

The Pontic Alps

Magical Lazistan

A Greentours Trip Report

22nd May to 4th June 2006

Leader: Terry Underhill

Day 1 Monday 22nd May

Met up with Doreen and Marian at Gatwick quickly passing through ticket and security. Take-off was delayed by one hour, which was going to present problems at Istanbul. Individual TV screens allowed fascinating views of takeoff and landing through fore and aft cameras. A pleasant flight with a nice meal, served with a good Turkish red wine if desired.

There was a mad race at Istanbul, first getting visas, then passport/customs, then racing from International to Domestic, only to be told that the gate for the flight to Trabzon was closed. A short, heated altercation, and we were directed to a gate where a bus was waiting for our held-back flight. Formalities at Trabzon was quick and we met Kerem for a short drive to the Horon Hotel, A nice clean quiet room with a comfortable bed seemed like paradise.

Day 2 Tuesday 23rd May

Breakfast was taken in the restaurant on the top floor at 8 o'clock with the sun shining on the Black Sea, dotted with fishing boats, around which gulls wheeled. Terry and Kerem made a quick visit to the bank (2.8ytl to GBP) followed by hunting for a simple butane gas stove, kettle and pan, in anticipation of needing hot drinks in the cold mountains.

We left, at the agreed time of 9.45, allowing Marian and Doreen to catch up a little on their shortened night's sleep. Thankfully the hustle and bustle of busy Trabzon is quickly passed through, as is the stretch of road dominated by cement works. As we steadily climbed up the valley the hillsides clothed with hornbeam, beech and hazel in delightful fresh greens enhanced by the sun, contrasting with the dark of *Picea* and *Abies* was delightful. Rocky outcrops lower down the valley were speckled with pink and white cistus and yellow trailing brooms. A stop was made at our favourite trout restaurant booking lunch, long enough for a little botanising, noting *Saxifraga cymbalaria*, *galium* and various *veronica*. A grey wagtail flitted up and down, but alas no dipper.

We paid our 7ytl at the Sumela Park check point, before driving past the collection of gift shops and refreshment places, and up the concrete road through the forest, stopping at the falls. Already the richness of the damp forest was appreciated. After photographing the falls,

sparkling in the strong sunlight, we began investigating the flora. In the shade of a large rock *Paris incompleta*, spotted by Marian, grew alongside *Lamium gundelshheimeri*, *Dentaria bulbifera* in flower and also smothered in axillary bulbils, various ferns, blue *Symphytum aspera*, golden *Doronicum*, and mottled leaves of autumn-flowering cyclamen. Thick-leaved *Hedera colchica* climbed the rocks, Using the birdscope wonderful bright pink paeony plants were admired growing on ledges high up on the cliffs. After a short drive further up a dusty track we stopped for views of the monastery clinging to the cliff side, also *Ilex colchica*, still with some berries and *Aruncus vulgare*.

Kerem stayed by the vehicle while we walked up to the monastery which, now, after a short period of neglect and vandalism, is being restored. Orange tips, mostly females, flitted among *Alliaria* and *Dentaria*, although their orange eggs among the flowers were never found.

Around the monastery, various *centaurea*, *nepeta*, *muscaria*, and *campanula* were photographed, including a bright yellow *Erysimum*-like plant. An attractive, compact campanula with large Cambridge-blue flowers could only be admired high up on the cliff with binoculars. Digital cameras allowed excellent pictures of the various ancient paintings in the monastery to be taken without the use of the 'forbidden' flash.

Back down at the trout restaurant we enjoyed soup, salad, trout and yoghurt washed down with cherry juice. Much to our delight Marian spotted a dipper, which along with a grey wagtail put on a display close by. Duly refreshed we made numerous stops on our return journey for *Campanula betonicifolia*, *Genista tinctoria*, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, *Lithospermum*, butchers broom, *Cornus mas* and *sanguineum*, with a little lesson on identifying *Cornus* foliage, At the private hazel grove just above Macka we admired numerous *Orchis tridentata* and *Ophrys cornuta* and *caucasica*, and an interesting-looking pale hybrid between them, *Cephalanthera damasonium* and purple flowered *Vincetoxicum fuscatum*. As the light was failing we made our way back to the Horon, leaving enough time for Kerem and Terry to find a stove, kettle and cooking pan, before being treated to a superb meal as the light played tricks on the Black Sea

Day 3 Wednesday 24th May

At Macka we continued on the main road, as it climbed and twisted past huge rocky outcrops, on which *Centranthus angustifolius*, *Genista tinctoria*, and *Onosma* seem to dominate, although many smaller plants needed investigation, if suitable stopping places were available. We eventually turned off to Zigana, noticing immediately the change of flora, with tantalising glimpses of violas, blue gentians and white *Daphne glomerata*, with a background of green slopes punctuated with drifts of snow. At Zigana, we enjoyed distant views of snow-covered peaks, and a foreground of Scot's pine forests. The military post is now abandoned, new cafes and a large hotel being built. Leaving the smell of meat cooking on smoking barbeques we went up onto the high meadows. Here studded with yellow, cream, white, blue and purple *Viola altaica* were masses of veronicas including *Veronica gentianoides*, *Gentiana verna pontica* and the large-plicae *Gentiana pyrenaica*. We all knelt down, not in prayer, to enjoy the fragrance of *Daphne glomerata*, which trailed in compact mounds in the short turf. *Trollius ranunculinus* made huge drifts, and Doreen found our first *Primula auriculata* in a gully, where, nearby, *Primula vulgaris* made gigantic domes. Where the snow had just melted were crocus and colchicum foliage, and numerous dumpy pink *Cyclamen parviflorum*. Higher up the increasing breeze tantalised choughs, hooded crows, ravens and the occasional common buzzard, also a

pair of long-legged buzzards. As our hats were being continually blown off, we wondered why we did not copy Marian with her woollen head band which easily covered her ears if need be. While checking out drifts of *Primula veris columnae* Terry found architectural plants of *Jurinella moschus* and Doreen found the diminutive *Gentiana aquatica*. Despite the mess of recently made ski runs, the beauty of the scenery and carpets of violas were unforgettably beautiful.

After passing through the village and sheep and goat pens, guarded by, thankfully, well tethered guard dogs, we made our way down through the pine forests to find a picnic spot. The stove and kettle, allowed hot herbal teas to supplement the first of Terry's midday banquets/picnics. Passing vehicles tooted in appreciation or envy!

After lunch we walked back towards Zigana village, where masses of yellow crosswort was punctuated with various low-growing legumes and *Anemone blanda*. High up in the woods, yellow primulas were intermingled with *Helleborus orientalis*. On rocky outcrops, untouched by road-widening bulldozers, grew various succulents, legumes, violas and centaureas and it was here that Kerem, our vehicle-driving mountain goat, climbed up to investigate *Orchis pallens* and *Dactylorhiza flavescens*. A stop was made for a huge drift of *Cardamine raphanifolia* in a moist gully. We clambered our way through the hazel grove and up the meadow to find fine specimens of *Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Steveniella satyrioides*, *Dactylorhiza urvilleana*, giant *Listera ovata* and *Orchis caucasica*. Once again our enthusiasm not to miss a thing meant that the light was now fading fast and we had to drive back to Trabzon. Before driving off a hunt for *Aristolochia pontica* only produced twining foliage.

Back at Trabzon a meal at a fast food restaurant ending with a yoghurt drink was passable but did not compare with Horon's feasts. After a leaving friendship fragrant hand refreshing session, we had a short walk in the park. Kerem and Marian ended our enjoyable day in the local Internet café, where Marian had trouble locking onto her website because of there being two 'I's in the Turkish alphabet.

Day 4 Thursday 25th May

Leaving at nine am our route again passed the airport. The mild climate of the Black Sea margin areas was emphasised by the numerous sub-tropical plants in gardens. The major road being constructed from East to West along the Black Sea coast still creates a few minor diversions. On a recently built stone quay cormorants dried their wings. Out at sea fishing boats laid their nets in spirals. A stop was made to photograph a fish stall, the various fish displayed on large circular boards. A large flat fish, hanging from a hook, was covered in shallow limpets, some of which, having fallen off, left round depressions in the fish's skin. Kerem drew our attention to a fish, new to the Black Sea.

A short detour to find a post office for Doreen and her postcards resulted in us admiring a very intensive inter-cropped vegetable garden with various brassica – cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli and tomato, pea, lettuce, onion, sweet corn, beet, cucurbits, and male and female kiwi intermixed, and also photographing local school girls in their bright blue uniforms. "Whats your name?" being their only English.

Shortly after we turned off for the long climb to Uzungol, passing through the government encouraged tea-growing region. Low growing plants of *Camellia thea* are raised from seed,

taking 5 yrs to reach cropping size. They are hard-pruned every 7 years. They are clipped, using bags on the shears, three times a year. The government controls the price (rate for 2005 = 5 lire a kilo.) We photographed an elderly couple working, who apologised that they could not offer hospitality. A group of ladies clipping bushes in a nearby field, recognising Terry from a previous visit, waved frantically. As we got back into our vehicle, Doreen noticed *Scolopendrium vulgare* and *Pteris cretica* in the shade of a rocky outcrop. Driving upwards the evidence of severe flash flooding was evident, the road having been washed away in places and being replaced by embankments of stone with the 'new' partly made road on top, now several metres above the river.

A favourite steep meadow is well above the water, and we scambled up finding among the tall grasses *Aquilegia olympica*, *Dactylorhiza euxina* and *urvilleana*, *Geranium psilostemon* and in a stream-side gully under sapling sweet chestnuts and alder, *Rhynchospora elephas*, with an elephant-like projection to the flower. Where we parked the vehicle were large patches of off-white *Trifolium pannonicum*.

At Uzungol the twin-spired mosques seen across the lake is a photographer's delight. We found one moist field, on the way down, rich with the dark spotted *Dactylorhiza euxina markowitschii*. At Uzungol Doreen found her postcards, giving a choice of two views, neither of which did justice to the beauty of the surrounding area.

