Cappadocia

Flowers, Birds & Ancient Sites of Anatolia

A Greentours Trip Report

 $2^{nd} - 12^{th}$ May 2013

Led by Ian Green & Seda Soylu

Day 1 May 2nd to Konya

Several of us flew from Manchester, some from London, and there were a number who met up with us in Istanbul. Istanbul Airport is becoming a major transport hub so well are Turkish Airlines doing and so it was very busy through immigration though the queue moved with surprising rapidity given the length of it. Then we were over to the domestic terminal where we all convened at the gate for the flight too Konya. This was pretty much on time and so at ten thirty we landed at Konya's little airport and met Seda and our drivers Samet and Tajittin. They took us into the city centre where we settled into the very pleasant Rumi Hotel which we would discover in the morning was very blue on the outside.

Day 2 May 3rd Konya

At breakfast we realised we could see directly out onto the famous Mevlana Museum, the turquoisetiled dome shining in the morning sun. After a great breakfast we headed out to explore one or two of the sites of the city with our local guide Eşe

We visited the Mevlâna Museum, originally the Mausoleum of Jalal ad-Din Mohammad Rumi, a Sufi mystic also known as Mevlâna or Rumi. Later we went to the Ince Minare Museum which is the surviving parts of a 13th century Madrasah built by the Anatolian Seljucks.

We headed out of town for lunch, into Sille, a little village in the dry hills just to the north of Konya. The restaurant provided us with a superb meal. We even had time for a little botanizing on the way back into town. Bright blue *Centaurea depressa* was a nice sight and we found the equally blue *Alkanna pseudotinctoria*. More unusual were *Heterocaryum szovitsianum* and *Lappula squarrosa*, borage family both. Sooty Copper and Painted Lady were both here. Then it was up to a viewpoint on top of the Alaeddin Tepesi with a fine panorama over the city and a cup of tea in the tea house there.

Day 3 May 4th Çatal Höyük & Kulu Gölü

This morning we headed out of town to Çatal Höyük. This took us across the floor of the Konya basin the lowest part of the Central Plateau though still around 900m above sea level. We had hardly left town when we drew to a halt. In the crops around us were a few of an impressive purple larkspur *Consolida orientalis*. It was a beautiful sight. And with them were *Asperugo procumbens* and the pink campion *Silene subconica*. As we continued there was plentiful *Glaucium corniculatum* by the road. Much of the land was cultivated but there were areas where the soil was too salty and we stopped by one of these as there were a number of White Storks on parade. We watched these for a while through the 'scope. There were also Lesser Kestrels and Calandra Larks. A great surprise was a Syrian Woodpecker which flew along the road; there didn't seem to be too many trees anywhere near us!

We pulled in at Çatal Höyük. We spent an hour and a half exploring the site. Çatal Höyük is a mound that rises above the plain to a height of about twenty metres and seems to have been made from a series, eighteen in fact, of layers of housing. The site was occupied from 7900BC to around 5700BC and is the oldest known town yet discovered. There are two covered excavation areas which you can walk through, and these have brief explanation boards up. The site was discovered in the sixties by Mellaart and after a hiatus of twenty years or so excavations continued under his exstudent Ian Hodder from Cambridge who is now the co-conserver alongside Brigid Gallagher of 'Time Team' fame. After a brief foray into the steppe flowers along the path we walked through the two excavation areas. It was quite something to see such ancient living quarters. We did get rather side-tracked by the large number of animal tracks in the fine silty soil – there were plenty of rats and cats, but it was the Porcupine tracks and what looked like it must have been Honey Badger that wowed us! There were plenty of lizard tracks and bird tracks too!

There was a little mockup of how the people would have lived and this was fascinating. Inside there were low beds (a double and a single as someone pointed out!) with a fireplace and a ladder which went to an opening in the ceiling. This would have been the entrance and the door we went through would not have existed. People would have walked over roofs to get to their own dwellings, there were no streets.

There was also a small museum which was excellent, some good information on the environment – perfect – marshy, full of wildlife, also good for growing crops, and a river once wound round the site – and also some wonderful artefacts on show. Outside a Blackcap sang in the tree. Just up the road we found a Rufous Bush Robin which gave us a fantastic show, proudly ratcheting his lovely orange, black and white tail feathers up and down in display. An Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper was seen and Nigel spotted what was almost certainly an Eastern Short-tailed Blue.

We drove to the shelter of a couple of trees where Seda and the drivers laid out a picnic. We enjoyed the 'mezes' - aubergine and tomato, stuffed vine leaves, white beans, along with a variety of olives and cheeses, tuna, sardines, pastrami and the like, all with the day's choice of fresh bread and juices, tea; cakes and various nuts to finish, oh, and helva too. Meanwhile some of us had been wandering around finding various things. There was *Vicia noeana* and *Medicago minima* in the grass. A flooded

area had lots of Marsh Frogs and dragonflies; Red-veined Darter and Lesser Emperor were noted. A Penduline Tit was a leader only sighting but Irene got some great photographs of a singing male Black-headed Bunting whose tree was also occupied by Tree Sparrows.

Picnic packed up we were on our way. Soon after though a wet field drew us to a halt – here we had good views of Greenshank, Wood Sandpipers and Ruff, and also Calandra Larks. Then it was the long haul up to Kulu, a small town close to the immense salt lake Tuz Gölü.

We checked into our hotel in Kulu then headed straight down to the lake. The sun was low in the sky now and the open steppe country was bathed in the evening light. The birding was excellent. There were many Greater Flamingoes on the lake – more than four thousand of them! Also here was a Purple Heron, a Ruddy Shelduck and a number of Common Shelduck, a pair of Shoveler and a single Marsh Harrier. Waders were represented by Avocets and Black-winged Stilts, Little Ringed Plovers and Lawings, Little Stints, lots of Ruff, and a single Dunlin. It was great to see at least three Collared Pratincoles and the Spur-winged Plover was appreciated too. Wood Sandpipers were frequent. A Slender-billed Gull flew past and so too did two very fine Mediterranean Gulls.

Day 4 May 5th Düden Gölü and to Cappadocia

Several of us met at six o'clock for a trip down to the lake. The sun had already risen but was sitting at first behind a thin dark cloud, the only one in the sky! It was just a six minute drive down to the lake so we were soon rather blearily-eyed walking down from the track to the shore. The large numbers of Greater Flamingos were still present though they had re-organised themselves into a different 'shape'. There were plenty of waders along the near shore, quite a number of Little Stints, most in bright summer plumage but a few still in winter. There was also a Temminck's Stint as well as a few Wood Sandpipers and Little Ringed Plovers. The noise from the flamingos rose and fell as we walked closer to them, those on the nearest part of the shore walking sedately off to a quiet corner! There were few ducks except several Shelduck and a few Pintail. Three Ruddy Shelduck flew over. Behind the salty shore there were frequent groups of Ruff as well as a number of Black-headed Yellow Wagtails and the occasional Red-throated Pipit. Gull-billed Terns and both Mediterranean and Black-headed Gulls flew past. We headed along the shore towards the little lagoon passing Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, a Dunlin and a lovely male Kentish Plover. In the arable land back of water's edge Lesser Short-toed and Calandra Larks posed well and could be heard more or less continually singing. We spent a while among the trees watching Little Owl and two Night Herons. There were many Red-backed Shrikes and equal number of Willow Warblers. Both Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat were in the trees along with Spotted Flycatcher.

Then it was back to the Hotel and breakfast before we departed and headed south towards Cihanbeyli. The road undulates through steppe, largely cultivated, and with wide open vistas today accentuated by a blue sky with scattered fluffy white clouds. We stopped along the main road not far south of Kulu where some remnant steppe drew our attention. There was a striking display of the pale flax *Linum hirsutum* and the gorgeous blue and pink heads of the borage *Moltkia caerulea* were abundant. The pink campion *Silene conoidea* and yellow-white *Silene cappadocia* were found as well as

a fine mix of poppies - here were little red *Papaver hybridum*, equally small purple *Roemeria hybrida*, the magnificent *Glaucium grandiflorum* and a tall poppy whose scarlet blooms had a black cross in the centre – *Papaver lacerum*. Calandra Larks and Rooks were the birds here. Nigel and Veronica soon met our first vernal coppers of the trip, the lovely *Tomares nesimachus*. This posed well as did a Common Blue. There were quite a few Painted Ladies too. Snake-eyed Skinks scuttled across the sandy soil and there were quite a few caterpillars on the plants.

