



5 – 18 May, 2025

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan: Spring migration in Central Asia

Leader and report by Erik Jansen

rubythroat
BIRDING TOURS

May 5 | Kaskelen National Reserve

Arriving at Almaty Airport at 8 in the morning means not a whole lot of sleep that night, but the group's spirit was nevertheless high! Along the way to our first birding destination, we found our first birds of the tour: a couple of **Hobbies**, and as soon as we reached our brunch spot in Kaskelen Ili-Ala-Tau National Park we were greeted by a beautiful pair of **Azure Tits**!

Seemingly undisturbed by some teenagers playing in the river, a **Blue Whistling-Thrush** gave great views and was later joined by a second individual. After our brunch break, we explored the area some more and found two **Chukars**, **Booted Eagle**, **Golden Eagle** and two **Brown Dippers** – one adult and one juvenile bird – beautifully dipping along the river.

After 10 minutes of staring at a **White-crowned Penduline Tit** nest that we found, right when we had given up on seeing the birds around the nest, two beautiful **White-crowned Penduline Tits** flew along the riverbed and landed right by their nest. These little birds are such a treat! When we got back to the car, raptors were on the wing, and we found several **Cinereous Vultures** and **Himalayan Griffons** soaring high over our heads. A good start of the tour!

This cheeky Azure Tit came to say hello as soon as we got out of the car!

Photo by Erik Jansen.





This Blue Whistling-Thrush was showing off its beautiful plumage.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

May 6 | Kokpek Pass & Sogety Valley

The next morning, we set off on our journey eastwards, aiming to spend the night in the Sogety Valley. On the way, we quickly found a pair of **Long-tailed Shrikes** along the road, with **Indian Golden Oriole** singing in the background, occasionally visible while flying between trees. Moving further east, we saw two distantly flying **Little Bustards** that were quite enjoyable to follow despite the distance. While observing a bunch of very confiding **White-crowned Penduline Tits**, we heard singing **Cetti's Warbler**, and also **Blyth's Reed Warbler**, **Paddyfield Warbler** and **Moustached Warbler** – a nice little acropuzzle!

When we reached the Kokpek Pass, we stopped for lunch and got perfect views of **Pied Wheatear** and got our first views of **Rock Bunting**. A **Golden Eagle** was again soaring over the mountains. Moving on through the pass, we stopped at a site known to host **White-capped Bunting**. It didn't take long to find a beautiful male that gave splendid views. The group was on a roll, and not much later, in the Sogety Valley, we got great views of **Asian Desert Warblers** and **Brandt's Horned Larks**. We also saw our first **Long-legged Buzzards**, **Tawny Pipits**, **Greater** as well as **Turkestan Short-toed Larks**, and a gathering of **Rollers** sitting in the field. Just before sunset, we found a pair of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** along a dirt road, and when we finally got to our accommodation for the night, there were several **Eurasian Scops Owls** hooting all around the site.



Look at those piercing yellow eyes of this Asian Desert Warbler!

Photo by Erik Jansen.

May 7 | Sogety Valley & Charyn Canyon

After a night of hate and love for the aforementioned **Scops Owls**, we visited an artesian well that attracts birds coming for a drink throughout the day. Upon arrival, we immediately saw a pair of **Pallas's Sandgrouse** and a small flock of **Mongolian Finches**, among some more common species – a good start of the day!

The rest of the day was all about crossing the border into Kyrgyzstan on time, but there was still some time to bird along the road in Kazakhstan. We found several **Desert Wheatears** and a pair of **Steppe Gray Shrikes** in a drier part of the Sogety Valley, and after a short visit to the Charyn Canyon, we found the friendliest **Gray-necked Bunting**, showing incredibly well to the group.

We visited a colony of **Lesser Kestrels** and set up for a quick lunch afterwards. Our lunch spot delivered a wide variety of raptors soaring over the plains, with a stunning male **Oriental Honey Buzzard** stealing the show. There, and along the way to the border, we found several more raptors, including **Cinereous Vultures**, **Himalayan Griffons** and a **Hen Harrier**. We smoothly crossed the border, and not long after we found a pair of **Common Cranes** welcoming us into Kyrgyzstan. The upcoming days were to be spent in the high mountain passes of the Tien Shan.



A male Lesser Kestrel flying through the rain.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.



