

Northwest India

The Flowers of Himachal Pradesh

A Greentours Reconnaissance Report

2nd – 20th July 2014

by Chris Gardner

Day 1 2nd July Turkey to India

No problems were encountered with the flights except the entertainment system had broken down and the arrival time was horrible!

Day 2 3rd July Delhi to Manali

Touching down in Delhi at 4am meant by the time I'd gone through immigration (which was swift and efficient) and collected my bag, withdrew money and set off with the ever-reliable Mr Vinod Goswami I didn't hit the sack until 5.30am. My flight in the morning was at eleven which meant a couple of hours sleep, breakfast and then onto a smaller propeller plane for the hour or so to Chandigarh. My guide Neelam and driver were waiting and we set off for the long drive to Manali, stopping after an hour or so for a tasty Thali but then on first on reasonable highway watched over by numerous Black Kites. As we gained more height slopes held stately forms of *Euphorbia royleana* and Wild Date Palm *Phoenix sylvestris*, then alongside a reservoir before finally arriving at the verdant (albeit dark) Kullu Valley with its' abundant orchards that I'd see in the morning.

Arriving at the lodge all was swift and I was instantly led to a very comfortable tastefully constructed chalet and then after a shower and a fine meal the long haul was all but forgotten. Several interesting longhorn beetles and moths were flying around the lights but I was too zonked to look that closely.

Day 3 4th July Kias Dhar

Refreshed after a very comfortable sleep I was awoken by the musical strains of Blue Whistling Thrushes and then venturing into the well landscaped gardens there were several stunning Helens and Paris Peacocks feeding on the flowers, Grey Wagtails along the rushing river and a

family of Great Tits in the trees. I had breakfast in the garden and the weather looked fine so once Neelam had arrived we set off for the hills that were clothed with orchards and higher up by stands of conifers including Deodar Cedar, much of which had been used in constructing the lodge (using recycled timber from one hundred year-old old houses – so resilient is cedarwood). As we drove up several Himalayan Griffon Vultures soared out on the fast strengthening thermals and there were the first of many fabulous views across the Kullu Valley and its neatly tended farms, orchards and terraces with typical slate-roofed houses. Reaching the mature stands of *Picea smithiana* a fine conifer with gracefully drooping branches with an understorey of foamy flowered *Sorbaria tomentosa* and herbs such as *Anemone rivularis*, attractive ferns such as *Osmunda sp* and here and there the elegant emerald spathes of *Arisaema jacquemontii* with fine white stripes. There was never going to be many interesting herbs about and today was more about acclimatising and enjoying the fine trees with some superb pure stands or a mixture of spruce and the fir *Abies pindrow*. Great Barbets started up with their monotonous call as we walked along the track through the forest. Further on were a couple of small waterfalls and accompanying restaurant where we had lunch and afterwards I wandered back up the track meeting with a mixed flock of Black-throated and Green-backed Tits, Grey-headed Warbler and a Bar-tailed Treecreeper followed by a Great Barbet nest in a large spruce.

The narrow road continued along the valley side entering an area dominated by *Cedrus deodara* with some fine stands. There was time to look at a small gallery and museum dedicated to the Russian artist Nicholas Roerich with a striking beard who spent a great deal of time here and at Kalimpong in Sikkim producing many beautiful studies of mountains and their people.

Day 4 5th July Manali and Rohtang La

A day of frustration which only partially redeemed itself late on! I had some somewhat sketchy information about the location for *Lilium polyphyllum* and *Cardiocrinum giganteum* in Manali, but nonetheless it seemed findable until we encountered one blind alley after another and got nowhere, except the fine cedars at Hadimba Temple. An hour stuck in a traffic jam didn't help either.

[However, subsequent investigations of just about every path going have drawn the conclusion that the new hotels and bungalows now sit on the lilies!]

Finally out of town we tried to make up for lost time and drove up the winding narrow road towards Rohtang eventually leaving the forested areas with their abundant *Anemone rivularis/demissa*, passing a scattering of *Roscoea alpina* on the rocks and then reaching open slopes where we stopped for our first, of many, *Meconopsis aculeata* and were joined at one point by a lovely Pink-browed Rosefinch. These were growing near the pretty pink drumsticks of *Androsace sarmentosa* and the larger drumsticks of *Primula denticulata* were not far away. A rocky slope led up to a gully with both the latter and three other species of primula with lots of the lovely deep

pink *Primula rosea* close to a snow patch, as well as delicate *Primula involucreta* and one or two of the altogether more ravishing *Primula macrophylla* var *moorcroftiana* a *nivalis* type with purple flowers. Elsewhere were abundant *Caltha palustris* and *Arisaema jacquemontii*, a few *Trollius acaulis*, neat bushes of cerise flowered *Rhododendron lepidotum*, deep red *Potentilla atosanguineum*, mauve *Phlomis bracteosa* and speckled throughout the shorter turf was the deep blue of *Corydalis cashmeriana*. Among the larger boulders were great sprawling masses of *Bergenia stracheyi* and nice patches of *Anemone tetrasepala*. It was all becoming quite productive and I still wanted to try and find *Cypripedium himalaicum* and *Fritillaria roylei* which should have been nearby but then the rain arrived and put an end to things. Not a bad start in the end and hopefully with some better luck tomorrow we'll track down the rest of the goodies on the Rohtang La.

