding trip. It sounds quite spoilt, and actually it is. But that didn't take away my excitement of course. Together with Richard Houtman (27), Mark de Vries (30), Arie Kolders (21), Jorrit Vlot (22, and my twinbrother) we started our trip on the 9th of July at Eindhoven Airport. A few of us woke up very early that day to twitch the Least Sandpiper (1<sup>st</sup> for the Netherlands) which was found the evening before. Unfortunately they 'dipped' the bird, but a few hours later our holiday started, so who cared?! (A few days later, this Least proved to be a probable Temmincks Sandpiper, so no care at all). In a plane packed with tourists who wouldn't see much more of Turkey than the beach, the swimming pool and the buffet in their hotel, we flew to Antalya. We arrived at night, so no birds could be added to our list yet. From Antalya we quickly drove to Serik to find a cheap hostel and tried to get a few hours of sleep. Next morning birding would start!

### Day 1 10 July | Serik – Demirkazik

Waking up at 4.30 a.m. to have a full day of travelling and birding. Today we would drive to the Aladag Mountains, but on our way we planned to stop regularly along the route to find our first Turkish specialities. Our first stop was at Akseki, with as main target the Krüper's Nuthatch. Along the road it started quietly, but we soon saw our first **Short-toed Eagle**. At Akseki we stopped at the walled plantation (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 30 – site 1). The first **Hoopoes** and **Blue Rock Thrushes** were flying around, and soon the first lifer could be added to the list, a beautiful male **Masked Shrike**. The

fields were full with grasshoppers, and every step hundreds of them cleared our way. The first **Ortolan Buntings** and **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears** were seen, and a few of us found a **Cretzmar's Bunting** near the walled plantation. An **Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** showed up quite nice and the noisy **Rock Nuthatches** were everywhere. A male **Rüppell's Warbler** showed up shortly for two of us, but was not relocated by the rest of us unfortunately.

Our next stop was further north of Akseki (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 32 – site 4). We just parked the car along the road and walked into the forest. Soon our first **Krüper's Nuthatch** was heard. After a while we could locate the bird in the top of the trees. While watching a **Booted Eagle** flew by and the first **Long-legged Buzzard** of the trip was seen. Several more **Krüper's Nuthatches** were found in the forest, and some **Eastern Bonelli's Warblers** gave stunning views. A strange looking raptor was identified as a **Peregrine Falcon ssp. brookei**.

From Akseki we drove on to the Aladag Mountains. A long drive with a few stops, but where we could add some species to our list by car-birding. Among others our first **Egyptian Vultures**, **Lesser Grey Shrikes**, **Raven** and **Little Owl** of the trip. During a short stop near Cellalar (west of Demirkazik) a stunning **Golden Eagle** flew along and the first **Upcher's Warbler** was found. A few **Rock Sparrows** and **Black-headed Buntings** made it a profitable stop after a long drive. Arrived at Demirkazik we went to the pension of Hasan Safak. Well-known for his tractor trips into the mountains to find the Caspian Snowcocks. We planned to go there next morning, but first we checked the area around the nearby the Mountain Center (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 13 – site 3 & 4) for some target species. **Finsch's Wheatear** was easily found and we had several good views of mainly males. Also **Shore Lark ssp. penicillata**, **Isabelline Wheatear** and **Rock Bunting** were present at the hillslope. Before we headed back to have dinner at the pension, some **Alpine** and **Red-billed Choughs** could be added to our list. After eating a delicious trout at Hasan Safak's place, we went to bed because we had to wake up at 4.00 a.m. next morning to travel up into the mountains!

## Day 2      11 July | Demirkazik

This morning we woke up at 4.00 a.m. to start our trip to the summits of the Aladag Mountain Range. After a simple breakfast, we jumped in the trailer behind Hasan's tractor, and the journey started. In full darkness we drove up to the mountain. **Common Nightjars** were calling along the road, and soon dawn started. The first **Ortolan Buntings** and **Isabelline Wheatears** flew away for the noise of the tractor. The last part of the trip we joined Hasan's on his tractor with the five of us. Not very comfortable of course, but to see the Snowcocks at the top, we had to take it for granted. Arrived at the top, we immediately had two **Caspian Snowcocks** flying along! Easy start! But after hours of waiting it were still the only two birds we had seen. And although they flew along at quite close distance, we had hoped to have some longer and better views of this magnificent bird. Even Hasan was surprised that it proved to be so difficult to find them. We walked further into the chromium mine. **Crimson-winged Finch**, **Wallcreeper**, **Snowfinch** and **Alpine Accentor** were easily found, but still no trace of the snowcocks! Arrived at the top (which was a pretty tough walk, with low oxygen), we scanned the mountains over and over again, while Hasan took a short nap. And finally, a male **Caspian Snowcock** was found on the rocks and we had very satisfying views of it! It took a bit more time



than expected, but it just enlarged our excitement! We decided to walk back to Demirkazik, in order to find the Raddes' Accentor. Although it is a long walk back to the village, it was definitely worth it. While walking, the beauty of the Aladag Mountains is even more impressive. Our first **Raddes' Accentor** was about 800m walking from the top, on the grassy slopes between the thicket line and the top. A few hundred meters further we found a second bird together with a male **Rock Thrush**. Temperature was rising while descending, and bird activity was very low. In the lower lands, **Black-headed Bunting**, **Corn Bunting**, **Rock Bunting** and **Red-backed Shrikes** were present, but we were very happy that we got a lift from a nice farmer, which brought us down to the village.

The walk tired us, so we took a short power nap before we started birding again in the late afternoon. We went to a dry wadi, which is not described in Gosney or any other any literature we read. It proved to be a very successful area with our only **Bimaculated Larks**, our first **White-throated Robins**, **Crimson-winged Finches**, **Eastern Orphean Warbler**, **Rock Sparrows**. It can be reached by crossing the road from Hasan Safak's pension. At the end of this turn right, and follow the road into the agricultural fields. These fields are good for larks, as we had many **Crested Larks** and **Short-toed Larks**. It should be possible to find Bimaculated Lark here too, but we found it a few kilometres later near a dried river. We parked the car, and walked around which resulted in the above mentioned species. In addition our first **Alpine Swifts** flew along while having a rest. By continuing this road, you will enter a gorge. For birds it was not very profitable, but the landscape alone is worth it to drive through it. When camping we could highly recommend you to go here, because at the end of the gorge you'll find a splendid located campsite. But we booked our hotel, which also has pretty nice views on the mountains were we had a great day with the snowcocks. That night we all had a wonderful sleep, but before we went to bed we could listen to the only **Scops Owl** of our trip, just from the balcony of the pension.

### Day 3 12 July | Demirkazik - Kelkit

We woke up 'late' at 7.00a.m. We got a decent breakfast and packed the car to move on. We decided to drive in two days to Sivrikaya in order to have some more birding time along the route. We reached Kelkit, a little town halfway the route to Sivrikaya. This birding day was not very exciting, although we could add many new species to our holiday list among others **Calandra Larks**, **Rollers**, **European Bee-eaters**, **Black Kites** and 2 **Black Storks**. During several stops we had some species which we hardly found anywhere else, and which proved to be valuable additions to our list. Among those where **Whinchat**, **Common Lapwing** and **Common Cuckoo**. **Long-legged Buzzards** were abundant along the route, and the first **Steppe Buzzards** of the trip were seen.

In order to find a bank, we entered a small town along the route. Which should have a 5 minute break, turned out to be a delay of more than two hours. Invited for a tea by the local people, resulted in a lunch with the local community. Although it was not planned at all, we were all excited by the hospitality of those people. Birding in Turkey is nice, but we would advise you to take time to grant the request of the Turkish hospitality. (But not always, because than you will come home 'poisoned' by tea! ☺).

