

## **Turkey 8. - 22.6.1990**

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### **Route**

8.6. Antalya - Serik - Tasucu  
9.6. Göksu, Uzuncaburç  
10.6. Isikli, Durnalik, Hancagiz Baraji, Birecik  
11.6. Birecik, Halfeti  
12.6. Idil, Cizre - Siirt - Van  
13.6. Van, Ercek  
14.6. Bendimahi - Erzurum - Ispir  
15.6. Sivrikaya - Ikizdere  
16.6. Sivrikaya - Ikizdere - Samsun  
17.6. Kizilirmak - Kizilcahamam  
18.6. Kizilcahamam (Soguksu) - Gölbasi - Bezirhane - Kulu  
19.6. Demirkazik  
20.6. Demirkazik - Eregli  
21.6. Eregli - Asekli  
22.6. Akseki - Serik

### **General**

Turkey is a nice country, lots of species, easy to move about, cheap. Our total driving distance was 5470 km and total number of species 245.

### **Tickets**

We were on a charter flight which cost 1895 mk (\$ 470) arranged by Fritidsresor from Finland. It included the flight and accomodation at an unknown hotel which we didn't use.

### **Accomodation**

Hotels are very cheap. We usually tried to get a place with shower and warm water. Sometimes it was easy to find a suitable hotel, sometimes it wasn't. Arriving late was no problem.

### **Food**

The food was not very inspiring. In the south it was so hot that eating didn't feel very important, we were content to eat shish-kebab which was about the only thing we were offered. This sometimes included tomatoes and cucumber. About 15.000 TL for two. Later when it got colder, we got hungry and started using local self-service restaurants. At these

they keep the dishes on big plates and you can choose which you want at about 4.000 TL//dish. I found these rather good, but often a little cold.

At the hotel in Soguksu we ate a proper tourist meal which was very good (about 60.000 TL for both).

The hotels sometimes offered breakfast, but it didn't seem to be included in the price (cost 6-14.000 for two).

It is easy and cheap to buy fruit and bread in the shops. They sell water in one and a half litre bottles (2.000 TL), coke (1.000) and beer (4.000). Ask for cold water ('souk su'). It was easiest to get coke, they didn't have water everywhere, especially not cold. In the south the water soon became very hot, so cold drinks were very nice. Drinking several litres of coke every day is not very nice though. Expect to drink at least 5 litres per day.

### **Weather**

It was hot in the south (32 - 40°C) and humid near the coast, lika a sauna. Further east it was not so humid, more like a furnace. Even the wind was hot, not cool at all. The telescopes and cameras were almost too hot to touch.

In the Van Area and near Ankara it was quite nice. In the mountains it was very cold, near zero. Bring gloves and warm socks. It rains often in Sivrikaya, we also got rain at Demirkazik and several other places. Bring raingear of some kind. Wellingtons could be useful at certain sites (Göksu, Van, Sivrikaya, Kizilirmak, Kulu, Eregli) depending on the situation. We had them with us and didn't regret it. Proper walking boots would be good for Demirkazik and Sivrikaya. I also had sandals and ordinary shoes and I sure needed all of them.

### **Transport**

Public transport is very good and cheap in Turkey. We hired a car anyway as we had only two weeks. Car hire is expensive, but our car cost \$ 670 which we thought was not too bad. The car was a Renault 12 B-class. It had been driven only 8000 km (according to the log) and we had no problems with it, except that the airconditioning system wasn't of much use and the back seat was rather cramped. The usual A-class car (Sahin) is the Turkish version of a Fiat 131 and quite allright with four doors and plenty of space. Driving in the mountains the motor might be not be quite as strong as one would wish for, but our Renault was strong enough.

We hired the car at the airport in Antalya. They had 5 rental firms, Herz, Avis, Budget, Europcar and a local one. Avis and Budget didn't have any cars left. Europcar was much cheaper than Herz (they also had special discount for 14-21 days, which normally firms do not have). The car Herz offered us was not only more expensive, it was also a lot older and more rundown. We paid by Visa. The Europcar staff were quite helpful and nice.

### **Traffic**

Traffic is rather heavy and there are lots of lorries. In general expect to give way whenever someone demands it, usually by flashing their headlights. If they are behind you they might just use the left indicator. Also give way if someone wants to change lane (for passing a

slower car for instance). The lorries drive slowly uphill and when they pass each other they often create dangerous situations. Take care of yourself by keeping out of the way. Also beware of adults and children crossing the streets, as well as horsecarts and bicyclists. You could get into serious trouble if you run someone down. According to the Islamic law it's 'an eye for an eye..'. If something happens, stay and wait for the police (they are never far away). You may be able to get away by paying a very large fine. The insurance companies won't pay if there is no police report so always call the police in case of an accident.

There are a lot of razzias. Mostly they just check your passport, but they check the traffic too, so try and stick to the rules. We got fined 60.000 TL for crossing the 'yellow' line (which everyone does all the time). Traffic rules are not followed in general, but maybe they're trying to improve this. There are speedlimits in towns, etc. but we never found out if there was a general speedlimit on the main roads.

The roads are quite good in the west, but in the east they are not so good, even though they seem to be the same on the map. The mountain roads are slow, even the main mountain roads could be very slow (average speed not above 50 km/h). Turkey is very mountainous, especially the eastern part.

### **Comments on some of the roads:**

Alanya - Tasucu:

Very serpentine with lots of traffic. Watch for Eleonora's Falcon. 6 hours. Beautiful.

Silifke - Icel(Mersin):

Villages all the way. Very slow and lots of traffic.

Icel eastwards:

Quite good motorway, but not so fast in the city (traffic lights).

Cizre - Idil:

Bad road, no tarmac except for the last few km.

Sirnak - Baykan:

Very mountainous and slow road. Average speed probably about 20-30km/h. Petrol only in Siirt.

Baykan - Tatvan:

Road still mountainous but better and nice scenery.

Tutak - Agri - Horasan:

Mountainous but beautiful, good for birds.

Erzurum - Ispir:

Part of it tarmac, part of it under repair. Will probably be much better. Nice road for birds.

Mountainous.

Ispir - Sivrikaya:

Has been repaired, i.e. rather broad and pretty good, but no tarmac. Bad where there is water

coming down the road (near Ispir). It took us about 90 minutes to drive the 45 km from Ispir to Sivrikaya in pitch darkness.

Sivrikaya - coast:

Quite alright, but mountaineous.

Black sea coast (Of - Samsun):

Towns and villages all the way, traffic. Slow.

Samsun - Gerede:

Partly mountaineous and slower, partly quite good. Traffic not too heavy. Good for raptors.

Cerkes - Kizilcahamam:

Mountaineous quite nice road, good for raptors.

Pozanti - Camardi - Nidge:

Rather good, nice road.

Eregli - Karaman:

Straight fast road.

Bozkir - Akseki:

Road is not drivable between Sorkun and road 695 (according to villagers).

Seydisehir - Gencek:

Road is not drivable between Tarasci and road 695 (again according to local people).

Akseki southwards:

Under repair (which was not a nuisance). Was still unrepaired to about 40 km south of Akseki, after that road very broad and quite good.

There was rather a lot of road casualties, more than in any other country we've visited. Perhaps this was due to more juveniles being around?

## **Finance**

Visa is not accepted in all banks. Try the Vakikredi bank. Be prepared to wait for a long time (it took us nearly an hour).

Only Turkish money is generally accepted. PTT (post and tele) change faster than the banks, especially the small offices. There is not so much paperwork. They don't all take all foreign notes though, they were especially sceptic about Finnish notes, but I think they take most other European currency and dollars. They also may refuse to take dirty or cluttered notes. Exchange is faster and easier in tourist areas.

Current rate was about 1.000 TL = 1.50 FIM = 20 pence = 40 cents.

## **Shopping**

Leather is very cheap.

## **Locals and Language**

They are very nice and helpful, and very inquisitive. They generally come and have a look at you, shake your hand, check your car, but they refrain from crawling all over you and getting in the way. They also leave when you tell them you don't need their help. Much nicer than in Morocco.

Very few speak anything except Turkish, and then it is German, English or French. Don't expect receptionists, bankemployees, etc to speak any foreign tongue, even among those only a minority speak any foreign language. If you have a small Turkish dictionary, take it with you.

- Maraba = Hello
- Souk su = cold water

## **Thieves**

There has been some burglaries in Isikli, but elsewhere it seemed very safe. We usually left the car unlocked if we didn't go far or out of sight, which we would never have done in Morocco or Florida. But do beware in Isikli and Durnalik though. Don't leave anything visible inside the car. In September a Finnish birder lost his camera. Several other crews have lost something there. Put everything you want need out of sight in the boot before you enter the area and take the rest with you if you leave the car.

## **Police**

The police are everywhere, we were stopped all the time. Mostly they just wanted to check our passports.

## **Literature**

### For identification

- 'The Birds of the Middle East and North Africa' is the best, but we also had with us several articles on difficult species. For comparison with less familiar European birds a European Guide is necessary, my preference is Bruun, Singer, Delin and Svensson: 'The Birds of Britain and Europe' (latest revised edition).
- Jonsson's 'The Birds of the Mediterranean and the Alps' again came in handy when looking for certain plumage features.
- Turkki by Hannu Jännes 1990. Includes site information (maps and text) on 40+ sites plus general advice. Very good, lots of information. Wholly in Finnish. The Turkey map on page 2 was partly copied from this guide.
- Turkey – A Challenge to Birdwatchers by DNKD 1989. We did not remember to order this one. There are some nice photographs and the Ibis story is told, but not much actual site information.
- A book on Turkey by Max Kasperek 1990. A site guide for birdwatchers as well as other naturelovers. We did not know of this book at the time, just saw it with a German crew. Very nice colourphotographs and quite goodlooking maps.

### Trip reports:

- Turkey 19.5.-2.6.1988 by Mike Crewe. Includes a few maps and site-by-site specieslists which were very useful. Also information 'between' the sites.
- Turkey Bird Report 1988 by Mike Telfer. Good maps with information on previous sightings of interesting species. Also other useful information especially for non-car birders. Quite good.
- Turkey 1985 by S. M. Andrews. Nice maps with possible species included. Comments on difficult species. Perhaps a little outdated by now.
- Turkey 3-24 July 1986 by Roy Webb and R. Brace. Lots of maps on almost all sites, including interesting species. Quite a lot of information.
- Turkey 6.-19.6.1989 by Newsome, Villoughby and Beaumont. South Turkey. Two maps, update information on many sites. New, quite useful.
- Turkey 23.5.-20.6.1987 by Erik Hirschfeld. Information about some less known sites.
- Turkey 27.4.-16.5.1986 by Magnus Ullman. The maps are not very exact, but the species text includes comments on subspecies and status.

### Maps

- We had Bartholomew 1:800 000 Turkey Eastern and Turkey Western 1989/90. Very good, both the quality of the paper, ease of use and correctness.
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### **Site Guide**

Most of the maps were drawn on site. They may still not be quite correct however. Part of them were drawn based on the maps of others, which I checked at the site and corrected. I've not included so much of the text for the sites as that is well covered in other reports. I.e. the text mostly includes update information and our experiences.

*\* after the site name means that there is a map of the site included.*

### Serik\*

The site is actually 5 km east of Serik at the river Köprüpazarikaz. We visited it twice, both times during the hot hours of the day. Rather humid, but otherwise nice with Olive-Tree and Olivaceous Warblers, Nightingales, Spur-winged Plovers, Rufous Bush Chat, Cetti's Warblers. We did not see Middle-spotted Woodpecker which we had hoped for (see Newsome & co. 1989).

### Göksu delta\*

Very smelly when the wind is from the north-west, otherwise not so bad. Quite a large area which was rather dry during our visit, many of the ponds were completely dried out. The birds were rather far away when watching the lake from the mounds, elsewhere we saw birds in the fields. Coast and harbour empty.