Day 5 6th July Rohtang La and to Tandi

And there certainly were many more goodies and this was despite the dense fog that had enveloped the mountains today. It was clearer lower down in the valley though and I had breakfast watching a Great Barbet feeding on fruit only six metres away. We then drove straight up to the same point as yesterday and had another look for *Cypripedium himalaicum* but without success. However, this was the last disappointment as not much further on was a wet cliff face with the gorgeous sweet-scented *Primula reidii* with wide-open white bells. There were *Iris kemaonensis* and *Thermopsis barbata* but the dense fog made it difficult to see far. This all changed once we had reached the top where we passed hundreds of holidaying Delhi-ites (doing all sorts on the snow from skiing to skidooring, but mainly falling over) and begun our slow descent for suddenly there was sunshine, clear slopes and blue in the sky. The turf was smothered in sheets of yellow *Anemone obtusiloba* and mixed among them were many blue spikes of *Lagotis cashmerianus*, whilst studding the turf were hundreds of *Gentiana carinata*. Looking across the slopes there were many drifts of pink *Androsace sempervivoides* with their little pink drumsticks and as I crossed the turf to the northern side the sparser turf was peppered with hundreds of pretty little *Primula reptans* the flowers considerably bigger than the leaves. On another slope were quite a few *Primula elliptica* and what looked like *Adonis chrysocanthus* on the other side of a large snowpatch. I'm sure more could be found with more time but for now I settled for the fine drifts of *Rhododendron anthopogon* the dwarf bushes smothered in creamy flowers and covered the slope with a fine mountain view in the background.

We needed to move on and started our descent stopping not long after for a good population of the handsome *Iris kemaonensis* with some interesting colour forms. Common Rosefinch added a dash of avian colour and then there were plentiful mauve *Geranium himalayense* and the blue bells of *Lindelofia anchusoides*. The landscape became increasingly grand with the craggy cliffs soaring up and ridges of snowy peaks appearing. On flatter areas were neat fields and terraces and along the road many flower-laden bushes of pink *Rosa webbiana*. A dry slope had some superb yellow

Morina coulteriana and the delicate fimbriate-petalled *Dianthus angulatus* and there were many more of the former as we continued along reaching our rustic accommodation in good time.

Day 6 7th July To the Miyar Valley

I took a pre-breakfast stroll to look at the rocky slopes near the houses seeing Long-tailed Shrike, Rock Bunting, Swift and three Alpine Choughs on the way. On the rocks were the white bells of *Campanula pallida* and along the roadside bank were the sapphire heads of *Allium caesium*, many pretty *Dianthus angulatus* and stands of *Geranium himalayense*. It was a fairly long drive to Udaipur following the Chandra River and slowly descending with little of interest plant wise. After an early lunch in the town we turned off along the Miyar Valley and slowly drove up again and the flora quickly improved with lovely meadows of *Pedicularis pyramidata* mingled with the tall yellow daisy *Senecio chrysanthemoides*, pinkish spikes of *Nepeta nervosa* and in wetter places with cerise-coloured *Pedicularis siphonantha*. There were Goldfinches and Red-fronted Serins as we continued stopping next for a stony slope with much *Scutellaria prostrata*, the odd *Aquilegia fragrans* and yellow *Corydalis govaniiana*. All the while the bushes of *Rosa webbiana* were getting better and better with many totally smothered in pink flowers, which opened deep pink at first and then slowly faded with age. By mid-afternoon we'd reached the last town on the road and found a guest house to spend the night before tomorrow's walk further up the valley.

Day 7 8th July Miyar Valley – to Thanbatten

It was an overcast start to the day but this was to change dramatically as the day wore on. We began what was to be a straightforward walk to our campsite along the Miyar Valley passing a couple of male Common Rosefinches and then as we began the only real up of the walk there were some superb creamy *Aquilegia fragrans*, the pale blue bells of *Codonopsis clematidea* and drifts of cerise *Pedicularis siphonantha* among the Marsh Marigolds and ever present mauve *Geranium himalayense*. Further on as the walk levelled out there were some gorgeous drifts of *Androsace sarmentosa* and then in a small walled off area a fine clump of *Epilobium latifolium* growing with stands of two blue borages *Lindelofia anchusoides* and *Lindelofia longiflora*. This was all set among the super abundant drifts of *Polygonum affinis* that quite literally carpeted the ground pink. Black Redstarts and Alpine Choughs were about and after we'd walked up to a small stupa and then crossed to a marshier area there was a lovely Citrine Wagtail.

We had lunch and then set off in the sunshine for the nearby moraines that led down from the glaciers above. What was also obvious was the rapid retreat of these icefields with large slabs of glossy, bare rock that only a few years ago were covered in ice. Working our way up through the gravelly boulder field greener patches in gulleys through the moraine had stout yellow spikes of the fabulous lousewort *Pedicularis bicornuta*. Walking higher there was the odd blue poppy but I

could see some fine spikes higher up so we slowly made our way up through the flowery gardens brimful of geraniums, bistort, *Silene moorcroftiana*, the purple pea *Cicer microphyllum* and many lovely edelweiss *Leontopodium himalayanum* much to the dislike of a White-tailed Rubythroat who got very agitated giving us top notch views at the same time. Crossing a last bit of rocky ground we reached superb specimens of (something missing here Chris?!) with one pure sky-blue form and several lovely purple stained forms. There was a great view of the glacier from here too before we descended on a much easier route and followed a long gulley down past more wonderful *Pedicularis bicornuta* and then followed a marshy area dissected by a number of little streams. Alongside one were some very fine *Corydalis govaniana* and then a few *Dactylorhiza hatigera*. Back on the boulder sands and we soon found a few decent *Waldheima tomentosa* a rather fine pink daisy with woolly leaves that sprouted from between granite rocks.

All in all a very good day rounded off with crystal clear mountain views as the last tickles of sunlight played across the landscape.

*On the tour we would treat this area as a day walk and not camp so consider days 7 & 8 together.

Day 8 9th July Thanbatten

Today the sun shone in the morning with only a few high clouds and it was a lovely warm morning. We walked west reaching a low ridge and then setting eyes on a vast glacial outwash plain that stretched out below us leading from the next side valley beyond. We picked our way across the boulder terrain following the edge where cliffs had fine *Meconopsis aculeata* and a sprinkling of *Saxifraga sibirica*. Some areas along this edge were quite flowery with stands of blue *Lindelofia longiflora*, yellow *Morina coulteriana*, *Epilobium latifolium* and both pinkish-white *Silene moorcroftiana* and the more delicate *Silene tenuis*. Reaching the entrance to the valley the moraine looked daunting and we decided against attempting a route up into the valley and so retraced our steps back to camp for an elevenses coffee. Cloud had by now drifted across the sky but all still seemed okay – for now.

