# Cappadocia

# Flowers, birds and ancient sites of Anatolia

# A Greentours Trip Report

2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Led by Başak Gardner and Phil Benstead

Daily report written by Phil Benstead and Başak Gardner

#### Day 1 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May arrival

After a full day of travel we all arrived from different directions and met up at the gate in Istanbul. Başak turned up unexpectedly too (although her luggage stayed in Istanbul...). On the ground in Konya we had an inevitable wait whilst Başak did the necessary paperwork about her missing bags and then we met up with our driver for the next ten days and headed into town.

# Day 2 Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May Çatalhöyük

After our late arrival last night we opted for a nice soft start this morning and eventually met up at 1030 after enjoying a breakfast looking out over the rooftops of Konya. Our drive to the famous excavated ruins of Çatalhöyük took us across the floor of the Konya Basin, the lowest part of the Central Plateau, but still around 900 m asl. In the crops as we drove we started to admire a beautiful purple larkspur (*Consolida orientalis*). We did not stop many times en route but we just had to stop by a fallow field that was filled with white storks. Calandra and crested larks were obvious and the occasional red-backed shrike made itself apparent.

Çatalhöyük was quite something, a mound rising up out of the surrounding flat steppe, seemingly created by layers of habitation going back an incredible 8,800 years. One of the cradles of civilisation as we know it. We checked out the museum, enjoyed the mock-up house of the era and wandered the site, visiting the two covered and thoroughly fascinating excavations. Beside the paths Başak introduced us to our first steppe plant species; *Consolida orientalis, Lamium orientalis, Peganum harmala* and *Adonis aestivalis*.

Inside the first covered dig we tested our animal track knowledge on a range of wonderful tracks in the fresh dust. Phil pointed out a singing hoopoe and we also heard a nightingale back near the bus. Başak found some tree sparrows and we wandered the ground in between the excavation enjoying the flora and attendant hummingbird hawk-moths. A male penduline tit appeared briefly with a beakful of nesting material and golden orioles sang from hidden perches.

After an hour-and-a-half we were done and headed into nearby Çumla to find a restaurant. Here Başak introduced us to red carrot juice (aka hot turnip juice) which I think we all found to be completely revuggerating, although there may have been some secret admirers around the table (there was! John!). The food though was excellent and we got stuck in.

Back-tracking we made sure we had time to stop to enjoy some of the dry steppe and drainage channels that we had passed on our way out in the heat of the day. Phil called a stop when he spotted a black stork skulking in a ditch and we reversed back to check him out and walk along the ditch. Sadly the bird had a nasty mangled leg, although seemed quite fit. The drainage channel produced some nice *Nigella segetalis*, and plenty of *Acrocephalus* warblers. Penny spotted our first and only damselfly – the prosaic common blue-tail – and our first black-headed wagtails appeared too.

More stops for flora produced *Anchusa azurea*, *Achillea lycaonica*, *Conringia orientalis* and *Onopordum karduchorum*. A thistle-loving longhorn beetle (*Agapanthia cynarae*) and we enjoyed 'scope views of the numerous and very cute Asia Minor sousliks as they went about their business. Nearby their neighbours the isabelline wheatears went about theirs. Overhead invisible bee-eaters called and then it was time to get back to the hotel and the first plant checklist session.

After dinner we walked over to the Mevlana Culture centre and took in the spectacle of a bunch of whirling dervishes for a couple of hours. The huge amphitheatre was crammed full of people, mostly locals and made for quite an evening, although it was hard to journey to the divine in the presence of so many mobile phones...

## Day 3 Sunday 4th May Konya and Düden Gölü

Most of the team elected to get cultural in the morning, accompanying a local guide on a tour of the museum and stretching their legs on the walk to the old mosque. Meanwhile the staff did their big picnic shop. No picnic for us though today, after checkout we sauntered to a nearby restaurant to sample the local cuisine. Replete we dozed through the short journey to Kulu, as we neared the place we started noting a few more wetland birds through the windows. A yellow-legged gull batted past. Gull-billed terns became frequent and at least one of us was getting excited about the impending visit to Düden Gölü. For Phil it was a return to the site after half-a-lifetime away. Unfortunately the weather gods had other ideas...

Arriving at the hotel we jumped out to discover that it really was very windy. A big front was pushing in and promising some rain in the very near future. After sorting out our rooms we jumped back into the bus for the short ride down to the lake. Despite the poor conditions (at least the rain stayed off) we did have a nice little session here.

Flamingos were the big hit and we even got some to fly... A few duck were present; a pair of mallard and two shelduck flew by. Waders scampered along the muddy fringes. Black-winged stilts struggled to stay upright. Avocets swept their recurved bills back and forth. Kentish plovers zoomed about. A single dunlin looked monstrous amongst the larger numbers of brightly plumaged little stints. Perched on a nearby spit we ogled a fine adult slender-billed gull – a glorious bird. In the fields behind the lakeshore we scoped up calandra larks and flushed more elusive red-throated pipits. Battling into the wind we watched a small party of feeding white-winged terns. A white stork calmly walked in front of the van at one point. Beautiful Mediterranean gulls flew past but did not

stop sadly. Somewhat wind-blasted but fairly pleased with our haul of birds we headed back to the hotel and dinner.

For dinner Başak organised a massive mixed grill for us in the restaurant next door to our modest hotel which was a great success. Served on two trays the size of stable doors, we grazed on lamb kebabs, chicken wings and other meaty treats. The proprietors opening up the place just for us on their day off!

## Day 4 Monday 5th May Düden Gölü and on to Cappadocia

Light rain greeted those on the optional early morning trip at 0600. Stopping by the small grove of trees down by the lake it became apparent that a light 'fall' of migrants had occurred. The small number of trees here produced a nice selection of migrants, including golden oriole, spotted flycatcher and red-backed shrike. Searching through the blackcaps revealed the first olivaceous warbler and chiffchaff of the trip. A lone bee-eater flew overhead. A black-headed bunting flew out of the trees arrowing straight for a wandering red fox that had a bird clamped in it's jaws, the beast skulking off upon discovery looking suitably guilty.