Just a few kilometres before entering Zara, we stopped at a lake where we had a few marsh species. The bunch of marsh and water birds would show up during the second half of the trip, but here a **Caspian Reed Warbler**, **Purple Heron** and **Common Sandpiper**. A **Black Stork** flew along and the first **Black-headed Wagtails** and **Yellow-legged Gulls** were present around the lake, called Tödürge Gölü. Last year this site proved to be better for waders, but this time it was quite disappointing. A singing **Lesser Short-toed Lark** made this place a bit less boring, but after 20 minutes we drove on to get as close as possible to Sivrikaya. As mentioned we ended up in Kelkit.

### Day 4 13 July | Kelkit - Sivrikaya

Today we could quietly travel to Sivrikaya, which gave us time again to do some birding along the route. Our first stop was near Kaş, where we found some wetlands next to the road. Two **Common Quails** were calling, and the first **Common Rosefinch** was singing its 'nice-to-meet-you' to us. We

forgot to return the keys in the hotel in Kelkit (how stupid!) but luckily we were just 15km on our way, so Ruben and Richard drove back to return our room keys. The three remaining crew members continued birding, which resulted in 2 **Green Woodpeckers**, **Little Plover**, **Green Sandpiper**, a singing **Redstart**, **Common Nuthatch**, **Cetti's Warbler** and a juvenile **Citrine Wagtail**. The latter had unfortunately disappeared when Ruben and Richard returned, but they could add our fourth **Black Stork** to the day list.

Continuing our way to Sivrikaya we were scanning the area for Rosy Starlings. Last years group had huge flocks of them in this area in 2010, but this time we could not locate any bird. Our next stop was at a lake along the road near Bayburt. A single **Ruddy Shelduck** was swinging around, and some **Whiskered Terns** and **Black-headed Gulls** were foraging. In the fields some **Quails** were calling and **Black-headed Wagtails** were everywhere. A **Greenshank** was the only wader present.

A few kilometers further two raptors took our attention. A quick stop in the talus helped to identify them as two **Lesser Spotted Eagles**. They gave stunning views by flying just over the car, so the cameras were clicking. An **Egyptian Vulture** could also got our attention, since it was flying by at close distance. Again a few kilometres (about 1 km north of Bayburt) another two raptors were seen.



Another quick stop resulted in the two splendid **Golden Eagles**, and again cameras were ready to shot. After a while one of the birds landed on the rocks, where two chicks were loudly calling from the nest. A nice surprise along the route. Our lunch stop just before Ovat Gecidi surprisingly resulted in a beautiful male **Finsch's Wheatear**, **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, a **Roller**, **Tawny Pipits**, **Eastern Rock Nuthatches** and a white-morph **Booted Eagle** made our Turkish bread with chocolate spread much more tasteful. During a short 'pee stop' we were surprised by a singing **Semi-collared Flycatcher**. While waiting, several

**Ortolan Buntings** gave nice views, but one of us found an even bigger surprise. Shortly Ruben had good views of a male **Red-breasted Flycatcher**. Unfortunately it disappeared in the bushes, without turning back to give the others views of it. A pity, but still an unexpected addition to our trip list!

The weather had been quite unstable all day long, but arrived near Sivrikaya the weather really turned bad. The mountains and the road were totally in the clouds, and we did not see anything of the surroundings (which should be beautiful according to Jorrit and Arie, who were here last year too). Our worries started to grow about next day. With this weather, the Caucasian Grouse would become a mission impossible! Arrived at the Genenis Hotel, we quickly dropped our stuff and had an hour of birding before dusk. Just south of the hotel, we entered the forest after crossing the stream. Immediately a **Green Warbler** was heard, but it took us quite a while to get decent views of it. In total we had about 5 birds along the dirt road. Other species heard or seen where **Common Jay**, **Bullfinch**, **Siskin**, **Crossbill** and **Goldcrest**. Since the weather turned worse and worse we returned to the hotel. A huge thunderstorm and the ongoing rain decreased our hopes for the next day...

## Day 5

14 July | Sivrikaya

Waking up and a quick look through the window made us jump out of bed. The sky was totally clear. What a surprise! We immediately drove towards Sivrikaya, and stopped about 4,5 km after south of the village (just north of Gosney<sup>B</sup>, pp. 4 - site 3) to scan the green mountain slopes at the other side of

the valley for a black dot (which might be a Caucasian Grouse by then). Luckily we were well prepared with warm clothes, because the wind makes it freezing cold! Hiding behind the car we scanned the slopes over and over again, hoping for a call from one of us. And all of a sudden, the call came from Richard. And soon it was approved by the others that it really was a **Caucasian Black Grouse**! The distance is enormous, but we all could see its funny appearance, with its nice tail. After 'satisfying views' we decided to drive to the other side of the valley on a dirt road, which would bring us much closer. Indeed we were much closer half an hour later, but no sign of any 'Blackcock' again. The **Rosefinches** were singing everywhere and are so nicely red! **Water Pipits** are abundant around the Caucasian grouse spot, two **Ring Ouzel** flew along, the first **Mountain Chiffchaff** was found already and three **Crimson-winged Finches** were present further uphill. On our way back to our hotel, to have breakfast, we shortly visited the Green Warbler spot, where 3 **Dippers** were hopping from stone to stone in the stream. About 10 **Green Warblers** were singing their songs, and **Grey Wagtail** could be added to our list.

After breakfast, we visited Ovitdagi Gecidi, 12km south of Sivrikaya (Gosney<sup>B</sup>, pp. 4 – site 1). We just started walking around there in order to find some mountain species. We stayed here for hours, and although it did not result in many species we had some good views of i.e. **Shore Lark ssp. penicillata** and **Turkish Twite (ssp. brevisrostris)**. **Snow Finches**, **Black Redstart ssp. ochruros** and **Alpine Accentors** were easy to find and surprisingly one of us had a calling **Caspian Snowcock** here. After a few hours of relaxed birding we headed back to the hotel to take some rest after the early wake-up this morning. Some of us walked around the hotel and found a **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Firecrest**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and several **Bullfinches**. A juvenile **Crossbill** unluckily died in our hands, but that gave us the opportunity to have a careful look at its wonderful bill. After dinner we walked back to our cabin, accompanied by fireflies and glowworms.

## Day 6      15 July | Sivrikaya – Ardahan

Today we planned to travel to Eastern Turkey, but first we wanted to visit Aktas Gölü, a lake on the Turkish and Georgian border, where White as well as Dalmatian Pelican should occur. Therefore we planned to travel to Ardahan, so we could visit this lake the day after. But before we started travelling we visited the Caucasian Grouse spot again. This time we were less lucky with the weather, and the mountains were partly in the clouds. But the location where we found our grouse yesterday was just low enough to be clear. We scanned the area for quite a while, but we could not find any grouse. The only birds present were two **Rock Thrushes**, a male **Black Redstart ssp. semirufus** and many **Rosefinches**. An hour later we returned to the hotel for breakfast and packing.

Driving from Sivrikaya to Ardahan brought us along the Black Sea. At Rize we had a short stop to scan the inland sea. Immediately we found a group of about 20 **Porpoises**. Our first **Armenian Gulls** were seen, and in addition a **Great Crested Grebe**, **Cormorant** and **Great White Egret** were present, but it was poor birding here. So we quickly moved on. On our way we were scanning the rocks along the coastline for Shags, but most times the crash barrier blocked our views, so we were not successful. After a long and boring drive, behind many loggers which were hard to overtake, we finally arrived in the Ardahan area. We had to wait for more than an hour for road construction, but we were not in a hurry at all, so we easily adapt to the Turkish culture: just wait and drink a tea.

Arrived in Ardahan we quickly found a decent hotel, and we had time left to do a little bit of birding before dusk. The fields west of Ardahan proved to be a pretty nice birding location. **Quails** were calling everywhere, and we even had a good sight of one of them. Again two **Black Storks** were found (which we did not expect so far east), and **Corn Buntings** were abundant. Mark mentioned that the fields would be perfect habitat for Corn Crakes but according to Svenssons bird guide it only occurs in Turkey during the migration season, so we were quite surprised to hear a calling **Corn Crane** just before dusk. After careful listening we had at least 3 birds calling around the car, and Marks hypothesis about the habitat proved to be very true. As thunderclouds were rapidly reaching us, we drove back to the hotel while watching the magnificent lightning behind us. From the upper stage of our hotel we enjoyed a wonderful rainbow and the lightning before we had dinner.