The little meadow by a Mediterranean headland on the Black Sea coast was a floral disappointment this year having been heavily scythed and was up for sale – *Erica arborea* and *Laurus nobilis*, were thriving on rocky faces and under nearby Scot's pine, but not much else so we moved off to our recently found *Serapias* site where vigorous *Serapias feldweggiana* grew in profusion. The ground, surrounding a private house, is rich in *Parentucelia latifolia* and *viscosa*, a selection of broomrapes, and rocks home to a selection of succulents including *Sedum album*. On *Carpinus* trees there were bright red galls, and the coastal garrigue was rich in arbutus, cistus, phillyrea and erica. The dry ground had masses of Hare's foot clover. Similar to last year there were a number of *Scilla autumnalis* flowering in the very short turf. The drive back was uneventful and we had another Horon meal.

Day 5 Friday 26th May

Luggage was in the foyer by 9.00 and packed away, along with picnic food and stove, for leaving at 9.15. A short stop was made for bread. Just leaving Rize we stopped by a noisy quarry intending to check the nearby river for birds, however, our attention was drawn to a little bittern resting in a wet roadside patch and at times moving on to a nearby *Carpinus* where it looked out with stretched neck.

Moving on and forever upwards the scenery changed to narrow gorges and roaring streams, Shortly after the bustling little town of Ikizdere, we stopped by a moist meadow, where on raised mounds the orange-flowers of *Papaver lateritium* nodded in the breeze. The drier parts of the meadow were dotted with *Polygala major*, the moister areas rich with *Dactylorhiza urvilleana*. We registered in at Otel Genesis, made a quick comfort stop, before driving up the Ovit Pass. This year there was very little snow. Over the top and a brief photo stop, noting a hillside rich in *Fritillaria latifolia*, and spotting an Alpine accentor. Approaching the Summer villages there were rivers of golden marsh marigold and huge patches of almost luminous blue *Muscari aucheri*. and masses of *Ornithogalum*s and little yellow *Gagea glacialis*.

Doreen and Marian walked down to the village and mosque, while Terry and Kerem prepared the picnic in the shelter of the wall surrounding the mosque. As we finished a banquet of omelettes, salad, meats, cheese, stuffed vine leaves, fruit juices hot herbal tea and melon, we were joined by 'Annie' and her mother. 'Annie' as we decided to call her, with her double-barrelled shot gun over her shoulder, invited us to look around the mosque, where the villagers' belongings are stored over the winter. She posed for numerous photographs and requested we photograph her father, and also would we send her copies, before going down to the fast-moving stream and catching trout, using a net, weighted in the corners, which she threw into swirling eddies.

On the nearby hillside were drifts of *Scilla sibirica armena*, *Ornithogalum oligophyllum* and the remnants of a magnificent show of *Colchicum szovitsii* and *falcifolium*, with masses of *Colchicum triphyllum*, the white flowers looking very much like crocus. A little higher were drifts of *Fritillaria latifolia* and the occasional *Fritillaria caucasica*. Above a big rocky outcrop the turf was carpeted with the diminutive *Primula algida*, some pure white. Kerem climbed up higher to examine a drift of the purple-flowered *Primula elatior meyeri*, watching snow finches on his way down. In the gravel around the mosque various drabas and strong clumps of *Scrophularia chrysantha* flowered profusely. We photographed Annie's dad, stopped to admire the aerial acrobatics of alpine choughs, and the banks of *Fritillaria latifolia* seen earlier, among which the pink and white *Corydalis oppositifolia* flourished. Reaching Otel Genesis, the mist rolled in, followed by rain and thunder for a short time. Terry's picture show followed supper.

Day 6 Saturday 27th May

At 6.15 we crept out of the hotel for the drive to a roadside area below the Ovit Pass, where Terry scanned the opposite valley side with his scope, finding a couple of Caucasian black grouse walking across the turf above drifts of flowering *Rhododendron caucasicum*, viewing at times hindered by wisps of clouds. Back down for breakfast there was a slight delay as the cook was still in bed, asleep. While waiting Marian was out watching jays.

After breakfast we walked around the hotel, the woods being virtually devoid of birds. Photographs were taken of an obliging speckled wood butterfly. We declined the offer of hospitality tea by road workers, as the first drops of rain fell, as we raced back to the security of our hotel. It quickly cleared up and we drove off towards the Ovit pass, making photo stops for *Rhododendron luteum*, *Hesperis matronalis*, the bee hive frames above the river, placed to keep hives away from honey-loving bears, but now falling apart through neglect. As we prepared to walk up a valley the first of many lorries roared past, taking cheerful families, complete with cows, to the higher meadows and summer villages. In a moist area *Primula auriculata* and *Pinguicula balcanica* subsp *pontica* flourished. Walking around the stream side meadow avoiding the boggy patches we admired *Arnebia* and *Asperula*. Wisps of cloud, suddenly thickened, and heavy cold rain made life miserable, so Terry decided to try the other side of the pass. Kerem was finding driving difficult, until we reached the top, where the weather instantly cleared. Now in warm sunshine we made frequent bird and flower stops, had our picnic lunch, which included hot soup, by roadside rocks, where we attracted considerable attention from mixed herds of cows, goats and sheep, passing traffic and a young man, keen to investigate our bird scope.

After visiting a summer village further down the valley we returned to Annie's village, where Terry wanted to double check, using Brian Mathew's Bulbs of Turkey, gageas, the *Colchicum triphyllum* and ornithogalums.

After watching a high flying lammergeier, and starlings, black redstarts, wheatears and pipits around the buildings and nearby rocks we spent a lot of time trying to get good views of a large bird of prey resting behind rocks. We eventually came to the conclusion it was a golden eagle. As the wind increased and the temperature dropped we returned to the Otel Genesis, passing into cloud and rain as we crossed the pass. Back at Genesis it had rained heavily all day. Lists were followed by supper, and Terry's picture show, then bed.

Day 7 Sunday 28th May

We were packed and away by 8.30 stopping near the top of the Ovit pass for crag martins, one nesting under a rock overhang. Although it was a long drive to Artvin, we made numerous stops for northern wheatears, shore larks, beekeepers, all dressed in blue boiler suits.

The overnight rain, and the morning's bright sunshine made all views crystal clear, and roadside greens and bronzes of walnut exceptionally attractive. Following the strong flowing River Coruh, we reached Ispir, but not before a long stop below a high cliff face, where we watched crag martins, rock sparrows and an animal of marmot size scuttling behind rocks high up. After ice-creams and lollies, we drove back down the main street, and followed the river again, where the flora had changed - tremendous Mediterranean influence. Immediately we stopped for a southern white admiral and various *Fabaceae* and *Rubiaceae*, *Euphorbia falcata*, bright orange *Glaucium corniculatum*, *Dianthus orientalis*, *Saponaria prostrata calvertii*, with inflated calyx, and yellow *Scutellaria orientalis*

At Miriam's shout "Egyptian Vulture" we scrambled out of the vehicle.

Stopping on a narrow side track by a newly planted forestry area, for a 'Ladies Rock' we botanised, finding the lovely floriferous, pink, *Coronilla varia*, red poppies, tall narrow delphinium, *Peganum harmala*, *Origanum rotundifolium* and shapely plants of *Juniperus oxycedrus*.

A bank hosted tall *Ornithogalum pyrenaicum* and masses of *Iris taochia* in fruit. Stopping to admire capers in full flower, Doreen realised she had left her camera back by the 'Ladies Rock' over 20km of twisting road away. We returned but tyre marks showed that another vehicle had used the track and found the camera. We saved time by having a very quick lunch of banana, bread and cheese washed down with orange juice. Progress was slow, as we made numerous stops, for such things as a buzzard being harassed by a raven, a golden oriole, a 24-30 strong flock of rosy starlings. Approaching a farmstead at Yakusli the road turned into a dirt track full of potholes. Lombardy poplars lined the main track and subsidiary ones. Another stop for *Colutea* with big pods, reddish bronze on one side, *Paliurus* and another golden oriole. Stopping on a bend known for bee-eaters, everything was quiet, when suddenly numerous of the brightly-coloured birds came sweeping into view, followed by some rollers and a black stork - wonderful. Views of the hillsides bare with natural chemicals, mules working rice paddy fields, salvias, white mulberry and cherry trees, delayed us even more before reaching Yusefeli at 5.45pm, with almost half the journey still ahead of us. The rest of the journey was taken without stopping, and after the agonising 20km to bypass the huge dam works we arrived at the Koru Hotel at about 7.40. A fabulous exciting and long day ended with a delicious meal.

Day 8 Monday 29th May

The day began with a pre-breakfast bird watch over Artvin's rubbish dump, across the valley from the Hotel. After breakfasts we walked a short distance along the road above the hotel, the basically Mediterranean flora suffering through the dry weather, although there was considerable colour from *Euphorbia myrsinites* and numerous *centaureas*. We noted *Dorycnium* now *Lotus pentaphyllum*, thymes. *Achillea tanacetifolia*, a *Campanula* very similar to *Campanula glomerata* and in cool shady corners *Campanula pontica*. Orobanches were in full flower under *Rhus coriaria*. Terry pushed his way through the undergrowth of the wood above the bank, finding masses of *Cistus incanus*, a pathetic *Cephalanthera kurdica*, and numerous *Epipactis*, still tight in bud.

With the temperature already uncomfortably hot we drove into Artvin, for about an hours shopping, by request, then on to Kafkasor stopping for the shocking pink annual *Silene glomerata*, and a big white *Achillea*. Our orchid meadow in the woods, was clear of last year's bee hives, but the orchids were few in number, only *Dactylorhiza urvilleana* and *Orchis morio*. Despite crawling on our hands and knees we could not find a single *Botrychium* fern. Our picnic was taken on the steps of the bullring, under the watchful eye of the local gendarmerie. Ants were a slight problem, and what was the long-tailed raptor? Cuckoos were plentiful as we made our way to the meadows, along the track recently widened by a bulldozer. The meadow was already rich with gladioli and rhinanthus and numerous butterflies, such as small copper, small heath, clouded apollo and numerous blues and fast moving fritillaries.

Frog orchids, some green others bronze, were in abundance. A walk around the meadow margins, produced a patch of *Dactylorhiza urvilleana* and *euxina*, *Cephalanthera longifolia* and greater butterfly. The abundant *Rhododendron luteum* was sweet and evocative, the opposite being the smell of *Crataegus*. We found one *Paeonia mascula*, which would have looked terrific 2-3 days earlier. There were masses of various herbaceous gentians and in the woodland margins dentarias. Crossing a meadow we stumbled over extensive bear or boar diggings, *Lathyrus rotundifolius rosea* and purple-topped *Melampyrum pratense*.

