



Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

19 May – 1 June, 2025

Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan: Spring migration in Central Asia

Leader and report by Erik Jansen

rubythroat
BIRDING TOURS

May 19 | Kaskelen National Reserve

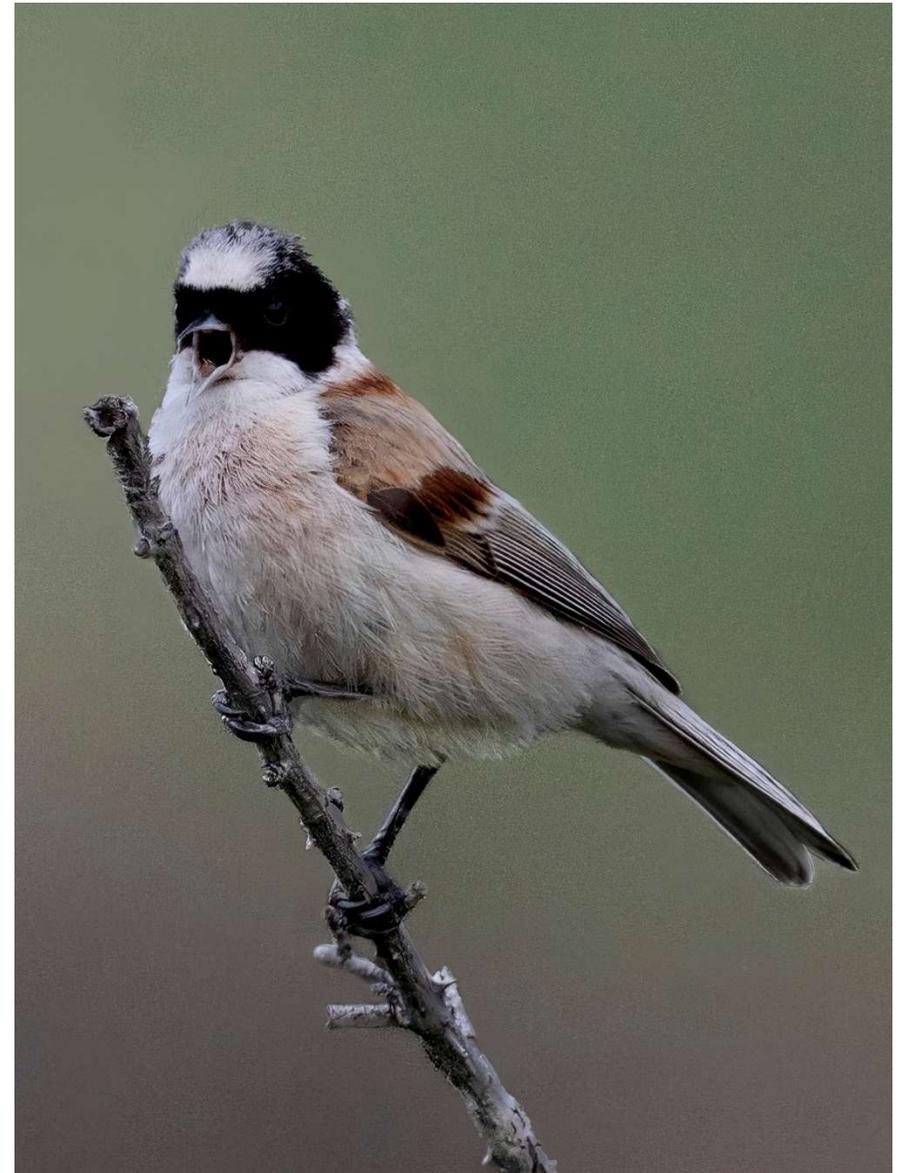
After a short night on the plane, the group set off from Almaty Airport to Kaskelen Ili-Ala-Tau National Park, where we settled down for a nice brunch. Right away, there were raptors soaring all around us, including **Bearded Vulture**, **Himalayan Griffon** and **Cinereous Vulture**!

A **Blue Whistling Thrush** was foraging along the stream, as we explored the beautiful scenery of the park. We found a very friendly **White-crowned Penduline-Tit**, saw our first **Chukar** and managed to find a beautiful male **Meadow Bunting**. When we got back to the car, there was a pair of **Azure Tits** showing incredibly well, and on our way out we found several **Crag Martins** flying around. A good first day!

May 20 | Kokpek Pass & Sogety Valley

The next morning, we set off on our journey eastwards, aiming to spend the night on the Sogety Plains. Along the road, we stopped in a little village and found a **Long-tailed Shrike**, a **Laughing Dove** and heard an **Indian Golden Oriole** singing. At our lunch spot, just before the Kokpek Pass, there was a nesting **Lesser Gray Shrike** and we saw our first **Red-headed Buntings** and **Rock Buntings**. We also heard a singing **White-capped Bunting**, and **Pied Wheatears** were abundant.

After lunch, we passed through the Kokpek Pass and found **Blue Rock Thrush**. After reaching the Sogety Plains, we drove a while on a dirt track until we reached a ranger's hut, from where we hiked through the



*This White-crowned Penduline-Tit was a real stunner!
Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.*

hills to a small artesian spring. Here we saw, among other species, **Mongolian Finches**, **Turkestan Shrikes** and **Eastern Orphee Warblers** – pretty good! We spent the night somewhere remote, without any connection to the outside world, and enjoyed the hooting of **Eurasian Scops Owls** all around us. Some of the group managed to get a view of these little owls as well.

May 21 | Sogety Valley & Charyn Canyon

Waking up in the middle of a wonderful chorus of bird song, we found a recently fledged **Long-eared Owl** close to where our car was parked, and a lone **Alpine Swift** flew over our heads. We then moved on towards Kyrgyzstan, but not before we searched for some more Kazakh species. **Asian Desert Warbler** was already singing when we stepped out of our car, and we also found **Greater** and **Turkestan Short-toed Lark**, as well as **Horned Lark**, **Steppe Gray Shrike** and **Desert Wheatear**. Two **Steppe Eagles** were the icing on the cake.

After a brief visit to the impressive Charyn Canyon, we continued our way east, and added **Gray-necked Bunting**, **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** and **Rock Sparrow** to our list. A little later we stopped at a **Lesser Kestrel** colony, and after lunch we headed for the border. The border crossing took less long than expected, so we had a little extra time in Kyrgyzstan, which we mostly spent at a spot where we found a singing **Richard's Pipit**, **Citrine Wagtail**, **Siberian Stonechat** and five **Common Cranes**. The upcoming days were to be spent in the high mountain passes of the Tien Shan.



Asian Desert Warblers can be tricky to find, but this individual was already loudly singing when we got out of the car, making it very easy to locate.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.



Richard's Pipits are very rare finds in this part of the world, being at the very westernmost edge of their breeding range.

Photo by Erik Jansen.

May 22 | Chon Ashuu Valley

At first light, we arrived at the entry road to the Chon Ashuu pass, where we found several **Pine Buntings** singing along the road, and among them one **Rock Bunting**. Moving further into the mountains, we found **White-throated Dipper** (*ssp. leucogaster*) in a stream along the road, and a beautiful **Rufous-backed Redstart** in a lone tree in the river.

We then hiked up a steep hill and settled down near some juniper bushes. At this spot, we were entertained by many Central Asian mountain specialties all around us: **Black-throated Accentors**, **Red-mantled Rosefinches** and **White-winged Grosbeaks** were noisy, and a couple of **Red-fronted Serins** was a wonderful bonus. One of the stars of the show, **Himalayan Rubythroat**, was constantly heard singing, but proved incredibly difficult to see. When we had given up, after spending over two hours on the spot, and had started walking downhill back to the car, at last some of us managed to get a view of this beautiful bird, as it was singing pretty much from the top of a bush near where we had been sitting! The majority of the group was already further down the hill, so we would have to find this species again at a later moment.

Almost back to the car, we were suddenly alarmed by a repeated call coming from the streambed, and a light bird flushing: **Ibisbill!** As soon as it landed, we could enjoy this amazing species through our telescopes, as it foraged on a grassy patch in the middle of the river.



*This Rock Bunting was singing from a powerline.
Photo by Tommi Korhonen.*

An amazing morning, with already so many of our target species in the pocket!

