



*The brilliant (Turkish) Brown Fish Owl was the overall star of the show! (Pete Morris)*

# CYPRUS & SOUTHERN TURKEY

**1 – 13 MAY 2019**

**LEADER: PETE MORRIS**

Well it had been a while... Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Turkey, and indeed Cyprus, were two of my favourite spring birding destinations. Guaranteed great weather, great food and superb birding! So after a long gap, I was pleased and excited to be returning. The great news was that not too much had changed! The roads have improved massively, the cities got a little bigger, you no longer have to walk up Demirkazik (you can go up in a 4WD!!) and our bird of the trip, Turkish Brown Fish Owl, has become available. The people are as friendly and welcoming as ever, and overall, it's still a fabulous birding destination. In our week and a half of pottering around we found just about all of the east Mediterranean species that we had hoped for, recording a total of 220 or so species and had a brilliant time to boot. It was worth the wait! The highlights of our tour were many and varied. On Cyprus we enjoyed great views of the three endemics (Cyprus Scops Owl, Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear), and enjoyed a number of other great species including Bonelli's Eagle, Little Crake, Black Francolin, Spectacled Warbler, Collared Flycatcher, Masked and Lesser Grey Shrikes and wonderful Black-headed Buntings. On mainland Turkey, another set of species entertained. Top of the billing was



*The cracking Cyprus Scops Owl showed well a couple of times during our visit (Pete Morris)*

the superb Turkish Brown Fish Owl, but other great birds included Caspian Snowcock, the rare White-backed Woodpecker, Upcher's, Olive-tree and Rüppell's Warblers, Kurdish and Finsch's Wheatears, White-throated Robin, Wallcreeper, Krüper's Nuthatch, Asian Crimson-winged Finch, Western and Eastern Cinereous Buntings, and the gorgeous Cretzschmar's Bunting. And that's just to name a few!

We began in Cyprus, at Ercan airport, just on the northern (Turkish) side of the island, from where we made the short transfer to our base for the next few nights, on the outskirts of Girne, arriving just at dusk, too late for any birding that day... Or was it! After dinner we headed out locally, and fairly soon thereafter had a fine Cyprus Scops Owl fixed in the spotlight beam! Not a bad way to begin the tour!! After enjoying fantastic views we headed to our comfortable rooms.

We had three full days to explore the northern half of the island, and during the period we enjoyed largely fine weather. The lovely weather, made it a pleasant all round experience, but was not conducive to big numbers of migrants! During our time we explored several productive wetlands, both the northeast and northwest capes, and the more hilly areas further inland. We also explored areas just close to the hotel, where we soon found the remaining endemics with both the attractive Cyprus Warbler and the interesting Cyprus Wheatear putting in several great showings both here and at various points on the island. A couple of real stunners.

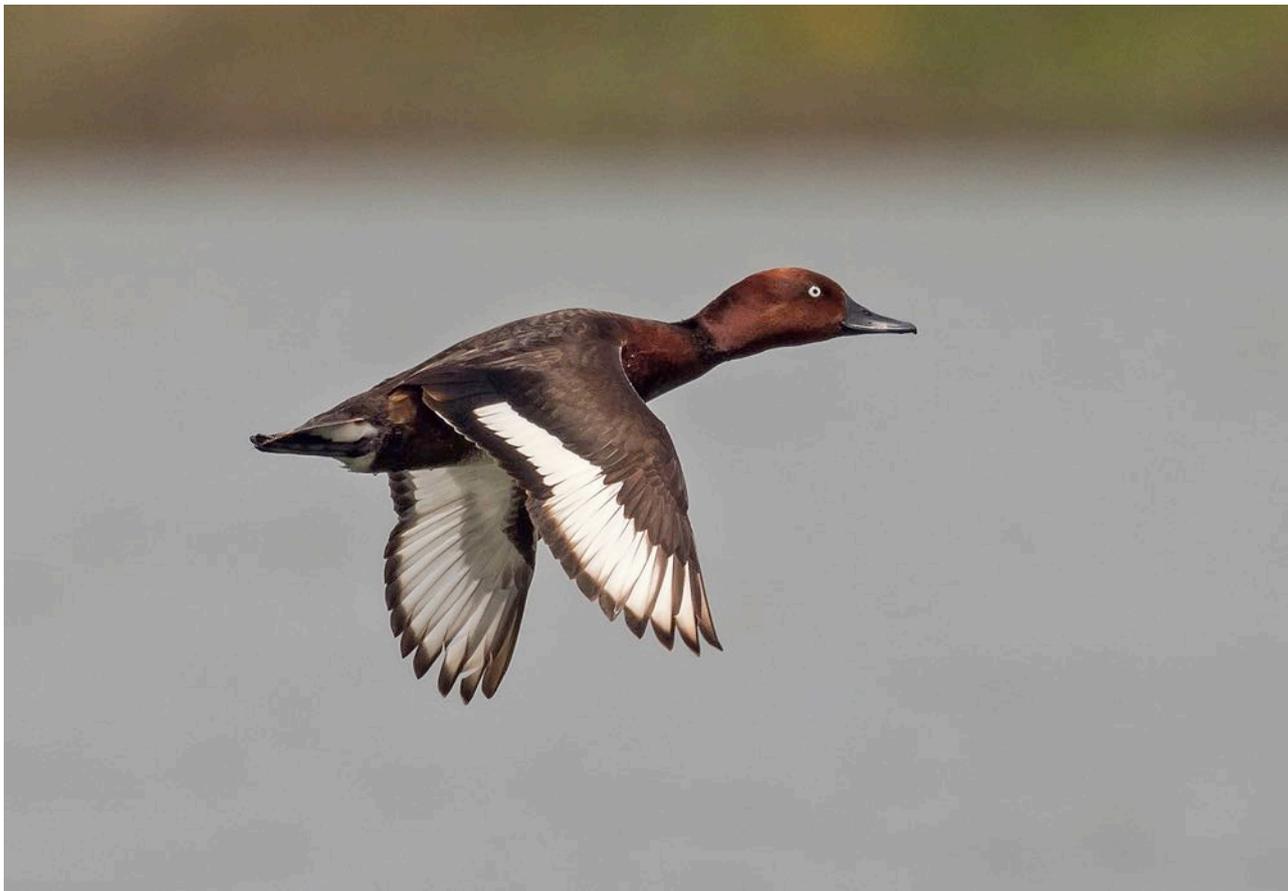
Often at this time of year, many of the wetlands are already drying out, and it can be tough to find much suitable habitat for waterbirds. This year however, following a rather long, cold and wet winter, every water body was full! Well, not just full, they were completely overflowing! We tried several areas and found a number of goodies! Little Crake was one of the stars, with a couple of males showing well close to our hotel, at a site where we also enjoyed scope views of a most surprising Eurasian Bittern. A number of heron species were seen