Another delicious supper was taken by an open window where we could enjoy the warmth of a wonderful day.

Day 9 Tuesday 30th May

A slightly earlier start was needed for the long drive to Tortum Golu, Interestingly the dam works no longer fill the air with dust. We made a brief stop for fuel and to find a post box for Doreen's cards. The first major stop was for *Pelargonium endlicherianum* growing in a scree of large boulders. *Allium atroviolaceum*, with deep purple heads, flowered among *Trifolium resupinatum*, *Erodium cicutarium*, and *Tribulus terrestris*, with cream potentilla-like flowers and vicious spiky fruits. The dominant shrub was pomegranate in full bloom. By the fast flowing Coruh river a tall pink milkweed *Trachometum venustum* flowered, attracting various butterflies. After a snack of juicy black mulberries we moved off stopping next for the roadside clumps of *Epipactis veratrifolia*, of which about 50% has been removed by road widening. Frogs quickly hid in the green slime of the narrow ditch and a mixture of blues included loew's and Pontic, drank the mineral-rich water at its margins.

We stopped for irises, finding just leaves and seed pods, campanulas, *Thalictrum*, *Physalis* and *Periploca graeca* plus a fabulous white mulberry, where Kerem climbed high to shower us with succulent fruits. We saved some for lunch but all needed a good hand wash to remove the sticky juices. *Campanula choruhensis* was found in a number of places including just after the contorted rocks below Tortum Golu. With lunch time approaching Kerem drove down past a school to a parking and picnic spot above the waterfall – outlet from Lake. After going down the steps to look closer at the waterfall, lunch was taken in a pavilion with a picnic bench overlooking the waterfall for a small fee. As we were finishing our meal a Turkish family presented us with barbeque chicken, meat balls and bread, we offered slices of melon in return. Well fed and watered we drove to a quarry at the far end of the lake, where crag martins were nesting on the rock face. A red-fronted serin sat in a willow tree above a pond where large frogs called. After a long spell of botanising we moved to the promontory and had a walk around. The area is, despite recent ploughing of a large section, rich in various Fabaceae, including the lovely feathery-looking *Chesneya*? On the return journey we drove up the steep winding track to Ishan and the Byzantine church, damaged by early invaders. The story goes that in the 13th century after an 8 year feud a very beautiful princess took over its restoration. Suitors had to shoot an arrow over church from the cemetery 2 km away - failure meant death, One arrow landed on the roof and the failed suitor was buried in the church. It is said that a successful man, jumped on his horse, fell off and broke his neck. She eventually married a stone mason.

After tea in a little raised cafe-tea house we drove back to the hotel for supper and much needed drinks.

Day 10 Wednesday 31st May

As it was such a fantastic warm still morning, we should have had our breakfast outside. Luggage packed away we left at 9.00, negotiated traffic and after a false turn to a forestry unit, we took the 3-4km track up to Hamamli, where Kerem managed to drive up the final steep road parking by Dolishane - the old village Georgian church. It had for a time been converted into a mosque, but with a new one nearby it is now, sadly, neglected.

The Iman opened the door for the bottom half, where the once ornate plaster has been removed leaving the walls bare. Outside we were able to get close views of a pair of redstarts nesting in the church wall. Blue and great tits flitted in the trees above. The route following the fast moving river was uneventful, and our searching for *Rhyncocorys orientalis* in the wood below Savsat castle was unsuccessful. It is only a short drive up through the town to the high meadows. Stopping at a wet spot we enjoyed masses of strong growing *Dactylorhiza osmanica* and *Orchis pseudolaxiflora* with incredible numbers of various blues including Pontic Blue, and various fritillaries some of which were drinking at the edge of small muddy pools. Overhead what looked like broad bodied chasers chased each other. At Lisiat restaurant we were given a special welcome, and sitting in the shade from the fierce sun, we enjoyed a type of cheese fondue with fresh bread, followed by very tasty aubergine and lamb kebab with salad. Cold beers went down well.

We drove a little way back to the open meadows rich with buttercups, to wander among large drifts of orchids in the wet areas, where *Triglochin* grows, and over short grass meadows finding many frog and greater butterfly orchids, gladioli and *Ajuga genevensis*.

Shortly after Lisiat restaurant on the final leg of our journey to Ardahan, the road twists and turns through pine woods, climbing continuously upwards. We stopped just above the tree line, where the high meadow opens out, with blue gentians, golden coronilla, yellow primulas, white daphne and purple/blue ajuga looking like confetti. We were greeted by overhead sightings of peregrine, long legged buzzard and booted eagle as we climbed up to clumps of *Rhododendron caucasicum* in full flower. Our photographic site offering fabulous distant views.

Back on the road we passed the wooden huts of a summer village before crossing over the Cam Gecidi ridge. The expanse of tundra-like meadow was devoid of snow and appeared to be devoid of scillas, which in previous years turned the ground pale blue.

We had to stop for the pairs of ruddy ducks at the margin of some of the roadside ponds. With the Ardahan plain below us and Ardahan in the distant, we stopped for rock thrush, and a fox strolling close to the road. At the Kura Hotel Ardahan we were welcomed with tea before reaching our rooms, unpacking and then walked to a local restaurant for a much appreciated meal.

Day 11 Thursday 1st June

6.00am we crept out of the hotel for the 15 minute drive to Puszka marsh. Already the sun was strong enough to warm our backs, but we still appreciated a hot drink boiled up by Kerem. A pair of magpies occupying the nearby willows kept all the small birds away. A tired starling roosting a short distance away was regularly attacked. After watching mallard, pochard, red crested pochard, tufted ducks, garganey, we had superb views using the scope of lapwing, buzzards, long legged buzzards, montagu's and numerous marsh harriers - but no cranes. Breakfast at 8.00 was sufficient but basic. It only took a few minutes to purchase bread and water, (we did have other food) before making our way to Cam Gecidi and the high meadow and valley - Degirmenli Yayla . Already the goose ladies were out on the plain, sitting in the shade of their umbrellas, others arriving driving geese and goslings with blown up polythene bags on sticks. As well as photographic stops for them we also stopped for black storks on the plain, rock thrush and fabulous *feldegg* form of wagtails. Leaving Kerem practising, I might say successfully, digiscoping, we walked across and down Degirmanli Yayla at one time accompanied by a 350 strong herd of cows. We walked across a sea of white chamomile and chrysanthemum, intermingled with forget-me-nots, and short ornithogalums wherever the ground could be exposed. Large heads of deep purple nonea caught the eye as did exhibition quality clumps of *Anemone narcissiflora*. The majority of the huge drifts of *Fritillaria latifolia* had gone over - they must have been a stunning sight 7-10 days earlier. Frogs keep still, while clumps of caterpillars wiggled frantically sensing our close presence. In moist gullies *Dactylorhiza osmanica*, *Primula auriculata*, *Cardamine raphanifolia* and *Caltha polypetala* all were vying for our undivided attention. Near patches of snow blue and white forms of *Pulsatilla albana* flourished as did the white and pink *Corydalis*. *Ranunculus kochii*, which resembles lesser celandine, had gone over. Tucked in low grass were clumps of pink and white species of *Androsace*. Low bushes of *Betula litwinowii* were accompanied by *Ribes biebersteineri* and *Ribes uva-crispa*. By the stream arnebia and calthas flourished. By the quarry soil only the dried remains of *Iris caucasica* could be found. It was hard work walking up the hot road to the quarry where Kerem had lunch prepared. Afterwards we drove near to the top of the pass looking at more ruddy ducks and lapwings before returning to the Kura Hotel for showers. Kerem even gave the vehicle a wash and brush up. Terry visited the market, an area packed with stalls under canvas awnings, the supporting ropes making a 'cat's cradle needing careful negotiating.

Day 12 Friday 2nd June

Breakfast and a 9.0am departure for Cildir making a stop at Puszka marsh, where we were joined by a couple from South Carolina, as a pair of hobbys swept across the marsh in front of us, and a pair of cranes with young came out from behind a large clump of reeds on the far side of the marsh.

It is only a short drive to Terry and Chris's rocky outcrop on which superb specimens of *Iris furcata* and *Pulsatilla albana* flourish. On the nearby meadow orange, yellow and white spots of colour were provided by *Papaver lateritium* and *Anemone narcissiflora*. A known meadow, where Terry and Chris first spotted *Iris furcata* five years earlier, had been recently ploughed.

We made further stops for a hooded crow attacking a buzzard, rock thrush, a large clump of comfrey and ruddy shelduck, a lone hawthorn tree covered in bits of cloth, polythene and labels as religious tokens and prayers, and the view of the dramatic ruins of Seytan Kalesi castle in the distance. Through Cildir, past a military area to a mound looking across to the castle and then botanising, but the wind was increasing rapidly in strength and photographing any of the swaying blooms of *Campanula aucheri*, erigeron and *Iris furcata* was virtually impossible, so we moved down to a quarry. Sheltered from the wind in a quarry, under an increasingly darkening sky, we had a picnic, warming ourselves up on omelettes and warm drinks. We disturbed a fox, and scanned the sandy cliffs for rock sparrows while Kerem hunted for fossils. Another *feldegg* wagtail was spotted as we stopped to photograph a large patch of *Hesperis matronalis*, producing a lavender glow under the blackening sky.

Passing through Kenarbel we took a track to the edge of the lake, stopping by an oversexed male turkey displaying at almost anything which moved, including hens and us. The ground was worn bare for quite a distance by large flocks of sheep and goats. Clouds were gathering fast and thunder and lightning came from the far side of the lake, distressing a nearby colt, and, having seen a few pelicans, we made our way swiftly back to the vehicle, Marian in her haste finding some very sticky mud.

Looking at the sky and wind we thought we might just catch the edge of the storm, We passed through the village and the then empty tea house, and found a good spot to watch pelicans, egrets and a scaup battling the wind, rain and waves, even some big fish were jumping. Suddenly the storm hit us, and with poor visibility we moved off, passing a farmer trying to move his cattle, only to find a little girl, standing in the middle of the road, soaked and petrified by the storm. Gathering her in our arms into the warmth and protection of the vehicle we took her to the tea house, now full of sheltering locals, and her neighbours.

