

Lake Van

Eastern Turkey

A Greentours Tour Report

19th May – 1st June 2025

Leaders: Ian Green & Ozan Balkan

Photos – plants and scenery Ian Green, birds and butterflies Richard Somers Cocks unless otherwise stated



Day 1 May 19th to Istanbul

We all convened at the Green Roof Hotel in pleasant countryside fifteen minutes from Istanbul's shiny new(ish) airport. A walk down to a little river valley just before it got dark yielded European Bee-eaters, Olivaceous Warblers and Red-backed Shrikes. There were some lots of tongue orchids in the turf and Yellow Flag and Lax-flowered Orchid next to the wetland where some locals were collecting leeches!

Day 2 May 20th Van to Doğubayazıt

We were up early this morning, and by six were going through airport security, thankfully at this time of morning quiet so our progress through check-in and into the gate area was swift, though there were some bag shenanigans.

Our flight was on time and we were soon heading east, crossing more or less the length of Turkey, something that takes two hours in a plane. The weather was clear, so we watched the mix of mountains and plateau with interest until Lake Van's turquoise-blue waters hove into view. The

snow-rimmed crater of Nemrut Dağı marked the start of our descent and to the south we could see very well line after line of very snowy mountains, many of them topping 3500m. There were neat villages perched among grassy basins and occasionally along the shore of the lake itself. We passed over Akdamar Island before banking round in a semi-circle and following the shoreline into the airport. Our baggage soon arrived and then it was out to meet our driver Halil.

I picked up another car and then we were off, heading into the steppelands north of Van. It took us a while to shake ourselves free of the expanding city, but soon there was nothing but wide-open expanses and the occasional village and a seemingly out of place dual carriageway given the volume of traffic on it – not much! We drew to a halt to explore an area of dry steppe. *Iris barnumae* was in spectacular flower and we wandered through groups of these fabulous purple oncos photographing at will. *Bellevalia longipes* had just its last flowers and there were *Muscari caucasicum* and *Gladiolus atroviolaceus* in bloom. We also found both *Muscari neglectum* and *Muscari botryoides*. *Silene arguta*,



Silene ampullaria and *Silene capitellata* were enjoyed and there were patches of blue flowered, red-purple-bracted *Salvia multicaulis* mixed with masses of yellow *Astragalus caraganae*. Ozan found us the weird shaggy *Bungea trifida* and there was *Lallemantia iberica* and *Ziziphora persica* to enjoy. All the time Black-headed Buntings and Corn Buntings moved past and there were Bee-eaters, Cuckoos, Spotted Flycatcher, Golden Oriole and Cetti's Warbler in the small copse of trees. Flocks of Rose-coloured Starlings had been passing and most were headed for one tree on this copse. There were Penduline Tits present too. A Long-legged Buzzard flew overhead. The lovely *maura* race of Stonechat was noted. Butterflies were excellent with Glanville Fritillaries, Queen-of-Spain Fritillary and plentiful Green-underside Blues as well as a few Common Blues and Mazarine Blues, and scarce



Anatolian Fiery Copper

species such as the little Persian Skipper *Spialia phlomidis* and best of all the lovely Fatima's Blue. We photographed Anatolian Fiery Copper *Lycaena asabinus*. Moving back to the birds we could hear Quail and James flushed a European Nightjar. Across the road *Primula auriculata* bloomed in a damp gully with lots of *Dactylorhiza osmanica*. Here there were a few *Orchis pseudolaxiflora* blooming amongst Sea Arrow Grass and the lousewort *Pedicularis comosa* which was common. Black-headed Wagtails were common but with them was a *beema* race Yellow Wagtail too.

We reached the northeast corner of the lake and left its shores at Bendimahi, not having time to stop and birdwatch (we'd save that for a later day) and instead following the Bendimahi River valley up into the hills. We stopped for lunch at Muradiye Waterfall. Lunch was provided by a small cafe in a green grassy spot amongst poplars overlooking the waterfall, and was either fried trout or a meat dish 'saç kavurma', both of which were rated delicious, and some of us were so hungry after the early start and airline breakfast that we had to have more!

After lunch we drove upstream a kilometre and walked through a little almond and peach orchard to the river bank where we were by an incredible sight. The huge blooms of our second oncocyclis iris, *Iris iberica elegantissima*. Several hundred black-purple blooms were topped with almost luminous



Iris iberica elegantissima



Phelypaea tournefortii



white standards, these lightly edged in red. There was some variation, some particularly pale plants were noted, and also some with hints of yellow and others really quite dark, but all were exceptionally large. Below us Cetti's Warblers were in the riverside vegetation and we also saw Hobby, Common Terns, Kestrel and Lesser Kestrel and Syrian Woodpecker. There was a rich variety of plant life here with several *Astragalus* species, Bastard Toadflax, various *Euphorbias*, and the lovely prostrate *Astragalus halicacabus*,

the pale pink flowers turning into inflated almost peanut-like seedpods. *Muscari caucasicum* was common and *Prangos* and *Ferula* were growing up rapidly. Amongst the irises was a memorable plant of the wonderful *Phelypaea tournefortii*. The impressive scarlet flowers of this strange parasite, essentially a broomrape with one large bloom, are an incongruous sight!



Long-legged
Buzzard

Then it was up through Çaldıran and its wide open highland expanses and over the shoulder of Tendürek Dağı to the pass at almost 2650m. There were so many places along here that we could have stopped at, but it was time to get to the hotel. The views of Ararat were spectacular as we descended. We passed through Doğubayazıt with Ararat looming above us to the north and drive eastwards to our hotel, the Paraşut, really out in the middle of nowhere but with a superb view of Ararat and its little sister/brother, all of 4000m high to

its east. We parked up narrowly avoiding a fine plant of *Hyoscyamus reticulata* by the hotel steps and checked in.

After dinner I popped out into the steppe to see what was hopping and sure enough found some William's Jerboas bouncing around. And a Stone Marten too.

Day 3 May 21st

Ishak Paşa & the Sim-er Motel



After a varied and rather excellent breakfast we headed to the grounds of the hotel we used to stay at. The Sim-er Motel is sorely missed – it wasn't the most comfortable hotel in the area (the one we were staying in was certainly much nicer in that respect) but the Sim-er had wonderful grounds for birdwatching. The owner is rather keen on natural history and has planted plenty of trees and bushes, and as the surrounding area is entirely treeless this makes it a magnet for birds. Lets hope he re-opens in the future.



Zephyr Blue

Migration was still moving along nicely. There were a couple of Marsh Warblers, a Chiffchaff or two, a couple of Garden Warblers and a goodly number of Spotted Flycatchers. Red-backed Shrikes were perhaps the most noticeable bird with a number of females, one nice male and a rather orange-coloured bird! Wood Pigeons flew out of the trees at regular intervals. Outside the grounds we could hear Bee-eaters and in the barren country outside we could see Isabelline Wheatears. A Hoopoe showed itself and there were a good number of Tree Sparrows. Butterflies included a Zephyr Blue. Earlier in the morning I had visited and in addition to the above had seen a male Levant Sparrowhawk and a Night Heron!

Next we headed for the Ishak Paşa Palace. The fortress sits high in the colourful multistrata-ed hills behind Doğubeyazıt, a quite fantastic location, and one which overlooks what was once part of the silk route, and today is once again a major trading route. We wandered the recently repaired fortress for a couple of hours, Ozan guiding us through the palace's history and significance.

Phelypaea tournefortii



We took our picnic above the Ishak Paşa joining several Turkish families doing the same. As we ate Common Rosefinch and Red-fronted Serins flew in to visit. High above the crags a pair of Imperial Eagles wheeled back and



forth, occasionally harassed by both Red-billed Chough and Lesser Kestrel! A little later a second-year Golden Eagle sailed over.



Next we walked steadily uphill to some very striking arid terrain. A highlight here was a population of hundreds of shining red *Tulipa juliae*. There were a few orange ones too but none of the yellow form we sometimes find here. There were some superb mounds of *Androsace villosa*, the pretty little *Silene dianthoides* and the strange sinuate-leaved *Matthiola anchoniifolia*, a plant that after nightfall emits a very pleasant scent. *Scilla monanthos* had mostly finished flowering but *Gagea bulbifera* was in fine form. *Allium akaka* too. Much more overpowering than the *Matthiola* was the 'pudding plant' *Anchonium elichrysofolium*,

looking rather like a very neat wallflower. There were banks of *Pedicularis comosa*, looking rather different from the wet meadow form seen yesterday. For some the most exciting plant was the 'vegetable sheep' *Gypsophila pulvinaris* which cloaked large rocks and cliffs in tight rock-like mounds up to a metre across. An extraordinary plant which just reaches into Turkey in this area. The tiny white flowers were well over, but it was the smooth hard mounds of green that impressed anyway. Also growing up here was *Draba polytricha*, *Coluteocarpus vesicaria*, *Bornmuellera cappadocica*, *Valeriana leucophaea* and a host of interesting *Astragalus* species including *bicolor*, *armeniacus*, *hyalolepis* and the prostrate *viridissimus*. Isabelline and Northern Wheatears were common and we also saw Finsch's Wheater. We saw a couple of Rock Buntings, and at least three Grey-necked Buntings. Red-billed



Red-fronted Serin



Grey-necked Bunting

Chough coursed along the cliff tops and an Imperial Eagle land on a rocky pinnacle. We admired bushes of pink flowered *Onobrychis cornuta* by the roadside, finding Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak fluttering about them. Large Wall Brwon was also seen. Caucasian Agamas were quite common, one chasing a Grey-necked Bunting off its perch. Blue Rock Thrushes sang from the cliffs, Richard found and photographed Eastern Rock Nuthatch, whereas I saw the pale eastern race of Western Rock Nuthatch! Woodlarks sang and a surprise was at least three Snowfinches. Back to the plants – *Bungea trifida* was in good form. *Lagotis stolonifera* flowered amidst all the astragalus, and on the high cliffs was a rather magnificent *Erysimum*. A final find was *Iris caucasica*.

We returned to the hotel. I popped out and found some Citrine Wagtails, Purple Heron and an immature Steppe Eagle. After dinner we headed out on a night drive which had lengthy periods of nothing but we did see some wonderful Dahl's Jirds chasing each other around a rock, these allowing us to get close for photography. At the same spot was a male European Nightjar. And we saw around six Red Foxes.

Day 4 May 22nd

Ararat: The Çilli Pass & Wetlands



Marsh Warbler



Red-backed Shrike

Pre-breakfast several of us went to the Sim-er Motel again to see what was occurring... It was in truth rather quiet, but we did see a lot of Marsh Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers. There were excellent views of a pair of Syrian Woodpeckers. We also saw at least two Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, a few Garden Warblers, a Hoopoe and Rock Sparrows. Best find was Martin's Booted Eagle.



Syrian Woodpecker

After another great breakfast spread – this hotel does a very good breakfast – we stopped at a meadow on the edge of town where we could see the last remnants of *Muscari coeleste*, an unusual pale sky-blue grape hyacinth with 'open' flowers. Black-headed Yellow Wagtails were plentiful. Salty steppe here had much *Lepidium cartilagineum* blooming. Two Hoopoes pretty much ignored us as they raised the crests at one another.

Then we drove out across wide open landscapes, passing some very rustic villages, to an area of old lava hills that descend from Ararat western slopes. We stopped by one village and looked at the wetland there. Caucasian Agamas posed on the rocky slope below our viewpoint. Further out there were several Purple Herons, Grey Herons and Squacco Herons and beyond the reeds some White Storks. Wildfowl were represented by Mallard, Garganey, a few Ruddy Shelduck, and several Red-crested Pochard. There were lots of White-winged Black Terns, and a number of Marsh Harriers.

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Our main site was by the lava hills on Ararat's slope. Here there were several highlights. Perhaps the most interesting one was the strange ant-soil-plant relationship we spotted. These were patches of *Nepeta meyeri*. But nothing growing with them – they all seemed to be in the middle of ant nests! Each was certainly surrounded only by soil. We later learnt that this plant exhibits strong allelopathy – it releases no less than ten allelochemicals that inhibit/stop other plants from growing/germinating. There's no doubt that it is extremely effective from what we saw as there was not a sign of green within 50cm of the *Nepeta meyeri* colonies. Apparently there's much research into this particular plant....



Lesser Grey Shrike

The birding proved rather good too. There were numbers of wheatears. Mostly Finsch's and Isabelline, but also at least one pair of Black-eared Wheatears, the male in a very striking black and white livery. Bee-eaters were noted above the pumice quarry, so too Blue Rock Thrush. Here we enjoyed picking up rocks that seemed light as air! Several Upcher's Warblers were well-watched and eventually we found the birding highlight of the morning, a superb male White-throated Robin. There were quite a few perfect *Iris iberica* ssp *elegantissima* in excellent morning light on the grassy north-facing slopes of the lava mounds. There were many other flowers too with deep purple



White-throated Robin



Black-headed Bunting

Gladiolus atroviolaceus, weirdly-coloured *Verbascum phoeniceum* and lots of pretty *Minuartia juniperina* draped over rocks. Also *Cerinthe major* ssp *auriculata*, the blue bells of *Campanula stevenii* and some



Cardinal

pristine deep red-brown *Orchis coriophora*. We saw butterflies too. There were several Queen-of-Spain Fritillaries, a Mallow Skipper, Small Coppers, several Berger's Clouded Yellows, and a few Cardinals too. Then it was back to the minibus for another fine picnic spread...it had been a lovely experience to wander such an unusual and unspoilt landscape for the morning with no-one about other than one shepherd who passed us with his tight-knit flock of sheep.

After such an enjoyable repast we just had to go and enjoy an afternoon along the shores of the wetlands that line the foot of Ararat. Wide open landscapes occasionally interrupted by very rustic villages and a rich assortment of wildlife was the order of the day. A big surprise was a large old male Wild Boar standing in the marsh! An even bigger surprise was the Sooty Orange-tip that Hilary photographed. Of course there were all sorts of birds. We saw all three species of marsh terns – Black, Whiskered and White-winged Black. There were two groups of three Spoonbills. A Glossy Ibis and a bunch of Squacco Herons too. Turkestan Short-toed Larks were well-watched. Waders included two Spur-winged Plovers, 3 Avocets, a Curlew Sandpiper, Green and Wood Sandpipers, several Ruff, a Little Stint and plentiful Black-winged Stilts. We enjoyed the villages too with their turf-roofed stone walled houses, and piles of drying cow dung forming neat walls. We found a Strauch's Racerunner and amongst the plants were lots of *Eremostachys laciniata* and swathes of the strange *Lepidium vesicarium*.



Day 5 May 23rd Volcanos and wetlands

Early morning saw me out and about in the wetlands in the valley below Ararat. Briefest of highlights – Bearded Tits, Paddyfield Warblers, Gull-billed Tern, Reed Buntings, and extraordinarily, a flock of 7 *russicus* race Bean Geese flying across the face of Ararat!

It was another sunny morning but by the time we'd finished breakfast it was already a little hazy though the weather remained bright and often sunny all day. Ararat shone icily at us as we said goodbye to the kind hotel staff and set off for Lake Van.



We stopped by some lovely meadows. These were quite wet! There was an abundance of the marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza umbrosa* here and with them lots of *Primula algida*. This lovely little pink primrose is rather like the Scottish Primrose. There was also some rather small *Primula auriculata* alongside the streams. Adding blue to the display was an abundance of dark navy *Bellevalia paradoxa*. Much paler were blue *Muscari armeniacum*. There was white too in the shape of a large flowered *Cerastium*. These meadows were cut by volcanic ribs – I think from lava flows – and these had a completely different vegetation contrasting nicely with the lush meadows. Here was *Salvia pocolata*, *Scutellaria orientalis*, some tiny *Ranunculus arvensis*, *Nonea pulla*, *Onosma araraticum* and *Silene capitellata*. *Bellevalia fominii* flowered well on the lava with some nice clumps of *Campanula stevenii*. All the while Black-headed Wagtails fluttered about and there was at least one pair of Citrine Wagtails here. Redshanks and Lapwings called.

Twice Crimson-winged Finches flew past. A final treat was the lovely little Mousetail *Myosurus minimus*.

We followed the river downstream until it reached Lake Van at Bendimahi and drove down a track to the lakeshore where we had an hour's birdwatching before the picnic. This started with some very tall *Orchis palustris* growing in the damp vegetation that also included a lot of *Glaux maritima*. Down by the shore were literally thousands of Armenian Gulls. We felt sure that there must be other gulls present but a search through the ridiculous numbers yielded only a single Lesser Black-backed Gull! There were though some Ruddy Shelduck, a few Common Shelduck, a number of Black-winged Stilts, some Ruff, and a Spoonbill. Spur-winged Plovers sat side by side with Lapwings. Turkestan Short-toed Larks song-flighted around us. Over to one side there were at least eighty Greater Flamingos. Cattle Egrets and flocks of Glossy Ibis accompanied the start of our picnic, a Bearded Tit, the end.

We continued to remote Göldüzü, a rustic village on the edge of Arın Gölü. This lake is an even more amazing colour than Van Gölü, being bright turquoise in more or less any weather. The snowy



4058m volcano of Suphan Dağı reared above us to the north. Cascading down its lower slopes were great masses of lava that reached close to Arın Gölü. Presumably this dormant (there are mud hot springs on the top) volcano is the reason for the high soda content of Arın Gölü? Unfortunately though the little lake's extremely low level meant there were few birds so we departed right away.

Moving on we stopped in some poplar planted meadows in Adılcevaz. These held an impressive population of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*, looking rather different from the form we'd seen at high levels in Çaldıran in the morning, here tall and leafy, and very variable in colour, ranging from dark magenta to white, with the latter predominating. Bogbean was also here, some of it in flower. There were plenty of Olivaceous Warblers in the trees and we noted Blackcap, Syrian Woodpecker and Hoopoe.

Dactylorhiza umbrosa 'longibracteata'

Day 6 May 24th

Nemrut Dağı

After breakfast we spent the entire day up inside the crater of the Nemrut Dağı volcano. Once we reached the crater rim we stopped and admired the view down into the caldera. Some two-hundred and fifty thousand years ago this volcano changed the landscape of the region by sending an eighty kilometre long river of lava southwestwards, thereby blocking the drainage of what would have been the upper tributaries of the Tigris. This led to the formation of huge Lake Van, which this morning lay gleaming in the sunlight below us. Looking back inside the crater we could see the marvellous deep blue crater lake that fills a quarter of the caldera, the caldera walls made of cliffs and screes liberally sprinkled with birch and aspen forests and streaked with snow. Nearer at hand lay obsidian and lava strewn hollows and slopes.

We drove down to the boulder fields at the bottom of the caldera and spent the morning exploring the rock gardens within. It was *Euphorbia denticulata*, named for the delicately fimbriate red-black shiny glands in the flowers, that first took the interest. Next was *Iris caucasica* which became more prolific as we walked down the slope, joined by bunches of *Onosma bracteatum* and patches of yellow *Linum triflorum*. Dalmatian Ringlets flew back and forth. We found a lovely patch of *Globularia*



trichosantha and below this we encountered our first fritillaries. These were *Fritillaria assyriaca* with its narrow glaucous leaves and narrow unflared bells. *Fritillaria minuta* we found but its flowers were over. The latter lives by melting snow whilst *assyriaca* is found on the drier slopes abutting these, though often they were literally right next to each other. Perhaps not surprisingly there were hybrids, exhibiting various intermediate features, and we did manage to find some of these still in flower. Woodlarks sang throughout along with Skylarks too. Chukar were quite common and this year there seemed a Grey Partridge around every corner, this is normally a much less commonly seen species anywhere in Turkey. We found lovely *Corydalis oppositifolia* subspecies *rutifolia* in shaded areas and near these the strange 'Nemrut Dağı' form of *Puschkinia scilloides*, its flowers staying in a partially opened state and the whole plant much taller with long upright hooded leaves. This form is so different that we wonder why it hasn't been given a proper name yet. The last *Gagea luteoides* was found and *Arabis caucasica* and *Solenanthes stamineus* flowered well amongst the rocks which also held a small population of *Saxifraga sibirica*. One huge Spur-thighed Tortoise was found, and everywhere there were Valentin's Lizards, the males looking very smart with their green marbled backs and blue-eyed flanks. Queen-of-Spain Fritillaries were often very small at this altitude. There were a number of Sooty Coppers, a Yellow-banded Skipper, a superb orange and yellow Eastern Orange-tip and some Green-underside Blues. Back to the birds - Ortolan Buntings were seen, so too Rock Buntings, whilst near the vehicles James spotted three Snowfinches. The biggest surprise of the morning was an Ibex, a young male, flushed by Austin. Cape Hare and Souslik were also noted.

