



We enjoyed walk-away views of several Wallcreepers during the tour. (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

GEORGIA: THE CAUCASUS

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Our short tour to the High Caucasus of Georgia was a highly enjoyable and successful one. Most important, we had excellent views of all the Caucasian specialities: Caucasian Snowcock, Caucasian Grouse, Green Warbler, Caucasian (Mountain) Chiffchaff and (Caucasian) Great Rosefinch, amidst some spectacular scenery. We also found several sought-after species such as Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier), Krüper's Nuthatch, no less than 7 Wallcreepers, giving amazing views, Semicollared Flycatcher, Red-fronted Serin and Common Rock Thrush, amongst others. A visit to Jandari lake gave us nesting Eastern Imperial Eagle and an unexpected Demoiselle Crane. Our 3-day extension to Chachuna, in the South East of the country, gave us plenty of new birds, including Black Francolin, Saker Falcon, Barred, Eastern Orphea and Menetries's Warblers and thousands of Rosy Starlings.



Male Barred Warbler. A cracking bird! (DLV).

The group arrived to Tbilisi airport in the very early hours of the morning, after some issues with one of the flights. In the end, we all made it, and after being greeted by our local guide, Levan, we started heading northwards along the Georgian Military Highway towards the snow-capped peaks of the central Caucasus. A short stop in some roadside trees gave us great views of a singing Green Warbler, a key target in the tour, as well as some common birds, including Long-tailed Tit and Rock Bunting. Further on the road we stopped at a certain woodland area, where it didn't take long to find a cracking male Semicollared Flycatcher. The bird was rather secretive, sticking to the canopy of the beech forest, but it eventually gave good views to everyone. Other birds seen in the forest included a male Common Redstart. As we started to ascend, we made another stop where we found a singing male Ring Ouzel of the *amicorum* subspecies, as well as a distant Bearded Vulture, eye-level Alpine Swifts and a brief Alpine Accentor. The winding road took us high

up over the icy Jvari Pass, previously known in Soviet times as the Krestovyy Pass. Around the highest point we managed to find a pair of Horned Larks of the distinctive *penicillata* subspecies, together with some (Caucasian) Twite. We continued our descent along the winding road, and made another stop at a favoured Wallcreeper spot. A pair of these stunning birds was soon located, and we spent some time admiring them at close quarters. We then pressed on to our comfortable hotel in Stepantsminda, formerly known as Kazbegi in Soviet times. Kazbegi used to be a regular Birdquest destination in the 1980s and early 1990s, and inevitably there have been some changes in the wake of the political upheavals nearly two decades ago, but the modern hotel is a welcome innovation. After lunch and a short rest, we quickly headed up to the base of the cliffs at the edge of the valley for some more birding. The weather in the area had been unusually warm for the last few days, with temperatures reaching 25 C, and there was hardly any snow left in the nearby mountain peaks! For that reason, all of the (Caucasian) Great Rosefinches and Gldenstadt's Redstarts had left the wintering grounds around the village earlier than usual, and in spite of all afternoon looking for them at the regular spots, none were seen. However, other good birds kept us entertained, including a singing Caucasian (Mountain) Chiffchaff, Red-fronted Serin, Common Rock Thrush and Water Pipit.



Male Ring Ouzel of the subspecies amicum (DLV).

Early next morning we checked some buckthorn bushes further up the valley, but not much was seen. Some scanning gave us our first Caucasian Grouse, a nice male, although a bit distant. Afterwards we visited another area, where we had much better scope views of two lekking grouse. The red wattle, the white shoulder patch and lyre-shaped tail were all well visible in the scopes. This is one of the least-known birds in the Western Palearctic, so we were very pleased with our sightings. The distinctive cries of Caucasian Snowcocks echoed across the snowfields from the distant slopes, and some diligent searching with the scopes eventually produced our first sightings of this key speciality. Also in the same slope we found a group of East Caucasian Tur and a single Chukar Partridge. Flocks of both Alpine and Red-billed Choughs flew overhead, while smart Common Rosefinches and Red-backed Shrikes sang from the top of the bushes. A quick visit to the park produced Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great, Coal and cute Eurasian Blue Tits, Eurasian Treecreeper and Spotted Flycatcher. The afternoon was spent birding along the valley, with more or less the same birds seen.