Gray-necked Buntings are fairly common in rocky landscape in Central Asia.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

May 8 | Chon Ashuu Valley

At first light, we arrived at the entry road to the Chon Ashuu pass, where we found several beautiful **Ring-necked Pheasants**, as well as **Pine Buntings**. Reaching more forested areas at the base of the mountains, we quickly found the only **Blue-capped Redstart** of the trip, along with a **Blue Whistling Thrush** singing from a powerline.

After reaching more open terrain between the mountains, where the riverbed is vast and wide, we searched for Ibisbill, but could not find any. We decided to investigate a patch of bushes, which turned out to be a great idea! **Red-mantled Rosefinch**, **Himalayan Rubythroat**, **Black-throated Accentor**, **Rufous-backed Redstart** and **White-winged Grosbeak** all showed really well! With these mountain specialties in the pocket, we again searched for Ibisbill, but could not find any.

With most of the morning already having passed, the group started to get a little nervous about the absence of Ibisbills, but nevertheless moved onwards to higher altitudes, hoping to find **Altai Accentor**. Luckily, this did not take long, and the group had extensive views of this rocky slope lover, accompanied by several singing **Himalayan Rubythroats** and a nearby **Sulphur-bellied Warbler. Alpine**, as well as **Red-billed Choughs** flew along the slopes, and as we drove down with almost all our target species in the pocket, we encountered two stunning adult **Bearded Vultures** on their scavenger hunt. This day could only get better by finding the elusive Ibisbill!



Blue-capped Redstarts can be tricky to find. This beauty was the only individual we found on the tour.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

After driving a little along the riverbed, we found a wider section of the river, where the birds could potentially be further away from the road, so we decided to give it a shot. And what a shot that was! Within a couple of minutes, we found a relatively nearby **Ibisbill** that entertained the group for a half hour. This perfect day had just gotten even better, and big smiles and high-fives were exchanged among the group! Incredibly satisfied, we drove back to our guesthouse in Karakol and enjoyed a relaxed evening. What a birding day!

May 9 | Barskoon Gorge

The next day we moved on to even higher altitude birding in Barskoon, and we reached the highest point of our tour at over 3800 meters! One of our main targets was **White-winged Redstart**, of which we saw several stunning individuals. Among them was also a second **Altai Accentor**, singing while foraging between the rocks. Not many birds were seen at this high altitude, but they were all high quality.

Several big flocks of **Plain Mountain Finches** kept flying over our heads, but never landed, so we were happy to find a confiding pair a little lower down. There, we also had the best views ever of a singing male **Himalayan Rubythroat**, sitting on a rock just two meters away! This, for sure, was one of the highlights of our trip. Several **Brown Accentors** were singing, and we started hearing **Himalayan Snowcocks** calling around us, high up on the rocky mountain slopes. The weather was quite hazy, so scanning the slopes took some effort, but after about a half hour, we managed to find one individual



Wow! This Himalayan Rubythroat was not at all bothered by our presence and was singing from just a couple of meters away.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

perched on a rock on the horizon, which we thoroughly enjoyed through our telescopes.

After finding all these high mountain specialties, we descended the mountain with one major goal: finding the elusive fairy-like White-browed Tit-warbler. We prepared our lunch in an area with suitable habitat and started searching for this little gem of a bird. As soon as we started searching, an adult **Bearded Vulture** made its way along the slopes, giving incredible views. It took until well after lunch, when we at last heard a **White-browed Tit-warbler** calling from the bushes on the slope. We quickly located the bird as it flew between bushes, and had repeated short views of a female. A very good start, but the group was eager to see a male, with its stunning colors. Thankfully, not long after, suddenly a male perched briefly on top of a bush farther up on the slope, again giving short but good views.

Content, we birded our way further down the mountain, adding **Songar Tit** and **Red-fronted Serin** to our list before we returned to our accommodation. On our way back, we found several **European Bee-eaters** and a pair of **Turkestan Shrikes** on the wires along the road.

May 10 | Chon Ashuu Valley & lowlands

Having seen all of our target species within two days, we were left with a bonus day in Kyrgyzstan – a luxury! We decided to go back to where we saw **Pine Buntings** two days ago in order to get some pictures of these beautiful birds. This proved a great decision, as they gave



A pair of Turkestan Shrikes along the shore of Lake Issyk-Kul. Those thorns look ready to impale some prey.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

wonderful views, often no more than 2 or 3 meters away. As we wandered around the fields, we also found a small mixed flock of **Rock** and **Hill Pigeons**. An amazing surprise at this relatively low altitude!