Accommodation: Easy to find in Tasucu. Very smelly village when the wind is from the south-east.

### Uzuncaburc\*

Site for Olive-Tree Warbler. We didn't see any of those, but the drive up there was lovely and we had our first Krüper's Nuthatches, Long-tailed Tits, Masked Shrike, Rock Nuthatches, Blue Rockthrushes.

### Isikli - Durnalik\*

We had Great Rock Nuthatch, Cinereous Bunting, White-throated Robin and Upcher's Warbler, but dipped on Pale Rock Sparrow and Red-tailed Wheatear. No problems with thieves, but a boy was going to shoot at our friends with his catapult. You're likely to need a whole day if you intend to do both sites thoroughly. Walking boots come in handy when walking on the slopes. Red-tailed Wheatear is not so easy, there aren't many pairs around. Pale Rock Sparrow seems to vary greatly from year to year.

### Hancagiz Baraji\*

A rather large and empty lake, with an old road going along the bottom of the barrage. We had some White-winged Terns, Little Grebes and Great Crested Grebes. Perhaps worth a visit if you have nothing better to do.

### Birecik\*

A waiter showed us a Striated Scops Owl directly on arrival and we had nice views. We later returned and saw it flying in the darkness. I've been told that part of the park has been cut down, but the remaining part (including the cafe and a little more) seems to be enough for at least one pair.

We had little trouble in finding the Little Swift colony, but the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater colony was empty, though the birds were quite near. The Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse come in from the east, over the well, after 8 am and land on the islets in the river. The Eagle Owl had bred, but when we went to the site the chicks had left the nest and we couldn't find them. We didn't see any See-sees either. We did see a Yellow-throated Sparrow in the 'gardens'. There were a lot of free-flying Ibises, none of which seemed to be ringed, so I suppose it will be impossible to tell if there are any wild birds among them. Though all but one disappeared earlier.

After 11 am it was really too hot to bird and most birds had disappeared too.

Accommodation:

Three hotels, two of which are situated on the road to the Ibis colony. Both seemed to be adequate if not good, with shower in the toilet only and too little water.

### Halfeti

We hoped to find See-see and Pale Rock Sparrow. We found neither, but had several Yellow-throated Sparrows a few kilometres after the village where there were some 'gardens' on the right hand side (just after a 'mountain'). We couldn't locate the site visited by Newsome & co in 1989. It was also very hot, so we didn't stay long.

### Cizre\*

The Red-wattled Plovers were fairly easy to locate, albeit far away. Nothing else of interest was seen, the area looked good though. If it was possible to study it closer I suppose one could find something. We avoided using our cameras, but we didn't see any police interested in us, only the local boys crowded around us. Continuing towards Irak after the garage it is possible to view the area from a different angle, the birds are not much closer however, and the road is much lower than the garage. Black Francolin could perhaps be easier to see from that area.

### Accommodation:

There is a very good and cheap hotel in the centre of the town at the crossing of the main roads. Luxury standard for a price of 28.000 TL/room (6.5 pounds). The name was something like 'Kaagotu'. There was a shower and toilet in the room. Breakfast was served but was not included in the price (14.000 TL for two, a bit expensive I thought).

### Idil\*

Rather a small nice area which didn't produce much. We had neither See-see nor Pale Rock Sparrow. There was less water than usual, the nearer pools were dry. The other pools had some water and there were birds coming to drink most of the time. Perhaps See-see is easier in the evening? Reading the reports of others it seems to be.

### Road between Cizre and Van

Part of this mountainous road could be good for raptors. We didn't see very many. 50 km west of Van the road goes near the coast, this spot was good for gulls and waders.

### Van\*

The Brown Hills produced Eagle Owl, Grey-necked Bunting, Rock Nuthatch, Finch's Wheatear, Rock Sparrow. No Snow Finch. A nice spot with a drivable track to the railway.

The reservoir held Ruddy Shelduck, gulls (including Mediterranean), a few waders and Bimaculated Lark. On the west side we had some Stonechats of the race 'armenica'.

The South Van Marsh is supposed to be good for Paddyfield Warbler, but we didn't see any, probably because we didn't get there until midday. We did have a Lesser Kestrel and a White-headed Duck. The reeds were difficult to walk through and the water was deep. We had wellingtons, but they weren't high enough. The water was also a bit dirty, but suppose the best choice would be to wear shoes and get them and your legs cleaned in the lake afterwards. We hardly heard any singing either, there didn't seem to be very many birds around, but guess they were all hiding from us.



The North Van Marsh was quite different. The south part of it can't be viewed from the road, but the northern part is visible from a track which can be reached from the road. Lots of Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Shelduck and Ruddy Shelduck. Some other waders as well. Neither of the marshes seemed to be at their best, but especially the south was much quieter than expected.

Accommodation:

There are lots of hotels in the town. We stayed at Bavram which cost 40.000 TL/room and was quite decent including shower and toilet on the room.

#### Ercek\*

We drove round the west part of the lake in the evening. Then it got dark. The shoreline was quite good for waders and Shelducks. The track was good for larks and Little Owl. We found a dead Nightjar on the road and heard another.

#### Bendimahi\*

A very good spot. Most of the birds can be seen from the bridge. We also drove along a track where we had some larks. We didn't see any Moustached Warblers. We saw 18 Rose-coloured Starlings south of the river.

#### Keklikova river

We stopped briefly as there were rather a lot of gulls in the river, but saw nothing special.

#### Ercis - Horasan

The road is good for larks. Later it gets more mountaineous and 70 km north of Agri (27 south of Horasan) there is a pass (Sac Gecidi?) which was quite good. We had our first Snow Finches, Rock Buntings and Shore Larks.

As the road goes down, larks are again abundant. This road was the best site for photographing Bimaculated and Short-toed Larks.

#### Erzurum\*

The 'amusement' park is perhaps one of the easiest sites for Semi-collared Flycatcher. It's situated towards the airport on the opposite side of the busstation (long-distance busses). There is a small entrance fee.

#### The Ispir road

Especially the beginning (the village of Eskipolat) is good-looking. We had our first Mountain Chiffchaffs here as well as a few raptors. Then it got dark, but the whole road looked good. We heard a Scops Owl in Ispir.

#### Sivrikaya\*

The road up to Sivrikaya has been repaired, but landslides are still common and you'd better expect anything.

We found 2 Green Warblers in the wood opposite the tearoom, there were several Mountain Chiffchaffs as well. We drove along the road, both southwards (back towards Ispir) about 10 km and northwards. Towards Ispir we had Alpine Accentor, Snow Finch, Rock Thrush, Water Pipit, Shore Lark. Towards Ikizdere it seemed rather quiet.

On the second morning we climbed up for Caucasian Black Grouse. We decided to hire Mustafa Sari as we thought we'd better make sure not to miss the birds after coming this far. This was very prudent as we overslept and would have missed the morning if Mustafa hadn't woken us up. We started at 4 am (it should have been 3.30) and walked without stopping. Mustafa took us up on a trail which was not marked on any of the trip reports we had. The walking was not very hard and we had our first Black Grouse within 50 minutes after starting the climb. This trail is not good for Caspian Snowcock though, we didn't have any of those. But I suppose you could continue towards those areas. Mustafa seemed to know what he was doing and certainly was sharp-eyed enough. The trail took us up above the summer village, on to the top of a lower mountain from where the view was very good in all directions. It would have been possible to continue further, but Mustafa turned around without asking us. I suppose he thought we'd seen enough.

It was cold up there, it had just been snowing. We didn't have enough clothes at all. You need gloves, wollen socks, headwear, etc. Due to the snow we couldn't see where the tracks and trails were, hence the map may not be quite accurate.

Later we met up with a Swedish crew who had missed the Grouse (they did not hire Mustafa), as someone had been shooting at the beginning of the trail and they had ascended further to the west.

Mustafa's house is marked on the map. It is the first house along the path marked from the little bridge (above the main road bridge). You can disturb him even if you arrive late, he was eager to explain that to us.

We did not look for Semi-collared Flycatcher here as we had ticked the species in Erzurum and did not have time for a thorough search.

Accommodation:

We slept the second night in a room above the tea-room. Clean and nice beds, but expensive (20.000 TL for a room with two beds). No water, no heat. Bring your own linen if you want some. Nice blankets were provided. The tea-room opens about 7.30 am and closes about 8 pm. I don't think anything except tea is served. There was a heater in the room which was very good for drying clothes. The shop next door sells biscuits I believe, but we didn't go there.

You could also sleep in Ikizdere, they had three hotels. These did not seem to be very good, but adequate with toilet and shower (and warm water) in the corridor for 8.000 TL.

We did not stay over in Ikizdere as we were afraid that there would be further landslides, which could have made us late in the morning.

### Ikizdere\*

We stopped and climbed the site for Green Warbler and had one at once. We managed to get some close views before it flew down. The site is easy to find situated 1.4 km before Ikizdere. Cross the wooden bridge (leave your car on the other side), the sign says Rüzgarlı 3. About 300 m further on there is a path up.

### Horpat river

This is a site about 140 km east of Samsun, immediately east of a tunnel. On the shore there is an island where we saw lots of breeding Cormorants and Shags.

### Kizilirmak\*

Lots of birds, but difficult to see. We spent the forenoon driving around, but in the end we had to walk and even then we did not get very good views. The lake is very large and there is a great deal of vegetation, so views are limited. The wood on the east side seemed very nice. We had a Golden Oriole. We had no proper previous directions for this site, perhaps we missed the good parts entirely.

Accommodation:

There were lots of hotels in Samsun, but they were all full. I think I asked at about 15 before I found one that had a one-person room free. We took it. The area for cheap hotels seemed to be about two blocks south of the main road.

### Road between Samsun and Kizicahamam

This road seemed to be very good for raptors. Especially shortly after Cerkes. We had several Lesser Spotted Eagles, a Golden Eagle and a Booted Eagle at this site.

### Kizilcahamam\*

The Soguksu park was nice, we had Bonelli's Warbler and Woodlark, but no Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. This drive is about 16 km and is easy to do in a few hours with a car. It takes you high up and then down again.

The slaughter house (Mezbaha) was there, but we didn't see any Lammergeiers. We had several Black Vultures, Peregrines, Egyptian Vultures and Black Storks. 2 Rock Nuthatches were also present.

Accommodation:

We decided to spend some money and eat properly so we stayed at the hotel just inside the gates of the park. The dinner was very good and the room just fine, including bath tub, shower, toilet. The price was 115.000 TL. There was at least one other hotel in Kizilcahamam, but looked about as expensive.

### Gölbasi\*

Mugan Gölü is west of the road 17 km south of Ankara. The reeds at the north end harbour Bearded Tits and Little Bitterns can be seen flying on the west side of the reeds. There is a PTT just north of the lake, viewing is rather good from there. The PTT does not change currency.

### Bezirhane\*

This is a lake which is surrounded by roads which connects a few villages. This lake is sometimes rather far away from the road, but especially from the east it is possible to see part of it. The birds are far away though. If you want to see it close you'll have to walk. There are wildfowl, waders. We had 21 Greater Sandplovers.

### Kulu\*

This is a great place, with pretty close views and lots of birds. It is possible to drive round the lake, but the track is nonexistent southeast of the lake. From the car it is possible to photograph some of the birds. Beware of getting stuck. Most of the birds are at the north end, but the south end is also rather crowded. The three islands at the north end seem to be home to Mediterranean Gulls, Slender-billed Gull, White fronted Goose, etc. These are best watched from just south of a small village, northwest of the lake.