We drove deeper and higher into the mountains, looking for a place to have lunch, which was challenging because of strong wind. We ended up by a little creek where we had some cover from the wind. While preparing lunch, we discovered a singing **Himalayan Rubythroat** that showed incredibly well on top of the nearby bushes – a lucky shot!

After lunch we drove even further, and managed to find a spot with both **Altai Accentor** and **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, although the latter only showed itself really briefly, hopping through the scope view while we were enjoying the **Altai Accentor**. Meanwhile, **Red-billed** as well as **Alpine Choughs** were flying along the mountain slopes, and we found a **Water Pipit** (*ssp. blakistoni*). Tired but happy with the beautiful birding day, we drove back to Karakol, had dinner and went to bed early.

May 23 | Barskoon Gorge

Another early alarm, but we were ready for the second full day in the Kyrgyz mountains! We drove up to the highest altitude of the tour, at a little over 3800 meters, where we were welcomed by light snow and strong wind. We managed to find **White-winged Redstart** as soon as we got out of the car, and another **Altai Accentor** was singing in spite of the weather. Flocks of **Plain Mountain Finches** kept flying by, but



The beauty of Himalayan Rubythroats is beyond words!

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

hardly ever landed, and when they did, it was only very briefly. A lone **Barn Swallow** was a surprising record in this environment.

Since the weather started getting worse, we made our way downhill and found three **Hill Pigeons** and a **Wallcreeper** on some distant cliffs. As snow turned into rain, we tried our best to find our targets for the day, before the weather would turn too adverse. A stunning **Eastern Black Redstart** was singing, and a little later we managed to find two **Brown Accentors** foraging in the rain.

One of our most highly-anticipated targets for the day was Himalayan Snowcock, but apart from a couple of very distant calls, there was no sign of this species. The weather surely was not helping. We decided to give up on the snowcocks, and moved to significantly lower altitudes, where there was no rain. We started looking for another highly-anticipated bird: **White-browed Tit-warbler**. However, almost immediately someone found a **Himalayan Snowcock** on top of a rock on the horizon instead! Luck seemed to be on our side, as we found a friendly **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, a **Rufous-backed Redstart**, a surprising **White-winged Grosbeak**, a **Red-mantled Rosefinch**, and eventually, after almost an hour of searching, also a beautiful male **White-browed Tit-warbler**. As the rain had now also reached lower altitudes, we decided to return to our accommodation. On our way out, we found a big flock of **Plain Mountain Finches** foraging at a significantly lower altitude than normal.



This beautiful male White-browed Tit-Warbler was preening while sheltering from the rain.

Photo by Erik Jansen.



After getting just short glimpses of a Sulphur-bellied Warbler on our first day in the mountains, seeing this individual so well on day 2 was an amazing treat!

Photo by Erik Jansen.

May 24 | Jeti Oguz & lowlands

One species that we had been struggling to find was Blue-capped Redstart, so on our third full day in Kyrgyzstan we decided to go to a nearby valley where we thought we would have a good chance. Upon reaching a narrow part in the valley, where the road runs just by the river, surrounded by steep rocky mountains on either side, we found a **Brown Dipper** in the river. When we reached an alpine meadow area, we immediately found a stunning male **Blue-capped Redstart** singing from the top of a spruce tree. As we walked downhill along the river, we would find no less than 9 individuals – it seemed we had come to the right spot! **Fire-fronted Serins** were also abundant in the meadow, and we saw several raptors, including **Bearded Vultures** and **Himalayan Griffons**.

Throughout the morning, we would also thoroughly enjoy the more common forest birds, such as **Coal Tits**, **Songar Tits**, **Goldcrests** and **Greenish Warblers**. The latter species was everywhere, and at any given moment we could hear several individuals sing.

We spent the afternoon driving around fields and water bodies, where we would find many nice goodies, such as **European Bee-eaters**, **Citrine Wagtails**, **Eurasian Hoopoes** and **Black-winged Stilts**.

Coal Tits in mountainous Central Asia often show a hint of a crest and have buffish wing bars.

Photo by Erik Jansen.





It took us three days, but in the end we found many beautiful Blue-capped Redstarts.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

May 25 | Return to Almaty, Kazakhstan

The next day would be all about driving back to Kazakhstan. We started the day by visiting a local **Imperial Eagle**. We then started moving towards the border and on our way found a colony of **Pale Martins** as well as a **Black Stork** by a lake packed with waterfowl. After a smooth border crossing, we ran into a couple of **Demoiselle Cranes**, gracefully foraging in a field by the road.

While making our way to Almaty, we had one major target along the road: White-capped Bunting. We failed to see this species on our way to Kyrgyzstan some days ago, so we tried again. Shortly after getting out of the car, we could already hear an individual singing. As we hiked up deeper into the gorge, the song became clearer, and not much later we were looking at a stunning male **White-capped Bunting** – yes!

May 26 | Sorbulak Lake & Taukum Desert

After waking up in our hotel in Almaty, we set out towards the Taukum desert to the north. Our first stop was by Sorbulak Lake, where we found good numbers of both **Great White** and **Dalmatian Pelican**. A flock of **Glossy Ibis** was foraging along the shore, and around 20 **Terek Sandpipers** were another highlight. We also found one individual **Sanderling** mixed in with the **Little** and **Temminck's Stints**. A little north of the lake, where we set up our lunch, we found big numbers of **Red-crested Pochard**, a dozen of **Ferruginous Ducks** and we had



*A typical Central Asian view. Demoiselle Cranes with a horse in the background.
Photo by Tommi Korhonen.*

great views of the local subspecies of **Wood Pigeon** (*ssp. casiotis*), which is quite distinct, lacking a conspicuous white neck patch. A **White-tailed Eagle** and **Common Kingfisher** were nice bonuses to our stop.

Further on our way to the desert, we encountered a massive colony of **Rosy Starlings**, with an estimated 10,000 birds flying around the area – very impressive! At the end of the afternoon, we drove deeper into the desert, following off-road tracks, until we got to a spot where we found **Greater Sand Plovers** and stunning **Caspian Plovers**! We found around 10 birds, some with chicks, some still actively courting. We ended the day with a delicious dinner served in our yurt camp.

May 27 | Zheltorangy Desert Poplar Forest

The next morning, we woke up early to the songs of **Turkestan Short-toed Larks**, **Calandra Larks**, and **Isabelline Wheatears** all around us. We had some coffee, tea and cookies and ventured into the desert. Our main target was Asian Houbara, which we stopped and scanned for at many places throughout the morning, but unfortunately failed to locate. However, great compensation came in the form of a **Saker Falcon** that we flushed from one of the desert tracks! We also found a **Short-toed Eagle**, and **Brown-necked Ravens** and **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** were abundant.

We drove back to your yurt camp to have a proper breakfast, and afterwards we started driving north to make our way over to a forested



The beauty of Himalayan Rubythroats is beyond words!