We took a back road across the steppe towards Tuz Gölü getting within sight of the lake itself. Stopping at the entrance to the salt works we saw a Hoopoe and watched it for a while in the 'scope. A Lesser Grey Shrike was in a small bush and Lesser Kestrels were overhead. Nearby we stopped for around fifty White Storks patrolling a steppe-covered slope and during the morning we saw many groups of these wonderful birds stalking across the landscape or circling in small groups. Longlegged Buzzard was with this group and a Red-backed Shrike in a nearby small tree, indeed as we drove off along the road we saw that almost every little tree had a Red-backed Shrike in it. We stopped a little further on by some saltmarsh, there was little of serious note here though we enjoyed trying to figure out the footprints in the mud and within the cover of *Halocnemum strobilaceum*, the 'sea-blite' that formed the basis of the plant community here, were two *Erysimums*, *sisyrinchoides* and *torulosum*, the latter a rare endemic in the area around Tuz Lake.

Moving on down through the endless salty steppe we saw occasional Marsh Harriers and one female Montagu's Harrier. We eventually stopped for our picnic under some willows on the edge of a village. As the picnic was prepared we looked at the little drainage canal where terrapins were lurking and a Dice Snake was spotted by Morag.

Not much further south we pulled off the main road. We parked by a small hill. The season this year was clearly well-advanced and it looked very dry and overgrazed around the base of the hill though Seda immediately spotted the leaves of our target, an oncocyclus iris confined to these volcanic soils in central Turkey. However it looked like we were going to have no luck with the flowers. We circled the hill eventually exploring the hilltop itself where we soon found abundant leaves and recently finished flowers amongst a much more flowery scene. *Silenes* and *Acinos* and pretty blue and purple *Alkanna pseudotinctoria* were everywhere. Then Seda spotted an *Iris sprengeri* in bloom - what a beautiful flower. The rather pointed tepals are lined with pink, this shaded with purples and browns of varying intensities so that each flower seems different from the next. We didn't have so many to choose from this year though we did manage five in bloom in the end, a relief! It was good to see though that there had been very many so the population had clearly had a very good year. Finsch's Wheatears and Rock Nuthatch joined us on the hilltop. Down by the vehicles we found a slope covered in pink *Matthiola longipetala* amongst which grew a single spike of *Gladiolus atroviolaceus*.

It was time to head on to Cappadocia now. We circled the great snowy cone of Hasan Dağı, which rose to our east, and which made a great background for any flower shot, before heading northeast away from that volcano, reaching Nevşehir at around five-thirty. Just minutes later and we drove over a rise in the ground and there in front of us lay the amazing landscape of Cappadocia, the weirdly eroded rock pinnacles on this scale subsumed into a landscape that looked very complicated indeed. The landscape looked white but with much subtle colour variation and riven with green as

valleys full of poplars snaked through. And there behind it rose the snowy cone of great Erciyes, a volcano that reaches close to 4000m! Another few minutes and we were in Göreme, the town built into the landscape, many of the dwellings carved in to the rocks themselves, our hotel being no different. We checked into our rooms. These were lovely, all of them at least partly hewn out of the rock, but beautifully furnished and with lovely bathrooms and fine comfortable beds.

After dinner we met up for the plant checklist which took a while!

Day 5 May 6th Cappadocia

Several awoke at dawn to watch the balloons go off, there were at least forty of them sailing off serenely in the clear morning air... until tomorrow then!

Breakfast completed we picked up a few picnic supplies and headed out of town taking just five minutes to reach the Bağlıdere Valley. We decided not to walk down the whole valley today instead driving down a track to the bottom end. We passed Long-legged Buzzards, Kestrels and Rollers on the way. There were glimpses too of the valley itself, a fantastic creation of weirdly eroded pinnacles and bluffs, the soft rock coloured gently with the lightest shades of cinnamon, ochre and pink. We parked up and spent the next two and half hours covering less than the first kilometre of the valley! It was so full of lovely flowers, singing birds and abundant butterflies that we could have spent all day in just this section. The weather was again perfect. And this certainly bought out the butterflies. Within moments of leaving the minibuses we were watching our first Dalmatian Ringlets fluttering across the dry steppe alongside numerous Painted Ladies and Queen of Spain Fritillaries, we must have seen at least fifty of the latter. Clumps of Salvia cryptantha were blooming along with some pretty Aethionemas, and soon we found ourselves in some lush steppe where amongst the Geraniums there were some elegant spikes of *Gladiolus atroviolaceous* and magnificent clumps of the birthwort, Aristolochia maurorum with tens of almost black blooms, some with rather lurid green centres. This is the food plant of the festoon butterfly and sure enough they were here in numbers, here the species is Zerynthia deyrollei. Green-underside Blue and Little Blue were photographed and then we found a sunny gully where the dry stream bed was attracting several butterflies including Turkish Fiery Copper *Lycanea ochimus*, and Sooty and Small Coppers too.

Ahead Ian T was recording Nightingale song and soon we started seeing them too, along with some very cooperative Lesser Whitethroats and a few Syrian Woodpeckers. Cetti's Warblers were calling and there were Golden Orioles too, in fact we had great views of three male Golden Oriole chasing each other at speed through the tree-top the yellow plumage shining in the sun. *Silene latifolia* and *Silene subconica* were along the trackside and we found some large Henbanes *Hyoscyamus niger* in bloom. The butterflies continued with Mallow Skipper, Chapman's Blue, Blue Argus and Eastern Brown Argus. A Black-eared Wheatear sat atop a tree and Kestrels left their pinnacle nest. Speaking of the latter, almost as soon as we entered the valley the scenery became very good, but after five hundred metres or so it was breathtaking. Phallic pinnacles rose in scattered groups or singly about the valley floor, many fifty feet or more high, and along the valley edge there were castellated formations of such pinnacles as well as more domed fluted bluffs of exquisite beauty. The contrast

between the almost white rocks and the green of the poplar and willow, and grey-green of the *Elaeagnus*, was most pleasing. Open sandy areas were planted with vines and there were plenty of flower-filled lusher fields too. The whole effect was quite wonderful and the path good and there was even a café or two to enjoy freshly squeezed orange and pomegranate juice, or top up on the morning's tea or coffee requirements. At one such we sat and admired the pinnacles all around the cafe, noticing that the steppe here was rather full of bulbs, *Iris caucasica* and an ornithogalum were already over but there were spires of green-flowered *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* and also a fine patch of *Bellevalia tauri* in bloom. European Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail and Berger's Clouded Yellow were seen here! Nigel showed us an area of steppe covered in the finest low clumps of the aristolochia and whilst photographing these we found some immaculate vernal coppers, *Tomares nesimachus*, sitting in turn on Geraniums and *Anchusas*, making for exceptionally colourful photographs.

We returned to the minibuses and headed towards Nevşehir, stopping almost immediately to photograph a magnificent bush of the striking golden-yellow flowered *Rosa haemisphaerica*. The Aegean Skipper *Pyrgus melotis* was photographed here. We drove just a few miles into the town and then southwards into a pretty valley where opposite a handy petrol station (toilets, ice-creams etc) we found a nice picnic spot by a stream under some huge old Poplars. Blue Tits, Nightingales (seen yet again!) and Common Redstart were in the trees as we enjoyed a shadey picnic. Nigel spotted the pretty *Euphorbia anacampseros* and *Paracaryum calycinum* had dark bells in a curved flower spike. The little stream was full of watercress.

Moving on we had a bit of journey to reach the slopes of the big volcano Melendiz Dağı. This volcano rises to around ten thousand feet and the north-facing slopes were very snowy. A good road rises over the shoulder of the volcano reaching perhaps 6000 feet or so. We stopped at the top and spent an hour wandering around the barren-looking slopes, exploring areas around patches of snow and the bright green of the damp areas. Shorelarks and Northern Wheatears were common. Patches of *Draba bruniifolia* and an *Erysimum* were joined by no less than five species of *Gagea – taurica, glacialis, bohemica* and *peduncularis* and one I was unable to identify. There were two nice alpine buttercups, *Ranunculus dissectus* subspecies *sibthorpii* and *Ranunculus grandiflorus*, as well as a fine little group of *Pulsatilla armena*. We moved back down a little to a wet area populated by *Ranunculus grandiflorus* and lots of the blue *Muscari aucheri*. Two Cretzschmarr's Buntings wandered around the turf here. There was a lovely little yellow *Astragalus* in the turf too and a little down the road, where we stopped to photograph some large flowering *Pyrus communis* there was a clump of the white-flowered *Astragalus gymnolobus* on the roadside, next to low-growing blue and purple *Centaurea pichleri*.