*Cyprus's other endemics... the cracking Cyprus Warbler and Cyprus Wheatear (Pete Morris)*



during our wanderings including several fine Little Bitterns, Black-crowned Night Herons, smart Squacco Herons and a pristine Purple Heron, and we also found good numbers of Glossy Ibis and a group of Greater Flamingos. Some lovely breeding Black-necked Grebes were much appreciated and were joined on the water by several dapper Garganeys, gaudy Red-crested Pochards and smart Ferruginous Ducks. A number of shorebirds were also present. Noisy Black-winged Stilts and Spur-winged Plovers defended their territories, and on one memorable evening we found a flooded field populated with huge numbers of waders including hundreds of Ruff, Wood Sandpipers and Little Stints as well as smaller numbers of Curlew Sandpipers, Spotted Redshanks, Common Greenshanks and a fine Marsh Sandpiper. Nearby we found a few Collared Pratincoles, that were joined by a few Whiskered and White-winged Terns. We also scrutinized flocks of Yellow-legged Gulls, finding the odd Caspian Gull amongst them. Around the margins of the wetlands we also found a few Caspian Reed Warblers.



*Ferruginous Ducks were seen well at a number of sites (Pete Morris)*

We spent some time in the hills too. Unlike the Troodos Mountains in Southern Cyprus, there is little that reaches lofty altitudes in the north. As a result, the few Cyprus montane endemic subspecies seem to be largely absent from the north, and our explorations only added weight to this theory! Other than a few Common Chaffinches, Great Tits and Spotted Flycatchers, there was little to see, though we did find another lovely Cyprus Scops Owl on its day roost!

Out at the headlands, we searched for seabirds, but other than a couple of Scopoli's Shearwaters, European Shags, the odd distant Audouin's Gull, and imposing Peregrines, little was doing! Otherwise, we spent much of our time looking, largely in coastal areas, for a few interesting breeding birds and what migrants we could find, and came up with a mouth-watering list! In the open areas we found several smart Black Francolins as well as more subtle Chukars, a couple of skittish Eurasian Stone-curlews and Crested Larks, whilst overhead we noticed good numbers of European Bee-eaters, several Red-rumped Swallows, a few Western Marsh Harriers, a Eurasian Hobby and a nice surprise in the form of a fine juvenile Bonelli's Eagle. Some cliffs held a Blue Rock Thrush and a colony of Alpine Swifts, and other residents included a (Lilith) Little Owl, stunning Masked Shrikes, subtle but showy Eastern Olivaceous Warblers and Sardinian Warbler, a species that is apparently displacing the endemic Cyprus Warbler from some of its breeding haunts. Small numbers of European Turtle Doves were passing through, a few European Rollers decorated the power lines, and bushes held delightful



A few more goodies from Cyprus, clockwise from top left: European Bee-eater, a juvenile Bonelli's Eagle, a first summer male Collared Flycatcher, a fine male Spectacled Warbler and an immaculate Red-throated Pipit (all Pete Morris), and a Spanish Sparrow (Roger Staples)



Red-backed, Lesser Grey and Woodchat Shrikes. Large flocks of Spanish Sparrows hid a few Black-headed Buntings amongst their ranks, the fields held occasional flocks of Blue-headed and Black-headed Wagtails that were joined by a couple of Red-throated Pipits, and other favourites included some smart Barred Warblers, a fine male and an interesting female Collared Flycatcher, pristine Ortolan Buntings, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Wood Warbler and a few European Serins.



*A showy Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (Pete Morris)*

We'd had a great stay in our pleasant and friendly hotel, and pretty much seen all of what we had hoped to see. After an early rise, we were up and checking in for our flight across to Izmir. We found our new van, and headed north for a recently planned visit to an area of vegetated hills. We arrived at lunchtime, but it was not all plain sailing! The weather was looking a little dodgy, the road was cut by some workers putting in a new culvert, and the officials were not keen on us visiting the area because of the windfarm on top of the hill. Some careful negotiations followed, lots of sign language smiles and handshakes, and we were off. The culvert repaired, we made our way up the hill. Sadly, this coincided with a dramatic downturn in the weather. We were now in a gale where we could barely stand up! Consequently, the birding was not too great, and the few birds we did see were not easy to watch – a few Black-eared Wheatears was probably the highlight. It was an easy decision to throw the towel in, and we made our way back down under darkening skies. The rest of the day was spent driving to Pamukkale, and it was a good afternoon to be driving as the weather was particularly foul!



*The wonderful UNESCO site of Pamukkale (Pete Morris)*



*The travertine terraces and the amphitheatre from the ancient city of Hierapolis at Pamukkale's superb World Heritage Site (Pete Morris)*





*Western Cinereous Bunting from Pamukkale (above) and an Eastern Cinereous Bunting from Isikli. Two very different animals! (Pete Morris)*



Fortunately we awoke to much improved conditions, even if the ground was somewhat wet. We headed out on a pre-breakfast excursion to some adjacent habitat, and this proved to be a brilliant session! It was all about the buntings really, as we studied one after another, cracking Black-headed Buntings, singing Cretzschmar's Buntings and the much-wanted white-bellied Western Cinereous Bunting! The latter was our main target for the area, so we were well-pleased! Also here was a fine Cirl Bunting and Western Rock Nuthatches, but as the sightseeing hot-air balloons rose-up and hordes of tourist buses thundered in, we headed for breakfast.

We may not have consisted of a group of total culture vultures, but we were not going to miss out on a visit to the cultural sites at Pamukkale, and after breakfast we spent a couple of lovely hours wondering around the area. Pamukkale, means "cotton castle" in Turkish and is famous for the amazing white travertine cascades that resemble frozen waterfalls, and terraces of shallow pools that were created by the waters of thermal



*A confiding Western Rock Nuthatch from Pamukkale (Pete Morris)*

springs reacting with the air. Its allure was first noticed by the Romans and the magnificent Hierapolis ancient city was established near the travertine by them. The unique travertine terraces and the ancient ruins have lead to the site being enlisted by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. As well as the scenic and historic wonders, there were of course a few birds too, and in wonderful scenery, our first Finsch's Wheatears were spotted, and tame Western Rock Nuthatches obliged.