Nearby the lakes held a good number of birds. Flamingos had spread themselves thinly across the entire surface of both waterbodies and probably numbered 10,000 plus. Shame we did not find out about the lurking vagrant lesser flamingo reported the week before until after we had left the site... Shelduck were much more obvious than yesterday and the distinctive call of the ruddy shelduck allowed two flyover birds to be added to the growing list.

One of the undoubted highlights of the morning session were encounters with all three marsh tern species, white-winged black terns were abundant, two whiskered terns patrolled the small lake and three or four black terns were also recorded. Spur-winged plovers materialised – where had they been yesterday? A large number of slender-billed gulls were present this morning too. The fields around the edge produced many views of the excellent lesser short-toed lark and monstrous calandra larks were singing high in the sky. But all-too-soon it was time to get back for breakfast.

Heading on in the van we stopped briefly on our drive to take in the salty steppe vegetation and enjoy the suite of birds that call this inhospitable place their home. Kentish plovers were found in abundance, lesser short-toed larks called all around us and everywhere displaying isabelline wheatears danced in the air. Sousliks kept a low profile as there were many predatory long-legged buzzards in the area. We found the tiny endemic *Onobrychis paucijuga* there.

Heading on the weather started to look increasingly grim unfortunately. We set out our lunch at an *Iris sprengeri* site but by the time the team returned from their unsuccessful search (too late? too overgrazed?) we were just in time to experience some very windy weather, complete with lots of flying dust and some rain. We retreated to the van to eat our picnic... The outcop had produced a few plants though *Acinos arvensis*, *Alkanna pseudotinctoria*, *Nonea stenosolen*, *Cnicus benedictus* and *Verbascum vulcanicum*.

Whilst Başak and the botanists had been unsuccessful with their main plant target at the site they did come back with news of a big finch. Phil slipped back for a look and despite the appalling conditions he found two fantastic crimson-winged finches butching about in the gully below the outcrop. Also

here a male Finsch's wheatear, so despite it being a botanical low point for the team we did well with some of the speciality upland birds. Eventually we drove on to our cave hotel in Göreme.

Driving on we skirted the cone of the impressive former volcano (Hasan Daği). It was fantastic to suddenly be confronted by the totally weird geology of Cappadocia; one minute you are driving through Turkey and the next you are in the most amazing, scarcely credible scenery. Most of the hoodoos show signs of ancient or modern use by man and then abruptly you descend into the tourist trap that is Göreme. Every available building in this small village having been turned over to some tourist purpose or other and suddenly we were surrounded by people from all over the world who have come to gawp like us at this astonishing region and its many treasures.

Our hotel was charming, most rooms hacked into the soft volcanic tuff and we settled in pleased that we would be staying for three nights. As we got ready for checklists and dinner the screaming of common swifts could be heard overhead, occasionally joined by the hysterical calls of their larger cousins, the alpine. Over dinner we met Kerem our local guide for the Cappadocia leg of the tour and checked the weather forecast...

# Day 5 Tuesday 6th May Cappadocia

Balloons everywhere there were at dawn, but they soon disappeared from view into the low cloud. First thing Phil went out for a pre-breakfast walk around the nearby Pigeon's Valley. A nice little walk with plenty of birds to look at and listen to. A Cetti's warbler sang invisibly from a thicket and irate olivaceous warblers chased lesser whitethroats around. Light rain fell too and although this stayed off for most of time after breakfast we sadly seldom saw the sun during the day.

Kerem had a packed programme for us today. En route to the Underground City we stopped in a vacant lot on the edge of town. An olivaceous warbler regaled us as Başak pointed out a number of new plants for us. Glaucium corniculatum, Papaver hybridum and lacerum, Hypecoum pendulum, Trigonella caurolescens and Ajuga chamaepitys.

Whilst most of the group went underground for an hour to visit the labyrinthian city complex, the rest of us headed out of town a short distance and found a surprisingly satisfying flora to engage us whilst we waited. *Matthiola longipetala*, *Lamium orientalis*, *Silene subconica*, *Anchusa azurea*, *Astragalus pinetorum*, *Scorzonera cana* and *Hypecoum pendulum* were seen here. A big oil beetle was a big hit with Phil. Heading back into town we had time for a cup of tea before the rest of the team emerged from their subterranean wanderings for refreshments. Driving on we stopped along the road for our first Egyptian vulture and inevitably started poking around too. Başak found a nice purple-shot copper which posed lethargically in the decidely cool weather.

Ortahisar next for a sit-down lunch in a small restaurant and Başak bought us a bag of dried mulberries for dessert. Refuelled we headed along a delightful back road that produced great flowers at every one of the three or four stops that we enjoyed during the remainder of the afternoon. The first stop was prompted by a splendid display of roadside *Roemeria hybridum* but further examination of the fields here produced a good number of other plants *Silene otites, Paracaryum calycinum, Astragalus tigridis, Aethionema arabica* and *Vicia pubescens*. Phil chased snake-eyed lizards over the soft volcanic soil, Penny found a Glanville fritillary and a chukar flew low along a nearby gully. All around us black-headed buntings were singing.

Our next stop was intended to be cultural but the curator of the cave church in question was absent without leave so we turned to plants. Nearby our first *Muscari tenuiflorum* had Sue dancing a jig, a lovely golden *Onosma bornmuelleri* wowed us and the *Euphorbia anacampceros* and *Asyneuma lobellioides* here were very pretty.

Driving on we stopped again when Başak spotted some nice patches of *Salvia cryptantha*. Also here our first *Gladiolus atroviolaceous*, a splendid plant.

Next we stopped at a viewpoint looking out over a hoodoo-riddled gully and cliff and Kerem gave us a quick geological lecture. Overhead a long-legged buzzard soared and the sun nearly came out.