After lunch I set off up the nearest valley again hoping to reach a greater height and maybe new plants, seeing three White-tailed Rubythroats, several Black Redstarts, a Sulphur-bellied Warbler and a Stoat on the way up. However, by now the sky looked to have a bit more in it and although I found many more fine *Pedicularis bicornuta* and *Eritrichium nanum* rain was about to well and truly stop play and I retreated umbrella in the air to the camp to sit out the remainder of the afternoon in the tent. By some compensation when the rain ceased in the early evening there were some sublime landscapes with mists drifting across the landscape and revealing hidden peaks.

Day 9 10th July To Tandi

The walk back down to the road was straightforward enough seeing many Alpine Choughs and a Red-fronted Serin feeding on dandelion seeds on the way before we stopped near the big bridge to photograph the bright pink drifts of *Pedicularis siphonantha*. Mingled among them were thousands of *Euphrasia himalayica* and the attractive mauve-blue *Lactuca lessertiana*. Just above were fine clumps of *Aquilegia fragrans* and a mid-stream shingle island in the river below, was coloured pink by swathes of *Epilobium latifolium* and as we walked down to the bridge to cross the river a Greenish Warbler was moving about the sturdy white-barked *Betula utilis*. Driving back out to Udaipur there were clumps of *Silene viscosa* with fimbriate white petals and some wonderful gnarled old junipers with twisted trunks and roots growing among huge slate boulders. The rest of the drive back saw a couple of Chukar and some fine views of the valley terracing and mountains.

Day 10 11th July Baralacha La

A wonderful day in the very high mountains accompanied by blue skies all day long. We drove north towards the drier lands of Ladakh passing alongside spectacular valleys with snowy peaks popping up everywhere and huge braided rivers bisecting the valley walls. As we started to gain serious height the rocks became more intensely coloured with massive slate screes and great sprawling moraines and perched on a large boulder was singing male Red-faced Rosefinch. Reaching the pass at a giddy 4850 metres a broad snow streaked landscape was laid out to the east with distant snow ridges and small tarns. Exploring the rocky slopes to the west of the road there were green domes of the wonderful cushion plant *Thylacospermum caespitosum*, which occurs between 4800 and 5700 metres so at the summit of Baralacha La it is at the low end of its range! As well as these there were *Rhodiola wallichiana* and tidy cushions of *Draba oreades*, whilst in damper spots with some soil were fantastic spreads of pretty *Primula minutissima* that really coloured the ground pink in places. There was also a scattering of *Saxifraga stenophylla* and these were even more in evidence on some nearby scree where they grew near woolly centred *Saussurea gnaphalodes*. Another patch of coarser scree had the delicate little brassica *Ermania himalayensis* with lilac flowers.

As we descended we saw many Shore Larks on the way before stopping to check another scree slope where I found some superb flowering plants of *Waldheimia tomentosa*, *Aster flaccidus* and reddish-leaved *Pleurospermum govanianum*. We had lunch in one of the seasonal tent restaurants that spring up to service the Manali-Leh traffic and then afterwards I walked up to some low cliffs where there were big domes of *Potentilla biflora* studded with orange-centred yellow flowers. In the sloping turf was *Aster flaccidus* and on the scree flowering plants of *Rheum moorcroftianum* all at a modest 4500 metres. The sky was still deep blue and the sun illuminated the grand mountain views as we descended stopping to photograph hanging glaciers and big landscapes with flowery bushes of *Rosa webbiana* dotted here and there.

Day 11 12th July To Kaza via the Kunzum La

It was another fine morning as we drove up the Lahaul Valley the landscape becoming ever more dramatic as we slowly gained height and the valley narrowed a little with immense green caked cliffs on either side bisected by the wide river below. Many waterfalls tumbled down off the heights and then ran across the road. We stopped for a time in an area of birch forest with many lovely *Aquilegia fragrans*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* and the odd *Polemonium caeruleum*. There was a scenic viewpoint back along the valley with a small stupa but the landscape was to become truly amazing further on.

We rumbled through an area of granite boulders among which grew plentiful *Minuartia himalayica* and there were great stands of *Dracocephalum nutans* that coloured the turf blue. Then we encountered an area with many little seeps and streams flowing over rocks ledges with *Primula involucrata* and lovely cushions of *Arenaria festucoides* smothered in white flowers which preferred the more exposed rocks, whilst in damp flushes nearby was the handsome *Pedicularis bicornuta* and more orchids. The valley became rockier and drier as we slowly walked up crossing a boulder strewn plateau with colourful mountains ahead and perhaps oddly in such a barren landscape Citrine Wagtails were about. Lunch was in a small seasonal restaurant and then we continued seeing big clumps of *Waldheimia tomentosa* on the steep banks as a pair of Blanford's Snowfinches flew across. Reaching the pass the stony turf was full of pretty blue *Eritrichium nanum* and some fine spreading groups of *Saxifraga stenophylla* with their long red runners.

The landscape around was all very fine and mountainous but what was to come was sensational for as we descended from the pass we entered the high dry landscape of the Spiti Valley dominated by towering ochre-coloured cliffs and red slate mountains, huge braided rivers with fluted banks riddled with bizarre earth towers all set beneath a pure blue sky. Red-fronted Rosefinch was seen and then clumps of the rather fine *Allium carolinianum* with upright strap-like leaves and deep pink flowers and alongside an area of river shingle were huge clumps of *Aquilegia fragrans*. The sun was still shining on the Ki Gompa an idyllic-looking monastery on the other side of the river as we neared the hotel but by now it was too late to visit. I'll be honest the drive is long but the contrast between the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys and the incredible scenery make it all worthwhile.

