

The Pontic Alps

Magical Lazistan

A Greentours Tour Report

10th May – 23rd May 2026

Led by Ian Green

Photos: Fauna by Heinz Klöser and plants and landscapes by Ian Green

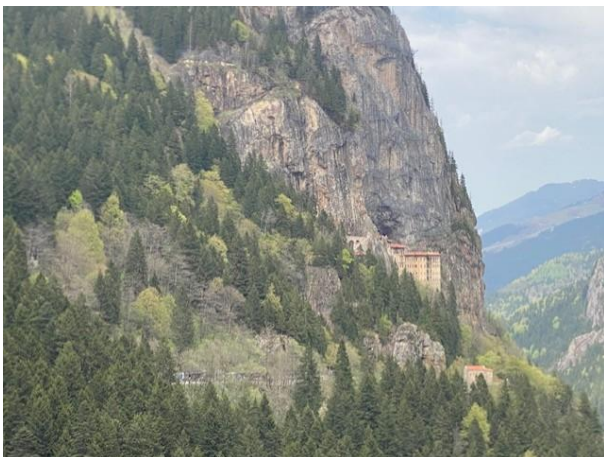
Day 1 May 10th to Trabzon

Departures were from various points through Istanbul and thence to Trabzon went smoothly. Then we drove inland for an hour and settled into our hotel in the mountains.

Day 2 May 11th Sumela Monastery

Due to the late evening arrival we decided to have a relaxed start this morning with an eight-thirty breakfast and a nine-thirty departure.

We parked up below Sumela Monastery. Though it was a Monday there were many visitors, the vast majority fairly local. The skies were largely blue with some clouds bubbling up. The euxine temperate rainforests here are stunning. The variety of shades of green beggars belief and is a



consequence of the rich variety of tree species present, as well as a nice mix between conifers and deciduous trees. We noted *Abies nordmanniana*, *Picea orientalis*, *Quercus petraea*, *Acer cappadocicum*, *Acer velutinum*, *Tilia rubra*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Ostrya carpinifolia*, *Mespilus germanica*, *Fagus orientalis*, *Castanea sativa*, *Juglans regia*, *Cornus mas* and *Ulmus glabra*. Our walk took us along to the monastery with some ups and downs, but without the steep walk up that the site is known for! There was an abundance of plantlife of interest to us. Yellow *Saxifraga cymbalaria* and white

Saxifraga rotundifolia were common. *Polygonatum multiflorum* hung in pendulous wands. *Paris incompleta* was just opening its blooms and *Trachystemon orientale* and *Symphytum aspera* were in fine fettle. The displays of *Pachyphragma macrophylla* were noteworthy sometimes joined by the tall *Dentaria bulbifera*. There were so many ferns including *Matteucia struthiopteris*, *Phegopteris connectilis*,

Phyllitis scolopendrium, *Athyrium filix-femina*, and both *Polypodium vulgare* and *Polypodium australe*. Little ferns included *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *Asplenium septentrionale* and *Asplenium trichomanes*. Wrens, Coal Tits and Chaffinches were the common birds and Green Warblers were common too.

On the walls of the monastery were clumps of the fine wallflower *Erysimum deflexum* and orange-flowered *Scrophularia kotschyanus*. One bluff just below the site had a swathe of blue *Muscari*



armeniacum over it. Ozan took us inside the monastery and explained the history of the sight and we took a look at the murals. Then we headed back down to vehicles some of us walking the three kilometres back down to our minibus. This was mainly a jaunt through some fine scenery but we did see Grey Wagtails, Ravens and some fine Bladdernut (*Staphylea pinnata*). Then it was down to a restaurant in the valley which produced a very tasty lunch of salad, saç kavurma, and varied fare for the vegetarians including a kind of cheesy pancake and muğhlama, a

local speciality made from flour, cheese and egg. Many tried the ayran, a drink made from yoghurt, water and salt. The acılı şalgam, a drink made from fermented carrots, bulgur wheat and turnips as well as a hefty dose of chilli, was rather less popular.

We started the afternoon along a nearby roadside in the hazel groves and also popped into an intriguing graveyard whose most famous denizen was a sculptor who'd designed a rather elegant grave for himself. Amongst the well-spaced hazels was a rich assortment of flowers in herbage kept free of rank grass growth by lots of *Rhinanthus angustifolius*. Both *Geranium collinum* and *Geranium asphodeloides* were common. However it was the orchids that held sway here. Particularly *Ophrys caucasica* which was quite common with some fine plants, and there were some elegantly spherical Toothed Orchids and lots of Monkey Orchids too.



Later we explored a fabulous meadow. There was an abundance of the yellow rattle and *Polygala*. Amongst these bloomed plentiful *Ophrys oestrifera* and also some very good condition *Ophrys caucasica* too. Toothed Orchid was just coming into flower. A real treat was perhaps fifty Hooded (or Hazelnut) Orchids (*Steveniella satyroides*) too, this year in perfect bloom. Also noted were Sword-leaved Helleborines and again plenty of Monkey Orchid. It was interesting to see this as the closely related Steven's Orchid also blooms in this meadow yet there were no sign of them this year, probably they'd be a couple of weeks later. *Ajuga genevensis* and *Lathyrus vernus* provided splashes of blue and pink. Under some shade we found a fine clump of *Daphne pontica* in fragrant bloom.

Then it was to our hotel perched up near the top of the forest at around 1700m on the road up to the Zigana Pass.

Day 3 May 12th The Zigana Pass & Hamsiköy



It was a beautiful sunny morning – a relief after yesterday's weather! We did a brief pre-breakfast walk seeing quite a few Common Rosefinches as well as Goldcrest, Raven and Common Redstart. A Brown Bear's skull and jawbones was an interesting find, the teeth were quite impressive!



After breakfast it was up the road to the pass. Snow surrounded us as we neared the top. We explored a slope where it had melted and this had a magical display of snowmelt flowers all looking fabulous in the morning sun. *Primula vulgaris* looks like a true alpine here and there were white and blue *Anemone blanda*, lots of pink *Cyclamen parviflorum* and pink *Colchicum szovitzii* between krummholz which surprisingly was made up from *Rhododendron luteum* still in buds. Dotted amongst these were occasional *Gagea glacialis* and *Gagea luteoides*, a few architectural *Ajuga orientalis*, and a lovely deep blue *Veronica*. There was a single pink form of Georgian Orchid *Dactylorhiza flavescens*. Woodlarks sang amongst the stunted pines. Tree Pipits were common and the distinctive Turkish race of Jay was seen.

Our route to Limni Pool was blocked by snow so we went the roundabout way first descending the drier south-facing slopes. We stopped awhile in the pine forests, the steep banks decorated with flowering *Helleborus orientalis* and butter-yellow *Primula veris* subspecies *columnnae*. We drove slowly up through Zigana village, a delightfully peaceful and beautiful place. A walk up the road here produced plants such *Fibigia eriocarpa*, *Erysimum undulatifolium* and *Sobolewsia clavata*, crucifers all. Our picnic was taken back up by the snow in a little summer yayla next to the Limni Pool. In fact we were more or less surrounded by snow here, at least as much ground was snow-covered as



wasn't. By the picnic was a wonderful show of almost turquoise-blue *Scilla sibirica* subspecies *caucasica*. Mixed with lots of *Anemone blanda*. And in some running snowmelt were the most magnificent Kingcups – the



local form being *Caltha polypetala*, with absolutely huge flowers. Rock Bunting was seen and so too Black Redstart. The views down over the mountains to the south were sublime, a great spot to enjoy our picnic.

In the afternoon we took a walk with snow all about, a track taking us to a plateau that was just stunning. What a magnificent sight. We estimated fifteen thousand *Colchicum szovitsii* blooming across the tight

alpine turf, the pink goblets glowing in the afternoon sun. Cresting a slight rise we saw more, they went on and on.... Water Pipits were enjoying this spot too. Above a Long-legged Buzzard cruised along the ridge, Ravens too, and several flocks of European Bee-eaters flew over high above. Another highlight came when we spotted a Brown Bear. It was distant though in a most beautiful spot and was in full view for the next hour as we took turns watching it through the 'scope. An adult male we reckoned. Then it was back down to the valley and through the tunnel and thence to the hotel, the sun still shining.