After a rewilding morning, we moved on, but rather than take the direct route, we decided to make a detour past a few additional wetland areas. The landscape was soon changing, and before too long we were out into some salt plains where Isabelline Wheatears suddenly became common! As soon as we reached some attractive hillsides we paused once more. Cretzschmar's Buntings again serenaded us, and soon we were watching charming White-throated Robins in all their glory. We were then equally excited to get some brilliant views of the stunning Rüppell's Warbler, while a Short-oe'd Eagle hovered above us! Birding in Turkey really is that good! We continued on and once we found water, more birds were present in numbers. Ruddy Shelducks,



*An impressive male Rüppell's Warbler (Pete Morris)*

Slender-billed Gulls, and terns lined the edges, and Great Reed Warblers chortled away from every ditch. Time was flying and we had to keep moving! We had time to have a quick look round another productive wetland where good numbers of waterbirds were present including Eurasian Spoonbills, another Eurasian Bittern, a good variety of herons, smart White-winged Terns, Cetti's and Caspian Reed Warblers and our first Bearded Reedlings, and as we were leaving, we found another Eurasian Golden Oriole. The rest of the day was spent getting ourselves to the pleasant coastal town of Side.

We were again up early the following morning, this time heading to the famous Oymapinar Dam. We were soon boarding a boat, big enough for the inhabitants of a small village, and heading out to a couple of canyons. At the first we drew a blank, but at the second we struck gold! A magnificent (Turkish) Brown Fish Owl was staring down at us from the cliffs as our smiles radiated back to him! We spent some time watching this highly desired giant, a truly fantastic specimen! Not much else was present, though it was interesting to see a nominate Lesser Black-backed Gull in with the Yellow-legged Gulls, and some Crag Martins as we left. After a great start to the day, we headed back to the hotel for breakfast.



*The deep canyons around the Oymapinar Dam are home to the rare Turkish Brown Fish Owl (Pete Morris)*





A few highlights from the Akseki area... an Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, a male Middle Spotted Woodpecker and a fine Masked Shrike (Pete Morris)



We then decided to head up into the picturesque hills, near to the town of Akseki, and paused at some wonderful olive groves. As soon as we parked the vehicle, the songs of Eastern Bonelli's Warblers buzzed through the air, and very soon we were watching this localized speciality which performed virtually alongside another cracker, the superb Krüper's Nuthatch. We then embarked on a meandering walk through the habitat. Many of our familiar friends were present and it didn't take too long to track down our big target, the impressive Olive-tree Warbler, and with just a little persuasion, we gained some first class views! Also here were a fabulous pair of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers and some smart Masked Shrikes. After a pause for lunch we added a pair of Sombre Tits to our excellent list of special birds and then headed for the coast. It was pretty quiet on the coast, but we focused our attention on a couple of new species for the trip, successfully adding both Graceful Prinia and a very smart Rufous Scrub Robin. It had been another tremendous day!

We decided to head for Akseki's pine forests early, the following morning and arrived under gorgeous blue skies. There was one snag though... It was blimmin' freezing!! Fresh snow was lying, and I soon realized we needed to chase the first rays of the sun, which we did! We had the difficult task of finding the rare *lilfordi* form of White-backed Woodpecker, and to be honest I wasn't too optimistic, but amazingly, soon after we began our search, we got some great looks at a female, and later, stunning views of a male. This really was good news! Goldcrests, Coal Tits and Krüper's Nuthatches were common and we also found European Green Woodpeck-



*The pair of 'Lilford's' White-backed Woodpeckers from Akseki, and the scenes that greeted us early that morning! (Pete Morris)*



er and the delightful (Ehrenberg's) Common Redstart. We spent the rest of the morning exploring some other nice areas and admiring the scenery. Not much new was found, but we enjoyed some fine Red-fronted Serins, Rock Buntings, and a variety of other by now familiar species. We returned to Akseki for a fine lunch, and then headed out once more. Our first major find was a daytime Eurasian Scops Owl, avoiding the attention of the local form of Eurasian Jay. The hillsides yielded more smart Cretzschmar's Buntings and a few other bits and bobs, but nothing to write home about, so we headed back for tea, and a quick look at White-spectacled Bulbuls!

It was once more time to move, and we had a long drive to Nigde to make. Our first few stops were scenic but not too productive, but after a while we found an area that kept us better entertained. Here we first enjoyed great views of a confiding Long-legged Buzzard and followed this with numerous Greater Short-toed Larks,



*This fine Long-legged Buzzard and amazing Great Spotted Cuckoo brightened our journey! (Pete Morris)*



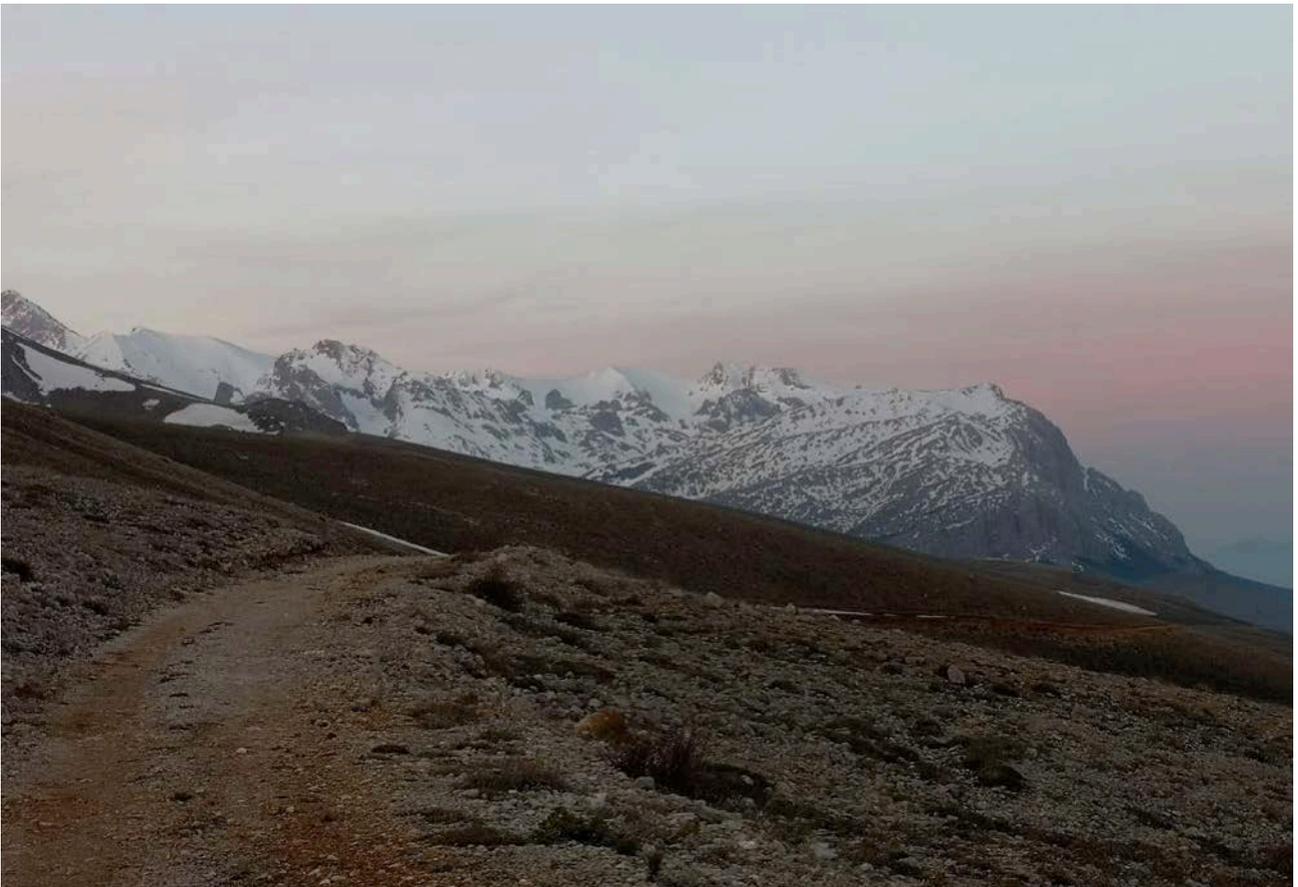
and then a couple of stunning pairs of Finsch's Wheatears, much to the relief of those that were in culture vulture mode at Pamukkale. These beauties entertained us for a while, as did a nearby Great Spotted Cuckoo which gave us some great looks. Continuing on we paused for a fine lunch before an unexpected hitch. Despite owning a diesel car, AdBlue was not something we were familiar with, so when the van decided it could not go any faster than 20km/h, and the warning message flashed up AdBlue, we were a bit stumped!! Thankfully a few phone calls and a crawl down the motorway later, we were back in business!