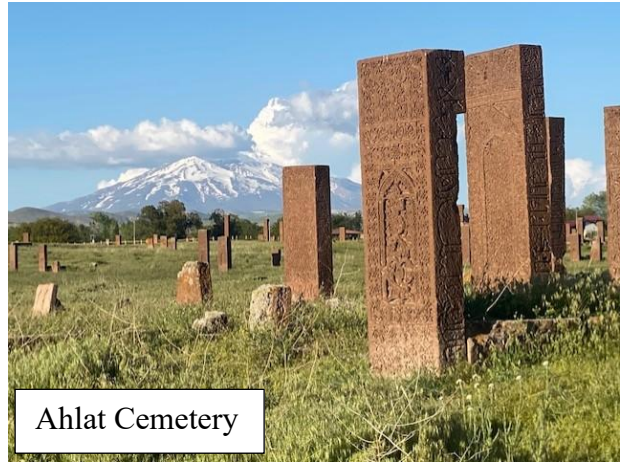
We returned to the minibuses and set off down to the crater lake. We explored this beautiful spot as Halil and Ozan readied the picnic. Inland of us were herby grassy low rolling hills. Lake side dropped steeply through a rocky Aspen wood. Under these small trees were a few *Dactylorhiza flavescens*, the Georgian Orchid, and just a few pink *Orchis pinetorum*. There were *Geraniums*, tall *Ranunculus kotschyii* and lots of irises including large clumps on the steep ground. A Ring Ouzel was seen briefly in the Aspens. This has to be one of the most stunning picnic locations in a tour with several picnic spots that are top-drawer.

In the afternoon we headed out of the east side of the volcano rim. En route we found a population of *Pulsatilla albana* in fine condition, showering a slope with the furry purple blooms. With them were lots of *Alyssum* and *Bornmuellera cappadocica* whilst *Gagea uliginosa* grew on damp mossy areas. *Ranunculus crateris* and *Ranunculus dissectus* were two rather fine buttercups.

We dropped down to Ahlat stopping at the amazing Seljuk Cemetery there. Ozan gave us a little introduction to this huge site and we were left to wander for half an hour amongst the vast number of often intricately inscribed gravestones emerging from the steppe. Needless to say there were many steppe flowers here including lots of *Anchusa leptophylla* and the lovely orange-lined *Onobrychis atropatana*. Hobby flew over.



European Bee-eater



Ahlat Cemetery

Day 7 May 25th Bitlis Circuit

An early morning birding trip featured a nice selection of birds and interestingly a Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell.

Soon we found the back road that took us into the green hills and mountains south of Van. We stopped a couple of times in a wide flat valley, the meadows carpeted in buttercups – *Ranunculus kotschyii* – and with patches of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*. Corn Buntings and Black-headed Yellow Wagtails were everywhere. A nice roadside waterfall cascaded into a marsh where we watched Marsh Warblers, Sedge Warblers and Common Sandpiper. The river waters were full of the water crowfoot *Ranunculus sphaerospermus* and in wet patches grew *Oenanthe sophiae* and *Cardamine tenera*. A Dipper flew past.



Campanula reuterana

We descended into a rocky gorge and spent a happy hour enjoying the flora and fauna there. Above the road was a magnificent clumps of *Iris sari* in flower, very large and tall specimens. Along the base of the hillside here we saw *Lamium garganicum*, poppies and various legumes which made it a very flowery place. Here we saw our first *Gundelia tournefortii*, a striking thistle that dries into a tumbleweed later in the year. The Large-flowered Venus's Looking Glass *Legousia pentagyna* put on quite a show. We soon started to notice the diversity of clovers here including lots of *nigrescens*, *campestre*, *phleoides* and the lovely *pauciflorum*, the latter's unassuming little red blooms turn into furry balls when in fruit. Rose-coloured Starlings were on top of the ridge, with Blue Rock Thrush and Rock Buntings which sang all the while. The chestnut-leaved Oak *Quercus libani* dominated the hillside and it seemed it



was mixed with *Quercus brantii* with a bewildering range of hybrids. This proved a good spot for butterflies. Two Eastern Festoons sailed back and forth across a roadside gully and a Scarce Swallowtail sailed over. There was a glittering Anatolian Fiery Copper, Glanville Fritillary and a 'citrus' Eastern Orange-tip. A Dwarf Snake (sp) escaped without a photo.

We passed through a couple of very rural villages and stopped by a colourful roadside bank. Here was the stunning *Campanula reuterana* a most lovely bellflower with deep purple centres and paler blue-purple outers. *Anchusa aucheri* grew on the shaley banks. The lovely *Rosa foetida* with large yellow rose blooms was much enjoyed.



We spent an hour exploring a grassy valley amongst the (scrub) oak woodland whilst our picnic was prepared. This was a wonderful place with a small stream filled with watercress gentling descending through willows and hawthorns. Many butterflies were visiting the cress. There were Small Coppers, Sooty Coppers and Mazarine Blues. We found two Blue Argus mating, though sadly they met an untimely end when they fell into the stream! A superb Silver-washed Fritillary was well-photographed and there was also a shimmering pale orange-gold Turkish Golden Copper.

We found orchids – some *Dactylorhiza umbrosa* and a few *Dactylorhiza flavescens* in good flower. A big surprise was a small population of the unusual yellow, brown and green *Orchis punctulata*. These were in fabulous condition and well worth the scramble up to them! Lizards, especially Balkan Green Lizards, were common and continually rustling in the undergrowth. There was a Spur-thighed Tortoise or two and we found the skull of a Wild Boar. The lovely *Cerastium armeniacum* showered the dry hillsides in white blooms. As we ate the delicious picnic – complete with Turkish delight! A Common Buzzard soared over.



Our last stop of the day was at the lowest altitude we would reach on the entire trip at around 1400m above sea level! Here the dry slopes held a nicely varied steppe flora. The lovely peachy-red flowered *Salvia trichoclada* was mostly across the river. On the near side was *Onosma albo-roseum* and



Campanula involucrata. We found some more Eastern Steppe Festoons and also two of their close relative the lovely little *Archon apollinarius* otherwise known as Little False Apollo. Southern White Admiral flew back and forth, Fritillaries included Algerian Fritillary and there was a whole bunch of skippers including Olive, Dinky and Persian. A European Swallowtail flew over. We spotted a Pied Wheatear and there were Red-rumped Swallows by the bridge. Meanwhile Gillian had found the



Southern White Admiral

Sooty Copper

rare *Gladiolus antakiensis*. On the far bank there were wild pear trees and an impressive clover which appears to be *Trifolium dasyurum*. There was a magnificent show of *Aethionema grandiflorum* on the shaley slopes. Also noted here was *Smyrniium cordifolium* and the large white-headed *Allium* maybe *multibulbosum*.



Olive Skipper

Eastern Steppe Festoon

Day 8 May 26th

South Lake Van

After breakfast we departed at nine and headed for a tiny village near Tatvan. Our prime target here were peonies and though we found them they were not in flower. The scrubby oak – *Quercus petraea* – was a delight, if rather difficult to wander in! The light shone through the fresh bright green foliage to the accompaniment of loud Nightingale and Golden Oriole songs. In the understory we found many Greater Butterfly Orchids in perfect flower, the subspecies here with decidedly greenish



blooms. A Roller was holding territory by some sand banks and we also saw Red-backed Shrikes, Rock Sparrows, Common Whitethroat and heard a Willow Warbler singing!

Next we headed to a pleasant little area on the shore of the lake a few kilometres away. We spent a happy hour and a half here. The light shone through the fresh bright green foliage of *Quercus petraea* (as well as Aspen, *Acer platanoides* and several *Crataegus* and *Sorbus* species) again to the accompaniment of loud Nightingale and Golden Oriole songs. Overhead first a light phase then a dark phase Booted Eagle appeared, the latter giving superb views. In the understory we found the lovely large-flowered *Cephalanthera kotschyana* in fine bloom and Andy soon found some nice *Orchis* (*Neotinea*) *tridentata*. The white *Symphytium kurdicum* was a nice find. Balkan Green Lizards scurried away and there were a number of Spur-thighed Tortoises on the

hillside. Further up we found more open ground. Here was our prize, the spectacular Komper's Orchid. First there was one, then a majestic group of three in perfect flower. We went on to find around 250 of these fine orchids, nearly all in perfect bloom. A surprise was *Ophrys reinholdii* and a further surprise were all the remaining bee orchids were *Ophrys staussii*. Other plants noted here were *Euonymus latifolia*, *Cotoneaster nummularia*, *Centaurea nigrifimbriata*, and the triumvirate of *Aethionemas* – *speciosum*, *grandiflorum* and *membraneceum*. Glanville Fritillary was numerous. At least

two impressively large orange Greek Clouded Yellows were enjoyed and there was an immaculate Cardinal too.

We drove along the southern shore of the lake passing through plentiful low oak woodland, meadows and steppe, a pleasing landscape and one with a rich diversity of plants. We stopped to make lunch by a river and whilst Ozan and Halil got it ready we wandered along tracks up into the oak. There were many species of buttercup here, I think we counted eight? Most impressive were the displays of the tall *fenzlii* and one little stand of the even bigger *sericeous*, as well as elegant silvery-leaved *diversifolius*. There were all sorts of umbels, *Aethionemas* and *Boraginaceae*. The thistle *Gundelia tournefortii* was dominant on the dry slopes above with some nice *Cynoglossum vanense*. Rock Buntings sang up there.

We now reached the top of the Kizkunkiran Pass. This is a relatively low pass at just over 2000m. The security on the pass top kindly allowed us to drive our minibuses up the side track and so we could get straight out and look at the community of plants growing on the damp north-facing slope. Little *Fritillaria minuta* was well over this year but there were some patches of *Globularia trichosantha*. We found the buttercups *Ranunculus vanensis* and *Ranunculus bulbiferus* which are, in



Komper's Orchid



Kotschy's Helleborine



Komper's Orchid



Toothed Orchid

Turkey, known only from this site (the latter is found in Iran and Iraq too), and both are rather cute little snowmelt species. There was also *Ranunculus cuneatus* and *Prunus prostrata*. There were decent views of both Rock Sparrows and Ortolan Buntings, also a White-throated Robin.



Ophrys
straussii

Our last stop of the day was by the wetland at Gevaş. Here the birders headed along the shore and the sand bar that separates a lagoon from the main lake. Most exciting were the White-headed Duck. We counted seven of these characterful birds, mostly males. There were also a few Shoveler, Common Pochard, Red-crested Pochard and a single male Eurasian Wigeon. Moustached Warblers and Bearded Tits were in the reeds. Black-necked Grebes offshore. There were also at least seven Slender-billed Gulls and a Mediterranean Gull. Suddenly a Golden Jackal was spotted watching us before it slunk rapidly away. Then a dead Transcaucasian Water Shrew. Meanwhile those of a more botanical bent were exploring some fallow fields behind the marsh. Here they found some superb shows of orchids and both *Gladiolus atroviolaceus* and *Gladiolus kotschyanus* amongst a host of colourful ruderal species that included *Glaucium grandiflorum* and *Consolida orientalis*. Then it was on to Van and the

exceedingly nice Doubletree by Hilton Hotel.

Day 9 May 27th Akdamar Island, Van Museum & Van Kalesi

We departed as usual at nine and headed south and then west along the shore to the little ferry terminal and heading out to the island. This is always a most pleasurable experience as the boat chugs across the turquoise water the fabulous views of the mountains south of the lake opens up. Jackdaws were a constant companion to the boat, but as we started to circle the island the birdwatching went up a notch or two. There is a large breeding colony of Armenian Gulls on the island and many Rock Doves too. A few Night Herons sat in trees or flew about, and there were abundant Alpine Swifts and several Lesser Kestrels in the air above us. Landing, we all went up to the newly restored church, a Little Owl welcoming us en route. The superb relief carvings had been repaired slightly, but were basically unchanged. Showing major scenes from the old testament (Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, etc), plus the founding bishops. Nevertheless, the main emphasis was on the local fauna (fish, birds, goats, deer, rabbits, etc) and flora, including a frieze of grape vines. Inside, the frescoes had been slightly brightened and the damaged plaster repaired. The whole has now been weatherproofed, with new windows, retiling of the roof and protection of the exterior against erosion. Then we split up and wandered around the island. Anyone going near the abundant nests of the Armenian Gulls were given a good hard laughing for their pains. There were a few Olivaceous Warblers in the *Celtis* trees and in some shore-side willows I found an Upcher's Warbler and a Chiffchaff. Plantwise the abundant rabbits seemed to have eaten most of the vegetation but we did see some nice big architectural *Smyrnum cordifolium*. A very old *Pistachia vera* was appreciated.

Back on the 'mainland' we went to the excellent restaurant by the boat landing at Akdamar where we were treated to a fine lunch of Van's endemic Mullet or 'et sote' served in sizzling dishes, this made of little pieces of various vegetables and lamb, both served with rice and salad – excellent!

In the afternoon we headed back to Van and the Van Museum. What a marvellous museum this is. It took us through the whole history of human settlement in the region. Which is to say several



thousand years. There were wonderful diaramas of life through these periods and a huge collection of artefacts from the different periods.



Alpine Swift (Julia Burton)

Then it was to Van Castle. Ozan showed us around. He took us to see some cuneiform inscriptions announcing kingly things about the place and then we walked uphill to see a burial chamber outside of which was a cliff face covered in the cuneiform writings. Up above he showed us a flat area, a kind of temple, where drainage grooves were well-marked in the rock, one to drain sheep's blood, the other, cow's blood. We looked out over the old Urartian settlement now visible just as foundations. Mosques out there were from the Ottoman period and nearer at hand was an archway from the Seljuck period. We learnt that in fact it was the Assyrians who had built the castle in the first place, and that they had been usurped by the Urartians at a later date. Up on the rocks of the castle were *Zygophyllum fabago*, *Lycium ruthenicum*, and some great plants of the showy but spiny knapweed *Centaurea urvillei*. Alpine Swifts, Lesser Kestrels

and Red-billed Chough overflowed the castle.

Day 10

May 28th

Karabet Pass

Puschkinia bilginii & *Corydalis oppositifolia*



After breakfast we set off for the high ridges of mountains that line the south shore of Lake Van. We headed up through very rustic Kurdish villages on a good asphalt road. Soon the mountains close to the road became snow-streaked and then patches of snow appeared by the roadside. This road takes us up over a very high pass, 3000m, and so by the time we reached the top part there was a lot of snow around us. We stopped by a clear area, speckled with the pale blue of *Puschkinias*. There were very many of them, tens of thousands. And not just one species. The 'real' *Puschkinia scilloides* showered a pale green slope with blue, but there were also paler ice-blue plants, even more abundant, some along the road edge and many out further. These have only recently been given a name - *Puschkinia bilginii*. *Gagea luteoides* was common and there were good populations of *Fritillaria minuta* and *Corydalis oppositifolia* too. There were drifts of pink *Primula auriculata* and the little mouse-tail buttercup *Ranunculus myosuroides*

shone in the sun. A couple of *Merendera kurdica* were found growing in a stream, one particularly fine specimen causing Gillian to a loud exclamation of delight! In the stream were Banded Frogs and lots of Green Toads. Most got a good look at a Radde's Accentors, and Northern Wheatears were common. Linnets and Twite too. Both Red-billed and Alpine Choughs flew over. On the rocks above the snow was the lovely *Saxifraga kotschyii*. Large-flowered *Ranunculus polunini* was in good form. On the low ridges towards an imposing cirque was the lovely golden *Fritillaria minima*, a great rarity known from only a few locations in the world. It was here in some abundance, a stunning sight. Two Alpine Accentors and several Shorelarks were seen too. Two Griffon Vultures sailed over the mountains.



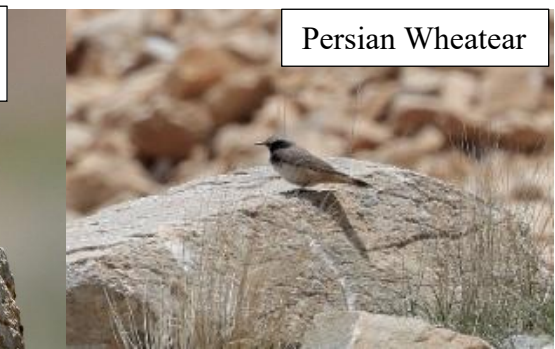
Fritillaria minima



Snowfinch



Radde's Accentor (Julia Burton)



Persian Wheatear

We headed up over the pass not stopping for the continuing show of *Puschkinias* as we went. Around was a fabulous snowscape, interrupted by a few areas of gravel and turf and by the great cliffs that reared up at the back of the main cirque to our left. We crested the pass, and continued down the far side, the size of the scenery in all directions impressive. We stopped by a cliff, hoping for Wallcreeper. None were forthcoming but we did see a number of Chukar, Rock Sparrows and a very nice surprise a superb Persian Wheatear.

Our lunch spot was spectacular in all respects. A little roadside knoll had magnificent views down the valley towards Bahçesaray and all round to high snow-streaked peaks. There was a high level of



Tulipa humilis

verticality at this spot! As the picnic was set out we explored the little ridge below and found one of the floweriest spots imaginable. There were some wonderful specimens of pink *Tulipa humilis* though the goblets of red *Tulipa armena* were recently finished. There were some fine *Fritillaria kurdica* about too, with groups of them particularly prolific on an area of limestone pavement



Puschkinia scilloides



Iris caucasica

where their vari-coloured green (almost pure in one or two) or more commonly dark red brown tessellated bells were shown off to wonderful effect. There were also lovely clumps of *Iris caucasica* with many flowers in bloom. *Eremurus spectabilis* would clearly



Fritillaria crassifolia

shower the rocky slope with its yellow wands in a week or two. There was the usual suite of alpine buttercups, which is to say four species, but here we saw the unusual *Ranunculus polunini* in bloom. Back on the top of the ridge was the architectural *Rindera ceasptiosa*, the white *Linum tenuifolium* and *Ornithogalum luschanii*. The wonderfully fragrant *Anchonium elichrysofolium* regaled us with its puddingness. Rock Thrushes, Black Redstarts and various wheatears were seen. A quick explore downslope revealed that there was indeed much *Iris aucheri* down there though this year it had already finished flowering.



Noccaea sintenisii

Returning over the pass we spent a happy hour or so exploring the slopes near where we'd been in the morning. The ridges in particular proved amazing here.

The populations of *Fritillaria kurdica* were quite special and so too some lovely *Pulsatilla albana*. Perhaps the finest plant was the lovely cushion 'thlaspi' *Noccaea sintenisii*. The lilac blooms formed little androsace-like cushions so



Jurinella moschu

smothered in blooms that no leaves were visible. Also here was the

dalek-like *Jurinella moschus*.

Day 11 May 29th

Güzeldere Pass, Zerne & Albayrak



White-headed Duck

Early morning birdwatching this morning saw Richard down at the marshes opposite the hotel where he saw a good number of White-headed Duck.

After breakfast we headed out along the road towards Başkale from the southeast corner of Lake Van. The day once again was bright and sunny and today was exceptionally clear with the snowy peaks standing out very clear above the turquoise waters. Our first stop was by the equally turquoise Zerne Reservoir where we took a look at the steppe cloaking the rather arid hills. We found the strange-looking *Eremostachys molucceloides*. The pale lime bracted *Hymenocrater bituminosus* had blue flowers. Large pale flowers of *Silene chlorifolia*

perched atop sticky stems. Orange-lined wands of creamy *Onobrychis atropatana* were a pleasant sight. There were *Onosmas*, *Astragalus latifolius* and Gillian found the white and blue-ish flowered *Delphinium albiflorum*, Ian the an unknown blue *Delphinium*. There were plenty of flowers on the yellow dogrose *Rosa hemisphaerica*. Several rather large Purple-shot Coppers were in the gullies along with Turkish Golden Copper and Algerian Fritillary.