We were back earlier than usual so we took a walk up from the hotel to see two fine *Orchis pallens* as well as some fine pale pink *Cardamine raphanifolia*.

I popped out for a little after dark walk and found a black and gold Caucasian Salamander.

Day 4 May 13th Yanbolu Cayi and Ovit Pass

Pre-breakfast I picked up the trap cameras which had been recording for the past two days. One of them had a nice big Brown Bear walking past...

After breakfast we said goodbye to the welcoming and homely Zitas and headed down to the coast. A roadside cliff halfway down caused us to halt briefly as it was adorned with the most wonderful display of *Asphodeline lutea* in full flower. With this was some nice *Centaurea hypoleuca*.



Close to the river mouth at Yanbolu we stopped by a rather unexciting looking piece of land that overlooked the sea. What was immediately obvious though was a fabulous population of the local

endemic tongue orchid *Serapias orientalis (feldweggiana)*. There were hundreds of them growing in swathes through a damp area, indeed the central reservation, and a nearby roundabout was full of them too! Though



unexciting looking this is a tiny enclave of Mediterranean vegetation so over the forty minutes we saw many plant species we would not see elsewhere on the tour, Mediterranean shrubs such as *Cistus* (both *creticus* and *salvifolius*), *Mespilus germanica*, *Erica arborea* and *Laurus nobilis* and climbers such as wild grape and *Clematis vitalba*. The wet areas that were so full of the tongue orchids also held much *Ranunculus marginalis* and *Oenanthe fistulosa*. *Bituminosa bituminaria* had good flowers and the delicate little Grass Vetchling *Lathyrus nissolia* had pretty pink flowers.

We looked out to sea, the waters calm. At the juncture of river water and Black Sea water we could see the Black Sea race of Harbour Porpoise. This isolated race is probably a good candidate for full species status. There were perhaps twenty of them. Then we realised



that some of them were clearing the water and tail-slapping, not at all Harbour Porpoise behaviour. The narrow arcing fins and patterned sides revealed that we were looking a pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphins. Alan and Marie spotted a grebe close at hand which turned out to be a summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebe.

We drove a couple of kilometres to a little headland where we were granted permission to go down to the waterfront to see what we could find. The dry turf behind the breakwater had a range of clovers including – *Trifolium dubium*, *campestre* and pink *resupinatum*. Offshore we could again see the Harbour Porpoises and this time a Bottle-nosed Dolphin. We'd managed to spot all three species of cetacean known from the Black Sea in less than half an hour! Five lovely Slender-billed Gulls flew past. On the rocks just in front of us there was a dense turf of green, brown and red algae, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* and *Corallina sp.* and probably *Pylaea sp.*, where some blennioid gobies and green shore crabs could be observed from above.



Then it was time to head for the heights! We were a little late so we stopped for our picnic half way up to the pass. The rain arrived so the landowner suggested we move under a shelter next to their house and we gladly accepted. Meanwhile some of us wandered around finding lots of *Ranunculus cappadocicus*, clumps of pretty pink *Primula vulgaris* subspecies *rubra*, and some fine flowering *Paris incompleta*. *Draba hispida*, the fern *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, black-flowered *Vincetoxicum fuscum*, and yellow *Scrophularia chrysantha* were also noted.

The rain was steady but light so we tried our luck by heading towards the pass. Snow lay over the whole landscape as we neared the tunnel – clearly going up the old road to the pass itself was not sensible today, so we drove through the tunnel to tackle the snowbound landscape from the south side. But alas, today the weather was even poorer on that side. We could however see better weather arriving from the west so after a while we were able to park up and have looksee. It was cold and there was a keen and bitter wind. But the scenery was stunning, almost completely snowbound all around and we were only at 2000m! The birds were finding the conditions somewhat inclement too and either sheltered or in the case of one Garden Warbler just sat looking rather frozen in a small tree! Sheltering birds included several migrants such as Common Whitethroat, Whinchat and a Wood Warbler. Other birds more typical of this high terrain were Black Redstarts, Northern Wheatears, Water Pipits and Shore Lark. There was also a Tawny Pipit. The snow burnt turf where it showed was hardly awake after winter yet and there was only *Colchicum szovitsii*, *Gagea fragifera* and *glacialis*, and *Caltha polypetala* showing. There was a fine show of *Scilla sibirica* subspecies *armena*.



We decided to go downhill heading back through the tunnel and down towards the hotel, making one brief stop near there. Here was a lovely show of *Omphalodes cappadocica* draped on the cliffs.



Day 5 May 14th Anzer Yayla



It was a bright and sunny morning as we partook of the Ridos's varied breakfast. The Muğhlama, made of cheese and butter, was very light and fooled a number of us into thinking that it was scrambled egg.

We left at nine, driving down a steep-sided valley cloaked in fabulous euxine forest at once shimmering various greens in the morning sun and glistening from the moisture on the leaves from last night's rain. The river roared downwards, and flowers hung enticingly from the cliffs on the other side of the road. Grey Wagtails were busy everywhere. It was a thoroughly idyllic scene. The road to Anzer Yayla was very similar, beautiful, quiet, and full of luxuriant greenery. We called a halt next to some bee hives – the bees very busy on the shimmering *Barbarea minor* flowering with clumps of *Viola sieheana* on the roadside meadow. Further along we spotted a Camberwell Beauty sunning itself on a streamside rock. This was joined by another and then another and we saw two more as we drove up the road.

We passed through a series of jagged rocks emerging from the by now dwarfing forest. We could see the yayla pastures now not far above.



open ground was dotted with big 'drumsticks' of *Primula veris macrocalyx*. Great yellow blooms of *Caltha polypetalata* decorated streams the strident yellow off *Trollius ranunculinus* on the drier slopes. We walked up past lots of fine *Acer trautvetteri*, Mountain Chiffchaffs calling in the birch trees above. Gullies were full of snow, one had a population of the lovely little *Scilla monanthos* at its base. And then there was a Crocus, and then a second

one, but not the same species! The heavily purple-blue striped and infused ones were *Crocus aereus* and the almost completely white ones *Crocus fibroannulatus*.



We continued up to Anzer Village. Here we found a



remarkable sight. A meadow full of the very finest flowers. Amidst a carpet of yellow *Gagea glacialis* was a fabulous show of crocuses. *Crocus fibroannulatus* in particular was impressive with the large white blooms set off by the bright orange stigma and pyjama stripes that only reached the base of the otherwise pure white goblet. *Crocus aereus* was the more common and came in





many shade of blue-purple-pink. But even better, here was *Iris histrioides*, a flower whose blue is indescribably pure. There were a good number of these gorgeous irises. It was all we could do to drag ourselves away.



The picnic spot was designated – it would have been difficult to take the minibus much further due to the increasing amount of snow on the road. However we could walk, and we did. We were surrounded by expanses of snow, rock and alpine turf and the sun shone brightly, the views magnificent. As we walked up the snow cover



became more complete. Around a kilometre from the vehicle we reached a sport where it was only snow from then on! Red-billed Chough called overhead, a flock of them playing along the ridges. Northern Wheatears were common. Whinchats of the locally striking plumage form were noted. As one sang Merlin said 'Common Sandpiper' and we too could hear the apparent mimicry! A female Levant Sparrowhawk flew hastily past. Three Radde's Accentors



appeared amongst the rocks and then a further two. Meanwhile up on the skyline a Long-legged Buzzard looked fabulous in the bright sunshine. Up here the gagea were like grass, and with it abundant *Scilla sibirica* subspecies *armena* in sky-blue glory and pale pink *Colchicum szovitsii*. Clouds billowed up to the south and suddenly thunder rumbled and only minutes later hail was falling, only to stop after a few minutes and the sun return again. Such is mountain weather.



During the picnic an adult Lammergeier sailed overhead. There was some wonderfully lush *Ornithogalum* on the rocks below and the tight rounded clumps of *Draba* may have been *Draba rigida*.