Our last stop of the day was the jewel on the crown of this fantastic stretch of road and was discovered last year by an intrepid Greentours balloon team. As the dusk flight of balloons took off from Göreme we wandered this delightful patch of steppe. Invertebrates were more obvious here with a fine spurge hawk-moth found roosting on the ground at one point and our first sleepy lesser chequered blue too. Başak was kept very busy here as everyone started finding exciting plants. The blousy yellow sprays of *Arnebia densiflora* looked unreal bursting from the soil in ready-made bunches. A frothy white clump of *Iberis taurica* was splendid. The incredible large-flowered *Salvia* 

blepharochlaena and cushions of beautiful deep pink *Convolvulus assyriaca* were ogled by all. Short-toed larks sang above us as we guzzled tea and nibbled on the aptly-named Turkish Delight and chunks of halva. It was hard not to feel very content. Refreshed we did one last wander down a nearby gully for a beautiful yellow rose (*hemisphaerica*), that provided a stunning contrast to the dry steppe and backdrop of eroded tuff cliffs and hoodoos.

A great day of culture and botanical activity, we returned tired to the hotel for dinner and some of us may have over-indulged the tasty beef-and-beans dish.

#### Day 6 Wednesday 7th May Cappadocia

Another chilly start to the day but the rain stayed off and the sun even came out for us towards lunchtime. Phil kicked off proceedings by taking a small team out birding before breakfast and we had a good time along Pigeon's Valley. Birds spotted included a great view of a singing Cetti's warbler, golden oriole, jay and Syrian woodpecker. The horse that bit Sue very hard though was not part of the programme – a spiteful little beast.

The cool weather this morning suited our plans as we were taking the Bagildere valley trail, a 4-kilometre downhill walk. We had barely started when we stopped to buy nick-nacks and gulp down freshly squeezed orange juice from a trackside stall. A new *Muscari caucasicum* appeared quickly by the wayside. Birds were evident all around, we watched Syrian woodpeckers, singing nightingales and there was even a hoopoe for Penny (albeit distantly). *Lathyrus brachypterus* was abundant in the area.

During the latter half of the walk the sun finally broke through the cloud for the first time in many days and things warmed up rapidly until we were suddenly in the presence of many species of butterfly. Niobe fritillaries were present in surprising numbers and we also spotted our first small heath, osiris blue, brown argus and small copper. Eventually we emerged at the road and there was the bus and driver waiting to whisk us off for lunch in a pleasant underground restaurant in Göreme.

After lunch Kerem took us to the mirror church. Whilst the team cultivated themselves their leaders either identified plant specimens or poked about. Phil found a widespread *Allium scorodoprasum* growing under the nearby cliff and nearly saw the endemic lizard... The hot sun had brought out yet more butterflies including our first Queen-of-Spain fritillary and the Glanville fritillary was flying here too.

With time in hand we tacked on a visit to the Gomeda Valley. This was an excellent spot although some, after the morning walk, did not have the energy to descend to the valley bottom. Başak pointed out yet another strange *Hypecoum procumbens* near where the van was parked. The damp stream valley was excellent for butterflies and we found our first (and only) Dalmatian ringlet, together with a host of blues which were either roosting in the grass or mud-puddling on the track. The vivid colours of Adonis blue were noted. The mud-puddlers included our first Bavius and Amanda's blue, as well as green-underside blue and osiris blue. We also finally found a small white and added an orange-tip for our butterfly list, which was definitely struggling due the poor weather we were experiencing. The sun really helped today!

Our last stop of the day was another cultural stop this time at the open air museum just before closing when the insane crowds diminish somewhat. Kerem lead the team in one last time, once they could be moved past the ice-cream and juice stands at the entrance that is. The churches were well-recieved ending another great day and all fingers were firmly crossed for more settled weather beacause tomorrow we enter the higher altitude parts of our journey.

#### Day 7 Thursday 8th May to Erciyes over the Topuz Daği

Today we checked out of our cave and headed out once more into the wild grey yonder. Would we see the sun again? Before leaving Cappadocia though we dropped in on Pasabağ to say goodbye to some hoodoos and check out the souvenir stalls and antique shops clustered around the carpark. An hour here was sufficient so we drove the short distance to Avanos to visit the superb Güray ceramic factory and museum. We were really lucky as the museum had just been opened a fortnight before our visit and was a thing of beauty in itself. Hacked from the soft volcanic rock adjacent to the equally underground ceramic works it was made of large connected vaulted chambers with exhibit cases worked into every wall. Very impressive.

A side door took us from the cathedral-like hush of the museum into the hustle-bustle of the factory and some tame ceramicists were hard at work for our viewing pleasure. Later we had a great demonstration of the use of the kick-wheel to throw a pot whilst we drank tea and then Başak bravely gave it a go for excellent comedy value. Finally it was time to look at the incredible finished work of this excellent pottery, the high-end stuff was just incredible but you need a well-endowed credit card to contemplate buying any of these truly wonderful objects. Fortunately though there were pieces to suit all depths of pockets and tastes and most of us made a purchase of some kind. During parts of this shopping/cultural process Phil had been wandering about finding hoopoes, beeeaters and black-eared wheatears in the neighbourhood...

Off we drove stopping at the top of a low pass – the Topuz – where we had an enjoyable half-hour of botanical activity despite light rain. *Arum elongatum, Silene cappadocica, Centaurea pichleri* and *Acanthus hirsutus* were some of the plants. Phil enjoyed the birding here finding singing ortolan bunting, woodlark, red-backed shrike and having a brief encounter with a distant golden eagle. Driving on we stopped at a roadside restaurant and enjoyed yet another pleasant meal as light rain continued to fall.