Iris paradoxa

We had gone only a short way when a wonderful show of *Iris paradoxa* stopped us. Right by the road was a fabulous group with the velvety falls and ink-lined standards looking perfect.



Purple-shot Copper

We continued on up to the Güzeldere Pass not stopping until we reached the top. Here we parked atop a ridge at around 2750m with amazing views all around. A nice level track took us along to a gully which for some at least led up to some snow patches. By the minibus the very dwarfed alpine flora was rather good with some nice cushions of *Androsace villosa*, some with flowers so thick that was all we could see. There were straw-coloured pom-poms of *Centaurea vanensis* and a most marvellous deep blue *Veronica*. *Bornmuellera cappadocica* made nice cushions. Walking to the snow we passed the strange inflated seed heads of *Bellevalia rixii*. Once in the gully there was a nice range of plants. *Puschkinia scilloides* blazed ice-blue from the wet brown earth alongside *Gageas confusa* and *luteoides*.



Allium akaka

Fine pink goblets of *Merendera raddeana* bloomed by the snow and on drier spots the ground was in places showered with the variable green and brownish-black tubby bells of *Fritillaria (crassifolia) kurdica*. Growing with the latter were some lovely buttercups including the almost fleshy-leave *polyrhizos* with distinctive bur-like fruiting heads and another buttercup with huge heads 3cm across on short stalks. Those that reached the snow were treated to a few fine *Tulipa koyuncii*, this very local tulip being only known from a few spots in the Van area. We found a few *Trollius ranunculinus* and some nice *Allium akaka* too.



Tulipa koyuncii

Shore Larks were the main passerines. Overhead there were Long-legged Buzzards, Ravens and Richard photographed a Golden Eagle that sailed over. *Draba rosularis* flowered in the grasses, *Draba polytricha* on the rocks, these alongside *Gagea bulbifera*. Down by a stream grew a beguiling mix of *Primula auriculata*, brilliant blue *Gentiana verna* subspecies *pontica* and *Anemone narcissiflora*. James spotted Snowfinches. In the gully with the snowmelt plants was a superb Caucasian Vernal Copper and on the flowery ridge were Peak Whites. A Cape Hare sauntered away and James found a dead Père-David's Mole.

Bluethroat



We descended a little to a side valley that produced sightings of the hope for male Bluethroat. The race here is '*magna*' with an unspotted shimmering blue throat. At least two males were seen and a female. We also had good views of Radde's Accentors, a Scarlet Rosefinch, Black-headed Buntings and the slightly odd local form of Whinchat. Twite were noted and the lovely '*bella*' form of Linnet too.

Now we headed downhill and eastwards, eventually reaching the farmed country to the south of Albayrak, just a few kilometres from the Iranian border. The views all around in the crystal clear mountain air were incredible. On the steppe next to the road we could already see the shining yellow heads of *Iris urumiensis*. This is a fabulous iris, the whole flower being yellow of differing shades, many two-tone, some pale and a goodly number a bright rich butter yellow, even some egg-yolk yellow. The lowering sun allowed some marvellous backlit photos. We reckoned there to be two to three thousand blooms in a few hundred metre stretch of



Iris urumiensis



hillside, an absolutely fantastic sight. The wide-open landscapes allowed one to choose a background for those wide angle shots. A damp valley floor had many orchids and primulas and over by the river a swathe of an unknown red *Silene*.

Then it was back towards Van, stopping en route for backlit and forelit photos of the rather mythical-looking Hoşap Castle. We went up to look at the impressive gate now sitting pretty in a fully restored set of walls.

Day 12 May 30th Erçek Lake

We set off at nine, on to the road to Iran due east of Van. After ten kilometres or so Erçek Lake appeared, a large lake, set even higher than Van at 1900m and surrounded by hill or mountainous steppe, a wide open and very beautiful sparsely inhabited landscape. Our first stop was by a small marsh for many years now home to a very few pairs of White-headed Ducks. Sure enough these were there, today we saw at least nine birds. We watched the almost comical males displaying, their bodies swelling as they put their heads down, swollen blue bills pushed out and charge There were also a few Pochard, a female Red-crested Pochard and there was a Marsh Harrier too. There were Moustached and Paddyfield Warblers, Bearded Tits, Little Grebes, and many Marsh Frogs. Along the verge were some very showy *Crambes* and *Anchusas*.



Orchis
pseudolaxiflora



Moving on we found ourselves on the wide flat valley floor east of the main lake. Here the damp, slightly salt-imbued steppe had a vast population of



the *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*. In places they grew thickly and there were very occasional white or strawberry milkshake forms. *Ornithogalum cuspidatum* was noted. Also the tiny water crowfoot *Ranunculus rionii*. And the showy Flowering Rush, *Butomus umbellatus*. Along the gravel levees we saw the first flowers of *Iris spuria* subspecies *musulmanica*. We actually made two visits here, the first interrupted by a sharp rain shower that came over. As the storm arrived a Hobby flew through. After we heard Quail and found a

Redshank's nest with four eggs.

Our lunch spot was close by a tower hide put up to overlook Erçek's marshes. We watched Black-winged Stilts, Redshank, Kentish Plovers and Avocets along the shore. There were a few Night Herons. There were lots of Bearded Tits, Moustached Warblers and Paddyfield Warblers in the reeds. A Water Rail was seen briefly. A Whiskered Tern sat upon the shore and a group of Black Terns flew through. There were also lots of Black-headed Wagtails about and a single female Citrine Wagtail was noted. In the distance we could see many gulls and around a hundred Greater Flamingos. Bee-eaters were noted almost throughout the day.

After lunch we continued our circumnavigation of the lake. The landscape became ever more beautiful partly helped by the showers changing to clear afternoon sun. The landscape became undulating with areas of arable land interspersed with natural steppe. There were craggy mountains here and there and occasional tranquil villages. At one point most of us were planning where to put our houses!

Onobrychis carduchorum



Larks were a feature this afternoon. Bimaculated Larks were common and Short-toed too, with the occasional Crested. We started to find *Onobrychis*, the representatives of this genus in this part of Turkey being exceptionally beautiful. There was road-lining *carduchorum*, delicate *sulphureum* subspecies *vanense*, lovely butter-yellow *galegiformis* and another lovely two-tone yellow species. There were some fine plants of *Glaucium grandiflorum*. Butterflies started to appear notably Small Bath White. We found one particular area of marly steppe that was covered in beautiful plants. Chief among them was probably the large almost shrubby *Salvia kronenburgii*. There was also *Acantholinum bracteatum*, *Linum flavum*, the impressive pompoms of *Klasea serratuloides*, and a rich assortment of *Astragalus* and *Aethionema*!



Day 13 May 31st Çatak Valley



Thick-billed race of Reed Bunting



White-tailed Plover

Those that joined me for the early morning trip to the Dönemeç Delta were in for a treat – documenting a rarely recorded breeding bird for Turkey! We arrived on the lake shore side of the delta and walked the near kilometre to the breeding site for White-tailed Plovers. We stopped to enjoy endless Bearded Tits, Moustached and Paddyfield Warblers as we went, all the while hearing Bitterns booming. Little Bitterns were heard as well. The White-tailed Plovers are a rarity indeed as there are few records, but even better, they appeared to be nesting! It was great to get such good views of these striking and easy to identify waders. Previous records of White-tailed Plover are few, though certainly nowadays annual. There are a few breeding records from the centre



Savi's Warbler

and south of the country, though not the east. And was a Collared Pratincoles sitting on the dry sandy salty areas too. We headed to a little raised area where we could scan the land further along. There were White Storks, lots of Cattle Egrets, and amongst the vast numbers of Armenian Gulls. Dönemeç is a special place! There was even a single *Iris paradoxa*.

We stopped by a quarry where a small area of natural steppe held a most exquisite display of blooms. First up was a roadside mass of *Linaria kurdica*. These massed yellow blooms were quite a sight. Around it grew *Convolvulus linearis*, and lots of colourful *Astragaluses*. We found some bright red *Roemeria refracta* and then we found a large area splattered with *Glaucium grandiflorum*. Bimaculated, Crested, and Short-toed Larks were singing all around us.

We moved on to a dry rocky gorge. This sunny spot proved attractive to butterflies. Down in the dry gully by the bus were several blues, mostly Mazarine but also Chapman's Blue. There were Glanville Fritillaries and in one warm spot we saw Lesser Fiery Copper and the lovely Turkish Golden Copper. There were skippers too and our first Southern Comma posed for the cameras. Rock Sparrows were noisy on the rocky crags and there were at least two Crimson-winged Finches. A Western Rock



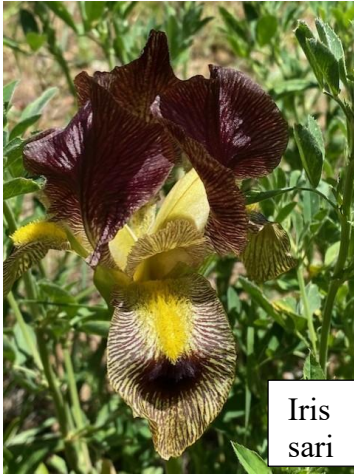
Nuthatch was seen, so too Grey-necked Bunting, and a very co-operative Chukar. Along the roadside was brilliant yellow *Hypericum scabrum* and yellow umbels too. Up the slope were various *Astragalus* and some very fine clumps of *Aethionema grandiflorum*. *Aethionema membranaceum* was also seen alongside little *Viola modesta* and impressive *Leopoldia atropatana*, as well as a pale lilac broomrape. Wonderful *Allium akaka* posed by the roadside and there were equally fine rock plant in pink silvery-foliaged *Centaurea karduchorum*.

Next was a stop to see the lovely *Potentilla lignosa* which this year was flowering in cascades over some rocky outcrops, an arresting sight. Meanwhile Dipper, Grey Wagtail and Common Sandpiper were being noted.



We visited a little village where the ferula dominated slopes below the village harboured an exquisite population of *Iris sari*. They were very variable. These were devoured by the iris photographers who moved from one to the other trying wide angles, close ups etc etc. Growing even more commonly here was the lovely *Astragalus halicacabus* with pale pink flowers, but more importantly, masses of inflated pink seedpods which in





places obscured the ground. Olivaceous Warblers sang from willows where we spotted Pontic Blues – these shimmered beautifully in the sun. There was an extraordinary variety of other Astragalus. Two *Helichrysums*, *pallasii* and *plicata*, were found as well as a lovely *Allium*, a *Hedysarum*, lots of *Geranium stepporum*, and *Valeriana sisymbriifolia*. A marshy area held some unusual plants such as *Alchemilla*, the giant *Trifolium longidenatum*, and the rare buttercup *Ranunculus strigulosus*. Frog Orchids and *Gladiolus kotschyanus* were much enjoyed and growing with the latter was the unusual buttercup *Ranunculus strigulosus*. Our picnic was enjoyed on the edge of the village. Some of the village kids appeared and were most pleased when Halil got out the Hobbies (little chocolate bars)!

The afternoon was spent exploring a little further down the valley towards Çatak. Here we descended into an area where first juniper became frequent on the hillsides before descending further into scrub dominated by *Celtis*. We stopped amid the former and took a look around. This was the place where many years previously I'd recorded Turkey's first Plain Leaf Warblers. None of course today, but we did see a couple of very nice male Ring Ouzels and some Red-fronted Serins. A star find here was the lovely Romanov's Copper, a wonder in orange and blue-green. The ones that Richard showed us visiting a *Daphne mucronata* bush were in exquisite condition. Down by the river hundreds of Mountain Small Whites mud-puddled.

Further down the valley we stopped where a small river came cascading out of the cliffs. A rather lovely spot. Plants of interest here were *Paronychia turcica*, *Stachys laetivirens*, and two *Salvias*, the reddish *Salvia trichoclada* and the very large-flowered *Salvia macrochlamys* with bright cerise and white blooms.

Our last stop was a little back up the valley where some villagers had made a large walnut grove and a few arable fields too. Chaffinches and European Nuthatches surprised us. A Persian Squirrel scurried across the track. We found our second vernal copper of the day, *Callimachus nesimachis*, the Caucasian Vernal Copper.

Day 14 June 5th

Departure



Our early morning birding trip took us to the Dönemeç Delta. Bitterns boomed and Savi's Warblers reeled as we took a few moment to overlook the marsh. Birds were flying everywhere. We took a walk with marshes and reed beds around us. We were soon getting ourselves familiarized with both the songs and the appearance of an impressive suite of *Acrocephalus* warblers. Commonest were Moustached and Paddyfield. There were also Reed and Great Reed. Black-headed Yellow Wagtails were common.



Bearded Tit

Water Rails called. Bearded Tits were everywhere. We headed down to the 'coast'. Here we got our feet both wet and muddy! But we enjoyed – there were plenty of White Storks, Little Egrets, Purple Herons and the like. A group of Gull-billed Terns lounged on some bare mud. Red-crested Pochard were frequent in the water and we saw Garganey and Ruddy Shelduck too. There were both Black-headed Gulls and Slender-billed Gulls joining the throng. A Ruff was seen and two Wood Sandpipers.

We returned to Dönemeç Delta after breakfast as we didn't need to be at the airport until almost lunchtime. The morning was spent amongst the rich range of birds that call this amazing place home – much the same species were seen as in the morning though always there were new ones. This morning there were Whiskered Terns. And some of us made it far enough along to see the White-tailed Plovers. An early lunch picnic was taken and then we were off to the airport to start our journeys home!

Whiskered Tern



And... wait for it... surely not? A Crimson-winged Finch (Julia Burton

As you all know, I headed south after you left, to the Cilo Dagi, near Hakkari. It was brilliant! Expect a tour there for 2027. Here's some pics...



Fritillaria straussii

The orange *Phelypaea* has just a couple of years ago been given a name – *Phelypaea boissieri* forma *lutea*

Systematic List Number 1 Flora

Species not recorded in 2025 in [] brackets. The taxonomy and order of the following list largely follows P.H. Davis's Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands (1965–1988), published by Edinburgh University Press

Acanthaceae

Acanthus dioscoridis In leaf and bud along the south side of Lake Van

Aceraceae

Acer hyrcanum subsp. *tauricum*. South of Van circular.

Acer monspessulanum subsp. *cinarescens* Akdamar Island

Acer negundo Doğubayazıt area around hotels etc

Acer platanoides South of Van circular

Apiaceae

Anthriscus cerefolium Muradiye Waterfall area and near Bölükyazı

Anthriscus nemorosa Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Damp meadows near

Ahlat, also in Nemrut Crater

Apium nodiflorum near Adilcevaz in leaf

Astrodaucus orientalis Scattered throughout

Bunium brachyactis Noted near Doğubayazıt

[*Bunium cylindricum* South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dağı Volcano]

[*Brunium ferulaceum* On the road to Çatak]

Bunium microcarpum Scattered throughout

Bunium paucifolium Noted around Doğubayazıt, the south side of Kurubaş Pass, south of

Van, and the environs of campsite 1km towards Gevaş from Akdamar ferry

Bunium verruculosum Van Castle

[*Bupleurum falcatum* subsp. *polyphyllum* 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular]

[*Carum carvi* 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south

Van circular]

Caucalis platycarpa East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 10km east of Ercek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road. South Van Circular

Chaerophyllum crinitum Near Ahlat. Muradiye. Nemrut Dağı Volcano

[*Chaerophyllum hakkiaricum* The eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass]

[*Chaerophyllum macropodium* West side of Lake Van]

Chaerophyllum macrospermum Damp meadows near Ahlat, 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van

circular and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular Resadiye on the south Van circular

[*Cymbocarpum anethoides* Near Otanca in the Özalp direction from Van. ? Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Or *Turgenopsis foeniculacea*]

Falcaria vulgaris East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat. South of Van circular. Leaves only

[*Ferula amanicola* Noted in the Bitlis/Tatvan area – leaves only]

Ferula angulata Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction. Also Doğubayazıt

Ferula bernardii (stellata) Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt

[*Ferula cf. elaeochrytis* Muradiye Waterfall – leaves only]

Ferula haussknechtii Upstream from Muradiye Waterfall

[*Ferula longipedunculata* Southern shores of Van Lake – leaves only; On the road to Çatak.]

Ferula orientalis West side of Lake Van. Bitlis Circuit

[*Ferula rigidula* Marly slopes at east end of Zerneş Reservoir on the Hoşap road. Leaves only]

<i>Grammosciadium cornutum</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road. North of Van
<i>Grammosciadium daucooides</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, the hill above Tugkoçu
Village southeast of Tatvan, and 10km east of Ercek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road	
<i>Grammosciadium platycarpum</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area and near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat
<i>Grammosciadium pterocarpum</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater. Karabet Pass
[<i>Heptaptera anisoptera</i>	Not sure where Mervyn's specimen came from?]
<i>Heracleum persicum</i>	Along the south Van circular. Çatak
<i>Lagoecia aminoides</i>	Çatak
[<i>Lecokia cretica</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area]
[<i>Laserpitium carduchorum</i>	Çatak]
<i>Malabaila dasyantha</i>	Noted in the Ahlat area and Tendürek
<i>Malabaila lasiocarpa</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road, Akdamar Island; On the road to
Çatak	
<i>Malabaila secacul</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, also
on Akdamar Island	
[<i>Myrrhoides nodosa</i>	Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis]
<i>Oenanthe sophiaea</i>	wet meadows a little south of the Van Circular en route to Hizan
<i>Opoponax persicus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area – by the river; between Tatvan and Hizan.
South Van circular	
[<i>Pimpinella affinis</i>	? 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular]
[<i>Pimpinella anthriscoides</i>	Eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass]
[<i>Pimpinella kotschyana</i>	West side of Van Gölü]
<i>Pimpinella peregrina</i>	Doğubayazıt area
[<i>Pimpinella peucedanifolia</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>Pimpinella tragium</i> subsp. <i>lithophila</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt Subsp.?. On
the road to Çatak.	
<i>Prangos acaulis</i>	Doğubayazıt area
[<i>Prangos c.f. corymbosa</i>]
<i>Prangos ferulacea</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and
also at the Muradiye Waterfall area; Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass.	
<i>Prangos pabularia</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular]
[<i>Prangos peucedanifolia</i>	Doğubayazıt area]
[<i>Prangos platychnaena</i>	West side of Lake Van]
[<i>Prangos uechtriztii</i>	Either on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass or en route to
Güzeldere]	
[<i>Prangos uloptera</i>	Doğubayazıt area]
[<i>Scandix aucheri</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt]
<i>Scandix iberica</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van
circular, oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis, and at Bendimahı Marshes at NE	
[<i>Scandix pectin-veneris</i>	Bitlis Circuit]
<i>Scandix stellata</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Çatak Road
[<i>Seseli libanotis</i>	Two forms of this variable species seen – neither greatly resembling the
Western European forms!]	
[<i>Seseli peucedanoides</i>	? Marly slopes at east end of Zerneş Reservoir on the Hoşap road]
[<i>Smyrniopsis aucheri</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>Smyrniium cordifolium</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road and on Akdamar Island; between
Tatvan and Hizan.	
<i>Torilis leptophylla</i>	Akdamar Island. Muradiye. Erçek Gölü
[<i>Trinia scabra</i>	Doğubayazıt]
<i>Turgenia latifolia</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area; On the
road to Çatak.	

Zosima absinthifoliua Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.