## Day 7

16 July | Ardahan – Doğubayazıt (via Aktas Gölü and Cildir Gölü)

The road from Ardahan to Aktas Gölü was a big surprise, since we had raptors everywhere! Starting with several **Lesser Spotted Eagles** and **Egyptian Vulture**, we soon had an even more interesting bird in the form of a **Griffon Vulture**! A female **Montagu's Harrier**, **Steppe Buzzards** and **Long-legged Buzzards** were joining the raptor party, but still it was not over yet. A stop at some wetlands about 15km from Ardahan first resulted in a male **White-headed Duck** and a **Red-necked Grebe**. But we still paid attention to the sky too, and soon more **Lesser Spotted Eagles** were flying by and another **Griffons** flew along. But the most exciting surprise were the two **Eastern Imperial Eagles** which were just above the car all of a sudden! After having wonderful views they disappeared behind the nearby mountain range, and we celebrated our luck! And this day had just begun!

We continued our route to Cildir, and from there we drove north to the 'Pelican lake' Aktas Gölü, which is located exactly onto the edge of Turkey, bordering Turkey and Georgia. Just before we reached the lake, we stopped at the military control post to ask for permission. Ignoring the post and passing it unreported might provide some trouble (cf. Hendriks 2004). Especially pay attention not to cross the not-defined border with Georgia, most probably less than 100 metres north of the village. Perhaps you even might be arrested on that. However, after some explanations with our handheld bird guide and some help of a poorly English speaking military, we got permission. A military escort was sent in front of us, before we were allowed to go there. We were allowed to go there for a 1-hour visit (which is more than sufficient). Arrived at the lake, 18 **Dalmatian Pelicans** were swimming at close distance, but the **White Pelican** were swimming at a larger distance, and most probably swimming at the Georgian side of the lake. Several **Little Egrets**, **Greenshanks**, **Redshanks** and **Green Sandpipers** were foraging on the edges, and on the lake itself 53 **Ruddy Shelducks**, **Cormorants** and a **Northern Pintail** were present. Three **Montagu's Harriers** were flying over the bordering fields, but after 30 minutes we had seen enough. We had a long trip ahead and we still wanted to visit Cildir Gölü.

For Cildir Gölü we would highly recommend to drive along the west side of the lake. The road conditions are not that good, but it is much more interesting than the main road which will lead you along the east side. We stopped occasionally for some birding. Our first stop where you have the lake at your left hand, and some marshes at your right hand we had some good birding time again. Several **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Lapwings**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Wood Sandpipers** were present, and three **Dalmation Pelicans** gave a nice flight show before landing on the lake. Arie found three **Citrine Wagtails**, but those could not be re-found again by the rest. We were distracted by a bird which completed today's raptor party: a 2<sup>nd</sup> cy **Lammergeier** was flying along. By shouting we could alarm everyone, before it disappeared. A nice surprise! The marshes also provided some ducks for our list: **Gadwall**, **Tufted Duck** and **Pochard**. We continued the road, which resulted in a **Water Rail**, 3 **Gull-billed Terns**, **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Hoopoes** and loads of **Rosefinches**.

A small lake between Kars and Dığur resulted in several **White-headed Ducks**, **Ruff**, **Eurasian Teal** and 12 **White-winged Tern**. But since we were late on schedule, we had to move on to reach Doğubayazıt. During a short walk around the hotel after dinner we could add **Long-eared Owl** and **Common Nightjar** to our impressive day list.

## Day 8

17 July | Doğubayazıt

In Doğubayazıt we had several species which we would like to see, but Mongolian Finch was by far our main target. Therefore we woke up early again and started birding close to Isak Pasha. To reach the exact location where Mongolian Finch should breed, we drove up to the mountain from the Murat Hotel (just below Isak Pasha), and turned right into a dirt road. From there we drove about 800m until a rock formation occurs at the right side. There we parked the car, and started walking around. **Grey-necked Buntings** were immediately found at the slope on the left side of the road. In total 7 birds were present, but be aware, because also 'normal' **Ortolan Buntings** are between them, so do not celebrate too early. **Snow Finches**, **Crimson-winged Finches** and **Shore Larks *ssp. penicillata*** were flying by, and we put extra attention to them in order to exclude Mongolian Finches. After searching for more than an hour Arie and Ruben were scanning around the rock formation again, when suddenly two small birds flew along and landed on the rocks: **Mongolian Finches!** After having a short but decent look, we called the others, who were quite far. In the meanwhile, the finches disappeared, but it did not take a long time before they showed up again. Although they were restless we all finally had satisfactory views of this cute little bird. While waiting a **Blue Rock Thrush** curiously watched what we were doing in his territory.



Crimson-winged Finch

Happiness all over the place of course after seeing the Mongolian Finches, but it was still early in the morning, so we decided to do some birdwatching around Isak Pasha before breakfast. This resulted in an adult **Lammergeier**, **Alpine Swifts**, an **Ortolan Bunting** with a **Cuckoo** chick, **Chukar** and a poor seen **Red-fronted Serin**. During breakfast, Arie stayed sharp, and he found another **Lammergeier** (2<sup>nd</sup> cy) in the sky, just over the hotel. Nice breakfast break!



Mongolian Finch

After breakfast we drove towards the Iranian border. After a few kilometres we took a dirt road leading towards Mt. Ararat. On the foot of this impressive mountain, some marshlands are located. Although they seem pretty dry in this time of the year, there still some water remaining. On the way to the marshes we had a male **Finsch's Wheatear** and several **Turkish Twites**. The

first marshes resulted in some **Temminck's Stints**, **Little Plover**, **Green Sandpiper** and **Ruff**. The reed beds were good for several **Great Reed Warblers**. Driving along **European Bee-eaters** were

everywhere along the electricity lines, and several **Little Owls** showed very well. We drove this road until we almost reached the E-99 again. Here we stopped the car, and walked towards the marshes, since they seemed full with marsh terns. By getting closer we had good views of hundreds of **White-winged** and **Whiskered Terns**. **Redshanks**, **Ruff** and **Glossy Ibis** were present in large amounts, together with several **Little Stints**, **Avocets**, **Black-winged Stilts** and **Kentish Plover**. By surprise several **Collared Pratincoles** were flying around, which were first determined as Black-winged Pratincoles from a larger distance. We thought we made a mistake first, and changed our sighting towards Collared Pratincole. But Jorrit and Mark were not too sure about it, so they started to intensively scan every pratincole. Good on them, because it unexpectedly resulted in at least one **Black-winged Pratincole** amongst the **Collared Pratincoles**! In the neighboring fields we had **Short-toed Lark** as well as **Lesser Short-toed**. Again a great birding day in Eastern Turkey!

## Day 9 | 18 July | Doğubayazıt – Van (via Bendimahi marshes)

Today two of us did not feel very healthy, so they slept in a bit longer than normal, while Mark, Jorrit and Richard tried to prove their luck with the Mongolian Finches again. At this spot they had good views of 3 **Mongolian Finches** again, including a juvenile bird. Several **Finsch's Wheatears** and **Blue Rock Thrushes** were around and again they had to deal with an unsatisfactory view of a flying and calling **Red-fronted Serin**. This species proved to be much more difficult to see than expected, since we did not have any decent views of it.