Day 12 13th July Pin Valley & Ki Gompa

The warm glow of sunlight was illuminating the hills making the ochre and orange rocks even more intense. We drove east and then south into the Pin Valley where the delicate mid-blue flowers of *Linum usitatissimum* coloured the stony slopes. A gravelly area near the river had the pretty *Asperula oppositifolia* along with fine specimens of the abundant *Cousinia thomsonii*. The

rambling stems of *Clematis tibetana* had a few yellowish-orange spreading bell flowers and then as we drove through the splendid valley landscape there were some fine bushes of *Rosa webbiana* with mountain backdrops.

However, the sight of the day came just beyond the small village of where we rounded a bend to be greeted by the sight of thousands of pale-blue bells of *Codonopsis clematidea* mingled among countless *Geranium pratense* and yellow brassicas to make an unforgettable sight, the whole display continuing up the hillside for some way, quite magical. I had seen *Codonopsis clematidea* before but never in this quantity. Small cliffs a bit further up had purple *Cicerbita macrorhiza*, a few tufts of *Campanula pallida*, *Gentianopsis paludosa*, an early flowering plant of *Gentianella moorcroftiana* and above on the high bank stands of *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*. We continued until the end of the road with a view of a Tibetan village on the opposite side of the river with mountains sweeping up behind and then turned around and back tracked passing the large gomba (we'd visit on the tour) and then back down to Kaza for lunch.

After a bit of siesta we set off for the high village of Kibba up in the dry hills, but there was still plenty of floral interest with many *Allium carolinianum*, sprawling plants of *Clematis tibetana* ssp *vernayi* and many *Christolea crassifolia*. Best of all though was another superb mass display this time of thousands of *Geranium pratense* that created a wide river of blue down a damp gully. Among them were a few *Codonopsis clematidea* and on the adjacent drier slopes were white flowered *Dracocephalum heterophyllum* and bushes of scented *Lonicera spinosa*. Blanford's Snowfinches and Alpine Choughs were common as we drove arriving at the village of Kibba with its traditional Tibetan style houses. There was a small gomba here but back down the road was the spectacularly positioned Ki Gomba perched high on a rock with commanding views of the valley and mountains beyond. Many a photo was taken from all every conceivable angle to capture the precarious and at the same time dominating aspect of the monastery.

Day 13 14th July To Manali via Rohtang La III

The recent catastrophic floods in the neighbouring state of Uttaranchal had also affected the eastern part of Himachal Pradesh where we were to such an effect that the road beyond Tabo was blocked and unlikely to open any time soon and also the road further south to Sangla was washed away meaning my itinerary had been thrown up in the air. First of all we had to return to Manali but that wasn't all bad I hoped as it meant a return to Rohtang La and a chance to walk higher now I was well acclimatised. Breakfast was at 6am and we were away by 6.30 intending to drive directly to Rohtang, but of course there were short stops for too many things such as a spreading dwarf *Rubus* sp, fine flowery plants of *Clematis tibetana* ssp *vernayi*, various mountains views which were equally splendid, but best of all for me were top notch views of stunning male Great Rosefinches, first feeding in a field, then drinking at a tank and then a third bird on an overhead wire, outstanding.

We rumbled on and then drove up to the Rohtang La pass where we set off across the high turf in a gusty wind with mists being driven across intermittently. However, the turf was extremely rich with hundreds of *Pedicularis oederi*, *Anemone obtusifolia*, *Gentiana carinata* and *Lagotis cashmerianus* as on my previous visit, but now wedged in the horizontal rock crevices were tight cushions of *Androsace delavayi* and progressing up flashes of gold revealed themselves as the stout stems of *Corydalis govanianum*. Continuing upwards and primulas became the most obvious components with many *Primula nivalis* ssp *moorcroftiana*, a scattering of *Primula elliptica* and walking onto the rocky sloping turf the ground was smothered in thousands of *Primula reptans*. Punctuating this were the attractive umbels of *Pleurospermum candollei* and then the plant I'd been searching for the weird woolly balls of *Saussurea gossypiphora*. In fact there were quite a number scattered about and some superb ones emerging from the rocks among little cushions of *Androsace delavayi*. The latter was absolutely everywhere with many superb cushions. One particular rock was a veritable alpine garden with *Saussurea gossypiphora*, *Androsace delavayi*, *Pedicularis roylei*, *Potentilla biflora* and the peculiar pale yellow *Saxifraga lychnitis*. There was probably more to be found but time was marching on so we descended and then drove straight onto Manali for a comfortable night. *The visit to Rohtang would be a day trip from Keylong on the tour and we would have considerably more time to explore this florally rich pass having acclimatised more.

Day 14 15th July To Kalpa via Jalori Pass

I had breakfast in the company of a flock of Oriental White-eyes, Great Tits, Himalayan Bulbul, two Hoopoes and a stunning male Crimson Sunbird. By 7.30 we were away on the long drive south to Kalpa and we didn't stop at all until we began to drive up to the Jalori Pass. Here were lovely forests with some impressive *Aesculus indicus*, *Picea smithiana*, *Taxus baccata* near the top, and huge *Rhododendron arboreum* although well past flowering. On the herbaceous front there were masses of the pink *Iris milesii* with the upper populations still in good flower. Among them were a few *Arisaema utile*, *Aquilegia pubiflora*, a striking *Cynoglossum* sp with deep purple-pink flowers, various forms of pretty lilac *Geranium wallichianum* and on the banks dark purplish-blue *Campanula lactiflora*. *Wulfenia amherstiana* was abundant on the rocks and there was *Primula nana* in seed too. Descending the southern side there was a colony of a green *Platanthera* sp but little else as we wound down and down through extensive areas of pine and then into almost sub-tropical vegetation. We found a restaurant for a late lunch and then continued along the Kinnaur Valley which became more impressive as we drove passing the various hydroelectric stations that tap the powerful Sutlej River whose chocolate-milk waters were thundering past below us. The big rains and subsequent floods in Uttaranchal had also impacted here and there were many landslides through which rough temporary roads had been bulldozed. Eventually we turned off and drove up up into the cooler climes of Kalpa and settled into the hotel with a fleeting glimpse of the massive six thousand metre bulk of Kinnar Kailash appearing through the clouds. It had been a long day and one which would not feature in this format in the tour but was done through necessity today.