Aristolochiaceae

[*Aristolochia bottae* Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis. Also east of Erçek Gölü]

Asclepidaceae

[*Vincetoxicum fuxcatum* Çilli Pass]
[*Vincetoxicum tmoleum* Ahlat steppe]

Asteraceae

Achillea arabica (*biebersteinii*) widespread
[*Achillea vermicularis* Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevaş from Akdamar ferry; On the road to Çatak. Also east of Küçükusu]
[*Amberboa moschata* The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road on slopes of Nemrut Dağı. Çilli Pass.]
Anthemis cretica Bendimahi. Erçek
[*Anthemis wiedemanniana* Doğubayazıt area
Artemisia fragrans The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – on a rock ledge above
[*Artemisia splendens* scattered in meadows
Fritillaria minuta. In bud.] between Tatvan and Hızan. Ishak Paşa?
Bellis perennis 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Çatak Road
Carduus pycnocephalus Dry hills between Erçek Lake and Özalp; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. In leaf only in 2025
Carthamus lanatus ? 10km west of Doğubayazıt on the Agri road. Zernek]
Centaurea albonitens widespread
Centaurea aucheri near Doğubayazıt
Centaurea depressa cliffs in the first gorge along the Çatak Road]
Centaurea glastifolia widespread, weedy.
[*Centaurea handelii* Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road – cliff above south-heading road
Centaurea iberica Nominate? Van Castle, Akdamar Island, and the environs of Ayamis Castle
Centaurea karduchorum East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat in leaf
Centaurea pseudoscabiosa Van Castle. In bud – stems strikingly pale. Çatak Road]
Centaurea pterocaula Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction, and 2km or so south of the Güzeldere Pass]
Centaurea triumfettii Common. Meadows 1km northeast of Çaldıran, inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, and in steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road
Centaurea urvillei Subsp. *armata* Common in Van area
Centaurea vanensis Slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale, and 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazıt.
Cephalorrhynchus tuberosus Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Or
Cephalorrhynchus rechingeranus?
Chardinia orientalis scattered throughout in dry areas.
Cichorium intybus Scattered throughout
Cirsium arvense subsp. *vestitum* Scattered
[*Cirsium hamosus* ?Çilli Pass]

<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Iğdir, and roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat. Also between Van- Muradiye-Dogubayazit. Also at Meteor
[<i>Cousinia eriocephala</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass.]
[<i>Cousinia nabelekii</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van]
[<i>Cousinia vanensis</i>	near Kurubaş Pass.]
[<i>Crepis pulchra</i>	Nominate. Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis, Akdamar Island]
[<i>Crepis sancta</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	scattered
[<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Balaban Forest]
<i>Echinops orientalis</i>	scattered
[<i>Erigeron acer</i>	Erçek Lake]
<i>Erigeron caucasicum</i>	Tendürek Mountain. Nemrut Dağı
<i>Filago arvensis</i>	Scattered
<i>Filago pyramidalis</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Gundelia tournefortii</i>	11km east of Küçüksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Between Van and Bendimahi
[<i>Helichrysum arenarium</i> subsp. <i>aucheri</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Helichrysum arenarium</i> subsp. <i>rubicundum</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle. Zerneke area. On the road to Çatak
[<i>Helichrysum graveolens</i>	? South side of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van]
<i>Helichrysum pallasii</i>	Akdamar Island and on the road to Çatak
<i>Helichrysum plicatum</i>	Nominate. 11km east of Küçüksu on the south Van circular, and also at Van Castle. On the road to Çatak
[<i>Inula helenium</i>	South of Van circular.]
<i>Inula macrophyllum</i>	in leaf only – meadows north of Doğruyol on the Bitlis Circuit
<i>Inula peacockiana</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van, and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Mainly in bud.
<i>Jurinella moschus</i>	Inside the Nemrut Crater. Karabet Pass
<i>Koelpinia linearis</i>	Salt mine at Tuzluca, Around Sim-er Hotel near Doğubayazit. On the road to Çatak
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scattered
<i>Onopordum carduchorum</i>	Bitlis circuit. On the road to Çatak
<i>Rhagadiolus angulosus</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area. On the road to Çatak
<i>Scorzonera cana</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazit, and around Sim-er Hotel near Doğubayazit; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Scorzonera mollis</i> subspecies <i>szowitsii</i>	. East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, and 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road. Çilli Pass population had otherwise identical plants with yellow or violet flowers side by side!
[<i>Scorzonera parviflora</i>	? East shore of Erçek Gölü]
<i>Scorzonera phaeopappa</i>	Nominate. 10km west of Doğubayazit on Agri road. Also North of Van
<i>Senecio eriospermus</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, in the ravine on the Bitlis to Bölük yazı road, and on slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. In bud at the middle site otherwise leaves only
[<i>Senecio taraxacifolius</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit.]
<i>Senecio vernalis</i>	Widespread; weedy. East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, and on the southwest shore of Erçek Gölü – dominant in areas of the former
<i>Serratula serratuloides</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Bitlis circuit. West side of Erçek Gölü
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	scattered
[<i>Tanacetum chiliophyllum</i>	10km west of Doğubayazit on Agri road – in bud]

<i>[Tabacetum cappadocicum</i>	Dogubeyazit area]
<i>[Tanacetum argyrophyllum ssp. subulrescens</i>	Çatak Valley]
<i>[Tanacetum partheniifolium</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road – on a cliff. On Pamuk Dağı between Iğdir and Dogubayezit.]
<i>[Tanacetum uniflorum</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, c.]
<i>Tanacetum zahlbruckneri</i>	11km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular, and in oak woodland and the grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	scattered
<i>Tragopogon bupthalmoides</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. South Van Circular
<i>Tragopogon coloratus</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Flowers purple, pappus purplish. Çatak road
<i>[Tragopogon dubius</i>	The Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat, southwest shore of Erçek Gölü]
<i>[Tragopogon longirostris var. abbreviatus</i>	Çatak road junction]
<i>Tripleurospermum decipiens</i>	Çatak road. Dogubayezit area
<i>Tripleurospermum disciforme</i>	1km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Tripleurospermum oreades</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass, and the ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction, Bitlis Circuit
<i>[Tripleurospermum parviflorum</i>	? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Iğdir]
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Widespread in leaf. In flower on the Karabet
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Bitlis Circuit. Zernek
<i>Xeranthemum annuum</i>	Çatak road
<i>Xeranthemum longipapposum</i>	Scattered throughout around Lake Van
Berberidaceae	
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Bongardia chrysogonum</i>	Roadsides between Van and Bendimahi
<i>Leontice leontopetalum</i>	Subspecies not known. In seed by Muradiye Waterfall. Should check next time as it might be <i>armeniicum</i> which hasn't been recorded in Turkey before?
Betulaceae	
<i>[Alnus cordata</i>	?streamsides south of Lake Van]
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater. Also Çilli Pass.
<i>Populus alba</i>	Adilcevaz and near Tatvan
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, and the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan
<i>Salix alba</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Bitlis Circuit. Çatak road
<i>[Salix fragilis</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>[Salix triandra</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri]
Boraginaceae	
<i>Alkanna froedinii</i>	Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevaş from Akdamar ferry. Further west too! Dogubayezit area
<i>Alkanna orientalis</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	subspecies <i>orientalis</i> . Frequent in the Dogubayezit area
<i>Anchusa aucheri</i>	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat and near Ayamis Castle and near Doğubayazit. Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater and the Bitlis circuit
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Throughout.
<i>Anchusa leptophylla</i>	below Tendürek. Bitlis circuit. Erçek Gölü
<i>Anchusa strigosa</i>	Like azurea but flower colour is dirty white. Scattered
<i>[Arnebia decumbens</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazit]
<i>[Arnebia pulchra</i>	Tendürek Mountain]
<i>Asperugo procumbens</i>	widespread weed
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	(Syn. <i>Lithospermum arvensis</i>) scattered

<i>Caccinia macranthera</i> var. <i>crassifolia</i> .	Something had happened to them this year! Zernek
<i>Cerinth</i> minor subspecies <i>auriculata</i> .	Scattered throughout. Nominate. Çilli Pass west of Ararat
<i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>	Nemrut Crater
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Muradiye Waterfall. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Cynoglossum vanense</i>	In flora as <i>montanum</i> . Along the South Van circular
[<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Çatak Road]
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Near Tatvan – in bud
<i>Heterocaryum szovitsianum</i>	? 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road.
Zernek. Çatak road	
<i>Lappula barbata</i>	Widespread
<i>Lappula squarrosa</i>	Widespread
<i>Lappula stricta</i>	Çatak road
<i>Moltkia caerulea</i>	South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van. Zernek. Çatak road
[<i>Myosotis</i>	spp 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor
road. Annual with fruiting pedicel curving round axis]	
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	widespread in higher meadows
[<i>Myosotis diminuta</i>	Soguksu meadows south of Tendürek Pass]
[<i>Myosotis heteropoda</i>	? East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat]
[<i>Myosotis minutiflora</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>Myosotis ramosissimum</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. Çatak road
[<i>Myosotis stricta</i>	? East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, and 1km east of Küçüksu on the
south Van circular]	
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Tatvan, Tugkoyu Village
<i>Neostemma apulum</i>	Sim-er Motel grounds
[<i>Nonea anchusoides</i>	east side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale and
Tendürek]	
[<i>Nonea caspica</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, and east side of the Güzeldere Pass
between Hoşap and Baskale]	
[<i>Nonea melanocarpa</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. Ishak Paşa]
[<i>Nonea melanthera</i>	along the Çatak Road]
[<i>Nonea pulla</i> subsp. <i>scabrisquamata</i>	10km west of Doğubayazıt on]
<i>Nonea pulla</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass.
<i>Nonea stenosphon</i>	Nemrut Dağı and Bitlis circuit
<i>Onosma albo-roseum</i> var. <i>sanguineolentum</i>	Zernek. Bitlis circuit
<i>Onosma araraticum</i>	bright yellow flowered around Doğubayazıt area
<i>Onosma bracteatum</i>	Nemrut Crater
[<i>Onosma isauricum</i>	Erçek Lake]
[<i>Onosma nemoricolum</i>	Meteor, widespread along south shore of Van]
<i>Onosma polyoxanthium</i>	Near Tatvan - Bitlis circuit
[<i>Onosma procera</i>	(procerum) 11km east of Küçüksu on the south Van circular]
<i>Onosma sericea</i>	(sericeum) Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hoşap,
Çatak Road	
[<i>Paracaryum cristatum</i> Subspecies <i>carduchorum</i> .	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road, and 10km east of Erçek
Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road]	
[<i>Paracaryum racemosum</i>	South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van, and 2km or so south of the
Kurubaş Pass as well]	
[<i>Paracaryum strictum</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road.
On Pamuk Dağı between Dogubayezit and Iğdır.]	
<i>Rindera albida</i>	South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van, and east side of the Güzeldere
Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Karabet Pass	
[<i>Rindera caespitosa</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road.

Zernek]

- Rindera lanata* var. *canescens* Widespread
Rochelia disperma 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, the crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt and the east side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat. Bitlis Circuit. Erçek Gölü
Solenanthus stamineus Muradiye Waterfall area, inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, and east side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Karabet Pass.
Solenanthus circinnatus Muradiye Waterfall area. Also between Van and Bendimahi
Symphytum kurdicum Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis. Also south shore of Lake Van

Campanulaceae

- [*Campanula coriacea* Scattered throughout. Leaves only]
[*Campanula crispa* Rocks on the Tendürek and Çilli Passes – not in flower]
Campanula flaccidula tiny species along the Çatak Road
[*Campanula glomerata* By campsite near Akdamar Ferry, Gevaş]
Campanula involucrata 11km east of Küçüksu on the south Van circular also Çatak Road
[*Campanula karakuschensis* tiny species noted along the Çatak Road and along south side of Lake Van]

Van]

- [*Campanula ledebouriana* Çatak Road]
Campanula reuterana beautiful deep violet flowered species. Near Çatak and Bitlis Circuit
Campanula stevenii widespread
[*Jasione supina* Bitlis Circuit]
Legousia pentagonia Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis
[*Legousia speculum-veneris* between Tatvan and Hızan]

Caprifoliaceae

- Lonicera caucasicum* Nominate. Oak scrub slopes on the south Van circular.
Rhus coriaria in the crater of Nemrut. Çatak Road

Caryophyllaceae

- Arenaria blephariphylla* near Çaldıran
Arenaria cucubaloides 11km south of Küçüksu , south of Tatvan. Doğubayazıt area
[*Arenaria gypsophiloides* Meteor]
Arenaria holostea *Subspecies macrantha* . Crags and rocky slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel. Also Doğubayazıt area

- Arenaria serpyllifolia* Oak scrub slopes on the south Van circular
Cerastium armeniacum Muradiye Waterfall. Bitlis Circuit
[*Cerastium dahuricum* Just below Güzeldere Pass]
Cerastium dichotomum Bitlis Circuit
Cerastium fontanum Bitlis Circuit
[*Cerastium longipetala* Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
Cerastium purpurascens Tendürek Pass. near Çaldıran
[*Cucubalus baccifer* Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van circular]
Dianthus crinitus Çavuştepe. Çatak Road
[*Gypsophila bitlisensis* Shales east of Erçek Gölü, Ahlat area]
Gypsophila elegans Zernek Valley
Gypsophila heteropoda salt steppes near Doğubayazıt
Gypsophila patrinii Crags south of Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt and same crags above Ishak

Paşa

- Gypsophila pulvinaris* The Vegetable Sheep (purported to be *Gypsophila aretoides* Hotel, Doğubayazıt and also noted on the same crags above the Ishak Paşa
Gypsophila ruscifolia Ahlat area
[*Herniaria agaea* Tendurek. Sepals ciliate, leaves glabrous]
Herniaria glabra Scattered

<i>[Herniaria incana</i>	Scattered]
<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>[Lepyrodiclis holostioides</i>	Picnic site near Iğdır]
<i>[Lepyrodiclis tenera</i>	? 'Kate's Gully' near the Ishak Paşa, Doğubayazıt. Petals pink. New to
Turkey if correct!]	
<i>[Minuartia acuminata</i>	? Just below Güzeldere Pass on the east side. New to Turkey if correct!]
<i>Minuartia aiozoides</i>	Tendürek Pass. Nemrut Crater
<i>[Minuartia hamata</i>	Crags south of Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt]
<i>[Minuartia hybrida</i>	Subspecies turcica. Between Doğruyol and Bölükyazı near Bitlis]
<i>Minuartia juniperina</i>	scattered throughout
<i>[Minuartia lineata</i>	2km below Asaginarlica at foot of Karabet Pass, Zerneç]
<i>[Minuartia sclerantha</i>	? Near Ayamis Castle and elsewhere]
<i>Moenchia mantica</i>	Nominate. Noted in grasslands around Ahlat and Tatvan
<i>[Paronychia kurdica</i>	South Van Circular and Akdamar Island]
<i>[Paronychia turcica</i>	Akdamar Island, Meteor]
<i>[Saponaria sp</i>	sp Aras Valley near Calpala – apparently not in flora? Same or another
species seen on the Bitlis circuit!]	
<i>[Saponaria kotschyi</i>	Bitlis Circuit]
<i>Saponaria orientalis</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Doğubayazıt area
<i>[Scleranthus uncinatus</i>	West Lake Van area; between Erçek Lake and Özalp]
<i>Silene alba</i> subspecies <i>ericalycina</i>	widespread
<i>Silene ampullaria</i>	on south slopes of Tendürek Pass; between Tatvan and Hızan; south of
the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Güzeldere Pass	
<i>Silene araratica</i>	? Caespitose white flowered campion in crevices on Van Castle may have
been this species? In flower now though	
<i>Silene arguta</i>	Tendürek Pass. Muradiye
<i>Silene capitellata</i>	frequent throughout
<i>[Silene cappadocica</i>	Çilli Pass and north of Erçek Lake]
<i>[Silene cartilaginea</i>	Çatak Valley]
<i>Silene chlorifolia</i>	Çatak Valley. Zerneç
<i>Silene conica</i>	Adilcevaz area. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Silene conoidea</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Silene dianthoides</i>	Near Muradiye Waterfall. Also Tendürek Pass. Ishak Paşa Palace,
Dogubayazıt and Güzeldere Pass	
<i>[Silene lucida</i>	Güzeldere Pass]
<i>[Silene marschallii</i>	IshakPaşa]
<i>[Silene odontopetala</i>	Çatak Valley and north of Erçek Lake]
<i>Silene otitis</i>	Çatak Valley
<i>[Silene pungens</i>	High ridge south of Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Silene rhyncocarpa</i>	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Silene saxatilis</i>	Çili Pass and north of Erçek Lake
<i>Silene spergulifolia</i>	widespread
<i>Silene subconica</i>	North of Lake Van
<i>Silene swertifolia</i>	Zerneç. Çatak Valley
<i>Silene ?????</i>	nice pink species dominating damp flats at Albayrak
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> subsp. <i>commutata</i>	widespread, mainly in bud in
<i>Silene viscosa</i>	Zerneç Valley. Çatak Valley
<i>Stellaria persica</i>	Near Bölükyazı. Çatak Valley
<i>Vaccaria hispanica</i>	Erçek Lake. Çatak Valley
Chenopodiaceae	

<i>Beta corolliflora</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall. Çatak Valley
[<i>Chenopodium vulvaria</i>	? Shales east of Erçek Gölü]
[<i>Bassia (Kochia) prostrata</i>	Scattered around Van]
[<i>Salsola ruthenica</i>	Near Tuzluca's salt mine]
<i>Ceratocarpus arenarius</i>	Nemrut Crater and Zerneke Valley. Frequent Dogubayazit area
Cistaceae	
[<i>Helianthemum ledifolium</i>	Between Van and Bendimahi]
<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>	North slope of Nemrut Dağı and 2km below Kurubaş Pass south of Van
Convolvulaceae	
[<i>Convolvulus altheoides</i>	Graveyard along Hakkari Road]
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Scattered
[<i>Convolvulus calvertii</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van]
[<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Between Tatvan and Hizan; between Erçek Lake and Özalp]
<i>Convolvulus galaticus</i>	Erçek Lake. Çatak Road
<i>Convolvulus lineatus</i>	Çatak Road
Crassulaceae	
<i>Rosularia aizoon</i>	south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Nemrut Dağı
[<i>Rosularia elymaitica</i>	near Adilcevaz]
<i>Rosularia radiceflora</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Rosularia sempervivum</i> subsp. <i>persica</i>	Van Castle, Akdamar Island. Subspecies <i>kurdica</i> Nemrut Crater
[<i>Sedum aetnense</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area. <i>Sedum tetramerum</i> is now included in this species]
[<i>Sedum hispanicum</i> Var. <i>semiglabrum</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area and on Akdamar Island]
[<i>Sempervivum</i>	cf. <i>armenum</i> on south slopes of Tendürek Pass – may be an incorrect identification?]
<i>Sempervivum davisii</i>	Rocky outcrops on the Tendürek Pass also near Çaldıran
<i>Umbilicus erectus</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
[<i>Umbilicus tropaeolifolius</i>	Akdamar Island]
Cruciferae	
<i>Aethionema arabicum</i>	Scattered throughout
[<i>Aethionema armenum</i>	Either side of Muradiye Waterfall]
<i>Aethionema cordatum</i>	frequent on the passes
<i>Aethionema elongatum</i>	North of Lake Van. Also Çatak Road
[<i>Aethionema grandiflorum</i>	but flowers smaller and darker and plant more woody]
<i>Aethionema grandiflorum</i>	Widespread in the Van region. At least one more see above
<i>Aethionema membranaceum</i>	Between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayazit
<i>Aethionema speciosum</i>	? Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular. Also Çatak Road
[<i>Aethionema stylosum</i>	Albayrak Road]
[<i>Aethionema trinervium</i>	Ridge above the Ishak Paşa and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Scattered
Alyssum Güzeldere Pass one	
[<i>Alyssum condensatum</i>	? Nominant. Lip of Nemrut Dağı's crater]
[<i>Alyssum contemptum</i>	? 2km below Kurubaş Pass – south of Van]
[<i>Alyssum dasycarpum</i>	? Tendürek and Çaldıran areas]
[<i>Alyssum desetorum</i>	Ishak Paşa]
[<i>Alyssum lepidotum</i>	? 2km below Kurubaş Pass – south of Van]
[<i>Alyssum linifolium</i>	Crags behind Sim-er Hotel and also shales east of Erçek Gölü]
[<i>Alyssum longistylum</i>	? High ridge south of Güzeldere Pass]
[<i>Alyssum minus</i>	2km below Kurubaş Pass – south of Van]
[<i>Alyssum pateri</i>	Erçek Lake and Zerneke Valley]