Now we descended to the jagged rock landscape that provides such a counterpoint to the smoother alpine meadows above. We spent an hour walking down. *Scrophularia ilwensis* and *Arnebia pulchra* were noted. High above an adult Golden Eagle soared. A little later Ozan spotted the Lammergeier again, this time with another adult and a youngster – three Lammergeiers at once! Then a Goshawk soared above the forest... We made a stop lower down for the decorative *Senecio hypchionaceus* and then it was time to head back to the hotel.

Day 6 May 15th along the Çoruh Valley to Yaylalar



Today we headed through the Ovit tunnel and thence down to the Çoruh Valley and along it to Yusufeli before heading back up into the mountains again and Yaylalar. Our first stop was up in the Arctic landscape that was above the tunnel on the south side. We stayed in the minibus! Driving up the snowbound road though was great for birds as many of them either perched by the roadside or on the road itself so we had great views of Shore Larks and Water Pipits in particular, these were both superabundant. Northern Wheatears too. A male Merlin flew past and latterly a Black Kite. There were two fine White-winged Snowfinches as well as Whinchats and Black Redstarts and a Common Sandpiper, the latter on the road! The snowploughed road suddenly deteriorated so we turned round, at the same time the weather closed in and the temperature dropped to 2°C and it started sleeting! So we headed downhill.

Down in the valley by the Çoruh River the temperature was a pleasant 14°C and the rain soon stopped. We moved down to the Ispir Gorge. Red-billed Chough soared overhead, alongside a Lesser Kestrel, Alpine Swifts and various hirundines. Growing on the cliffs were the pale yellow wands of *Eremurus spectabilis* as well as *Saxifraga sibirica*.

Below the gorge we sopped by some red gravelly slopes that held all sorts of botanical treats. There were lovely mats of *Saponaria prostrata*, both *Linaria armeniaca* and *Linaria simplex*, two very different *Fumarias*, and the strange *Cleome ornithopodioides*. We found the local endemic *Acer divergens* as well as *Jasminum fruticans*, much *Ziziphus* and the shrubby honeysuckle *Lonicera iberica* was common. An Oriental Wood White was seen.

We were struggling to drive past the varied flora and fauna we could see out the windows so it wasn't long before we stopped again, this time for a great display of *Iris taochia*. There were about equal numbers of plum-coloured and yellow forms. On the same





gravelly slope a beautiful earth star (possibly *Geastrum fornicatum*?) was noted.

We really had to find somewhere for a picnic and soon Cengiz spotted a handy picnic table and benches by a little spring behind which grew several *Ostrya carpinifolia*. I checked out some trees across the river and saw no less than seven Golden Orioles perched in a tree-top, six females and a male. Needless to say when I took everyone else back there they were no longer visible. Along the track behind the spring was Sombre Tit and several nice plants including *Campanula macrochlamys* and *Centaurea simplicicaulis*.

After lunch we continued down the valley stopping when a gravelly bank produced the lovely *Chesneya elegans*. Here there was so much more – the local lentil *Cicer pinnatifidum*, *Adonis flammea*, and *Onobrychis huetiana* whose peachy flowers are striped dark red. There was also the refined *Salvia rosifolia* and a real highlight in the shape of the brown-plum (that is to say, ground-coloured) *Iris caucasica* subspecies *nezahatiae*, known only from within twenty or so kilometres of Yusufeli. Ozan spotted Roller and Alan and Marie a fine male Red-backed Shrike.



We stopped again to photograph the colourfully strata-ed landscapes next to some Oriental Larkspur, *Consolida orientalis*. But as usual there was so much more. There was a stand of the tall *Astragalus falcatus*, lots of *Ornithogalum narbonnense*, and overhead European Bee-eater. Two Short-toed Eagles were seen briefly and we also noted the blue *Polyommatus corydonius*. A Red Fox walked across the road.

Nearing Yaylalar a Wallcreeper flew across the road and we were able to watch it on a rocky promontory for a few minutes. Heinz also spotted a second bird. Then it was up to the village where Naim welcomed us to his nice warm little hotel and fed us a very tasty dinner.

After dinner I walked down the valley to place some trap cameras. Half a kilometre below the village a big male Brown Bear posed on a rock. There followed more than an hour with no mammals but then really nice views of a Stone Martin, rudely interrupted by a vehicle stopping an offering me a lift to Yusufeli (it was raining and 23.30!). Needless to say the Stone Martin which had been moving towards me scarpered. Walking back up I reached the edge of the village and there at the same time was another Stone Martin and also a 'teenage' Brown Bear in the meadow behind the hotel.

Day 7 May 16th Barhal and Sarigöl

Looking out of my window on waking I saw yet another Brown Bear, possibly the same big male as yesterday night, and this time reasonably close to the village. So we had good views through the 'scope before heading out on a walk down from the village. It rained all the time, not heavy but persistent, and we saw little except a couple of Rock Buntings.



After breakfast we drove downhill into the valleys below. The forest starts here but it is interspersed with rocky bluffs, many of them very vertical. We searched for Ibex but could not find any. The waters of the river cascaded downhill violently, sometimes we could hear huge boulders being moved downwards. Soon a Wallcreeper flew along in front of the bus and then disappeared. Then another one, this time landing. So we were able to get out and get fine views of this wonderful bird, even some photos! Soon after another one flew past. We stopped to enjoy some *Aquilegia olympica* in good flower and there was an impressive buttercup with giant stems and leaves that I have yet to track down.

Further downhill we stopped by a cliff which had wands of *Eremurus spectabilis* hanging downwards, though none right by us. A Camberwell Beauty flew over. Next we stopped in Barhal at the old Georgian cathedral. This is an impressive building, its construction looks like it would survive anything! Ozan got the key from the Karahan Pansiyon and took everyone inside. The valley around the village had a lush natural vegetation mixed with many planted fruit trees, mainly walnuts, but also with plums and apples. There were choice peaflowers such as *Lathyrus rotundifolius* and *Vicia balansae*, and the orchid *Dactylorhiza saccifera* flowered here. Eastern Baton Blue and Orange-tips were the butterflies.

We drove downhill stopping at a rather nice picnic spot next to a waterfall. We sent an hour walking along the road here as Cengiz and Ozan made the lunch ready. There was a fascinating array of flora along the rocky roadside. The Date Plum *Diospyros lotus* was the commonest tree here. It is native to the area though these may at least in part have been cultivated. There was much *Euonymus latifolia*, also cherry, and a fascinating *Rhamnus* that appears to be *cornifolia*. Woundworts were common with three species present. Right by the picnic we spotted a silvery-leaved *Ornithogalum*.

We continued beyond Sarigöl a little and explored the trees and slopes across the river. The path to his house was lined with two members of the Ebony family, *Diospyros kaki*, which was abundant here, and the date-plum *Diospyros lotus*. By the river were alders and willows. Under them Twayblade. We watched a *Caliaeshna microstigma* dragonfly emerging from its pupal case. Green-underside Blue and Small Copper were seen. The Silk Vine trailed through the bushes. On the roadside cliff were lots of *Centaurea simplicialis* in nice flower as well as *Saxifraga paniculata*, *Asyneuma rigidum* and some fine plants of the endemic *Acer divergens*.





We started back uphill but soon stopped at a fine display of *Scutellaria orientalis* and *Coronilla orientalis*. There was lots more with them though – *Linaria genistifolia*, *Scabiosa rotata*, the swallow-wort *Vincetoxicum tmoleum* and a new orchid in the shape of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*. As we neared Yaylalar we were surprised and very pleased to discover a colony of around a hundred yellow *Tulipa juliae*.

Day 8 May 17th The Kaçkar

Our morning walk took us up the valley from Olgunlar. A day of flowers, butterflies and outstanding scenery up the valley towards Dilber Duzu. We spent the whole morning up here, people turning round when they wanted to. The walk is on a good path and slopes very gently uphill for the most part. It was warm and sunny. The sky was a brilliant blue and as we walked up the valley we the slopes either side of us soon became snowier and snowier. Northern Wheatears and Water Pipits were everywhere on the lower slopes. Across the river we watched



a flock of Alpine Chough. And on the higher slopes we found a herd of seven Chamois. Later we found another four. And later still Heinz spotted a lone animal somewhat closer who crossed several wide snow belts as we watched. Small Tortoiseshells were the only butterflies. On drier banks there was primrose yellow *Primula elatior* subspecies *pallasii* whilst in wet areas large-flowered *Caltha polypetala* held sway. The shows of *Scilla monanthos* were memorable, the swathes of



Gagea fragifera. There were some very deep pink *Primula auriculata* and above a stream that marked the end of most people's uphill endeavours was purple *Primula elatior* subspecies *meyeri*. On a rock upslope we found *Saxifraga juniperifolia*. Heinz found, and photographed, a Stoat running around amongst the rocks. All the while the



stupendous
scenery
mesmerised us.