Today we would continue our journey towards Van. The distance to Van from Doğubayazıt is not that far, so again we would do some birding along the route. The lava fields resulted in a **Booted Eagle**, several **Turkish Twites**, some stunning views of **Crimson-winged Finches** just a few meters from the car and **Black Redstarts ssp. ochruros**. The marshes along the road were not very special, except a beautiful female **Citrine Wagtail**, again found by Arie, who got called Master of the Citrine Wagtails (he discovered all the Citrine Wagtails we've seen during our trip!). In contrast with these marshes, the Bendimahi marshes near the village Karahan, at the far north-eastern corner of Van Gölü, proved to be impressively good, even at midday (Gosney<sup>B</sup>, pp. 16 – site 3). Just try to ignore the annoying kids, which apparently are always around, and you will definitely enjoy your stop here. **Squacco Herons** are everywhere, the reed beds are filled with **Great Reed Warblers** and **Caspian Reed Warblers**. **Slender-billed Gulls** and **Gull-billed Terns** fly over the water, and on the water itself we found our one and only **Mute Swan** of the trip, two **White-headed Ducks**, as well as several **Pochards** and **Little Grebe**. A better look in the reed beds resulted in the sighting of two **Reed Bunting ssp. caspia**, **Bearded Reedlings**, and a stunning **Moustached Warbler**. A few **Little Bitterns** flew along over the reeds and a flock of **Black-crowned Night Herons** was resting along the water. **Little Terns**, together with its giant nephew **Caspian Tern**, were foraging above the water, as well as **White-winged** and **Whiskered Terns**. To complete the list we had 4 **Glossy Ibis**, loads of **Black-winged Stilts**, 3 **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Armenian Gulls**, **Little Egrets**, a **Water Rail**, **White Storks** and several **European Bee-eaters**. Back at the car, a **Hobby** waited for us in a tree. To be short: a very profitable stop!

From here we drove on to Van. The road to Van is very boring, and along the route we did not find any interesting areas to stop, so we immediately drove to Van. We first wanted to have a hotel in Van before we would continue birding, but getting ourselves into the centre of Van took so much time, and finding a parking place near the hotel took us even more time. In the hotel, we decided to stay here the rest of the afternoon, because we did not looking forward for leaving the city again.. We had dinner in a junk-food restaurant, which was a welcome variation of the Turkish dinners we had before (although it is good food, there is not much variation).

**Note:** Today we read on internet that a public location was discovered for Western Brown Fish Owl near Antalya. A new target could be added to our list for the last days of the trip. To be continued...

## Day 10 19 July | Van - Bingöl (via Ercek Gölü and Murat river)

An early wake-up again brought us to Ercek Gölü, a small lake east of Van. We parked the car along the road, where you have the big lake on your left hand side, and a small pond with reedbeds on the right. Soon we had good views of **Moustached Warblers**, **Great Reed Warblers** and **Caspian Reed Warblers**. On the pond itself several **White-headed Ducks** gave good views, and the lake seemed to be an excellent area for **Black-necked Grebe**, since hundreds of them were present. Four **Garganeys** could be added to our trip list, but still no sign of the **Paddyfield Warbler**, where we came for. After a while, a few of us had a

singing bird, which did not show himself yet. The lakeshore was full with snakes, so we were distracted by watching snakes, but luckily one of us was keen enough to keep an eye on the reed bed, which finally resulted in good views of a **Paddyfield Warbler**. Also several **Penduline Tits** and our only **Common Stonechat** of the trip were found before we left the place to move on.

A few kilometers ahead we checked the lakeshore for waders, resulting in about 500 **Ruffs**, 20 **Black-winged Stilts**, 12 **Black-tailed Godwits**, 5 **Oystercatchers** and a few **Avocets**. Approximately 450 **Flamingoes** colored a part of the lake pinkish, a color which we would see again a few minutes later. Driving back towards Van, to continue our trip to our next destination, a **Rosy Starling** flew along. A scan in the fields along the road resulted in a nice pinkish-black flock of 300 **Rosy Starlings**! We did not expect to see this species anymore during the trip, but luckily we found 'a few' birds!

From here we had to drive a long way. We were heading to Nemrut Dagi, although the distance would be too much to drive in one day. So we planned to travel as far as possible, but we would take our time for car-birding. The first hours the landscape was too boring to stop along the road, so our first stop (besides some 'peeing stops') was at the Murat River near Bulanik. In the past this side proved to be good for Demoiselle Crane. We scanned the riverbeds, but as expected no Demoiselle Cranes. Our bird guide was used to ask local people whether they recognized the birds, but nobody seemed to be alerted by the drawing. And since the temperature was pretty high, we gave up soon. Although we failed to find the Demoiselle Cranes, we had our first **Spur-winged Lapwings**, many **Cattle Egrets**, **Common Tern** and **Lesser Short-toed Larks**. We ended up in Bingöl, where we found a cheap hotel for one night, before we moved on to Nemrut Dagi.

## Day 11 20 July | Bingöl – Nemrut Dagi

Driving from Bingöl to Nemrut Dagi took us quite a while. The main reason was the delay for the ferry to cross the reservoir. The line with cars was enormous, and we had to wait several turns before we could try to drive the car on the ferry without any damage. The ferry is packed with cars, until there is no millimetre space left! But after two hours we finally arrived at the other side, from where it took only 40 minutes to drive to Nemrut Dagi.

We went to the last hotel before you can enter the national park, Cesme pension. Here we met four Dutch friends who also did a birdwatching trip through Turkey, but with the real guts. They travelled through Turkey by public transport! We realized how luxurious we were travelling with a rental car



for the three weeks! With the nine of us we had a great night, and we had lots of stories to tell of course. After a few beer we went to bed, because next morning our alarm clocks would ring before dawn again.

## Day 12 21 July | Nemrut Dagi

Just before sunrise the nine of us were sitting on the rocks near a small drinking pool in the national park. During last year's trip this drinking pool proved to be very good to see all the target species for this area. Where others had difficulties to find some of those species, they had seen them all drinking at the pool. Therefore we tried it again this year. Soon the first **Desert Finches** and **Crimson-winged Finches** came for a drink, together with the present flock of **Rock Sparrows**. A total of 8 **Hoopoes** were flying around the pool and after a while the first **Black-headed Buntings** dared to get a drink. All of a sudden a group of 10 **Pale Rock Sparrows** appeared for a few minutes at the pool, and at the same time the first **Cinereous Buntings** started to come. **Shore Larks ssp. penicillata**, **Eastern Black-eared Wheatears**, **Rock Nuthatches** and **Rock Thrushes** were present on the rocks around us, and just before the local shepherds with their sheep, goats and cow herds arrived, a **Kurdish Wheatear** showed up near the pool. So within one-and-a-half hour we had seen all the species we had to find here (except Olive-tree Warbler, which should be found at lower altitude).

After this, we waved goodbye to our Dutch friends and wished them luck. They would travel on towards Eastern Turkey. Just after they left, a Dutch cyclist arrived on his reclining bicycle, so we had new Dutch company in the hotel. He joined us to the top in the afternoon (although he was not a birdwatcher) to the sculptures at the top. Several **Snow Finches**, **Pale Rock Sparrows** and **Kurdish Wheatears** were found, but the temperature was too high for intensive birding, so we decided to go back to the hotel. Late afternoon we tried the orchards for Olive-tree Warbler, but besides some **Upcher's Warbler**, **White-throated Robins** and **Eastern Rock Nuthatches** it was very quiet.

**Note:** The drinking pool can be reached by taking the first road to the left, coming from the entrance of the Nemrut Dagi National Park (coming from Karadut). This road changes in a dirt road, and after 800-1000m you will find a small drinking pool on the right side of the road. It is hard to see from the road itself, but with a careful look it should be possible to find. The few trees which are there might help you to find it. Just sit on the rocks north of the pool in the early morning, and wait until the birds are coming.

## Day 13 22 July | Nemrut Dagi – Birecik (via Estagfirullah)

Early morning the orchards were checked again. Soon, two of us found a **Olive-tree Warbler**, which could not be found again by the rest of us unfortunately. **Cinereous Buntings** and **White-throated Robins** gave good views, but after a few hours we gave up to find another Olive-tree Warbler. We had to move on. Today we would travel to Birecik, but not before we visited a spot where last year's group had a nesting site of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters. We did not hear from any birdwatcher whether they were present again in this year, but we still wanted to give it a try. After waiting for a while for the ferry again, we moved on and drove from



Siverek to Birecik, but not after leaving the main road just a few kilometres after Hilvan to check whether the bee-eaters are still there.