The very heavy rain and storm abated on our drive back, during which we passed some areas white with hail. Ardahan had only caught the edge of the storm, and we were able to go out for our evening meal without getting wet.

Day 13 Saturday 3rd June

6am we made a swift drive over the Cam Gecidi to the first main bend on the way down, taking a track up onto the ridge. The light, after the rain was wonderful, with beautiful colours of greens, the distant mountains and snow, but there was a cool breeze, stinging one's ears. We scanned the hillsides far and near, looking for bears. Terry found through the scope about 2km

away a rock with a round edge and a deep brown hump (there were many dark brown rocks) under a multi branched tree. The edges slightly golden being side to backlit. He thought it had moved slightly and asked for a second opinion. Doreen and Marian could not find the rock in question and when Terry looked again the rock had gone.

Kerem made tea and after a little bird and flower hunting, we returned to Ardahan, stopping to photograph the wooden houses of the summer village, with a background of clear distant mountains, and observe various birds - linnet, rock thrush, booted eagle, buzzards, wheatears and storks.

After breakfast we drove towards the border and Posof, noting the tremendous number of houses with masses of manure dried and stacked as future fuel, and wooden and metal cages over many graves in cemeteries.

Meadows were yellow with buttercups, many gullies with *Primula auriculata*, *Caltha polypetala* and *Cardamine raphanifolia*. We stopped to admire the distant views from near the top of the pass before botanising on a nearby meadow, where in the short turf flourished gentians in patches, and multitudes of yellow and white *Viola altaica* and *Bellavalias*. A little further back down the road was a track into a summer village, where many farmers and their families were returning, and renovating their stone houses. Fresh polythene on log lined roofs, were covered with stones and soil. Outside flimsy toilets with flapping polythene skirts showed how harsh the winters could be.

Scilla rosenii, *Muscari*, *Bellavalia*, *Scilla sibirica armena* were still flowering, but only foliage of crocus and colchicum could be found. The area was heavily perfumed from hillsides of *Leucanthemum*, *myosotis* and *ranunculus*. Kerem disappeared over a ridge finding a few colchicums and merenderas, encouraging Terry, Doreen and Marian to climb up the steep hillside to a snow patch, where they found a couple of colchicums and a single merendera, patches of *Primula elatior pallasi* and orange/red forms of *Fritillaria latifolia*. Lower down a flat spot was ideal for the last picnic, eating up a veritable feast of leftovers. What remained was packed as a box of 'goodies' for Kerem, along with the stove and utensils. The journey back to Ardahan was punctuated by numerous bird stops - mainly booted eagles, buzzards and black stork. Black terns were sweeping over the cranes and their young on Puszka marsh.

With most of our packing done we enjoyed a meal specially prepared for us by the Kura Hotel. Surprisingly the staff could not understand us tipping them.

Day 14 Sunday 4th June

Was time to say farewell to the Kura and time-warped Ardahan and head for Kars, where we said goodbye to Kerem. He had a two day drive to reach home, we where to have the comfort of a couple of internal flights and the haul to the UK, all of which passed without any problems. Marian had an overnight prior to her flight across the Atlantic the next morning, Doreen had members of her family waiting to taxi her home and learn about her 'big' adventure, and Terry had an overnight coach journey to contend with back to the West Country, with time to think about the fabulous scenery, wonderful range of plants, birds and the friendly hospitality of Turkish people, plus the groups friendliness, helped by our Turkish driver, Kerem.

Systematic List Number 1 Flora

Key - eg. (1, 2?, 5-7, 9, 11) = reported as seen on day 1, day 2 identification not 100% reliable, reported as seen on days 5, 6 and 7, 9, and 11. (Seen) = a result of notes made and checked at a later date, and also identifying bits surviving in drinking glasses in hotel bathrooms!

- 1 Sumela - Macka meadows
- 2 Zigana Pass - S. Side - Hamisikoy - Bridge 22 hillside
- 3 Kofkian Meadow - Uzungol -- Yesilyali headland - Serapias headland
- 4 Ikizdere - Genesis - Ovit Dagi Pass
- 5 Ovit Dagi Pass -
- 6 Ispir - Yusufeli - Artvin
- 7 Fistikli track - Kafkasor
- 8 Coruh gorges - Tortum - Ishan
- 9 Dolishane church - Savsat - Ardahan
- 10 Puszka Marsh - Degirmenli Yayla - Cam Gecidi
- 11 Seytan Kalesi - Cildir - Aktas Lake - Cildir Lake -
- 12 Cam Gecidi (bear) - Posoff
- 13 Kars

Equisetaceae

- Equisetum arvense* - (1, 4, 6, 7, 9)
- Equisetum palustre* - (3-11)
- Equisetum telmateia* - (4)

Pteridophyta

- Adiantum capillus-veneris* - Maidenhair Fern - (1, 9)
- Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* - Black Spleenwort - (1)
- Asplenium septentrionale* - Forked Spleenwort - (1)
- Asplenium trichomanes* - Maidenhair Spleenwort (1,)
- Athyrium filix-foemina* - Lady Fern - 1, 3-5, 7, 9)
- Ceterach officinarum* - Rusty-back Fern - (1, 9)
- Cystopteris fragilis* - Brittle Bladder Fern - (9)
- Blechnum spicant* - (1, 3)
- Dryopteris filix-mas* - Male Fern - (1, 7,)
- Matteucia struthiopteris* - Ostrich Fern - (1, 3-6)
- Ophioglossum vulgatum* - Adder's-Tongue Fern- (7)
- Phyllitis scolopendrium* - (3)
- Polypodium vulgare* agg. - Common Polypody - (1, 3, 5)
- Pteridium aquilinum* - Bracken - (1-9)
- Pteris cretica* - (3)
- Thelypteris phegopteris* - (1)

Pinaceae

- Abies nordmanniana* subspecies *nordmanniana* - (1, 3-7, 9)
- Picea orientalis* - (1, 3-7, 9)
- Pinus nigra* - subspecies *nigra* - (3?)
- Pinus pinea* - (3)
- Pinus sylvestris* - Scot's Pine - (2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12)

Cupressaceae

- Juniperus communis* - (2, 10)
- Juniperus oxycedrus* - (1, 6-9)

Ephedraceae

Ephedra major subspecies *nana* - (6)

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa - Sweet Chestnut - (3, 6)

Fagus orientalis - (1-3, 6, 7, 9)

Quercus hartwissiana - (2, 3, 6)

Quercus petraea Subsp. *iberica* 1, 3)

Salicaceae

Populus italica (Lombard) - (seen)

Populus tremula - (3, 6, 7, 9-11?)

Populus X uzbekistanica/nigra (1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11)

Salix alba - (1-4, 6-9, 11)

Salix caprea - (1-6, 8-10)

Juglandaceae

Juglans regia - Walnut - (1-4, 6-9)

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa - Alder - (1-9)

Betula litwinowii - (4-6, 9, 10)

Corylaceae

Carpinus orientalis - (1-4, 6-9)

Corylus maxima - Hazel - (1-9)

Ostrya carpinifolia - (1)

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabra - (1-3)

Tiliaceae

Tilia rubra- (1)

Tilia tomentosa - (1)

Moraceae

Ficus carica - Fig - (1-4, 6, 8, 9)

Morus alba - White Mulberry - (6-8)

Morus nigra - Black Mulberry - (8)

Urticaceae

Parietaria cretica - (3)

Parietaria judaica - (1, 3, 6, 8)

Urtica dioica - Stinging nettle - (1-12)

Cannabaceae

Canabis sativa - (6)

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia pontica - (2)

Polygonaceae

Oxyria digyna - (7, 10-12)

Rumex acetosella - Sorrel - (5, 6, 8, 9)

Rumex alpinus - Monks Rhubarb - (6, 9-12)
Rumex obtusifolia - (2, 5, 7, 9)
Polygonum aviculare - (4)
Polygonum bistorta - Bistort - (3, 5, 10, 12)

Phytolaccaceae

Phytolacca americana - Pokeweed - (4)

Caryophyllaceae

Cerastium cerastioides - (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12)
Cerastium fontanum - (4)
Cerastium montanum - (seen)
Cucubalus baccifer - (1-3, 5-7)
Dianthus calocephalus - (8)
Dianthus orientalis - (6, 8, 9)
Herniaria cinerea (8)
Moehringia trinervis - (3)
Petrophagia velutina (8)
Saponaria prostrata calvertii (6, 8, 9)
Silene alba (1, 3, 7, 8, 10)
Silene compacta (7)
Silene gallica - (3)
Silene italica (1)
Silene vulgaris - (3, 5, 8)
Stellaria holostea - (1)
Stellaria media - (1, 3, 7, 9, 12)

Ranunculaceae

Adonis aestivalis - (6)
Adonis annua - (10)
Adonis flammea - (10)
Anemone blanda - (2)
Anemone narcissiflora Subsp wildenowii (10-12)
Aquilegia olympica - (3, 9)
Caltha polypetala - (4-5, 10-12)
Clematis orientalis - (2, 3, 6)
Clematis vitalba - (1, 2, 8)
Delphinium - (6)
Helleborus orientalis - (1, 2, 7, 9)
Paeonia mascula - (1, 7)
Pulsatilla albana Subsp armena (10-12)
Ranunculus arvensis - (1, 3)
Ranunculus bulbosus subsp -aleae - (5)
Ranunculus ficaria - (1)
Ranunculus grandiflorus - (3, 9-12)
Ranunculus kochii - (10)
Ranunculus repens - (1, 3, 9)
Ranunculus rufosepalus - (2, 4)
Ranunculus velutinus -(5)
Thalictrum (8, 11)
Thalictrum minus - (1, 2)
Trollius ranunculinus - (2, 9)

Capparaceae

Capparis ovata Var. herbacea - (6, 8, 9)

Berberidaceae

Berberis crataegina - (8, 9)

Papaveraceae

- Chelidonium majus - (1, 4, 8, 9)
- Glaucium corniculatum - (6, 8, 9)
- Papaver arenarium - (8)
- Papaver fugax - (6)
- Papaver lateritium - (4, 11, 12)
- Papaver orientale - (1, 6, 10)
- Papaver rhoeas - (2, 6-9)