<i>[Alyssum stapfii</i>	Ishak Paşa]
<i>[Alyssum xanthocarpum</i>	? 2km below Kurubaş Pass – south of Van]
<i>Anchonium elichrysifolium</i>	Scattered on high passes – smells of pudding!
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Between Doğruyol and Bölükyazı, near Bitlis. Doğubayazıt area
<i>Arabis (Turritis) glabra</i>	Çilli Pass on Ararat. Also Çatak Road
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Nominate. Widespread
<i>Arabis montbretiana</i>	Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular. Çilli Pass
<i>Arabis nova</i>	Çilli Pass on Ararat; above Ishak Paşa Palace. Also Çatak Road
<i>Barbarea minor</i>	frequent in damp areas above 2500m
<i>[Barbarea plantagineum</i>	Zernek Valley]
<i>Bornmuellera cappadocica</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Karabet Pass
<i>Bunias erucago</i>	in seed Erçek Gölü
<i>Camellina hispida</i>	Doğubayazıt area
<i>Camellina sativa</i>	Muradiye, Doğubayazıt area
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Widespread
<i>[Capsella rubella</i>	Bitlis Circuit]
<i>[Cardamine impatiens</i>	Muradiye and Nemrut Dağı]
<i>Cardamine tenera</i>	Albayrak, also Çatak Road
<i>Cardamine uliginosa</i>	Scattered
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Widespread on road verges etc
<i>[Coluteocarpus vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>boissieri</i>	Lip of Nemrut Dağı crater]
<i>[Coluteocarpus vesicaria</i> subsp. <i>vesicaria</i>	Above Ishak Paşa Palaca, c and at Tendürek Pass]
<i>Conringia orientalis</i>	Roadsides – e.g. in the Doğubayazıt area
<i>Conringia perfoliatum</i>	Doğubayazıt area
<i>Conringia planisiliquosa</i>	north of Van, also Çatak Road
<i>Crambe orientalis</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Widespread
<i>Draba brunniifolia</i>	Subspecies indeterminate. A variety of forms noted
<i>[Draba cappadocica</i>	High ridge south of Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Draba nemorosa</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa & Nemrut Crater
<i>Draba polytricha</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa and on the Tendürek Pass.
<i>Draba rosularis</i>	Tendürek Pass; Güzeldere Pass
<i>[Draba siliquosa</i>	Tendürek Pass]
<i>Drabopsis verna</i>	Tendürek Pass; in the crater of Nemrut. Güzeldere Pass
<i>[Erophila verna</i>	Scattered]
<i>Erysimum alpestre</i>	Tendürek Pass, Ishakpaşa, Güzeldere Pass
<i>Erysimum gelidum</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa
<i>[Erysimum leptophyllum</i>	? Scattered throughout the area north of Lake Van]
<i>[Erysimum sintenisianum</i>	Synonymous with <i>Erysimum alpestre</i> ? East side of the Kuskunkiran
Pass south Van circular]	
<i>Euclidium syriacum</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa. ut beak much too long – maybe another species?
<i>Fibigia macrocarpa</i>	Ravine on road to Bölükyazı near Bitlis. Muradiye. Güzeldere Pass
<i>Fibigia suffruticosa</i>	South of Kurubaş Pass. West of Erçek. Çatak Road
<i>[Hesperis bicuspidata</i>	Zernek]
<i>Hesperis persica</i>	On the road to Karabet Pass. Güzeldere. Çatak Road
<i>[Hesperis rupestris</i>	Steppe between Ahlat and Tatvan
<i>[Isatis buschiana</i>	Meteor, Albayrak]
<i>Isatis cappadocica</i> subsp. <i>steveniana</i>	Scattered in the Van area
<i>[Isatis glauca</i>	Steppe 10km west of Doğubayazıt]
<i>[Isatis tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>tomentella</i>	? Ravine with road to Bulakyazi]
<i>[Lepidium campestre</i>	Meadows just east of Küçüksu on the Van circular]

<i>Lepidium cartilagineum</i> subsp. <i>crassifolius</i>	Near Ayamis Castle. Common in salt steppe near Doğubayazıt
[<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Lepidium perfoliatum</i>	Locally common in the Doğubayazıt area
<i>Lepidium ruderae</i>	Doğubayazıt area
<i>Lepidium vesicarium</i>	This highly distinctive plant with very swollen stem nodes, Çavuştepe.
Also Doğubayazıt area	
<i>Malcolmia africana</i>	Scattered
<i>Matthiola anchoniifolia</i>	(<i>farinosa</i>) Zerneke.
<i>Matthiola odorantissima</i>	Nominate. Ridge above Ishak Paşa.
[<i>Matthiola longipetala</i> subsp. <i>bicornis</i>	Güzeldere Pass and ravine at junction of road to Çatak]
<i>Microthlaspi perfoliatum</i>	in the crater of Nemrut; Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass
<i>Neslia apiculata</i>	Noted west of Erçek; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Noccaea kurdicum</i>	High ridge south of Güzeldere Pass. Karabet Pass
<i>Noccaea lilacina</i>	near Nazik Gölü (Ian only)
<i>Noccaea sintenisii</i>	Karabet Pass – stunning!
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-officinale</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. Adilcevaz meadows
[<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Near Çaldıran]
[<i>Schimperia arabica</i>	On shales to the east of Erçek Gölü. New to Turkey! Similar to <i>Neslia</i> but with long straight style; petals whitish and a few simple hairs]
<i>Sisymbrium loeselii</i>	Scattered around Doğubayazıt and in the Aras Valley
<i>Sterigmostemum incanum</i>	2km below Kurubaş Pass – south of Van. Also Doğubayazıt
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	? Meadows by Tugkoçu
[<i>Torularia</i>	spp Crags south of Sim-er Hotel. Not in flora]
Cupressaceae	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	in the crater of Nemrut
<i>Juniperus excelsa</i>	Mountainsides to the south of Küçükusu ; between Tatvan and Hızan; On the road to Çatak
[<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Ridge above Ishak Paşa]
Dipsacaceae	
<i>Centranthus longiflorus</i>	On the road to Çatak. Zerneke
[<i>Cephalaria syriaca</i>	? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area]
[<i>Pterocephalus kurdicus</i>	East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Akdamar Island]
<i>Scabiosa rotata</i>	scattered
[<i>Valeriana alpestris</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
[<i>Valeriana dioscoridis</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Valeriana leucophaea</i>	Slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Karabet Pass
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Rugged hills above Ishak Paşa Palace, Doğubayazıt. Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van
<i>Valeriana sisymbriifolia</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt, also Muradiye Waterfall; On the road to Çatak
[<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis]
[<i>Valerianella coronata</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis, the ravine on the Bitlis to Bölük yazı road, and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular]
[<i>Valerianella cymbicarpa</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road, in the Muradiye Waterfall area, and in the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area]
[<i>Valerianella dactylophylla</i>	Scattered throughout]
[<i>Valerianella oxyrhyncha</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hoşap road, and also 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road]
[<i>Valerianella plagiostephana</i>	Scattered, common in the north]

<i>[Valerianella vesicaria</i>	Bitlis circuit]
Elaeagnaceae	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. South Van Circular. Ahlat
Ephedraceae	
<i>Ephedra nebrodense (major)</i>	Crags above Sim-er Hotel; Pamuk Dağı (W slopes of Agri Dağı) near Çilli
Pass. Lowest part of Karabet	
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>[Euphorbia armena</i>	Near Sim-er Hotel]
<i>[Euphorbia arvensis?</i>	Between Iğdir and Tuzluca – check!]
<i>[Euphorbia cheiradenia</i>	West side of lava plain north of Doğubayazıt]
<i>Euphorbia denticulata</i>	South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dağı Volcano, Inside Nemrut Dağı
Volcano crater, Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction	
<i>Euphorbia heteradena</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>[Euphorbia kotschyi</i>	Degirmanli near Erçek]
<i>Euphorbia macrocarpa</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater
<i>Euphorbia macroclada</i>	West side of lava plain north of Doğubayazıt, South-facing lower slopes
of Nemrut Dağı Volcano	
<i>[Euphorbia petrophylla</i>	Bitlis circuit]
<i>[Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Nominate – southwest shore of Erçek Gölü]
<i>[Euphorbia seguieriana subsp. niciana</i>	– Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca]
<i>Euphorbia szovitsii</i>	Çavuştepe. Muradiye
<i>[Euphorbia virgata</i>	Erçek Lake]
Fabaceae	
<i>Astragalus aduncus</i>	Tendürek Pass. Doğubayazıt area
<i>Astragalus alyssoides</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass and east side of the Güzeldere
Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Small, scapose	
<i>Astragalus angustiflorus subsp. angustiflorus</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along
minor road. Acaulous, yellow; between Tatvan and Hızan. Doğubayazıt area	
<i>Astragalus armeniacus</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace
<i>Astragalus asicocalyx</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Astragalus aznaburticus</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Astragalus bashkalensis</i>	Erçek Lake. Güzeldere
<i>Astragalus bicolor</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Rugged hills above
the Ishak Paşa Palace. Subscapose, lilac	
<i>[Astragalus cadmicus</i>	Doğubayazıt area]
<i>Astragalus campylorhynchus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Astragalus campylosema subsp. nigripilis</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hoşap road.
Between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Bitlis area. Scapose	
<i>Astragalus caraganae</i>	Roadsides throughout. Caulescent, peduncles short, yellow
<i>Astragalus cicer</i>	Erçek Lake. Güzeldere
<i>[Astragalus chaldiranicus</i>	on hills near Çaldıran]
<i>Astragalus cinereus</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt. Ahlat area.
Scapose, yellow	
<i>Astragalus clavatus</i>	Between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Güzeldere
<i>Astragalus cylindriacus</i>	Doğubayazıt area. Scapose, yellow
<i>Astragalus davisii</i>	Çatak Road
<i>[Astragalus densifolius</i>	Ravine at junction of road to Çatak en route back from Karabet Pass]
Scapose, purple	
<i>[Astragalus eriopodus</i>	Erçek Lake]
<i>Astragalus fragrans</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass. West of Kuzkunkiran Pass
Above the Ishak Paşa Palace	

<i>[Astragalus galegifolia</i>	Erçek Lake]
<i>[Astragalus guttatus</i>	? East shores of Erçek Gölü. An annual]
<i>Astragalus halicacabus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area. Road to Çatak
<i>Astragalus hirticalyx</i>	Between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Zernek
<i>[Astragalus hyalolepis</i> purple]	? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt. Scapose,
<i>Astragalus lagopoides</i>	South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van and again 2km or so south of the
Kurubaş Pass. Spiny, racemes held above leaves. Calyx reddish; between Erçek Lake and Özalp.	
<i>Astragalus lagurus</i>	Çatak, Pale pink, hairy long flower heads
<i>Astragalus latifolius</i>	Scattered throughout. Acaulous. Yellow, leaflets very few and broad.
Common in the Zernek area	
<i>[Astragalus lineatus ssp. longipes</i>	Güzeldere Pass]
<i>[Astragalus macrocephalus subsp. finitimus</i>	between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>Astragalus microcephalus</i>	Bitlis circuit. Zernek. Çatak Road
<i>Astragalus macrourus</i>	Oak woodlands west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Scapose,
yellow	
<i>[Astragalus nanus</i>	Çatak, purple-pink globose flower heads, very hairy leaves]
<i>Astragalus nitens</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>[Astragalus onobrychis</i> Caulescent, purple]	Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hoşap road
<i>[Astragalus ornithopoiooides</i> Caulescent, purple]	10km west of Doğubayazıt on Agri road, Muradiye Waterfall area.
<i>Astragalus patriosicus</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Astragalus pinetorum</i>	Meadows 1km northeast of Çaldıran. Çilli Pass. Acaulous, yellow
<i>[Astragalus rechingeri</i> the picnic site. Spiny. White flowers	with a pink flush]
<i>Astragalus robustus</i>	Çatak Road
<i>[Astragalus stevenianus</i>	Erçek Lake and Zernek Valley Caulescent, purple]
<i>[Astragalus subrobustus</i>	Çatak Valley. Scapose, violet]
<i>[Astragalus szovitsii</i>	Meteor and Erçek Lake]
<i>Astragalus tauricolus</i>	Çatak Road
<i>[Astragalus velenowskyi</i>	Erçek Lake]
<i>Astragalus viridissimus</i> hairless	above Ishak Paşa, Prostrate, scapose, reddish-purple flower and calyx,
<i>Astragalus zohrabi</i> Road	all <i>lagopoides</i> might be referable to this? Steppe north of Van and Çatak
<i>[Cicer anatolicum</i> Hızan]	Muradiye Waterfall area, Muradiye Waterfall area; between Tatvan and
<i>[Chesneya rytidosperma</i>	Meteor]
<i>Colutea cilicica</i>	Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>[Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Çatak Road and south side of Van Lake]
<i>Hedysarum cappadocicum</i> Güzeldere Pass	Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hoşap road,
<i>Hedysarum erythroleucum</i>	Karabet Pass
<i>[Hedysarum varium</i>	Zernek Valley]
<i>[Hedysarum syrlaoni??</i>	Akdamar Island]
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Çilli Pass west of Ararat
<i>Lathyrus brachypterus</i>	Kuzkunkiran Pass. South Van Circular
<i>[Lathyrus cicera</i> between Tatvan and Hızan]	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area;
<i>[Lathyrus inconspicuus</i>	11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular, also Akdamar Island]

<i>[Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular]
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road and near Bölükyazı en route to Bitlis. Çatak Road
<i>Lathyrus roseus</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit. Scapose, violet
<i>Lathyrus rotundifolius</i>	Noted on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Bitlis Circuit. south Van circular
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>	Oak woodlands near Bölükyazı en route to Bitlis
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Widespread
<i>Lotus mardinensis</i>	near Doğubayazıt
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	near Doğubayazıt. Also wet meadows by Erçek Gölü
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri; Above Ishak Paşa, Çatak Road
<i>[Medicago medicaginooides</i>	Also known as <i>Trigonella arcuata</i> . Salt mine at Tuzluca]
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Van Kalesi. Bitlis Circuit
<i>[Medicago monantha</i>	Nominate. Marly slopes at east end of Zerneş Reservoir on the Hoşap road, and environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area]
<i>[Medicago orthoceras</i>	? Around Sim-er Hotel near Doğubayazıt, Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz]
<i>[Medicago polymorpha</i>	1km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular]
<i>Medicago radiata</i>	Ahlat. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Medicago rigidula</i>	Ahlat. Oak scrub on the south Van circular
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Nominate. Scattered
<i>[Medicago x varia</i>	Tendürek]
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	Erçek Gölü area
<i>Melilotus altissima</i>	along roadsides etc.
<i>Melilotus italica</i>	Erçek Gölü area
<i>Onobrychis atropatana</i>	East of Erçek. Zerneş
<i>Onobrychis carduchorum</i>	Erçek Gölü
<i>Onobrychis cornuta</i>	Widespread
<i>Onobrychis galegifolia</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area. Erçek Gölü area
<i>Onobrychis radiata</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Gorge on route to Çatak. Very pretty!
<i>Onobrychis spp</i>	East of Erçek. Also another unidentified species seen in the area
<i>Onobrychis sulphureus vanensis</i>	Another stunning species. Erçek Gölü area
<i>Pisum sativum Subspecies elatius</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat. Bitlis circuit
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	scattered as a planted tree
<i>Securigera (Coronilla) orientalis</i>	frequent esp south of Lake Van
<i>[Coronilla varia</i>	Roadsides]
<i>Sophora alopecuroides</i>	Roadsides in the Aras Valley. Frequent south of Van town
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Zerneş. Bitlis circuit
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	scattered throughout
<i>Trifolium dasyurum</i>	Tall elongated spike, related to <i>angustifolium</i> . Bitlis circuit
<i>[Trifolium formosum</i>	Bitlis circuit]
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Trifolium longidentatum</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Trifolium nigrescens subsp petrisavii</i>	Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Trifolium pauciflorum</i>	Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Trifolium phleoides</i>	Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan, and in terraces at west edge of

Doğruyol village near Bitlis	
<i>Trifolium physodes</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Bitlis Circuit.
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan
<i>Trifolium rhytidospermum</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit.
<i>Trifolium speciosum</i>	Purple-flowered species. Oak woodlands near Küçüksu
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan.
<i>Trigonella caerulea</i>	scattered. The blue fenugreek
<i>Trigonella velutina</i>	Scattered throughout
[<i>Vicia anatolica</i>	Near the Sim-er Motel]
<i>Vicia balansae</i>	scattered
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	oak scrub on the south Van Circular
<i>Vicia canescens</i> Subspecies <i>variegata</i> .	East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. Also north of Van. Çatak Road. Like an astragalus.
[<i>Vicia cappadocica</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area]
[<i>Vicia cassia</i>	Bitlis circuit]
<i>Vicia cracca</i> ssp. <i>stenophyllus</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. Bitlis circuit
[<i>Vicia dalmatica</i>	Akdamar Island]
[<i>Vicia ervilia</i>	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Akdamar Island]
<i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat
[<i>Vicia hyrcanica</i>	Balaban forest]
<i>Vicia michauxii</i>	Near Resadiye, South Van Circular. Near Bendimahi, Van
<i>Vicia peregrina</i>	Balaban forest. Zernek
<i>Vicia raflige</i>	pretty species on marls around Zernek and along the Çatak road
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	widespread
[<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Akdamar Island]
<i>Vicia trunculata</i>	Seen in Oak woodlands near Yassaca near Resadiye on South Van circular. Çilli Pass
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>villosa</i>	common throughout
Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus brantii</i>	Sason. Bitlis circuit – one population in ravine
<i>Quercus libani</i> var <i>pinnata</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Quercus petraea</i> subsp <i>pinnatiloba</i>	11km east of Küçüksu on the south Van circular, Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis. Locally dominant
[<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater]
Ficaceae	
<i>Ficus carica</i> subsp <i>rupestris</i>	Çatak Road
Fumariaceae	
<i>Corydalis narini</i>	Güzeldere Pass. Karabet. Spur almost straight.
<i>Corydalis oppositifolia</i> subsp <i>kurdica</i>	Nemrut Dağı crater and also on the east side of Kuskunkiran Pass and on the south face of Tendürek
<i>Fumaria asepalata</i>	Scattered throughout
[<i>Fumaria microcarpa</i>	In the Aras Valley 15km west of Tuzluca]
[<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Çilli Pass west of Ararat]
[<i>Fumaria parviflora</i>	South of Van circular]
[<i>Fumaria vaillantii</i>	Near Doğubayazıt]
Gentianaceae	