By driving on the D-390, just look out for a vulcano-looking hill on the right side of the road (coming from Hilvan). This hill is located just next to the small village Estagfirullah. Turn right to the village, and drive to the hill. Immediately it was clear that the **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** turned back to their nesting site, since a few of them sat on the electricity lines when entering the village. We parked the car, and walked along the houses. The bee-eaters just sat above our heads on the poles, and gave excellent views! We tried to find a place in the shadow to avoid the burning sun, and from there we enjoyed the presence of a total of 18 **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** and several **European Bee-eaters**. The local house owner invited us to watch the birds from the roof of his house, which gave us even better views of the birds, just a few meters in front of us! After an hour we left the place, and got a tea with the entire family. We were invited to stay overnight, but we had to move on to Birecik, to continue our birding trip. Another nice species was waiting for us, but we had to wait until dusk before we could give it a try



Pallid Scops Owl

At dusk we went to Gülhane Tea Garden, known for the Pallid Scops Owl (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 22 – site 8). After a little while we found our first **Pallid Scops Owl**, sitting on a branch. We had superb views of it, before it started to hunt in the tea gardens. After that, the bird became difficult because it was flying from here to there. Since we had very satisfying views we left the garden, to have dinner after a great day of birdwatching.

## Day 14 23 July | Birecik

And again a very early wake-up to do some birding before the burning sun would chase us back to our air-conditioned hotel rooms. We started at the northern gravel pits again (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 21 – near site 11). As soon as we arrived the first **Pygmy Cormorants** were flying by, and the **Black Francolins** were calling from the nearby fields. Flocks of **Dead Sea Sparrows** could get our attention, since the day before we could not manage to have good views of a male. But this morning that proved to be much easier. Several **Little Bitterns** flew over the pits during our visit, and the first **Menetries Warbler** of this trip was found. One of us had a **Zitting Cisticola** while photographing the **Iraq Babblers** (of which we had stunning views!), but we could not relocate it. In total we had views of 3 male **Black Francolins**, calling on a ridge. In addition **Pied Kingfishers**, **Rufous Bush Chats**, **Graceful's** and **Squacco Herons** made it to a profitable early morning visit.



Iraq Babbler

From here we drove to the southern gravel pits, located on the other side of the Euphrates. The other group of Dutch birders had two Marbled Ducks here a few days ago, but we could not find any interesting bird here besides a **Penduline Tit** and several **Dead-Sea Sparrows**.

Another target in Birecik was the Yellow-throated Petronia. A site mentioned in Gosney<sup>A</sup> (pp. 20, site 4) seemed still a reliable spot last year, so we tried our luck here. We made a mistake to disperse ourselves over the area. A few of us had very good views of a male **Yellow-throated**

**Petronia**, but it was missed by one of us. Since the warmth was getting worse, the birds were tough to find. After an intensive search in the area without success (only a few **Desert Finches** and **White-spectacled Bulbul**) we returned to our hotel to cool down. After a while Mark faced the heat again, since he did not succeed yet to find the petronias. Fortunately he managed to have good views of a group of them.

The rest of the day we spent in the air-conditioned room and in the nearby swimming pool, but around 05.00 p.m. birding had to start again. Our next mission was to find the Cream-coloured Courser. It took us quite a while to find the exact location, but that resulted in good views of a flock of **Calandra Larks** and 20 **Chukar** in the fields north of Birecik. Finally we arrived in Yeniakpınar, and found the guide Ahmet Demir who could bring us by tractor to the area where the coursers should be possible to find. Arrived at the top of the hill, we soon had 2 **Cream-coloured Courser** flying by, but they quickly disappeared behind the hill. After scanning the area for a while, Ahmet heard several birds, and shortly after that a flock of 7 birds flew along at quite close range, and landed on the edge of the hill. We had pretty good scope views before they ran behind the edge. Soon another group appeared from the other side. In total we had a minimum of 17 (!) **Cream-coloured Coursers**. A pair of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** gave good views on the ground, just sitting 50 meters away from us, while a calling **See-see Partridge** did not co-operate in showing up.

At night we tried the Pallid Scops again, but due to a Kurdish wedding party in the tea garden, the owls did not show up. But we really enjoyed the wedding, and we were invited for a dance. We had lots of fun amongst the Kurdish people, and I guess they even had more fun about us, trying to learn the traditional Kurdish dancing.

## Day 15      24 July | **Birecik – Göksü delta** (via Tarsus delta)

Leaving an ill Jorrit behind in the motel, the rest of us went to the 'Bald Ibis wadi' (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp 19 – site 2). The main target here was to have views of a See-see Partridge. After a very short look at the Bald Ibises in the cage over there, we walked into the wadi. **Menetries Warblers** were easy in the bushes at the start of the wadi, accompanied by many **Olivaceous Warblers**. A couple of **Syrian Woodpeckers** were present at the parking place. As soon as we walked into the wadi we rushed two **See-see Partridges**. Following the wadi we found several more, but most of them were chased before we could get a good view of them. Luckily we found two birds on the rocks, and although the big distance we could have a good view of them.

On our way back, we stopped at the cliffs for **Little Swifts**. In total 14 birds were flying around their nests. Because the rising temperature we went back to our hotel. We packed our stuff, and continued our trip towards the Tarsus Delta.

Just a few kilometres after Adana, we had a reliable spot for White-breasted Kingfisher (trip report Fraser Simpson, 2008). As soon as we reached the exact location, this species was immediately in the pocket. Two **White-breasted Kingfisher** were resting on a branch above the river, in the burning sun. From there it was just a half hour drive towards Tuzla (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 28 – site 3). The delta proved to be very good for waders last year, so we tried our luck here again. As soon as we arrived we quickly had large groups of **Kentish Plover** and **Little Stints**. Several **Dunlins** and a **Sanderling** were found amongst them. Driving along the most southern edge of the delta, we were very happy to find two **Greater Sand Plover** (*ssp. columbines*). An unexpected species during this trip. A few hundred meters further our car got stuck in a sandy part of the road, but after quite a while we managed to get the car back on 'normal' road. But because we could not continue our way along the southern edge, we turned around and drove to the northern part. Here we soon had 7 **Broad-billed Sandpipers** in our scope view, within a group of **Curlew Sandpipers**. Other species we found here included 6 **Spur-winged Lapwings**, 3 **Collared Pratincoles**, 3 **Black Terns**, 1 **Common Snipe**, 5 **Greenshanks**, **Slender-billed Gulls**, **Little Egrets**, **Great White Egrets**, **Little Terns**, **White-winged Terns**, **Gull-billed Terns** and several **Graceful Prinia's**. After spending a few hours in the delta, we decided to continue our trip towards the Göksü delta, instead of staying here. We arrived late in Taşucu, near the Göksü delta, but now we had an extra morning left for birding or relaxing.

## Day 16 25 July | Göksü delta

An early wake up to go to the delta for Grey-headed Swamphen, our main target here. We arrived at the observation tower in the western corner (Gosney<sup>A</sup>, pp. 23 – near site 4). Pretty soon, the first **Grey-headed Swamphen** started to call, but we did not get any views of it. A pelican took our attention, especially because a few months earlier a Pink-backed Pelican stayed in the delta for quite a while. But the distance was far too big to say anything about it, so we really wanted to have better views of it. In the meantime an unexpected species could be added to our trip list. A **Savi's Warbler** climbed in a reed panicle in front of the tower. In addition three **White-breasted Kingfishers** one **Red-crested Pochard**, a **Squacco Heron**, **Purple Heron**, **Common Kingfisher** and **Common Teal** were observed from the tower.