We then started searching for the local subspecies (*leucogaster*) of **White-throated Dipper**, which has its breast and belly all white. Walking along the river, we failed to find it, but found a **Northern Nutcracker** instead. A little later, while driving up, we saw a **White-throated Dipper** sitting on a rock in the river. We quickly got out of the car, and as we were obscured by a row of bushes, managed to get great views of this great bird.

With not many possible new species left in the mountains, we started birding in the lowlands around Karakol, where we saw several **Gray-crowned Goldfinches**, **Citrine Wagtails**, **Siberian Stonechats** and **Turkestan Shrikes**. Almost back in Karakol, the highlight of our afternoon was a pair of **Eastern Imperial Eagles** soaring over the fields, which we observed for up to a half hour. Another great end to our last full day in Kyrgyzstan.

May 11 | Return to Almaty, Kazakhstan

The next morning, we went back to where we saw the aforementioned Imperial Eagles in order to get pictures with better light. This proved quite the success, and in addition we found a highly-anticipated **Upland Buzzard** that had joined the **Imperial Eagles** on the first morning thermals. A great start of our travel day back to Kazakhstan!



This male Pine Bunting gave away a great show!
Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.



A stunning adult Imperial Eagle having a closer look at the camera.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

On our way back to the border, we found a trio of the beautiful **Demoiselle Crane**, and discovered a colony of **Pale Martins**. A variety of waterfowl, including **Eared Grebes**, **Whooper Swans** and **Ferruginous Ducks** were found, and on the other side of the border, back in Kazakhstan, we found a **Common Merganser**. We didn't stop often, as our main purpose was to get back to Almaty – quite the drive –, but we enjoyed finding **Lesser Gray Shrike** and nesting **Rock Sparrow** during some of our stops.

May 12 | Sorbulak Lake & Taukum Desert

Our first stop was Sorbulak lake, where we found a wide variety of water birds, further adding to our already impressive species list. Highlights were **Great White Pelicans** and **Dalmatian Pelicans**, both numbering 100+ individuals. A singing **Indian Golden Oriole** was a nice little bonus. Moving further north, we saw thousands of **Rosy Starlings** around their colonies along the main road – a very impressive view!

Since migration was in full swing, we stopped in a little village along the way. The vegetation in such places often attracts lots of migratory birds, and this time was no different. Lots of **Common Rosefinches** were found, but the main highlights were a roosting **Eurasian Nightjar** and a hybrid **Turkestan x Red-backed Shrike** in the same pile of branches.

*One of thousands of roadside Rosy Starlings.
Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.*



Close to our final destination, we found a pair of **Desert Finches**, some **Spanish Sparrows**, **Calandra Larks** and our first of many **Red-headed Buntings** (which have a brown head). Finally arriving at our yurt camp, we found many **Greater Sand Plovers** and **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** in the vicinity. The cooks in the yurt camp cooked us a delicious meal, and we tucked in for a short night.

May 13 | Zheltorangy Desert Poplar Forest

The next morning, we were woken up by singing **Turkestan Short-toed Larks** all around us, and **Isabelline Wheatears** that have the greatest repertoire of mimicry. Our main target for the morning was **Caspian Plover**, and after driving over 30 kilometers over desert trails, we managed to find no less than 13 individuals, including a couple males in their most beautiful plumage. What a treat these birds are! On our way, we also found a single **Asian Houbara** walking through the desert, and several small flocks of **Brown-necked Ravens** flying over.

We went back to our camp to have breakfast, and then made our way over to a forested 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 several **Bimaculated Larks** 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 managed to get our first views of a small flock of the rare and declining **Yellow-eyed Pigeon**. We found more **Saxaul Sparrows** and some **Turkestan Tits**.



Caspian Plovers are among the most beautiful shorebirds on the planet. They are one of the major highlights on any birding tour in Central Asia.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.



Saxaul Sparrows are incredibly beautiful birds and are one of the specialty species on the tour!