### Demirkazik\*

There are tracks to the left and right from the Alpine Center. You can easily drive along these and get many of the interesting species including Snow Finch, Red-fronted Serin, Shore Lark, Rock Thrush, Alpine Chough, Lesser Whitethroat, Finch Wheatear, Rock Nuthatch, Rock Sparrow and Crimson-winged Finch. If the weather is good enough you can also see the raptors, Golden Eagle, Griffon Vulture and if you are lucky, Lammergeier. The Lammergeiers seemingly have a certain route they follow every day, so that they appear at the same spot at the same time every day. I later heard that they pass the upper plateau at 3pm.

There are three ways up to the upper plateau. The canyon is about 1 km to the left of the Center. It is not advisable to try it upwards, it is quite hard enough (or timeconsuming) to climb down which takes about two hours. From the Center a valley goes upward. The paths just to the right of this is are the easiest to use, but these paths do not go straight up, rather they crisscross the direction of walking. The bottom of the valley consists of stones, which are not very nice to walk on. This valley can be ascended in about one and a half hours without straining yourself overmuch, but without idling. It is advisable to start up at about 3 am (June). The valley is rather easy to descend, I'd expect you to make it down in about half an hour. On the way there are some caves in which it is possible to shelter from the rain. These caves are used by shepherds as night-shelter. The valley itself seemed rather empty. A few Lesser Whitethroats and Snow Finches.

The third route is a track which first goes towards the right from the Center and then up. This track is probably drivable if it is dry. It had rained for three days when we tried it, consequently it was too slippery.

Once up on the plateau there is still an hours climb to the foot of Demirkazik mountain. We heard Snowcocks calling from that direction but despite checking the mountain we could not find any.

Going to the left there was another mountain (just to the left of the spring) from where we heard calls and after a half an hour search with the scope we finally spotted a male already high up and climbing fast. This was at about 7.30. At about 8.30 they stopped calling, but then we heard calls again between 9.45 and 10 am. We heard both the call resembling Curlew, the one resembling other 'hens' and a third.

Up on the plateau you can also find Snow Finch, Red-fronted Serin, Shore Lark, Radde's Accentor, Ring Ouzel, Crimson-winged Finch. The Radde's are best found either at the upper mouth of the valley, near the spring or at the upper part of the canyon.

In June the snow was almost gone, only some left on the top of Demirkazik mountain. This may explain our difficulties in finding Snowcocks.

The canyon is the place for Wallcreeper (upper part best), Alpine Accentor, Snow Finch.

Accommodation:

Was available at the Center at the price of 40.000 TL for a room (one double bed). Shower and toilet on the room. When we were there a group of 64 scouts were present, so there was quite a lot of noise. Perhaps because of the scouts presence we were served dinner, which was a bit strange and cold, but eatable. The water was not bottled, but we had no problems despite drinking some of it.

#### Hotamis and other wetlands in the area

These have been very good in past years, but are now probably completely dried up. Some Montagu's Harriers still tour the neighbourhood though.

#### Sultansaglizi

We didn't go there as we heard it was really dry this year. There were some birds left though, in one corner.

#### Eregli (Akgöl)\*

This is a prime site. Unfortunately it seems likely that it too will be dried out in the future. As it is now it is densely vegetated, much thicker than in earlier years. So even if the place is filled with birds it is not possible to see them all that well.

The lake can be viewed from three spots. The south-west is easily accessible, via the road to Bögecik. There is however, only a small 'canal' visible, the rest is covered by reeds. The birds that fly above the reeds are visible of course. On the other hand the lake is very large, lots of birds are too far away to be identified. The light is best in the evening.

The east side (Tatliukuyu) is very good with lots of Flamingos, wildfowl and waders. There is no proper track though, and it is easy to get stuck (in fact most do, I believe). There is a

track which starts from the village just before the PTT and the Stork nest. It crosses a dike and divides into several tracks. Drive along the dike towards the lake. The track disappears. Try to follow the shore as long as you dare. This site is best in the morning. In September it was almost dry though.

The third place is on the north side. Drive towards Konya from Eregli. At Akören 3, take a track south, just after a bridge. This should go to the lake. This place is very good for waders, Pekka and Markku had 400 Greater Sand and 200? Marsh Sandpipers there.

There is a Lesser Kestrel colony in Adabaq.

Accommodation:

It is easy to stay in Eregli. We stayed at the Mac which cost 25.000 TL/room including shower and toilet.

### Akseki\*

This village has several sites. The first is 8 km to the north of Akseki along the old road. This site is good for White-backed and Middle Spotted Woodpecker, though both are difficult. Krüpers Nuthatch is common.

2.1 km north of Akseki is a good spot for Rüppels Warbler and Cretzschmar's Bunting.

The graveyard in Akseki should be good for Olive-tree Warbler, Masked Shrike, Orphean Warbler, Syrian Woodpecker and Sub-alpine Warbler. We only had a Spanish Sparrow.

The conifer wood (also a graveyard really) 8 km south of Akseki should be good for Great Spotted Cuckoo and Masked Shrike.

Accommodation:

There is a good hotel (Star) in Akseki, next to a restaurant (where we had a nice breakfast). Drive past the military place up the hill and to the right (towards the old road). The price was 30.000 TL/room, nice room with shower and toilet.

### Fersin

1 km north of this village (33 km south of Akseki, 4-5 km south of Medici) one crew has had Middle Spotted Woodpecker. We had nothing here.

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## **Itinerary**

### Friday, 8th June

391.2 km, Antalya - Tasucu

Having arrived at the airport we told the Fritidsresor guide that we would not use the hotel and went straight to the car rent counter. There were 5 firms, Avis and Budget didn't have any cars left, we did not want the local one and there was no one at the Europcar counter. So we tried Hertz, but while I was looking at their car, an Europcar official arrived and told Tapani that Europcar was much cheaper. So we checked it out and he was right. Also the car they offered was much better at about 100 dollars less.

After getting the car we drove east. Our first stop was at Serik where we spent a couple of hours. We had two Olive-tree Warblers, Olivaceous Warbler, Nightingales, a Spanish Sparrow, Rufous Bush Chat. 2 lifers (Olive-tree and Bush Chat). It was rather hot with the sweat pouring down. Some local boys were swimming in the river. I wished I would have been able to do the same, but I had to be content with slapping water on my face. The boys followed us around and ask for cassettes, etc. They were obviously used to birders.

We didn't have any local money as we'd forgotten to change some at the airport. But we sure were thirsty so we tried to offer dollars at a cafe. They wouldn't accept the dollars, so I tried changing with a German couple. They didn't want to change but they bought us a coke anyway. Great! Had a Short-toed Eagle while drinking the coke.

We continued towards the east along the coast road. It was slow driving and we stopped whenever we had an interesting bird. There was a wonderful male Black-headed Bunting dead on the road, we stopped immediately and then the car behind us drove straight over the bird smashing it to pulp. Black-headed Buntings, we later found out, were among the most common casualties.

The scenery was spectacular after Alanya, but driving was slow even though there were only a few trucks on the road (holiday?). We had an Eleonora's Falcon which managed to disappear quite close to us and a flock of Alpine Swifts. Otherwise the road was empty. It seemed as the end would never come. We arrived at Tasucu at 23.30 and took the first hotel we found. Tapani went to get some food, but I fell asleep at once.

### Saturday, 9th June

489.6 km, Tasucu - Isikli

We got up at dawn and drove to Göksu delta with Pekka and Markku who were also birding Turkey and had arrived on the same flight as we. They had their own car though as they were only going to stay a week.

Started by driving along the west shore. Found some Kentish Plover chicks. Took a look at the view from the pumphouse. Tried to see the lake from the sanddunes, but views were not very good. Saw a few Purple Gallinules and Little Bitterns though.

Drove round to the ponds which were all mostly dry. White Storks and Collared Pratincoles were common along the road. Had superb views of a Short-toed Eagle as it slowly glided

past us. Had an Elenora's Falcon far away and a few Peregrines. Also a falcon which we at first could not identify but which turned out to be a Hobby. It just looked very large at first.

Briefly checked the harbour which was empty.

Drove east to Uzuncaburc which turned out to be a nice road. Had two Nuthatches which we first thought were common ones, but on the way back we realised they had to be Rock Nuthatches. An Egyptian Vulture went right over our car, but as Tapani only noticed the bird on the shadow, we were too late to get photos. A Ruppell's Warbler gave nice views, a lifer for me. Further on the road went through several villages, but birds were scarce. The 'site' itself was a hill with wood on both sides. We had Blue Rock Thrush, Cretzschmar's Bunting, a flock of Long-tailed Tits (really dark this race), 2 Masked Shrikes, 2 Krüper's Nuthatch (lifer), Sombre Tit and Yellow-vented Bulbul. We couldn't find any Olive-tree Warblers.

It was getting late and we knew we wouldn't reach Isikli before it got dark. Stopped to eat at a 'local-type' restaurant where we also asked about hotels. There didn't seem to be any around so we continued. At Sakcagöz we tried seriously to find somewhere to stay, but the only (rather rustic) hotel was full. After negotiating for some time, they turned us out. We decided not to lose time going to Gaziantep as we needed sleep badly, so we parked a bit off the road at Yesilice and slept in the car.

### Sunday, 10th June

143.0 km, Isikli - Birecik

Woke up at 5 and drove to Isikli. Had nice views of Great Rock Nuthatches, White-throated Robin and Upcher's Warblers (all lifers) at the big rock. Markku and Pekka came along and we drove through the village and parked a bit further on. Climbed up the hill where we had several more Upcher's, White-throated Robins, a breeding Cinereous Bunting (lifer) and a Desert Finch.

Drove back through the village when a group of boys were going to shoot at Markku and Pekka's car with a catapult. Tapani pushed the horn and the boys quickly lowered their weapons. Took the other road about 1 km up and stopped there. Quiet, a Syrian Woodpecker arrived, a flock of Rock Buntings were under a tree together with a White-throated Robin. Ate a melon, nice and cool.

Markku and Pekka drove to get something to drink. Tapani and I stopped at the rock but things had quietened down considerably. A Booted Eagle flew over, which, we heard later, Markku and Pekka had flushed from a tree.

Met them again for the walk up from Durnalik. Left the car on the road. At a well we soaked our hats, this was very cooling for as long as the hat stayed wet. Had 5 Cinereous Buntings, 3 Rock Nuthatch and 3 Upcher's on the way up. When we reached the top (1 hour) there was a nice fresh breeze. The place was very quiet though, saw nothing of note. Walked back, the cars were still there untouched.

Had a quick look at Hancagiz Baraji. A few White-winged Terns. It was really hot now, almost painful. Some local women at once came to look through my telescope.



Stopped for a coke before Birecik and had a Long-legged Buzzard. When we arrived in Birecik we first checked the Blue-cheeked Bee-eater site. None at the nest site but 25 sat on electricity lines near the shore.

Went to the cafe and the waiter at once told us which tree the Striated Scops was in. Nice views and some photos even though it was rather dark. They did not, unfortunately, serve any beer at the cafe, but we had a coke and a fanta.

Drove to the Ibis colony and talked to the keeper who promised to guide us next morning to the Eagle Owl nest. Went back to the cafe where we saw the Owl flying around and met Pekka and Markku. Got a room at hotel Dogan. Not much of a shower but better than nothing. Had a beer with Pekka and Markku at a restaurant with swimmingpool on the other side of the river.

### Monday, 11th June

514.2 km, Birecik - Halfeti - Cizre

We started by searching for Yellow-throated Sparrow and found one. At 6 am we walked up the canyon looking for Eagle Owl with the Ibis colony keeper (10.000 TL//person). Unfortunately the owls had already left the nest and we were not able to find them despite a search.

Photographed and watched the Sandgrouse as they came in to feed on the islands in the river between 8 and 9. Had a look at the Ibis colony where a few adults were feeding nestlings. Maybe they will survive, but hardly start to migrate.

Drove across to the other side and spent some time photographing the Bee-eaters. Walked the wadi just north of the big one, most birds were on the west side of the road, among those Dead Sea Sparrows, Menetries Warblers and Pallid Warblers. It was getting hot so we decided to move on.