We quickly drove to an observation hut on the eastern part of the lake to have better views of the pelican spec.. Still the distance was enormous, but after a while the pelican spread its wings, which made it clear: 'just' a **White Pelican**. After having poor views of a **Grey-headed Swamphen**, we left the delta, because bird activity was very low. The rest of the day we spent with relaxing, swimming in the Mediterranean and sunbathing on the beach.

In the evening we went to the most southern point of the Göksü Delta, to check the sea for shearwaters. While scanning Mark found a group of **Bottle-nosed Dolphins**. After a while the first **Scopoli's Shearwater** flew along at quite a distance, but later followed by a closer bird. A **Shag ssp. desmarestii** was an unexpected bird, which made it our 250<sup>st</sup> species of the trip.

## Day 17 26 July | Göksü delta – Serik

As mentioned before, we left the main target species for the last days of the trip, the Western Brown Fish Owl. The day before we contacted Erdal. (trip report Ernst Albegger, 2011). Erdal is a tour operator at the Oymapinar lake. We arranged a boat trip for the five of us in order to find the Fish Owl for the next day.

We were tired of birding. The temperature during the day was far too much for birding, and we did not have the mood to wake up early again after those weeks. So we decided to sleep in again, and left Taşucu at the end of the morning. After a long day of driving we arrived in Manavgat, where we

stayed in the same hotel as our first night. Next morning we would go on our 'Brown Fish Owl Mission'.

## Day 18 27 July | Manavgat

Waking up made us happy already. Today we would go to the Western Brown Fish Owl, which seems hard to miss since it was seen every day before. We went to the Green Canyon restaurant and waited for Erdal. After a good coffee, we entered the boat. We had a tourist boat which could 'transport' over 50 beach tourists for the five of us! We just installed our telescopes and cameras, and started to relax. The trip to the small canyon where the Fish Owls were seen the last week is on the eastern part of the lake, and just a few minutes by boat. From the water it does not seem that it is accessible by foot, and that might be better too, to avoid too much disturbance for the owls. Erdal told us that there were two trees where the owls roosted most of the day, so as soon the trees came into sight we scanned every branch... EMPTY! Our hearts stopped beating for a second. This was not expected. In our minds we had to look at a stunning Brown Fish Owl at this moment, but reality was different. No sign of an owl at all! We scanned every tree and every rock, but the owls were definitely not there. You can hardly overlook them here. Disappointed we left the canyon again, but Erdal tried to restore our mood by telling us that there were two other spots where he had seen a Brown Fish Owl every now and then. We tried our luck at the western side of the lake. Arrived in the big canyon, we saw the white droppings and a brown feather on the rocks. It was clear that a Brown Fish Owl had been there, but not today. Also the second spot was empty. In a sad mood we stopped for a swimming break, and we could only partly enjoy the nice water. The lunch at the restaurant was great, but it could have tasted much better! But after lunch we would go on the boat again, to give it a last try in the small canyon. Arrived there again, it was immediately clear, still no owls present! Of course every tree was checked again, without any result. What a disappointment!

Erdal seemed just as disappointed as we were, so he promised to keep in touch with us. If possible we could get a second chance on Friday morning, so we left the lake with a bit of hope that we would still manage to see the owl.

By the way: the only birds we had today were a calling **Krüper's Nuthatch**, **Long-tailed Tits** and several **Blue Rock Thrushes**.

## Day 19 28 July | Manavgat

Today we totally failed in birdwatching. First we slept in, after many tiring days, and after that the temperature rose to almost 40°C, so the swimming pool was much more attractive than the hot fields. Besides that we had almost seen all species we wanted to see, except the Brown Fish Owl. But a phone call with Erdal gave us new hope: the day after we could give it another try. So today was used to save our focus for the next morning.

## Day 20 29 July | Manavgat

At 8.00 a.m. we were at the restaurant again for our second chance. This time we went there with much less expectations than two days earlier, but our nerves started to tickle when we entered the boat and started to sail into the direction of the canyon. Slowly we entered the canyon, and even more slowly we floated along the rock which was in front of the roosting tree. When the tree came in sight, bino's were hold ready to scan, and after a few seconds one of us said "There is something that wasn't there the day before yesterday! I guess I see its tail!". And by getting closer could see more and more of a huge brownish bird. We were just kidding that we might look into the face of an Eagle Owl, but in our minds the excitement started already. And after a few seconds we were facing a beautiful adult **Western Brown Fish Owl**!! The finishing touch of our wonderful trip through Turkey!



Western Brown Fish Owl

The rest of the trees and rocks were scanned to check for more owls, but we just had to be happy with only one bird, which was not difficult of course! After about 15 minutes we left the canyon and we could finally yell our excitement! I cannot remember any bird which made me so excited before! After a tough day where we missed the bird, we got an great second chance! And on our last day, we had the bird of the trip... Amazing!

The rest of the day we spent in the swimming pool and behind the laptop for editing the pictures. At night we had a good beer, and we went to bed early because our plane would be ready for take-off next morning at 7.00 a.m. That night we all dreamed about the Brown Fish Owl, and about the three amazing weeks we had before. What a great trip!

**Note:** in case you want to visit the Brown Fish Owl site, we would like you to recommend to go with Erdal (if you do not want to go on a tourist boat). His contact details are:  
phone number: 0090 532 708 7955 | email: erdal\_kym@hotmail.com.

## Day 21 20 July | Manavgat – Sliedrecht (Holland)

Our last early wake-up of the trip. At 3.00 a.m. the alarm clocks were ringing to go the airport in Antalya, and at 7.50 a.m. our plane left Turkey behind us, and travelled to Eindhoven Airport with a total of 255 bird species seen. Around noon we arrived in Holland again (at the same time as the PSV Eindhoven football team) after three weeks of wonderful birdwatching. Totally satisfied we drove home, and that night we dreamed again about Brown Fish Owl, Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Mongolian Finches and so on...

### Last words

Turkey is highly recommended for a birding trip. With many specialties to see, but also next to those species it is enjoyable birding. We enjoyed travelling around, not only for the birds, but also for its wonderful landscapes and great hospitality of the Turkish people!

For two years in a row, we birded Turkey in summer. Although spring is normally seen as the best period for birdwatching, we proved again that it is possible to bird in Turkey during summertime. We did not miss any of our target species (due to the circumstances in Kurdistan we did not try Red-wattled Lapwing this year). You may have to work a little bit harder for some species, but altogether it is very doable.

A good preparation and a bit of perseverance are the keys for success! I hope this report can partly contribute to your preparation. Do not hesitate to contact us, in case you want more information.