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

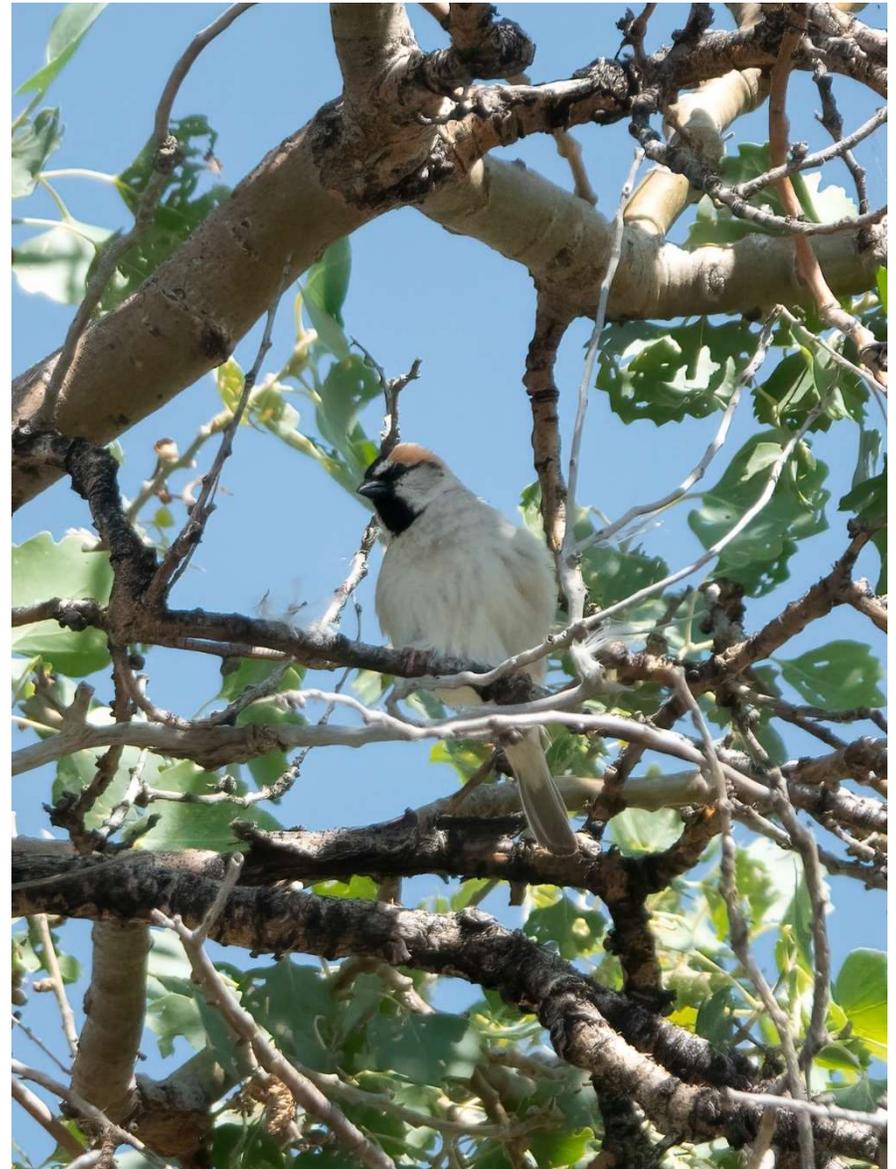


*This Yellow-eyed Pigeon gave excellent views after a long search.
Photo by Erik Jansen.*

area several hours away, where we were aiming to find some of the most sought-after Central Asian specialties. Before we reached the forest, we encountered **Bimaculated Larks** along the road and already one of our forest target species: **Saxaul Sparrow!**

In the forest, while our lunch was being prepared, we quickly found **White-winged Woodpecker**, and not long after found a pair of **Turkestan Tits**. After lunch, while we browsed the area looking for the rare Yellow-eyed Pigeon, we found several more **Saxaul Sparrows** and **White-winged Woodpeckers**, but could not find the pigeons anywhere. A single feral pigeon briefly made our hearts skip a beat, but it was not the pigeon we were looking for. An hour later, just when we were about to give up, a **Yellow-eyed Pigeon** suddenly appeared before us, flying, and landing in a bare tree! The group had split up, so it took some time for everyone to gather, but the pigeon appeared really well-behaved and perched in the top of the tree for many minutes, so that everyone could enjoy this rare and declining bird. With almost all our targets in the pocket, we started driving back, and briefly stopped to successfully find our last target for the day: **Sykes's Warbler**.

Back in our yurt camp, after the sun had set, some of the group were surprised by a nightjar that made brief appearance in the camp. The observation lasted no longer than two seconds and there was not much light left, but we could see the bird was small and did not seem to show any pale flashes in the wing or tail. The identity of this bird will



This Saxaul Sparrow kept an eye on us while it sat high up in a tree under the canopy.

Photo by Erik Jansen.



While searching for Pallas's Sandgrouse, we saw many Black-bellied Sandgrouse, including this beautiful pair.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

forever remain a mystery, but the small size of the bird points away from either Eurasian or Egyptian Nightjar...

May 28 | Return to Almaty

Our last morning in the desert we spent looking for **Desert Finch**, which we found easily on our way to a small water body where we were hoping to find Pallas's Sandgrouse. These sandgrouse, however, proved more difficult to find. We sat ourselves in chairs on top of a little hill and waited for the sandgrouse to come drink at a little well in front of us. We were entertained by **Calandra Larks**, **Crested Larks** and **Brown Necked Ravens** around the well, but there were no sandgrouse drinking. Frequently, **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** would fly over our heads, uttering their funny calls. There was no sign of Pallas's Sandgrouse however, and time started ticking away, until suddenly one individual bird flew by not too far away: a **Pallas's Sandgrouse**! The observation was short but good, and more than satisfied we left the desert, back to Almaty to get ready for our flight to the northern steppes around Astana.

May 29 | Astana & Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

After a good night's rest and a leisurely breakfast, we went to the airport and were surprised to learn that our flight time had been changed. We suddenly had to rush through check-in and security, but all made it in time, and ended up with more birding time in the afternoon – hooray! At our first stop, just outside of Astana, we saw



This cracker of a Yellow Wagtail was frantically singing from the top of a bush. This subspecies (beema) is pale gray on the head with extensive white below the eye.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

many singing **Bluethroats**, several **Booted Warblers**, **Yellow Wagtails** (*ssp. beema*), a pair of **Fieldfares** and we heard **Eurasian Penduline Tit**. Making our way over to Korgalzhyn, we saw several **Pallid Harriers** hunting in the fields along the road.

At a place that looked good for **Sociable Lapwing**, we made a brief stop and we were stunned by what we found: there were *at least* 17 **Sociable Lapwings** foraging! This critically endangered species is notoriously hard to find, so seeing so many together was absolutely amazing. At one point, one pair was even mating! This was such a great start to our time in the north!

As we continued farther west, we saw our first of several **Short-eared Owls** gracefully hunting over the fields, and the first **Black Larks** appeared on the road. These beautiful birds are abundant in this part of the country, and we appreciated every single one of them as they occasionally would display their slow-motion courtship flight – absolutely amazing!

Reaching our guesthouse at the end of the day, we birded the lake in front of the house and found nice goodies such as **Terek Sandpiper** and **Marsh Sandpiper**, and got our first views of **Pallas's Gull** and **Black-winged Pratincole**, which both breed in the area.



This time of year, most Black Larks really are wholly black, without any pale fringes to their feathers.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.



Pallas's Gulls are such impressive gulls!

Photo by Erik Jansen.

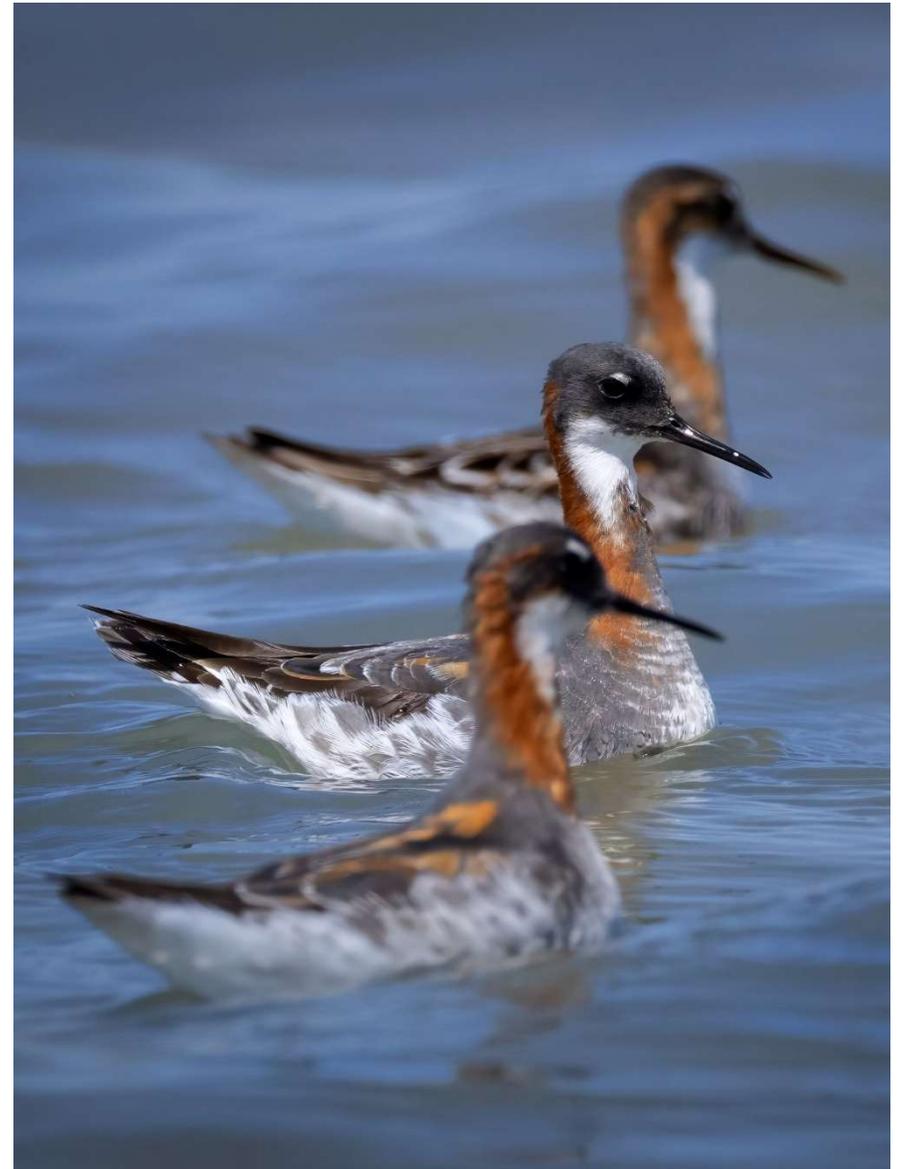
May 30 | Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