<i>[Gentiana cruciata</i>	in leaf meadows along the south side of Lake Van]
<i>[Gentiana olivieri</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road.
Also Kizkunkiran Pass]	
<i>Gentiana verna</i> subsp. <i>pontica</i>	Güzeldere Pass and Tendürek Pass. Karabet
<i>Swertia longifolia</i>	In leaf by the stream on the east side of the Güzeldere Pass
Geraniaceae	
<i>[Biebersteinia multifida</i>	with the Iris sari on the Çatak Road south of Van. Tuberous foetid herb
with narrow bipinnatifid leaves and 5 pale yellow lacinate petals. Little known in Turkey]	
<i>Erodium absinthoides</i> subsp. <i>armenum</i>	Çilli Pass, Ararat and also Aras Valley walls 16km past Tuzluca, north-facing slope of Tendürek Pass
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	roadsides
<i>[Geranium collinum</i>	North-facing slopes of Tendürek Pass]
<i>Geranium molle</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan. Akdamar. Çatak Road
<i>[Geranium pratensis</i> subsp. <i>kurdicum</i>	Along South side of Lake Van]
<i>Geranium pyreniacum</i>	scattered throughout
<i>[Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Akdamar Island; South of Van circular. Bitlis Circuit]
<i>Geranium stepporum</i>	Widespread on steppes
<i>Geranium tuberosum</i>	Widespread in the north
<i>Geranium tuberosum/stepporum</i>	Çilli Pass, Ararat. Intermediate between two species?
Globulariaceae	
<i>[Globularia orientalis</i>	in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hızan]
<i>Globularia trichosantha</i>	11km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Nemrut
Guttiferae	
<i>Hypericum linaroidies</i>	Nemrut Crater. Bitlis circuit
<i>[Hypericum lyidium</i>	11km south of Küçükusu, Tatvan; On the road to Çatak]
<i>[Hypericum helianthemoides</i>	? East end of Zernek Baraji, near Hoşap]
<i>Hypericum scabrum</i>	Widespread
<i>[Hypericum spectabilis</i>	Leaves only, Bitlis circuit]
Juglandaceae	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Cultivated in valleys around Doğruyol near Bitlis and in Çatak valley
Labiatae	
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	widespread
<i>Acinos rotundifolius</i>	widespread in steppe
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i> subsp. <i>chia</i>	widespread
<i>Eremostachys laciniata</i>	locally frequent
<i>Eremostachys moluccelloides</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zernek. Also Çatak Road
<i>Hymenocrater bituminosus</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir. A small shrub with blue flowers within lime coloured bracts.
<i>[Lallemantia canescens</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. East of Erçek]
<i>Lallemantia iberica</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road as well as between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayazit
<i>Lallemantia peltata</i>	Quite common north of Lake Van. Also Bitlis circuit
<i>Lamium album</i>	Scattered – often in disturbed habitats
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	widespread in steppe
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road, and the Muradiye Waterfall area;
On the road to Çatak	
<i>Lamium rotundifolium</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit – in leaf
<i>[Molucella laevis</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>[Nepeta betonicifolia</i>	Kuzgunkiran Pass]
<i>[Nepeta congesta</i>	? The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road,

the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hoşap road, and the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area]

- [*Nepeta fissa* The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van]
- Nepeta heliotropifolia* 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road. Between Van and Bendimahı. Zernek.
- Nepeta meyeri* Craggs and slopes south of Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt; south slopes of Tendürek Pass
- Nepeta transcaucasica* Southwest shore of Erçek Gölü, and 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road; On the road to Çatak.
- Phlomis armeniaca* 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van and near Ayamis Castle north of Van. Zernek
- Salvia aethiopsis* Widespread especially in the north
- [*Salvia atropatana* ? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Leaves linear, flowers later]
- [*Salvia brachyantha* South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van. Calyx violet. Corolla only 12mm; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
- [*Salvia caespitosa* Tendürek Pass]
- Salvia ceratophylla* Between Erçek Lake and Özalp; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass.
- [*Salvia frigida* Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
- Salvia kronenburgii* 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Calyx wide open, glabrous and whitish green; dry hills near Hoşap. Erçek Gölü area. Çatak Road.
- Salvia limbata* Scattered throughout. Corolla white with pale yellow lower lip. 25mm.
- Salvia microstegia* East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale by the road and Muradiye Waterfall area. Corolla white
- Salvia multicaulis* Muradiye Waterfall area, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Calyx wide open, purplish violet, corolla 18mm
- Salvia nemorosa* locally common
- Salvia poculata* Muradiye, Zernek
- Salvia rosifolia* Meteor
- Salvia stamineum* Sim-er Motel, Doğubayazıt, Erçek Lake
- [*Salvia sufriticosa* Tendürek Pass]
- Salvia trichoclada* Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis. Çatak road
- [*Salvia verticillata* subsp. *amanuensis* Muradiye Waterfall area. South of Lake Van]
- Scutellaria megalaspis*??? Bitlis circuit
- Scutellaria orientalis* subsp. *pinnatifida* In ravine near Bölük yazı near Bitlis. Tendürek Pass
- Scutellaria orientalis* subsp. *sosnowskyi* The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the south side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van.
- Scutellaria orientalis* subsp. *virens* 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular.
- [*Sideritis montana* Nominate. Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, Squamulate. Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
- Stachys annua* between Tatvan and Hızan. Doğubayazıt area
- Stachys annua* var. *lycaonica* is on Çatak road
- Stachys iberica* subsp. *stenostachya* Muradiye Waterfall
- [*Stachys inflata* Meteor]
- Stachys lavandulifolia* widespread in steppe
- [*Stachys macrantha* on north slopes of Tendürek Pass]
- Stachys woronowii* Çilli Pass
- Teucrium chamaedrys* subsp. *sinuatum* Zernek
- [*Teucrium polium* Akdamar Island]
- Thymus kotschyanus* Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt; Between

Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Erçek area.

- [*Thymus sipyleus* above the Ishak Paşa Palace]
Ziziphora capitata scattered throughout
Ziziphora persica Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Iğdir, and 10km east of Erçek

Gölü and shales 6km south along minor road. Muradiye Waterfall

Linaceae

- Linum austriacum* Common in Doğubayazıt area
Linum densiflorum The large white flowered species along the Çatak road
Linum flavum scattered
[*Linum hirsutum* large blue flowers. Ishak Paşa]
Linum meletonis Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass; On the road to Çatak
[*Linum mucronatum* subsp. *armenum* Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the Van circular and 2km below the Kurubaş Pass south of Van; in the crater of Nemrut]
[*Linum nervosum* Çilli Pass on Ararat and 11km east of Küçüküsu , near Tatvan]
[*Linum pycnophyllum* subsp. *kurdicum* Kurubaş Pass south of Van and west of Doğubayazıt
Linum tenuifolium Karabet Pass
Linum triflorum Nemrut
[*Linum trinervium* Nemrut]

Malvaceae

- [*Alcea kurdica* Bitlis circuit]
[*Malva neglecta* Scattered in steppe. Between Tuzluca and Iğdir; between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Akdamar Island]
Malva nicaensis Çilli Pass

Menyanthaceae

- Menyanthes trifoliata* Adilcevaz orchid meadows

Oleaceae

- Fraxinus angustifolia* between Tatvan and Hızan. Bitlis Circuit. On the road to Çatak.

Orobanchaceae

- Orobanche anatolica* Fairly widespread. On *Salvia*
[*Orobanche bungeana* Zerne]k
[*Orobanche caesia* Zerne]k Valley]
[*Orobanche caryophyllacea* abundant in rough fields at the north end of the Çatak Road]
[*Orobanche cernua* Purple one seen in steppe south of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van, Çilli Pass]
[*Orobanche cilicica* Muradiye Waterfall]
[*Orobanche crenata* Çilli Pass]
[*Orobanche kurdica* Çatak Road]
[*Orobanche lutea* East of Erçek Gölü]
[*Orobanche purpurea* Fairly widespread. On *Achillea*]
[*Orobanche ramosa* Akdamar Island. Zerne]k
[*Orobanche schultzei* 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van]
[*Phelypaea coccinea* Karabet Road, differs from below species by having hairless calyx]
Phelypaea tournefortii Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazıt.

Paeoniaceae

- Paeonia mascula* Aspen Woodland and scrub above the village of Tugkoyu. Only in leaf this year

Papaveraceae

- [*Glaucium corniculatum* Aras Valley. Zerne]k
Glaucium grandiflorum Zerne]k. Çatak Road
Hypecoum pendulum Scattered localities around Van, Zerne]k, Çatak Road
Papaver arenarium Çili Pass
[*Papaver argemone* Ishak Paşa]

<i>Papaver clavatum</i>	Adilcevaz
<i>Papaver commutatum</i>	Noted east of the Sim-er, Doğubayazıt – orchards in the next village. Also Muradiye
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>laevigatum</i>	Scattered throughout
[<i>Papaver macrostomum</i>	Erçek Lake]
<i>Papaver persicum</i>	This taxon includes previously separate <i>Papavers fugax tauricola</i> and <i>acrochaetum</i> . Noted in a variety of localities mostly at about lake level
[<i>Papaver pseud-orientale</i>	Muradiye Waterfall – side valley – in bud; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazıt]
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Weeds on fields.
<i>Roemeria hybrida</i>	Purple. Few in flower by the Van-Agri-Doğubayazıt road junction; between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Çatak Road
<i>Roemeria refracta</i>	Bright red. Widespread around Van though this year few – Çatak Road the main spot
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago atrata</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass, all other high passes
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	widespread on meadows and disturbed habitats
<i>Plantago major</i>	somewhere!
Plumbaginaceae	
<i>Acantholimon bracteatum</i> subsp. <i>capitulum</i>	Erçek Gölü, Çavuştepe, Çatak Road
[<i>Limniopsis davisii</i>	Çatak Road]
Polygalaceae	
[<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	well out of range but clearly this species on the Çilli Pass]
<i>Polygala anatolica</i>	11km south of Küçükusu , south of Tatvan; between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayazıt; between Tatvan and Hızan. Erçek Lake area
<i>Polygala hohenbekeriana</i>	Tendürek Pass
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	wet meadows between Van and Muradiye
Polygonaceae	
<i>Atraphaxis billardieri</i>	above the Ishak Paşa. Zernek valley. Çatak Road
[<i>Polygonum alpinum</i>	on north slopes of Tendürek Pass]
<i>Polygonum cognatum</i>	Between Doğruiyol and Bölükyazı, near Bitlis
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Between Ercis and Ahlat
[<i>Polygonum polycnemoides</i>	Tatvan area]
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Bitlis Circuit. Zernek
<i>Rheum ribes</i>	East end of Zernek Barajı and also shales east of Erçek Gölü. This was also the 'rhubarb'-like thing being sold in local markets!
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Çili Pass
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Widespread in disturbed habitats.
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	widely scattered
<i>Rumex angustifolius</i>	11km south of Küçükusu , Güzeldere Pass
[<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Meadows 1km east of Küçükusu]
Primulaceae	
[<i>Androsace albana</i>	Short stemmed species with pink flowers Tendürek Pass]
<i>Androsace maxima</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat and on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, also above the Ishak Paşa Palace, Doğubayazıt
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt and the slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	East shore of Arin Gölü near Adilcevaz and the meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Primula algida</i>	near Çaldıran. Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass
<i>Primula auriculata</i>	widespread in wet meadows and locally abundant

<i>[Primula elatior ssp. meyerii</i>	Leaves seen on Tendürek Pass]
Pteridophyta	
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Above Ishak Paşa Palace. Limestone cliffs on Akdamar Island
<i>Cheilanthes persica</i>	in the crater of Nemrut. Along the Çatak Road
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern. Scattered throughout
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	scattered throughout
<i>Equisetum palustris</i>	meadows between Tatvan and Hızan. Çatak Road
<i>Equisetum ramossissimum</i>	scattered throughout
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Adonis annua</i>	Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Adonis aestivalis</i>	Between Van and Muradiye; On the road to Çatak. Fields around
Doğubayazıt	
<i>Adonis ericalycina</i>	Muradiye Waterfall. Slopes by campsite near Akdamar Ferry and also
near Ayamis Castle; On the road to Çatak. Erçek Gölü area.	
<i>Adonis flammea</i>	Widespread. A local farmer told us he used it to make an infusion 'to
keep cancer at bay'	
<i>Adonis macrocarpa</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Adonis wolgensis</i>	Noted on the ridge above the Ishak Paşa and also as common on the
lower north-facing slopes of the Tendürek Pass near Somkaya village	
<i>Anemone (Pulsatilla) albana</i>	On the crater rim of Nemrut Dağı and at Tendürek Pass. Also Karabet
<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i> subsp <i>willdenowii</i>	A little to the north of Tendürek Pass. Güzeldere Pass
<i>[Ceratocephalus testiculatus</i>	Less common than following species – e.g. Arin Gölü]
<i>[Ceratocephalus falcatus</i>	Common especially in north]
<i>[Clematis orientalis</i>	Noted 3km east of Tuzluca. Leaves only – Çatak Road]
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Quite common in fallow or disturbed ground everywhere
<i>[Nigella segetalis</i>	Fields near Gevaş]
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Scattered throughout in fields and waysides
<i>Ranunculus brachylobus</i> subsp <i>incisilobatus</i>	Kuskuniran Pass – just on the east side as well as Tendürek Pass.
In the crater of Nemrut; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Karabet	
<i>Ranunculus bulbiferus</i>	Has bulbils in the axils of the stem leaves. Tripartite or trisect leaves,
sepals spreading. Described in 1992 as being new to Turkey – from Van area. Top of the Kizkunkiran Pass	
<i>Ranunculus caucasicus</i>	Güzeldere Pass and Karabet Pass
<i>Ranunculus constantinopolitanus</i>	Wet meadows along the Van circular south side. Doğubayazıt area
<i>Ranunculus crateris</i>	Noted between Van and Bendimahı – very distinctive leaves. Nemrut
Crater	
<i>Ranunculus cuneatus</i>	First noted around the Sim-er and as quite common in dry areas north
and east of Lake Van	
<i>[Ranunculus dissectus</i> subsp <i>glabrescens</i> Ishak Paşa]	
<i>Ranunculus dissectus</i> subsp <i>huetii</i>	frequent in steppe particularly north of Van
<i>Ranunculus diversifolius</i>	The tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands south of Lake Van
<i>Ranunculus fenzlii</i>	Another tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands south and east of
Lake Van!	
<i>Ranunculus grandiflorus</i>	Both sides of Tendürek Pass in saturated ground. Also Karabet Pass
<i>Ranunculus illyricus</i>	scattered in steppe mainly north of Van
<i>[Ranunculus isthmicus</i>	north of Van, fruits like a clown's hat]
<i>Ranunculus kochii</i>	By snowmelt at many localities – like a squat celandine!
<i>Ranunculus kotschyi</i>	damp meadows – locally common
<i>Ranunculus myosuroides</i>	Karabet Pass
<i>Ranunculus oxyspermus</i>	Tendürek and Tatvan. Also Çatak Road
<i>Ranunculus poluninii</i>	Karabet Pass – super large flowers!
<i>Ranunculus polyanthemos</i>	between Tatvan and Hızan; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass.

Adilcevaz orchid meadows	
<i>[Ranunculus polyrhizos</i>	On the ridgetop south of the Güzeldere Pass. Near top of Tendürek Pass]
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	scattered in wet areas
<i>Ranunculus rionii</i>	A water crowfoot. wet areas near Albayrak in valley floor by the <i>Iris</i>
<i>urumiensis</i>	
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Wetlands at base of Mount Ararat in several localities and also seen in
wet meadows near Adilcevaz and Donemec River Delta	
<i>Ranunculus sericeus</i>	Wet meadows near Bendimahı and along south shore of Lake Van. Bitlis
Circuit	
<i>Ranunculus sphaerospermus</i>	A water crowfoot. Scattered
<i>Ranunculus strigosus</i>	springs on hillsides by the <i>Iris sari</i> populations along the Çatak Road
<i>[Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	Bitlis circuit]
<i>Ranunculus vanensis</i>	South of Van circular – top of Kizkinkiran Pass
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Riversides and wet areas south of Lake Van. In leaf Erçek
<i>[Thalictrum isopyroides</i>	Scattered in mountains south of Lake Van. Flowering at 2750m at this
season]	
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	widespread
<i>[Thalictrum sultanabadence</i>	Karabel and Çatak]
<i>Trollius ranunculinus</i>	Güzeldere Pass east of Hoşap
Resedaceae	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	scattered on steppe and disturbed habitats.
Rhamnaceae	
<i>Rhamnus pallasii</i>	in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hızan; On the road to
Çatak. Meteor	
Rosaceae	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis
<i>Alchemilla erithoperta</i>	springs on hillsides by the <i>Iris sari</i> populations along the Çatak Road
<i>Amygdalus orientalis</i>	North of Van
<i>[Amygdalus trichamygdalis</i>	Çilli Pass]
<i>Cotoneaster integerrimus</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt
<i>Cotoneaster nummularia</i>	in the crater of Nemrut.; South of Van circular
<i>[Crataegus aronia</i>	Çilli Pass]
<i>Crataegus curvosepala</i>	Bitlis Circuit. Oak woodlands on south Van circular
<i>Crataegus meyeri</i>	Near Bölükyazı. Oak woodlands on south Van circular
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Oak woodlands on south Van circular.
<i>Crataegus orientalis</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Çatak Road
<i>Crataegus siniaica</i>	Orchids meadows at Adilcevaz
<i>[Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van]
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis
<i>[Malus sylvestris subsp orientalis</i>	South of Van circular]
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	scattered
<i>Potentilla bifurca</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area. Zernek. Erçek. Çatak Road
<i>Potentilla lignosa</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Potentilla orientalis</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	scattered roadside weed
<i>Potentilla rupestris</i>	Nemrut Crater
<i>[Potentilla supina</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road
and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van; between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Very pretty!]	
<i>Prunus (Cerasus) prostrata</i>	scattered throughout
<i>[Prunus brachypetala</i>	(Cerasus) Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van

circular, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass]

- Prunus divaricata* 11km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular; in the crater of Nemrut.
[*Prunus incana* var *sintenisii*. (Cerasus angustifolia) Crag and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt; on Pamuk Dağı between Dogubayezit and Iğdir. Strange looking plant that only vaguely resembles a cherry!]
Pyrus amygdaliformis Bitlis Circuit]
Pyrus syriaca subsp *syriaca*. Oak scrub on the south Van circular
Rosa canina scattered throughout
Rosa foetida Bitlis Circuit
Rosa haemisphaerica Çilli Pass. ZerneK
[*Rosa heckeliana* var *heckeliana*. Small shrubs above Ishak Paşa and Çilli Pass]
Rubus sanctus between Tatvan and Hızan.
Sanguisorba minor near Calpala in the Aras Valley; widespread in meadows
Sorbus persica South Circular Woods. Probably this species along the Çatak Road
Sorbus torminalis Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van
Sorbus umbellata var *taurica* Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van. Var *cretica*. Near Bölükyazı near Bitlis

Rubiaceae

- Asperula arvensis* Crag and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt. ZerneK. Çatak Road
[*Asperula glomerata* Subspecies? *eriantha*
Asperula orientalis scattered throughout
Asperula setosa Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, and also on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular. East of Erçek Gölü. Çatak Road
[*Asperula xylorrhiza* Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road]
Callipeltis cucullaria scattered
Cruciata taurica Common throughout – *Cruciata laevipes* almost certainly present too?
Galium aparine Scattered near habitation especially
[*Galium czerepanovii* Crag and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt]
[*Galium incanum* subsp. *elatius* Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular]
[*Galium spurium* Nominate. 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and in fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Iğdir]
Galium verum Scattered

Rutaceae

- Haplophyllum schelkownikovii* Near Ayamis Castle; west of Van Lake, on slopes of Nemrut. Bitlis Circuit

Santalaceae

- Thesium billardieri* Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazıt. South and east of Van
[*Thesium impressum* Aras Valley north of Tuzluca. Muradiye]

Saxifragaceae

- [*Saxifraga cymbalaria* spring half way along the South Van Circular]
Saxifraga hederacea Nemrut Crater. Oak woodland near Bölükyazı near Bitlis
Saxifraga kotschyi Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt. The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass and on the pass itself some superb specimens
Saxifraga sibirica Ravine on the Bitlis to Bölükyazı road; in the crater of Nemrut. Tendürek Pass