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

We struggled to find **Sykes's Warbler**, but thankfully managed to find two individuals on the way back. We then made our long way back to the yurt camp, and since there was still some daylight left, we decided to check around the nearby village. The biggest highlight was a small group of **Black-throated Thrushes**, a very good bonus species, especially this time of year, as the vast majority of birds has already left Kazakhstan.

May 14 | Return to Almaty

One species that some of the group had missed, and the others had not seen well yet, was Pallas's Sandgrouse. This morning would be the last chance to see this species, so we gave it our best shot and camped out near an artesian well where these graceful birds are known to sometimes come for a drink. After about 20 minutes of waiting, suddenly two male **Pallas's Sandgrouse** dropped in near the well and everyone was able to enjoy these birds for a couple of minutes as they carefully made their way to the water for some sips. Everybody was thrilled to have seen this enigmatic species, and as we made our way back to the car, we were alerted by the call of **Pallas's Sandgrouse**. With everyone's camera settings set wrong for close overhead flying birds, we were caught by surprise as 7 more individuals suddenly flew over our heads!

The remainder of the day was about driving back to Almaty to catch our flight to Astana the next morning. However, there were two species



This Yellow-eyed Pigeon perched beautifully out in the open in a dead tree.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

that we had missed earlier on the trip, so we gave these another try to see if Lady Luck would be on our side this time. Thankfully, the first stop proved successful as we found a distant male **White-headed Duck**! A roosting **Eurasian Nightjar** found by another Rubythroat Birding Tours group was a great bonus!

The last target species for the day was **Meadow Bunting**, which we failed to find on the first day of the tour. We again tried several locations, but only managed to hear a singing individual that we were unable to get views of.

May 15 | Astana & Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

After a long night of sleep, we made our way to the airport to board our flight to Astana, where we would spend the last couple of tour days in order to find some real steppe specialties. Some of the most anticipated species of the trip were waiting for us here! In Astana, we were picked up by our new driver and made our way to the west.

Our first stop was already quite productive with **Bluethroats** and **Booted Warblers** singing. We also found stunning **Pallid Harriers**, **Red-footed Falcons** and a surprise **Short-eared Owl** along the road. Close to our accommodation in Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, we saw our first **Black Larks** and **Pallas's Gulls**! Welcome to the steppes!

Pallid Harriers were a common sight along the road to Korgalzhyn.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.





An elegant Black-winged Pratincole showing why it is called black-winged.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

May 16 | Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve

The next morning, we left early on our mission to find all local specialties. In an attempt to find Sociable Lapwing, we drove to a spot where one was seen previously, but instead found a small colony of **Black-winged Pratincoles!** Throughout the morning, we found incredible numbers of **Black Larks** and every now and then we encountered a patch with beautiful **White-winged Larks**.

Driving through the steppes, we stopped by most bodies of water that we encountered, and added lots of wader species to our list, such as **Spotted Redshanks, Marsh Sandpipers, Terek Sandpipers** and **Kentish Plovers**. One small lake held three species of grebe in stunning breeding plumage: **Red-necked, Horned** and **Eared Grebe**. Most lakes held at least a couple of either **Black Tern** or **White-winged Tern** (or both), and sometimes we would find **Caspian Tern** and **Common Tern**.

One of the biggest morning highlights was a pair of **White-headed Ducks** swimming past us not too far away. This lake also held a **Slender-billed Gull** and a pair of **Demoiselle Cranes** was foraging between the lake and the road. As temperatures were through the roof, approaching 40 degrees Celsius, we returned to our guesthouse to have our lunch inside and let our bodies cool down to normal temperatures again.



White-winged Terns are so incredibly graceful and often forage at close distance from their observers.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.



Hundreds of pairs of Pallas's Gull breed on an island in the middle of a steppe lake.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

After our break, we set off again into the steppes, on our way to a large colony of **Pallas's Gull**. Before we got there, though, we were alerted by a distantly flying lapwing. We quickly stopped the car, and within seconds it was clear we were looking at not one, but two **Sociable Lapwings**, landing not too far away from us! An absolutely amazing observation of this critically endangered species. After spending some time with these beauties, we moved on to our destination lake and enjoyed the colony of hundreds of **Pallas's Gulls**, surrounded by **Steppe Gulls**, **Greater Flamingos** and mind-blowing numbers of **Red-necked Phalarope**. We estimated that there were around 5000 individuals swimming around on the lake. Content, we returned to our accommodation, and got ready for our last night in Kazakhstan.