The next morning, we started driving around the steppes, hopping between lakes, where we found **Red-necked, Great Crested, Horned** and **Eared Grebes** in their most fantastic plumages. **Greater Flamingos** were flying around and foraging in the lakes, and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were present in great numbers – we would see up to 10,000 individuals throughout the day. Some lakes held a couple of **Slender-billed Gulls** and **Caspian Terns**, while most lakes were home to **White-winged Terns** or **Black Terns**. **Little Stints** were abundant, and we found several **Curlew Sandpipers, Dunlins** and **Kentish Plovers**. We also found a pair of **European Bee-eaters**, and larks were everywhere throughout the day, including the stunning **White-winged Lark**, one of the highlights of the steppe.

After our lunch break, we visited a breeding colony of the majestic **Pallas's Gulls** and **Steppe Gulls**, where we also found the only **Black-bellied Plover** and **Eurasian Curlews** of the trip. Again, **Greater Flamingos** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** were abundant, and after enjoying our time with these beauties, we returned to our accommodation for a short rest. Before dinner, we walked around and found **Merlin** (*ssp. pallidus*) breeding close to our guesthouse.

May 31 | Return to Astana

The last day of our tour, we started by looking for **Black-winged Pratincoles**, which we found easily and got amazing views of. With all



Red-necked Phalaropes were everywhere!

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.



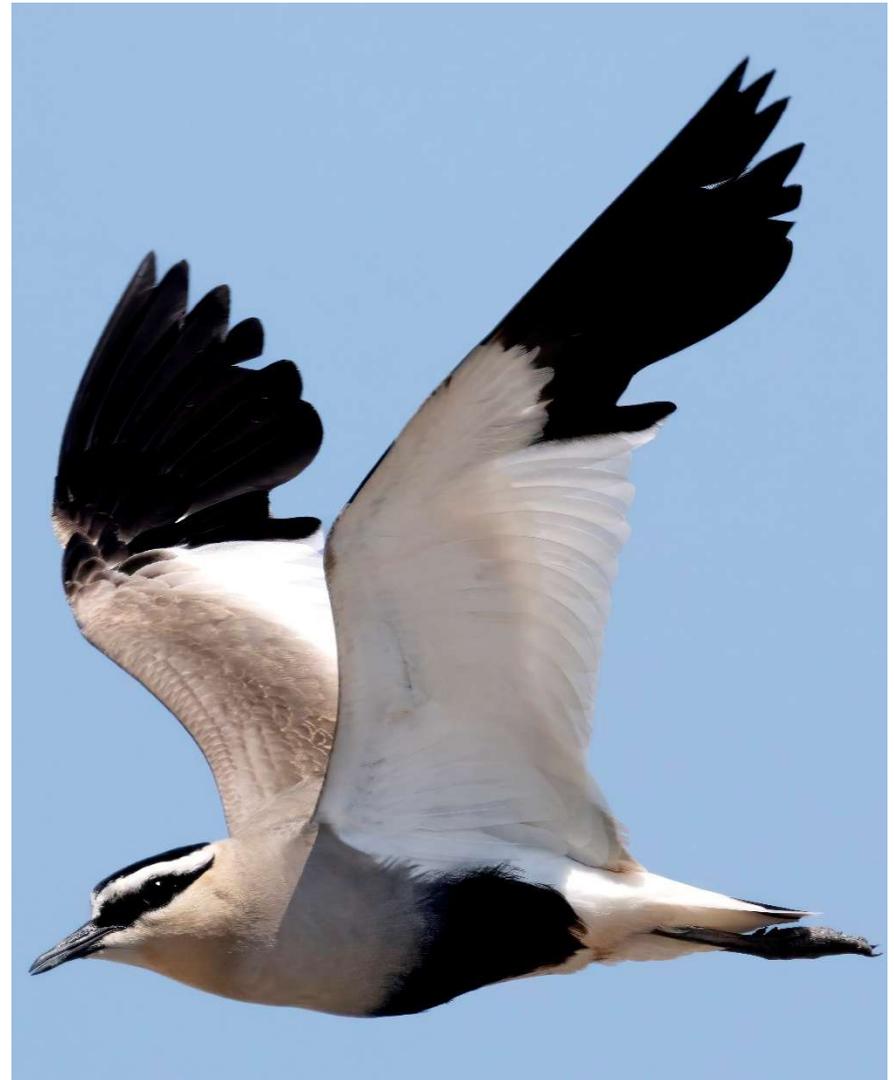
The northernmost breeding population of Greater Flamingos breeds on the Kazakh steppes.

Photo by Tommi Korhonen.

bird targets in the pocket, we spent the bulk of the remaining morning looking for Saiga Antelope, but not before visiting a **Red-footed Falcon** colony. After spending about an hour with these beautiful falcons, we ventured onto little dirt tracks through the steppes on our quest to find the amazing Saiga Antelope. Shortly after leaving the main road, we flushed a **Little Bustard** which landed not far from the car in the tall grass. Its head kept sticking out above the grass, so we enjoyed this bird from inside the car for a bit.

After driving around steppe tracks for a while, we emerged on top of a little hill, and there they were right before us: **Saiga Antelopes!** Several groups could be seen, numbering over 100 individuals in total, with the largest group consisting of 60 animals. Relieved that we had managed to find these wondrous mammals, we drove back to our guesthouse for one last lunch on the steppes. Right before we got there, however, we found a pair of **Sociable Lapwings** right next to our car – an amazing last surprise!

We packed our luggage, had lunch, and started driving towards Astana. One last glance over the lake in front of the guesthouse found another final surprise: two more **Sociable Lapwings** were foraging on the edge! More than satisfied, we drove back to Astana, where we had a lovely concluding dinner.



The critically endangered Sociable Lapwings were quite abundant on this tour, with over 20 individuals seen!

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Ending note

I would like to sincerely thank all participants for joining me on this fantastic journey across the wild heart of Central Asia. I hope to see you again soon on another Rubythroat tour!

Our 2026 departure is confirmed, running from 24 May in Almaty to 6 June in Astana, Kazakhstan. For full details, please visit our website or reach out directly to Machiel Valkenburg at ceo@rubythroat.team. We look forward to welcoming you on this unforgettable journey through the heart of Central Asia.

<https://rubythroatbirdingtours.com/birding-kazakhstan/>



This beautiful Meadow Bunting took some time to find, but eventually gave the group great views.

Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Bird list

The list includes everything that was seen by at least one of the group, including the guides. Taxonomy follows: Clements, J. F., P. C. Rasmussen, T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, T. A. Fredericks, J. A. Gerbracht, D. Lepage, A. Spencer, S. M. Billerman, B. L. Sullivan, M. Smith, and C. L. Wood. 2024. The eBird/Clements checklist of Birds of the World: v2024. Downloaded from [CornellLab](https://cornelllab.org/).