As we had come over the pass we had seen the Erciyes volcano looming up ahead but as we got closer the low cloud dropped and concealed it. Skirting the marshes we made a short stop to photograph a roadside stork nest and Phil dashed over to a nearby drainage channel that was choked with *Ranunculus sphaerospernum*. Frogs called, a purple heron flushed up and away and a black tern batted past. We stopped to look at some nice patches of *Hesperis bicuspidata* (the purple crucifer) and whilst the team went back for it Phil scanned a nearby ridge with his 'scope and found some orchids. Everyone joined him on the ridge when they came back and we had a pleasant time in the light rain looking at the lovely yellow *Orchis pallens* and the deep purple *Orchis pinetorum*.

Back-tracking to the hotel we checked into a large and very empty ski-hotel, the plan being to gather shortly to walk up to the nearest snow-patch for bulbs, but when it came down to it the heavens had opened and none of us fancied it! Tomorrow perhaps?

## Day 8 Friday 9th May Erciyes and Aladağlar

No Sultan Marshes visit this year, with little interest in birds amongst the team there was a unanimous decision to have a lie-in instead! In its place an early morning assault on the *Colchicum szovitsii* of the Erciyes volcano slopes was requested after yesterday evening's wash-out performance. Some us made it to the 06.30 startline and we trogged uphill in a fierce wind and the cold but enjoying nevertheless the numerous *Pulsatilla albana* in the sward. Başak also spotted *Minuartia recurva*, *Draba polytricha* and *Herniaria glabra* here. Eventually we got high enough to start finding the tiny *Colchicum* in small numbers and as low cloud had completely enveloped us at this point we elected to head back down for breakfast before we got lost forever.

Breakfast complete we took to the road for the 70 km drive round to the high Ala Daği. En route we stopped for bread and then light rain and high winds started to become more obvious as we slowly climbed to the road junction. Driving the road through the stunning scenery to the mine was accomplished with just one stop for some obvious *Iris schactii*, which went down well with the team. *Aristolochia maurorum, Astragalus nitens, Solenanthus circinnatus, Polygala anatolica* and *Aethionema iberideum* were some of the other plants in the area. A superb male white-throated robin was a nice surprise here and perched briefly for Phil. Drifts of snowfinches flew up in front of us occasionally.

As we got up above 2500 metres the rain turned to snow and we entered a very alpine scene, the mountains around us covered in a fresh dusting of spring snow. Parking up at the mine most walked with Başak to search for fritillaries. Phil checked the rather unsightly rubbish dump and got great views of shorelark, snowfinch and alpine accentor. Walking further up the track produced water pipits and a stunning male rock thrush. Just before we headed back downhill a good-sized group of red-fronted serin swept in and landed amongst the buildings, beautiful birds.

Driving down we parked up and sorted out a meal. No textbook picnic for us, everyone stayed firmly in the mud-filled van out of the weather. Başak brewed up some tea in the front, whilst Phil prepared sandwich fillings and other sundries from the supplies in the back and passed them forward. Snow fell horizontally throughout. We dropped a lot lower afterwards and found a superb flower-rich site that quite took our minds off the wet weather. *Iris schactii* was found first. Then Başak found some *Iris sari* and we found some lovely fresh examples including a memorable clump of four. The cliff base was the favoured habitat of the very colourful and much-admired *Onosma albo-roseum*. Başak was kept very busy as we also found *Scilla sibirica subsp. armena, Lamium garganicum, Orthurus heterocarpus* and *Anemone blanda*. The big fritillary was still above us in the snow but we elected to head downhill and were quickly rewarded with some sun for the first time in the day.

We drove the short distance to the Derebağ waterfall for a comfort stop and a cup of tea. Here in a very short time we added mazarine blue and long-tailed tit to their respective lists. But tired and windswept we did not stay long, instead we turned for the hotel and a big plant checklist session before dinner.

Day 9 Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May Büyük Gebzeli Geçidi, Tahtalı Daği and the Püren Pass

Another transfer day was upon us and so we breakfasted and checked out in good order and got on the road to 'Maraş. Driving along through excellent scenery we made our first stop of the day at a very high pass (Büyük Gebzeli). Başak lead the team up slope hunting out plants and finding *Fritillaria pinardi* and other plants like *Nonea pulla, Solenanthus stamineus, Myosotis alpestris* and *Barbarea minor*. Lower down some of us were enjoying the birds that included a pair of confiding redfronted serin, two male white-throated robins and our first stonechats and goldfinches. Penny found a water pipit nest complete with eggs and white-throated robin and ortolan bunting were in song all around us.

Driving on we continued on through a changing landscape, stopping briefly to admire a colony of bee-eaters by the road and again to check out a field with our first *Ixolirion tataricum*. An eastern steppe festoon here was our first. A stop in a small village secured our bread ration for the day. Arriving at our lunch stop we searched the woods for the rather weedy but none-the-less exciting *Muscari mcbeathianum*. Also here Penny found a few *Orchis coriophora* and there were many *Orchis morio* and other stuff like *Verbascum phoenicium, Silene capitellata, Minuartia hirsuta* and *Cnicus benedictus*. A few butterflies were flying here including our only long-tailed blue of the trip. It was great to have some sun and be able to sit out and have a proper picnic.

After lunch we headed on again, eventually climbing up to the incredibly beautiful Püren pass. On the other side we found the slopes were lightly covered in cedar, Cilcian fir and *Juniperus excelsa* and stopped to search for fritillaries. Başak took the team up in search of *Fritillaria amana* and Phil went to search out *Fritillaria persica* at a regular site. The regular site for *persica* sadly only contained two decapitated plants but a beautiful *Paeonia mascula* and a Schneider's skink were some compensation. A calling bird here was probably the scarce white-backed woodpecker.

Luckily whilst the rest of the team could not locate an *amana*, Patricia had found some *persica*. We searched high and low for *amana*, most people taking in the peony and eventually Başak found a single flower, just past its best but a sure sign that we had missed the main flowering period this year sadly. Other plants were *Eremurus spectabilis* and *Hesperis campicarpa*. Tired we headed for 'Maraş and the comfortable Saffron Hotel.