Drove north to Halfeti. Took the dirt road from north of the canyons. Nothing much on the way except for a male Spanish Sparrow and three Woodchat Shrikes.

Halfeti was very hot too. We couldn't locate the site for Pale Rock Sparrow, Yellow-throated Sparrow and See-see. Checked out a site mentioned by Erik Hirshfeld. Had several Yellow-throated Sparrows, Dead Sea Sparrows, Great Rock Nuthatch, Rock Sparrow but not the species we were looking for.

Bought some coke and nuts in the village and drove east towards Cizre. Had a few flocks of Calandra Larks on the way and a Little Owl just before it got dark. Planned to stay the night in a flash looking motel en route, but it was filled with some groups. Drove on to Cizre which we reached rather late in pitch darkness. Just as we had the city in view the electricity went out and the city disappeared. Eerie feeling. We drove in anyway and managed to find a very good hotel at the central crossing. After a while the lights came back on. Had supper and went to bed.

Tuesday, 12th June

475.9 km, Cizre - Idil - Van

Left at 5 am for Idil. The road was much worse than expected, full of holes. Found a dead Black Kite, a traffic victim. Arrived at the site at sun-up. Walked around south of the bridge 5.30-8.30. There wasn't any water in the first holes, but some in the later ones. A few birds came in to drink, mostly Crested Larks, Black-headed Buntings and a Calandra Lark. A Male Finch Wheatear was around a couple of juvenile wheatears which we identified as Finch. There were Rufous Bush Chats every few steps, estimated 15. It was getting hot and we had lost hope of finding Pale Rock Sparrow and See-see which we had come to look for, so we drove back to Cizre.

Had breakfast at the hotel, which was very expensive (14 TL) compared to the price of the room. Just ordinary breakfast with bread, jam, butter and soft drinks.

Drove to the garages after the bridge and tried to look for Red-wattled Plovers. We were immediately surrounded by about 30 boys and a few men wanting to look too. They were rather well-mannered though, and did not stand in front of the telescopes. We found the first plover rather quickly near the left shore. Five others were located in different places. Two Pied Kingfishers were at the mainstream far away and two Collared Pratincoles sat on the sand.

We drove a bit closer to the border, but the views were hardly better from there so we turned back. Could be worth a proper look though, but care is probably needed.

Drove towards Sirnak. Took a bath in the river just after Kizilsu leaves the Tigris. Found a Red-rumped Swallow nest under a bridge.

The landscape was changing, really strange. Were checked by the military near Sirnak. They took our passports and went through our luggage. They even checked our camera equipment by looking through the lenses. Then they asked us a lot of questions in German about our intentions, our jobs, our route, etc. Finally they gave us back our passports and let us go. They weren't unpleasant at all, but it wasn't a very nice situation anyway. I later read in the newspaper that there had been a terrorist attack that day in the region.

Our passports were checked 5 times more on the way to Siirt, but they didn't check our luggage again.

A Finnish group, visiting Belen in september 1990 were arrested and held for three hours, before released (and relieved of two rolls of slides). The officer in charge said that if he wanted to, he could have held them for two months. They also lacked a proper translator which made things difficult. Perhaps this was due to the present situation with Irak, but it could pay to be careful.

We suddenly realized we didn't have all that much petrol left, and a long way to go through the mountains. We hoped there would be a service station in Erhu, halfway to Siirt, but there wasn't. There were some camping Kurds though, so we continued without stopping much.

They seemed aggressive and a small girl threw a stone at us.

Heard a Chukar calling and stopped soon afterwards at a cafe and got some soft drinks. A man there had three Chukars in cages and let us take some photos. Another man wanted to buy my Leitz Trinovid for 50.000 TL. I had some difficulties in explaining why I couldn't accept the offer.

Siirt finally appeared before our petrol ran out. Tried to find some cold water, but no. The road was now better, but still mountaineous and beautiful. Had a live Black Kite, 4 Long-legged Buzzards and 3 Cetti's Warblers on the way to Tatvan. Had to leave out the crater Nemrut Gölü as it was already getting late.

Van Lake turned out to be huge, and not very productive. 50 km west of Van (at Görmündü camping) we stopped as the shore was visible. Big flock of Armenian Gulls, two Night Herons, four Hobbies, 10 Alpine Swifts and 2 Great Reed Warblers.

Reached Van at 20.30 and took the first suitable looking hotel that appeared. Ate pizza at a local 'fast-food' restaurant. Rather different from our pizzas and very spicy, but quite good.

### Wednesday, 13th June

153.9 km, Van

Started at 5.10 am. Had some trouble in finding out which way to go, but finally managed to find the road to the Brown Hills. Stopped at the reservoir, had a Mediterranean Gull, some Ruddy Shelducks and a Egyptian Vulture. Also a Bimaculated Lark. Took a small track into the hills. Round the first bend we had Rock Nuthatch, a male Finch Wheatear, our first Grey-necked Buntings, a male Black Redstart and some Black-eared Wheatears.

The track stopped at the railway, we walked to the next hill and around it. Nice view (we could also see the shepherds and their dogs, rather far away luckily). Heard an Eagle Owl hoot a couple of times in broad daylight. Found some more Grey-necked Buntings, Rock Sparrows, a Long-legged Buzzard and two Tawny Pipits. Left at 10 am.

Went to South Van Marsh. Drove first along a path north of the castle. From the end of the path part of the marsh was visible. Three small boys flocked around us, helped us change into wellingtons and the smallest wanted to hold my hand. Very nice kids, not disturbing.

A lifer was soon found, a male White-headed Duck. A female also appeared. A pair of Gadwalls were present and a Mediterranean Gull. Otherwise the lake was very empty.

Drove around to the south side. Had a Lesser Kestrel flying over and took some photos of feldegg Yellow Wagtails. There was a ditch across the road, so we left the car and walked to the beach. Two men were trying to catch a horse on the loose. We walked around the reeds a bit, but it was very quiet, hardly any calls. A Dutch group of hikers appeared, one of them was also intrested in birds. Their driver had try to cross the ditch with their big van and then the angle became to great and the driver stopped for fear the van would turn over. We had a lot of fun watching them (and some locals) fighting to keep the van on four wheels while driving it forward. They made it over, don't know how they got back.

Went to North Van Marsh. Had a Little Owl. The southern part wasn't accessible, but we found a small track to the northern part. Drove along the track northwards. Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, Ruddy Shelducks, Shelducks, a Gadwall pair, three Calandra Larks and a flock of 200 Starlings. No Rose-coloured ones though.

It was now 6 pm, decided to spend the rest of the day at Ercek Gölü. Took the track along the west shore. Two Cranes, Calandra, Bimaculated and Lesser Short-toed Larks, both Shelducks, Avocets, Stilts, 65 Black-necked Grebes and three Tawny Pipits. 10 Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew over. A little Owl hooted nicely to us nearby and another further away. One Nightjar was heard and another found dead on the mainroad. Had a Thick-knee in the headlights.

Slept at the same hotel as the night before and had pizzas at the same restaurant.

#### Thursday, 14th June

644.7 km, Van - Sivrikaya

Left at 5 towards Bendimahi. One Caspian Tern on the way. Arrived at Bendimahi at 5.50. Rain. Checked the tracks towards the lake. Some Lesser Short-toed and two Bimaculated Larks in the fields. Found 18 Rose-coloured Starlings in a flock. Spent some time watching from the bridge. Some wildfowl in the river, 2 Gadwalls, 5 male White-headed Ducks and two juveniles. The juveniles looked very strange. A lonely White Pelican flew over. A Little Bittern appeared briefly in the reeds. A Pygmy Cormorant roosted on the shore of the river. 6 Little Terns flew by. 4 Marsh Harriers hunted over the area as did a thousand Sand Martins a little further on. Left at 8.10.

On the way west we had an adult Egyptian Vulture, 3 Bimaculated Larks and a Rose-coloured Starling. Stopped at the Keklikova river and photographed the Armenian Gulls. Two Caspian Terns were present as well.

Stopped for tea and bought some fruit in Ercis. On the way north we had 5 Rose-coloured Starlings, a Long-legged Buzzard, a Little Owl, a Montagu's Harrier and 15 Bimaculated Larks.

The road got mountainous again after Tutak. At a gorge between Agri and Horasan (27 before H.) we had our first two Snow Finches, four Shore Larks and three Rock Nuthatches.

At Erzurum we had some trouble in finding the Amusement Park. After getting inside the park we drove around for three quarters of an hour and there it was, a Semi-collared Flycatcher sitting on the lowest branch of a tree. We only had a couple of short views before the bird disappeared for good. It was again raining and getting late so we left towards Sivrikaya.

Stopped approximately 106 km south of Ispir (village called Eskipolat). An Egyptian Vulture soared above together with 2 Hobbies. Soon saw two Mountain Chiffchaffs in a tree by the road. The song was a little different from Chiffchaff in our opinion. Heard several more as we continued upwards as well as a Penduline Tit. A Rock Bunting gave nice views and 3 more Egyptian Vultures appeared. Then it got dark. The road seemed endless but we finally

reached Ispir. Bought some water and food and heard a Scops Owl. Decided to push on for Sivrikaya even though it was dark as we wanted to be there early in the morning.

The road seemed rather good in the beginning, but soon became worse. At one point a stream was in the road and the darkness made it all the more difficult. After the stream left the road it became much better. We still had no idea where we were and as we didn't know how far it was to Sivrikaya we turned back at one point to check some houses. Then a taxi came along, and they told us to follow them. On the right hand side there was hard snow, we couldn't see the left hand side at all. It was rather nice to just be able to follow that other car.

When we reached Sivrikaya the taxi driver told us to stay in the Tea room and drove on. The tearoom was closed however. A couple of men were repairing a car outside and asked them if they knew where Mustafa Sari lived. They did and pointed. But we didn't want to go and look for the house in pitch darkness without any more directions and informations. We decided that the weather didn't seem to clear up (it was raining), so maybe it wouldn't matter. We went to sleep in the car.

#### Friday, 15th June

73.7 km, Sivrikaya

It was cold and Tapani had a stomach problem so it wasn't one of our best nights. At 4 am it was still raining heavily, so we decided to sleep as long as we could. At 5.20 we woke up and took a drive back towards Ispir. Some nice birds including Grey Wagtails, Wrens, Marsh Warbler, two Snow Finches, two Alpine Accentors, a pair of Rock Thrush with nest, 2 Black Redstarts. Still raining.

At 7.30 when we went back to the village the tearoom owner came along and gave us some tea. He had a heater which was really nice. There we sat together with him and his son in almost complete silence as we didn't have any common language. Other locals started to appear to chat, play a local game and smoke. At 9.30 we went out despite the rain to try for Green Warbler.

Soon after entering the wood on the north side of the river we heard a Green Warbler and then another one quite near. It was raining pretty hard and difficult to see them. Tapani managed to see one pretty well twice. I didn't. I just saw glimpses of a small bird. Tapani was pretty wet so he left. I stayed because I wasn't satisfied with the views I had had. I followed one bird for quite some time, lost it and just when I was giving up found it again. Unfortunately my glasses were filled with water and despite my Goretex jacket I was also getting very wet. As it didn't seem probable that I'd see the bird any better I left at 1 pm. We also had several Mountain Chiffchaffs in the wood.

When I got back to the tearoom I was able to change into dry trousers and dry my wet clothes by the heater. Almost a luxury. Mustafa Sari had appeared in the tearoom and Tapani had already hired him for the next morning. There were also two locals, one spoke German and the other one French, with whom we were able to make some conversation.

In the afternoon we drove towards Ikizdere. We hadn't gone more than 2 km when we came upon a landslide. There were already a few cars on the other side and some men digging.