COMMON NAME

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl

Graylag Goose

Mute Swan

Whooper Swan

Ruddy Shelduck

Common Shelduck

Garganey

Northern Shoveler

Gadwall

Eurasian Wigeon

Mallard

Northern Pintail

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)

Red-crested Pochard

Common Pochard

Ferruginous Duck

Tufted Duck

Common Goldeneye

Common Merganser

White-headed Duck

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Anatidae

Anser anser

Cygnus olor

Cygnus cygnus

Tadorna ferruginea

Tadorna tadorna

Spatula querquedula

Spatula clypeata

Mareca strepera

Mareca penelope

Anas platyrhynchos

Anas acuta

Anas crecca

Netta rufina

Aythya ferina

Aythya nyroca

Aythya fuligula

Bucephala clangula

Mergus merganser

Oxyura leucocephala

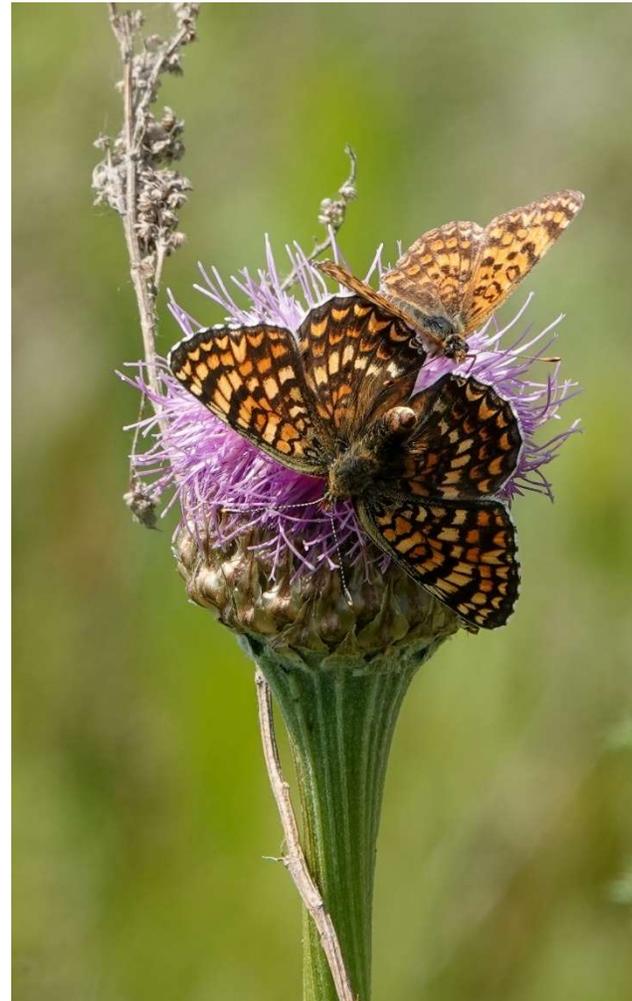


Photo by Tommi Korhonen.

Pheasants, Grouse & Allies

Ring-necked Pheasant
Himalayan Snowcock
Common Quail
Chukar

Flamingos

Greater Flamingo

Grebes

Horned (Slavonian) Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Eared (Black-necked) Grebe

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon (I)
Hill Pigeon
Yellow-eyed Pigeon
Common Wood-Pigeon
Oriental Turtle-Dove
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Laughing Dove

Sandgrouse

Pallas's Sandgrouse
Black-bellied Sandgrouse

Bustards

Little Bustard

Phasianidae

Phasianus colchicus
Tetraogallus himalayensis
Coturnix coturnix
Alectoris chukar

Phoenicopteridae

Phoenicopterus roseus

Podicipedidae

Podiceps auritus
Podiceps grisegena
Podiceps cristatus
Podiceps nigricollis

Columbidae

Columba livia
Columba rupestris
Columba eversmanni
Columba palumbus
Streptopelia orientalis
Streptopelia decaocto
Streptopelia senegalensis

Pteroclididae

Syrrhaptes paradoxus
Pterocles orientalis

Otididae

Tetrax tetrax



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Cuckoos

Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo

Nightjars & Allies

Eurasian Nightjar

Swifts

Alpine Swift

Common Swift

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

Corn Crake

Eurasian Moorhen

Eurasian Coot

Cranes

Demoiselle Crane

Common Crane

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt

Pied Avocet

Ibisbill

Ibisbill

Oystercatchers

Eurasian Oystercatcher

Plovers & Lapwings

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover

Cuculidae

Cuculus canorus

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus europaeus

Apodidae

Apus melba

Apus apus

Rallidae

Crex crex

Gallinula chloropus

Fulica atra

Gruidae

Anthropoides virgo

Grus grus

Recurvirostridae

Himantopus himantopus

Recurvirostra avosetta

Ibidorhynchidae

Ibidorhyncha struthersii

Haematopodidae

Haematopus ostralegus

Charadriidae

Pluvialis squatarola

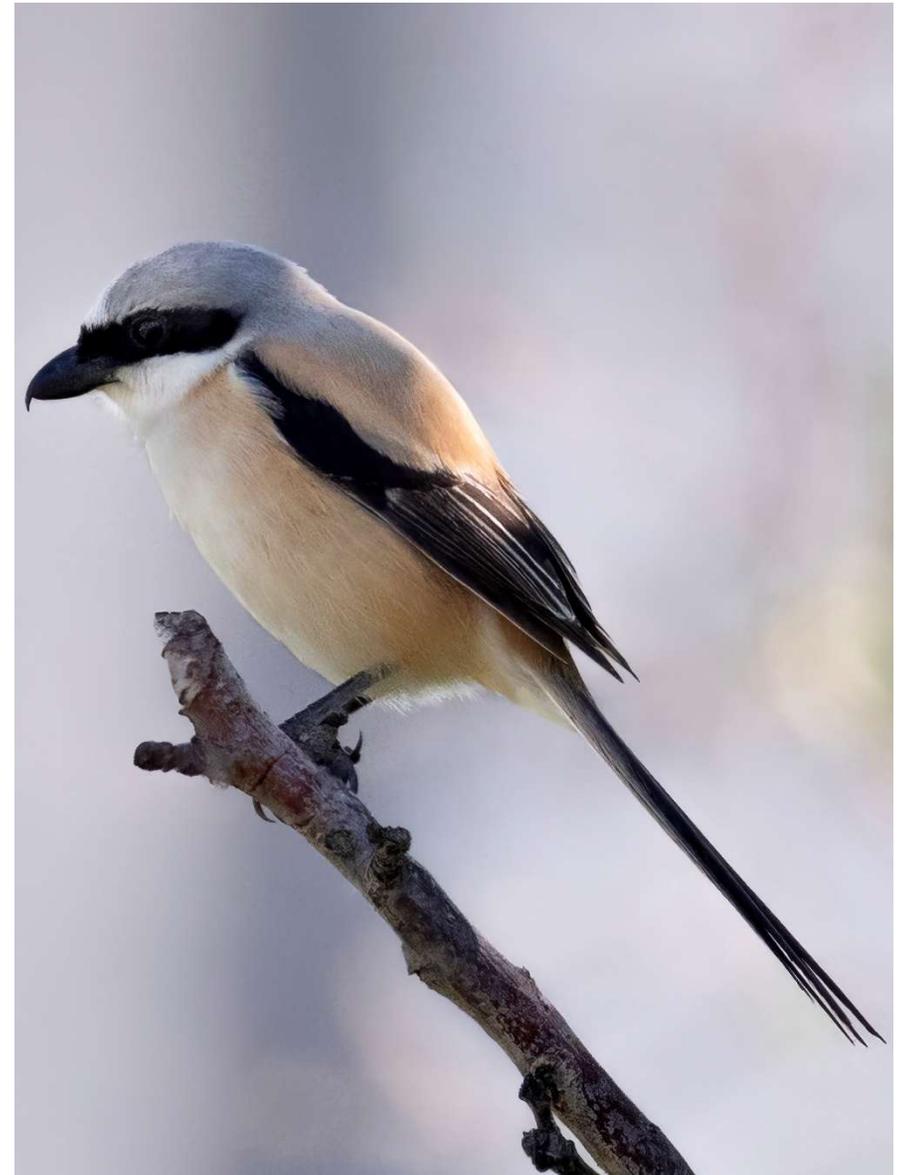


Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Northern Lapwing
Sociable Lapwing
Greater Sand-Plover
Caspian Plover
Kentish Plover
Little Ringed Plover