We returned rather later than intended to the Cave Hotel, not surprising given all we had seen during a very productive day! Dinner was very enjoyable, a nice lentil soup followed by bulgur, salad and a stew of chickpeas and lamb.

Day 6 May 7th Balloon Rides & Cappadocia

For some this morning started very early. A pre-dawn rise for those going on the balloon ride. This was apparently a sublime experience. The group was flown by Mike Green, a fellow of the Royal Society, and a meteorologist, so he should know which way his balloon is going! The scenery was really quite stunning as the sun rose over Cappadocia's landscapes, and cameras were clicking away throughout. After an hour and a half Mike landed the balloon in some flowery steppe. So flowery in fact that we would go back and visit the same spot later! The champagne provided on landing went down very well too.

The ballooners met the rest of us back at the hotel for breakfast full of enthusiasm for their adventure. Replete we headed out on what would be a day largely of culture though with wildlife bits here and there! First we went to visit the underground city a little to the south of Cappadocia. The entrance area was full of little stalls selling all sorts of bits and pieces. Those of us who stayed outside wandered the ruined above ground village where there was a good mix of ruderal plants, and birds such as Hoopoes and Tawny Pipits. Agamas were rather common.

Next was a visit to the open air museum. Kerem took the group round this spectacular slice of Cappadocian landscape and history. Of course it was very busy with tourists here too – but no so busy that we weren't able to see Eastern Orphean Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat and Black-eared Wheatear within the site.

Next we headed for the Red Valley where we took lunch in a little café set amidst the most spectacular landscape. Western Rock Nuthatches, Nightingales and Rock Thrush were all seen very well. The colourful rock pinnacles were an amazing sight and after lunch we wandered slowly back through them, enjoying both the landscape and flora and fauna within. There were groups of *Onosma bornmuelleri* flowering on the smooth slopes and we also noted *Fumana arabica* and wands of *Linaria genistifolia*.

We left enough time to go and look at the area where the balloon had landed in the morning. This proved to be an amazing place for flowers. Perhaps the star plant was the gorgeous *Salvia caespitosa* whose very large white flowers had a large blue mark. Almost as lovely were the mounds of palest to deep pink *Convolvulus assyriaca*. Isabelline Wheatears were noticeable and we found a Tawny Pipits nest. Short-toed Lark sang above us. The yellow pyramids of *Arnebia densiflora* were fantastic and so too the low but wide blooms of *Iberis taurica*. A large number of blue butterflies were going to sleep on *Astragalus brachypterus*. There were plenty of this genus about including *Astragalus xylobasis*, prickly *Astragalus condensata*, while *Astragalus nitens* was particularly pretty. The sheer diversity of flora also impressed with abundant crucifers, fabaceae, geraniums as well as showy species such as *Genista albida*, *Nonea stenosolon*, and the very smart *Tripleurospernum decipiens*. A flat-topped plant with numerous yellow blooms was a mystery until Seda tracked it down as *Haplohyllum telephioides*.

Day 7 May 8th Bağıldere Valley and to Erciyes Mountain

After breakfast we drove the three kilometres or so to the top of the Bağıldere Valley. Our task this morning was to walk down said valley, a distance of some four kilometres, and through some of the most beautiful scenery in Cappadocia. During the course of the morning we were passed by a few groups and the odd couple but for much of the time we were on our own. It was a lovely walk, the sublime scenery punctuated by good flowers, a few butterflies, and a number of rather good birds. The latter started off with a few Black-headed and Corn Buntings, but soon improved with sightings of Red-backed Shrikes and Lesser Whitethroats. Then as we looked down into the valley itself there were Golden Orioles and Syrian Woodpeckers. Western Rock Nuthatch appeared briefly and Nightingales showed from time to time, we were hardly ever out of their hearing. Rock Buntings and Rock Sparrows perched on rocky pinnacles, as did a rather errant Turtles Dove. One or two other Turtle Doves visited and there was a fly-over Egyptian Vulture.

Butterflies proved surprisingly scarce for the first part of the walk, only Small Heaths and Small Coppers, but as we went down there were more, these including Queen of Spain Fritillary, the Eastern Steppe Festoon, and Long-tailed Blue. Nigel found an Eastern Dappled White and Blue Argus. Plant life was varied but for the most part we'd already enjoyed the species present on our last visit. It did however give us a chance to photograph an assortment of species including the great stand of mixed *Ornithogalums* and *Muscaris* by the very best of the rocky pinnacles.

It was time to leave Cappadocia. Kerem went ahead of us to find a picnic spot up toward the Eastern pass. This done we stopped and enjoyed the usual fine spread, this time under some river side willows. This turned out to be a great spot. There were Penduline Tits nesting by the river, their vase-shaped nest a source of much interest. Nearby flowered the unusual purple borage (waterleaf in fact) like plant *Phacelia tanacetifolia*. Later we saw the possible source of this introduction as a fodder (ploughing in?) crop up the road. A large leaved buttercup and the Creeping Buttercup were blooming alongside *Muscari armeniacum*. Dragonfly nymphs were in the water and Common Redstarts sang from the willows. A hawker was watched pumping vital fluids around its rapidly expanding abdomen, its wings hardening as we watched. Mud-puddling by the stream were Mazarine Blue, Osiris Blue and Chapman's Blue, and nearby a Large Tortoiseshell opened its wings for the camera. Here was the pretty Nine Spotted, *Syntomis phega*, a moth with black wings with large white spots and whose body has two lemon bands across it.

Heading over the high areas east of Cappadocia the great basin in which lies the Sultan Marshes became visible below. Beyond it we could see the huge snowy cone of Mount Erciyes rising almost 4000m into the sky. We passed through an area of low oak scrub and somehow Seda spotted a bee orchid from the minibus. This proved to be the unusual *Ophrys transhyrcana*. This was also a good spot for butterflies with several blues around, most notably the tiny Small Anatolian Blue which Nigel managed to photograph.

Onwards we descended and skirted the edge of the marshes, passing through a wide expanse of salt flat before rising up onto the lava-strewn slopes of Mount Erciyes. We reached our hotel set next to a lake at over 2000m and with considerable snow patches all around. A beautiful scene. But would we

be able to find the crocuses? In the later afternoon several of us ventured forth up above one of the ski runs but crocuses were elusive. We did however find a great show of *Colchicum szovitsii* with *Gagea bohemica* and *Gagea granatelli*. Shore Larks were common and so too Water Pipits and Black Redstarts. It was pretty chilly by now so we were pleased to return to the warmth of the hotel.

Day 8 May 9th Sultan Marshes and Aladağlar National Park

Those on the early morning trip the Marshes left the hotel at 5.15! We headed down to the Sultan Marshes, reaching the pansiyon in the cool early morning, the sun not yet showing. Here Atalay met us and we were straight away walking down to the find our little boats. This took a while though as birds were very abundant! Lesser Grey Shrikes, Red-backed Shrikes and a very obliging Lesser Whitethroat were in the tamarisk bushes. There were Whiskered Terns and Marsh Harriers in the air more or less continuously. Our first Black Stork was quickly found, posing quite dramatically before lunging at the next frog. A Purple Heron was nearby and there were frequent sightings of these throughout the morning. Three Spur-winged Plovers were strutting back and forth displaying noisily as we watched Black-winged Stilts wading delicately through a sea of white water crowfoot, *Ranunculus sphaerocarpus*. A substantial flock of Ruff had Wood and Green Sandpipers for company. As we boarded the boat a flock of thirty Black Storks, as well as half a dozen Little Egrets flew in, a wonderful sight. We headed off through the shallow water passing several Squacco Herons and entered the reed channels. Here viewing was limited though we could hear the heady mix of Great Reed Warblers and Marsh Frogs continuously. The channels soon widened out into little pools and here we started to find other warblers. Reed Warblers were common and there were a good number of Moustached Warblers too. A Sedge Warbler or two sang and there were at least two singing Savi's Warblers, one of which was seen by Ian T. Ducks were now flying against the snowy peak of Erciyes which makes such a magnificent backdrop to these marshes. There were quite a few Red-crested Pochard, a bunch of Ferruginous Duck, and a few each of Teal, Pochard, Pintail, Mallard and Garganey. To our great surprise a Spoonbill flew over and then a single Greater Flamingo. Gullbilled Terns and Common Terns too. Red-necked Grebe and several Great Crested Grebes were on the biggest patch of open water. Three times Grass Snakes swam across around or once even under the boats. There were large green Marsh or Edible Frogs, but it was too early for the Odonata which would be very good later in the day. Returning the front boat had a Little Crake and the back boat a male Little Bittern more or less at the same time! We stopped to take photographs of the White Waterlilies.