May 17 | Return to Astana

With all bird targets in the pocket, we spent the last 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**. It took us almost the entire morning to track them down, but eventually we found a small group, and some individuals spread out on the endless fields. Relieved that we had managed to find these wondrous mammals, we drove back to our guesthouse for one last lunch on the steppes. Satisfied, we drove back to Astana, where we had a lovely concluding dinner.



This Black Lark surely is king of the hill...

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.



These two male Red-footed Falcons seemed to have a disagreement about something.

Photo by Erik Jansen.

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/>



The orange-toned plumage in male White-winged Larks is absolutely striking.

Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

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 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
Mergus merganser
Oxyura leucocephala

Pheasants, Grouse & Allies

Ring-necked Pheasant

Phasianidae

Phasianus colchicus



Photo by Erik Jansen.

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

Macqueen's Bustard
Little Bustard

Tetraogallus himalayensis
Coturnix coturnix
Alectoris chukar

Phoenicopteridae

Phoenicopterus roseus

Podicipedidae

Podiceps auritus
Podiceps grisegena
Podiceps cristatus
Podiceps nigricollis

Columbidae

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

Pteroclididae

Syrrhaptes paradoxus
Pterocles orientalis

Otididae

Chlamydotis macqueenii
Tetrax tetrax



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Cuckoos

Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo

Nightjars & Allies

Eurasian Nightjar

Swifts

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

Northern Lapwing

Cuculidae

Cuculus canorus

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus europaeus

Apodidae

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

Vanellus vanellus



Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

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

Sandpipers & Allies

Whimbrel
Black-tailed Godwit
Ruff
Curlew Sandpiper
Temminck's Stint
Dunlin
Little Stint
Terek Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Common Sandpiper
Green Sandpiper
Spotted Redshank
Common Greenshank
Marsh Sandpiper
Wood Sandpiper
Common Redshank

Pratincoles & Coursers

Black-winged Pratincole

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

Slender-billed Gull
Black-headed Gull

Vanellus gregarius
Charadrius leschenaultii
Charadrius asiaticus
Charadrius alexandrinus
Charadrius hiaticula
Charadrius dubius

Scolopacidae

Numenius phaeopus
Limosa limosa
Calidris pugnax
Calidris ferruginea
Calidris temminckii
Calidris alpina
Calidris minuta
Xenus cinereus
Phalaropus lobatus
Actitis hypoleucos
Tringa ochropus
Tringa erythropus
Tringa nebularia
Tringa stagnatilis
Tringa glareola
Tringa totanus

Glareolidae

Glareola nordmanni

Laridae

Chroicocephalus genei
Chroicocephalus ridibundus



Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Pallas's (Great Black-headed) Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Steppe Gull)	<i>Larus fuscus</i> <i>L. fuscus barabensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>

Cormorants & Shags

Great Cormorant

Pelicans

Great White Pelican

Dalmatian Pelican

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

Great Bittern

Gray Heron

Great Egret

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)

European Honey-buzzard

Oriental Honey-buzzard

Cinereous (Black) Vulture

Himalayan Griffon

Short-toed Snake-Eagle

Phalacrocoracidae

Phalacrocorax carbo

Pelecanidae

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Pelecanus crispus

Ardeidae

Botaurus stellaris

Ardea cinerea

Ardea alba

Accipitridae

Gypaetus barbatus

Pernis apivorus

Pernis ptilorhynchus

Aegypius monachus

Gyps himalayensis

Circaetus gallicus



Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Booted Eagle
Steppe Eagle
Imperial Eagle
Golden Eagle
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier
Hen Harrier
Pallid Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Shikra
Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Common Buzzard
Long-legged Buzzard
Upland Buzzard

Owls

Eurasian Scops-Owl
Little Owl
Short-eared Owl

Hoopoes

Eurasian Hoopoe

Kingfishers

Common Kingfisher

Bee-eaters

European Bee-eater

Hieraaetus pennatus
Aquila nipalensis
Aquila heliaca
Aquila chrysaetos
Circus aeruginosus
Circus cyaneus
Circus macrourus
Circus pygargus
Accipiter badius
Accipiter nisus
Milvus migrans
Haliaeetus albicilla
Buteo buteo
Buteo rufinus
Buteo hemilasius