We did a little birding that afternoon around Nigde, but despite the great help of my friend, we drew an almost complete blank. We couldn't give it too long as we had an early start the following day! And it was horribly early! We stopped on the way to admire a hedgehog before transferring vehicles and heading up the mountain. Certainly less effort than the old days when we used to walk up Demirkazik, and far easier to arrive nice and early!



*The gorgeous Finsch's Wheatear showed well a few times and was a firm group favourite! Below, a fine Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (Pete Morris)*





*Early morning at Demirkazik, and Radde's Accentor, one of our top birds there (Pete Morris)*





*More wildlife from Demirkazik: Alpine Accentor; White-winged Snowfinch; a distant Caspian Snowcock; distant Bezoars and a stunning male Common Rock Thrush (Pete Morris)*



Some residual snow blocked us just before the top, but it was a fairly level and easy walk to where we were aiming for. The weather was lovely, the views astounding and the temperatures a little on the cool side! Soon we were hearing the curlew-like calls of the Caspian Snowcocks and before too long we had several of these stunners posing in the scope, albeit a little distantly! Plenty of other smart birds were on offer too, and these included the much wanted Radde's Accentor, as well as fine Alpine Accentors and White-winged Snowfinches, Water Pipits, Red-billed and Alpine Choughs, delightful Horned Larks, several lovely Black Redstarts, a pair of Ring Ouzels, colourful Common Rock Thrushes, and more brilliant Finsch's Wheatears. We also noted numerous Bezoar (Persian Ibex) clambering around on the mountain slopes! Heading down we found a few more interesting birds including a fine Golden Eagle, a pair of Barred Warblers and our first Rock Sparrow. We also explored a nearby gully where we eventually found two stunning Wallcreepers. We still had a couple to find though, and despite much effort, only managed Calandra Lark (rather than the hoped-for Bimaculated) and flyover Asian Crimson-winged Finches. Nevertheless, it had been a brilliant day, and we returned to our hotel tired but happy. The quest for beer that evening took a little longer than anticipated, but all else was good.



*A comparison of two special larks! Calandra Lark (above) and the localized Bimaculated Lark (Pete Morris)*

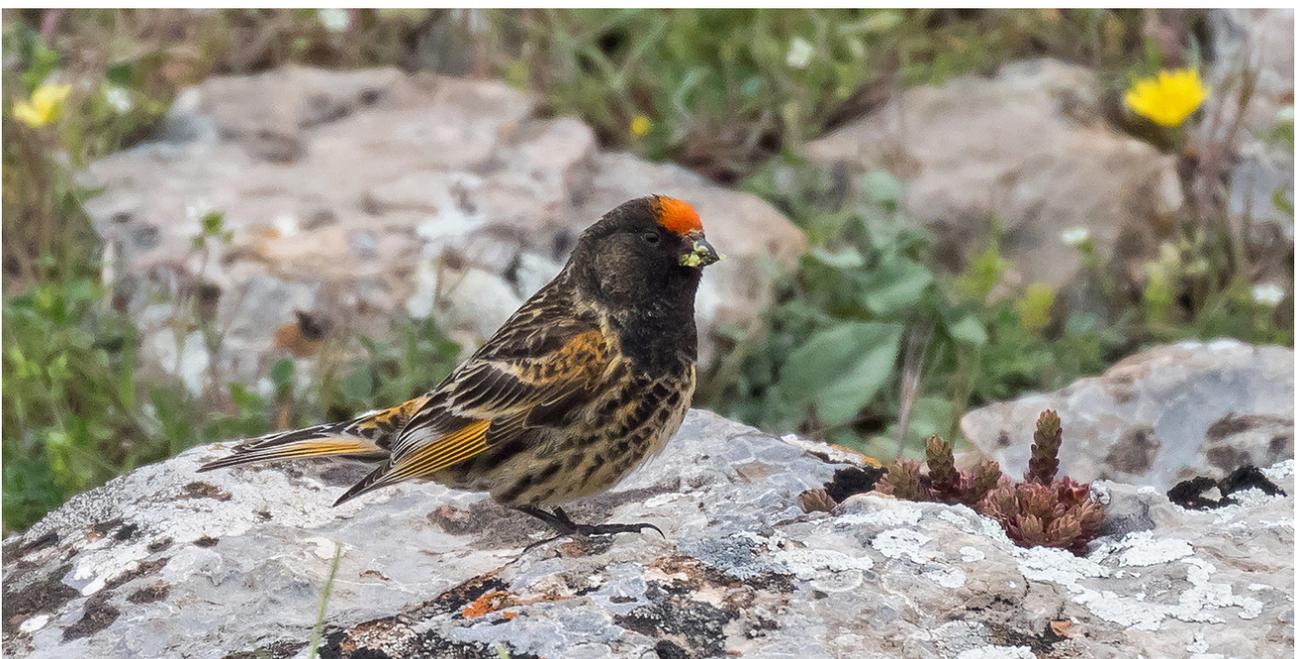




*This drake White-headed Duck showed brilliantly at Sultan Sasligi (Pete Morris)*

The following morning we headed to the excellent Sultan Sasligi marshes. We began on some plains that were covered in Lesser Short-toed Larks, and here, we eventually found a pair of the hoped-for Greater Sand Plover. We then went birding on an excellent boardwalk, seeking out a few more goodies. Here, a couple of *mimicus* Moustached Warblers showed very well, as did more Bearded Reedlings and a Savi's Warbler. The bill on the local form of Reed Bunting needed to be seen to be believed, and we enjoyed some great experiences with White-headed Ducks.