Day 15 16th July Kalpa

Since the areas around Sangla were out of bounds we had a look around Kalpa and the only way was up, leaving the hotel at 8am we started a slow drive up into the hills following the irrigation channels that had plenty of good flowers around including the lovely *Geranium wallichianum* in various forms, stands of blue *Nepeta erecta*, the large flowered yellow balsam *Impatiens edgeworthii* and a spike of *Epipactis helleborine*. Continuing upwards we cleared the apple orchards and arrived at a series of stone-walled terraces where we saw the first stunning *Morina longifolia*. A short way further on and there was a large stand of maybe a hundred perfect spires with the pale pink flowers aging a deeper pink-red in tidy whorls around the stem. Their delicious perfume also hung in the still air as we photographed them against a background of misty pines. Lammergeiers were drifting across the hillside and we saw them several times during the day. On the next terrace up there was a large population of *Arisaema flavum* a somewhat odd little aroid with yellow spathes, accompanied by its larger cousin *Arisaema jacquemontii* in places. The stunning red form of *Potentilla atrosanguinea* was common and formed showy stands along the little streams and other terraces had thousands of spikes of mullein *Verbascum thapsus* and we had lunch by a small hut overlooking one such place. Above us the mists were drifting back and forth revealing a higher ridge with line of prominent cairns so we aimed for that finding a gully with *Cassiope fastigiata* and *Androsace sarmentosa*. Both became more common as we progressed the former becoming a main component of the low scrub in places until taken over by rhododendrons. We searched for lilies here but no luck and continued up to the ridge where when the clouds parted as they did every so often there were superb views down into the Kinnaur Valley and across to the glacier clad peaks of Kinnar Kailash. The botany was rounded off by a couple of fine spikes of *Meconopsis aculeata* in its pale blue form and then we began our descent seeing a couple of male Blue-capped Redstarts, Rufous-naped Tit and a Himalayan Buzzard on the way.

Day 16 17th July Kinnaur Valley

Today the intention had been to drive as far as we could along the Kinnaur Valley and hopefully as far as the Tibetan borderlands at Nako. We descended from Kalpa and started on our way but almost immediately the telltale sign of people walking along the road towards us was confirmed our worst fears – the road was closed again only a kilometre further along because of blasting to clear the recent landslides! This meant a frustrating day hanging about as there were no other means of accessing the mountains on what was a glorious sunny day with much of the impressive Kinner Kailash revealed. Given the importance of the valley and road itself to maintain the extensive hydro-electric works and apple industry it is inconceivable that the road won't be repaired by next year when the intention would be to drive from Kaza (see day 12/13)

direct to Kalpa or Sangla in a single day rather than the two days it took me this time. The likelihood of another massive flood episode as happened mainly in Uttaranchal this year is also fairly remote so logistics should work out a lot better in 2014.

Day 17 18th July To Shimla

The long but unavoidable rumble down to Shimla, capital of Himachal Pradesh took most of the day, stopping for lunch on the way. The upper Kinnaur Valley was verdant and forested with *Pinus gerardiana* and cedars, with the odd *Incarvillea arguta* clinging to the rocks. It was very warm lower down but then we started to drive up again onto the high green ridge that led to Shimla with extensive forests of *Picea smithiana* and again cedars, but little new plantwise. However, the drama was provided by three huge Himalayan Griffons that had settled next to the road to feed on a dead cow and we had fantastic views as they dodged the traffic to get at the carcass. In Shimla the town was very green with hundreds of big cedars and ferns filling every space, whilst macaques scampered about the town and trees.

Day 18 19th July Shimla to Delhi

After lunch we drove down to Chandigarh for my flight to Delhi and I said farewell to my reliable team of Neelam and Bablu. I met Vinod at the airport...

Day 19 20th July Return flights

Another unsociable departure time for Turkish Airlines did at least mean I was back home by lunchtime.

	<i>Cirsium falconeri</i>	Tall herb with white spines, grazing grounds, roadsides, cream flowers in semi-pendent capitula
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Ruderal
	<i>Cousinia thomsonii</i>	Lahaul Valley
	<i>Cremanthodium reniforme</i>	In leaf on Baralacha La
	<i>Erigeron multiradiatus</i>	Widespread along roadsides
	<i>Lactuca dolichophylla</i>	
	<i>Lactuca lessertiana</i>	Miyar Valley
	<i>Leontopodium himalayanum</i>	Miyar Valley, etc
	<i>Psychrogeton andryaloides</i>	River gravels, stony places, Spiti, Miyar Valley
	<i>Saussurea gnaphalodes</i>	Baralacha La
	<i>Saussurea gossypiphora</i>	Rohtang La
	<i>Scorzonera virgata</i>	Spiti
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Widespread ruderal
	<i>Waldheimia glabra</i>	In leaf only on the Kunzum La
	<i>Waldheimia tomentosa</i>	Miyar Valley, very good on Baralacha La, lovely woolly foliage and palest pink flowers.
Balsamaceae		
	<i>Impatiens edgeworthii</i>	Kalpa, large yellow flowers with white lip
	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Widespread. Himalayan Balsam, pink
	<i>Impatiens sulcata</i>	Deep pink, alpine turf on Rohtang, also lower slopes where taller
Berberidaceae		
	<i>Berberis lycium</i>	Kias Dhar.
Betulaceae		
	<i>Alnus nitida</i>	Widespread in river valleys, slopes, Kullu Valley
	<i>Betula utilis ssp jacquemontii</i>	White stemmed birch, Rohtang, Lahaul Valley
Bignoniaceae		
	<i>Incarvillea arguta</i>	Cliffs in Kinnaur Valley
Boraginaceae		
	<i>Arnebia euchroma</i>	Near Kibba but finished
	<i>Cynoglossum sp</i>	Deep red-purple flowers, Jalori Pass
	<i>Eritrichium nanum</i>	Drier passes, very common on Kunzum La
	<i>Hackelia uncinata</i>	Bright blue flat-faced flowers in large cymes, Rohtang
	<i>Lindelofia anchusoides</i>	Pretty blue bells flowers, long lanceolate leaves, widespread in Lahaul and Spiti
	<i>Lindelofia longiflora</i>	Miyar Valley, etc
	<i>Lindelofia stylosa</i>	Near Kibba
Brassicaceae		
	<i>Draba oreades</i>	