Cengiz put
together a fine
picnic on the edge
of the little hamlet.
As we enjoyed this
Mary pointed out
the *Arnebia pulchra*
shining yellow in
the sun. But did it have black dots or red dots?



In the afternoon some of us started on the right bank of the valley, initially in little fields covered in *Ornithogalum*, *Caltha* and *Scillas*. It was upslope that we started to find some true gems. The light scree was covered in a beautiful stripey form of *Fritillaria pinardii*. There was a single impressive clump of *Globularia trichosantha* with bright blue pompoms. Equally wonderful was a clump of



Pulsatilla albana. Yellow tulips appeared, *Tulipa juliae* again, and at the top of the slope were a few orange and even red ones.

Up by the rocks were some lovely clumps of *Viola rupestris* and *Woodsia alpina*. Here was *Orchis pallens* in bud and some nice *Orchis mascula* in fine flower. An Alpine Green Hairstreak but the best flying fauna was a Caspian Snowcock that all almost took my head off as it whistled past.





Several of us walked back down to Yaylalar, a very lovely three kilometre walk through fabulous scenery. Red-backed Shrikes were abundant. I saw Turtle Dove and Marsh Warbler too. The same heard of eleven Chamois as yesterday were almost in the same position. And just as I reached the hotel I spotted a mother Brown Bear with a yearling cub walking across the mountainside across the valley.

Day 9 May 18th Işhan and to Laset

My start was very early this morning, out and about by 4.30! Good job I did get up (there was some indecision...) as ten minutes after walking out from the hotel I was watching a Wolf! It had, of course, already spotted me, and was off, up the road we'd gone yesterday morning to Adatepe. It ran to the first bend, then slowed its pace to a steady trot up to the next bend where it stopped to check what I was up to, then it continued with its steady lope, staying on the road, and stopping to check me a couple of times. Distant, and the light was too poor to photograph it, but a fantastic couple of minutes nonetheless. I followed its route more slowly. Once up on the level part of the road I reached my planned scanning spot and had to wait... ten seconds... before spotting the first animal. This was a Brown Bear in the valley below me searching a snow slope. I watched and photographed it for a few minutes before it sauntered off out of sight. I had only forty-five minutes at the vantage point, and failed to spot any further animals though birds did include Ortolan Bunting. Starting my walk down the thermal slope revealed a European Hare close to the road and a little later something moving in the stunted poplars. When it emerged it was a large male Wild Boar!

We breakfasted early and had left lovely Yaylalar by eight o'clock, the forecast rain already setting in. Our first port of call was the Georgian Church at Işhan. The church has been renovated and looks magnificent. It was a pity that the keys were in a government office that wasn't open today, it would have been lovely to see the mosaics inside as well as to get inside out of the rain! Still we enjoyed the church's exterior and it is in a beautiful spot. Işhan lies at around a thousand metres and the drive up takes you through very arid eroded slopes then suddenly you are in a green oasis. Walnut trees and meadows. The rain didn't let up but while the picnic was being prepared and tea and coffee made we managed a little wildlife. Berry Catchfly were by the church. In the trees were Syrian Woodpecker, Golden Oriole and Spotted Flycatcher. A surprise was a Grey-headed Woodpecker calling. Speaking of those eroded slopes – we found them to have a very rich and rather beautiful



flora. The white mounds of *Alyssum artvinense* were fabulous. This plant, endemic to the Çoruh Valley, would make a nice addition to any alpine house. There were equally loved mounds of pale pink *Aethionema armenum* and clumps of vibrant red *Glaucium grandiflorum*. *Bungea trifida* is a weird thing, with its own subtle beauty. There was *Nonea polychroma* and *Nonea stenosolen*, clumps of *Salvia rosea* were enjoyed and there was an abundance of *Astragalus* including *trigidia*, *nitens*, *asicocalyx* and one with large leaves that I haven't yet worked out. *Lepidium vesicarium* is a

most distinctive cress and there was also *Trigonella tenuis*, *Fumana procumbens* and lovely *Onobrychis huetiana*.

Then it was heads down for the tunnels! Since the making of the large dams on the Çoruh River most of the new roads that provide arterial transport in the region have gone underground and so it was that most of the journey to Artvin was out of the rain! After a refreshment stop in Artvin we headed back up the other side of the huge reservoir and then turned east to Şavşat. We made one stop (still in the rain) for roadside *Dacytorhiza umbrosa* and lots of broomrapes, and then it was on up to the bungalows at Laşet. Here we settled in to our lovely bungalows – the superb view would have to wait for another day!

Our evening meal was excellent and was up at Laşet's main road restaurant at the foot of the Cam Pass. Not long after our return some Golden Jackals set up a chorus greeted with raucous disdain by the local dogs.

Day 10 May 19th Şeytan Kalesi and Aktaş Gölü



We started the day in light rain. We were soon on our way up over the Cam Pass. The weather was atrocious as we drove through an arctic wonderland. Light snow greeted us on the tip. Fortunately the local road people are good at keeping this pass open. So we were soon driving down and out of the snow, scattering Shore Larks and Skylarks as we went. We headed into Ardahan stopping for a little shopping, and whilst Ozan took care of this we looked at the flooded Kura just below the bridge.

Night Herons were nesting in the willows and Cormorants and Armenian Gulls loafed in islands. Along the fringes were lots of Marsh Warblers.

Then we headed out on the road towards the Georgia border. Here we started to pass stands of Scots Pine and immediately the raptors started. First up were a pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles and a Common Buzzard. A little further down the road



and there was Black Kite, then a Booted Eagle, Hobby, two more Lesser Spotted Eagles and a Steppe Eagle. This place is really good for birds of prey! We stopped to look for *Iris furcata* but it was not yet in flowers so we had to be content with groups of *Pulsatilla albana*.



The remote and beautifully sited fortress known as Şeytan Kalesi was our next stop. The canyon here is wild and stunning. We walked along the road and then path towards the fortress. Linnets of the beautiful *bella* race posed and so too a number of Rock Buntings. Red-fronted Serins flew over at regular intervals but none alighted. There were Lesser Whitethroats, Mountain Chiffchaffs and Tawny and Tree Pipits. The rocks had wonderful bright yellow cushions of *Draba rosularis* adorning them. We also found the pretty pink drumsticks of *Androsace armeniaca*. Memorable again were the raptors. We were lucky to get a large passage of Honey Buzzards as we picnicked by the village. During the hour we were there at least 450 Honey Buzzards cruised over! And not

just them. There were two Black Vultures, an Imperial Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard and a male Montagu's Harrier.

In the afternoon we visited Aktaş Lake on the border with Georgia. Sadly the usual Pelicans were elsewhere, maybe they didn't like the weather! Close to the shore were Little Egrets and three Spoonbills. It was nice to see several groups of Gadwall flying about and there were Greylag Geese, a few Shoveler and a few Ruddy Shelduck. Great Crested Grebes were



abundant. At least five Montagu's Harriers quartered one of the islands. There were large patches of *Thlaspi huetii* in the fields.



Çildir Lake was our last stop of the day. Çildir is pretty large so we only checked out one corner of it. This huge lake has 50cm thick ice on it during the winter! The little wetland in the corner of the lake provided us with an assortment of marshland species. Notable were the Black-necked Grebes on the main lake and a first summer Little Gull.