Strigidae

Otus scops
Athene noctua
Asio flammeus

Upupidae

Upupa epops

Alcedinidae

Alcedo atthis

Meropidae

Merops apiaster



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Rollers

European Roller

Woodpeckers

White-winged Woodpecker

Falcons & Caracaras

Lesser Kestrel

Eurasian Kestrel

Red-footed Falcon

Merlin

Eurasian Hobby

Peregrine 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

Eurasian (Spotted) Nutcracker

Red-billed Chough

Yellow-billed (Alpine) Chough

Eurasian Jackdaw

Rook

Coraciidae

Coracias garrulus

Picidae

Dendrocopos leucopterus

Falconidae

Falco naumanni

Falco tinnunculus

Falco vespertinus

Falco columbarius

Falco subbuteo

Falco peregrinus

Oriolidae

Oriolus kundoo

Laniidae

Lanius collurio

Lanius phoenicuroides

Lanius schach

Lanius excubitor

Lanius minor

Corvidae

Pica pica

Nucifraga caryocatactes

Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

Pyrrhocorax 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

Eurasian Penduline-Tit
White-crowned Penduline-Tit

Remizidae

Remiz pendulinus
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

Acrocephalidae

Iduna caligata
Iduna rama



Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Moustached Warbler
Sedge Warbler
Paddyfield Warbler
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Great Reed Warbler

Grassbirds & Allies

Common Grasshopper Warbler

Martins & Swallows

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

Leaf Warblers

Hume's Warbler
Sulphur-bellied Warbler
Common Chiffchaff
Greenish Warbler

Bush Warblers & Allies

Cetti's Warbler

Long-tailed Tits

White-browed Tit-Warbler

Sylviid Warblers, Parrotbills & Allies

Lesser Whitethroat
Asian Desert Warbler

Acrocephalus melanopogon
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Acrocephalus agricola
Acrocephalus dumetorum
Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Locustellidae

Locustella naevia

Hirundinidae

Riparia riparia
Riparia diluta
Hirundo rustica
Cecropis daurica
Delichon urbicum

Phylloscopidae

Phylloscopus humei
Phylloscopus griseolus
Phylloscopus collybita
Phylloscopus trochiloides

Scotocercidae

Cettia cetti

Aegithalidae

Leptopoecile sophiae

Sylviidae

Curruca curruca
Curruca nana



Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Greater Whitethroat

Kinglets

Goldcrest

Wrens

Eurasian Wren

Dippers

White-throated Dipper

Brown Dipper

Starlings

European Starling

Rosy Starling

Common Myna

Thrushes & Allies

Mistle Thrush

Eurasian Blackbird

Black-throated Thrush

Old World Flycatchers

Spotted Flycatcher

Thrush Nightingale

Common Nightingale

Bluethroat

Blue Whistling-Thrush

Himalayan Rubythroat

Rufous-backed (Eversmann's) Redstart

Blue-capped Redstart

Curruca communis

Regulidae

Regulus regulus

Troglodytidae

Troglodytes troglodytes

Cinclidae

Cinclus cinclus

Cinclus pallasii

Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris

Pastor roseus

Acridotheres tristis

Turdidae

Turdus viscivorus

Turdus merula

Turdus atrogularis

Muscicapidae

Muscicapa striata

Luscinia luscinia

Luscinia megarhynchos

Luscinia svecica

Myophonus caeruleus

Calliope pectoralis

Phoenicurus erythronotus

Phoenicurus coeruleocephala



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Common Redstart
 White-winged (Güldenstädt's) Redstart
 Black Redstart
 Siberian Stonechat
 Northern Wheatear
 Isabelline Wheatear
 Desert Wheatear
 Pied Wheatear

Phoenicurus phoenicurus
Phoenicurus erythrogastrus
Phoenicurus ochruros
Saxicola maura
Oenanthe oenanthe
Oenanthe isabellina
Oenanthe deserti
Oenanthe pleschanka

Accentors

Altai Accentor
 Brown Accentor
 Black-throated Accentor

Prunellidae

Prunella himalayana
Prunella fulvescens
Prunella atrogularis

Old World Sparrows

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

Passeridae

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

Wagtails & Pipits

Gray Wagtail
 Western Yellow Wagtail
 Citrine Wagtail
 White Wagtail
 White Wagtail (Masked)
 White Wagtail (White-faced)
 Tawny Pipit

Motacillidae

Motacilla cinerea
Motacilla flava
Motacilla citreola
Motacilla alba
M. alba personata
M. alba dukhunensis
Anthus campestris



Photo by Erik Jansen.