But we still had a long way to go... Our first stop soon saw us watching the hoped-for Bimaculated Lark as well as more delightful Black-headed Buntings. We then took a road up to high altitude, looking unsuccessfully for the missing finch! Again we drew a blank, though witnessed some great scenery and enjoyed a number of great but already-seen birds such as White-throated Robins, Red-fronted Serins and Radde's Accentors, not to mention the copious numbers of European Ground Squirrels.



*The delightful Red-fronted Serin showed well on a number of occasions (Pete Morris)*

Slightly dejected we retraced our steps and made the long journey to Gaziantep. We decided to take the short, rather than the fast route, and this proved to be interesting. The roads were surprisingly small and rural, and we were worried we might never make it! But all of this paled into insignificance when a flock of birds flipped up from the roadside. We ground to a halt and there they were... the much wanted Asian Crimson-winged Finch! We enjoyed them for a while and watched them drinking alongside Ortolan Buntings. Now that's what you call a last minute save! We arrived in Gaziantep just after dark, and found our hotel.

The following day, we explored some low hills near to Gaziantep. At the first spot we set off and soon found singing Upcher's Warblers, the first of our targets in the area. Gorgeous eastern Cinereous Buntings showed brilliantly, and we were delighted to find both the hoped for Eastern and Western Rock Nuthatches side by side. Bimaculated Larks displayed and showed well, and, after scouring numerous wheatears, only finding more Black-eared and Finsch's Wheatears, we eventually found a fine Kurdish Wheatear, our major target for the area. Other species noted during the day included Syrian Woodpeckers, plenty of lovely Woodchat Shrikes, more Sombre Tits, more smart Eastern Orphean Warblers and Tawny Pipit.

We had one final look for Pale Rockfinch on the last morning, but it was apparent that they were more than likely not yet in. We enjoyed our old friends again, and found more Rock Sparrows and an interesting pale variant White-throated Robin that gave us something different to admire. It was then time to head for Adana for the conclusion of the tour. But, with a little time on our hands, we were not done yet! We headed for a river where very soon we were watching the smart White-throated Kingfisher. It was really warming up now, and pleased with our final addition to the list, we headed to the airport. But there was one last sting in the tail! Heading in to Adana, a Pygmy Cormorant flew over, and as luck would have it, we were able to pull over and stick a small group in the scope!!

It had been a brilliant trip, one where the birds really did never stop coming, right up until the final moments! We did really well, and thanks to a great group, we had a lot of fun. I loved being back in that part of the world, and hope my next visit comes around a little quicker than my last wait!!



*The stunning Black-headed Bunting was common and widespread (Pete Morris)*



*The fantastic Asian Crimson-winged Finch provided perhaps the most exciting moment of the tour! (Pete Morris)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**(EW)** = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2018. IOC World Bird List (v 9.1)**. This list is updated twice annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra ([www.igoterra.com](http://www.igoterra.com)) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* One seen at Sultan Sazligi [*rubrirostris*].

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* First seen at Acigol, on the journey to Side.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* Good numbers at Acigol and at Kus Gozlemciligi on the journey to Side.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* Quite a few on Cyprus and seen at a couple of spots in Turkey.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* Seen at several wetlands on Cyprus.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* A few seen at the excellent Kukla (Kuprulu) Wetlands on Cyprus [nominate].

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Seen at several wetlands in Cyprus and Turkey [nominate].

**Eurasian Teal** *Anas crecca* Three seen at Haspolat Water Treatment Works and two at Akkaya Baraj Golu in Nigde.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* Two drakes on Cyprus and several seen well in Turkey.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* (VU) 3+ drakes at Kukla Wetlands and several at Sultan Sazligi.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* (NT) Seen well at several wetlands on Cyprus and at Sultan Sazligi.

**White-headed Duck** ◊ *Oxyura leucocephala* (EN) Great views of two comical drakes at Sultan Sazligi.

**Caspian Snowcock** ◊ *Tetraogallus caspius* Good scope views of 4+ high up at Demirkazik [*tauricus*].

**Chukar Partridge** *Alectoris chukar* At least two forms seen: *cypristes* in Cyprus; *kurdestanica* at Demirkazik.

**Black Francolin** *Francolinus francolinus* Great views of several on Cyprus, especially on the Karpaz [nominate].

**Scopoli's Shearwater** ◊ *Calonectris diomedea* Reasonable views of two off Cape Zafer on the Karpaz Peninsula.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Two forms: *albescens* in Turkey, nominate on Cyprus.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Seen at Kukla (Kuprulu) Wetlands and at Acigol.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Great views at two sites on Cyprus [nominate].

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* c50 at Kukla Wetlands and a few at Acigol, on the way to Side.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* Two seen over Akkaya Baraj Golu in Nigde.

**European White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* First seen on the drive to Pamukkale [nominate].

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Best were the 175+ at the excellent Kukla (Kuprulu) Wetlands.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* c10 at Kus Gozlemciligi and c15 at Sultan Sazligi [nominate].

**Eurasian Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris* Great views of one stood in a field on Cyprus and another in flight in Turkey [nominate].

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* Plenty on Cyprus, with up to 5 showing well near Girne, and just one in Turkey.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Plenty seen well on Cyprus [nominate].

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* Good numbers seen well on both Turkey and Cyprus



A fine Squacco Heron and a breeding-plumaged Black-necked Grebe from Cyprus (Pete Morris)

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Small numbers seen at scattered sites in both Cyprus and Turkey.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Good numbers seen at several wetlands [nominate].

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Just one on Cyprus but good numbers on Turkey [nominate].

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* One seen at Kus Gozlemciligi (near Lake Burdur), on the journey to Side. A few others noted.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Small numbers at several wetlands in both Cyprus and Turkey [nominate].

**Pygmy Cormorant** ◊ *Microcarbo pygmaeus* Four on the Seyhan River in Adana. A pleasant last minute surprise!

**European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* One off Cape Kormakitis and several off the Karpaz Peninsula [*desmarestii*].

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* First seen at Oymapinar Baraji, northeast of Manavgat [*sinensis*].

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* One seen in the hills south of Akseki.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* First seen in the scrubby hillsides near Acigol. A few others noted [nominate].