Back on land we headed rapidly for breakfast but there was still more to come. The distant clarion calls of a Common Crane came closer and closer until this fantastic bird was circling around our heads. A Great White Egret sat nearby and there was a bonus back at the pansiyon we were having breakfast at when the owner showed Irene a Long-eared Owl which then flew to another tree giving good flight views. I almost forgot the Little Owl we saw first thing!

Breakfast was really excellent, and we were very hungry. We headed then for Yahyalı where we met up with the rest of the group, more or less on time! Then it was uphill into the Aladağlar National Park. This encompassed the highest reaches of the Taurus, culminating in 3700+m Demirkazık Tepe,

but today we'd concentrate on the areas between 2000m and 2500m reached by a decent road that wound through barren-looking limestone mountains cut by green valleys where summer herders already had their tents pitched and their flocks grazing.

We'd gone quite a long way up before we stopped, determined to pass many great looking spots until, we'd reached a good altitude. The slope above the road proved to be a botanist's heaven. But first some birds! There were White-throated Robins, Ortolan Buntings and Red-fronted Serins as well as Crag Martins in the sky and Alpine Choughs on the cliffs. The Irises! Wow! What a sight. There were hundreds of yellow *Iris schachtii* on the slope, and a similar number on the bluff just a hundred metres along the road, and there were scattered plants everywhere, even up on the cliffs themselves. But then we found *Iris sari* among them! This beautiful Iris came in a variety of colours.

There were patches of pink *Aethionemas* and equally pink wands of *Polygala papilionacea*. There were several poppies including *Papaver dubium*, a yellow spikey *Centaurea*, and a tiny yellow *Viola*. Golden Eagle sailed overhead. There was a stunning show of *Alkanna pseudotinctoria* whilst mounds of pink *Onobrychis cornuta* offered plant in the foreground scenery in the background photo opportunities. On one of these we found a little green hairstreak which was presumably Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak as this plant is the foodplant for that species. *Eremurus spectabilis* was in bud but *Muscari neglectum* was plentiful as was *Ornithogalum oligophyllum* with its tuft of narrow leaves. The *Erysimum thrysoideum* was as nice a wallflower as you could imagine and other rather special plants included pink *Hesperis steveniana*, mounds of *Daphne oleoides* with at least a couple in white bloom, the almost black flowers of *Nonea pulla*, pretty *Centaurea pichleri*, and amongst a variety of Astragaluses, the large golden heads of *Astragalus macroscepus*

We took lunch right next to a snow patch as groups of Alpine Chough flew about above us. We watched Snow Finches come and go, and had good views of Radde's Accentors. By the snowpatch was plenty of gorgeous *Corydalis erdelii* and *Gagea fistulosa*. Further up the slope were plenty of snowpatches and around them were abundant *Ornithogalum oligophyllum*, deep pink *Primula auriculata*, and the gorgeous blue *Scilla sibirica*. *Anemone blanda* offered pretty little blue faces up to the sky. Allan spotted a lone *Orchis pallens* in fine flower and there was a male Rock Thrush singing heartily from a big rock. There was huge excitement here when our first *Fritillaria aurea* was found, and we all convened on the first plants, noting that some of them were quite dark. Further along and we started finding them in all sorts of colours. There were the typical golden yellow ones tessellated dark, whereas others were a strange browny-orange and others an extraordinary reddish hue. Soon we found the reason why. They were hybridizing with a population of *Fritillaria pinardii*. The range of colour and form of the hybrids was incredible, most certainly a trip highlight.

On the way down we stopped by a gorge entrance. No Wallcreepers this time but we did find the unusual *Orthurus heterocarpus*, pretty *Erodium absinthoides*, and the very rare *Biebersteiniana orphanidea*, a weird looking plant with a spike of reddish flowers that in no way gives a clue as to its affinities, which lie with the geraniums!

During the evening checklists we found that over ninety species of bird had been recorded during the day, not bad considering that we'd spent the majority of day marveling at the fantastic flowers!

Day 9 May 10th via the Tahtali Daglari to Kahramanmaras

It was time for the weather to change – we'd had a good run for our money with pretty much wall to wall sunshine up to this point. Now the cloud was low over the snowy peak of Erciyes and hail stones were falling as we loaded up the minibuses. The sound of a House Martins nest falling and hitting a tin roof as a cleaner opened a window made us jump, sad for the birds though, they nest all around this building!

We headed downhill soon clearing the precipitation and heading into sunshine and the wide open rolling steppe country east of Develi. The road was very good (A class) and yet there was no traffic. The countryside varied from huge wheatfields to wide steppe, the latter often dotted with flowers. We passed so many potential flower stops but managed to keep going for a while before in one very dry area of steppe we pulled up next to many cushions of Convolvulus assyriacus. These were up to eighty centimetres across and in some cases the silvery grey green foliage was almost completely obscured by pink blooms. A single pure white plant was found. Short-toed Larks were just about the only birds here though there were quite a few of them. There were several Astragalus species including the prickly but beautiful Astragalus acicularis. Moving on we found the quiet country road that the group has so enjoyed last year was being upgraded so we had to endure the roadside floradestroying road-building works for around thirty kilometres. This hardly hampered our progress. We eventually saw another car and surmised that he must be the very rich person that needed this perfectly decent hardly used tarmac road to be built into a dual carriageway! We reached the Büyük Gezbeli Pass and stopped just down the other side. Here Seda soon pointed out a wonderful group of Verbascum phoeniceum, the flowers varying from butterscotch through green to almost black. Most of the group took to a steep gully where we were soon finding nice plants, mostly over at first, so they lured us upwards. And sure enough up by some snow patches (we had to go much higher than usual this year due to the advanced season) was a quite magical display of flowers. The most obvious were scillas, lots of sky-blue Scilla melaina covered the soil. Around about was much Gagea peduncularis and Ornithogalum orthophyllum. The delicate buttercup Ranunculus myosuroides bloomed in abundance by the snow and closer still to the white stuff was the lovely Crocus biflorus subspecies tauri. Slightly drier ground had lots of Fritillaria pinardii, the best ones at the top were positively robust. The tracks of what was almost certainly a Wolf showed well below the snow in the muddy path. There were Linnets everywhere and also Ortolan Buntings. A Shorelark crawled around the snow next to us and a Ring Ouzel flew off. Along the road the birdwatchers had been enjoying Linnets, various buntings and Red-fronted Serins.

We drove on downhill stopping to look for *Iris sari*, which was duly found, but just a few plants. Nigel spotted Lesser Fiery Copper and Glanville Fritillary whilst on the drier slope by the road we saw Knapweed Fritillary. We made a stop in a village to buy bread and water, quite an eye-opener into normal Turkish village life. We headed on to our next site situated in a wonderful open region with occasional patches of forest set amid wide valleys and gentle mountains. Hardly a soul about. This site was where the recently rediscovered *Muscari macbeathianum* resides. For a moment we thought we'd missed it, but as the drivers prepared our picnic, we found quite a few still in flower along a track. This little grape hyacinth, and it is very little, is very different from any of its relatives with pure white, quite open flowers. And it seems to occur nowhere else except this very small patch

of woodland! During lunch a Krüper's Nuthatch lured us down the road, being surprisingly active and flighty, moving from one side of the road to the other. There were also a few Spotted Flycatchers. There were plenty of other good flowers here so after lunch we spent a while photographing bright red *Tulipa armena*, some *Muscari armeniacum*, a few richly coloured *Orchis coriophora* and there was lots of *Orchis morio*. It was a great spot for buttercups with four species that for buttercups at least were quite distinctive - *Ranunculus arvensis*, *Ranunculus kotschyi*, *Ranunculus millefollius*, and the silvery-leaved *Ranunculus illyricus*.