Tree Pipit
Water Pipit

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
Brambling

Old World Buntings

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

Anthus trivialis
Anthus spinoletta

Fringillidae

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

Emberizidae

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

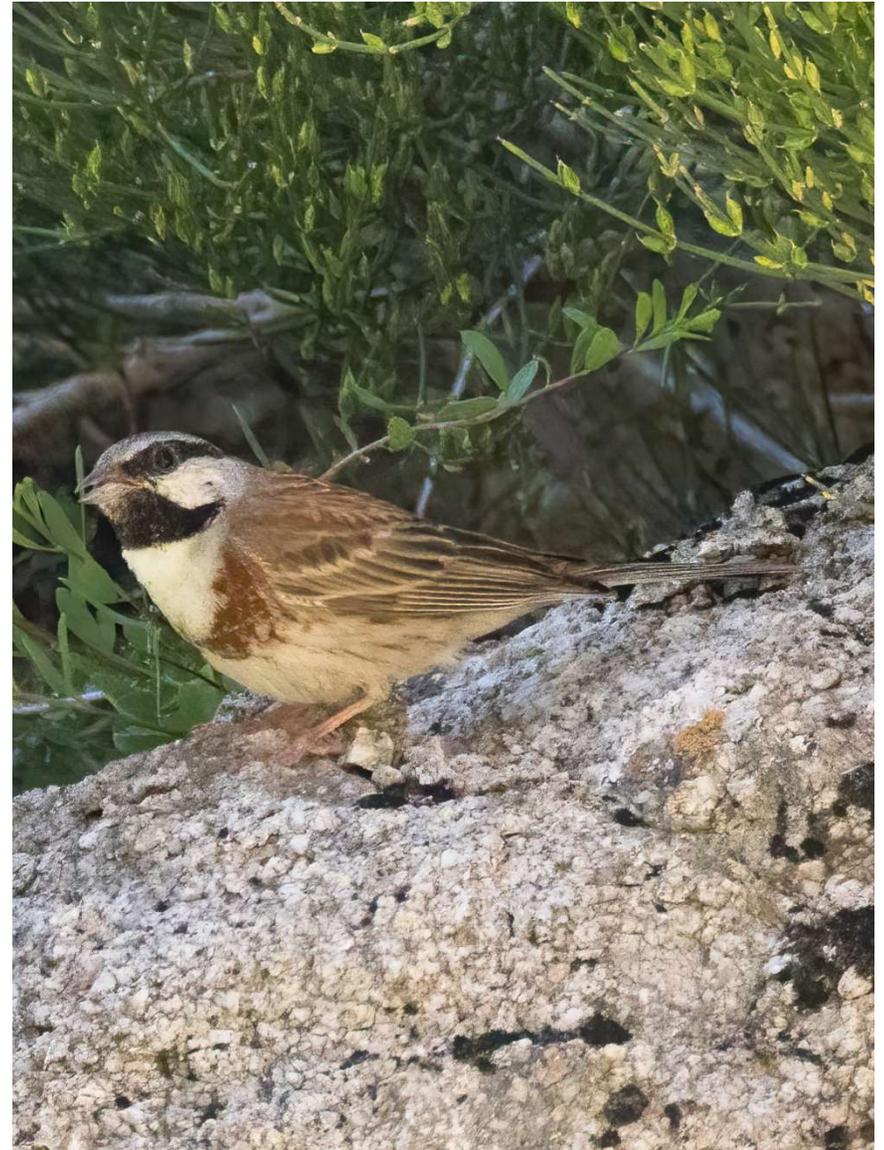


Photo by Jarmo Koistinen.