**Greater Spotted Eagle** *Clanga clanga* A bird thought to be this species photographed distantly over Sultan Sazligi.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* A few seen, the first on the drive to Nigde.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* Good views of an adult carrying nesting material high up at Demirkazik [*homeyeri*].

**Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciata* Good views of a juvenile at the base of the Kormakitis Peninsula [nominate].

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* Several seen at scattered wetlands on Cyprus and in Turkey [nominate].

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Just two seen with best views of the one at Isikli [nominate].

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* Good views of several on the high plateau in Turkey [nominate].

**Common Buzzard (Steppe B)** *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* Several seen well, especially in the Akseki area.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Heard, and two seen briefly, at Sultan Sazligi [nominate].

**Little Crake** *Porzana parva* Great views of two males near to Girne on Cyprus and a female at Sultan Sazligi.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Common at several wetlands [nominate].

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* Seen at several wetlands [nominate].

**Eurasian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedichenus* Two seen next to Cape Kormakitis [*saharae*].

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Good numbers at several wetlands.

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* A few seen at Acigol, on the journey to Side.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* (NT) Small numbers seen at several wetlands.

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* Plenty on Cyprus and few seen in Turkey.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Just one in the flooded fields near the Kukla Wetlands [*tundrae*].

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* (NL) One near to Demirkazik.

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Two males seen on the salt flats at Sultan Sazligi [nominate].

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* Nice views of a smart pair at Sultan Sazligi [*columbinus*].



*The breeding Greater Sand Plovers took some tracking down! (Pete Morris)*

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* One in summer plumage at Kukla Wetlands and 4 at Sultan Sazligi (nominate).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* 300+ in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands and a few seen at Sultan Sazligi.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* 10+ in cracking breeding plumage in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Great views of a summer plumaged adult at Sultan Sazligi.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Biggest numbers were the 50+ in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* A few seen at scattered sites on Cyprus and in Turkey.



This smart White-throated Kingfisher was one of our final birds of the tour. The attractive Bearded Reedling was seen very well (Pete Morris)

- Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*** One seen in the flooded fields north of the excellent Kukla Wetlands.
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*** Good views of one in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands.
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*** Plenty seen including 500+ in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands.
- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*** Two in summer plumage in the flooded fields near Kukla Wetlands.
- Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*** Three at Haspolat Water Treatment Works and a few at Kukla Wetlands.
- Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*** 3+ at the back Kukla Wetlands and a couple seen in flight at Sultan Sazligi.
- Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*** Quite a few scoped on the shores of Acigol, on the journey to Side.
- Audouin's Gull** ♦ *Ichthyaeetus audouinii* One seen off Cape Zafer on the Kormakitis Peninsula.
- Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*** A couple of typical 2cy birds seen in a flock of Yellow-legged Gulls on Cyprus.
- Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*** Plenty seen well throughout [nominate].
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic G) *Larus [fuscus] fuscus*** See note.
- Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*** A few scoped on the shores of Acigol, on the journey to Side [nominate].
- Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*** Good numbers scoped on the shores of Acigol, on the journey to Side [nominate].
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*** A few on Acigol and a few off the mouth of the Manavgat River [nominate].
- Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*** Small numbers on Cyprus and at Sultan Sazligi [nominate].
- White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*** A flock of c10 in summer plumage at Kukla Wetlands; more in Turkey.
- Rock Dove *Columba livia*** Some apparently wild birds seen on the Karpaz Peninsula and at Demirkazik etc [nominate].
- Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba [livia] 'feral'*** Widespread.
- Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*** Common and widespread on Cyprus [nominate].
- European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*** A few on Cyprus and just one seen and two heard in Turkey [nominate].
- Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*** Common and widespread [nominate].
- Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*** One on Cyprus was a surprise. Common in Turkey [nominate].
- Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*** Great views of one at Meke Maar, and another seen at Cukurbarg.
- Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*** A few seen, the first in the scrubby hillsides near to Acigol [nominate].
- Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*** Brilliant views of one in the daytime at Akseki [*cycladum*].
- Cyprus Scops Owl** ♦ *Otus cyprius* Great views both at night and during the daytime on Cyprus.
- Brown Fish Owl** ♦ (Turkish B F O) *Ketupa [zeylonensis] semenowi* A real stunner and the highlight of the trip!
- Little Owl (Lilith O) *Athene [noctua] lilith*** One seen well on Cyprus, and another (this form?) near Yahyali.
- Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*** c10 seen flying over the cliffs at the base of the Karpaz Peninsula.
- Common Swift *Apus apus*** Pretty common and widespread.



*Two more smart owls! European Scops Owl from Akseki and the 'Lilith' form of Little Owl from Cyprus (Pete Morris)*



**European Roller** *Coracias garrulus* c6 seen in total on Cyprus with some good views [nominate]  
**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* One hovering over the Karpaz Peninsula was a surprise [*syriacus*].  
**White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis* Great views of one or two south of Adana [nominate].  
**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Good numbers of migrants on Cyprus, smaller numbers on Turkey.  
**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Three or four on Cyprus, and good numbers in Turkey.  
**Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocoptes medius* Great views of a shy pair near Akseki [*anatoliae*].  
**Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos syriacus* Seen a few times with best looks around Isikli [nominate].  
**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Just one at the windfarm hill north of Izmir [*major-group*].  
**White-backed Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos leucotos* Brilliant views of a pair in the pine forests near Akseki [*ilfordi*].  
**European Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* A few seen and heard in the pine forests near Akseki [*karelini*].  
**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Small numbers throughout [nominate].  
**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* A single seen on the Kormakitis Peninsula [nominate].  
**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Seen around Cape Zafer on the Karpaz Peninsula and at Demirkazik [*brookei*].  
**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* Several seen well on Cyprus and in Turkey.  
**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* A couple of fine males seen very well on Cyprus and another at Sultan Sazligi.  
**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* A few on Cyprus. Common around Isikli and Durnalik [*noticus* mostly?].  
**Masked Shrike** ◊ *Lanius nubicus* Great views of three on the Cyprus and several more around Akseki.