After dinner Başak took us out to sample the famous ice cream of this bustling town. The ice-cream parlour was quite something and so was the incredibly glutinous ice-cream.

# Day 10 Sunday 11th May the Ahir Daği

The last day in the field was a scorcher, the sun shone down, we did not have far to go to get into habitat and the wildlife was fantastic. Climbing out of town we were soon on the lower slopes of the Ahir Daği and stopped low down in a floriferous spot. Whilst the botanists grazed on the slope, Phil checked out the butterflies finding the first skippers of the trip at last and photographing a tiny grass jewel. The botanists found a number of new and interesting species on the slope including *Linum mucronatum*, *Teucrium multicaule*, *Cicer pinnatifidum*, *Coronilla orientalis* and *Crupina crupinastrum*.

Moving on we did not have to wait too long before Sue squealed. She had seen our first immense *Iris kirkwoodi* and was rather pleased. We bundled out of the van and enjoyed it. Phil went up round the back of the bank that the plant was on but all the irises here were already over, so we got lucky with this first perfect plant. Scarce swallowtails made an appearance here for the first time. Driving on we came out on the high tops, scattered purple cushions of *Onobrychis cornuta* added a Scottish colouring

to the dry limestone hills and we also found *Helleborus vesicarius*. In the depression below us seasonal shepherd communities went about their business, smoke curling from the chimneys of their simple dwellings. Turning back in search of more iris we quickly found a very good track. Soon either side of us were good numbers of *Iris kirkwoodi*, and we stopped for lunch at a good looking spot. Incredibly the farmer here was just about to plough in the very field we found ourselves in to make way for more cherry trees! He kindly stopped whilst we enjoyed the spectacle of this doomed iris field. Many of the plants had huge, multiple heads and it was hard to watch when the tractor got under way again during our picnic.

Moving on we had another pleasant hour on the dry slopes. Looking again at the amazing irises and also finding many more plants including *Salvia multicaulis, Paracaryum paphlagonicum* and *Cistus salvifolius*. Overhead a short-toed eagle showed Phil how to find reptiles and Phil took the lesson on board and finally got a photo of the hyperactive skink in the grass – it was *Mabuya vittata*. Butterflies were excellent with black-veined white and false apollo on the wing. Our only Turkish copper of the trip and a good number of small Anatolian blues. Nine spotted moths (*Amata phegea*) were obvious. Eventually we tore ourselves away and headed downhill again.

Dropping back down we stopped to enjoy some flowering *Asphodeline globifera* and this area was very good for bush-crickets too. Our final stop on the hill was the same spot as our first as Başak had noticed some *Centranthus longiflorus* that we had missed before. Phil was pleased to find Gerhard's black hairstreak here and a surprise Upcher's warbler put in an appearance.

Driving back down to 'Maraş we searched in vain for good habitat on the other side of town. The smelly sewage drain we found producing our only greenfinches of the trip and a great little ice-cream parlour (upwind!). Refreshed we headed for an early bath, a big checklist round-up, online checking-in and the last supper. We said our goodbyes to Başak afterwards, she was leaving early in the morning to make her date with the BBC tulip documentary film crew in the north-east of Turkey. We wished her luck.

# Day 11 Monday 12th May the journey home

A nice leisurely start and plenty of time to pack was a luxury on this busy tour. We all breakfasted and then Phil and Cynthia looked around the local area picking up the last new bird of the tour – laughing dove. Assembled we all headed out to the nearest supermarket and stocked up on Turkish delight, halva and other goodies (pomegranate syrup being a firm favourite). The tiny airport was just 15 minutes away and involved a walk of at least 75 metres from the van to the gate. The flight was nice and short and then we were in Istanbul.

Phil tucked himself away and worked on the report and this devotion to duty cost him a sighting of Kate Humble in departures... Gutting. By the time he resurfaced to see the crew off on their flight to London it was all over.

# Systematic List Number 1 Plants

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

Acanthaceae

Acanthus hirsutus Çatal Höyük, Topuzdağı Pass

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria Ahır Dağ

Pistacia terebinthus East of Cappaodocia

Rhus coriaria Bağlıdere Valley, Ahır Dağ

Apiaceae

Astrodaucus orientalis around Tuz Lake Ferula orientalis Cappadocia

Ferula rigidula Cappadocia, Aladağlar-Maden

Grammosciadum confertumEast of DeveliGrammosciadum ptercarpumPüren PassLecokia creticaPüren Pass

Oenanthe silaifolia en route to Develi

Scandix iberica around Ahır Dağ, Pancarlık Valley

Torilis leptophylla Ahır Dağ Zosima absinthifolia Sarıca Church

Apocynaceae

Vinca herbacea Aladağlar

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia maurorum Bağlıdere Valley, Aladağlar

Asteraceae

Achillea biebersteinii on the roadsides around Konya

Achillea lycaonica Çatalhöyük Bellis perennis scattered

Centaurea depressa widespread; Sille, Çatalhöyük, Ahır Dağ

Centaurea iberica scattered; Kulu Lake

Centaurea pichleri Melendiz Dağ, en route to Develi, Topuzdağı Pass

Centaurea triumfettii en route to Aladağ, around Kayseri

Centaurea urvillei ssp. armata Aladağ-Maden Chardinia orientalis Ahır Dağ

Cirsium arvense subsp. vestitum around Konya; Kulu Lake Cnicus benedictus Sille, Bağlıdere, Taşpınar

Crupina crupinastrum Ahır Dağ Doronicum orientale Püren pass Erigeron sp. Aladağ

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

Onopordum karduchorum Çatalhöyük road

Scorzonera cana en route to Develi, Cappadocia area

Scorzonera eriophora very hairy..Bağlıdere Valley

Senecio vernalis widespread Sonchus tenerrimus Kulu

Tripleurospermum decipiensBağlıdere ValleyTripleurospermum oreadesAladağlar-MadenXanthium spinosumPancarlık Valley