Other wildlife

Dogs

Corsac Fox

Cattle, Sheep & Antelopes

Goitered Gazelle

Squirrels

Gray Marmot

Bobak Marmot

Eurasian Red Squirrel

Yellow Ground Squirrel

Gerbils

Great Gerbil

Rabbits & Hares

Tolai Hare

Tortoises

Horsfield's Tortoise

Snakes

Steppe Ribbon Racer

Agamas

Steppe Agama

Sunwatcher Toadhead Agama

Canidae

Vulpes corsac

Bovidae

Gazella subgutturosa

Sciuridae

Marmota baibacina

Marmota bobak

Sciurus vulgaris

Spermophilus fulvus

Gerbillidae

Rhombomys opimus

Leporidae

Lepus tolai

Testudinidae

Testudo horsfieldi

Serpentes

Psammophis lineolatus

Agamidae

Agama sanguinolenta

Phrynocephalus helioscopus

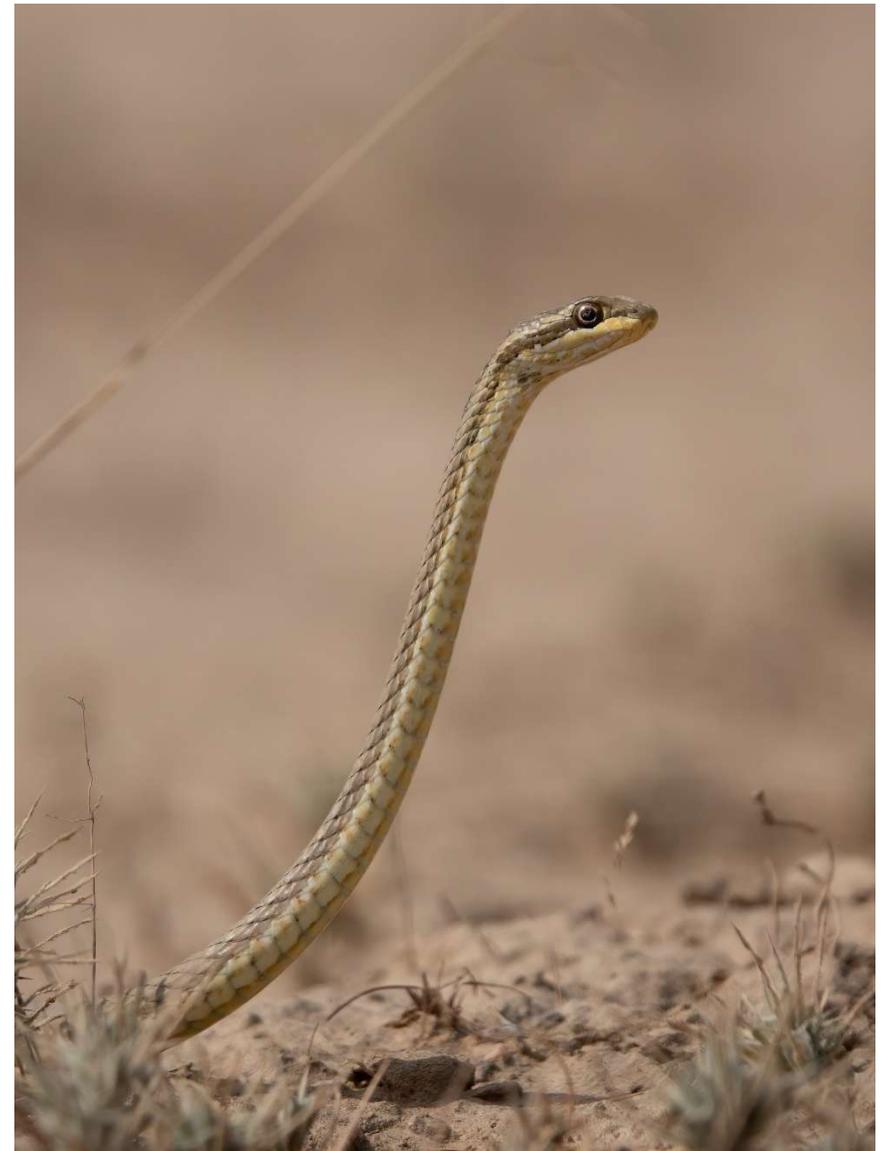


Photo by Erik Jansen.

Wall & Sand Lizards

Rapid Racerunner

Geckos

Common Wonder Gecko

Captive/Re-introduced

Dromedary Camel

Lacertidae

Eremias velox

Gekkonidae

Teratoscincus scincus

Camelus dromedarius



Photo by Erik Jansen.