Woodchat Shrike (Roger Staples) and a fine Lesser Grey Shrike (Pete Morris)

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* A single male on Cyprus and a female in Turkey.  
**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* Plenty seen, and especially common around Akseki [*anatoliae*].  
**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* Pretty common and widespread [nominate].  
**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Plenty seen well around Demirkazik and Yahyali [*docilis*].  
**Alpine Chough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus* Seen well around Demirkazik and Yahyali [*digitatus*].  
**Western Jackdaw (Eurasian J)** *Coloeus monedula* Common and widespread on Cyprus, a few in Turkey [*soemmerringii*].  
**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* Mostly seen in the Eregli and Nigde areas [nominate].  
**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* Common and widespread [*pallescens*].  
**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax* Small numbers, especially in the Akseki area [*laurencei*].  
**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater* Plenty seen around Akseki [nominate].  
**Sombre Tit** ◊ *Poecile lugubris* First seen at sites around Akseki; also at Isikli and Durnalik [*anatoliae*].  
**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* A few seen, first at the windfarm north of Izmir [nominate].  
**Great Tit** *Parus major* Two forms seen: *aphrodite* endemic to Cyprus and nominate in Turkey.  
**Bearded Reedling (B Tit)** *Panurus biarmicus* Great views at Kus Gozlemciligi and at Sultan Sazligi [*russicus*].  
**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* A few seen well and many more heard [*pallida*].  
**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Just a couple seen on the journey to Gaziantep [*arvensis-group*].  
**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* Common and widespread. See note.  
**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* Great views of many smart individuals around Demirkazik and Yahyali [*penicillata*].  
**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Seen well on several occasions, first on the drive to Nigde [*artemisiana*].  
**Bimaculated Lark** ◊ *Melanocorypha bimaculata* Brilliant looks near to Yahyali and again near to Isikli. A smart lark!



A few larks... Clockwise from top left: Crested Lark; the attractive Horned Lark; Greater Short-toed Lark and Lesser Short-toed Lark (Pete Morris)



- Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* A couple on Cyprus and several in Turkey, favouring agricultural areas.
- Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Alaudala rufescens* First seen near Nigde, then many seen on the salt flats at Sultan Sazligi.
- White-spectacled Bulbul** ◊ *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* First around Side. Also in Gaziantep and around Durnalik.
- Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* The many thousands at Sultan Sazligi were most impressive [nominate]!
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread [nominate].
- Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Plenty seen well in Turkey. Best views were around Demirkazik.
- Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* A few on Cyprus, common and widespread in Turkey [*urbicum/meridionale*].
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers seen at several sites with some lovely views [*rufula*].
- Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* Many heard and the odd one seen [*orientalis*].
- Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* A large flock, with many fledged young, was seen well at Isikli [*passekii*].
- Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Two seen well near Sadrazamkoy on the Kormakitis Peninsula.
- Eastern Bonelli's Warbler** ◊ (Balkan W) *Phylloscopus orientalis* Very common at some sites around Akseki.



Sombre Tit and White-spectacled Bulbul from Turkey and a migrant Wood Warbler from Cyprus (Pete Morris)



**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*** One heard on Cyprus and a couple seen in Turkey.

**Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*** Heard on Cyprus and common at several wetlands in Turkey [nominate].

**Moustached Warbler** ◊ *Acrocephalus melanopogon* Brilliant views of at least 3 at Sultan Sazligi [*mimicus*].

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** ◊ (Caspian R W) *Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] fuscus* Seen well on Cyprus and in Turkey.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*** Great views of singing birds on Cyprus. Also seen in Turkey [*elaeica*].

**Upcher's Warbler** ◊ *Hippolais languida* Brilliant views of many singing birds around Isikli and Durnalik.

**Olive-tree Warbler** ◊ *Hippolais olivetorum* Excellent views of a couple of singing birds south of Akseki.

**Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*** One seen well and a few more heard at Sultan Sazligi [*fusca*].

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*** A few seen on Cyprus [*neuroticus*].

**Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis*** Only seen near to the mouth of the Manavgat River, east of Side [*akyildizi*].

**Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*** Common with good numbers of migrants at several sites.

**Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*** A few stunners on Cyprus, and a pair seen at Demirkazik [nominate].

**Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*** Fairly common around Demirkazik, Isikli and Durnalik Song a little different [nominate].

**Eastern Orphean Warbler** ◊ *Sylvia crassirostris* Most common and easy to see around Isikli and Durnalik [nominate].

**Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*** Only seen well near to Yahyali [*icterops*].



*Two special and localized Hippolais warblers: Upcher's Warbler (above) and the hulking Olive-tree Warbler (Pete Morris)*



**Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata* At least four showed really well on the Kormakitis Peninsula [nominate].  
**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* Many seen well on Cyprus where they compete with the endemic Cyprus Warbler.  
**Rüppell's Warbler** ◊ *Sylvia ruppeli* Another stunner that showed superbly in the Turkish scrubby hillsides.  
**Cyprus Warbler** ◊ *Sylvia melanothorax* Many brilliant views on Cyprus.  
**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* Great views of a pair and others heard in the Akseki area [*buturlini*].  
**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Heard on Cyprus and a few seen well in the Akseki area [*cypristes*].  
**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* A few seen, the first near to Cukurkoy, north of Izmir [*caesia*-group].  
**Krüper's Nuthatch** ◊ *Sitta krueperi* Many stunners seen in the pine forests north of Akseki.



A fine Krüper's Nuthatch and an immaculate Wallcreeper (Pete Morris)



**Western Rock Nuthatch** ◊ *Sitta neumayer* Brilliant views of several, the first around Pamukkale.  
**Eastern Rock Nuthatch** ◊ *Sitta tephronota* Some great looks at both Isikli and Durnalik [*dresseri*].  
**Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria* Brilliant views of two stunning males in the gorge at Demirkazik [nominate].  
**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Fairly widespread in small numbers [*tauricus*].  
**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* Great scope views of a smart pair high up at Demirkazik [*amicorum*].  
**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Two forms: *aterrimus* in the west, *syriacus* in the East.  
**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Common in the forests around Akseki [nominate].  
**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (R Bush R)** *Cercotrichas galactotes* See note.  
**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* A few seen in Cyprus [*neumannii*], and a few in Turkey.  
**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* A female seen on the Kormakitis Peninsula [nominate].  
**Collared Flycatcher** *Ficedula albicollis* Good views of a 2cy male and an 'advanced' female on the Kormakitis Peninsula.  
**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (H) Heard on a couple of occasions [nominate].  
**White-throated Robin** ◊ *Irania gutturalis* See note.  
**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* Particularly common high up at Demirkazik [nominate].