Sandpipers & Allies

Eurasian Curlew
Curlew Sandpiper
Temminck's Stint
Sanderling
Dunlin
Little Stint
Common Snipe
Terek Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Common Sandpiper
Green Sandpiper
Marsh Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper
Common Redshank

Pratincoles & Coursers

Black-winged Pratincole

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

Slender-billed Gull
Black-headed Gull
Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gull
Common Gull

Vanellus vanellus
Vanellus gregarius
Charadrius leschenaultii
Charadrius asiaticus
Charadrius alexandrinus
Charadrius dubius

Scolopacidae

Numenius arquata
Calidris ferruginea
Calidris temminckii
Calidris alba
Calidris alpina
Calidris minuta
Gallinago gallinago
Xenus cinereus
Phalaropus lobatus
Actitis hypoleucos
Tringa ochropus
Tringa stagnatilis
Tringa glareola
Tringa totanus

Glareolidae

Glareola nordmanni

Laridae

Chroicocephalus genei
Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus
Larus canus

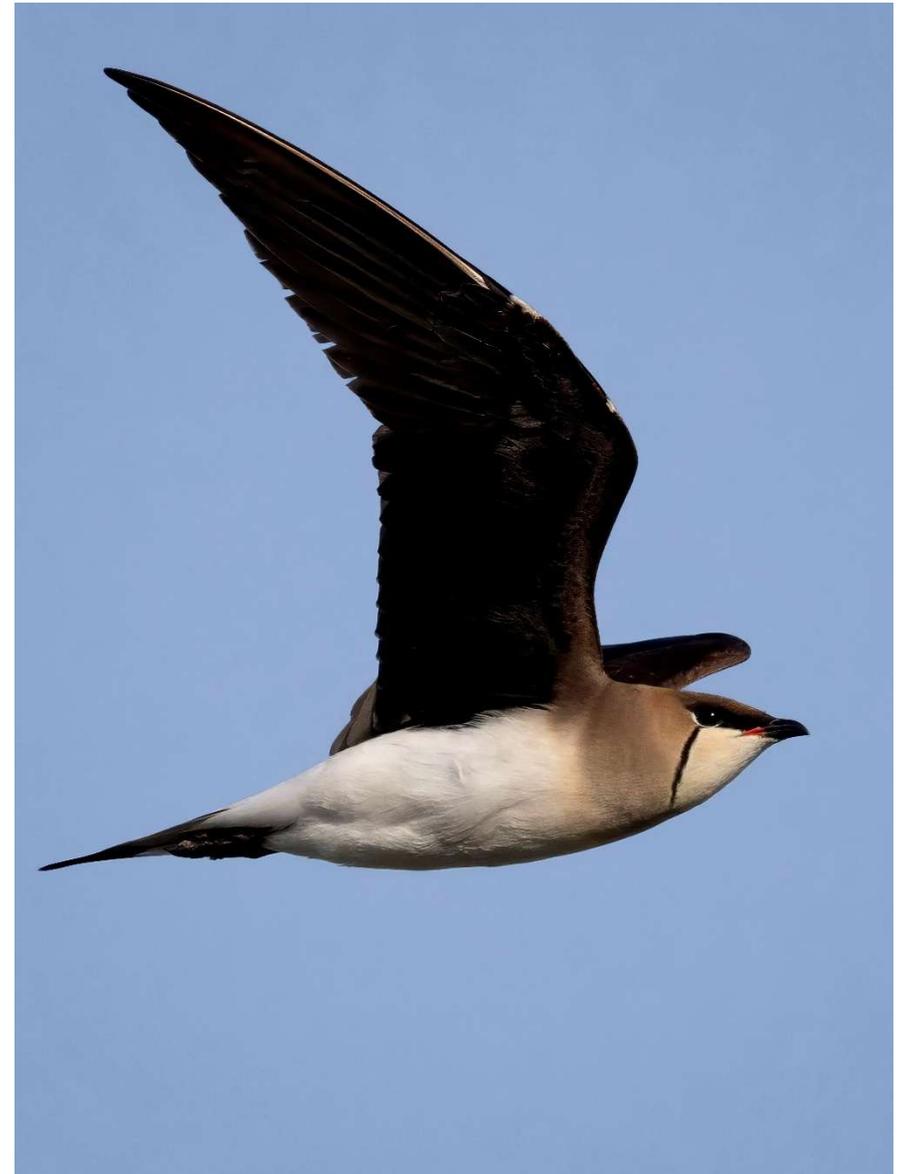


Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Steppe Gull)

Larus fuscus
L. fuscus barabensis

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

Caspian Tern

Hydroprogne caspia

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Storks

Ciconiidae

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

Cormorants & Shags

Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Pelicans

Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Dalmatian Pelican

Pelecanus crispus

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

Ardeidae

Great Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

Gray Heron

Ardea cinerea

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

Ibises & Spoonbills

Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Accipitridae

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)

Gypaetus barbatus

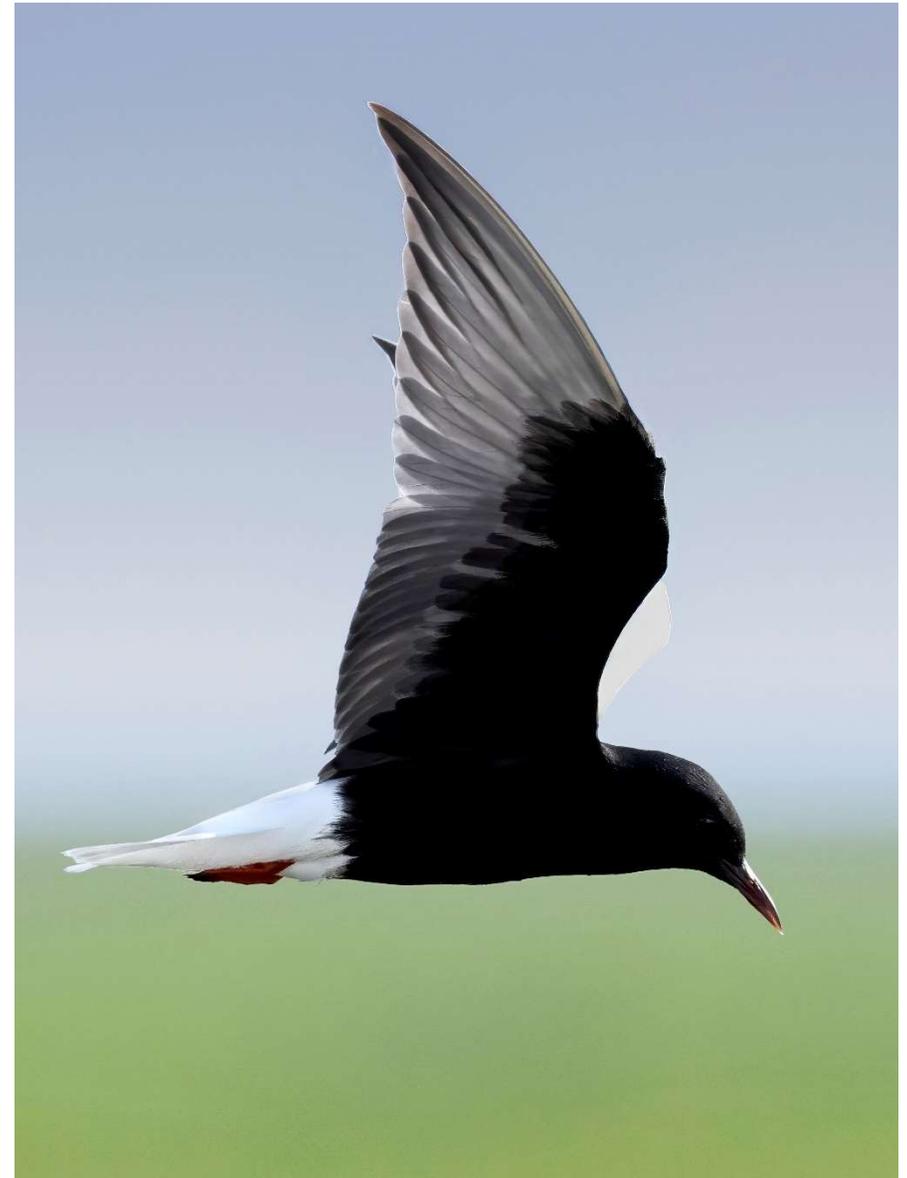


Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Cinereous (Black) Vulture
Himalayan Griffon
Short-toed Snake-Eagle
Booted Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Imperial Eagle
Golden Eagle
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier
Hen Harrier
Pallid Harrier
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Common Buzzard
Long-legged Buzzard
Upland Buzzard