#### Berberidaceae

Berberis crataegina Cappadocia

#### Boraginaceae

Alkanna orientalis widespread; around Cappadocia, Taşpınar

Alkanna pseudotinctoria widespread; around Cappadocia, Konya, Taşpınar

Anchusa arvensis Aladağ-Maden

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

Anchusa strigosa Develi road, Ahır Dağ

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

Arnebia densiflora on the Zelve road in Cappadocia, Devrent Asperugo procumbens widespread; Çatal Höyük, Kulu, Cappadocia

Brunnera orientalis Develi

Buglossoides arvensis Kayseri area, Uçhisar

Cerinthe minor scattered around Cappadocia

Cynoglossum montanumPüren PassEchium italicumDeveli roadHeterocaryum szovitsianumKonya

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, Büyük Gebzeli Pass Nonea stenosolon Zelve road in Cappadocia, Taşpınar

Onosma albo-roseum Aladağ, Püren Pass

Onosma aucherianum ?Taşpınar

Onosma bornmuelleri around Cappadocia

Paracaryum calycinumCappadociaParacaryum lithospermifoliumCappadociaParacaryum paphlagonicumAhır Dağ

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 arabicumBağlıdere ValleyAethionema cordatumAladağlarAethionema iberideumAladağlarAethionema membraneceumAladağlar

Aethionema stylosum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Alyssum minus Tuzla
Alyssum strigosum Aladağlar
Arabis caucasica Aladağlar
Aubretia canescens Aladağlar
Barbarea minor Melendiz Dağ

Barbarea plantaginea Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Boreava orientalisDerinkuyuBornmuellara glabrescensTaşpınarCapsella bursa-pastorisscattered

Cardaria draba scattered, Çatalhöyük

Conringia orientalis around Cihanbeyli, Çatalhöyük

Conringia plansliquaCappadociaConringia perfoliatascattered; SilleCrambe orientalisCappadociaDescuraina sophiascattered; Sille

Draba bruniifolia Melendiz Dağ, Erciyes Dağ, Aladağlar

Draba polytricha Erciyes Dağ, Aladağlar

Erophila verna Aladağlar

Eruca sativa scattered; Cappadocia

Erysimum thrysoideum Aladağlar, Büyük Gezbeli Pass

around Tuz lake Erysimum torulosum Erysimum sisymbriodes around Tuz Lake Fibigia clypeolata Cappadocia Fibigia eriocarpa Aladağlar Cappadocia Hesperis bicuspidata Hesperis campicarpa Püren Pass Hesperis pulmonarioides Aladağlar Püren Pass Hesperis steveniana Iberis taurica Devrent Lepidium perfoliatum Kulu Lepidium caespitosum Kulu

Malcolmia chiaBağlıdere ValleyNeslia apiculataCappadociaSinapis albaÇatalhöyük

Sisymbrium irio Kulu

Thlaspi annuum Bağlıdere Valley
Thlaspi violascens Bağlıdere Valley

# Campanulaceae

Asyneuma labelioides Devrent Legousia speculum-veneris scattered Cannabaceae

Humulus lupulus Bağlıdere Valley

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium perfoliatum en route to Develi

Gypsiphila venusta Devrent Herniaria glabra Aladağlar

Holosteum umbellatum around Taşpınar

Paronychia argenteascatteredScleranthus perennisaround KonyaSilene aegyptiacaen route to DeveliSilene argutaCappadocia

Silene capitellata Büyüz Gebzeli Pass

Silene cappadocica
Silene conoidea
Silene dichotoma
Silene latifolia
Silene longipetala
Silene otites

Taşpınar
Cappadocia
Cappadocia
Ahır Dağ
Pancarlık Valley

Silene subconica roadsides around Konya, Pancarlık Valley

Silene supina Ahır Dağ
Spergularia maritima near Tuz Lake
Stellaria media Bağlıdere Valley
Minuartia leucocephala around Cappadocia
Minuartia hirsuta ssp. falcata Near Saimbeyli

Minuartia recurva Aladağlar

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 , Pancarlık Valley

Convolvulus betonicifolia Ahır Dağ Convolvulus lineatus Devrent

Crassulacea

Rosularia globularifolia Püren Pass Umbilicus erectus Püren Pass Sedum laconicum Aladağlar

Cupressaceae

Juniperus oxycedrus Cappadocia

Juniperus excelsaPüren PassJuniperus sabinaErciyes

Dipsacaceae

Scabiosa rotata Ahır Dağ

Eleagnaceae

Eleagnus angustifolius Cappadocia

**Ephedraceae** 

Ephedra major Devrent

Euphorbiaceae

Andrachne telephioides Aladağlar
Euphorbia anacampceros Cappadocia

Euphorbia denticulata Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Euphorbia rigida Cappadocia Euphorbia szovitsii Devrent

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria Ahır Dağı Astragalus adunca Sille

Astragalus acicularis en route to Develi Astragalus brachypterus Cappadocia Astragalus cadmicus around Tuz Lake

Astragalus christianus Konya, roadsides at Kayseri

Astragalus condensata Zelve area, Dervent, very prickly-shrubby, pale pink globose flower

heads

Astragalus eriophyllus Ahır Dağ
Astragalus gymnolobus Melendiz Dağ
Astragalus hamosus near Çatalhöyük
Astragalus macrocephalus Ahır Dağ

Astragalus macroscepus Cappadocia, Devrent Astragalus microcephalus around Tuz Lake Astragalus nitens Zelve area, Aladağlar

Astragalus odoratus Cappadocia

Astragalus pelliger Devrent, dwarf plant with big creamy flowers

Astragalus pinetorum Cappadocia
Astragalus persicus Sarıça Church

Astragalus tigridus Cappadocia, few leaflets, reddish flowers

Astragalus xylobasis Zelve area
Cercis siliquastrum Konya
Cicer pinnatifidum Ahır Dağ