They weren't making any progress though, as more mud was sliding down every now and then. They told us to go back to Sivrikaya and get help. That we did and then we return to the landslide. Soon a big truck came along and just drove through creating wheel marks. We followed and got through even though there was a lot of noise as the stones hit the bottom of the car.

The area between Sivrikaya and Ikizdere wasn't very good for birds. In Ikizdere we had shish kebab at a cafe and then an hours sleep and a shower at a hotel. Returned back to Sivrikaya for evening tea. The tearoom emptied at 8 pm and we went to sleep above the tearoom.

### Saturday, 16th June

508.2 km, Sivrikaya - Samsun

The next morning we overslept and woke to hear Mustafa knocking on the door. We threw our clothes on and went out with him and quickly climbed up almost without stopping. A beautiful morning with about 5-10 cm snow on the ground. When we started at 4 am it was just light enough to manage without a torch. The trail was wellmarked and easy to follow. Getting higher Mustafa stopped once, but obviously found nothing so we continued a bit further on, and now he found a Blackcock, very far away. No problem in identifying it though, a jet black speck on the white snow.

We continued up on top of a lower hill (where there was a hut). With binoculars we were able to count 15 males and a female from there on the surrounding mountains. As we walked back, rounding a bend, a Blackcock was suddenly quite near, maybe 50 metres. Tapani started photographing, but I didn't get any since I still had my 35mm on, it was still rather dark. The bird soon took off and landed close by. We went after, but now it saw us and flew off. I managed three shots as it flew over, two of which turned out quite well.

Our toes were quite frozen, but we would have liked to stay a little longer to look at other birds. There weren't many, but we wanted to get a closer look at the Water Pipits. Mustafa was in a hurry, though, and started going down, so we followed him. Suddenly there was a small sound nearby and a Whinchat sat on the snow about 4 m away. We got some shots before it flew off. Mustafa had disappeared round the following bend and when we reached him, he told us (sign language) that he had scared away a bear. Blast. We sure would have liked to see it too. Mustafa also showed us he was carrying a gun for protection.

We paid Mustafa what he asked and went down for a cup of tea. Afterwards we again drove towards Ispir (13 km). The valley was still covered in snow when we left, but at about 10 am most of it had melted away. We had 11 Alpine Accentors, a Twite, 10 Shore Larks, a Rock Thrush, 10 Water Pipits, 3 Black Redstarts, 2 Snow Finches + nest and a Serin. We went as far as the highest point between Sivrikaya and Ispir.

We wanted to reach Samsun the same day, so we quickly drove towards Ikizdere. Stopped at Rüzgarlı for Green Warbler, which we found easily and now I managed to get good views too. A stone lifted from my chest.

The Black sea coast was boring with too much traffic. We even managed to get a fine for crossing the yellow line. A few flocks of gulls and an island with breeding Shags and

Cormorants. When we arrived in Samsun we first had some trouble in finding hotels and then in finding one with an empty room. Finally we got one with a single bed. I had some trouble in explaining that we were happy with the single bed, that we didn't want another room with a single bed, but wanted to sleep in the same bed. Well, they understood in the end.

### Sunday, 17th June

571.0 km, Samsun - Kizilirmak - Kizilcahamam

Left the hotel at 5.45 and reached Kizilirmak delta at 6.10. The only map of the area was Erik Hirshfeld's and we soon discovered that it wasn't very accurate (or that we couldn't begin to understand it). We weren't at all certain we were on the same tracks. We first reached the end of one track, but couldn't see any water. An older man told us to go back and then east, where there would be a track to the 'lake'. I don't know if we took the right track, but we reached a spot from where it was a short walk to the lake. Lots of birds, 30 Ferruginous Ducks (lifer for me), 10 Red-Crested Pochards, White Pelicans, Squacco Heron, 100 Little Egrets, 7 Purple Herons, 5 Gadwall, 30 Garganey, 120 Whiskered Terns, 3 Little Terns. 130 Night Herons flew in a flock very far away as a white cloud.

We tried to find other good tracks but no. Heard three Savi's Warbler at the end of one track.

Went to the wood (eastern part of area) where we took a track from a village. We heard an oriole and got some sort of view of the marsh, no birds visible though. We turned around at some small ponds where we saw a few waders. Left the site at 11.30 and drove towards Ankara.

A few birds en route. Short-toed Eagle, Black Stork near Samsun. 65 km east of Tosya (2 km east of Karacay) we had 8 Egyptian Vultures, 13 Griffon Vultures, a Golden Eagle, 2 Black Storks. Two other Egyptian Vultures seen later.

At Cerkes we turned south on the mountain road. Stopped a few kilometres later on top of a higher plain. 5 Lesser Spotted Eagles, one Golden Eagle, one Long-legged Buzzard, one Booted Eagle, 10 Calandra Larks, Tree Sparrow.

Continuing towards Kizilcahamam we had 4 Quails, 20 Calandra Larks, a Long-legged Buzzard, 2 Mistle Thrush, 5 Hortulan Buntings, a Black Stork and three Black Vultures (these were near Kizilcahamam).

Spent an hour watching from the road near the slaughterhouse (Mezhaba). 5 Black Storks, 40 White Storks, 2 Egyptian Vultures, one Black Vulture, one Black Kite. Drove by the slaughterhouse and followed the track. Three Black Redstarts.

Spent the night at the hotel in the Soguksu park. Had a very nice supper.

### Monday, 18th June

513.3 km, Kizilcahamam - Bor (Nidge)

Started birding in the park at 5.15. Drove up and round the mountain which produced Crossbills, Serins, 7 Egyptian Vultures, a Booted Eagle, a Black Vulture, 6 Wrens, 10 Nuthatches, Redstarts (one male samamiscus), 3 Mistle Thrush, 2 pairs of Cuckoo, Chiffchaff, a Hawfinch (which almost flew under the car on Tapanis side), 2 Long-tailed Tits, 3 Rock Bunting, Wood Lark and finally, just as we'd stopped hoping, a singing Bonelli's Warbler. We managed to get quite good views too in spite of the rain. The 16 km circuit goes very high up and it took us three hours to drive around it.

Had breakfast at the hotel.

Stopped again at the slaughterhouse where we spent an hour. 12 Egyptian Vultures, 5 Black Vultures (sitting almost on top of the mountain), 3 Peregrines, a Black Kite, 2 Rock Nuthatch.

Drove towards Ankara: 3 Long-legged Buzzards, a Hobby and a Black Kite. Did not go through the center of the city, used the yellow road which connects the motorway from Kizilcahamam to that from Eskisehir. This was quite well signed and easy to find.

Stopped at Gölbaşı to check the lake and change money. After half an hour's wait the PTT decided they could not make the exchange, neither Finnish marks nor dollars. At the lake we had 2 Hobbies, 5 Little Bitterns (on the north-west side), 7 Squacco Herons, 7 Night Herons and some calling Bearded Tits in the reeds just below the road.

Drove around Beziroğlu lake in two hours. 3 Tawny Pipits, 4 Lesser Short-toed Larks, 21 Greater Sand Plovers (by the road north of the lake), 128 Lapwings, 22 Avocets, 24 White Storks, 66 Flamingos, 17 Stilts, 300 Ruddy Shelducks, 2 Gull-billed Terns, 3 Quail, a male

Montagu's Harrier sitting on the ground south of the lake, 6 Red-Crested Pochards.

There was a smaller lake north of the road. The big lake was rather small and visible from the road only from the east side.

Our next stop was at Kulu. We had some trouble in finding the right track out of the village. Stopped at a little village in the north-west corner of the lake and watched from the shore. Lots of birds including 600 Black-necked Grebe, 800 Flamingo, 8 White-fronted Geese, 80 Greylag, 300 Ruddy Shelduck, 30 Gadwall, 40 Red-crested Pochard, 3 Ferruginous Duck, 400 Black-winged Stilt, 400 Avocet, 15 Collared Pratincole, 120 Mediterranean Gull, 15 Little Gull, 20 ad + 3 pull Slender-billed Gull, 100 Gull-billed Tern, 10 Whiskered Tern, 10 Black Tern, 1 White-winged Tern, 1500 Swift, 50 Calandra Lark, 20 Lesser Short-toed and 2 Short-toed, 300 Rooks. Part of the birds were at the small islands not far from the shore. A Slender-billed Gull seemed to be trying to get rid of its chicks by swimming away from them.

Drove along a very bad track which turned into field, but we continued to the north-east corner of the lake where there was a better track along the shore. Waders and gulls on the shore. The track left the shore halfway. We continued along the shore on a bad track which got worse all the time. More birds again in the south corner including 70 White-headed Ducks and 6 Great Reed Warblers. The track disappeared in the south corner and we almost got stuck before finding the track which comes from the village. It was beginning to get dark so we left the lake and drove towards Demirkazık.



Had supper at a local restaurant. Spent the night at Bor.

### Tuesday, 19th June

102.0 km, Bor - Demirkazik

Left 5.35 for Demirkazik. While we were having breakfast at a local place two Swans flew past. I rushed out to the telescope but only had rear views. They looked more like Mutes though. A male Golden Oriole was seen in a tree by the road near Demirkazik. Arrived at Demirkazik at 7.30.

It was raining again and rather foggy. Got a room at the Center. The house was filled with scouts, one of these spoke quite good English and translated for us as the receptionist only spoke Turkish.

There was no point in climbing up because of the weather so we first drove east along the track. Alpine Chough, Golden Eagle, 7 Rock Thrush, Shore Lark + nest, Lesser Whitethroat (of race althea?), 50 Snow Finch moving in a flock, 3 Finch Wheatear, 3 Rock Nuthatch, 2 Crimson-winged Finch.

Then we took the track west from the Center for about 3 km. More Snow Finch, 2 Crimson-winged Finch, 10 Red-fronted Serins and an Isabelline Wheatear nest. Both these tracks were quite practical for birding in the rain. They covered the lower slopes nicely. The tracks did get rather muddy from the rain though.

When we turned around there was another smaller canyon. We climbed upwards for a while, but had to turn around when we were faced with too high rocks. Not many birds, a few Black Redstarts and Choughs.

The rain had stopped so we decided to climb up the valley anyway. Rather slow progress, we stopped often to search for birds. Two Griffon Vultures soared above, 3 Lesser Whitethroats hid in the scrub. We didn't see them well enough to make a race identification. 21 Alpine Swifts and a Crag Martin flew over the valley. A large falcon passed too fast for identification. When we had almost reached the top it started raining hard. We took shelter behind a big stone and managed to keep rather dry. When the shower stopped we went down rather quickly, there seemed to be more rain on its way.

Supper was served in the evening and we talked to some of the scouts who wanted to practice their English. A mountain climber came along and asked us if we wanted to have tea with him and his mates. We did and had a long discussion about climbing, Demirkazik, etc. They had arrived three days earlier and had not been able to do any climbing yet because of the rain. They had been practising mountain rescues with the scouts instead.

### Wednesday, 20th June

223.1 km, Demirkazik - Eregli

When we woke up in the morning the sky was filled with stars. We left the Center at 3 am and started climbing up the valley. It was pitch dark, but as we got closer to the caves we could see a light and hear the sheep bells ringing. Then we heard what we certainly didn't want to hear, a dog barking. And the bark was getting closer all the time. We couldn't see anything but opened our tripod (our only weapon) and pointed both torches towards the bark. Then we could see the dog, a big brute. It stopped when the light hit it and started to walk around us in a circle. We kept the torches at it and after circling around us it gave up and went after the shepherd.