Owls

Eurasian Scops-Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe

Kingfishers

Common Kingfisher

Bee-eaters

European Bee-eater

Aegyptius monachus
Gyps himalayensis
Circaetus gallicus
Hieraaetus pennatus
Aquila nipalensis
Aquila heliaca
Aquila chrysaetos
Circus aeruginosus
Circus cyaneus
Circus macrourus
Accipiter nisus
Milvus migrans
Haliaeetus albicilla
Buteo buteo
Buteo rufinus
Buteo hemilasius

Strigidae

Otus scops
Asio otus
Asio flammeus

Upupidae

Upupa epops

Alcedinidae

Alcedo atthis

Meropidae

Merops apiaster



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Rollers

European Roller

Woodpeckers

Great Spotted Woodpecker

White-winged Woodpecker

Falcons & Caracaras

Lesser Kestrel

Eurasian Kestrel

Red-footed Falcon

Merlin

Eurasian Hobby

Saker Falcon

Old World Orioles

Indian Golden Oriole

Shrikes

Red-backed Shrike

Red-tailed Shrike

Long-tailed Shrike

Great Gray Shrike

Lesser Gray Shrike

Crows, Jays & Magpies

Eurasian Magpie

Red-billed Chough

Yellow-billed (Alpine) Chough

Eurasian Jackdaw

Rook

Coraciidae

Coracias garrulus

Picidae

Dendrocopos major

Dendrocopos leucopterus

Falconidae

Falco naumanni

Falco tinnunculus

Falco vespertinus

Falco columbarius

Falco subbuteo

Falco cherrug

Oriolidae

Oriolus kundoo

Laniidae

Lanius collurio

Lanius phoenicuroides

Lanius schach

Lanius excubitor

Lanius minor

Corvidae

Pica pica

Pyrhacorax pyrrhocorax

Pyrhacorax graculus

Corvus monedula

Corvus frugilegus



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Carrion Crow
Hooded Crow
Brown-necked Raven
Common Raven

Corvus corone
Corvus cornix
Corvus ruficollis
Corvus corax

Tits, Chickadees & Titmice

Coal Tit
Willow Tit
Azure Tit

Paridae

Periparus ater
Poecile montanus
Cyanistes cyanus

Great Tit
(Turkestan Tit)

Parus major
P. major bokharensis

Penduline-Tits

White-crowned Penduline-Tit

Remizidae

Remiz coronatus

Larks

Horned (Shore) Lark
Greater Short-toed Lark
Bimaculated Lark
Calandra Lark
Black Lark
Turkestan Short-toed Lark
White-winged Lark
Eurasian Skylark
Crested Lark

Alaudidae

Eremophila alpestris
Calandrella brachydactyla
Melanocorypha bimaculata
Melanocorypha calandra
Melanocorypha yeltoniensis
Alaudala heinei
Alauda leucoptera
Alauda arvensis
Galerida cristata

Reed Warblers & Allies

Booted Warbler
Sykes's Warbler
Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalidae

Iduna caligata
Iduna rama
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus



Photo by Tommi Korhonen.

Paddyfield Warbler
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Eurasian Reed Warbler
Great Reed Warbler

Grassbirds & Allies

Common Grasshopper Warbler

Martins & Swallows

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)
Pale Sand Martin
Eurasian Crag-Martin
Barn Swallow
Red-rumped Swallow
Common House-Martin

Leaf Warblers

Wood Warbler
Hume's Warbler
Sulphur-bellied Warbler
Greenish Warbler

Bush Warblers & Allies

Cetti's Warbler

Long-tailed Tits

White-browed Tit-Warbler

Sylviid Warblers, Parrotbills & Allies

Lesser Whitethroat

Acrocephalus agricola
Acrocephalus dumetorum
Acrocephalus scirpaceus
Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Locustellidae

Locustella naevia

Hirundinidae

Riparia riparia
Riparia diluta
Ptyonoprogne rupestris
Hirundo rustica
Cecropis daurica
Delichon urbicum

Phylloscopidae

Phylloscopus sibilatrix
Phylloscopus humei
Phylloscopus griseolus
Phylloscopus trochiloides

Scotocercidae

Cettia cetti

Aegithalidae

Leptopoecile sophiae

Sylviidae

Curruca curruca



Photo by Tommi Korhonen.