The following day we awoke to clear skies and it wasn't long before the first rays of the still invisible sun were illuminating the impressive snowy peak of Mount Kazbek while the other mountains of the High Caucasus, rising steeply and cradling the sleepy town, were still in shadow. The scenery was really impressive, and we started our climb. After a couple of hours hiking up a rather steep slope, we reached a good vantage point, where a distant Caucasian Grouse was scoped, and not far, a pair of Caucasian Snowcocks were also found, giving our best views so far. Nearby, a displaying male Wallcreeper put on a fantastic show, much to everyone's delight. After catching our breath, we carried on. There were not many birds around, mostly Water Pipits, Northern Wheatears and Ring Ouzels, but we found a confiding pair of Horned Larks too. After another hour, and when we were reaching an altitude of nearly 3000 m, Ken finally found a pair of cracking (Caucasian) Great Rosefinches, our main target for the day. Once they leave their wintering grounds further down, these rosefinches can prove hard to find, so we were more than pleased with our sighting. Unfortunately, they were soon flushed by a helicopter. We continued walking up the mountain until deep snow in the pass blocked our way, making it impossible to go any further without proper climbing gear. The scenery from here, with Mount Kazbek just in front of us, was really impressive, the weather was glorious and we had a good picnic lunch overlooking the glacier. We spent considerable time here looking for redstarts, but none were around. A single adult Bearded Vulture gave a close pass, and small numbers of migrating raptors streamed overhead, including Pallid Harrier, European Honey Buzzard and Steppe (Common) Buzzard. After a well-earned rest, we started making our way down, finally arriving to our vehicle in the late afternoon. It had been a tiring, but truly fantastic, day out in the mountains.



Water Pipit (DLV).

The morning of our last full day in the Caucasus was spent around the Jvari Pass. Another pair of Wallcreepers gave great views, and we scoped a flock of no less than 11 Caucasian Grouse, both males and females. A confiding Alpine Accentor was watched at length, but snowfinches were absent from all the usual areas. Later on the day we visited a couple of very scenic side valleys. Birding was enjoyable, and we had great views of a perched Bearded Vulture, a pair of Golden Eagles, a migrant Red-throated Pipit, a brief Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Chamois.

Next morning we paid another visit to the buckthorn bushes, but it was predictably quiet. We made a short stop near Jvari Pass, where the usual species were found, but again no snowfinches were seen. We carried on towards Tblisi, and finally arrived to a pine forest that looked promising for Krüper's Nuthatch. We walked

around for a while, and eventually found a very obliging singing male, which performed for us. Also in the area was a Green Warbler. After lunch we paid a visit to Jandari Lake. A stop en route produced good scope views of a pair of Eastern Imperial Eagles. Once in the lake, the best find was undoubtedly a single Demoiselle Crane feeding on the shore. A few Armenian Gulls were scoped, and both Whiskered and White-winged Terns hawked for insects over the lake. Other birds seen around the lake included Little and Great Crested Grebes, Squacco Heron, Black-headed Gull, Golden Oriole, European Roller, Black-headed Bunting, Woodchat Shrike and several flocks of Rosy Starlings. On the way back to Tblisi we stopped at a nearby river, where a river island held a heronry as well as breeding Pygmy Cormorants. Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Common Tern and Great Reed Warbler were all seen before going back to the hotel, where the main tour ended.