A couple more beltlers: Rufous Scrub Robin above and a fine male Black Redstart (Pete Morris)





Male White-throated Robin with (inset the pale variant male from Durnalik). Below, left, the rare Kurdish Wheatear and Isabelline Wheatear (Pete Morris)



**Common Redstart** ◊ (Ehrenberg's R) *Phoenicurus [phoenicurus] samamisticus* A smart pair near Akseki.  
**Common Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis* A real cracker, first seen well at Demirkazik.  
**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* Nice views of a singing male on Cyprus and several in Turkey.  
**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* A couple of migrants on Cyprus, the first at Cape Zafer on the Karpaz Peninsula.  
**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* Just a few seen, the first at the windfarm north of Izmir [nominate].  
**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Migrants on Cyprus and common high up in Turkey [*libanotica*].  
**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* Common in several areas, first in the salt flats near to Acigol,.  
**Black-eared Wheatear (Eastern B-e W)** *Oenanthe [hispanica] melanoleuca* Common and widespread, many seen superbly!  
**Cyprus Wheatear** ◊ (C Pied W) *Oenanthe cyprica* Great views on many occasions, and a great song.  
**Finsch's Wheatear** ◊ *Oenanthe finschii* Brilliant views on several occasions. A really smart bird [nominate]!  
**Kurdish Wheatear** ◊ *Oenanthe xanthopyrna* A somewhat scruffy (2cy?) male seen very well at Isikli.  
**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Common and widespread mostly of the form *balearoibericus*.  
**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* 100s on the Kormakitis Peninsula [nominate] and in Turkey [*transcaspicus*].



A flock of Spanish Sparrows from Cyprus and a smart Water Pipit from Demirkazik (Pete Morris)





More stunning buntings! Cretzschmar's Bunting, the amazing thick-billed race of Reed Bunting and Cirl Bunting (Pete Morris)



**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia* One seen at Demirkazik, and several seen well near to Durnalik [*exigua*].

**White-winged Snowfinch** *Montifringilla nivalis* Common and showy high up at Demirkazik etc. Pale subspecies [*leucura*].

**Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris* Several seen very well high up at Demirkazik [*montana*].

**Radde's Accentor** ◊ *Prunella ocularis* Brilliant views high up at Demirkazik, and again near to Yahyali.

**Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W)** *Motacilla [flava] flava* A few good males seen on Cyprus.

**Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed W)** *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* A few on Cyprus and one near Demirkazik.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* One in flight in the gorge at Demirkazik, was the only one!

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla [alba] alba* Just a few seen.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* Seen well near Demirkazik and again at Isikli.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Two seen well and heard calling on the rocks at Cape Kormakitis. A bit of a surprise!

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Heard on Cyprus and one seen south of Akseki.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* Great views of a couple on the Kormakitis Peninsula, Cyprus.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* Excellent views high up at Demirkazik [*coutellii*].

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Fairly common and widespread. Form *syriaca* on Cyprus, nominate group in Turkey.

**Asian Crimson-winged Finch** ◊ *Rhodopechys sanguineus* Brilliant views on the journey to Gaziantep. A last minute save!!

**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* Seen well on Cyprus and Turkey [*chlorotica*].

**Common Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* Fairly common, especially around Isikli and Durnalik [*bella*].

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Three forms: *niediecki* - Cyprus; nominate group - W Turkey; *brevirostris* - E Turkey.

**Red-fronted Serin** ◊ *Serinus pusillus* Great views on several occasions in Eastern Turkey.

**European Serin** *Serinus serinus* A few seen in Cyprus and in Turkey where common in the Akseki area.

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* Pretty common and widespread in Cyprus and Turkey [nominate].

**Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia* A few seen, the first around Yarpuz, northeast of Akseki [*hordei*].

**Cinereous Bunting** ◊ (Western C B) *Emberiza [cineracea] cineracea* Great views of two males near Pamukkale.

**Cinereous Bunting** ◊ (Eastern C B) *Emberiza [cineracea] semenowi* Brilliant views of many at Isikli and Durnalik.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* Seen very well in both Cyprus and Turkey.

**Cretzschmar's Bunting** ◊ *Emberiza caesia* Brilliant views on many occasions, the first in the hills near Pamukkale.

**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* Seen well at a few different sites. Another lovely bird.

**Black-headed Bunting** ◊ *Emberiza melanocephala* A few on Cyprus, then common and widespread in Turkey.

**Common Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Great views at Sultan Sazligi. Amazing thick bill [*caspia*]!



A fine male Ortolan Bunting, one of several seen! (Pete Morris)



## MAMMALS

*The cute European Ground Squirrel (Pete Morris)*

**European Hare (Brown H) *Lepus europaeus*** A couple of startled individuals seen on Cyprus.

**Southern White-breasted Hedgehog (East European H) *Erinaceus concolor***

**Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*** A single on Cyprus was thought to be this species.

**Caucasian Squirrel (Persian S) *Sciurus anomalus*** At least four individuals in the south eastern pine forests.

**European Ground Squirrel *Spermophilus citellus*** Common on the steppes at the end of the tour.

**Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*** One seen on the journey to Side.

**Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*** One seen clambering on the cliffs at Oymapinar Baraji.

**Bezoar (Ibex) *Capra aegagrus*** Seen well on the crags at Demirkazik.



*A Southern White-breasted Hedgehog seen on the way to Demirkazik (Pete Morris)*



*A couple of smart reptiles... Caspian Pond Turtle and Spur-thighed Tortoise (Pete Morris)*



## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird Names v9.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic G)** *Larus [fuscus] fuscus*

Interestingly, a single adult at Oymapinar Baraji, northeast of Manavgat, appeared to be paired with and displaying to a Yellow-legged Gull!! A long way south of it's usual breeding range!

### **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*

From what I can make out, we saw at least four forms. On Cyprus, *cyprica* was common and widespread. Around Pamuk-kale, I believe the form was *meridionalis*. Around Side, I believe the form was *subtaurica*, whilst in the east, at Isikli for example the form concerned is *zion*.

### **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*

A cracking bird that we encountered two forms of. First, we enjoyed great views of one in open country near the Manavgat River, east of Side, which should be of the form *syriaca*. The singing bird near to Isikli was assumed to be the form *familiaris*.

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

Many brilliant looks, the first in the scrubby hillsides near to Acigol, on the journey to Side. Of interest was a pallid male at Durnalik, with pale creamy-orange underparts! This seems to be just a natural variation, but seems to be fairly uncommon.



Another view of one of our favourites... the alluring Cyprus Scops Owl (Pete Morris)



*Turkish Brown Fish Owl was always going to be the winner... (Pete Morris)*

**APPENDIX 1 TOP 10 BIRDS OF THE TOUR**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> BROWN FISH OWL</b>             | <b>6<sup>th</sup>= White-throated Robin</b> |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> ASIAN CRIMSON-WINGED FINCH</b> | <b>6<sup>th</sup>= Black-headed Bunting</b> |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup>= WALLCREEPER</b>               | <b>8<sup>th</sup> Cyprus Scops Owl</b>      |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup>= FINSCH'S WHEATEAR</b>         | <b>9<sup>th</sup> Krüper's Nuthatch</b>     |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> White-backed Woodpecker</b>    | <b>10<sup>th</sup> Caspian Snowcock</b>     |

**A total of 22 species received at least one vote!**



*Second place for Asian Crimson-winged Finch may not have been predictable at the start of the tour! Circumstances dictated!! (Pete Morris)*