We moved on towards the main road south, stopping for the last time when we saw a magnificent display of *Pedicularis comosa*. Growing amongst them was a little of the robust *Dactylorhiza osmanica*. Black-headed Yellow Wagtails played next to the louseworts and there were Spanish Sparrows in a flock and a Corncrake......

Day 10 May 11th Ahır Dağı and the Püren Pass

During the night thunderstorms had been quite spectacular and it was a grey morning though not raining as we left the hotel and drove steeply uphill through the rather confusing streets of old town Kahramanmaraş. The town is famous for its resistance to the French in the earlier part of the last century and also for its ice-cream which has become the symbol of great ice-cream throughout Turkey and is an important industry in the city. The old part looked interesting, though the town has become a thriving centre in recent times and the population has now reached half a million most of whom reside in the rather unattractive suburbs in the ubiquitous five or six storey blocks of flats.

We rose up above the city finding the road that goes up the side of Ahır Dağı. This goes up a steep slope and soon the views were spectacular. So was the flora. There were so many nice and new flowers along the roadside. *Asphodeline cilicica* was thriving, some with straight flower spikes, some branched. There were clumps of magnificent *Astragalus macrocephalus*, a large pea with impressive globose yellow flowerheads. There were orobanches, *Silene longiflora* and Salvias including the matforming *Salvia multicaulis*. Red-backed Shrikes zipped across the road in front of us and a Black-eared Wheatear landed near the vehicles when we stopped.

We took a walk along a track where we soon started seeing *Iris kirkwoodii*. This is a really fantastic flower. The blooms, which vary in shade from palest grey-mauve through to almost black, are immense. Some reached almost six-inch cubed and I can think of only the very rare *Iris gatesii* having flowers that can be larger. We found several clumps of half a dozen or so flowers within metres of the track and were soon photographing avidly, mindful of the approaching rain. The Red-rumped Swallows and Barn Swallows were confident of rain too, they whisked past us at head level giving great views. There were lots of Ortolan Buntings and a Common Whitethroat or two. On the way up we'd seen a Long-legged Buzzard and as I walked further up the slope I watched a dark phase Booted Eagle soar over. The rain starting speckling lightly as we reached a huge population of the irises, here were three or four hundred blooms scattered across a nice piece of steppe. Groups of ten or more made wonderful but muddy photos with the black sky beyond. The colour variation was amazing and the sight of these glorious flowers stretching out in front of one is surely something that

will remain in the memory for a very long time. There were some nice pea flowers, two forms of *Pisum sativum* (one subspecies *elatius*) and a pretty pink and blue pea (*clymenum*-like). *Silene supina* was amongst several campions and the clumps of *Helleborus vesicarius* were striking with their inflated seedpods. The rain came in strong so we hurried back to the vehicles, trying our best, and basically failing, to avoid getting the minibus floors covered in mud. We drove back across the high edge of town soon reaching the Kayseri road and heading north. The rain was still coming down in torrents as we neared the Püren Pass. No picnic today! We stopped at a roadside restaurant and had a very passable lunch. The adana kebabs were very good. Then as it was still wet many of the group headed back to Kahramanmaraş to have a relaxing afternoon whilst a hardy few among us decided the try the Puren Pass in any case.

The terrain looked beautiful with the limestone slopes dotted with very open forests of *Juniperus* excelsa, Cilician Fir and Cedar of Lebanon, these set against grassy flowery slopes broken everywhere by limestone bluffs and screes. A landscape of great beauty. We walked up towards where we hoped there might be a few fritillaries left. Sure enough there were but we did have to go up a steep slope to enjoy them. The last few flowers of the very local *Fritillaria amana*, the best specimens with tubby bells striped green and purple and covered in tessellations. There were the last few Tulipa agenensis here too. There were so many other flowers. Pink Hesperis steveniana was outnumbered by the yellow (occasionally with a hint of pink) Hesperis campicarpa. Lamium garganicum bloomed on rocks and the even larger and brighter flowers heads of pink Lamium truncatum formed clumps at the base of rocks, often only a metre from the former species. There were some very fine *Eremurus spectabilis* in flower and the best specimens of *Ixiolirion tartaricum* I think I have ever seen. Birdlife was restricted to common species, but then, it was the flowers that were keeping our attention and as the rain finally ceased we continued to enjoy many more species. An unusual Ornithogalum with campanulate flowers bloomed amongst rocks dotted with clumps of Aubretia. There were so many Geraniums; purpureum, tuberosum, divaricatum, rotundifolium, pyrenaicum, (pratensis-like but with narrow leaves) and the lovely pink white-centred blooms of Geranium cinereum subspecies palmatipartitus. Grammosciadium ptercarpum, Lecokia cretica and Scandix iberica hinted at a diversity of umbellifers that would no doubt come to fruition in high summer, for this is a site that looks like it would brilliant at any time of year. We finished by a stream where Seda showed us the last flowers of Fritillaria persica – the lovely dark brown 'adiyaman' form.

Uphill a little we made one last stop, walking up to look at some *Fritillaria acmopetala* X *amana* hybrids. The Püren Pass has at least five species of *Fritillaria* with *aurea* and *pinardi* found a little earlier in the season (or now, but with a long uphill hike!). These were also just about over. We found some gorgeous *Cerasus prostrata* covering rocks with cerise blooms, the scent quite wonderful. *Orthurus heterocarpus* nestled under boulders and there were several spectacular peas. Then it was time to return and have our last dinner at the Saffran Hotel. Tonight we had asked them to return to proper Turkish food and so the yoghurt-based yayla soup was much appreciated as was the main dish, Saç Kavurma. Then it was lists and to bed for some had an early rise for their Manchester flights.

Day 11 May 12th Departure

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

The majority of the taxonomic order and nomenclature has been taken from the Turkish Flora (edited by PH Davis).

Acanthaceae

Acanthus hirsutus Çatal Höyük

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria Ahır Dağ

Pistacia terebinthus East of Cappaodocia Rhus coriaria Bağlıdere Valley

Apiaceae

Astrodaucus orientalis around Tuz Lake Ferula orientalis Cappadocia Ferula rigidula Cappadıcia Grammosciadum confertum East of Develi Grammosciadum ptercarpum Püren Pass Püren Pass Lecokia cretica

Oenanthe silaifolia en route to Develi Scandix iberica around Ahır Dağ

Apocynaceae

Vinca herbacea Aladağlar

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia maurorum Bağlıdere Valley, Aladağlar

Asteraceae

Achillea biebersteinii on the roadsides around Konya

Bellis perennis scattered

Centaurea depressa widespread; Sille, Çatalhöyük, Ahır Dağ

Centaurea iberica scattered; Kulu Lake

Melendiz Dağ, en route to Develi Centaurea pichleri en route to Aladağ, around Kayseri Centaurea triumfettii

Chardinia orientalis Ahır Dağ

Cirsium arvense subsp. *vestitum* around Konya; Kulu Lake

Cnicus benedictus Sille, Bağlıdere Doronicum orientale Püren pass

Erigeron sp. Aladağ

Gundelia tournefortii scattered; South of Kulu, en route to Aladağ

Scorzonera cana en route to Develi Scorzonera tometosa Bağlıdere Valley Senecio vernalis widespread

Sonchus tenerrimus Kulu

Triplleurospermum decipiens Bağlıdere Valley

Berberidaceae

Berberis crataegina Cappadocia

Boraginaceae

Alkanna orientalis widespread; around Cappadocia

Alkanna pseudotinctoria widespread; around Cappadocia, Konya scattered; around Kulu Lake, Develi road Anchusa azurea Anchusa leptophylla widespread; Kulu area, Cappadocia

Anchusa strigosa Develi road,

Anchusa undulata subsp. hybrida Bağlıdere Valley, on the roadsides around Kayseri

Arnebia densiflora on the Zelve road in Cappadocia

widespread; Çatal Höyük, Kulu, Cappadocia Asperugo procumbens

Brunnera orientalis Develi Buglossoides arvensis Kayseri area

scattered around Cappadocia Cerinthe minor

Cynoglossum montanum Püren Pass Echium italicum Develi road Heterocaryum szovitsianum Konya

Lappula barbata widespread; around Konya

Lappula squarrosa Konya Lithospermum arvenis Kayseri area

Moltkia corulea scattered; near Cihanbeyli, Bağlıdere Valley

Myosotis alpestris scattered; Melendiz Dağ

Nonea pulla Aladağlar

Nonea stenosolon Zelve road in Cappadocia Onosma albo-roseum Aladağ, Püren Pass Onosma bornmuelleri around Cappadocia