Day 11 May 20th Cam Pass

The views around Laşet are stunning yet still this morning we couldn't quite see them fully, rain falling occasionally, and the clouds low around us. After an excellent and varied breakfast we headed uphill. The Cam Pass rises to 2500m and the trip up from Laşet, which only takes 35 minutes or so takes one up through lush green meadows, floriferous cliffs, dark *Picea orientalis* and *Abies nordmanniana* forest and then on to the top itself, the wide open grasslands of the Cam Mountains. Not a fence in sight for many a mile (apart from the snow fences), and at this season only the very first herd of the grazers was met at the foot of the pass. This winter's snow, and indeed this springs too (it had snowed up here yesterday!), meant that the entire top of the pass was covered in a thick layer of pristine white. Only pylons emerged to break the snowy scene. Below the full snow cover the grasslands, snow-burnt and rather reminiscent of a Scottish moorland, look hardly enticing for the botanist but appearances are deceptive for this is an amazing place for flowers. But first a bird. And what a bird! There he was, sat just above the road on a rock, a full adult Lammergeier, orange as could be beneath. Needless to say he flew off as we jumped out of the minibus, but he had the good grace to circle back right over us.



Our first longer stop, much further down the other side than usual, introduced us to *Scilla roseni*. This beautiful plant has sky/powder-blue and white blooms with strongly recurved petals and likes



company, here we found a few hundred, then up the slope a few thousand. By the streams it was growing with bright blue *Scilla monanthos* and brilliant yellow *Caltha polypetala*. There were memorable displays of *Pimula elatior*

subspecies *pallasii* and *Primula veris* subspecies *macrocalyx*, one cowslip, one oxlip, one bright butter yellow the other, well, primrose yellow! Across the stream there was lots of *Gentiana verna*. By snow we found an abundance of pink *Merendera trigyna*. Water Pipits were everywhere and Skylarks too. There were a couple of Long-legged Buzzards overhead and I found a Ring Ouzels nest with five eggs in it. We found many superb populations of *Fritillaria latifolia*, some small, others with



hundreds, and so many were in perfect condition. We also found *Androsace armeniaca* with pink drumstick heads and we found a swathe of *Pulsatilla albana*. Other snow slopes had the uncommon yellow *Corydalis angustifolia*, and Roderick found a simply stunning *Corydalis nariniana*. Even though it was by now sunny and relatively warm (well, compared with





yesterday...) there were almost no butterflies, the only species we saw was Camberwell Beauty, three of them fluttering rather delicately in a little grove of birch. Roderick also found a sett – or at least we think it was. Of most interest though was the remains of a skull, I took one of the jaws back to check against the mammal skull book (!) and confirmed it to be a cat, probably a young Lynx.

We moved downhill a couple of kilometres to look for *Iris caucasica*. It didn't take us long to find one, in perfect condition. Weirdly though we could find no more! The slopes were covered in thousands of *Muscari armeniacum*.

We moved to the foot of the valley for our picnic. This was a wonderful spot, next to a rustic village

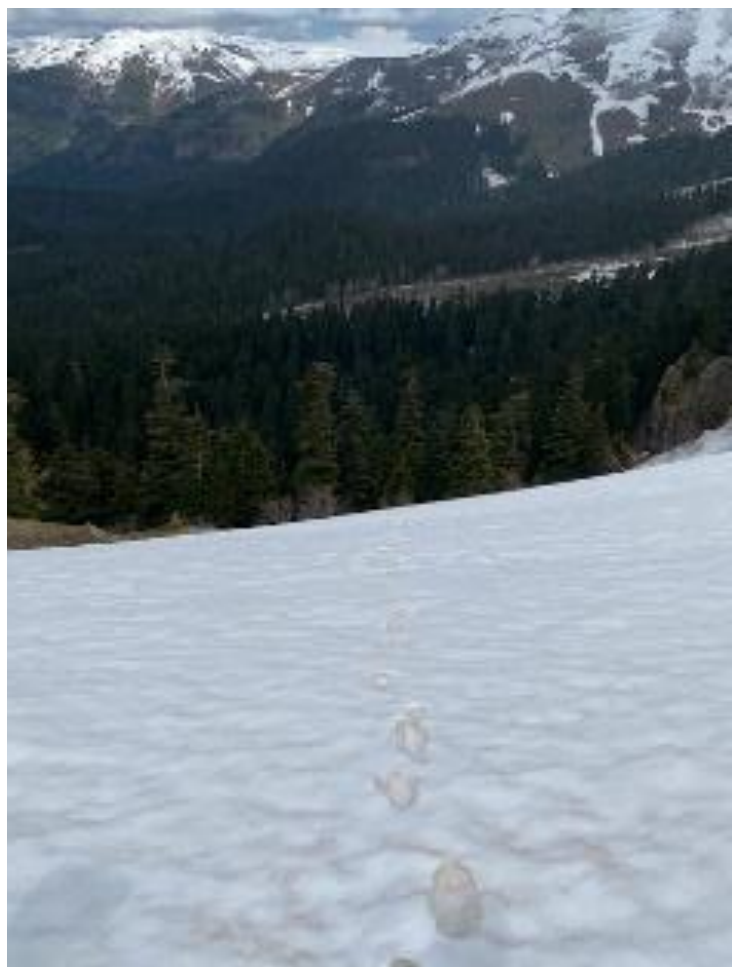


with herds of horses and cows grazing the unfenced valley floor into the distance. We explored the marshy ground below the road as Ozan and Cengiz put the picnic together. This proved an exciting and unusual habitat for scattered all over ground were little raised bogs, each up to five metres or so across and raised by a good half a metre over the surroundings, and each with one or more little pools at their top. Needless to say they had a distinctive and unusual vegetation. Lots of moss. Plenty of *Cardamine tenella* lining the pools. Fine plants of the *Primula auriculata* and *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*. The little blue stars of *Gentiana aquatica* nestled

amid the damp mosses. A low scrub of *Potentilla fruticosa* and the dwarf willow *Salix pseudodepressa* grew round these bogs. Each one seemed to hold a pair of Black-headed Yellow Wagtails. But in some it was Citrine Wagtails. There were lots of Whinchats and a Sedge Warbler was seen. The avian highlight though was Great Snipe. Three were seen. One of them was doing a little of the 'parachute' display flight.

Picnic over we drove back over the pass to the conifer forests on the Western slopes. We walked under the trees a bit looking for and eventually finding two Kruper's Nuthatches though we couldn't get a look at them. We did a little better with two Common Treecreepers. Bear tracks headed off across the snow...

After dark I took a trip down the valley a little and saw a White-bellied Hedgehog and a Red Fox.





Day 12 May 21st Balçesme Valley and to Sarıkamış

We woke a beautiful scene, though the weather was still feeling a little inclement. Still the landscape in front of us was sumptuous. Common Redstarts, Stonechats, Common Whitethroats and Scarlet Rosefinches all sang in the garden. I picked up the trap cameras and even though they'd only been out a couple of days two out of three had Brown Bears on them. Around the bungalows we

took a last look at the fine plants of *Orchis caucasica*.

Departing Laşet and its very green surroundings we headed up over the Cam Pass again. The views were superb and the snow amounts quite incredible. We reached the valley floor and were soon halted by a little kettle of raptors that included three Black Vultures and a Greater Spotted Eagle. In Ardahan we stopped to buy fresh bread and supplies for the picnic. Now we drove south along the valley floor, following the Kura River upstream, passing through some very 'big' country before reaching the large flat plain at Gole. Snowmelt had flooded a large area and we stopped to look at many White Storks, two Spoonbills, a couple of Squacco Herons, a whole bunch of White-winged Black Terns, and a lone Lesser Black-backed Gull. From there we drove into a beautiful valley with steep rocky slopes on one side of a pleasantly gurgling river and on the other a decent belt of natural Scot's Pine forest. This proved an amazing place for raptors. During the next two hours we pottered slowly along the road, moving uphill occasionally in the minibus. There were at least half a dozen Black Storks. Soon the first of four or more Black Kites appeared, then Long-legged Buzzards and Common Buzzards. Next were our first Lesser Spotted Eagles. These went on to be the most common raptor in the valley with at least eight seen. One was watched pottering about the valley floor on foot. He was definitely after something! Then another group of raptors came over – a subadult Golden Eagle and an Egyptian Vulture in them.