Flock of Rosy Starlings in Chachuna. (DLV)

Next morning, those taking the extension left early and headed towards the south east of the country. It was mostly a travelling day, but we made several stops on the way, which produced a number of interesting species. A small roadside woodland held Middle Spotted, Lesser Spotted and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, as well as a male Ehrenberg's (Common) Redstart and a female Semicollared Flycatcher. Further on, we found a couple of Red-breasted Flycatchers, while a Pallid Harrier flew by. Birds like European Rollers and Black-headed and Corn Buntings became abundant. We made a long stop at a place where several stunning

male Barred Warblers showed nicely, alongside several displaying Montagu's Harriers. While having lunch, a pair of Egyptian Vultures soared overhead, and in a nearby park we managed to find a cute Eurasian Scops Owl. The last stretch of road towards Chachuna was very birdy. We came across several large flocks of Rosy Starlings, numbering several thousand birds, and other new species seen included Booted Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, Little Owl, Stock Dove, Lesser Grey Shrike, Ortolan Bunting and Calandra Lark. It was getting dark by the time we arrived to our simple accommodation in the reserve.





European Bee-eater and Black-headed Bunting. (DLV)

We spent most of the following day checking the diverse habitats present in the Chachuna Managed Reserve. Birding was really good, with birds everywhere! As it started getting light, a singing Black Francolin, picked by Keith, was scoped from the dam. A pair of Lesser Kestrels were nesting in a nearby abandoned building, while more and more Rosy Starlings flew past. A single Purple Heron was fishing in a small pond, and a pair of Ruddy Shelducks was seen in the same area. We continued and reached another spot with scattered bushes near a scarpment. The place was full of warblers, including our target Menetries's, Eastern Orphee, Barred, Garden and Lesser and Common Whitethroats. Several hybrid Pied x Eastern Black-eared Wheatears were seen, and some careful searching eventually paid off, with one pure-looking male Pied seen well. Woodchat Shrikes sang from every available bush, and we also found some Chukar Partridges. Overhead, a couple of huge Cinereous Vultures and a single White-tailed Eagle soared, while good numbers of European Bee-eaters and European Rollers provided a splash of colour. The steppes held many Isabelline Wheatears and Crested Larks, and a couple of Persian Jirds were seen briefly too. A walk near the dam was quite productive, with close views of a male Black Francolin, a showy Menetries's Warbler, a pair of Syrian Woodpeckers and a brief Eurasian Penduline Tit, amongst others. After lunch, we returned to the same birdy area. Best bird was undoubtedly a fantastic Saker Falcon, seen both perched and in flight. A singing Western Rock Nuthatch gave good scope views, and we also found a Lesser Short-toed Lark before returning to our accommodation.



European Roller. (DLV)

A short walk in the early morning around our base produced a singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, our only one of the trip. We then started the long journey back to Tblisi, making various stops on the way. A Lesser Spotted Eagle flew overhead, and while having lunch we saw a couple of Eurasian Hobbies. Other previously seen species were observed, including more Barred Warblers and Montagu's Harriers. A stop at some nearly dry lakes didn't produce much. We visited a breeding colony of Rosy Starlings and finally arrived back to the city in the early evening, where another fantastic tour to this wonderful country ended.



Demoiselle Crane and Montagu's Harrier (DLV).





Black Francolin and Black-headed Bunting (DLV).



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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

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

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

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).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* Seen around Chachuna.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* Seen near Tblisi.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Seen at Jandari.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A pair near Tblisi.

Caucasian Grouse ◊ (C Black G) *Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi* Displaying males and females, including a flock of 10.



Male Caucasian Grouse. (DLV)

Caucasian Snowcock ♦ *Tetraogallus caucasicus* Good scope views of 5 different birds above Stepantsminda.

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* Seen near Stepantsminda and Chachuna.

Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* Two males seen well at Chachuna.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen at Jandari lake.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* Seen at several lakes.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A few birds seen near Tbilisi.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (H) Heard at Jandari lake.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 4 birds recorded.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Seen at Jandari and Chachuna.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Seen at Jandari.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few birds seen.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* A few seen.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* A few breeding near Tblisi.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* A few seen near Tblisi.