Cappadocia Paracaryum calycinum Paracaryum lithospermifolium Cappadocia

Phacelia tanacetifolia a few km east of Cappadocia

Rindera lanata var. canescens Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Solenanthus circinnatus Aladağlar and Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Solenanthus stamineus Büyük Gezbeli Pass Symphytum bornmülleri Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Symphytum brachycalyx Püren Pass

Brassicaceae

Aethionema arabicum Bağlıdere Valley

Aethionema cordatum Aladağlar

Aethionema stylosum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Arabis caucasica Aladağlar Aladağlar Aubretia canescens Barbarea minor Melendiz Dağ

Barbarea plantaginea Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Bornmuellara glabrescens Taşpınar Capsella bursa-pastoris scattered Cardaria draba scattered

Conringia orientalis around Cihanbeyli Conringia plansliqua Cappadocia Conringia perfoliata scattered; Sille Crambe orientalis Cappadocia scattered; Sille Descuraina sophia

Melendiz Dağ, Erciyes Dağ Draba bruniifolia

Draba polytricha Erciyes Dağ Erophila verna Aladağlar

Eruca sativa scattered; Cappadocia

Erysimum thrysoideum Aladağlar, Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Erysimum torulosum around Tuz lake Erysimum sisymbriodes around Tuz Lake Fibigia clypeolata Cappadocia Hesperis bicuspidata Cappadocia Püren Pass Hesperis campicarpa Hesperis pulmonarioides Aladağlar Hesperis steveniana Püren Pass Malcolmia chia Bağlıdere Valley Neslia apiculata Cappadocia Kulu Sisymbrium irio

Thlaspi annuum Bağlıdere Valley Thlaspi violascens Bağlıdere Valley

Campanulaceae

Legousia speculum-veneris scattered

Cannabaceae

Humulus lupulus Bağlıdere Valley

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium perfoliatum en route to Develi Holosteum umbellatum around Taşpınar

Paronychia argentea scattered Scleranthus perennis around Konya en route to Develi Silene aegyptiaca Silene arguta Cappadocia

Silene capitellata Büyüz Gebzeli Pass

Silene cappadocica Taşpınar Silene conoidea Cappadocia Silene dichotoma Cappadocia Silene latifolia Cappadocia Ahır Dağ Silene longipetala

Silene subconia roadsides around Konya

Silene supina Ahır Dağ near Tuz Lake Spergularia maritima Stellaria media Bağlıdere Valley Minuartia leucocephala around Cappadocia

Chenopodiaceae

Halocnemum strobilaceum around Tuz Lake

Cistaceae

Cistus salviifolius Cappadocia Helianthemum salicifolium en route to Develi

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus arvensis Bağlıdere Valley Convolvulus assyricus en route to Develi

Convolvulus betonicifolia Ahır Dağ

Crassulacea

Rosularia globularifolia Püren Pass Umbilicus erectus Püren Pass Sedum laconicum Aladağlar

Cupressaceae

Juniperus oxycedrusCappadociaJuniperus excelsaPüren Pass

Dipsacaceae

Scabiosa rotata Ahır Dağ

Euphorbiaceae

Andrachne telephioides Aladağlar Euphorbia anacampceros Cappadocia

Euphorbia denticulata Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Euphorbia rigida Cappadocia

Fabaceae

Astragalus adunca Sille

Astragalus acicularisen route to DeveliAstragalus brachypterusCappadociaAstragalus cadmicusaround Tuz Lake

Astragalus christianus Konya, roadsides at Kayseri

Astragalus condensata Zelve area
Astragalus eriophyllus Ahır Dağ
Astragalus gymnolobus Melendiz Dağ
Astragalus hamosus near Çatalhöyük

Astragalus macrocephalus Ahır Dağ
Astragalus macroscepus Cappadocia
Astragalus microcephalus around Tuz Lake

Astragalus nitens Zelve area
Astragalus odoratus Cappadocia
Astragalus tigridus Cappadocia
Astragalus xylobasis Zelve area
Cercis siliquastrum Konya

Colutea cilicica Cappadocia, Ahır Dağ

Genista albidaZelve areaHedysarum cappodocicumZelve areaHippocrepis unisiliquosaAhır DağLathyrus blepharicarpusnear Saimbeyli

Lathyrus brachypterus Kızıl Vadi-Cappadocia

Lathyrus cicera near Saimbeyli

Medicago minimaKuluMedicago sativascatteredMelilotus officinalisscatteredOnobrychis cornutaAladağlarPisum elatiusCappadociaRobinia pseudoacaciaaround Konya

Trifolium campestre Konya

Trifolium resupinatum around Çatalhöyük

Trigonella astroites
Taşpınar
Trigonella caerulescens
Cappadocia
Trigonella monantha
Cappadocia
Vicia noeana
near Çatalhöyük
Vicia sativa subsp. nigra
near Çatalhöyük

Fagaceae

Quercus cerrisAhır DağQuercus petraAhır Dağ

Fumariaceae

Corydalis erdelii Aladağlar, Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Fumaria asepala Cappadocia

Fumaria vaillantii around Çatalhöyük, Cappadocia

Geraniaceae

Biebersteinia orphanidea Aladağlar, Püren Pass
Blackstonia perfoliata near Çatalhöyük
Erodium absinthoides Aladağlar
Erodium cicutarium widespread
Erodium gruinum Cappadocia
Geranium cinereun subspecies palmatipartitus Püren Pass

Geranium divaricatum

Geranium purpureum

Geranium pyrenaicum

Geranium rotundifolium

Püren Pass

Püren Pass

Püren Pass

Geranium tuberosum Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Globulariaceae

Globularia trichosantha Püren Pass

Hypericaceae

Hypericum hyssopifolium Cappadocia, Ahır Dağ

Hypericum lydium Ahır Dağ

Hypericum scabrum s cattered; Cappadocia

Lamiaceae

Acinos arvenis around Kulu Gölü

Ajuga orientalisscatteredAjuga chamaepityswidespreadLallemantia peltataAhır DağLamium albumscatteredLamium amplexicaulescattered

Lamium garganicum Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Lamium truncatumPüren PassMarribium parviflorumKulu areaSalvia caespitosaZelve areaSalvia cadmicaSille

Salvia cryptantha Cappadocia, Ahır Dağ

Salvia multicaulis Ahır Dağ

Salvia verbenaca en route to Develi Scutellaria orientalis east of Cappadocia

Scutellaria salviifoliaAhır DağSideritis lanataTaşpınarStachys annuusTaşpınar

Wiedemannia orientalis scattered; Cappadocia Ziziphora capitata Bağlıdere Valley

Linaceae

Linum mucronatumen route to DeveliLinum hirsutumaround Taşpınar

Loranthaceae

Viscum album Cappadocia

Malvaceae

Malva neglecta Cappadocia

Moraceae

Morus albascatteredMorus nigraSille

Nymphaeaceae

Nymphea alba Sultan Marshes

Oleaceae

Jasminum fruticans Red Valley-Cappadocia

Orobanchaceae

Orobannhe caryophyllacea Cappadocia

Paeoniaceae

Paeonia mascula subsp. mascula (lvs.) Püren Pass

Glaucium corniculatum scattered on the roadsides around Konya

Glaucium grandiflorum subspecies grandiflorum near Tuz Lake

Taşpınar Hypecoum imberbe

Hypecoum pendulum near Çatalhöyük

Papaver clavatum Ahır Dağ

Papaver hybridum scattered; Cappadocia

Papaver lacerum Kulu area Papaver persica Ahır Dağ

near Çatalhöyük Papaver stylatum

Romeria hybrida around Tuz Lake, Cappadocia

Pinaceae

Abies cilicica Püren Pass Cedrus libani Püren Pass Pinus brutia Ahır Dağ

Plantaginacea

Plantago major Kulu arae

Polygalaceae

Polygala anatolica Cappadocia Polygala papilionacea Aladağlar Polygala prunosa Cappadocia

Primulaceae

Androsace villosa Erciyes Dağ, Aladağlar

Primula auriculata Aladağlar

Pteridophyta

Asplenium trichomanes Püren Pass Ceterach officinarum Püren Pass Cystopteris fragilis Aladağlar Cheilanthes persica Püren Pass

Ranunculaceae

Adonis aestivalis scattered; Cappadocia Adonis eriocalycina around Tuz lake

Anemone blanda Aladağlar Ceratocephalus falcatus Cappadocia Clematis orientalis Bağlıdere Valley