There was a cold wind so it was difficult to get to grips with the smaller birds on the slopes next to the road. We did manage to see Rock Thrush, Black Redstarts, Tree Pipits and Linnets. *Draba rosularis* made a fine show on the rocks and there was quite a bit of richly blue-purple *Lagotis stolonifera* in



the turf, *Ornithogalum sigmoideum* too. On the floodplain by the river grew a pretty *Nonea*. A tiny village by the road yielded a strange encounter. Two guys were working on a house but as we passed them we noticed that on the roof of the next house but one was a Red Fox. Seemingly totally unconcerned by the work going on or us! One of the guys came over and chatted and when we asked the name of the village he just said 'yayla' which means summer village....

We drove on up stopping by a small lake - Boğatepe Gölü - where there no less than six pairs of Red-necked Grebes, some of these displaying. Two Garganey flew off. Close at hand we were surprised to find a Broad-billed Sandpiper which posed beautifully for the cameras. A rare bird here. The sky



again held various big birds. This time it was turn of two Black Vultures and a Steppe Eagle. The turf was studded with *Colchicum szovitsii* as far as the eye could see – which as Heinz put it, was to Greenland, so Arctic did the landscape look to the south! There was also plenty of scillas and a few gageas too.

We stopped for our picnic by the substantial Aygır Lake, a deep lake set at a little over 2000m. An excellent surprise here was a colony of around twenty-five *Fritillaria caucasica*, whose pretty dark-maroon bells nodded above slender stems. *Gagea bulbifera* flowered on rocky ledges. *Gagea alexeenkoana* and *Gagea commutata* in the grassy areas. Ortolan and Rock Buntings sand from a rocky bluff. As we lunched a team

appeared to check the water quality, and another guy went off fishing in a boat.

After a very pleasant picnic right by the shore we headed downslope towards Kars and fifty minutes later we arrived at Sarikamış and settled into our ski-centre hotel.

Day 13 May 22nd Hamamlı & Sarikamış



The weather was again very cool this morning.

After breakfast we headed out just a short distance to a ravine below Sarikamış. Here we found the most marvellous display of *Fritillaria michailowskyii*, a truly lovely frit with bright butter-yellow and marron flowers. With it was the



bright red *Tulipa armena*. A Lesser Spotted Eagle flew over.

Next we headed for the high ground to the north of Sarikamış where there were huge views in all directions across mountains dotted with areas of Scot's Pine, but in the main open steppe country. Quite a lot of it snow-covered. We spotted on a distant Brown Bear on one such snow patch.



Now we headed back to Sarikamis and some damp meadows. Here we found an abundance of 'grape hyacinths' in full flower and with them plentiful *Bellevia pycnantha*. The grape hyacinths might be *Muscari botryoides* though they don't quite fit that species. Both of these grew in swathes especially where the meadows became really damp. In the dampest areas (wellies needed!) there grew the fabulous *Bellevia forniculata* with its turquoise-blue blooms.

The large buttercups here were *Ranunculus obesus* and the slightly smaller ones *Ranunculus grandiflorus*. In a marsh in the middle were Green-winged Teal and two

Common Snipe. We took our picnic by a spring above the meadow. Flocks of Stock Doves and Rock Doves flew past.



Next we went just a few kilometres to Hamamlı, a village on the flanks of the mountain to the south of the main road. It took us a few attempts to negotiate the muddy tracks in the village but then we were above and in open country. We spent an hour and a half scouring the slopes. *Corydalis erdelii* looked great with its red and white blooms. *Pulsatilla albana* was prolific and beautiful here. Prize though was a population of *Fritillaria armena* whose dusky-maroon bells nodded by melting snow. As we drove down from the village a kettle of migrating Honey Buzzards passed by, accompanied by some Common Buzzards and a Black Kite. A little further on a Short-toed Eagle.



The rest of the afternoon was spent exploring the dry steppelands south of Sarıkamış. Here there was an abundance of new plants the highlight being the beautiful *Iris Iberica subspecies elegantissima*. This stunning plant is one of the World's great floral beauties, the large maroon—brown falls topped by huge white or creamy-yellow standards. The whole flower 10cm cubed! In the end there were lots, we made two stops in areas with lots of plants and for kilometres in between they were scattered across the hillsides, shining like so many tissues in the sun! There was lovely *Muscari caucasicum*, some

nice clumps of purple-pink *Polygala pruinosa*, purple *Lallemantia iberica*, and lots of *Caryophyllaceae* such as *Arenaria gypsopholoides* and *Silenes sperguliflora*, *conica* and *cappadocica*. European Bee-eaters and Rock Buntings were the main birds.



Then it was back to the hotel with some chance to relax before dinner which was again in the excellent

Gaziantep Sofresi in town. The Beyti Sarma was much enjoyed, my Lahmacun was crispy and light, and those Hatay puddings were a delight.

After dinner we went to look for Brown Bears. On the way there we spotted a Stone Marten on the slopes above. This involved a well-known local garbage site a few kilometres away. Bears there were – we saw four. It was a bizarre sight. Especially as the garbage was being added to by some guys who



apparently had no idea there were four bears thirty metres away from them. On the way back we saw a Red Fox.

Day 14 May 23rd Çalı Gölü

A relaxed start for our final morning. We were off soon after nine heading east towards Kars and thence on the high ground towards Digor. The morning had looked bright and somewhat warmer at last but as we passed the airport the clouds darkened and as neared our planned stop the heavens opened. So we drove on past reaching Digor where we spent half an hour exploring what would normally be some dry steppe above a beautiful little canyon that snaked its way down towards the Aras River and the Armenian border. Now however it was cold and rain was in the air! Some cultivated land by the road held lots of *Geranium tuberosum* and the steppe had lots of lovely flowers including *Nepetas*, *Adonis* and a large-flowered form of *Campanula stevenii*. Today we didn't linger though and soon headed back (passing some *Iris iberica elegantissima* on the roadside) to the high ground to Çalı Gölü where Cengiz and Ozan set up the early picnic as we wandered the shores of the little lake. This can be a great spot for birding though this year the population levels of the Black-headed Gulls were so high that it seemed there was no room for other species! We did see Gadwall, Marsh Harriers and ten or more Black-necked Grebes looking fabulous in their summer plumage. There were many Black-headed Yellow Wagtails, and just a few Citrine Wagtails too.



The flora on the other had was exceptional! Snow still lay thick on one side of the lake and all around it was a glorious show of the ice-blue and white *Puschkinia scilloides*. Amongst it was plentiful *Gagea fragifera* and *Corydalis*. Back on drier turf was a show of *Muscari armeniacum* with

plummy bells of *Fritillaria armena/caucasica* amongst them. I have to admit to being unsure which of those two rather similar species was here! And then a surprise. Another *Muscari*, this time with more open flowers. This looks to be *Muscari azureum* but could be something different as that species is quite a different colour blue, and also not known anything like this far east. More to research...

Then it was to the airport where we said our farewells and I headed off for a day and a half's exploring....



After Tour

I stayed on for an evening, and a full day, to do a bit of searching for good mammal-watching locations. There were a lot of highlights! I spent most of my time in either early morning, late evening or into the hours of darkness exploring a wide gravel road that went through the wonderful wilderness of the Allahuekber Mountains National Park. This follows an uninhabited valley for around 15 kilometres eventually reaching alpine areas and then continuing across the open alpine landscapes to a summer yayla another ten kilometres on. Twenty-five kilometres of pristine wilderness – well almost. There were shepherds herding their cows in the bottom few kms of the valley and one shepherd with a herd of cows up near the pass, otherwise no-one and no herds. Conversations with the shepherd up high were rather funny. I stopped to say hello and as we chatted there was a Brown Bear on the slope behind us. I asked about the bears and he gave it hardly a glance. 'Many, many' he said. I asked about Lynx, and he said the same. Then he said 'but you don't see them so often...

Each time I drove up and down this road I saw a number of Brown Bears, often close to the road. Sometimes they galumphed up the slopes when I stopped the car, other times they simply carried on what they were doing. On mother and yearling were so busy having a scratch, a very big scratch it has to be said, on some rocks not afra above the road that only glanced at me when I walked along towards them, continuing their coiffure.

I didn't see any Lynx, though I am sure given time, day or night time Lynx sightings must be very likely along this track. I did however have a great Wolf experience. On the high ground I had just finished scanning the slow-streaked slopes at one point and drove on round a bend and there was a Wolf quite close in front loping across the track. Unfortunately my camera was playing up otherwise it would have been a great photo opportunity as the Wolf trotted calmly off to the trees and once at their edge stopping to look back at me. He still had a magnificent thick winter coat on.