On behalf of the whole crew,

**Ruben Vlot**  
rubenvlot@gmail.com

### Link for the route we have been travelling in 2011.

[http://maps.google.nl/maps?saddr=Antalya%2FAntalya,+Turkije&daddr=Akseki,+Turkije+to:Demirkaz%C4%B1k,+Turkije+to:Kelkit,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:40.4617971,40.952032+to:Sivrikaya,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:40.863069,40.4686741+to:Ardahan,+Turkije+to:Do%C4%9Fubayaz%C4%B1t,+A%C4%9Ffr%C4%B1,+Turkije+to:Van%2FVan,+Turkije+to:38.58544,43.49865+to:39.13293,42.31429+to:Bin%C3%B6l,+Turkije+to:37.7497956,39.3279841+to:Nemrut+Da%C4%9F%C4%B1+Milli+Park%C4%B1,+Kahta,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Biirecik,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Tuzla%2FAdana,+Turkije+to:Ta%C5%9Fucu,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Manavgat,+Turkije+to:Antalya%2FAntalya,+Turkije&hl=nl&ie=UTF8&ll=38.788345,41.682129&spn=11.518103,26.784668&sll=38.788345,37.485352&sspn=11.518103,35.15625&geocode=FazOMgId3ofUASnBra3drprDFDEzLuP5c5\\_GlQ%3BFYlcNQldgvvkASnRkzCt3jfbFDGYj\\_4VcKoS2g%3BFeu4QQldyoIXAinVO-zBEZkpFTGWhDQkdflo7g%3BFWNQZAId\\_cdZAilrDLJ2tEtlQDHi2vPjoZUxHA%3BFeVlaQId4OBwAikBIWI97kNvQDExeRVdLQo pRw%3BFUqvbAId7iptAimrncmAOfplQDGGQ-25-PNoYw%3BFV2FbWldwoBpAikfL\\_Ws695lQDH7\\_EnTXVuxLA%3BFdFLcWldW5WLAikvc8oz\\_15oQDGikRZ6wxZxMA%3BFWBoW wldhaigAil7qeZpPbcUQDFVfkztDclh5A%3BFddfwldlO2VAil9MI\\_-eHASQDG72uKQJ16QjA%3BFWDETAIdmryXAil\\_wC4cPWYSQDHJLgcOFocl6w%3BFQIfVQIdMqQFAimNa21PMhVtQDHtrWw-U2w4g%3BFcVXUQIdc\\_RpAimd6sGjk89zQDHP97WwgsnyFA%3BFSMEQAId8BhYAIMXhqJ9OIB1QDHeObKOVKEooA%3BFdqlQwldEiVPAiHTaLU2XTLScw%3BFejoNAldcHtDAiklW7eO34ExFTFdD667Xng-8w%3BFZP1LwldH3YXAikJdia3M4nFTHCsq7xlP7Ytw%3BFZgtKgld9voEAinD8GoKq97YDFDG4NrGxVxWag%3BFUFfMQldzBXgASmp9ihUfffdFDFbtwTzRYLdBg%3BFazOMgId3ofUASnBra3drprDFDEzLuP5c5\\_GlQ&mra=mrV&via=4.6,10,11,13&z=6](http://maps.google.nl/maps?saddr=Antalya%2FAntalya,+Turkije&daddr=Akseki,+Turkije+to:Demirkaz%C4%B1k,+Turkije+to:Kelkit,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:40.4617971,40.952032+to:Sivrikaya,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:40.863069,40.4686741+to:Ardahan,+Turkije+to:Do%C4%9Fubayaz%C4%B1t,+A%C4%9Ffr%C4%B1,+Turkije+to:Van%2FVan,+Turkije+to:38.58544,43.49865+to:39.13293,42.31429+to:Bin%C3%B6l,+Turkije+to:37.7497956,39.3279841+to:Nemrut+Da%C4%9F%C4%B1+Milli+Park%C4%B1,+Kahta,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Biirecik,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Tuzla%2FAdana,+Turkije+to:Ta%C5%9Fucu,+T%C3%BCrkiye+to:Manavgat,+Turkije+to:Antalya%2FAntalya,+Turkije&hl=nl&ie=UTF8&ll=38.788345,41.682129&spn=11.518103,26.784668&sll=38.788345,37.485352&sspn=11.518103,35.15625&geocode=FazOMgId3ofUASnBra3drprDFDEzLuP5c5_GlQ%3BFYlcNQldgvvkASnRkzCt3jfbFDGYj_4VcKoS2g%3BFeu4QQldyoIXAinVO-zBEZkpFTGWhDQkdflo7g%3BFWNQZAId_cdZAilrDLJ2tEtlQDHi2vPjoZUxHA%3BFeVlaQId4OBwAikBIWI97kNvQDExeRVdLQo pRw%3BFUqvbAId7iptAimrncmAOfplQDGGQ-25-PNoYw%3BFV2FbWldwoBpAikfL_Ws695lQDH7_EnTXVuxLA%3BFdFLcWldW5WLAikvc8oz_15oQDGikRZ6wxZxMA%3BFWBoW wldhaigAil7qeZpPbcUQDFVfkztDclh5A%3BFddfwldlO2VAil9MI_-eHASQDG72uKQJ16QjA%3BFWDETAIdmryXAil_wC4cPWYSQDHJLgcOFocl6w%3BFQIfVQIdMqQFAimNa21PMhVtQDHtrWw-U2w4g%3BFcVXUQIdc_RpAimd6sGjk89zQDHP97WwgsnyFA%3BFSMEQAId8BhYAIMXhqJ9OIB1QDHeObKOVKEooA%3BFdqlQwldEiVPAiHTaLU2XTLScw%3BFejoNAldcHtDAiklW7eO34ExFTFdD667Xng-8w%3BFZP1LwldH3YXAikJdia3M4nFTHCsq7xlP7Ytw%3BFZgtKgld9voEAinD8GoKq97YDFDG4NrGxVxWag%3BFUFfMQldzBXgASmp9ihUfffdFDFbtwTzRYLdBg%3BFazOMgId3ofUASnBra3drprDFDEzLuP5c5_GlQ&mra=mrV&via=4.6,10,11,13&z=6)

## TRIP LIST

Name	Scientific Name
1 Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
2 Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
3 Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
4 Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
5 Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
6 Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>
7 Mediterranean Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>
8 Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>
9 White Pelican	<i>Pelicanus roseus</i>
10 Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelicanus cristatus</i>
11 Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
12 Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
13 Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
14 Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>
15 Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
16 Great White Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
17 Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
18 Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
19 Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
20 White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
21 Glossy Ibis (Bald Ibis)	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> ( <i>Geronticus eremita</i> )
22 Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
23 Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
24 Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
25 Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
26 Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
27 Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
28 Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
29 Common Pochard	<i>Athya ferina</i>
30 Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta ruffina</i>
31 Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
32 White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
33 Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
34 Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
35 Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
36 Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
37 Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
38 Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
39 Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
40 Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>
41 Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
42 Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
43 Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
44 Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
45 Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chysaetos</i>
46 Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
47 Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
48 Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
49 Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>

50 **Peregrine Falcon**  
 51 **Caucasian Black Grouse**  
 52 **Caspian Snowcock**  
 53 **Chukar**  
 54 **See-see Partridge**  
 55 **Black Francolin**  
 56 **Common Quail**  
 57 **Corn Crake**  
 58 **Water Rail**  
 59 **Common Moorhen**  
 60 **Eurasian Coot**  
 61 **Purple Swamphen**  
 62 **Oystercatcher**  
 63 **Avocet**  
 64 **Black-winged Stilt**  
 65 **Cream-coloured Courser**  
 66 **Collared Pratincole**  
 67 **Black-winged Pratincole**  
 68 **Little Ringed Plover**  
 69 **Kentish Plover**  
 70 **Greater Sand Plover**  
 71 **Spur-winged Lapwing**  
 72 **Lapwing**  
 73 **Sanderling**  
 74 **Temminck's Stint**  
 75 **Little Stint**  
 76 **Curllew Sandpiper**  
 77 **Dunlin**  
 78 **Broad-billed Sandpiper**  
 79 **Snipe**  
 80 **Ruff**  
 81 **Black-tailed Godwit**  
 82 **Redshank**  
 83 **Spotted Redshank**  
 84 **Greenshank**  
 85 **Wood Sandpiper**  
 86 **Green Sandpiper**  
 87 **Common Sandpiper**  
 88 **Black-headed Gull**  
 89 **Slender-billed Gull**  
 90 **Yellow-legged Gull**  
 91 **Armenian Gull**  
 92 **Gull-billed Tern**  
 93 **Caspian Tern**  
 94 **Common Tern**  
 95 **Sandwich Tern**  
 96 **Little Tern**  
 97 **Black Tern**  
 98 **Whiskered Tern**  
 99 **White-winged Tern**  
 100 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**  
 101 **Rock Dove**  
 102 **Wood Pigeon**  
 103 **Collared Dove**