Fumariaceae

- Corydalis angustifolia - (10, 11)
- Corydalis oppositifolia - 2, (4, 5, 10)
- Fumaria microcarpa - (9)

Cornaceae

- Cornus mas - (1-4, 6-9)
- Cornus sanguinea - (1-5, 8, 9)

Cruciferae

- Alyssum artvinense - (6, 8, 9)
- Alyssum hirsutum - (2)
- Arabis hirsuta - (1)
- Alliaria petiolata - (1, 2, 7)
- Barbarea vulgaris - (2, 8)
- Capsella bursa-pastoris - (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-12)
- Cardamine hirsuta - (5)
- Cardamine impatiens - (1-4, 10)
- Cardamine raphanifolia Subspacris - (1-3, 5, 6, 9-11)
- Cardaria draba - (1, 6, 11, 12)
- Crambe tatarica - (5, 8, 9)
- Dentaria bulbifera - (1, 7)
- Draba brunoniana - (4, 5, 10, 12)
- Draba hispida - (1, 2, 5, 10)
- Draba polytricha - (4-6, 9, 12)
- Erysimum ? - (1, 2, 10)
- Hesperis buschiniana - (6, 9)
- Hesperis matronalis - (5, 10-12)
- Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum - Watercress - (1, 4, 5, 8, 9)
- Sinapis arvensis - (8)

Crassulaceae

- Sedum album - (3, 7-9)
- Sedum obtusifolium - (2, 5)
- Sempervivum minus - (1)

Saxifragaceae

- Chrysosplenium oppositifolia - (1)
- Saxifraga cymbalaria - (1-3)
- Saxifraga paniculata - (1, 2)
- Saxifraga rotundifolia - (1, 2, 5, 9)

Rosaceae

- Alchemilla caucasica - (2, 10)
- Alchemilla mollis - (3)
- Alchemilla pentaphylla - (10)
- Amygdalus communis - (6, 8)
- Aremonia agriminoidea - (1)

Aruncus dioica - (1, 3, 4, 7, 9)
 Cotoneaster integerrimus - (6, 10, 11)
 Cotoneaster melanocarpus - (8)
 Crataegus curvisepala - (3)
 Crataegus microphylla - (9)
 Filipendula ulmaria - (7)
 Fragaria moshata - (7)
 Fragaria vesca - (1, 3, 5)
 Fragaria viridis (2, 7)
 Geum rivale - (10)
 Geum urbanum - (1, 3, 7)
 Malus sylvestris - (2)
 Mespilus germanica - (3, 8)
 Potentilla crantzii - (2, 9, 10, 12)
 Potentilla erecta - (3, 6, 8, 9)
 Potentilla reptans - (2, 8, 9-11)
 Potentilla sterilis (1)
 Poterium lasiocarpa - (1, 3, 6, 8)
 Prunus avium - (3, 6-9)
 Prunus laurocerasus - (1, 7)
 Prunus padus - (6)
 Pyracantha coccinea - (1)
 Pyrus communis - (2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11)
 Rosa canina - (1, 6-7)
 Rosa pimpinellifolia (5, 10, 11)
 Rosa rubiginosa - (1-3, 5-9, 11)
 Rubus caesius - (1, 3)
 Rubus idaeus - (10, 12)
 Sibbaldia parviflora - (2, 5, 9, 10, 12)
 Sorbus aucuparia - (1, 10)

Resedaceae

Reseda luteola - (1, 6, 8, 9)

Fabaceae

Anthyllis vulneraria - (11)
 Astragalus ponticus - (6, 8)
 Chesnea elegans - (8)
 Colutea arborescens - (6)
 Colutea armena - (2, 8, 9)
 Coronilla emerus (6, 8, 9)
 Coronilla orientalis Var. balansae. (1, 3, 5-7).
 Coronilla securigaea - (1, 3, 6, 8-10, 12)
 Coronilla varia - (6-8)
 Genista tinctoria - (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9)
 Lathyrus aphaca floribunda (3)
 Lathyrus aureus - (3)
 Lathyrus laxiflorus - (1, 2, 7, 9, 11)
 Lathyrus rotundifolius Subsp. miniatus - (7)
 Lathyrus setifolius - (7)
 Lathyrus vernus - (2)
 Lotus angustissimus - (3, 4, 7, 10)
 Lotus corniculatus - 1, 9, 11)
 Lotus (Dorychnium) pentaphyllum - (1, 7)
 Medicago arabica - (3)
 Melilotus alba - (6, 8)
 Melilotus officinalis - (1, 6, 8, 9)
 Robinia pseudacacia - (1-4, 8)
 Securigera serucidaca - (3)

Sophora alopecuroides - (6)
Trifolium campestre - (3-5, 7, 8)
Trifolium ochroleucum ? (10, 11)
Trifolium pannonicum Subsp elongatum. - (3, 5, 7)
Trifolium pratense - (1-3, 7)
Trifolium repens - (4, 6, 8, 9)
Trifolium resupinatum - (3, 7, 8)
Vicia cracca - (1-2, 6-9)
Vicia crocea (1)
Vicia sativa - (3)
Vicia sepium - (1, 2, 4)
Vicia tetrasperma - (2, 3, 7)

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella - (1, 3, 5, 7)

Geraniaceae

Erodium cicutarium - (seen)
Geranium asphodeloides - (1, 2, 7, 9)
Geranium columbinum - (23)
Geranium dissectum - (2, 3)
Geranium ibericum Subsp jubatum - (5, 10, 12)
Geranium molle - (1)
Geranium psilostemon - (3)
Geranium pyrenaicum - (1-3)
Geranium robertianum - (1-3, 5)
Geranium rotundifolium - (2)
Pelargonium endlicherianum - (8)

Zygophyllaceae

Peganum harmala - (6, 8)

Linaceae

Linum bienne - (1 - 3)
Linum tenuifolium - (3)

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia falcata - (6, 8)
Euphorbia macrocladum - (8)
Euphorbia myrsinites - (7, 9)
Euphorbia peplis - (1, 3)

Lythraceae

Lythrum salicaria - (5)

Rutaceae

Haplopyllum armenum - (8)

Polygalaceae

Polygala major - (1-4, 7, 9, 11, 12)
Polygala vulgaris - (5, 7, 9- 12)

Aceraceae

Acer campestre - (2, 3, 7- 9)
Acer cappadocicum - (1, 4, 6, 7)
Acer hyrcanum ? -(8)

Acer platanoides - (1, 3-6)
Platanus orientalis - (1, 3, 4)

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria - (6-8)
Rhus coraria - (1-3, 6-9)

Ebenaceae

Diospyros kaki - (8)
Diospyros lotus - (9)

Celastraceae

Euonymus latifolius - (1, 3, 7)

Balsaminaceae

Impatiens noli-tangere - (1, 3, 4)

Buxaceae

Buxus sempervirens - (7)

Rhamnaceae

Paliurus spina-christi - (6, 8, 9)
Rhamnus alaternus - (1, 3)

Vitaceae

Vitis vinifera - (1, 3, 6, 8, 9)

Elaeagnaceae

Hippophae rhamnoides - (6)

Staphyleaceae

Staphylea pinnata - (1-3)

Malvaceae

Alcea apterocarpa - (6)
Malva parviflora - (3)
Malva sylvestris - (3)

Violaceae

Viola altaica - (2, 12)
Viola arvensis - (3)
Viola riviniana ? - (5, 7)
Viola sieheana - (2, 4, 5)
Viola tricolor - (3)

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne glomerata - (2, 9, 10, 12)
Daphne pontica - (2)

Guttiferae

Hypericum androsaenum - (1, 2)
Hypericum bupleuroides - (1)
Hypericum elodes ? - (5)
Hypericum linarioides ? - (2, 3)

Hypericum orientale (6)
Hypericum perforatum - (3)

Cistaceae

Cistus incanus subsp *creticus* - (1-4, 7-9)
Cistus salviifolius - (1-4)
Fumana thymiifolia - (8)
Helianthemum canum? - (8)
Helianthemum nummularium - (2, 6-8)

Tamariceae

Tamarix smyrniensis - (6-9)

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia cretica - (seen)

Punicaceae

Punica granatum - (3, 6-9)

Grossulariaceae

Ribes biebersteineri - (10).
Ribes uva-crispa - (10-11)

Onagraceae

Chamaenerion angustifolium - (1, 11)
Circaea lutetiana (1, 3)
Epilobium hirsutum - (2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11)
Epilobium montanum - (1, 5)

Araliaceae

Hedera colchica - (1, 3, 4, 7, 9)
Hedera helix - (1-3)

Apiaceae

Anthriscus sylvestris - (2)
Bupleurum schistosum (6)
Eryngium campestre - (6, 7)
Foeniculum vulgare - (6)
Heracleum antasiaticum 1 - (1, 3, 6, 9)
Heracleum mantegazzianum? - (3)
Sanicula europaea - (1-3, 7, 9)
Seseli petraeum - (1, 3)

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo- (3)
Erica arborea - (3)
Rhododendron caucasicum - (4-6, 9, 12)
Rhododendron luteum - (1-7)
Rhododendron ponticum - (1-7)
Vaccinium myrtillus - (2, 9, 10, 11)

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis - (1, 4, 6, 9)
Androsace albana - (10)
Androsace maxima - (seen)

Cyclamen parviflorum - (2, 5)
Cyclamen (aut) - (1, 3, 7)
Primula algida - (4,5)
Primula auriculata - (2, 4-6, 10, 12)
Primula elatior Subsp. pallasii -(10-12)
Primula elatior Subsp. meyeri - (4)
Primula veris Subsp columnae - (2, 9, 10, 12)
Primula vulgaris - (1, 2 4, 7, 9)

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior - (1, 3, 4, 6, 7)
Laurus nobilis - (3)
Ligustrum vulgare - (3)
Olea europaea - (6, 8, 9)
Phillyrea latifolia - (1, 3)

Gentianaceae

Gentiana aesclepidea - (1, 7)
Gentiana cruciata - (2, 7, 9, 10)
Gentiana pyrenaica - (2, 5, 9)
Gentiana septemfida - (2, 7, 12)
Gentiana verna Subsp pontica - (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12)
Swertia iberica - (10?) .