	<i>Draba setosa</i>	
	<i>Ermania himalayensis</i>	
	<i>Thlaspi sp</i>	
Campanulaceae		
	<i>Campanula lactiflora</i>	Jalori Pass
	<i>Campanula pallida</i>	White bells on trailing stems, rocks in Lahaul at mid altitudes
	<i>Codonopsis clematidea</i>	
Cannabaceae		
	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Abundant roadside weed, probably of low efficacy judging by how much was still standing!
	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop. Kalpa
Capparaceae		
	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	
Caprifoliaceae		
	<i>Lonicera spinosa</i>	Scented white-pink flowers, dense bushes near Kibba
Caryophyllaceae		
	<i>Arenaria festucoides</i>	West of Kunzum Pass, fine-leaved cushions with white flowers, rocks
	<i>Cerastium cerastoides</i>	Alpine turf, deeply notched petals
	<i>Dianthus angulatus</i>	Lahaul Valley, pretty white to pale pink with fimbriate margined petals, stony slopes
	<i>Gypsophila cerastoides</i>	Pretty trailing white species, flowers large for genus, purple veined. Common on banks and rocks on Rohtang road. Kalpa
	<i>Minuartia kashmirica</i>	
	<i>Silene edgeworthii</i>	Tall with white flowers, green calyx, Lahaul
	<i>Silene moorcroftiana</i>	Reddish calyx, white to cream flowers, Miyar Valley
	<i>Silene setisperma</i>	Calyx strongly veined purplish-green, Rohtang turf
	<i>Silene tenuis</i>	Miyar Valley, small flowers, slender
	<i>Silene viscosa</i>	White fimbriate flowers, Miyar Valley
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Meadows in Lahaul, Kalpa
	<i>Thylacospermum caespitosum</i>	Dense mounds and domes. It occurs between 4800 and 5700 metres so at the summit of Baralacha La it is at the low end of its range!
Convolvulaceae		
	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	
Crassulaceae		
	<i>Rhodiola sp</i>	A species in bud on Rohtang
	<i>Rhodiola himalensis</i>	
	<i>Rhodiola heterodonta</i>	

	<i>Rhodiola imbricata</i>	Baralacha La, yellow flowered
	<i>Rosularia alpestris</i>	
Elaeagnaceae		
	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	
Ericaceae		
	<i>Cassiope fastigiata</i>	Dwarf shrub with little white bells, Rohtang La, above Kalpa
	<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i>	Low dwarf bushes in full flower on north side of Rohtang La, creamy Jalori Pass
	<i>Rhododendron arboreum</i>	Above Kalpa, not flowering
	<i>Rhododendron campanulatum</i>	Cerise flowered dwarf shrub, below Marhi
	<i>Rhododendron lepidotum</i>	
Euphorbiaceae		
	<i>Euphorbia royleana</i>	Stately tree spurge, cliffs and dry slopes of lower Kullu Valley
Fabaceae		
	<i>Astragalus candolleanus</i>	Spiti Valley, yellow
	<i>Astragalus rhizanthus</i>	Acaulescent herb with yellow flowers, dry slopes in Lahaul
	<i>Caragana brevifolia</i>	Yellow flowers, trailing stems, Lahaul
	<i>Hedysarum sp</i>	A creamy purple species on Rohtang
	<i>Indigofera sp</i>	Kias Dhar
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Rohtang La, roadsides
	<i>Oxytropis lapponica</i>	Damp turf in Miyar Valley
	<i>Oxytropis macrophylla</i>	
	<i>Oxytropis sp</i>	Pink flowers in dense woolly heads, stony slopes in Spiti
	<i>Thermopsis barbata</i>	Handsome deepest purple flowered herb, turf on Rohtang
Fagaceae		
	<i>Quercus sp</i>	Forests
Gentianaceae		
	<i>Gentiana carinata</i>	Very common in high turf on Rohtang La, tight clumps with small deep blue flowers
	<i>Gentiana pedicellata</i>	Small pale blue flowers, Manali
	<i>Gentiana moorcroftiana</i>	Pin Valley
	<i>Gentianopsis paludosa</i>	Pin Valley
Geraniaceae		
	<i>Geranium himalayense</i>	Common on north slopes of Rohtang, mauve-blue, also Miyar Valley, but very similar to pratense.
	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Locally abundant especially in damp places in dry areas, very similar to himalayense.
	<i>Geranium wallichianum</i>	Gorgeous blue-flowered species, Kias Dhar, Jalori Pass, superb above Kalpa