Colutea cilicica Cappadocia, Ahır Dağ

Coronilla emerus Near Yahyalı
Coronilla orientalis Ahır Dağı
Coronilla scorpoides Ahır Dağı

Genista albida Zelve area, Devrent

Hedysarum cappodocicumZelve areaHippocrepis unisiliquosaAhır DağLathyrus blepharicarpusnear Saimbeyli

Lathyrus brachypterus Kızıl Vadi-Cappadocia, creamy white flwrs

Lathyrus cicera near Saimbeyli Lathyrus nissolia Near Saimbeyli

Medicago minimaKuluMedicago sativascatteredMedicago radiataAhır DağıMedicago polymorphaAhır DağıMelilotus officinalisscatteredOnobrychis cornutaAladağlarOnobrychis pauciguaTuzla

Pisum elatius Cappadocia
Robinia pseudoacacia around Konya

Trifolium campestre Konya

Trifolium resupinatum around Çatalhöyük

Trigonella astroitesTaşpınarTrigonella caerulescensCappadociaTrigonella monanthaCappadocia

Vicia noeana near Çatalhöyük, near Develi Vicia sativa subsp. nigra near Çatalhöyük, near Develi

Vicia tetrasperma Çatalhöyük Vicia villosa Near Develi Vicia pubescens Cappadocia

#### Fagaceae

Quercus cerrisAhır DağQuercus infectoriaAladağlarQuercus petreaAhır Dağ

#### **Fumariaceae**

Corydalis erdelii Aladağlar, Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Fumaria asepala Cappadocia

Fumaria vaillantii around Çatalhöyük, Cappadocia

#### Geraniaceae

Biebersteinia orphanideaAladağlar, Püren PassBlackstonia perfoliatanear ÇatalhöyükErodium absinthoidesAladağlarErodium cicutariumwidespread

Erodium ciconium Pınarbaşı Valley
Erodium gruinum Cappadocia
Geranium cinereun subspecies palmatipartitus Püren Pass

Geranium divaricatumPüren PassGeranium purpureumPüren PassGeranium pyrenaicumPüren Pass

Geranium rotundifolium Püren Pass

Geranium tuberosum Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Globulariaceae

Globularia trichosantha Püren Pass, Erciyes

Hypericaceae

Hypericum hyssopifoliumCappadocia, Ahır DağHypericum lydiumAhır Dağ, ErciyesHypericum scabrumscattered; Cappadocia

Lamiaceae

Acinos arvenis around Kulu Gölü, Taşpınar

Ajuga orientalisscatteredAjuga chamaepityswidespreadLallemantia peltataAhır DağLamium albumscatteredLamium amplexicaulescattered

Lamium garganicum Aladağlar, Püren Pass

Lamium truncatumPüren PassMarribium parviflorumKulu areaSalvia blepharochloreaDevrentSalvia caespitosaZelve areaSalvia cadmicaSille

Salvia cryptantha Cappadocia, Ahır Dağ

Salvia multicaulis Ahır Dağ

Salvia verbenaca en route to Develi

Scutellaria orientalis east of Cappadocia, Erciyes

Scutellaria salviifoliaAhır DağSideritis lanataTaşpınarStachys annuusTaşpınar

Wiedemannia orientalis scattered; Cappadocia Ziziphora capitata Bağlıdere Valley

Linaceae

Linum austriacumCappadociaLinum mucronatumen route to DeveliLinum hirsutumaround Taşpınar

Loranthaceae

Viscum album Cappadocia

Malvaceae

Malva neglecta Cappadocia

Moraceae

Morus alba scattered
Morus nigra Sille

Nymphaeaceae

Nymphea alba Sultan Marshes

Oleaceae

Jasminum fruticans Red Valley-Cappadocia

**Orobanchaceae** 

Orobannhe caryophyllaceaCappadociaOrobanche cilicaTaşpınarOrobanche ramosaAhır Dağ

**Paeoniaceae** 

Paeonia mascula subsp. mascula in flower Püren Pass

**Papaveraceae** 

Glaucium corniculatum scattered on the roadsides around Konya

Glaucium grandiflorum subspecies grandiflorum near Tuz Lake

Hypecoum imberbe Taşpınar

Hypecoum pendulum near Çatalhöyük

Papaver clavatum Ahır Dağ

Papaver hybridum scattered; Cappadocia

Papaver lacerumKulu areaPapaver persicaAhır Dağ

Papaver stylatum near Çatalhöyük

Romeria hybrida around Tuz Lake, Cappadocia

Pinaceae

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

Plantaginacea

Plantago major Kulu arae

Polygalaceae

Polygala anatolicaCappadociaPolygala papilionaceaAladağlarPolygala prunosaCappadocia

Primulaceae

Androsace villosa Erciyes Dağ, Aladağlar

Androsace maxima Cappadocia
Primula auriculata Aladağlar

Pteridophyta

Asplenium trichomanes Püren Pass

Ceterach officinarumPüren PassCystopteris fragilisAladağlarCheilanthes persicaPüren Pass

#### Ranunculaceae

Adonis annua Çatalhöyük

Adonis aestivalisscattered; CappadociaAdonis eriocalycinaaround Tuz lakeAnemone blandaAladağlarCeratocephalus falcatusCappadociaClematis orientalisBağlıdere Valley

Consolida orientalis widespread; near Çatalhöyük

Eranthis hyemalis (lvs) Aladağlar Helleborus vesicarius Ahır Dağ

Nigella segetalis en route to Çatalhöyük

Pulsatilla ablanaErciyes DağRanunculus arvensisscatteredRanunculus argyreusCappadocia

Ranunculus constantinopolitanus scattered; Cappadocia

Ranunculus illyricus Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)

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

Ranunculus isthmicus widespread; Bağlıdere Valley

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

Ranunculus myosuroides Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Ranunculus repensscatteredRanunculus sphareospermumPaşabağThalictrum minusPüren Pass