Eastern Orphean Warbler
Asian Desert Warbler
Greater Whitethroat

Kinglets

Goldcrest

Treecreepers

Eurasian Treecreeper

Wrens

Eurasian Wren

Dippers

White-throated Dipper

Brown Dipper

Starlings

European Starling

Rosy Starling

Common Myna

Thrushes & Allies

Mistle Thrush

Eurasian Blackbird

Fieldfare

Old World Flycatchers

Spotted Flycatcher

Common Nightingale

Bluethroat

Curruca crassirostris

Curruca nana

Curruca communis

Regulidae

Regulus regulus

Certhiidae

Certhia familiaris

Troglodytidae

Troglodytes troglodytes

Cinclidae

Cinclus cinclus

Cinclus pallasii

Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris

Pastor roseus

Acridotheres tristis

Turdidae

Turdus viscivorus

Turdus merula

Turdus pilaris

Muscicapidae

Muscicapa striata

Luscinia megarhynchos

Luscinia svecica

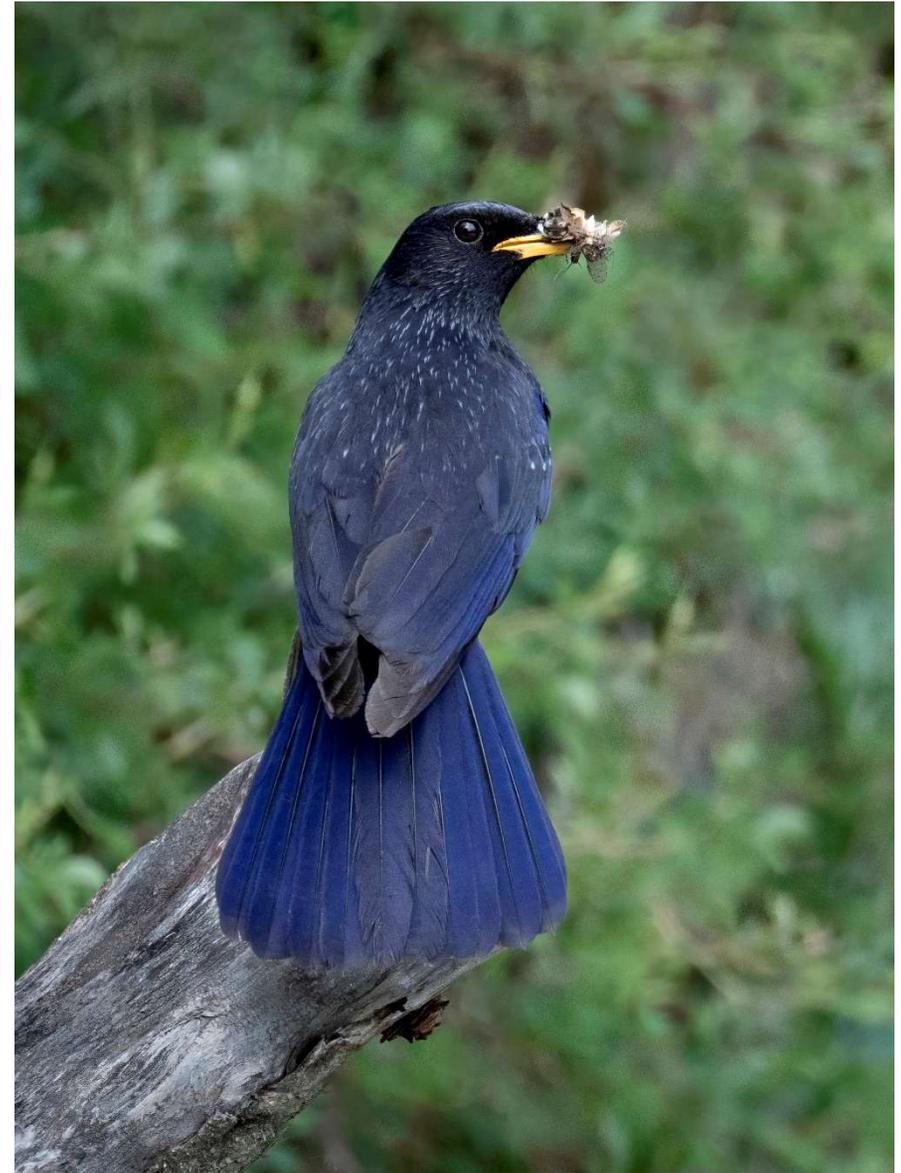


Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Blue Whistling-Thrush
 Himalayan Rubythroat
 Rufous-backed (Eversmann's) Redstart
 Blue-capped Redstart
 White-winged (Güldenstädt's) Redstart
 Black Redstart
 Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush
 Blue Rock-Thrush
 Siberian Stonechat
 Northern Wheatear
 Isabelline Wheatear
 Desert Wheatear
 Pied Wheatear

Accentors

Altai Accentor
 Brown Accentor
 Black-throated Accentor

Old World Sparrows

Saxaul Sparrow
 House Sparrow
 (Indian Sparrow)
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow
 Rock Sparrow

Wagtails & Pipits

Gray Wagtail
 Western Yellow Wagtail
 Citrine Wagtail

Myophonus caeruleus
Calliope pectoralis
Phoenicurus erythronotus
Phoenicurus coeruleocephala
Phoenicurus erythrogastrus
Phoenicurus ochruros
Monticola saxatilis
Monticola solitarius
Saxicola maura
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe isabellina
Oenanthe deserti
Oenanthe pleschanka

Prunellidae

Prunella himalayana
Prunella fulvescens
Prunella atrogularis

Passeridae

Passer ammodendri
Passer domesticus
P. domesticus bactrianus
Passer montanus
Petronia petronia

Motacillidae

Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla flava
Motacilla citreola



Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White Wagtail (Masked)	<i>M. alba personata</i>
White Wagtail (White-faced)	<i>M. alba dukhunensis</i>
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>

Finches, Euphonias & Allies

White-winged Grosbeak
Common Rosefinch
Red-mantled Rosefinch
Mongolian Finch
Plain Mountain Finch
Desert Finch
European Greenfinch
Eurasian Linnet
European Goldfinch
Fire-fronted Serin
Common Chaffinch

Old World Buntings

Red-headed Bunting
Corn Bunting
Rock Bunting
Meadow Bunting
White-capped Bunting
Pine Bunting
Gray-necked Bunting
Reed Bunting

Fringillidae

Mycerobas carnipes
Carpodacus erythrinus
Carpodacus rhodochlamys
Bucanetes mongolicus
Leucosticte nemoricola
Rhodospiza obsoleta
Chloris chloris
Linaria cannabina
Carduelis carduelis
Serinus pusillus
Fringilla coelebs

Emberizidae

Emberiza bruniceps
Emberiza calandra
Emberiza cia
Emberiza cioides
Emberiza stewarti
Emberiza leucocephalos
Emberiza buchanani
Emberiza schoeniclus



Photo by Jarmo Lehtinen.

Other wildlife

Weasels & Allies

Stoat

Cattle, Sheep & Antelopes

Siberian Ibex

Goitered Gazelle

Squirrels

Gray Marmot

Yellow Ground Squirrel

Gerbils

Great Gerbil

Rabbits & Hares

Tolai Hare

Tortoises

Horsfield's Tortoise

Agamas

Steppe Agama

Sunwatcher Toadhead Agama

Wall & Sand Lizards

Rapid Racerunner

Captive/Re-introduced

Dromedary Camel

Mustelidae

Mustela erminea

Bovidae

Capra sibirica

Gazella subgutturosa

Sciuridae

Marmota baibacina

Spermophilus fulvus

Gerbillidae

Rhombomys opimus

Leporidae

Lepus tolai

Testudinidae

Testudo horsfieldi

Agamidae

Agama sanguinolenta

Phrynocephalus helioscopus

Lacertidae

Eremias velox

Camelus dromedarius

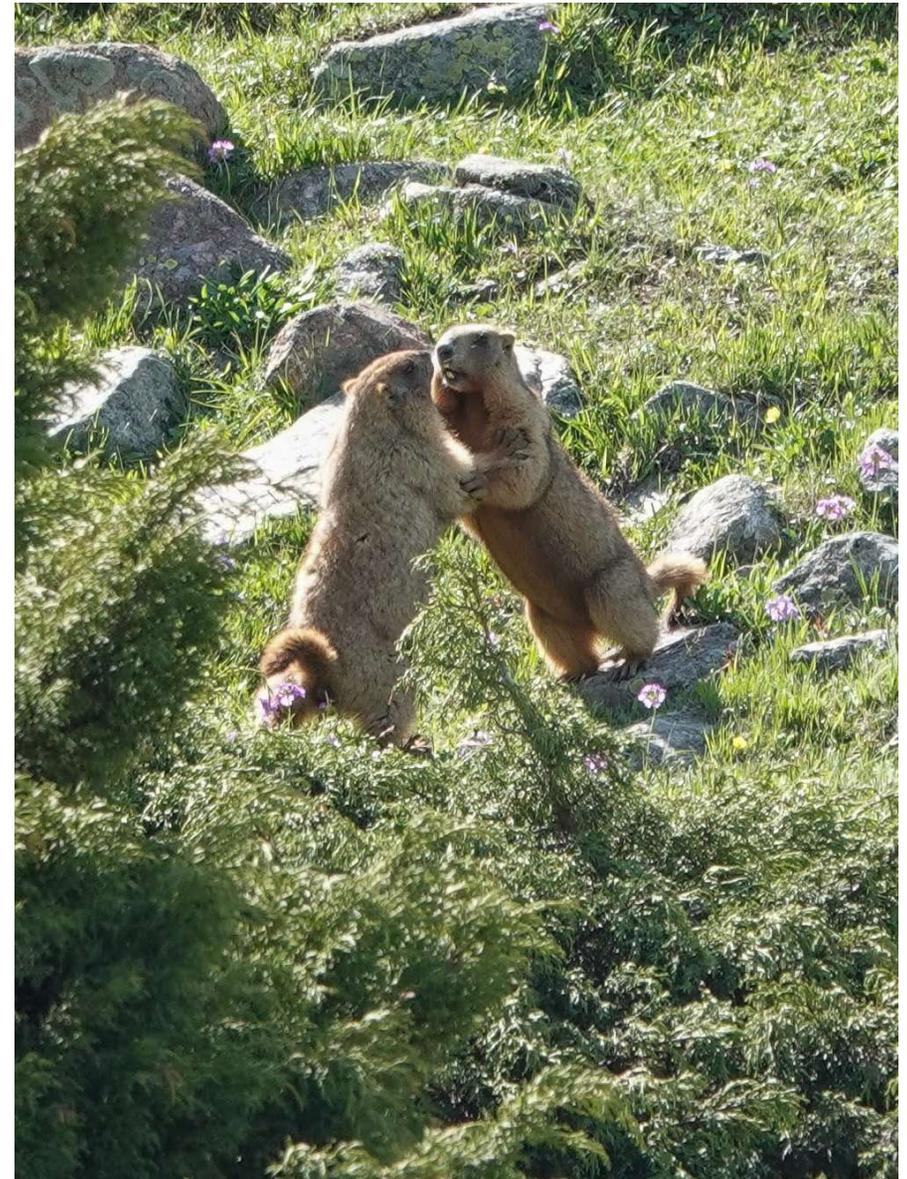


Photo by Tommi Korhonen.