We continued upwards and reached the plateau at dawn. An accentor was singing. We tried to locate it even though it was still too dark to see any features, but it stopped singing when we got closer. We continued towards the mountains and then we heard the call, almost like a Curlew. We hadn't any idea what the Snowcock call was like, but this was so strange it had to be it. After an hours walk we were at the foot of Demirkazik. We had tried to locate Snowcocks by looking with the telescope in the direction of the sound, but couldn't see anything. The suddenly the bird stopped calling. We waited for a while but everything was quiet except for a Ring Ouzel singing once. We now discovered it was really cold, the ground was covered with frost. We only had one telescope with us, mine, which is a Kowa of the old model and therefore very cold. It was painful to use the scope and we were getting so cold that we had to move on. We were quite sure we'd missed the Snowcock altogether.

We walked towards the spring, which wasn't of much use as there was water everywhere. But then, as we were looking for a Ring Ouzel Tapani had seen, another Snowcock started calling, this time from a mountain to the left of the spring. Soon there were several birds calling. After an icy search with the scope Tapani spotted one bird very high up and climbing fast. We watched the bird for quite a while until it almost had reached the top. Despite some search we couldn't find any others. We wouldn't have had a chance in hell to find those birds with binoculars, they were so far away that they were just visible with the bins if you knew exactly where to look.

We walked around the big rock left of the spring looking for Radde's Accentor. Then we again heard one singing, but as we tried to locate it the singing stopped and we couldn't find the bird. There were two shepherds shouting to each others on the plateau, we soon got the impression they were looking for something. And then we saw a goat which had hurt its leg lying on the ground. We called to the nearer shepherd and he came along and kicked the animal till it ran to the flock. Seemed rather brutal.

We went back to the top of the valley and suddenly a Lammergeier appeared, flying slowly from right to left over the plateau. A lifer for Tapani. A few Griffons were soaring above the valley and some Crimson-winged Finches and Red-fronted Serins flew around.

Another quick look for Radde's and then we started to descend the canyon. Found another Snow Finch nest near the entrance. Took some photos of a flying Crag Martin. Soon after entering the canyon a Wallcreeper flew over us and landed on the cliff wall. I just had time to get it in the bins before it flew off. Another lifer for Tapani. For me it was the first good look, my lifer bird was in an old ruin were it was too dark to see any colours. A beautiful bird.

Going down we soon had 2 Alpine Accentors and more Snow Finches plus yet another nest. The going was rather slow and soon our birding was getting ineffective, we put our strain on

getting down. It felt like ages before we reached the bottom, even though it wasn't more than 2 hours.

Walking back to the village we saw 9 Griffons soaring. Left Demirkazik and drove towards Eregli. Had dinner on the way.

Arrived at the south-western end of Akgöl at 19.10. Had time to see 30 Pygmy Cormorants, 10 Squacco Herons, one White Pelican, 10 Purple Herons, 6 Glossy Ibis, 5 Spoonbills, 300 Flamingos, 10 ad plus 12 pull Red-crested Pochard, a White-headed Duck pair, 50 Black-tailed Godwits, 50 Whiskered Terns, 5 Little Terns and 10 singing Great Reed Warblers.

Spent the night in Eregli.

#### Thursday, 21th June

493.9 km, Eregli - Akseki

Left the hotel at 5.10. Spent nearly an hour trying to look for the right track to the lake starting from Tatliukuyu. Finally drove along the ditch and came to the shore. The ground wasn't very wet, but certainly not dry. Lots of birds including 200 Pygmy Cormorants, 20 White Pelican (alas no Dalmatian), 20 Glossy Ibis, 25 Spoonbills, 2000 Flamingos, 200 Ruddy Shelducks, 5 Gadwall, 60 Ferruginous Ducks, 20 White-headed Ducks, 300 Stilts, 50 Avocets, 5 Collared Pratincoles, 25 Greater Sand Plovers, 10 Spur-winged PLOvers, 450 Black-tailed Godwits, 110 Marsh Sandpipers.

As we tried to drive along the shore we got stuck rather soon. Two locals appeared and helped us to push the car back towards safer ground.

Spent some time in Adabaq photographing the Lesser Kestrels, they seemed to be nesting in smaller colonies on both sides of the village. We counted 22.

Also found 5 Little Owl juveniles, got some photos of them. The villagers gathered to see what we were up to and let us take photographs of them.

Drove over to the south-west side and tried to find Dalmatian Pelicans but no go. A German crew were present and we talked for a while, but they had just arrived. Left at 1 pm.

We intended to drive via Karaman and Bozkir to Akseki. In Karaman we tried desperately to find a bank which would change Finnish marks, but nobody would. We then tried to find a bank which took Visa, but got no from one that even had the Visa sticker on the door. Finally we discovered that Vakikredi Bank was the one to try. They accepted Visa but not for smaller sums than 100 dollars. While they wrote the papers we had were served tea. It took an hour.

Had supper in Bozkir. We took the road west to Dereköy, but discovered that the white road leading west from there is not drivable. So we turned back and headed for Seydisehir. The big lake Sugla Gölü, was completely dry, i.e. made into fields. At Seydisehir we tried to get to the Akseki road via Tarasci, but were told that road was not drivable either, so in the end we had to go all the way to Beysehir. When we got there it was almost dark.

A bit further on we found a Nightjar on the road, still alive. It soon died though. Another 3 Nightjars were seen in the headlights. Arrived at Akseki 22.30. A small boy showed us where the hotel was.

### Friday, 22th June

171.0 km, Akseki - Antalya

Left the hotel at 5.25 on the old road north. 8 km north of Akseki we met a Swedish crew which had stayed at the same hotel as we. A far off Woodpecker was hammering on a tree, but none came into view. 4 Mistle Thrush, 10 Krüper's Nuthatch (really easy), 5 Serins.

Went back towards Akseki, stopped 2.2 km north of it. A Rüppell's Warbler pair and 4 Cretzschmar's Buntings.

Had breakfast at the restaurant by the hotel while we waited for the receptionist to give us our passports. Checked the cemetery, nice butterflies, but hardly any birds. Stopped again 8 km south of Akseki, but only a Sombre Tit and another hammering Woodpecker.

Stopped 1 km north of Fersin where an English crew had seen Middle Spotted Woodpecker, but everything was quiet.

Revisited Serik, much quieter than the last time, no Olive-trees.

Stopped for a coke and had a Short-toed Eagle at almost the same spot as two weeks earlier. Drove to the airport. Packed our suitcases on the ground and the tarmac melted on to my 50 mm lens. It was really hot. Gave the car back to the Europcar people and got on the plane.

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## LIST OF SPECIES

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

10 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 3 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 2 adult and 2 juvenile at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June, 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

5 at Göksu on 9th June, 8 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 1 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 1 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 35 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 2 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 90 at Gölbası on 18th June, 10 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June, 5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

1 at South Van Marsh on 13th June.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

65 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 10 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 600 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

30 at Horpat River on 16th June.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

30 at Horpat River on 16th June.

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

3 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 30 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 200 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

1 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 2 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June, 20 + 20 sp. at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

1 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*

5 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 7 at Gölbasi on 18th June.

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

10 at Göksu on 9th June, 2 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June. 130 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 7 at Gölbasi on 18th June.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

20 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 7 at Gölbasi on 18th June, 10 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 7 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

6 at Göksu on 9th June.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

20 at Göksu on 9th June, 100 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 10 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Great White Egret** *Egretta alba*

1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June. 2 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

40 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 2 at Cerkes, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June. 5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

6 at Göksu on 9th June, 70 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 10 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 6 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

2 at Birecik on 11th June, 1 at Kizilirmak, 1 at Samsun - Karacay, 1 at Cerkes, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam, 5 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 3 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

180 at Göksu on 9th June, 10 at Viransehir - Kiziltepe on 11th June, 1 at Idil, 1 at Idil - Cizre, 3 + 2ad 4pull at Siirt - Baykan on 12th June, 2 at Van - Bendimahi, 1+1 at nest at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 50 at Kizilirmak, 2 near Karacay, 1 at Cerkes, 3 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam, 40 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 40 at Kizilcahamam, 1 at Gölbası, 24 at Bezirhane, 5 at Kulu on 18th June, 20 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 1 at Eregli - Akgöl, 2 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), 2 at Sugela Gölü on 21st June. 2 at Manavgat - Serik, 3 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

1 at Göksu on 9th June, 6 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June, 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Bald Ibis** *Geronticus eremita*

50 adult + 16 pullus at Birecik (east shore) on 10th and 11th June.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

5 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 25 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*

2 at Göksu on 9th June, 66 at Bezirhane on 18th June, 200 at Kulu, 100 at Kulu - Akcaray on 18th June, 300 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June, 2000 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**(Mute) Swan** *Cygnus (olor)*

2 at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

8 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Greylag** *Anser anser*

80 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

7 at Göksu on 9th June, 5 adult + 5 pullus at the Van reservoir, 4 at the Brown Hills at Van, 24 adult and 16 pullus at North Van Marsh, 17 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 4 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 300 at Bezirhane, 300 at Kulu on 18th June. 200 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

7 at North Van Marsh, 9 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 15 at Kulu on 18th June. 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

4 at Kulu on 18th June. 2 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Pair at South Van Marsh, pair at North Van Marsh on 13th June, male at Bendimahi on 14th June, 5 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 30 at Kulu on 18th June. 5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

10 at Kulu on 18th June. 25 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Female at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, male at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 4 at Bezirhane on 18th June, 15 at Kulu on 18th June. 40 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

30 at Kizilirmak on 17th June. 40 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Male at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 5 at Kulu on 18th June. 2 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

1 at Göksu on 9th June, 15 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 6 at Bezirhane, 40 at Kulu on 18th June, 10 adult and 12 pullus at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 20 adult plus 12+4 pullus at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

9 at the Van reservoir on 13th June, 60 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 50 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 700 at Kulu on 18th June, 20 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 30 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), 1 at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

30 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 3 at Kulu on 18th June. 60 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Male at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 3 at Bendimahi on 14th June.

**White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala*

Pair at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 5 males and 2 juveniles at Bendimahi on 14th June, 70 at Kulu on 18th June, pair at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Unidentified Wildfowl**

200 at Bezirhane on 18th June.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

One dead at Cizre - Idil, 1 at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 1 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 1 at Kizilcahamam, 1 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara on 18th June.

**Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus*

1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*

1 at Göksu, 1 at Demircili on 9th June, 1 adult at the Van reservoir on 13th June, 1 adult at Bendimahi - Keklikova river, 1 at Eskipolat, 3 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 8 near Karacay, 2 at Ardic - Cerkes, 2 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 7 at Soguksu, 12 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June, 2 at Demirkazik - Potanzi on 20th June. 1 juvenile at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus*

13 near Karacay on 17th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 9 at Demirkazik, 1 at Demirkazik - Potanzi on 20th June.

**Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus*

3 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam, 1 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 1 at Soguksu, 5 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

2 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Tayeli on 11th June, 1 at Samsun - Karacay on 17th June. 1 at Manavgat - Serik on 22nd June.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

1 at Göksu on 9th June, 2 females at South Van Marsh on 13th June, male and three females at Bendimahi on 14th June, 20 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 at Bezirhane, 6 at Kulu on 18th June, 15 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), a male at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

Adult male at Birecik on 11th June, adult male at Patnos - Tutak on 14th June, adult male at Bezirhane on 18th June.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

1 sp. at Tutak - Agri on 14th June, 1 at Sivrikaya, 1 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south, 1 at Ikizdere on 16th June, 1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June. 1 sp. at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*

1 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 4 at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 1 at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, 1 at Ercis - Patnos, 2 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Eskipolat on 14th June, 1 at Ikizdere on 16th June, 1 at Cerkes, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 3 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara, 1 at Kulu - Akcaray on 18th June, 1 at Bor - Nidge on 19th June, 2 at Demirkazik - Potanzi, 2 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June.



**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*

5 at Cerkes on 17th June.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

1 near Karacay, 1 at Cerkes on 17th June, 1 subadult at Demirkazik on 19th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

One dark at Isikli on 10th June, 1 pale form at Cerkes on 17th June, 1 pale form at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Big bird of Prey**

1 at Ardic - Cerkes on 17th June.