Asclepiadaceae

Periploca graeca - (8)
Trachomitum venetum - (6, 8, 9)
Vincetoxicum fuscatum - (1, 2)

Apocynaceae

Vinca major - (3)

Rubiaceae

Asperula orientalis - (1, 2, 6, 9)
Asperula taurica - (1, 2)
Cruciata laevipes - (2, 5, 7-9, 11, 12)
Galium aparine - (3, 9)
Galium odoratum - (1, 2, 5, 7)
Rubia peregrina - (1)
Sherardia arvensis - (seen)

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia sepium/sylvaticum - (3, 4)
Convolvulus cantabrica - (7, 9)
Convolvulus arvensis - (3, 4)
Convolvulus pseudocammica - (6, 8-9)

Boraginaceae

Anchusa azurea - (6, 8)
Arnebia pulchra - (5, 9-11)
Cerinthe glabra - (10)
Echium vulgare- (3, 6, 8-10)
Lithospermum arvensis - (8, 11)
Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum - (1-3, 8, 9)
Myosotis alpestris - (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12)
Myosotis arvensis - (1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10)
Myosotis ramossimum - (7)

Nonea pulla Subsp monticola - (10, 11)
Nonea pulmonarioides - (8) .
Onosma armena (lemon flowered) - (1, 2)
Symphytum asperum - (1-3, 9)
Symphytum orientalis - (6, 8)

Labiatae

Ajuga chamaepitys - (6, 10)
Ajuga genevensis - (9, 10, 12)
Ajuga orientalis - (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12)
Ajuga reptans - (2, 7)
Hyssopus officinalis - (3)
Lamium album - (3, 5, 9)
Lamium amplexicaule - (seen)
Lamium galactophyllum - (3, 6)
Lamium gundelsheimeri - (1)
Lycopus europaeus - (1, 3-5, 9)
Marrubium parviflorum - (seen)
Mentha aquatica - (1-5, 9, 10)
Mentha longifolia - (2, 3, 7)
Micromeria elliptica - (8)
Origanum marjoram - (1, 2)
Origanum rotundifolium - (6-9)
Origanum vulgare - (1-3)
Phlomis tuberosa - (1)
Prunella laciniata - (6)
Prunella vulgaris - (2-5, 7-10)
Salvia aethiopsis (seen)
Salvia sclarea - (6, 8, 9)
Salvia verbenacea - (1, 8)
Salvia viridis - (8)
Scutellaria albida - (1, 3)
Scutellaria orientalis Subspecies pectinata - (6)
Scutellaria orientalis Subspecies sosnowyky - (8, 12)
Stachys sylvatica - (1, 3)
Teucrium chamaedrys - (2-3, 5-7)
Teucrium polium - (2, 6-8)
Thymus sipyleus Subsp caucasicus. - (2, 5, 8)

Verbenaceae

Verbena officinalis - (8)

Solanaceae

Hyoscyamus niger - (7, 8, 10-12)
Hyoscyamus reticulata - (6, 12)
Physalis alkengi - (8)
Solanum nigrum - (6)

Scrophulariaceae

Digitalis ferruginea - (1, 3, 5, 7)
Euphrasia pectinata - (7)
Linaria genistifolia artvinensis - (7, 8)
Melampyrum arvense Subsp elatius.- (7)
Melampyrum sylvaticum - (2)
Parentucellia latifolia - (3)
Parentucellia viscosa - (3)
Pedicularis caucasica - (2, 9, 10, 12)
Pedicularis comosa - (10-12)

Rhinanthus angustifolius - (1-4, 9-10)
Rhynchospora elephas - (3)
Scrophularia chrysantha - (1-5, 7-12)
Scrophularia kotschyana - (1)
Scrophularia peregrina - (2, 5)
Scrophularia umbrosa - (10)
Verbascum orientale - (8-10)
Veronica anagalis-aquatica - (4)
Veronica beccabunga - (1, 3- 5, 7, 9, 10)
Veronica filiformis - (1, 3-5, 7)
Veronica gentianoides - - (2, 4,5, 9-12)

Lentibulariaceae

Pinguicula balcanica Subsp. pontica - (5)

Orobanchaceae

Many seen but few specifically identified sorry!
Orobanche ramosa - (3)
Orobanche (Rhus) - (7, 8)
Orobanche (fine tall yellow Artvin) - (7)

Morinaceae

Morina persica - (8, 9)

Globulariaceae

Globularia trichosantha - (8)

Plantaginaceae

Plantago lanceolata - (1, 3-6, 8, 9)
Plantago major- (1, 3-5, 8,12)

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera caucasica - (2?, 7)
Sambucus ebulis - (1-7, 9, 10)
Sambucus nigra - (1-4, 6, 8)
Viburnum lantana - (1, 5, 9)

Valerianaceae

Centranthus longifolius - (1-4, 6, 8, 9)
Valeriana alliarifolia - (6, 8)

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus laciniatus - (1, 6)
Scabiosa crinita - (6)

Campanulaceae

Asyneuma lobelioides - (6)
Campanula aucheri/tridentata - (11)
Campanula betonicifolia - (1)
Campanula choruhensis - (8)
Campanula macrochlamys - (1)
Campanula olympica - (3)
Campanula pontica - (7)

Globulariaceae

Globularia trichosantha - (8)

Asteraceae

Achillea schiskinii - (1)
Achillea tanacetifolia - (6, 7, 9)
Achillia millefolium - (5)
Anthemis arvensis - (2, 4)
Arctium platylepis - (5, 11)
Artemisia vulgaris - (3, 4, 10, 11)
Bellis perennis - (1-7, 9-12)
Centaurea alberica - (6)
Centaurea peeko - (7)
Centaurea simplicicaulis - (1?)
Centaurea woronowii - (1, 7, 10, 12)
Cichorium intybus - (9)
Cirsium hypoleucum - (1, 2)
Doronicum oblongifolium (1, 3, 12)
Erigeron acer ? (1)
Erigeron canadensis - (11?)
Eupatorium cannabinum - (1-3, 4, 7)
Hieracium umbellatum - (3)
Jurinella moschus - (2)
Lapsana communis Subsp *grandiflora* - (1, 3, 7)
Leucanthemum vulgare (similar) - (1, 2, 10)
Petasites albus - (1, 2, 4, 5, 9)
Picnemon acarna - (3, 6)
Senecio vernalis - (10, 12?)
Senecio vulgaris - (5, 6)
Sonchus oleraceus - (1, 7, 9)
Taraxacum crepidiforme - (2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12)
Taraxacum officinale agg. - (1, 3- 5, 9, 11, 12)
Tussilago farfara - (1, 4-6, 9)
Xanthium spinosum - (7, 9)

Monocotyledons

Juncaginaceae

Triglochin maritima (9)

Triglochin palustris - (9)

Alismataceae

Alisma lanceolatum - (3, 4, 6)

Araceae

Arum italicum - (3, 8)

Liliaceae

Allium atrovioleaceum - (8)

Bellevalia forniculata }

Bellevalia paradoxa }

Bellevalia pycnantha } - (10, 12)

Bellevalia sarmatica }

Colchicum falcifolium (narrow) - (4, 5)

Colchicum szovitsii (globular) - (4, 5, 12)

Colchicum triphyllum - (4, 5)

Fritillaria caucasica/armena - (4, 10, 12)

Fritillaria latifolia - (4, 5, 10-12)

Gagea fistulosa - (4-6, 10-12)

Gagea glacialis - (1, 2, 4-6, 12)

Gagea granatellii ? - (5)

Merendera trigyna - (12)

Muscari armeniacum - (1-3)

Muscari aucheri - (4, -6, 10, 12?)

Muscari comosa - (8)

Ornithogalum oligophyllum - (4-6)

Ornithogalum orthophyllum - (10)

Ornithogalum platyphyllum - (12)

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum - (6)

Paris incompleta - (1, 12)

Polygonatum multiflorum - (2, 3, 7)

Ruscus aculeatus - (1-3)

Scilla autumnalis - (3)

Scilla roseni - (10, 12)

Scilla sibirica armena - (4-6, 8, 12)

Smilax excelsa - (1-3)

Veratrum album - (10, 12)

Iridaceae

Crocus aeriis (foliage) - (2)

Gladiolus kotschyanus - (7, 9, 10)

Iris caucasica - (10)

Iris furcata - (11)

Iris pseudacorus - (seen)

Iris taochia (6)

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza flavescens - Georgian Orchid - (2, 5, 7)

. Dactylorhiza euxina Var. markowitschii - Euxine Marsh Orchid (3)

Anacamptis pyramidalis - Pyramidal Orchid - (1)

Cephalanthera damasonium - White Helleborine - (1, 2)

Cephalanthera kurdica - Kurdish Helleborine - (7)

Cephalanthera longifolia - Sword-leaved Helleborine - (2, 7)
 Cephalanthera rubra - Red Helleborine - (seen)
 Coeloglossum viride - Frog Orchid - (7, 9)
 Dactylorhiza euxina - Euxine Marsh Orchid - (3)
 Dactylorhiza osmanica- 6, 9, 11)
 Dactylorhiza osmanica Marco - (3)
 Dactylorhiza romana - (5, 7)
 Dactylorhiza umbrosa - (11, 12) Also a few of the spotted leaved form var. chuhensis.
 Dactylorhiza urvilleana - (2-4, 7)
 Epipactis veratrifolia - Eastern Marsh Helleborine - (8)
 Listera ovata - Twayblade - (2, 7)
 Ophrys caucasica - (1, 2)
 Ophrys cornuta (Ophrys oestrifera) - (1, 2)
 Orchis (morio) picta - Green-winged Orchid - (seen)
 Orchis caucasica - Caucasian Lady Orchid. The local form of Lady Orchid - (2)
 Orchis coriophora - Bug Orchid - (9)
 Orchis pallens - (2)
 Orchis provincialis - Provence Orchid (2)
 Orchis pseudolaxiflora - (9)
 Orchis tridentata - Toothed Orchid - (1-3)
 Platanthera bifolia - Lesser Butterfly Orchid - (2, 7)
 Platanthera chlorantha - Greater Butterfly Orchid - (7, 9)
 Serapias feldweggiana - (3)
 Steveniella satyrioides- Hooded Orchid - (2)