Scrophulariaceae

- Bunaea trifida* scattered on steppe

<i>[Dodartia orientalis</i>	Fallow fields near Iğdir in the Aras Valley]
<i>[Euphrasia juzepczukii</i>	Çilli Pass]
<i>Euphrasia pectinata</i>	scattered
<i>Lagotis stolonifera</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt; On the road to Çatak. Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Linaria armeniaca</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Zerneke.
<i>Linaria chalepensis</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis; Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Çilli Pass, Ararat. Muradiye
<i>[Linaria genistifolia</i>	Near Tatvan]
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> subsp. <i>confertifolia</i>	Zerneke
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> subsp. <i>prealti</i>	east of Erçek Gölü
<i>Linaria kurdica</i>	Near Tatvan. Çatak Road
<i>[Linaria grandiflora</i>	Çatak Road]
<i>Linaria simplex</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat. Ishak Paşa
<i>Parentucellia latifolias</i> subsp. <i>flaviflora</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis. Çilli Pass, Ararat. As the subspecies name suggest it is yellow flowered!
<i>Pedicularis caucasica</i>	Meadows in the Küçükusu area. Tendürek Pass. Karabet Pass and Güzeldere Pass
<i>Pedicularis comosa</i>	Widespread and common – both wet meadow and dry rocky slope forms
<i>Pedicularis condensata</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Kizkunkaran Pass
<i>[Rhinanthus angustifolius</i> subsp. <i>grandifloras</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 11km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular. Zerneke]
<i>[Scrophularia ilwensis</i>	Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]
<i>[Scrophularia libanotica</i>	Van Castle]
<i>Scrophularia nachitschevianica</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt – on screes. An intermediate between this and the following species was found on rocks here too; Tendürek Pass.
<i>[Scrophularia orientalis</i>	Tendürek Pass]
<i>[Scrophularia rimum</i>	By Ayamis Castle north of Van]
<i>[Scrophularia umbrosa</i>	Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevaş from Akdamar ferry and at the wetland just outside Ahlat]
<i>Verbascum laetia</i>	Nazik Gölü – glands yellow-tipped though
<i>[Verbascum macrocarpum</i>	? near Tatvan]
<i>Verbascum macrosepalum</i>	Erçek Lake
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Çilli Pass
<i>[Verbascum suworowianum</i>	10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road]
<i>[Verbascum vanense</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	most damp areas
<i>[Veronica anagalloides</i>	Bitlis Circuit]
<i>[Veronica biloba</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, the Ishak Paşa Palace above Doğubayazıt, and the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular]
<i>[Veronica bornmuelleri</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van]
<i>[Veronica bozakmanii</i>	1km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular, and roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat as well as the Muradiye Waterfall area]
<i>[Veronica gentianoides</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass]
<i>[Veronica intercedens</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis]
<i>[Veronica orientalis</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>[Veronica polita</i>	11km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular]
<i>[Veronica pusillus</i>	Çaldıran]
Solanaceae	

<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	scattered throughout
<i>Hyoscyamus pusillus</i>	West side of lava plain north of Doğubayazıt, and the salt mine at Tuzluca
<i>Hyoscyamus reticulatus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area, the roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, and Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van. Around the Paraşut Hotel
<i>Lycium ruthenicum</i>	Van Castle
Tamaricaceae	
<i>Myricaria germanica</i>	Seen along the river east of Agri and near Hoşap
Thymelaeaceae	
[<i>Daphne oleoides</i> subsp <i>kurdica</i> circular]	In flower at Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular]
<i>Daphne mucronata</i> circular	In leaf only. Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
Ulmaceae	
<i>Celtis glabrata</i>	Bitlis Circuit. Çatak Road
<i>Celtis tournefortii</i>	Terraces at west edge of Doğruyol village near Bitlis; in the crater of Nemrut. Akdamar Island
[<i>Ulmus minor</i> subsp <i>minor</i>]	in the crater of Nemrut. Between Van and Muradiye]
Urticaceae	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	scattered
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	A narrow-leaved stingless form at meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz was shown to us by a local who gathered it to use as a vegetable and as an 'anti-cancer' herb – this form approached what we call <i>Urtica galeopsifolia</i> in the UK
Violaceae	
[<i>Viola arvensis</i>]	Çilli Pass west of Ararat]
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	in the crater of Nemrut. Tendürek Pass. Çilli Pass.
[<i>Viola modesta</i>]	Scattered in rocky areas in the north]
<i>Viola occulta</i>	Roadsides near Taslicay east of Agri. Çilli Pass. Kizkunkaran Pass
[<i>Viola sieheana</i>]	between Dogubayezit and Ahlat. Tendürek Pass]
Zygophyllaceae	
<i>Peganum harmala</i>	Widespread on dry salty steppe
[<i>Tribulis terrestris</i>]	Steppe near Hoşap]
<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	Doğubayazıt area. Hoşap and Van Kalesi
Monocotyledons	
Alismataceae	
<i>Alisma lanceolatum</i>	East shore of Erçek Gölü; between Tatvan and Hızan
[<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>]	on the Bitlis Circuit]
Amaryllidaceae	
<i>Ixiolirion tataricum</i> subsp <i>montanum</i>	widespread in steppe
Araceae	
<i>Arum detrunctatum</i> (<i>conophalloides</i>)	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, also 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road and in the ravine at Çatak- Karabet-Van road junction. Çilli Pass
Butomaceae	
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	East shore of Erçek Gölü and also at Bendimahi. By Van Kalesi
Iridaceae	
<i>Crocus cancellatus</i>	Brian Matthew confirmed that the single bulb found on the hillside where <i>Iris sari</i> was prolific along the Çatak Road was this autumn-flowering species
<i>Gladiolus antakiensis</i>	Gillian found this rare species on the Bitlis Circuit
<i>Gladiolus atroviolaceus</i>	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş

Pass south of Van; between Erçek Lake and Özalp. Also east of Hoşap.

Gladiolus kotschyanus Muradiye Waterfall area and around Ayamis Castle. Also several places south and east of Lake Van

Iris barnumae 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road.

On the road to muradiye on dry hillsides, c. 30 km from Van, 1730 m altitude. East of Özalp, particularly in the military area.

Iris urmiensis this stunning sulphur iris was common in the steppe near Albayrak

Iris caucasica Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt; Tendürek Pass and inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater; On the road to Karabet Pass.

[*Iris gatesii* very good clumps seen at Sason]

Iris iberica subsp *elegantissima* 10km west of Doğubayazıt on Agri road. Also below the crags and on the slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt, as well as around the hotel itself. Also on the east side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, and in the Muradiye Waterfall area. Below the Paraşut Hotel.

Iris paradoxa var *choschab* South side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van, the approach to the Güzeldere Pass, and the road between Zerneke and Lake Van. Also noted along the roadsides along the Zerneke Reservoir. Also on the road to Çatak. Even seen at the Donemec Delta

Iris persica Plants in seed noted on the Bitlis circuit, also north of Van and Zerneke

[*Iris pseudocaucasica* Just a few plants in flower on a ridge above our picnic site on the slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale, and a few on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass; dry hills east of Özalp (in seed there).]

Iris sari Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road and fields around the village of Kay(r?)abogaz a little south of there; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. A single plant also seen in flower north of Doğruyol in the Bitlis area.

Iris spuria subsp *musulmanica* Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van; between Erçek Gölü and Özalp – not yet in flower

Juncaginaceae

Triglochin maritima Soguksu meadows south of Tendürek Pass, the meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Küçükusu on the south Van circular; Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass. Erçek Gölü

Triglochin palustris Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Küçükusu on the south Van Circular. Erçek Gölü

Liliaceae

Allium akaka Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt, also the south side of Kurubaş Pass, south of Van and 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van and at Ayamis Castle.

[*Allium atroviolaceum* Near Adilcevaz]

Allium chrysantherum Çavuştepe and Erçek Lake. Zerneke

[*Allium dictyoprasum* Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]

Allium hirtifolium Van Castle and a variety of south Van locations

Allium pseudoampeloprasum Muradiye Waterfall area. Note the perianth segments are smooth and obtuse – may be another species?

[*Allium scabriscapum* Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass; Kurubaş Pass; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry]

[*Allium scorodoprasum* subsp *waldsteinii* Akdamar Island]

Allium shatakiense hillsides by Iris sari site along the Çatak Road

Asparagus officinalis Noted on the first visit to Muradiye Waterfall. Çilli Pass. Çatak Road

[*Asparagus palaestinus* Zerneke]

[*Asparagus persicus* Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt]

Bellevalia fominii 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Also Çatak Road and oak woodlands. Near Çaldıran

Bellevalia longipes North of Van en route to Bendimahi, just the last flowers

<i>Bellevalia longistyla</i>	Generally quite common in the Van area – e.g. Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Erçek
<i>Bellevalia paradoxa</i>	(including <i>Bellevalia pycnantha</i>) North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendürek Pass, the east side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass
<i>Bellevalia rixii</i>	Slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale
<i>Colchicum kotschyana</i>	On the road to Çatak. (in leaf – autumn-flowering)
<i>Colchicum (Merendera) kurdica</i>	Karabet Pass
<i>Colchicum (Merendera) trigyna</i>	North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendürek Pass, and the slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale. The plants from the Tendürek Pass fit the form 'raddeana' with wide perianth segments and broad leaves
[<i>Colchicum szovitsii</i>	Slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale; Kurubaş Pass. Tendürek Pass]
<i>Eremurus spectabilis</i>	Scattered at lower levels to the south and east of Lake Van
[<i>Fritillaria alburyana</i>	On north facing slopes of ravine northwest of Muradiye Waterfall – a single dried-up flower found! Dried up plants on Tendürek may have been this species]
<i>Fritillaria assyriaca</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, Tendürek. Also Karabet
[<i>Fritillaria caucasica</i>	Tendürek Pass]
<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i>	kurdica x pinardii, Several on the Tendürek Pass appeared to be intergrades between these two species
<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i>	East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Baskale, and the Karabet Pass
[<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i> subsp 'kurdica' and possibly 'crassifolia' involved though practical delimitation of these subspecies seems impossible in this area. The form seen on the Tendürek Pass which superficially looks like <i>Fritillaria michailovskyi</i> is subspecies <i>kurdica</i> probably of the form <i>grossheimiana</i> described from Iran some years ago]	
<i>Fritillaria minima</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. A very rare fritillary known from only three or four sites
<i>Fritillaria minuta</i>	Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, also on the eastside of the Kuskunkiran Pass south van circular, and on the Karabet – only the latter in flower this year
<i>Fritillaria minuta x assyriaca</i>	Nemrut Dağı. Very common hybrid and very easy to 'pick' with bright glossy green leaves and narrow slightly waisted flowers
[<i>Fritillaria pinardii</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass. The status of plants in Nemrut Dağı Volcano is unclear though possibly this species is not present there]
[<i>Fritillaria straussii</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular – in fruit]
<i>Gagea alexeenkoana</i>	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Gagea bohémica</i>	Nemrut Dağı crater lip and Karabet Pass
<i>Gagea bulbifera</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt, by the Hoşap Fortress, and on the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater of Nemrut. Also Güzeldere Pass
<i>Gagea chomutowae</i>	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Gagea confusa</i>	Lip of Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater. Karabet Pass. Also by lava fields at Tendürek Pass. Güzeldere Pass
<i>Gagea fragifera</i>	Widespread and common near snowmelt everywhere
<i>Gagea gageoides</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt, the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, hills above Erçek and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. First gorge along the Çatak Road
<i>Gagea glacialis</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater of Nemrut. Also on Tendürek
[<i>Gagea helenae</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; Between Hoşap and Güzeldere

Pass]

Gagea luteoides in the crater of Nemrut; South of Van circular. Karabet Pass. Güzeldere

Pass

[*Gagea stylosa* Tendürek Pass]

[*Gagea tenera* Nemrut Dağı and Karabet Pass]

Gagea uliginosa Nemrut Dağı crater and Karabet Pass

[*Gagea villosa* Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt]

[*Hyacinthella longipes* Kurubaş Pass]

[*Hyacinthella siirtensis* Above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazıt]

Leopoldia atropatana Çatak Road (was *Muscari longipes*)

[*Muscari aucheri* 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the eastern approach to the

Karabet Pass. Also Nemrut Dağı and Güzeldere]

Muscari botryioides Locally common north of the lake

Muscari caucasicum Widespread

Muscari coeleste In very damp meadows just north of Doğubayazıt and near Ishak Paşa

Palace – one of the 'open-flowered' Bellevalia

Muscari comosum Scattered

Muscari neglectum Above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayezit. East of Erçek Gölü.

[*Ornithogalum arcuatum* along the south shore of Lake Van in fields]

Ornithogalum cuspidatum frequent in Doğubayazıt area

Ornithogalum graciliflorum wet meadows near Çaldıran

[*Ornithogalum montanum* ? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt. Probably not montanum but certainly looked like it!]

Ornithogalum luschanii Karabet

Ornithogalum narbonense Akdamar and Çatak Road

Ornithogalum oligophyllum Scattered throughout

[*Ornithogalum orthophyllum* 10km east of Erçek Gölü and then shales 6km south along minor road]

Ornithogalum platyphyllum 2km or so south of the Kurubaş Pass south of Van. Bitlis Circuit

Ornithogalum shelkownikovii Widespread – this is probably now *hajastanicum*

Puschkinia 'nemrut dagi' A doubtfully distinct 'Puschkinia' rather uncommon in the crater floor

Puschkinia bilginerii 'karabet' Grows with 'scilloides' but much the commoner of the two – pyramidal inflorescence, different filament structure etc.

Puschkinia scilloides North-facing slopes on the Tendürek Pass, the east side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – locally very abundant at all these sites

Scilla monanthos Above the Ishak Paşa Palace – just finished this year

[*Scilla sibirica* Above the Ishak Paşa Palace]

Tulipa armena subsp. *armena* Karabet Pass

Tulipa humilis East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale, the slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass.

Tulipa julia Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt and on the rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt

Tulipa koyuncii Slopes above and south of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale. Both white with yellow centre and fully yellow forms

[*Tulipa sintenisii* Recently finished plants were seen south of Bölükyazı. A large colony in good flower by the end of the first gorge on the road to Çatak, very good colony seen at Çatak]

[*Tulipa sylvestris* Between Hoşap and Güzeldere Pass]

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis pyramidalis Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular –

mostly in bud. Several at the little roadside wood west of Geva^o

Cephalanthera kotschyana 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular, the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular

[*Cephalanthera longifolia* In scrub above the South Van Circular near Resadiye]

Coeloglossum viride 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular. Güzeldere Pass. Çatak Road

Comperia comperiana Many found in oak scrub slopes near Tatvan. 250 flowering spikes this year!

Dactylorhiza flavescens Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater. Oak woods on South Van Circular
[*Dactylorhiza iberica* very many in bud in marshy fields on the west wide of the Kizkunkiran

Pass]

Dactylorhiza incarnata between Ercis and Ahlat. Between Van and Muradiye

Dactylorhiza osmanica A large population between Van and Muradiye

Dactylorhiza umbrosa Widespread in wet meadows. The very tall plants with densely leafy stems and elongate bracts from the wet meadows near Adilcevaz fit the form '*longibracteata*'. Strangely this highly distinctive form appears nowhere in Kreutz's work! The '*chuhuensis*' form with purple-marked leaves and bracts was seen north of Lake Van

[*Epipactis helleborine* In leaf at Adilcevaz and above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan]

[*Epipactis persica* In leaf above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan]

[*Ophrys holoserica* Bitlis Circuit near village Içgecit]

[*Ophrys mammosa* Near Tatvan]

[*Ophrys phrygia* North of Kuslu (north of Bölüküyazı)]

Ophrys reinholdii just a few in oak scrub west of Tatvan

Ophrys straussii frequent in oak scrub west of Tatvan

[*Ophrys transhyrcana* Nominated. Akdamar Island. One or two in good flower in oak scrub on the south Van circular. Several at the little roadside wood west of Geva^o]

Orchis coriophora The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis, and in the Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat. Road to Çatak. Quite common in some marshy fields south of Lake Van

Orchis palustris East shore of Erçek Gölü; ?between Ercis and Ahlat. Donemec Delta

Orchis pinetorum Inside Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater, and 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular

Orchis pseudolaxiflora Very good population seen at Erçek Lake, widespread generally

Orchis tridentata 11km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular

Platanthera chlorantha Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan

Cyperaceae

Blysmus compressus East shore of Arin Gölü near Adilcevaz

Blysmus compressus

Bolboschoenus maritimus East shore of Erçek Gölü

Carex acutiformis Meadows at Adilcevaz

Carex diluta ? Junction of the Van-Agri-Doğubayazıt roads

Carex distans 1km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular

Carex divisa Widespread

Carex flacca subsp *serratula* 1km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular

Carex kurdica Pass south of Van

Carex orbicularis subsp *kotschyana* 2km or so south of the Kurubaş

Carex otrubae Bitlis circuit

Carex panicea 1km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass

Carex tomentosa 1km east of Küçüküsu on the south Van circular

<i>Scirpiodes holoschoenus</i>	Scattered
Juncaceae	
<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	East shore of Erçek Gölü etc
<i>Juncus gerardi</i>	East shore of Arin Gölü near Adilcevaz and meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
Poaceae	
<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat etc
<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	Subspecies <i>pectinatum</i>
<i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i>	? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Iğdir and meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Alopecurus aucheri</i>	Lip of Nemrut Dağı Volcano crater
<i>Alopecurus laguroides</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat
<i>Bromus lanceolatus</i>	? Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Van Castle
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Scattered
<i>Bromus tomentellus</i>	Scattered
<i>Catabrosa capusii</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Catabrosella parviflora</i>	Subspecies <i>calvertii</i>
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Near Edremit
<i>Eremopoa songarica</i>	Scattered
<i>Eremopyrum distans</i>	? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Festuca callieri</i>	Nominate. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt
<i>Festuca sclerophylla</i>	East side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale
<i>Hordeum geniculatum</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Subspecies ? <i>glaucum</i>
<i>Hordeum violaceum</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van
<i>Melica persica</i>	Subspecies cf. <i>inaequiglumis</i>
<i>Milium vernale</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol. New to
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	On Tendürek Pass
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Widespread – the commonest grass. Fertile specimens Nemrut crater
<i>Psathyrostachys fragilis</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Doğubayazıt
<i>Puccinellia distans</i>	Subspecies <i>sevangensis</i> Reservoir on the Hoşap road
<i>Sclerochloa dura</i>	Van Castle
<i>Sesleria phleoides</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Doğubayazıt and east side of the Güzeldere Pass between Hoşap and Başkale
<i>Stipa arabica</i>	Erçek Lake
<i>Stipa holosericea</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Subspecies <i>i</i>
<i>Triticum baeoticum</i>	Subspecies ? <i>thaoudar</i>
<i>Ventenata subenervis</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. New to East Turkey
<i>Vulpia ciliata</i>	Nominate. Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat
<i>Zingeria pisidica</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Doğruyol near Bitlis
Typhaceae	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Adilcevaz
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Ahlat area
<i>Typha minima</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Only 2025 records included. The taxonomy and order of the following list largely follows Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species). An indication of frequency of sightings is given by the number of days out of 13 a species was seen on – thus 4/13 means a species was noted on four days during the holiday. The arrival day in Istanbul is not included.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	scattered. 5/13
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	locally frequent. 5/13
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	locally frequent. 4/13
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1 Nazik Gölü (leader only)
Common Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	heard in wetland at the foot of Ararat, and several birds heard on all visits to Dönemeç Delta
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	heard on the last visit to Dönemeç Delta
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	locally abundant. 8/13
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	scattered throughout. 6/13
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	scattered, mostly Dönemeç Delta. 5/13
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	widespread. 8/13
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	singles twice Dönemeç Delta. 2/13
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	frequent. 8/13
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	frequent at the Dönemeç Delta, also noted near Ararat. 7/13
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1 near Ararat, 30 at Bendimahi, and several flocks Dönemeç Delta. 4/13
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	6 near Ararat, 1 Bendimahi
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	c.85 Bendimahi, c.300 at Erçek Gölü
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	7 flew past Ararat (leader only). Very rare bird in Turkey
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	locally common. 11/13
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	frequent. 6/13
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	a male at Gevaş
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	scattered. 3/13
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	only noted at the Dönemeç Delta. 3/13
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	common but in low numbers. 9/13
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	scattered. 4/13
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	scattered. 4/13
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	scattered. 4/13
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Locally common. 9/13
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	7 at Gevaş, 9 at the small wetland close to at Erçek Gölü, only 1 at the Dönemeç Delta and up to 18 on the small wetland opposite the Hilton Hotel!. 5/13
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	2 on the Karabet Pass and 2 above the Çatak Road
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	daily. 13/13
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Sim-er Motel Gardens (Leader only)
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	uncommon. 2/13
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	widespread. 11/13
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	1 immature near the Paraşut Hotel (Leader only)
Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	2 above the Ishak Paşa Palace
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	singles above the Ishak Paşa Palace and on the Güzeldere Pass. 2/13

Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	1 Çilli Pass and 2 south side of Lake Van. 2/13
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	scattered. 3/13
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	scattered. 5/13
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	scattered – ones and twos only. 3/13
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	widespread. 8/13
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	many in the Nemrüt Dağı crater
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	heard occasionally
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	heard on all visits to the Dönemeç Delta
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	scattered. 6/13
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	locally abundant. 11/13
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	4 at the Dönemeç Delta
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	widespread in wetlands. 9/13
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	locally frequent in wetlands. 6/13
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	up to 2 on each visit to the Dönemeç Delta
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	frequent. 8/13
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Erçek Gölü and at the Dönemeç Delta. 3/13
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Hoplopterus spinosus</i>	several pairs at the Dönemeç Delta, also Bendimahi, and Erçek Gölü. 10/13
White-tailed Plover	<i>Chettusia leucura</i>	up to 13 at the Dönemeç Delta with most of them paired up and exhibiting breeding behaviour. Very rare bird in Turkey, this is possibly the only regular site. 3/13
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	locally common. 11/13
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	scattered. 3/13
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	2 at small wetland outside Ahlat (leader only)
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1 near Ararat and 1 Dönemeç Delta
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	2 Dönemeç Delta
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	scattered. 6/13
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	widespread in wetlands. 12/13
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	2 near Ararat
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	scattered. 5/13
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	scattered. 3/13
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	4 Dönemeç Delta
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	2 near Ahlat and 1 Gevaş
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	scattered - uncommon. 4/13
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	7 Gevaş
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1 Bendimahi and 1 Dönemeç Delta
Armenian Gull	<i>Larus (argentatus) armeniacus</i>	widespread and locally super-abundant. 12/13
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Ararat & Bendimahi
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	3 Dönemeç Delta (leader only)
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	scattered. 3/13
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	scattered. 3/13
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	wetlands by Ararat & Erçek Gölü
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	frequent wetlands by Ararat, also 1 Dönemeç Delta
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	4 Dönemeç Delta (Leader only)
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	widespread – many wild birds too. 13/13
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	scattered throughout. 6/13
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	rather local. 6/13
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	5 wetlands by Ararat
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1 Ahlat and 3 Dönemeç Delta. 2/13
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	widespread. 13/13

Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	scattered. 2/13
Eurasian Nighthjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1 north of Van, 1 on night drive near Ararat and 1 near Ahlat at night. 3/13
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	widespread. 13/13
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	scattered. 4/13
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	widespread. 13/13
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	frequent. 6/13
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	widespread. 10/13
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus syriacus</i>	scattered. 5/13
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>	1 in poplars by the Dönemeç Delta (leader only)
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	only noted near Arın Gölü
Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	2 Nemrüt Dağı, several Erçek Gölü. 3/13
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	scattered. 3/13
Turkestan Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala heinei</i>	Bendimahi, and Arın Gölü where common, also Erçek Gölü. 3/13
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	scattered. 10/13
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Ishak Paşa & Nemrüt Dağı
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	frequent. 6/13
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	frequent above 2000m. 3/13
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	locally abundant – especially at Dönemeç Delta. 8/13
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	widespread. 6/13
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	widespread. 13/13
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	only noted south of Tatvan
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	scattered. 5/13
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1 on first day north of Van
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i> <i>Motacilla flava bema</i>	widespread. 13/13 noted on the first day north of Van and also at Dönemeç Delta
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	2 wetlands by Ararat, several north of Çaldıran and also a female noted at Erçek Gölü. 3/13
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	scattered. 2/13
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	widespread. 9/13
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1 south of Tatvan and 1 along the Çatak Road
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	noted on the Bitlis circuit
Radde's Accentor	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>	noted on the Karabet Pass and the Güzeldere Pass. 2/13
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Seen along the south shore of Lake Van and south of Tatvan. Heard frequently in some areas
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	3 of the fabulous <i>magna</i> race on the Güzeldere Pass. Richard also photographed one with a white throat spot. This is an interesting bird as none of the white-spotted races should occur in Turkey. Currently going the rounds of Turkish birders to discuss.
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>	several on the lava hills by the Çilli Pass and several noted south of Tatvan and along the south side of Van Gölü. 3/13
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	scattered. 5/13
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Güzeldere Pass
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	only seen once north of Van
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellinus</i>	widespread. 7/13
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	widespread. 12/13

Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	scattered. 7/13
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	locally frequent. 5/13
Kurdish Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna</i>	2 on the Karabet Pass
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	scattered. 3/13
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	widespread in low numbers. 8/13
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1 male in the Nemrüt Dağı crater 2 males along the Çatak Road. 2/13
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	only noted on two days
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	widespread. 9/13
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	frequent at the Dönemeç Delta. 3/13
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	frequent to common at all wetlands. 7/13
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	noted at several wetlands. 5/13
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	wetland by Ararat, and common in all wetlands in the Van area. 5/13
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	scattered throughout. Particularly noticeable in the Sim-er Motel garden, Doğubeyazıt. 7/13
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	at most wetlands in small numbers. 7/13
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	locally frequent. 8/13
Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>	several on the Çilli Pass, Ararat and 1 Akdamar Island. 2/13
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	scattered. 4/13
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	several in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. 2/13
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	singles twice Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	scattered. 3/13
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	actually slightly commoner than Chiffchaff this year. One bird singing near Tatvan. 4/13
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	several in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. Also 1 Erçek. 3/13
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	3 Bendimahi. Common in all wetlands in the Van area. 6/13
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	scattered. 3/13
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	widely scattered. 6/13
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	noted near the waterfall on the Çatak Road
Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronata</i>	1 behind the Ishak Paşa
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	1 behind the Ishak Paşa and along the Çatak Road
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	heard north of Van
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	few sightings but often heard
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	mostly the Doğubeyazıt area where common. 6/13
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	a total of 3 seen in the Doğubeyazıt area. 2/13
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	south of Lake Van. 2/13
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	widespread. 13/13
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhcorax gracilis</i>	common on the Karabet, also noted Çatak Road
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i>	scattered throughout. 6/13
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	widespread. 13/13
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	widespread. 13/13
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus (corone) cornix</i>	widespread. 13/13
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	widespread. 13/13
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	widely scattered, good numbers this year. 8/13

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	widespread, near habitation. 13/13
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	mostly the Doğubeyazıt area where common. 6/13
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	wetland at the foot of Ararat, in the storks' nests
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	scattered. 6/13
Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	locally common by snow. 4/13
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	scattered. 3/13
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	noted above the Ishak Paşa and around the picnic site there, also along the Çatak Road
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	widely scattered. 8/13
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Güzeldere Pass and along the Çatak Road. 2/13
Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	a decent scatter of records. Honestly! 4/13
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	noted on each visit to Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. Heard along the Çatak Road
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	scattered. 5/13
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	scattered. 4/13
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	3 above the Ishak Paşa, 1 in the gorge south of Gurpinar and several there on the next visit. 3/13
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	The thick-billed race frequent in all wetlands south and east of Van, also noted near Ararat. 4/13
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Widespread. 13/13
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Widespread. 13/13

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and the systematic order have been taken from Baytaş's Butterflies of Turkey (2007).

Papilionidae

<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	A scatter of records
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Scarce Swallowtail	a few south of Tatvan
<i>Zerynthia deyrollei</i>	Eastern Steppe Festoon	a few south of Tatvan
<i>Archon apollinarus</i>	Little False Apollo	at least two south of Tatvan
<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>	Clouded Apollo	Nemrüt Dağı & south of Tatvan

Pieridae

<i>Leptidea spp</i>	Wood White spp	several noted, always in flight so unable to assign to species
<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined White	a few south of Tatvan
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	widespread
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White	scattered
<i>Pieris ergane</i>	Mountain Small White	a few south of Tatvan & very common Çatak Road
<i>Pieris manii</i>	Southern Small White	south of Tatvan
<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Eastern Bath White	widespread
<i>Pontia callidice</i>	Peak White	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip	scattered
<i>Anthocharis damone</i>	Eastern Orange-tip	scattered
<i>Zegris eupheme</i>	Sooty Orange-tip	1 Çilli Pass, 1 wetlands at foot of Ararat
<i>Colias aurorina</i>	Greek Clouded Yellow	several at the Komper's site south shore of Van Lake
<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	Berger's Clouded Yellow	several Çilli Pass and also Çatak Road
<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded Yellow	widespread
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone	scattered

Lycaenidae

<i>Tomares callimachus</i>	Caucasian Vernal Copper	1 Güzeldere Pass and 1 Çatak Road
<i>Tomares romanovii</i>	Romanoff's Vernal Copper	at least 3 along the Çatak Road – a trip highlight!
<i>Satyrium marcidum</i>	Rebel's Hairstreak	along south shore of Lake Van
<i>Callophrys paulae</i>	Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak	Ishak Paşa & Güzeldere and possibly elsewhere
<i>Callophrys</i>	Green Hairstreak spp	scattered
<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	Purple-shot Copper	Zerneke and Çatak Road
<i>Lycaena asabinus</i>	Anatolian Fiery Copper	the most widespread copper seen on 5 days
<i>Lycaena ochimus</i>	Turkish Golden (Fiery) Copper	a few south of Tatvan and also along the Çatak Road
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	scattered
<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	Lesser Fiery Copper	a few south of Tatvan, also at Erçek
<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	Sooty Copper	scattered
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	several at the Komper's site south shore of Van Lake
<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	Green-underside Blue	locally very common!
<i>Plebeius argus</i>	Silver-studded Blue	in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
<i>Plebeius pylaon</i>	Zephyr Blue	just one on the first day
<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Brown Argus	scattered – a very beautiful spring silvery form

<i>Aricia anteros</i>	Blue Argus	a few south of Tatvan and several at the Komper's site south shore of Van Lake
<i>Aricia Artaxerxes</i>	Mountain Argus	a few south of Tatvan, also Zernek
<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	Mazarine Blue	scattered - most were of the Eastern <i>bellis</i> subspecies
<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	Adonis Blue	noted south of Tatvan
<i>Polyommatus coelestinus</i>	Pontic Blue	several along the Çatak Road
<i>Polyommatus fatima</i>	Fatima's Blue	a nice find north of Van was this uncommon species – several amongst the hordes of Green-underside Blues
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	widespread
<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	Chapman's Blue	scattered

Nymphalidae

<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	Southern White Admiral	2 south of Tatvan, 1 along the Çatak Road
<i>Nymphalis xanthomelas</i>	Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell	one photographed at Ahlat (leader only!)
<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Painted Lady	widespread
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	noted along the Çatak Road
<i>Polygonia egea</i>	Southern Comma	quite a few along the Çatak Road
<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Cardinal	several Çilli Pass and also woodlands along south side of Van
<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	Silver-washed Fritillary	several along the Çatak Road
<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Queen of Spain Fritillary	scattered throughout
<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Glanville Fritillary	widespread
<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Knapweed Fritillary	photographed Erçek and along the Çatak Road
<i>Melitaea punica</i>	Algerian Fritillary	photographed seen south of Tatvan
<i>Melitaea triviva</i>	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	several south of Tatvan

Satyridae

<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	Large Wall Brown	Ishak Paşa Palace and Çilli Pass
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown	scattered
<i>Protoerebia afra</i>	Dalmatian Ringlet	Nemrüt Dağı, where very common
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	widespread
<i>Maniola telmessia</i>	Eastern Meadow Brown	Çatak Road at the waterfall
<i>Arethusana arethusana</i>	False Grayling	Çatak Road

Hesperiidae

<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Mallow Skipper	Çilli Pass
<i>Carcharodus flocciferus</i>	Tufted Marbled Skipper	one photographed south of Tatvan, rather early for this species
<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>	Oriental Marbled Skipper	noted south of Tatvan and around Erçek
<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Dingy Skipper	one south of Tatvan
<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	1 south of Tatvan
<i>Pyrgus melotis</i>	Aegean Skipper	frequent south of Tatvan, also on Nemrüt Dağı
<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>	Olive Skipper	1 south of Tatvan
<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>	Yellow-banded Skipper	Nemrüt Dağı & Ahlat
<i>Spialia orbifer</i>	Red-Underwing Skipper	South side if Lake Van
<i>Spialia phlomidis</i>	Persian Skipper	scattered

Systematic List Number 4

Reptiles & Amphibians

Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	noted at several localities
Desert Treefrog	<i>Hyla sauvignyi</i>	noted on the Bitlis circuit
Banded Frog	<i>Rana camerani</i>	Almost everywhere, especially common in high altitude open sites
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Most common amphibian: in every site with water
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	Common around Van Lake, Erçek etc
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	common. Plague of them on Akdamar Island!
Caucasian Agama	<i>Laudakia caucasica</i>	Common in rocky places around Ararat
Dwarf Lizard	<i>Lacerta parva</i>	high steppe areas
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	a number of records
Valentin's Lizard	<i>Lacerta valentini</i>	one of the commonest lizards in the area
Strauch's Racerunner	<i>Eremias strauchi</i>	on lava by the wetlands at the foot of Ararat
Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>	scattered north of Lake Van
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	small wetland by Erçek Gölü

Systematic List Number 5

Mammals

White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	a few road kills
Transcaucasian Water Shrew	<i>Neomys teres</i>	Gevaş dead
Père-David's Mole	<i>Talpa davidiana</i>	Güzeldere. Little-known species
Dahl's Jird	<i>Meriones dahli</i>	An endangered species. If this identification is correct then this species also occurs on the south side of Ararat, its previous known distribution was along the Aras valley to the north of the mountain into Nakhchivan in the east. It may well have a similar distribution to Strauch's Stepperunner.
Williams's Jerboa	<i>Allactaga williamsi</i>	many seen at night behind the Paraşut Hotel (leader only)
Asia Minor Souslik	<i>Spermophilus xanthoprymnus</i>	widespread
Persian Squirrel	<i>Sciurus anomalus</i>	near Tatvan & Çatak Road
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Introduced. Akdamar Island
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	scattered records
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	scattered records
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2 at night near Nazik (leader only) but most saw the fine daylight animal at Gevaş
Caucasian Badger	<i>Meles canescans</i>	Zernek – trap camera
Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	one seen at night behind the Paraşut Hotel (leader only)
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	1 old male Doğubeyazıt wetlands
Siberian Ibex	<i>Capra aegagrus</i>	1 on Nemrut Dağı

And Finally...

Greentours tour to Lake Van 2025

An alternative tour report!! by Hilary Little (With apologies to J. Milton Hayes)

There's a big blue lake in Turkey in the east close to Iran.
And we travelled there with Greentours on a trip.
In Istanbul we gathered before flying to Lake Van
And then driving up to Doğubeyazit!

Our first journey started well and we saw iris by the score,
The most lovely 'barnumae' with purple blooms.
There were orchids too and primulas before we stopped for lunch
At a stunning waterfall with shady rooms.

Some dined on saç kavurma, whilst others ate the river trout,
And best of all the freshly-made ice-cream!
In a nearby little orchard we found scarlet Phelypaea,
Though to reach it, Ozan helped me cross a stream.

On a hillside was an iris I had longed to see for years,
'iberica' with beautiful brown falls,
And upright, pure white standards marked with narrow, lilac veins
Into view came Ararat, which capped it all!

At the Hotel Paraşut, the breakfasts were divine repasts.
In the grounds they'd built a Noah's Ark from wood,
Which almost seemed to nestle down in Ararat's twin peaks,
Depending where the picture-taker stood.

In the morning all the twitchers set off early to spot birds,
While the rest of us explored a marshy bog,
As Jennifer recounted long ancestral family tales,
And Ozan sat in a corner on a log!

Ishak Paşa's lonely palace was built high upon a hill,
Ozan talked about the history of the site,
We wandered through the ruins of the courtyards and the halls,
Richly patterned, full of interest and light.

From that site it was a steep climb to the screes and cliffs above
On which, Ian said, the scarlet tulip grew,
Having traversed high across the hill, both Jen and I then saw
Gypsophila domes and alliums purple-blue.

Next day we drove to Ahlat and stopped near a mosque to search
For orchids thriving near to lava flows.
Where Pedicularis species and a sempervivum bloomed,
And Bellevalia paradoxa also grows.

Tasty picnic food was eaten by the northern shore of Van,
Huge banks of reeds obscured the distant view,
Flamingoes stalked the shallows, though they quickly moved away
There were spoonbills, egrets, herons, ibis too.

Close to Ahlat was a woodland where the owner's cows did roam,
Stately orchids massing tall within arms reach.
Our old hotel at Ahlat graced the western shore of Van,
And the waves at night lapped softly on the beach.

In Nemrut Dağ's high crater we crossed boulder fields and scrub,
Finding choice new plants deep down amongst the grit.
There was *Rindera lanata* and a spurge with deep red bracts,
Puschkinia scilloides, and a Frit.

By the crater lake's calm waters we then ate our lunch in peace,
And found yellow, Georgian orchids in the trees.
Returning up along the road, we made repairs with stones.
Pulsatillas at the top swayed in the breeze.

The Seljuk tombs of Ahlat were all bathed in evening light,
As we wandered round the ancient rust red stones
Carved from basalt with quite intricate motifs upon the sides,
Four thousand years, a resting place for bones.

From Ahlat's Bay we headed south, the Bitlis circuit to complete,
The meadows with gold buttercups shone bright.
A coach of Turkish ladies stopped to see the waterfall,
Taking pictures of this photogenic sight.

From there a rocky gorge so deep was home to many flowers
Ozan photographed one for me way up high
Campanula reuterana was this lovely plant's real name,
There were yellow roses too and butterflies.

Then a silver-washed fritillary and a cream-spot tiger moth
Both fluttered by our happy group that day,
Along with many sorts of blues and clouded yellows too,
Drinking water from small pools in muddy clay.

Consolidated layers of grey volcanic ash and grit,
Had hardened into bands where swallows bored
Their nesting holes. Safe home to flocks of sand-martins and chicks,
These strata Suphan's violence now record.

Well, we found the Komper's Orchid and a nice bee orchid too,
Leopoldia comosa and a thistle.
As we crossed a grassy meadow a small herd of cows came down,
To which we were alerted by a whistle!

As we travelled on to Van, we saw the vegetation change,
From wooded hills to slopes so smooth and bare,
The underlying rock was strange, Earth's mantle not Earth's crust,
An ophiolite, said Hilary, it's quite rare.

Our last hotel was sumptuous, the Hilton Doubletree,
The breakfast bar the best in all of Van,
But Austin's leg turned purple and his knee was swollen too
To the hospital he travelled with Ozan.

The hospital was busy but in under two short hours,
He'd seen a doctor, had x-rays and ultrasound,
Strong pills to fight infection, gels and creams and jabs for pain
With bandages his ankle had been bound.

The Isle of Akdamar lay near to the southern shore of Van,
Ian organised a boat trip on the lake.
We visited its monastery, explored its rocky core,
Ate a sizzling meaty platter and a cake!

The Pass of Karabet was wild, with snow-capped peaks and flowers,
Pushkinias, frits and colchicums galore.
The lunch stop yielded tulips pink and yellow iris too,
The flora charmed us all, we wanted more.

The next day the Pass of Güzeldere had real delights in store,
Androsaces and gentians blue, three thousand metres high,
The glory was an Iris, carpeting a grassy slope.
Hoşap castle standing proud against the sky.

We said farewell to Ozan who was flying back that day,
Drove to Erçek Gölü, thunderstorms around.
The rain came down in buckets, and we sheltered in the bus,
Orchis pseudo-laxiflora swathed the ground.

The clouds rolled back, the sun came out, bee-eaters in a tree,
With turquoise breasts and golden-yellow necks,
Bird watchers were excited, took lots of camera shots
Whilst a harrier sat calmly on a rock.

Along the road to Çatak, at a quarry site we stopped
Gold linaria and horned poppies clothed the rocks,
A gully filled with butterflies, Iris sari in the grass,
At a village on a hillside where we'd stopped.

Much, much later in the day, we reached a beautiful cascade,
Where smart wedding parties gathered round to pose,
I took the 'three wise monkeys', Julia, Isobel and James,
Hands covering their eyes, ears, mouths and nose!

But now that the tour has ended and we contemplate our shots,
Trying to label all the photos round Lake Van
We surely had a great time and would gladly come again,
Thanking both of you, so much, Ian and Ozan

And thankyou Hilary, loved it!