Consolida orientalis widespread; near Çatalhöyük

Eranthis hyemalis (lvs) Aladağlar Helleborus vesicarius Ahır Dağ Pulsatilla ablana Erciyes Dağ Ranunculus arvensis scattered Ranunculus argyreus Cappadocia

Ranunculus constantinopolitanus scattered; Cappadocia

Ranunculus illyricus Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)

Ranunculus damascenus Ahır Dağ Melendiz Dağ Ranunculus dissectus Melendiz Dağ Ranunculus grandiflorus

Ranunculus isthmicus widespread;Bağlıdere Valley

Ranunculus kotschyi Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area) Ranunculus millefolius Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)

Bağlıdere Valley

Ranunculus myosuroides Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Ranunculus repens scattered Thalictrum minus Püren Pass

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea widespread

Rosaceae

Amygdalus lycoides Aladağlar Püren Pass Cerasus prostrata

Crataegus monogyna near Çatal Höyük Geum urbanum Püren Pass *Orthurus heterocarpus* Aladağlar Rosa canina Bağlıdere Valley

Poterium minor scattered Sorbus aucuparia Püren Pass Spiraea hypericifolia Cappadocia

Scrophulariaceae

Rosa hemispherica

Linaria chalepensis Ahır Dağ

Linaria corifolia east of Cappadocia Kızıl Vadi-Cappadocia Linaria genistifolia Linaria grandiflora near Catal Höyük

Linaria simplex scattered Parantucelllia latifolia scattered

Verbascum phoenicum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Verbascum urceolatum Taşpınar

Verbascum vulcanicum Cappadocia (roadsides in the center)

Veronica arvenis scattered

Solanaceae

Hyocyamus niger Cappadocia

around Kulu Lake, Cappadocia Hyocyamus reticulatus

Styracaceae

Styrax officinalis Ahır Dağ Thymelaeaceae

Daphne oleoides subsp. kurdica Aladağlar

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabraPüren PassUlmus minorBağlıdere Valley

Urticaceae

Urtica dioica Konya

Valerianaceae

Centranthus longiflorus Ahır Dağ

Valeriana dioscoridis scattered; Ahır Dağ Valeriana officinalis sacttered; Sille

Violaceae

Viola kitaibeliana Melendiz Dağ

Monocotyledons

Amaryllidaceae

Ixilorion tataricum Aladağlar,near Saimbeyli

Araceae

Arum elongatum lower areas around Aladağlar

Iridaceae

Crocus biflorus Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Crocus siehanus Aladağlar

Gladiolus atroviolaceus Bağlıdere Valley, near Taşpınar

Gladiolus italicus Ahır Dağ
Gladiolus kotschyanus Ahır Dağ
Iris kirwoodii Ahır Dağ
Iris mesopotamica Sille, K. Maraş
Iris sari Aladağlar
Iris shachtii Aladağlar
Iris sprengeri Taşpınar

Liliaceae

Asphodeline cilicica Ahır Dağ
Asphodeline damascena Cappadocia
Asphodeline globifera Aladağlar
Bellevalia tayri Bağlıdere Valler

Bellevalia tauri Bağlıdere Valley Colchicum szovitsii Aladağlar

Eremurus spectabilis Püren Pass
Fritillaria acmopetala Püren Pass
Fritillaria amana Püren Pass
Fritillaria aurea Aladağlar

Fritillaria persica Püren Pass

Fritillaria pinardii Aladağlar, Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Gagea bohemica Aladağlar Gagea fistulosa Aladağlar Gagea glacialis Melendiz Dağ Gagea granatellii Aladağlar Gagea peduncularis Melendiz Dağ Gagea taurica Melendiz Dağ Hyacinthus orientalis Püren Pass

Muscari armeniacum Cappadocia, Aladağlar

Muscari aucheri Melendiz Dağ Muscari comosum Bağlıdere Valley Muscari latifolium Ercives Dağ Muscari macbeathianum near Saimbeyli Muscari neglectum Aladağlar

Muscari tenuiflorum Bağlıdere Valley

Ornithogalum narbonense Ahır Dağ

Ornithogalum oligophyllum Melendiz Dağ, Püren Pass Ornithogalum orthophyllum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

scattered Ornithogalum platyphyllum

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum Bağlıdere Valley

Ornithogalum sorgerae Ahır Dağ

Ornithogalum umbellatum around Taşpınar Cappadocia Ornithogalum wiedemannii Tulipa agenensis Püren Pass

Tulipa armena near Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza osmanica en route to Develi

Orchis coriophora near Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area) Orchis morio near Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)

Orchis pallens Aladağlar

Orchis tridentata near Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area) Ophrys transhyrcana en route to Erciyes from east of Cappadocia

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Loosely following the order and nomenclature of the 'Collin's' guide. Species in square brackets were heard only (or recorded by other means; feathers, signs etc).

heard only at Sultan Marshes [Little Grebe] Tachybaptus ruficollis

Podiceps nigricollis Black-necked Grebe Kulu Gölü

Red-necked Grebe Podiceps grisegena 1 Sultan Marshes

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus 1 Kulu Gölü and several Sultan Marshes

Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus a male at the Sultan Marshes

2 Kulu Gölü Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax Ardeola ralloides Squacco Heron 6+ Sultan Marshes Little Egret Egretta garzetta 6+ Sultan Marshes

Great Egret Egretta alba 4 Kulu Gölü 1 Sultan Marshes

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea 1 Kulu Gölü and many Sultan Marshes

White Stork Ciconia ciconia high numbers east of Konya, scattered elsewhere

Black Stork Ciconia nigra 30 at the Sultan Marshes

Platalea leucorodia 1 Sultan Marshes Spoonbill

Greater Flamingo Phoenicopterus ruber 4000+ at Kulu Gölü and 1 Sultan Marshes

Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea a few Kulu Gölü Shelduck Tadorna tadorna several Kulu Gölü Wigeon Anas Penelope 3 Sultan Marshes Teal Anas crecca several Sultan Marshes Mallard Anas platyrhynchos a few at the Sultan Marshes Pintail Anas acuta 4 Kulu Gölü, 2 Sultan Marshes Garganey Anas querquedula several at Sultan Marshes

Shoveler Anas clypeata 2 males Kulu Gölü Red-crested Pochard Netta rufina 6+ Sultan Marshes Aythya ferina Pochard 1 Sultan Marshes Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca 4+ Sultan Marshes

Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus singles daily in Cappadocia

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus noted at all wetlands

Circus pygargus females near Tuz and Cappadocia Montagu's Harrier

Buteo rufinus Long-legged Buzzard widespread Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos 1 adult Aladağlar **Booted Eagle** Aquila pennata 1 Ahir Dağı

Falco naumanni Lesser Kestrel Konya and Kulu areas

Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus scattered Hobby Falco subbuteo Tahatli Dağları Chukar Alectoris chukar scattered Perdix perdix Grey Partridge 2 Aladağlar Porzana parva Little Crake Sultan Marshes [Moorhen] Gallinula chloropus Sultan Marshes Fulica atra Coot Sultan Marshes

Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt Kulu Gölü & Sultan Marshes Recurvirostra avosetta Avocet frequent at Kulu Gölü

Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola Kulu Gölü Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius Kulu Gölü Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrines 1 Kulu Gölü

Spur-winged Plover Hoplopterus spinosus 1 Kulu Gölü and 3 Sultan Marshes

Vanellus vanellus Lapwing Kulu Gölü Tinga tetanus Redshank 2 Kulu Gölü Greenshank Tringa nebularia 1 Kulu Gölü Tringa glareola Wood Sandpiper Sultan Marshes Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos Kulu Gölü Little Stint Calidris minuta Kulu Gölü Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii 1 Kulu Gölü

Dunlin Calidris alpina max of 2 daily at Kulu Gölü

Ruff Philomachus pugnax common at Kulu Gölü and noted at Sultan Marshes

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus several on both visits to Kulu Gölü

Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus singles at Kulu Gölü and at Sultan Marshes

Slender-billed Gull Larus genei 1 at Kulu Gölü

Common Tern Sterna hirundo 2 at the Sultan Marshes

Gull-billed Tern Sterna nilotica at all wetlands Black Tern Chlidonias niger 2 at Kulu Gölü

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybridus small numbers at Sultan Marshes