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*

Male at South Van Marsh on 13th June. 22 adult and one chick in nest at Adabaq on 21st June.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

1 sp. at Isikli on 10th June, 2 at Hancagiz Baraji, 3 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 2 at Birecik, 1 at Sanliurfa - Viransehir, 1 at Tayeli, 1 at Viransehir - Kiziltepe on 11th June, 2 at Cizre - Idil, 2 at Idil, 2 at Sirnak - Siirt, 1 sp. at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 1 sp. at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 sp. At Bendimahi, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 1 near Karacay, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 2 males and 3 sp. at Bezirhane on 18th June, 1 sp. At Nidge - Demirkazik, 7 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 3 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 3 at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

1 at Göksu on 9th June, 2 at Sirnak - Siir, 4 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 2 at Eskipolat on 14th June, 1 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara, 2 at Gölbasi on 18th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. 1 at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*

1 3km west of Alanor, 1 at Göksu on 9th June.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

3 at Göksu on 9th June. 1 sp. at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June was probably this species. 3 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June. 1 sp. At Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Caucasian Black-Grouse** *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*

15 males and a female at Sivrikaya on 16th June.

**Caspian Snowcock** *Tetraogallus caspius*

1 male seen singing and 4 heard at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

1 at Isikli on 10th June, call at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 2 singing at Bendimahi, 2

singing at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 3 heard at Kizilirmak, 1 heard at Cerkes, 4 heard at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 2 heard at Bezirhane, 2 heard at Kulu on 18th June. 1 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), 2 calling at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*

1 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

2 calling at Göksu on 9th June, 2 heard at Bendimahi on 14th June.

**Purple Gallinule** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

5 at Göksu on 9th June.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

20 at Göksu on 9th June, heard at Engil river on 12th June, 200 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 10 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 40 at Gölbasi, 30 at Kulu on 18th June. 15 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 50 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

2 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Bendimahi, 2 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June. 1 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

2 at North Van Marsh on 13th June, 30 at Bendimahi on 14th June. 15 at Kulu on 18th June. 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

20 adult and 3 pullus at Göksu on 9th June, 50 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 40 at North Van Marsh, 12 adult + 3 pullus at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 40 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 17 at Bezirhane, 400 at Kulu on 18th June, 5 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 300 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

18 at Göksu on 9th June, 50 at North Van Marsh, 2 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 22 at Bezirhane, 400 at Kulu on 18th June. 50 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

1 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 in the dark (19.57) at Ercek Gölü on 13th June.

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

270 at Göksu on 9th June, 2 at Cizre on 12th June, 15 at Kulu on 18th June, 1 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

5 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Birecik on 11th June, 1 at Cizre — Sirnak on 12th June, 3 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June. 2 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. 2 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

1 at Cizre on 12th June, 1 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

10 at Göksu on 9th June, 3 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Bezirhane, 2 at Kulu on 18th June. 80 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

21 at Bezirhane on 18th June. 25 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Spur-winged Plover** *Hoplopterus spinosus*

2 at Serik on 8th June, 14 at Göksu on 9th June. 10 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. 1 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Red-wattled Lapwing** *Hoplopterus indicus*

6 at Cizre on 12th June.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

4 at the Van reservoir, 15 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 6 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 128 at Bezirhane, 10 at Kulu on 18th June. 30 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

50 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 450 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

1 at Göksu on 9th June. 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

1 at Kulu on 18th June. 10 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

4 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 6 at South Van Marsh, 70 at North Van Marsh, 35 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 10 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 1 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 at Bezirhane, 20 at Kulu on 18th June. 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

70 sp. probably this species at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 110 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

5 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

2 at the Van reservoir, 1 at the Brown Hills at Van, 4 at South Van Marsh, 1 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 1 heard at Kizilirmak, 3 at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 15 at Kulu on 18th June. 2 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

1 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 at Bendimahi on 14th June. 1 heard at Kulu on 18th June. 2 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, one heard at Eskipolat, 2 + 2 heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June. 3 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

1 first-summer at the Van reservoir, a first-summer at South Van Marsh on 13th June. 120 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

5 first-summer at Göksu on 9th June, 15 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

3 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 2 at the Van reservoir, 1 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 4 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 5 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 700 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*

7 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 20 adult + 3 pull at Kulu on 18th June. 4 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

5 at Of - Ordu on 16th June, 1 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

1 between Serik and Alanya on 8th June, 420 at Of - Ordu, 600 (some breeding) at Horpat River on 16th June, 1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June.

**Armenian Gull** *Larus armenicus*

1 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü), 60 50 km west of Van (Göründü), 300 at Engil river on 12th June, 70 at the Van reservoir on 13th June, 5 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 50 at Bendimahi, 700 at Keklikova river on 14th June.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*

2 at Bezirhane, 100 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

1 at Van - Bendimahi, 2 at Keklikova river on 14th June.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

30 at Göksu on 9th June, 10 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 5 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

40 at Göksu on 9th June, 6 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 3 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 5 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June. 10 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**White tern** *Sterna sp.*  
20 at Bezirhane on 18th June.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*  
120 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 10 at Kulu on 18th June, 50 at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20th June.  
15 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*  
2 at Göksu on 9th June, 10 at Kulu on 18th June. 3 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*  
4 summerplumaged and a moulting at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 1 at Kulu on 18th June.  
4 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Blackish tern** *Chlidonias sp.*  
1 at Bezirhane on 18th June.

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis*  
100 at Birecik on 11th June, 10 flying over in the evening at Ercek Gölü on 13th June. 1 flying over at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** *Pterocles alchata*  
300 at Birecik on 11th June.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*  
1 heard at Soguksu on 18th June. 1 33 km south of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
2 pullus in nest at Durnalik on 10th June.

**Palm Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
1 at Birecik on 11th June, 1 in Van on 14th June.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*  
2 at Keslitürkmenli on 9th June, one heard singing and one dead on road at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June, 2 at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 2 pairs at Soguksu on 18th June. 1 heard 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Striated Scops Owl** *Otus brucei*  
1 at Birecik, at cafe on 10th June.

**Scops Owl** *Otus scops*  
One heard at Ispir on 14th June at 21.00.

**Eagle Owl** *Bubo bubo*

Nest in wadi at Birecik was already empty, but they had nested. The chicks had left at least a few days earlier as we would otherwise have found them. Heard hooting at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

1 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 2 at Birecik, 1 at Kiziltepe on 11th June, 2 at Dirzova on 11th June, 1 at North Van Marsh, 1 seen displaying and one heard singing at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Ercis - Patnos, 1 at Horasan - Erzurum on 14th June, 1 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 5 at Adabaq on 21st June.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

1 heard, a female found dead on the road at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 4 at Seydisehir - Cebizli on 21st June.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

120 at Isikli on 10th June, 200 at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June, 1500 at Kulu on 18th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

50 15 km east of Gazipazan on 8th June, 5 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 10 at Birecik on 11th June, 25 at Sirnak - Siirt, 10 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 10 at Eskipolat on 14th June, 21 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

8 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 15 at Birecik on 11th June.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

2 at Birecik on 11th June, 2 at Cizre on 12th June.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus*

25 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th but only 10 on 11th June.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

Calls heard at Isikli, 1 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th and 11th June, 3 at Halfeti, 2 at Halfeti - Birecik, 1 at Birecik - Sanliurfa on 11th June, 3 at Cizre - Idil, 1 at Idil - Cizre, 10 at Cizre - Sirnak, 2 at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June, 10 at South Van Marsh, 1 at North Van Marsh on 13th June, 2 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 3 at Bendimahi, 1 at Bendimahi - Keklikova river, 1 at Ercis - Patnos, 3 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Ardic - Cerkes on 17th June. 2 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

1 at Hancagiz Baraji, 1 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 5 at Birecik, 3 at Birecik - Halfeti, 2 at Birecik - Sanliurfa on 11th June, 1 at Cizre - Idil, 1 at Idil, 2 at Cizre - Sirnak, 4 at Sirnak - Siirt, 1 at Baykan - Tatvan, 1 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 2 at South Van Marsh, 3 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Van - Bendimahi on 14th June, 6 at Bendimahi, 7 at Bendimahi - Keklikova river, 3 at Ercis - Patnos on 14th June, 3 at Patnos - Tutak, 4 at Agri - Horasan, 1 at Horasan - Erzurum on 14th June, 1 at Kizilirmak, 1 at Samsun - Karacay on 17th June, 1 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara, 1 at Bezirhane on 18th June,

2 at Potanzi - Eregli on 20th June. 1 at Eregli - Karaman on 21st June. 3 at Akseki on 22nd June.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

1 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June. 2 at Halfeti on 11th June, 2 at Tatvan on 12th June, 1 at South Van Marsh, 1 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 singing at Bendimahi, 1 at Ercis - Patnos, 1 at Patnos - Tutak on 14th June, 1 at Kulu on 18th June, 5 seen and 1 heard at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 4 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. 1 8km north of Akseki, 2 8 km south of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*

4 at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus syriacus*

1 at Isikli on 10th June, 2 at Birecik on 11th June.

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*

25 at Tayeli on 11th June, 1 at Idil, 1 at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 3 at North Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 at Bendimahi, 1 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Ardic - Cerkes, 10 at Cerkes on 17th June, 20 at Gölbası - Bezirhane, 40 at Bezirhane, 50 at Kulu on 18th June. 2 at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

**Bimaculated Lark** *Melanocorypha bimaculata*

1 at the Van reservoir, 16 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 2 at Bendimahi, 3 at Bendimahi - Keklikova river on 14th June, 15 at Patnos - Tutak, 15 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June. 1 at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

1 at Tayeli on 11th June, 2 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 4 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Kulu on 18th June. 1 live and 1 dead at Eregli - Karaman on 21st June.

**Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens*

6 at Göksu on 9th June, 10 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 8 at Bendimahi on 14th June, 4 at Bezirhane, 20 at Kulu on 18th June. 20 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

1 heard at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

2 at Sivrikaya on 16th June.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

4 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 10 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 10 plus nest with four eggs at Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

400 + 400 sp. at Göksu on 9th June. Colony near harbour, 1000 at Bendimahi on 14th June.

**Crag Martin** *Hirundo rupestris*

16 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 at Ikizdere on 16th June, 2 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 10 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

3 at Gölbaşı on 18th June.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

1 between Serik and Analya on 8th June, 2 at Göksu, 2 at Demircili, 1 at crossing to Uzuncaburç on 9th June, 2 at Isikli on 10th June. 2 at Halfeti on 11th June. 2 + nest at Cizre - Sirnak, 3 at Sirnak - Siirt (Erhu) on 12th June.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*

1 at Durnalik on 10th June, 2 at the Brown Hills at Van, 3 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, one seen and one heard at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 3 at Bezirhane, 5 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

2 heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 3 at Sivrikaya, 2 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 5 at Sivrikaya, 10 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

15 at Göksu on 9th June, 40 at Bendimahi, 2 at Patnos - Tutak on 14th June, 10 at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 at Bezirhane on 18th June. 3 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. All identified were of race *feldegg*.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

9 at Sivrikaya, 3 at Sivrikaya - Ikizdere on 15th June, 1 at Sivrikaya, pair plus 3 juveniles at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south, 3 Sivrikaya - Ikizdere on 16th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

8 at Birecik on 11th June, 1 at Cizre - Sirnak on 12th June, 2 at Bendimahi - Keklikova river, 1 at Agri - Horasan, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 2 at Sivrikaya - Ikizdere on 15th June, 2 at Sivrikaya on 16th June, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 1 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus xanthopygos*

3 at Alanya on 8th June, 2 at Keslitürkmenli on 9th June. 2 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

2 heard at Sivrikaya, one heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 heard at Sivrikaya on 16th June, 6 heard at Soguksu on 18th June, 1 heard at Demirkazik on 19th June, 5 at Demirkazik on 20th June.