Grossulariaceae

Ribes sp

Hippocastanaceae

Aesculus indicus

Fine tree with palmate leaves, Kias Dhar, magnificent specimens on Jalori Pass

Hypericaceae

Hypericum perforatum

Hypericum podocarpoides

Roadsides, meadows, slopes; Lahaul Shrub hanging from rocks on Jalori Pass

Juglanaceae

Juglans regia

Walnut

Lamiaceae

Dracocephalum heterophyllum

Dracocephalum nutans

Dracocephalum sp

Nepeta erecta

Nepeta nervosa

Nepeta podostachys

Phlomis bracteosa

Prunella vulgaris

Scutellaria prostrata

Thymus linearis

Spikes of white flowers, near Kibba Dark blue spikes on tall stems, locally common, Miyar Valley, Kunzum La Baralacha La, blue flowers, deeply crenulated leaves c4500m

Large blue flowers, Kalpa

Pinkish, longer spikes than podostachys, Lahaul

White, Lahaul, Kinnaur Valley

Common in alpine turf, whorls of mauve flowers, large triangular ovate leaves

Roadsides

Loose mats with pretty creamy-yellow purple-tipped flowers, dry slopes in Lahaul

Locally abundant especially on drier slopes, also alpine turf

Linaceae

Linum usitatissimum

Handsome tall blue flax, Pin Valley

Loganiaceae

Buddleja davidii

Naturalised along roadsides near Shimla

Malvaceae

Malva neglecta

Malva sylvatica

Morinaceae

Morina coulteriana

Morina longifolia

Handsome yellow flowered species with typical spiky leaves, Lahual Valley

Lovely species with flower opening pale pink and aging to deep-pink, fine stands above Kalpa

Onagraceae

Chaenerion angustifolium

Epilobium latifolium

Roadsides

Orobanchaceae

<i>Euphrasia himalyaica</i>	
<i>Pedicularis bicornuta</i>	Superb yellow species, Miyar Valley, also Baralacha La
<i>Pedicularis oederi</i>	
<i>Pedicularis pectinata</i>	Leggy pink species with twisted purple beak
<i>Pedicularis pyramidata</i>	Tall, stout pink species, twisted beak, Lahaul
<i>Pedicularis roylei</i>	
<i>Pedicularis siphonantha</i>	Deep magenta pink, roadside flushes, Lahaul Valley

Papaveraceae

<i>Corydalis cashmeriana</i>	Delicate deep blue species, turf on Rohtang
<i>Corydalis govaniiana</i>	Yellow flowers, Lahaul.
<i>Corydalis meifolia</i>	Rohtang where sometimes dominant on high rocky turf. However it seemed to lack the purple tips, but otherwise fits with finely divided leaves and short spurred 'chunky' flowers.
<i>Meconopsis aculeata</i>	Handsome blue poppy, with lovely purplish colour variants, Rohtang La, Miyar Valley, above Kalpa

Phytolaccaceae

<i>Phytolacca acinosa</i>	Robust roadside herb
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Plantaginaceae

<i>Mazus surculosus</i>	Pretty lilac-pink flowers, prostrate trackside flower at Kias Dhar, Rohtang
<i>Wulfenia amherstiana</i>	Pendant tubular lilac flowers hang in dense spikes from rosettes if dentate leaves, rocks at Kias Dhar, very common on Jalori Pass

Platanaceae

<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Widely planted
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Polemoniaceae

<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	Lahaul among birches
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Polygonaceae

<i>Aconogonum molle</i>	Tall leafy herb with plumes of white flowers, hillsides
<i>Polygonum affinis</i>	
<i>Polygonum macrophylla</i>	Typical 'bistort' with dense spike of pink flowers on long stalk, Rohtang
<i>Polygonum paronychoides</i>	Dwarf, green with small pink flowers, turf on Rohtang
<i>Rheum spiciforme</i>	Thick red spikes emerge from broadly ovate leaves, Rohtang
<i>Rumex nepalensis</i>	Roadsides. A dock

Primulaceae

<i>Androsace delavayi</i>	Dense cushions with white flowers, Rohtang La
<i>Androsace sarmentosa</i>	Common on mid slopes of Rohtang, also Miyar Valley, above Kalpa, woolly leaves, red runners and leggy pink drumsticks
<i>Androsace sempervivoides</i>	Abundant on high turf of Rohtang, smaller pink drumsticks and compact mats
<i>Cortusa brotheri</i>	A few in boulders below Marhi
<i>Primula denticulata</i>	Slopes on Rohtang
<i>Primula elliptica</i>	North facing slopes on Rohtang, like <i>involucrata</i> but flowers face one way and darker mauve-pink. Also Baralacha La?
<i>Primula involucrata</i>	Widespread on damp seeps, turf at Rohtang, pale pink, tall stems
<i>Primula macrophylla</i>	Large <i>nivalis</i> type with purple flowers and long elliptic-lanceolate leaves, Rohtang where scattered and uncommon
<i>Primula minutissima</i>	Very similar to <i>reptans</i> except has farina under leaves and seems to form denser mats. Baralacha La at 4850m
<i>Primula nana</i>	In seed on Jalori Pass
<i>Primula reidii</i>	Gorgeous sweetly scented white bells on rocks above Marhi
<i>Primula reptans</i>	Very pretty and tiny pink species, flowers much larger than leaves, drier turf on Rohtang
<i>Primula rosea</i>	Deep pink, close to snow, Rohtang

Ranunculaceae

<i>Adonis chrysoanthus</i>	Possibly this on Rohtang – i couldn't get close enough to tell!
<i>Anemone rivularis</i>	Common, white with purplish reverse, variable size
<i>Anemone tetrasepala</i>	Attractive species, umbels of white flowers and thick, rounded lobed leaves, on rocks, Rohtang, Jalori Pass
<i>Anemone obtusiloba</i>	Yellow-flowered form on Rohtang in vast sheets
<i>Aquilegia fragrans</i>	Cream-coloured, rocky slopes, streamsides in Lahaul, Spiti
<i>Aquilegia pubiflora</i>	Jalori Pass
<i>Caltha palustris var himalensis</i>	Abundant in gulleys, damp turf, Rohtang
<i>Ranunculus hirtellus</i>	
<i>Ranunculus sp</i>	
<i>Trollius acaulis</i>	Short, yellow flowered