Rock Dove Columba livia ubiquitous, most notably in the dovecotes of Göreme

Turtle DoveStreptopelia turtur2 CappadociaCollared DoveStreptopelia decaoctowidespread

Little Owl Athene noctua singles near Tuz Golu and also Sultan Marshes

[Scop's Owl] Otus scops heard in Cappadocia

Common Swift Apus apus widespread Alpine Swift Apus melba widespread

Roller Coracias garrulus common near Konya, just 1 in Cappadocia

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* widespread

Syrian Woodpecker Dendrocopus syriacus scattered throughout

Crested Lark Galerida cristata common
Skylark Alauda arvensis Calandra lark
Short-toed Lark Calandrella brachydactyla scattered

Lesser Short-toed Lark Calandrella rufescens common Kulu Gölü

Calandra Lark Melanocorypha calandra common Kulu Gölü and Sultan Marshes

Bimaculated Lark Melanocorypha bimaculata east of Develi

Shore Lark Eremophila alpestris Erciyes and Aladağlar

Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris Aladağlar Swallow Hirundo rustica widespread Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica Ahir Daği Sand Martin Riparia riparia at all wetlands House Martin Delichon urbica scattered

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis 1 Kulu Gölü, and one Sultan Marshes

Red-throated Pipit Anthus cervinus good numbers at Kulu Gölü, also noted Erciyes and

Sultan Marshes

Water Pipit Anthus spinoletta Aladağlar

Black-headed Wagtail Motacilla flava widespread in suitable habitat Citrine Wagtail Motacilla citreola a fine male at Kulu Gölü White Wagtail Motacilla alba small numbers throughout

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea scattered

Radde's Accentor Prunella ocularis 1 Ercives and quite common in the Aladağlar, a few seen

well

Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos frequently heard, seen a few times in Cappadocia

Rufous Bush-chat Cercotrichas galactotes 3 at Catal Hoyuk and 1 between Cappadocia and Erciyes

White-throated Robin Irania guttaralis Aladağlar Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochuros Erciyes

Common Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus a few in Cappadocia and Erciyes, the lovely samamiscus

males being especially appreciated

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra 1 en route to Sultan Marshes Stonechat Saxicola torquata just one seen Aladağlar Northern Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe en route to Develi, Erciyes

Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina widespread

Black-eared Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica widespread and common

Finsch's Wheatear Oenanthe finschii 2 near Taşpınar Rock Thrush Monticola saxatilis scattered

Blackbird Turdus merula only noted once Cappadocia
Ring Ouzel Turdus torquatus pair in the Tahtalı Daği
Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti widespread but rarely seen
Eastern Orphean Sylvia crassirostris 1 Cappadocia open air museum

Warbler

Lesser WhitethroatSylvia currucascattered recordsWhitethroatSylvia communisscattered records

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla scattered

Savi's Warbler Locustella luscinioides 1 Sultan Marshes
Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scirpaceus Sultan Marshes
Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus just 1 Sultan Marshes

schoenobaenus

Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus Sultan Marshes where common

arundinaceus

Moustached Warbler Acrocephalus Sultan Marshes where quite common

melanopogon

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita just one at Kulu Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus scattered

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata a few at Kulu and in Cappadocia

Bearded Tit Panurus biarmicus Sultan Marshes

Coal Tit Parus ater seen in small numbers en route to Develi

Great Tit Parus major scattered throughout Blue Tit Parus caeruleus some in Cappadocia Krüper's Nuthatch Sitta krueperi 1 near Saimbeyli Western Rock Sitta neumayer scattered throughout

Nuthatch

Penduline Tit Remiz pendulinus three at Catal Hoyuk and 2 with a nest seen just outside

Cappadocia

Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus scattered sigh records Others heard
Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio commonly recorded in suitable habitat

Lesser Grey Shrike Lanius minor widely scattered in steppe

Jay Garrulus glandarius only noted in the hills east of Cappadocia

Magpie Pica pica widespread
Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax Aladağlar
Alpine Chough Pyrrhocorax graculus Aladağlar
Jackdaw Corvus monedula scattered

Rook Corvus frugilegus Kulu and Cappadocia

Hooded Crow Corvus corone widespread

Raven *Corvus corax* rather uncommon Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* widespread House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* ubiquitous

Spanish Sparrow Passer hispanioliensis only recorded at Catal Hoyuk

Tree Sparrow Passer montanus reasonably frequent

Rock Sparrow Petronia petronia reasonably frequent - common in Cappadocia

Snow Finch Montifringilla nivalis Erciyes and Aladağlar Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs reasonably common

Red-fronted Serin Serinus pusillus Püren Pass and the Aladağlar

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis widespread

Greenfinch Carduelis chloris just one in Cappadocia

Linnet Carduelis cannabina Small numbers in the mountains

Rock BuntingEmberiza ciascatteredOrtolan BuntingEmberiza hortulanascattered

Cretzschmar's Emberiza caesia 2 on Melendiz Dağı

Bunting

Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala common in suitable habitat thereafter Corn Bunting Milaria calandra reasonably frequent in open country

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

Swallowtail Papilio machaon Scattered

Scarce Swallowtail Iphiclides podalarius Singles twice in Cappadocia Clouded Apollo Parnassius mnemosyone Veronica saw one somewhere

Eastern Steppe Festoon Zerynthia deyrolli throughout

Eastern Wood White Leptidea duponcheli Probably this species noted in Cappadocia

Large WhitePieris brassicaewidespreadGreen-veined WhitePieris napiVarious sitesSmall WhitePieris rapaescattered

Eastern Dappled White Euchloe ausonia Top of Love Valley, Cappadocia
Eastern bath White Pontia edusa Irene photographed one in Cappadocia

Orangetip Anthocharis cardamines scattered

Gruner's Orangetip Anthocharis gruneri A few in Cappadocia Sooty Orantetip Zegris eupheme Seen daily in Cappadocia

Berger's Clouded Yellow Colias alfacariensis Cappadocia
Clouded Yellow Colias crocea Widespread
Brimstone Gonepteryx rhamni One in Cappadocia

Green Hairstreak Callophrys rubi scattered

Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak Callophrys paulae Probably this species on its foodplant Onobrychis

cornuta in the Aladaglar

Levantine Vernal copper Tomares nesimachus Several seen in Cappadocia and near Kulu Golu

Turkish Fiery CopperLycaena ochimus1 in CappadociaSmall CopperLycaena phlaeaswidespreadSooty CopperLycaena tityruswidespreadLesser Fiery CopperLycaena thersamonscattered

Long-tailed Blue Lampides boeticus One in Cappadocia

Eastern Short-tailed Blue Cupido decoloratus Probably this species in Catal Hoyuk

Little Blue Cupido minimus Red Valley, Cappadocia

Osiris Blue Cupido osiris widespread
Green-underside Blue Glaucopsyche alexis widespread
Anatolian Green-underside Glaucopsyche astraea 1 in Cappadocia

Blue

Lesser Checkered Blue Scolitantides vicrama Cappadocia Brown Argus Aricia agestis scattered

Blue Argus Aricia anteros Nigel photographed at least two in Cappadocia

Mountain Argus Aricia artaxerxes Nigel photographed at least two

Eastern Brown Argus Aricia eurypilus Cappadocia

Mazarine Blue Cyaniris semiargus Just two seen in Cappadocia

Amanda's Blue Polyommatus amanda scattered
Adonis Blue Polyommatus bellargus scattered
Pontic Blue Polyommatus coelestinus 1 in Cappadocia

Small Anatolian Blue Polyommatus cornelia Noted in Cappadocia and also at the Ophrys

transhyrcana site en route to the Sultan Marshes

Common Blue Polyommatus icarus Not very common!

Chapman's Blue Polyommatus thersites widespread

Large Tortoiseshell Painted Lady Queen of Spain Fritillary Glanville Fritillary Knapweed Fritillary Dalmatian Ringlet Eastern Meadow Brown Small Heath

Wall Brown Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper Aegean Skipper Hungarian Skipper Mallow Skipper

Nymphalis polychloros Cynthia cardui Issoria lathonia Melitaea cinxia Melitaea phoebe Protoerebia afra

Maniola telmessia Coenonympha pamphilus Lasiommata megera Pyrgus armoricanus Pyrgus melotis Spialia orbifer Carcharodus alceae

One in Capadocia widespread scattered scattered scattered

frequent in Cappadocia

Yayladaği. widespread scattered Catal Hoyuk Cappadocia Cappadocia scattered