**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*

2 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 11 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Rufous Bush Chat** *Cercotrichas galactotes*

1 at Serik, 1 between Serik and Alanya on 8th June, 9 at Göksu on 9th June, 1 at Isikli on 10th June, 3 at Birecik on 11th June, 15 at Idil, 2 at Cizre, 2 at Cizre - Sirnak on 12th June. 1 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

2 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 10 heard at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

2 at Serik on 8th June, 1 at Birecik on 11th June, 3 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 heard at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 3 at Serik on 22nd June.

**White-throated Robin** *Irania gutturalis*

5 males, 2 females at Isikli on 10th June.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Male at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, male at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, male and juvenile at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 3 males at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 1 at Soguksu, 1 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June, pair with 2 juveniles at Demirkazik on 19th June. 10 adult and two juveniles at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

1 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 3 singing (of which one was of race *samamisisicus*), 15 heard at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

7 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, male at Sivrikaya on 16th June.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Male between Antalya and Serik on 8th June, male at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 4 males, 2 females and four juveniles at the Van Reservoir on 13th June, male at Tutak - Agri on 14th June.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

9 at Birecik - Halfeti, 1 at Viransehir - Kiziltepe on 11th June. 4 at the Van reservoir, 10 at the Brown Hills at Van, 11 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 4 at Agri - Horasan, 2 at Horasan - Erzurum on 14th June, 1 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 2 at Bezirhane, 2 at Kulu on 18th June, 4 at Nidge - Demirkazik, 5 plus nest to which a pair were carrying food at Demirkazik on 19th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 2 at Eregli - Akgöl on 21st June. 10 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June. 5 at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Pair and juvenile at Bendimahi, 9 at Agri - Horasan, 5 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 5 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 15 at Demirkazik on 19th June. 20 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*

1 between Serik and Analya on 8th June, male at Demircili, 10 at crossing to Uzuncaburc on 9th June, 4 males and a female at Isikli on 10th June. 5 at Birecik, male at Birecik - Halfeti on 11th June, 2 males and a female at Halfeti on 11th June. 2 at Idil - Cizre, 3 at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June, 3 males and a female at the Brown Hills at Van, 2 males at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, female at Agri - Horasan on 14th June. 4 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June. 1 8 km south of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Finsch's Wheatear** *Oenanthe finschii*

A male and three juveniles at Idil on 12th June, male at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, 3 males at Demirkazik on 19th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

Male at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, male at Tutak - Agri on 14th June, pair at nest at Sivrikaya on 15th June, male at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 4 males and 3 females at Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*

Pair at Demircili, male at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, male at Isikli on 10th June, 2 males at Demirkazik on 19th June, male at Demirkazik on 20th June. A female at the mosque at Akseki on 22nd June.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

2 seen and one heard at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

3 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 at Isikli on 10th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 heard at Of Ordu on 16th June.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, one heard at Sivrikaya on 16th June, 1 heard at Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 5 heard at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

2 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 3 at Soguksu on 18th June, 4 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

2 at Serik on 8th June, 2 singing at Birecik on 11th June, 1 heard singing at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 1 singing at Tutak - Agri, one heard at Eskipolat, one heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 2 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June. 3 heard at Serik on 22nd June.

**Graceful Prinia** *Prinia gracilis*

2 at Göksu on 9th June.

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*

Song at Göksu on 9th June. 3 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

5 at South Van Marsh on 13th June.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

4 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

2 singing at Göksu on 9th June, 5 at South Van Marsh on 13th June, 1 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

6 singing at Göksu on 9th June, 1 heard singing at Birecik on 11th June, 2 heard singing 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 2 heard singing at South Van Marsh, 1 heard singing at North Van Marsh on 13th June, 5 singing at Bendimahi on 14th June, 6 heard at Kulu on 18th June, 2 heard at Demirkazik - Potanzi on 20th June, 10 heard at Eregli (Bögecik) on 20<sup>th</sup> June. 3 heard at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), 5 heard at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

**Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*

1 at Serik on 8th June, 1 at Göksu on 9th June, 10 at Birecik on 11th June. 5 at Serik on 22nd June.

**Upcher's Warbler** *Hippolais languida*

8 at Isikli, 3 at Durnalik on 10th June.

**Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum*

2 at Serik on 8th June.

**Menetries's Warbler** *Sylvia mystacea*

35 at Birecik, 1 at Halfeti on 11th June.

**Rüppell's Warbler** *Sylvia rueppelli*

Male at Demircili on 9th June. Pair 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia hortensis*

4 at Isikli, 1 at Durnalik on 10th June.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

1 singing plus 3 at Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

1 at Eskipolat on 14th June, 2 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 heard at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Black-cap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

1 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June, one dead at Ikizdere, 1 heard at Ikizdere - Of, 4 at Horpat River on 16th June.

**Green Warbler** *Phylloscopus nitidus*

2 singing at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 singing at 'Rüzgarli' on 16th June.

**Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*

1 singing at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Mountain Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus sindianus*

2 and one heard at Eskipolat, 8 heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 2 heard at Sivrikaya on 16th June.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

1 sp. heard at Samsun - Karacay on 17th June, 5 seen and 5 heard at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

3 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June.

**Semi-collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula semitorquata*

1 female at a park in Erzurum on 14th June.

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

1 seen and several heard calling at Gölbasi on 18th June.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

15 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 2 at Soguksu on 18th June. All of race *tephronata*.

**Sombre Tit** *Parus lugubris*

1 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 at Isikli on 10th June. 1 8 km south of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Singing at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 15 at Soguksu on 18th June. 15 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

1 heard at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 1 at Akseki on 22nd June.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

1 at North Van Marsh on 13th June. 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 2 at Soguksu on 18th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 19th June. 1 at Akseki on 22nd June.

**Krüper's Nuthatch** *Sitta krueperi*

1 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June. 10 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

10 at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Great Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta tephronota*

6,1 at Isikli, 3 at Durnalik on 10th June, 6 at Halfeti on 11th June.

**Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta neumayer*

2 at Demircili on 9th June, 4 at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, 3 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Kizilcahamam on 18th June, 5 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 1 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 1 heard 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria*

1 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*  
1 heard at Sivrikaya on 15th June.

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*  
2 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*  
One heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
1 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 1 singing at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*  
3 at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June. Male at the Van Reservoir on 13th June, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 12 at Kizilirmak, male at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 1 at Nidge - Demirkazik, 1 male at Demirkazik on 19th June, 1 at Demirkazik - Potanzi on 20th June.

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*  
1 between Serik and Analya on 8th June, 3 at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 1 at Karaman - Bozkir on 21st June.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*  
4 at Isikli on 10th June, 3 at Birecik - Halfeti on 11th June, 1 at Cizre - Sirnak, 1 at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June.

**Masked Shrike** *Lanius nubicus*  
2 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*  
6 at crossing to Uzuncaburg, 1 at Keslitürkmenli on 9th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 16th June, 4 at Samsun - Karacay on 17th June, 25 at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*  
1 at Viransehir - Kiziltepe on 11th June, 1 at Sirnak - Siirt, 1 at Tatvan, 4 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü), 2 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 4 at the Brown Hills at Van, 1 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 1 at Van - Bendimahi, 1 at Horasan - Erzurum, 11 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 2 at Ardic - Cerkes on 17th June, 3 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara on 18th June.

**Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus*  
2 10 km before Bitlis (Baykan - Tatvan) on 12th June, 10 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 7 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
30 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 20 at Demirkazik on 20th June. 20 sp. at Sirnak - Siirt on 12th June.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*  
5 at Hancagiz Baraji on 10th June, 2 at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

1 at the Van reservoir on 13th June, 2 at Van - Bendimahi on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 300 at Kulu on 18th June.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

50 at Horpat River on 16th June.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

1 at Demircili on 9th June, 5 at Patnos - Tutak, 1 at Tutak - Agri on 14th June, 4 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 at Ikizdere on 16th June. 2 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

10 at Birecik, (west shore) on 10th June, 3 at Birecik on 11th June, 200 at North Van Marsh on 13th June.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

18 at Bendimahi, 1 at Bendimahi - Keklikova river, 5 at Ercis - Patnos on 14th June.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*

Male at Serik, male at Alanya on 8th June, 2 males at Göksu on 9th June. 20 breeding in a White Stork nest together with House Sparrows in Tatliukuyu on 21st June. Male at Bozkir - Beysehır on 21st June. 1 at Akseki, 1 singing 8 km south of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Dead Sea Sparrow** *Passer moabiticus*

Two males and two females at Birecik on 11th June, 10 at Halfeti on 11th June.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

1 at Cerkes on 17th June, 2 at Nidge - Demirkazik, 4 at Demirkazik on 19th June. 1 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik) on 21st June.

**Yellow-throated Sparrow** *Petronia xanthocollis*

1 at Birecik, 5 at Halfeti on 11th June, 5 at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June.

**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia*

5 at Isikli on 10th June, 5 at Birecik, 6 at Halfeti on 11th June, 8 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 6 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 5 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Snowfinch** *Montifringilla nivalis*

2 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 2 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, pair at nest at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 70 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 50 plus three nests at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

2 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 heard singing at Baykan - Tatvan on 12th June, 3 males at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 1 heard at Sivrikaya on 16th June, 1 heard at Kizilirmak on 17th June, 20 at Soguksu on 18th June. 5 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus*

10 adult at Demirkazik on 19th June, 20 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*

1 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June, 20 at Soguksu on 18th June. 5 8km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

4 at Isikli, 4 at Durnalik on 10th June, heard singing at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June, 2 at Agri - Horasan, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 at Kizilcahamam - Ankara on 18th June, 8 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 3 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

1 at Sivrikaya - 13km to the south on 16th June.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

50 at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Crimson-winged Finch** *Rhodopechys sanguinea*

4 at Demirkazik on 19th June, 5 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Desert Finch** *Rhodospiza obsoleta*

2 at Isikli on 10th June.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

1 singing at South Van Marsh on 13th June, one heard at Eskipolat, 7 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 30 at Sivrikaya on 15th June.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

1 at Soguksu on 18th June.

**Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*

1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 at Sivrikaya on 15th June, 3 at Soguksu on 18th June, 2 at Demirkazik on 20th June.

**Cinereous Bunting** *Emberiza cineracea*

3 + 4 pullus (in nest) at Isikli, 5 at Durnalik on 10th June, 1 at Birecik on 11th June.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

1 at Tutak - Agri, 1 at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 5 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June.

**Grey-necked Bunting** *Emberiza buchanani*

10 at the Brown Hills at Van on 13th June.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting** *Emberiza caesia*

15 at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 1 at Isikli, 2 singing at Durnalik on 10th June. 4 plus a juvenile 2.2 km north of Akseki on 22nd June.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

5 at Van South Marsh on 13th June.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*

2 males at crossing to Uzuncaburg on 9th June, 20 at Isikli on 10th June, 11 at Tatvan - 50 km west of Van (Göründü) on 12th June, 11 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 6 at Agri - Horasan on 14th June, 12 at Bezirhane on 18th June.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

2 at Idil on 12th June, 1 at the Van Reservoir, 3 at Ercek Gölü on 13th June, 10 at Bendimahi, 10 at Patnos - Tutak, 4 heard at Eskipolat - Ispir on 14th June, 1 heard at Of - Ordu on 16th June, 7 at Kizilirmak, 1 heard at Samsun - Karacay on 17th June, 1 near Karacay, 5 at Cerkes, 20 at Cerkes - Kizilcahamam on 17th June, 11 at Bezirhane on 18th June, 3 seen and two heard at Nidge - Demirkazik on 19th June. 7 at Eregli (Tatliukuyu - Bögecik), 1 at Sugela Gölü on 21st June.

– *sp.* denotes unidentified species.