*Falco peregrinus brookei*  
*Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi*  
*Tetraogallus caspius*  
*Alectoris chukar*  
*Ammoperdix griseogularis*  
*Francolinus francolinus*  
*Coturnix coturnix*  
*Crex crex*  
*Rallus aquaticus*  
*Gallinula chloropus*  
*Fulica atra*  
*Porphyrio poliocephalus*  
*Haematopus ostralegus*  
*Recurvirostra avocetta*  
*Himantopus himantopus*  
*Cursorius cursor*  
*Glareola pratincola*  
*Glareola nordmanni*  
*Charadrius dubius*  
*Charadrius alexandrinus*  
*Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus*  
*Vanellus spinosus*  
*Vanellus vanellus*  
*Calidris alba*  
*Calidris temminckii*  
*Calidris minuta*  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
*Calidris alpina*  
*Limicola falcinellis*  
*Gallinago gallinago*  
*Philomachus pugnax*  
*Limosa limosa*  
*Tringa totanus*  
*Tringa erythropus*  
*Tringa nebularia*  
*Tringa glareola*  
*Tringa ochrurus*  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
*Croicocephalus ridibundus*  
*Larus genei*  
*Larus michahellis*  
*Larus armenicus*  
*Gelochelidon nilotica*  
*Hydroprogne caspia*  
*Sterna hirundo*  
*Sterna sandviensis*  
*Sterna albifrons*  
*Chlidonias niger*  
*Chlidonias hybridus*  
*Chlidonias leucopterus*  
*Pterocles orientalis*  
*Columba livia*  
*Columba palumbus*  
*Streptopelia decaoto*

104	<b>Laughing Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
105	<b>Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
106	<b>Cuckoo</b>	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
107	<b>Pallid Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus brucei</i>
108	<b>Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus scops</i>
109	<b>Little Owl</b>	<i>Athene glaux</i>
		<i>Athene glaux indigena</i>
110	<b>Western Brown Fish Owl</b>	<i>Bubo zeylonensis semenowi</i>
111	<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	<i>Asio otus</i>
112	<b>Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
113	<b>Swift</b>	<i>Apus apus</i>
114	<b>Alpine Swift</b>	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
115	<b>Little Swift</b>	<i>Apus affinis</i>
116	<b>Common Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
117	<b>White-throated Kingfisher</b>	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
118	<b>Pied Kingfisher</b>	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
119	<b>Blue-cheeked Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops persicus</i>
120	<b>Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
121	<b>Roller</b>	<i>Coriacias garrulus</i>
122	<b>Hoopoe</b>	<i>Epupa epops</i>
123	<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	<i>Picus viridis</i>
124	<b>Syrian Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
125	<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
126	<b>Middle Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
127	<b>Calandra Lark</b>	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
128	<b>Bimaculated Lark</b>	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>
129	<b>Short-toed Lark</b>	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla</i>
130	<b>Lesser Short-toed Lark</b>	<i>Calandrella rufescens aharonii</i>
131	<b>Crested Lark</b>	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
132	<b>Woodlark</b>	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
133	<b>Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
134	<b>Horned Lark</b>	<i>Eremophila alpestris penicillata</i>
135	<b>Sand Martin</b>	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
136	<b>Crag Martin</b>	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
137	<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
138	<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	<i>Cecropsis daaurica</i>
139	<b>House Martin</b>	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
140	<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
141	<b>Water Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus spinoletta coutelli</i>
142	<b>Black-headed Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla feldegg</i>
143	<b>Citrine Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla citreola werae</i>
144	<b>Gray Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
145	<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
146	<b>White-spectacled Bulbul</b>	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>
147	<b>Dipper</b>	<i>Cinclus cinclus aquaticus (etc)</i>
148	<b>Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
149	<b>Dunnock</b>	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
150	<b>Radde's Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>
151	<b>Alpine Accentor</b>	<i>Prunella collaris montana</i>
152	<b>Rufous Bush Robin</b>	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes syriaca</i>
153	<b>Robin</b>	<i>Erithacus rubetra</i>
154	<b>White-throated Robin</b>	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>
155	<b>Black Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros ochruros</i>
		<i>Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus</i>

156	<b>Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisticus</i>
157	<b>Whinchat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
158	<b>Stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
159	<b>Isabelline Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
160	<b>Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica</i>
161	<b>Eastern Black-eared Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca</i>
162	<b>Finsch's Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>
163	<b>Kurdish Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe xantoprymna</i>
164	<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
165	<b>Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
166	<b>Ring Ouzel</b>	<i>Turdus torquatus amicornum</i>
167	<b>Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula</i>
168	<b>Song Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
169	<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
170	<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
171	<b>Graceful Prinia</b>	<i>Prinia gracialis</i>
172	<b>Moustached Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon mimicus</i>
173	<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
174	<b>Paddyfield Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
175	<b>Savi's Warbler</b>	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
176	<b>Caspian Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus</i>
177	<b>Great Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus aerundinaceus</i>
178	<b>Olivaceous Warbler</b>	<i>Iduna pallida</i>
179	<b>Upcher's Warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais languida</i>
180	<b>Olive-tree Warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>
181	<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
182	<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia curuca</i>
183	<b>Whitethroat</b>	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
184	<b>Eastern Orphean Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i>
185	<b>Ménétries's Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia mystacea rubescens</i>
186	<b>Rüppell's Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>
187	<b>Zitting Cisticola</b>	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
188	<b>Green Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>
189	<b>Eastern Bonelli's Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>
190	<b>Caucasian Mountain Chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus lorenzii</i>
191	<b>Goldcrest</b>	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
192	<b>Firecrest</b>	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
193	<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
194	<b>Red-breasted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula parva</i>
195	<b>Semicollared Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>
196	<b>Bearded Reedling</b>	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
197	<b>Iraq Babbler</b>	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>
198	<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos caudatus tephronotus</i>
199	<b>Sombre Tit</b>	<i>Parus lugubris lugubris</i>
		<i>Parus lugubris anatoliae</i>
200	<b>Coal Tit</b>	<i>Periparus ater</i>
201	<b>Blue Tit</b>	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
202	<b>Great Tit</b>	<i>Parus major</i>
203	<b>Krüper's Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>
204	<b>Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
205	<b>Eastern Rock Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>
206	<b>Rock Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>
207	<b>Wallcreeper</b>	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
208	<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>

209	<b>Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
210	<b>Penduline Tit</b>	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
211	<b>Golden Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
212	<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
213	<b>Lesser Grey Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius minor</i>
214	<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius senator niloticus</i>
215	<b>Masked Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>
216	<b>Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius anatoliae</i>
217	<b>Magpie</b>	<i>Pica pica</i>
218	<b>Chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
219	<b>Alpine Chough</b>	<i>Pyrrhocorax garrulus</i>
220	<b>Jackdaw</b>	<i>Corvus monedula pontocaspicus</i> (lijkt wat op <i>monedula</i> of <i>soemmerringii</i> )
221	<b>Rook</b>	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
222	<b>Hooded Crow</b>	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
223	<b>Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>
224	<b>Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris tauricus</i>
225	<b>Rose-coloured Starling</b>	<i>Pastor roseus</i>
226	<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
227	<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
228	<b>Dead Sea Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer moabiticus</i>
229	<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer montanus</i>
230	<b>Pale Rock Sparrow</b>	<i>Petronia brachydactyla</i>
231	<b>Rock Sparrow</b>	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
232	<b>Yellow-throated Sparrow</b>	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>
233	<b>Snowfinch</b>	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>
234	<b>Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
235	<b>Red-fronted Serin</b>	<i>Serinus pussila</i>
236	<b>Serin</b>	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
237	<b>Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
238	<b>Greenfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
239	<b>Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
240	<b>Turkish Twite</b>	<i>Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris</i>
241	<b>Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
242	<b>Common Crossbill</b>	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
243	<b>Crimson-winged Finch</b>	<i>Rhodospiza sanguinea</i>
244	<b>Mongolian Finch</b>	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>
245	<b>Desert Finch</b>	<i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>
246	<b>Common Rosefinch</b>	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus kubanensis</i>
247	<b>Bullfinch</b>	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
248	<b>Rock Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
249	<b>Cinereous Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cineracea semenowi</i>
250	<b>Ortolan Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
251	<b>Grey-necked Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza buchanani cerrutii</i>
252	<b>Cretzschmar's Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza caesia</i>
253	<b>Reed Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus reiseri/caspia</i>
254	<b>Black-headed Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
255	<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

# Güle güle!