Wild Boar were rather common along this road and I had a couple of sightings of the local form of Red Squirrel. These are very variable, each having a different pattern of orange-red and white. Crossbills and Lesser Spotted Eagle were seen and I heard a Black Woodpecker.

I also visited the high areas around Handere beyond the pass above Sarıkamış. On a daylight visit I was surprised to find a Great Bustard displaying. I returned in the night and found a Marbled Polecat. This superb animal was quite inquisitive, and especially when near the safety of a underground hiding place was content to peer out at me from quite close range. At the same time an Eagle Owl perched on a rock nearby and not long later a Short-eared Owl flew over.

Systematic List Number 1 Flora

The majority of the taxonomic order and nomenclature has been taken from the Turkish Flora (edited by P H Davis) although the more recent treatment of the orchids in Die Orchideen der Türkei (C. A. J. Kreutz) has been preferred for that group. Non-woody dicot and monocot species are in flower unless otherwise stated. This list refers only to flora seen on the Spring 2026 tour, except for species in [closed brackets] which were seen on previous tours.

Equisetaceae

<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	widespread
[<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>]	Tortum]
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Çoruh Valley, Tortum etc
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Trabzon area, Anzer

Lycopsidaceae

[<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>]	Ortan where common on mossy banks]
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Pteridophyta

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	below Barhal
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Trabzon area
[<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>]	Sumela]
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Sumela, Yanbolu
<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	scattered
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	widespread
<i>Athyrium distentifolium</i>	scattered
<i>Athyrium filix-foemina</i>	Sumela, Hamsiköy
[<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>]	Zigana Pass]
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	locally frequent
[<i>Cheilanthes marantae</i>]	Tortum and Narman]
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	widespread
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	widely scattered
[<i>Dryopteris carthusianorum</i>]	Zigana hotel]
[<i>Dryopteris dilatatum</i>]	Zigana hotel]
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	scattered
<i>Matteucia struthiopteris</i>	locally common north side of the divide
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Sumela, Anzer
<i>Polypodium australe</i>	Sumela, Zigana etc
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> agg	scattered
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	Çam Pass
[<i>Polystichum braunii</i>]	Yanbolu, Çam Pass]
[<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>]	Yanbolu, Çam Pass]
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	locally common
[<i>Pteris cretica</i>]	Ortan]
[<i>Thelypteris limbosperma</i>]	road to Çağrankaya Yaylası, and above Laşet]

Cupressaceae

<i>Juniperus communis</i>	locally frequent
<i>Juniperus excelsa</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Juniperus sabina</i>	rocky areas, mainly at altitude

Ephedraceae

<i>Ephedra major</i>	Çoruh Valley. Iğsan
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Pinaceae

<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>	locally dominant e.g. Çam pass
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	very common and widespread, the dominant coniferous species
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	scattered

Aceraceae

<i>Acer campestre</i>	widespread
<i>Acer cappadocicum</i>	widespread in north
[<i>Acer hyrcanum</i>	Hamsiköy area]
<i>Acer divergens</i>	Tortum. Çoruh Valley. Barhal
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	widespread in river valleys
<i>Acer trautvetteri</i>	Anzer
<i>Acer velutinum</i>	Sumela

Anacardiaceae

<i>Cotinus coggygia</i>	Smoke bush, Barhal and Çoruh areas
[<i>Pistacia terebrinthus</i>	Hamsiköy]
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	widespread, long, wide pinnate leaved shrub/tree

Apiaceae

<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	scattered
<i>Bupleurum falcatum</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Bupleurum schistosum</i>	Çoruh Valley and Tortum
<i>Chaerophyllum astrantiae</i>	first flowers already showing at Olgunlar! Yaylalar
<i>Chaerophyllum aureum</i>	Yaylalar
[<i>Chamaesciadium acaule</i>	most high passes]
[<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	seed heads noted Tortum]
[<i>Eryngium giganteum</i>	Superb big silvery species only noted in seed near Hamsiköy]
<i>Ferula orientalis</i>	Sarıkaşık area and probably elsewhere
[<i>Ferula rigidula</i>	Çam Pass]
[<i>Ferulago</i> sp	scattered]
<i>Grammosciadium daucoides</i>	Çoruh Valley
[<i>Heracleum antasiaticum</i>	Laşet area]
[<i>Heracleum apiifolium</i>	Anzer]
<i>Heracleum crenatifolium</i>	frequent Sumela and Hamsiköy. Leaves only this year

<i>[Heracleum platytaenium]</i>	Anzer]
<i>[Laser trilobum]</i>	scattered in the north]
<i>[Malabaila lasiantha]</i>	Çoruh Valley below Artvin]
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Yanbolu
<i>[Pastinaca armenum]</i>	probably this species near Sarıkamış]
<i>[Pimpinella saxifraga]</i>	Sarıkamış]
<i>Prangos pabularia</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sumela and Hamsiköy
<i>[Scaligera tripartita]</i>	Sumela]
<i>[Scandix iberica]</i>	scattered]
<i>Seseli petraeum</i>	in leaf Macka area
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Barhal
<i>[Xanthoglossum purpurascens]</i>	Meadows near İkizdere, Çam Pass etc]
<i>[Zosima absinthifolia]</i>	Şeytan Kalesi, Sarıkamış]

Aquifoliaceae

<i>Ilex colchica</i>	scattered
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Araliaceae

<i>Hedera colchica</i>	Sumela and Hamsiköy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Sumela, Yanbolu

Aristolochiaceae

<i>Aristolochia pontica</i>	Sumela (not in flower 2026)
<i>Asarum europaeum caucasicum</i>	Sumela

Asclepiadaceae

<i>Periploca graeca</i>	Yanbolu. Also Çoruh Valley. Işhan
<i>[Trachomitum venetum]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Vinca major</i>	Sumela
<i>Vincetoxicum scandens</i>	dark brown-black swallow-wort. Scattered south of Trabzon
<i>[Vincetoxicum tmoileum]</i>	greeny-white swallowwort. Şeytan Kalesi]

Asteraceae

<i>Achillea biebersteiniana</i>	tight yellow corymbs. Çoruh Valley and Tortum
<i>[Achillea biserrata]</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>[Achillea latiloba]</i>	large yarrow. Valleys below Şavşat]
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	scattered
<i>[Antennaria dioica]</i>	Zigana Pass and above Hamamlı]
<i>[Anthemis marschelliana ssp pectinata]</i>	golden-yellow daisy, fine-cut soft grey leaves. Kafkasör]
<i>Arctium minus</i>	scattered
<i>[Aster alpinus]</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Trabzon area