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) *Gypaetus barbatus* Seen daily in the Caucasus, some giving great views.



Adult Bearded Vulture. (DLV)

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* A pair seen near Chachuna.
European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* Just a handful seen migrating over the mountains.
Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* Small numbers seen daily.
Cinereous Vulture ♦ *Aegypius monachus* Seen at Chachuna.
Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* A few seen in the east..
Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina* One seen well at Chachuna.
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* Seen at Chachuna.
Eastern Imperial Eagle ♦ *Aquila heliaca* Great views of a nesting pair near Jandari.
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* A total of 6 birds seen.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* A few seen.
Western Marsh Harrier(Eurasian M H) *Circus aeruginosus* A few birds seen.
Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* At least 3 2cy birds seen well.
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* Good numbers seen around Chachuna.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Small numbers seen.
White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Seen at Chachuna.
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* Seen in Chachuna.
Common (Steppe) Buzzard *Buteo (buteo) vulpinus* Seen daily.
Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* One big bonus at Jandari lake.
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* A few seen.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Seen near Tblisi.
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Seen near Jandari.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Seen near Jandari.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Scattered sightings.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Seen at Chachuna.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Seen at Jandari.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* Seen near Tblisi.
Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus* Seen at Tbilisi, Jandari and Chachuna.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Seen in Jandari.
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Seen at Jandari.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Seen near Tblisi.
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Seen at Jandari.
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Seen at Jandari.
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*
Stock Dove *Columba oenas* Common in the east.
Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* Widespread.
European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* Seen at Chachuna.
Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Several birds seen
Little Owl *Athene noctua* A few seen.
Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* Seen very well near Chachuna.
European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (H) Heard by Keith in Chachuna.
Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* Good numbers seen.
Common Swift *Apus apus* Common and widespread.
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
European Roller *Coracias garrulus* Common in the south east.
European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Good numbers seen in the south east.
Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* A few in the south east.
Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocoptes medius* A pair seen on the way to Chachuna
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker* *Dendrocopos minor* Seen very well on the way to Chachuna.
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* First seen at Stepantsminda.
Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus* Seen at Chachuna.
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* One seen briefly and heard in Chachuna.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Fairly common and widespread.
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* Seen in Chachuna.
Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Seen near Chachuna.
Saker Falcon ♦ *Falco cherrug* Great views of one in Chachuna.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Seen twice.
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* Good numbers seen.
Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* Good numbers seen in the south east.



Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Good numbers seen in the south east.
Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Small numbers seen.
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Small numbers seen.
Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* Widespread.
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Good numbers seen.

Alpine Chough (Yellow-billed C) *Pyrrhocorax graculus* Good numbers seen in the mountains.
Western Jackdaw (Eurasian J) *Coloeus monedula* Fairly common and widespread.
Rook *Corvus frugilegus* A few in the south east.
Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* Fairly common and widespread.
Northern Raven *Corvus corax* Small numbers seen.
Coal Tit *Periparus ater* Small numbers seen.
Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* Widespread.
Great Tit *Parus major* Widespread.
Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* Seen at Chachuna.
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* Seen on the last day.
Woodlark *Lullula arborea* Seen on the journey to Chachuna.
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Seen in Chachuna.



Menetries's Warbler (DLV)

Horned Lark (Shore L) *Eremophila alpestris* Several seen well in the Caucasus. Ssp *penicillata*
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread.
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Small numbers noted.
Common House Martin (Northern H M) *Delichon urbicum* Widespread.
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* A few seen.
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* (H) Heard only.
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* Widespread
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Several migrants seen.
Caucasian (Mountain) Chiffchaff ♦ *Phylloscopus (sindianus) lorenzii* Fairly common. See Note.
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Seen near Tblisi.
Green Warbler ♦ (Bright G W) *Phylloscopus nitidus* Several birds seen well.
Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Seen at Jandari.
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida* Seen well in Chachuna.
Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* (H) One singing near Stepantsminda.
Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Small numbers seen.
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Seen once.
Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* Great views of several on the way to Chachuna.



Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Widespread.
Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* Three sightings.
Eastern Orphean Warbler ♦ *Sylvia crassirostris* Great views in Chachuna.
Menetries's Warbler ♦ *Sylvia mystacea* Excellent views of several males in Chachuna.
Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (H) Heard.
Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* A few birds seen.
Krüper's Nuthatch *Sitta krueperi* A pair seen very well near Tblisi.
Western Rock Nuthatch ♦ *Sitta neumayer* Seen well in Chachuna.
Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* Excellent views of a total of 7 birds in the Caucasus!
Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* Good views of two pairs.
Rosy Starling (Rose-colored S) *Pastor roseus* Many thousands seen in the east.
Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Common.
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* Fairly common.
Fieldfare *Turdus iliacus* One at Stepantsminda.
Common Blackbird (Eurasian B) *Turdus merula* Common.
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Seen several times.
Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* Common in the east.
Semicollared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* A male seen very well on the way to Chachuna.
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* A handful of birds seen.
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* A few seen in the east.
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* Several seen in the mountains.
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Nominate and *samamiscus* (Ehrenberg's R) seen. See note.
Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* Excellent views in the caucasus.
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Seen in Chachuna.
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* Only 2 seen.



Calandra Lark and Krüper's Nuthatch (DLV and Pete Maton)

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Common in the mountains.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* Common in Chachuna.

Black-eared Wheatear ◊ (E) (Eastern B-e W) *Oenanthe [hispanica] melanoleuca* Just a few seen in the east.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* A couple of pure looking birds in the east, where many hybrids present.

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* Several seen.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Widespread.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* Seen in Chachuna.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Just a couple seen.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* Good views of several birds.

Dunnock (Hedge Accentor) *Prunella modularis* Widespread.

(Western) Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) thunbergii* Several seen.

(Western) Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) flava* 3 seen.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* A few, always near rivers.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Common.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* Common.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* A single bird seen.



Rosy Starlings, Woodchat Shrike and Semicollared Flycatcher. (DLV)

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* A few in Chachuna.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* Birds of the *coutellii* subspecies (Caucasian W P) seen in the mountains.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Small numbers noted at various woodland areas.

Eurasian Bullfinch (Common B) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Two birds recorded.

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet R) *Carpodacus erythrinus* Fairly common.

Caucasian Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus (rubicilla) rubicilla* After some hard work, a pair seen at Kazbegi glacier.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* Fairly common and widespread.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris* Good numbers of the distinctive *brevirostris* subspecies seen.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina* Small numbers.
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Fairly common and widespread.
Red-fronted Serin ♦ *Serinus pusillus* Great views of several birds.
Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 2 birds seen.
Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* Very common in the east.
Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* Small numbers seen.
Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* A few in the east.
Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* Very common in the east.

MAMMALS

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* 2 sightings.
East Caucasian Tur *Capra caucasica* Good numbers in the Caucasus.
Chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra* Two seen in the Caucasus.
European Hare *Lepus europaeus* 2 in Chachuna.
Persian Jird *Meriones persicus* Seen in Chachuna.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Caucasian (Mountain) Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus [sindianus] lorenzii*

This form has variously been lumped in Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita* or Mountain Chiffchaff *P. sindianus* (which is in turn sometimes lumped in Common Chiffchaff,). However, there is an increasing tendency to treat this form as a species in its own right, though the IOC currently includes it in Mountain Chiffchaff.



Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The form *samamasicus*, found in the Balkans, most of Turkey, the Caucasus and Iran, shows a very striking white wing pannel and is called Ehrenberg's Redstart. Birds showing features of the nominate subspecies as well as *samamasicus* were seen during the tour.