#### Resedaceae

Reseda lutea widespread

#### Rosaceae

Amygdalus orientalis Cappadocia Amygdalus lycoides Aladağlar Cerasus prostrata Püren Pass

Crataegus monogyna near Çatal Höyük

Geum urbanumPüren PassOrthurus heterocarpusAladağlarRosa caninaBağlıdere ValleyRosa hemisphericaBağlıdere Valley

Poterium minorscatteredSanguisorba minorTaşpınar

Sorbus domestica Bağlıdere Valley Sorbus aucuparia Püren Pass Spiraea hypericifolia Cappadocia Rubiaceae

Asperula pestalozzae Devrent
Cruciata taurica Cappadocia
Galium aparine Çatalhöyük
Rubia tinctoria Çatalhöyük

Rutaceae

Haplophyllum telephioides Devrent

Salixaceae

Salix eleagnifolius Çatalhöyük Populus usbestanica Çatalhöyük

Scrophulariaceae

Anarrhinum orientale Ahır Dağ Linaria chalepensis Ahır Dağ

Linaria corifoliaeast of CappadociaLinaria genistifoliaKızıl Vadi- CappadociaLinaria grandifloranear Çatal Höyük

Linaria simplex scattered
Parantucelllia latifolia scattered

Verbascum phoenicum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Verbascum urceolatum Taşpınar

Verbascum vulcanicum Cappadocia (roadsides in the center)

Veronica arvenisscatteredVeronica orientalisscattered

Solanaceae

Hyocyamus niger Cappadocia

Hyocyamus reticulatus around Kulu Lake, Cappadocia

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 dioscoridisscattered; Ahır DağValeriana officinalissacttered; Sille

Violaceae

Viola arvensis Ahır dağ Viola kitaibeliana Melendiz Dağ

## Monocotyledons

Amaryllidaceae

Ixilorion tataricum Aladağlar,near Saimbeyli

Araceae

Arum elongatum lower areas around Aladağlar, en route to Kayseri

Iridaceae

Crocus biflorus Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Crocus siehanus Aladağlar

Gladiolus atroviolaceus Bağlıdere Valley,near Taşpınar, Aladağlar

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

Liliaceae

Allium flavum Ahır Dağ

Allium scorodoprasum
Asphodeline cilicica
Asphodeline damascena
Asphodeline globifera
Bellevalia tauri
Bağlıdere Valley
Ahır Dağ
Cappadocia
Aladağlar
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 aucheriMelendiz DağMuscari comosumBağlıdere ValleyMuscari latifoliumErciyes DağMuscari macbeathianumnear SaimbeyliMuscari neglectumAladağlarMuscari tenuiflorumBağlıdere Valley

Ornithogalum narbonense Ahır Dağ

Ornithogalum oligophyllum Melendiz Dağ, Püren Pass

Ornithogalum orthophyllum Büyük Gezbeli Pass

Ornithogalum platyphyllum scattered

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum Bağlıdere Valley

Ornithogalum sorgeraeAhır DağOrnithogalum sphaerocarpumCappadociaOrnithogalum umbellatumaround TaşpınarOrnithogalum wiedemanniiCappadociaTulipa agenensisPüren 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, Erciyes

Orchis pinetorum Erciyes

Orchis tridentatanear Saimbeyli (Muscari macbeathianum area)Ophrys transhyrcanaen 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).

[Little Grebe] Tachybaptus ruficollis heard only at Sultan Marshes

Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis 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

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax 2 Kulu Gölü Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides 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

Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia 1 Sultan Marshes

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 Anas Penelope 3 Sultan Marshes Wigeon Teal Anas crecca several Sultan Marshes Mallard Anas platyrhynchos a few at the Sultan Marshes Pintail Anas acuta 4 Kulu Gölü, 2 Sultan Marshes Garganev Anas querquedula several at Sultan Marshes

Shoveler Anas clypeata 2 males Kulu Gölü Red-crested Pochard Netta rufina 6+ Sultan Marshes Pochard Aythya ferina 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

Montagu's Harrier Circus pygargus females near Tuz and Cappadocia

Long-legged BuzzardButeo rufinuswidespreadGolden EagleAquila chrysaetos1 adult AladağlarBooted EagleAquila pennata1 Ahir Dağı

Lesser Kestrel Falco naumanni Konya and Kulu areas

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

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus Kulu Gölü & Sultan Marshes

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta 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 Redshank Tinga tetanus 2 Kulu Gölü Greenshank Tringa nebularia 1 Kulu Gölü Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola 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 scattered Short-toed Lark Calandrella brachydactyla scattered

Lesser Short-toed Calandrella rufescens common Kulu Gölü

Lark

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 Erciyes 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** 

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 schoenobaenus just 1 Sultan Marshes

Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus arundinaceus Sultan Marshes where common

Moustached Warbler Acrocephalus melanopogon Sultan Marshes where quite common

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 scattered sigh records Others heard
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 CrowCorvus coronewidespreadRavenCorvus coraxrather uncommonStarlingSturnus vulgariswidespreadHouse SparrowPasser domesticusubiquitous

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 BlueScolitantides vicramaCappadociaBrown ArgusAricia agestisscattered

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 Nymphalis polychloros One in Capadocia

Painted LadyCynthia carduiwidespreadQueen of Spain FritillaryIssoria lathoniascatteredGlanville FritillaryMelitaea cinxiascatteredKnapweed FritillaryMelitaea phoebescattered

Dalmatian Ringlet Protoerebia afra frequent in Cappadocia

Eastern Meadow Brown Maniola telmessia Yayladaği. Small Heath Coenonympha pamphilus widespread Wall Brown Lasiommata megera scattered Catal Hoyuk Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper Pyrgus armoricanus Aegean Skipper Pyrgus melotis Cappadocia Hungarian Skipper Spialia orbifer Cappadocia Carcharodus alceae Mallow Skipper scattered