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis - (1-4, 8)

Assorted Monocots

Avena sterilis
 Briza major
 Carex pendula
 Cynosurus cristatus
 Dactylis glomerata
 Holcus lanatus
 Lagurus ovatus
 Lolium perenne
 Poa annua
 Poa bulbosa
 Poa viviparpus

Systematic List Number 2

Birds

This list includes the years [2001] (2002), <2003> and 2005 {2006}

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | [1/12] (Y) 1/12 Putzska Marsh |
| Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> Putzska Marsh |
| Red-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> Putzska Marsh |
| Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | [Y] 1/12 Aktas |
| Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | [Y] (1/13) 1/12 Aktas {3, 8} |
| Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> | [Y] (2/13) 1/12 coast |
| White Pelican | <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> 1/12 Aktas – 50+ {11} |
| Dalmatian Pelican | <i>Pelecanus crispus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> 1/12 Aktas - 10 |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | [1/12] Putzska Marsh {4} |
| Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | [Y] |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | [Y] 1/12 Aktas {3, 11} |
| Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | [2/12] (3/13) <2/13> 1/12 Aktas |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> 2/12 coast and Aktas {8, 10, 11} |
| Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <3/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {6, 8, 12} |
| White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | [3/12] (3/13) <2/13> 4/12 Ardahan area {11, 12} |
| Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | [Y] Putzska Marsh |
| Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | [1/12] (Y) <1/13> 1/12 Aktas 20+ |
| Ruddy Shelduck | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> | [4/12] (3/13) <3/13> 4/12 {9-12} |
| Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | [1/12] (1/13) Putzska Marsh |
| Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | <1/13> Puzska Marsh |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | [4/12] (3/13) <3/13> 6/12 mainly Ardahan {3, 8, 10-12} |
| Garganey | <i>Anas querquedula</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <2/13> 1/12 Aktas {10} |
| Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | [Y] |
| Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> | [Y] <1/13> Aktas {10, 11} |
| Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | [3/12] (3/13) <2/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {10-12} |
| Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | [2/12] (3/13) <2/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {10-12} |
| Velvet Scoter | <i>Melanitta fusca</i> | (2/13) <1/13> Aktas |
| White-headed Duck | <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> | [Y] |
| Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) 1/12 Zigana |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | [4/12] (5/13) <2/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {7, 10} |
| Lammergeier | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> | (2/13) 2/12 Ovit Dagi and near Ishan {5} |
| Egyptian Vulture | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | [2/12] (4/13) <1/13> 3/12 Tortum etc {6} |
| Griffon Vulture | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | [1/12] (3/13) |
| Black Vulture | <i>Aegyptius monarchus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) 1/12 seen being mobbed by an Egyptian v! |
| Short-toed Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | [Y] (2/13) <1/13> 1/12 Ardahan area |
| Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | [3/12] (3/13) <2/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {10-12} |
| Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <1/13> 1/12 Road to Aktas {10} |
| Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | 2/12 Trabzon area |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | [10/12] (7/13) <3/13> 6/12 {6, 9-12} |
| Long-legged Buzzard | <i>Buteo rufinus</i> | [5/12] (7/13) <6/13> 5/12 {2, 9-12} |
| Lesser Spotted Eagle | <i>Aquila pomarina</i> | [3/12] (3/13) 3/12 Ardahan area |
| Steppe Eagle | <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> | 1/12 Ardahan area |
| Imperial Eagle | <i>Aguila heliaca</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> 1/12 Ardahan |
| Golden eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | <1/13> 2/12 {5} |
| Booted Eagle | <i>Hieraetus pennatus</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <2/13> 3/12 Ardahan area {8, 12} |
| Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | [2/12] <1/13> Y – way to Kars |
| Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | (5/13) <3/13> 3/12 {11} |
| Red-footed Falcon | <i>Falco vespertinus</i> | [1/12] |
| Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | [2/12] (3/13) <2/13> 1/12 {11} |
| Lanner | <i>Falco biarmicus</i> | <1/13> |
| Saker | <i>Falco cherrug</i> | 1/12 Aktas area |
| Peregrine | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | (1/13 poss) <1/13> 2/12 Good sighting at Artvin etc. {9} |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Caucasian Black Grouse | <i>Tetrao mlokosiewiczii</i> | (1/13) <1/13> (8 birds) 2/12 Ovit dagi {5, 6} |
| Chukar | <i>Alectoris chukar</i> | [2/12] <1/13> 1/12 Tortum |
| Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | 3H/12 Ardahan area |
| Black Francolin | <i>Francolinus francolinus</i> | [Y] |
| Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | 2/12 Puzska |
| Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | [3/12] (2/13) 3/12 Puzska {10-12} |
| Common Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | [1/12] (3/12) 3/12 Pair seen with 2 chicks at Puzska {11, 12} with young |
| Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | [Y] |
| Corncrake | <i>Crex crex</i> | <1/13> Ardahan |
| Little Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | [1/12] 1/12 Gole |
| Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <4/13> 1/12 Puzska Marsh {10-12} |
| Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | [1/12] |
| Common Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | [Y] <1/13> 1/12 Gole {10} |
| Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | {10} |
| Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | (1/13) 2/12 On Cam geciti and Gole |
| Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | [1/12] (2/13) <1/13> 2/12 Gole {11} |
| Little Gull | <i>Larus minutus</i> | [Y] |
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | [Y] <1/13> |
| Slender-billed Gull | <i>Larus genei</i> | [Y] |
| Lesser black backed gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | (1/13) {10-12} |
| Yellow-l'ged Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus cachinnans</i> | [6/12] (7/13) <6/13> 5/12 Coast {1, 3, 4, 10, 11} |
| Armenian Gull | <i>Larus argentatus armenicus</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <1/13> 5/12 Ardahan area |
| Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | [2/12] (1/13) Puzska |
| Little Tern | <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | [Y] 1/12 Puzska |
| Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | {12} |
| Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> | [Y] 1/12 Puzska |
| White-winged Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | [Y] 1/12 Puzska |
| Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | [12/12] (12/13) <8/13> 12/12 {2, 8, 9, 12} |
| Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | {3, 8} |
| Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | [2/12] 2/12 Artvin |
| Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | [9/12] (4/13) <6/13> 7/12 (seen on 2 days) {7, 9, 11} heard |
| Scops owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | <1H/13> |
| Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | <1/13> |
| Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | [1/12] (1H/13) <1H/13> |
| Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | [4/12] (4/14) <6/13> 8/12 {9-12} |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> {10, 12} |
| European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | [5/12] (1/13) <2/13> 2/12 Colony in the Coruh valley {6} |
| Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | [3/12] (3/13) <1/13> 4/12 esp Coruh valley {6} |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <1/13> 1/12 {6} |
| Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | [1H/12] (1H/13) |
| Black Woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> | <1/13> woods near Puzska Marsh |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | [1/12] <4/13> 2/12 {11} |
| Syrian Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i> | [Y] |
| Calandra Lark | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> | <1/13> 3/12 |
| Bimaculated Lark | <i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i> | [Y] {5, 10} |
| Crested lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | <1/13> |
| Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | <1/13> 2/12 Zigana and Ovit dagi {2} heard |
| Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | [5/12] (4/13) <3/13> 4/12 {1-12} |
| Shore Lark | <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> | [5/12] (4/13) <6/13> 5/12 high passes {5, 6, 10} |
| Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | [3/12] (6/13) <1/13> 1/12 Aktas road {3} |
| Crag Martin | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | [6/12] (12/13) <1/13> 12/12 {2, 4-6, 8, 10-12} |
| Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | [7/12] (6/13) <6/13> 8/12 not Artvin {8, 11, 12} |
| House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | [5/12] (10/13) 5/12 Artvin and Ardahan 8, 11, 12} |
| Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <6/13> |
| Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | [2/12] (2/12) <3/13> 5/12 {5?} |
| Meadow pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | (1/13?) |
| Water Pipit | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | [2/12] (4/13) <6/13> 3/12 high passes |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Grey-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (flava) thunbergii</i> | {1, 5-7} |
| Black-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <3/13> 4/12 {10, 11} |
| Citrine Wagtail | <i>Motacilla citreola</i> | [1/12] (2/13) <1/13> 2/12 Puzska and Gole |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | [10/12] (8/13) <7/13> 7/12 not Ardahan {1} |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | [11/12] (12/13) <12/13> 10/12 {2-10} |
| Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> | [5/12] (4/13) <2/13> 4/12 white waters {1} |
| Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | [5/12] (8/13) <1/13> |
| Alpine Accentor | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | [1/12] (1/13) <1/13> 1/12 Ovit Dagı {4} |
| Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | [2/12] (5/13) <2/13> 2/12 {1} |
| Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | [1H/12] |
| Bluethroat | <i>Luscinia svecica</i> | 1/12 Cam Geciti 3M/ 1F, 1M white dotted; all-red tails! |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <4/13> 4/12 inc 1 semirufus {4, 12} |
| Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | [2/12] (1/13) <4/13> 2/12 {7, 12} |
| Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | [2/12] (4/13) <3/13> {11} |
| Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | [4/12] (2/13) <1/13> 1/12 |
| Isabelline Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i> | [Y] {6?} |
| Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | [5/12] (5/13) <9/13> 8/12 {4-7, 9-12} |
| Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | [3/12] (1/13) <3/13> 2/12 {5, 10-12} |
| Finsch's Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe finschii</i> | [Y] |
| Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> | [2/12] (3/13) <3/13> 3/12 {9-12} |
| Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | [2/12] (3/12) <3/13> 1/12 Tortum |
| Ring Ouzel | <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | [1/12] (1/13) |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | [9/12] (9/13) <9/13> 9/12 {1-12} |
| Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | 2/12 Trabzon area |
| Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | [2/12] (3/13) <1/13> 1/12 |
| Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | 1H/12 at Gole |
| Moustached Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i> | [1/12] (2/13) <2/13> 1/12 Puzska marsh |
| Sedge Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | <1/13> |
| Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | (2/13) <1/13> |
| Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | <3/13> |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | 1/12 Coruh valley |
| Olivaceous Warbler | <i>Hippolais pallida</i> | [2/12] (2/13) 2/12 |
| Menetries Warbler | <i>Sylvia mystacea</i> | 1/12 M and F Gole road |
| Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <1/13> |
| Common Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | (1/13) <1/13> |
| Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | [1/12] |
| Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | [4/12] (6/13) <2H/13> 2/12 {1} |
| Green (ish) Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides nitidus</i> | [2/12] (4/13) <2/13> 2/12 Trabzon area |
| Mountain Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i> | [2/12] (1/13) <1/13> 1/12 Kafkasor |
| Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | [1/12?] <1/13> |
| Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | [2H/12] (2H/12) <3H/13> |
| Spotted flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | (1/13) 1/12 Coruh Valley |
| Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | [2/12] <1/13> |
| Coal Tit | <i>Parus ater</i> | [4/12] (6/13) <1/13> 3/12 |
| Blue Tit | <i>Parus caeruleus</i> | [2/12] (2/13) <2/13> 4/12 {9} |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | [8/12] (10/13) <3/13> 3/12 {9} |
| Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | [1H/12] |
| Eastern Rock Nuthatch | <i>Sitta tephronata</i> | [Y] 2/12 nesting pair at Tortum |
| Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | [2H/12] 1H/12 {6, 12} |
| Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | [9/12] (9/13) <6/13> 6/12 |
| Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | [4/12] (9/12) <6/13> 7/12 {5} |
| Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | [5/12] (4/13) <7/13> 7/12 {6-12} |
| Alpine Chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> | [1/12] <2/13> 3/12 {2, 4, 8} |
| Chough | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> | [2/12] (2/13) <1/13> 1/12 {6, 8, 12} |
| Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | [6/12] (5/13) <6/13> 7/12 {6, 9-12} |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <4/13> 5/12 {9-12} |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus (corone) cornix</i> | [12/12] (12/13) <10/13> 10/12 {1-12} |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | [10/12] (7/13) <9/13> 5/12 {2, 6, 10} |
| Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <4/13> 6/12 {5, 10-12} |
| Rose-coloured Starling | <i>Sturnus roseus</i> | [3/12] (5/13) <1/13> 1/12 {6} |