Rosaceae

<i>Filipendula vestita</i>	Creamy flowers, damp places along Rohtang road
<i>Fragaria nubicola</i>	Wild Strawberry, Kias Dhar
<i>Potentilla atrosanguinea</i>	Widespread and variable, often the dominant plant of alpine slopes. Flowers yellow, orange or deep red, leaves variably silvery and trifoliate. Red forms on Rohtang, Miyar Valley, Kalpa.
<i>Potentilla biflora</i>	Superb dome-like cushions on cliffs and rocks at Baralacha La and Rohtang orangey centre to yellow flowers
<i>Potentilla cuneata</i>	
<i>Rosa brunonii</i>	Not flowering, a wild rose, Kias Dhar
<i>Rosa webbiana</i>	Fine pink flowered species common in Lahaul
<i>Rubus sp</i>	
<i>Sibbaldia cuneata</i>	
<i>Sibbaldia purpurea</i>	
<i>Sobaria tomentosa</i>	Common at Kias Dhar, foamy panicles of creamy-white flowers, pinnate leaves and arching stems
<i>Spiraea canescens</i>	Arching stems with cluster of white flowers, shrub, Kias Dhar

Rubiaceae

<i>Rubia manjith</i>	Scrambling herb with hooked prickles that stick to the hand
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Salicaceae

<i>Populus ciliata</i>	Tall poplar with triangular ovate leaves, widespread
<i>Salix flabellaris</i>	Common dwarf willow of alpine turf
<i>Salix spp</i>	Species seen in villages and along roads, often heavily pollarded

Sambucaceae

<i>Viburnum grandiflorum</i>	Small shrub at Kias Dhar, Rohtang
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Saxifragaceae

<i>Bergenia ciliata</i>	On rocks, cliffs, ovate leaves with ciliate margin, Manali area, Jalori Pass
<i>Bergenia stracheyi</i>	Abundant among rocks, slopes on Rohtang
<i>Saxifraga lychnitis</i>	Rohtang La
<i>Saxifraga pulvinaria</i>	Baralacha La, but not flowering
<i>Saxifraga sibirica</i>	Miyar Valley, Baralacha La
<i>Saxifraga stenophylla</i>	Baralacha La

Scrophulariaceae

<i>Lagotis cashmeriana</i>	Deep blue spikes, very common on high turf of Rohtang
<i>Scrophularia spp</i>	Roadsides

<i>Solanaceae</i>	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Widespread ruderal
<i>Tamaricaceae</i>	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Lahaul and Spiti
<i>Ulmaceae</i>	<i>Tamarix spp</i>	
<i>Urticaceae</i>	<i>Ulmus sp</i>	
	<i>Pilea umbrosa</i>	Shady forest understorey herb, leaves with deep veins, Kias Dhar
	<i>Girardinia diversifolia</i>	Tall nettle-like plant with deeply lobed leaves, powerful sting, roadsides
<i>Valerianaceae</i>	<i>Valeriana pyrolifolia</i>	
<i>Verbenaceae</i>	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Common tropical weed in foothills
<i>Violaceae</i>	<i>Viola biflora</i>	Yellow flowered
<i>Vitaceae</i>	<i>Parthenocissus himlayanus</i>	Common climber in cooler forests
<i>Zygophyllaceae</i>		
Angiosperms - monocotyledons		
<i>Araceae</i>	<i>Arisaema flavum</i>	Large population on terraces above Kalpa. Small yellow spathes
	<i>Arisaema jacquemontii</i>	Attractive green spathes finely lined with white and purplish spathe appendage, leaves divided into 5-9 lobes, a few in flower at Kias Dhar, abundant below Rohtang La, Kalpa
	<i>Arisaema utile</i>	In leaf only, tri-lobed, Rohtang road, Jalori Pass where still in flower
<i>Iridaceae</i>	<i>Iris kemaonensis</i>	Lovely mauve to reddish purple iris with deeper blotches and spots on falls, alpine slopes on Rohtang, more numerous on Lahaul side
	<i>Iris milesii</i>	Abundant on Jalori Pass, upper populations still in flower, pink
<i>Liliaceae</i>	<i>Allium caesium</i>	Little deep blue onion, Lahaul
	<i>Allium carolinianum</i>	
	<i>Lloydia longiscapa</i>	Rocks on Rohtang
	<i>Lloydia serotina</i>	Baralacha La, Kunzum La

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza hatagirea

Miyar Valley, Kaza area

Epipactis helleborine

Kalpa

Epipactis sp

Near the museum, Rohtang road

Platanthera sp

Jalori Pass

Ponerorchis chusua

Pretty small pink species, large three-lobed lip, reflexed lateral sepals, on rocks below Marhi

Palmaceae

Phoenix sylvestris

Slopes along lower Kullu Valley

Zingiberaceae

Roscoea alpina

Rocky banks on lower slopes below Rohtang, small purple flowered species

Systematic List Number 1 Flowers

The following were seen incidentally during the plant hunting, undoubtedly there is more to be seen, but nonetheless some noteworthy species were encountered.

(All classification follows Birds of Indian Subcontinent by Grimmett, Inskipp & Inskipp)

Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Himalayan Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinunculus</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Hill Pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>
Snow Pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Great Barbet	<i>Megalaima virens</i>
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminates</i>
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
Rufous-naped Tit	<i>Periparus rufonuchalis</i>
Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
Himalayan Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Mountain Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i>
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>

Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>
Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i>
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>
Bar-tailed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia himalayana</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitaries</i>
White-tailed Rubythroat	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>
Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis fuliginosa</i>
White-capped Redstart	<i>Chaimarrornis leucocephalus</i>
Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domestica</i>
Blanford's Snowfinch	<i>Pyrgilauda blanfordi</i>
Brown Accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>
Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>
Brandt's Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
Pink-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>
Red-fronted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus puniceus</i>
Great Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>