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | [10/12] (9/13) <9/13> 10/12 {1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12} |
| Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | [1/12] <1/13> 2/12 |
| Rock Sparrow | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | [2/12] (1/13) <3/13> 1/12 {6, 10} |
| Snow Finch | <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i> | [4/12] (3/13) <5/13> 3/12 {4} |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | [5/12] (12/13) <11/13> 8/12 {1, 5, 9} |
| Red-fronted Serin | <i>Serinus pusillus</i> | [1/12] <3/13> 3/12 {8} |
| Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | [1/12] 2/12 |
| Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | [1/12] (4/13) <3/13> 1/12 |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | [3/12] (5/13) <8/13> 5/12 |
| Siskin | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | [1/12] (2/13) |
| Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <3/13> 1/12 Seytan kale gorge {12} |
| Twite | <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i> | [3/12] (1/12) <5/13> 1/12 ditto |
| Common Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | <3/13> |
| Crimson winged Finch | <i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i> | 1/12 3-4 possible birds. Cam geciti |
| Common Rosefinch | <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> | [5/12] (10/13) <6/13> 5/12 {5} |
| Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | <1/13> |
| Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | 1/12 Savsat {10} |
| Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | 1/12 nesting pair on coastal headland |
| Cinereous Bunting | <i>Emberiza cineracea</i> | 1/12 Possible on Cam geciti; call matched. |
| Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | [4/12] (2/13) <2/13> 2/12 Kafkasor and Camlik |
| Ortolan Bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <1/13> 2/12 Last 2 days only |
| Black-headed Bunting | <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> | [3/12] (2/13) <2/13> 4/12 Ardahan area |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | [4/12] (4/13) <3/13> 4/12 Ardahan area {6} |

Systematic List Number 3

Mammals

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Fox | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | Individuals seen near Cildir and on the Cam Gecidi. Both were of the striking grey and red colour characteristic of this region and both had very long rich fur. 2/12 {3 seen} |
| Wolf | <i>Lupus lupus</i> | Perhaps the moment of the 2002 trip when an adult male Wolf crossed the road right next to Chris and I (came to within four metres of us!) – those in the minibus behind had rather less spectacular views. This was about 10km west of Ardahan not far before the start of the climb up to the Cam Gecidi. It was surprisingly not too early – about 08.00! Not seen seen the 2002 trip |
| Brown Bear | <i>Ursos arctos</i> | None seen but fresh and very clear tracks photographed by Terry at Kafkasor above Artvin! 6 O'clock rise to Cam Gecidi - Large male Bear seen ambling among scrub and rocks 1km away in 2005 and again in 2006 |
| Harbour Porpoise | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> | Several offshore of Arsin and Terry's minibus saw a large group east of Rize. 2/12 |

Systematic List Number 4

Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and the systematic order have been taken from Tolman and Lewington's Butterflies of Britain and Europe published by HarperCollins (1997) with additional species information from Hasselbarth's 'Die Tagfalter der Turkiye.

Papilionidae

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | 1 at Ardanuc {9} |
| Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> | 1 en route to Tortum Golu {7, 8} |
| Clouded Apollo | <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i> | Only seen in the meadows at Kafkasor {7} |

Pieridae

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | Scattered {1, 8, 9} |
| Black-veined White | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> | {8} |
| Small White species | <i>Artogeia</i> species | Several noted but none identified for sure {8, 9} |
| Green-veined White | <i>Artogeia napi</i> | {8} |
| Eastern Bath White | <i>Pontia edusa</i> | Ardanuc |
| Small Bath White | <i>Pontia chlorodice</i> | 1 en route to Tortum Goul and also at Ardanuc |
| Eastern Dappled White | <i>Euchloe ausonia</i> | Tortum Golu, Coruh Valley & Ardanuc |
| Orange-tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> | Scattered throughout {1-4} |
| Gruner's Orange-Tip | <i>Anthocharis gruneri</i> | Kafkasor and Ardanuc |
| Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> | Quite common at Artvin and the Coruh Valley. There were certainly other clouded yellow species present – particularly the pale ones {1, 4, 8} |
| Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> | Locally frequent {2, 3, 8} |
| Powdered Brimstone | <i>Conepteryx farinosa</i> | Scattered. 3/12 |
| Wood White | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> | 1 en route to Uzungol. Several unidentified 'wood whites' elsewhere could have been this species or Eastern Wood White <i>Leptidea duponcheli</i> |

Lycaenidae

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> | Artvin and Ardahan areas |
| Small Copper | <i>Callophrys pavlae</i> | Noted near Cildir |
| Sooty Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> | Kafkasor {4, 7} |
| Purple-shot Copper | <i>Lycaena tityrus</i> | Ardanuc |
| Little Tiger Blue | <i>Lycaena alciphron</i> | Seen by Savsat's Georgian Castle |
| Short-tailed Blue | <i>Tarucus balkanicus</i> | Several en route to Tortum Golu |
| Osiris Blue | <i>Everes argiades</i> | Near Arsin |
| Little Bvblue | <i>Cupido osiris</i> | Seen by Savsat's Georgian Castle {9} |
| Alcon Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | En route to Tortum Golu and at Ardanuc |
| Iolas Blue | <i>Maculinea alcon</i> | Noted between Artvin and Tortum Golu and at Kafkasor |
| Grass Jewel | <i>Iolana iolas</i> | 1 en route to Tortum Golu |
| Silver-studded Blue | <i>Chilades trochylus</i> | {6} |
| Loew's Blue | <i>Plebejus argus</i> | Locally common in the Coruh Valley – probably the commonest blue {8} |
| | <i>Plebejus loewii</i> | ?possibly this species near Artvin? |
| Eastern Brown Argus | <i>Vacciniina alcedo</i> | Seen by Savsat's Georgian Castle |
| | <i>Kretania eurypilus</i> | |

Brown Argus
Blue Argus
Mazarine Blue
Pontic Blue

Common Blue
Eros Blue

Aricia agestis
Ultraaricia anteros
Cyaniris semiargus
Neoly sandra coelestina
Polyommatus fatima
Polyommatus icarus
Polyommatus eros

Scattered {9}
Kafkasor
En route to Tortum Golu
En route to Tortum Golu {8, 9}
?or similar – Savsat and Ardahan?
Scattered {4}
?this species or similar at several places in
the Coruh Valley and Kafkasor

Libytheidae

Nettle-Tree Butterfly

Libythea celtis

En route to Tortum Golu

Nymphalidae

Southern White Admiral
Large Tortoiseshell

Limentis reducta
Nymphalis polychloros

2 between Artvin and Tortum Golu {6}
Either this species or *Nymphalis xanthomelas*, the Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell, seen near Savsat {4, 5, 8, 9}
Arsin {1}
Widespread
Widespread
Uzungol and Cam Pass {3}
Kafkasor {7, 8}
En route to Tortum Golu
Cam Pass
{9}
Noted en route to Tortum Golu
Scattered in the Coruh Valley. Other *Melitaea* species also present but not Identified

Peacock
Red Admiral
Painted Lady
Small Tortoiseshell
Comma
Southern Comma
Cardinal
Marsh Fritillary
Queen of Spain Fritillary

Inachis io
Vanessa atalanta
Cynthia cardui
Aglais urticae
Polygonia c-album
Polygonia egea
Argynnis pandora
Euphydryas aurina
Issoria lathonia
Melitaea punica

Cam Pass
Coruh Valley {7}
Coruh Valley {7, 9}
Scattered {5}
Scattered
Ardanuc

Satyridae

Dalmatian Ringlet
Meadow Brown
Small Heath
Speckled Wood
Wall Brown
Large Wall Brown

Proterebia afra
Maniola jurtina
Coenonympha pamphilus
Pararge aegeria
Lasiommata megera
Lasiommata maera

?probably this species below the Zigana Pass?
1 at Kafkasor
Kafkasor
Kafkasor
En route to Tortum Golu
Savsat {seen}
Kafkasor
This species or *Thymelicus nouus* noted by the Georgian Castle at Savsat

Hesperiidae

Sandy Grizzled Skipper
Orbed Red-Underwing Skipper
Tesselated Skipper
Mallow Skipper
Dingy Skipper
Inky Skipper
Levantine Skipper

Pyrgus melotis
Pyrgus cinarae
Spialia orbifer
Muschampia tessellum
Carcharodus alceae
Erynnis tages
Erynnis marloyi
Thymelicus hyrax