[<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>]	Hamsiköy]
[<i>Carlina biebersteinii</i>]	Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Centaurea armena</i>]	large creamy stemless blooms. East of Ardahan University]
<i>Centaurea carduiformis</i>	spikey involucre, pink. Çoruh Valley and Tortum
[<i>Centaurea cheiranthiifolia</i>]	abundant on the Cam Pass]
[<i>Centaurea dealbata</i>]	yellow. Hamsiköy]
[<i>Centaurea depressa</i>]	blue cornflower. Between Horasan and Ağrı]
<i>Centaurea hypoleuca</i>	pink. Frequent south of Trabzon
[<i>Centaurea nigrifimbria</i>]	Blue alpine cornflower, black-edged phyllaries. Tortum, Narman]
[<i>Centaurea pecho</i>]	Yanbolu]
[<i>Centaurea pulcherrima</i>]	Şeytan Kalesi]
[<i>Centaurea rhizantha</i>]	stemless, yellow. Above Hamamlı, also Sarıkamış]
[<i>Centaurea sessilis</i>]	stemless, yellow. Tortum]
<i>Centaurea simplicicaulis</i>	pink with filigree foliage, saxatile. Sumela
[<i>Centaurea schischkinii</i>]	south of Sarıkamış]
[<i>Centaurea virgata</i>]	much-branched, tiny purple blooms. Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Cicerbita racemosa</i>]	lilac-blue sowthistle. Zigana, Laşet]
[<i>Cichorium intybus</i>]	chicory. Widespread]
[<i>Cirsium arvense</i>]	Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Cirsium echinus</i>]	spiny thistle with creamy nodding flowers. Below Şavşat]
[<i>Cirsium hypoleucum</i>]	deep pink thistle of woodland edge, nodding flowers. Anzer]
[<i>Cirsium obvallatum</i>]	Similar to <i>echinus</i> but flowers upright. Anzer]
[<i>Chardinia orientalis</i>]	Barhal]
<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Tortum, Sarıgöl
[<i>Cousinia brachyptera</i>]	Tortum]
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	steppe south of Sarıkamış. Işhan
[<i>Doronicum balansae</i>]	large-leaved species. Mountain north of Sarıkamış]
[<i>Doronicum oblongifolium</i>]	Cam Pass]
<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	Zigana
[<i>Erigeron acer</i>]	Barhal]
[<i>Erigeron caucasicum</i>]	princess-pink! Olgunlar]
<i>Helichrysum arenarium rubicundum</i>	steppe south of Sarıkamış]
[<i>Helichrysum plicatum</i>]	Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Inula orientalis</i>]	in late bud just north of Sarıkamış]
[<i>Jurinella moschus pinnatisecta</i>]	scattered – Ovit Pass and Zigana]
[<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>]	scattered south of Trabzon]
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Hamsiköy, Laşet
[<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>]	Impressive, huge thistle with large grey leaves and very large purplish flowers. Çoruh Valley below Artvin]
<i>Petasites albus</i>	Ovit Pass, Anzer
[<i>Pilosella verruculata</i>]	scattered]
[<i>Reichardia glauca</i>]	Yanbolu]
<i>Senecio hypochionaceus</i>	saxatile. Anzer
[<i>Senecio lorentii</i>]	Tortum]
<i>Senecio vernalis</i>	frequent in the Çoruh Valley and Tortum

<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	scattered
[<i>Tanacetum macrophyllum</i>	Fine white flowered species. Anzer]
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	scattered
[<i>Tephrosieris integrifolia</i>	opposite Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>Tragopogon coloratus</i>	scattered
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	scattered
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Ovit Pass, Narman
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	in seed. Barhal

Balsaminaceae

[<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i>	valleys near Ikizdere]
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Berberidaceae

<i>Berberis crataegina</i>	widespread
[<i>Epimedium pubigerum</i>	in seed. Sumela and Hamsiköy]

Betulaceae

<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	widespread
<i>Betula litvinowii</i>	noted in high altitude rocky grassland in the Çam Pass area
<i>Betula pendula</i>	scattered at altitude
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Sumela, Ikizdere etc
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	common on northern slopes e.g. Sumela
<i>Corylus maxima</i>	northern slopes
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	scattered

Boraginaceae

<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Aktaş, Sarıkamış
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	tall blue 'borage'. Scattered throughout
<i>Anchusa leptophylla</i>	more slender with deeper blue flowers. Çoruh Valley, Sarıkamış
<i>Anchusa pusillum</i>	Barhal
<i>Arnebia pulchra</i>	prophet flower. Zigana and Ovit Passes. Olgunlar
<i>Asperugo procumbens</i>	Anzer
<i>Cerinthe minor</i>	scattered
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	blue flowers. Tortum, Maçka
<i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>	reddish flowers, spiny disc-like fruits. Scattered
[<i>Echium italicum</i>	Tortum, near Eleşkirt]
[<i>Echium russicum</i>	beautiful red-flowered species. Cam Pass area, Aktaş, Ardahan etc]
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	widespread
<i>Heterocaryum szovitsianum</i>	Çoruh Valley, Barhal
[<i>Lappula barbata</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>Lappula squarrosa</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	scattered
<i>Lithospermum pupureocaeruleum</i>	mountains south of Trabzon
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	widespread in mountains

[<i>Nonea caspica</i>	Tortum]
[<i>Nonea intermedia</i>	Bulbulen Pass]
[<i>Nonea karsensis</i>	Aygır Gölü and probably this species in the pass above Narman]
[<i>Nonea macranthera</i>	?above Hamamlı]
<i>Nonea polychroma</i>	Çam Pass. Işhan
<i>Nonea pulla</i>	small dark flowered <i>Nonea</i> . Scattered
<i>Nonea pulmonarioides</i>	large dark flowers. Widespread in Çam Pass and Ardahan region
<i>Nonea stenosolen</i>	Işhan
[<i>Nonea versicolor</i>	multi-hued flowers. Ovit Pass and Aktaş]
<i>Omphalodes cappadocicum</i>	Ikizdere and Ridos
<i>Onosma sericea</i>	Çoruh Valley. Other <i>Onosmas</i> also seen!
[<i>Paracaryum artvinense</i>	lovely bright rich blue flowers. Scattered in the Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Rindera cespitosa</i>	Hamamlı]
[<i>Rindera lanata</i>	Tortum, Şeytan Kalesi]
[<i>Solenanthes stamineus</i>	just one plant in full flower above Olgunlar]
<i>Symphytum asperum</i>	widespread, blue flowers
[<i>Trachystemon orientale</i>	in seed at Sumela]

Brassicaceae

<i>Aethionema arabica</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Aethionema armenum</i>	Işhan
<i>Aethionema cordata</i>	Sarıkamış
[<i>Aethionema grandiflorum</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı]
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	scattered in wooded areas
<i>Alyssoides utriculata</i>	in seed at Sumela, also Barhal
<i>Alyssum artvinense</i>	frequent in the dry valleys. This year only flowering at Işhan
<i>Alyssum linifolium</i>	steppe below Sarıkamış
[<i>Alyssum peltarioides</i>	Sarıkamış]
[<i>Anchonium elichrysifolium</i>	above Hamamlı]
[<i>Arabis brachycarpa</i>	above Olgunlar]
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	scattered
<i>Arabis nova</i>	above Olgunlar etc
<i>Arabis sagittata</i>	scattered in the north
[<i>Arabis turritis</i>	Barhal]
[<i>Aradopsis thaliana</i>	Barhal Valley]
<i>Barbarea minor</i>	frequent in damp areas in the north
<i>Barbarea plantaginea</i>	scattered
<i>Berteroa mutabilis</i>	Olgunlar
[<i>Boreavia orientalis</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı]
<i>Bunias orientalis</i>	Barhal
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	scattered
<i>Capsella rubrum</i>	Barhal
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Hamsiköy, Çam Pass
<i>Cardamine raphanifolia</i>	wet areas, scattered
<i>Cardamine tenera</i>	Anzer

<i>Cardamine uliginosa</i>	Narman Pass, Çam Pass
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	scattered
<i>[Coluteocarpus vesicaria</i>	above Hamamlı]
<i>[Conringia grandiflora</i>	Tortum]
<i>Conringia orientalis</i>	steppe below Sarıkamış
<i>[Conringia perfoliata</i>	Sarıkamış]
<i>[Conringia planisiliqua</i>	scattered in dry valleys]
<i>Crambe orientalis</i>	Tortum, Çoruh Valley
<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i>	Sumela, Anzer
<i>Descuraina sophia</i>	scattered at low altitudes
<i>Draba brunnifolia</i>	scattered at altitude, mainly eastern
<i>Draba hispida</i>	Zigana Pass, İkizdere area
<i>Draba nemorosa</i>	widespread
<i>Draba nova</i>	Şeytan Kalesi
<i>Draba polytricha</i>	Zigana and Anzer
<i>Draba rigida</i>	the very fine cushions at Anzer Yayla seem to be this species
<i>Draba rosularis</i>	Şeytan Kalesi
<i>Draba siliquosa</i>	widespread
<i>Erophila verna</i>	widespread
<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Tortum
<i>Erysimum crassipes</i>	scattered
<i>Erysimum deflexum</i>	Sumela
<i>Erysimum repandum</i>	Tortum, Iğsan
<i>Erysimum undulatifolium</i>	scattered
<i>Fibigia eriocarpa</i>	Barhal, Çoruh Valley
<i>[Hesperis armena</i>	Anzer]
<i>Hesperis buschiniana</i>	Cam Pass
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Anzer area and Cam Pass
<i>[Hesperis steveniana</i>	Sarıkamış]
<i>Isatis glauca</i>	scattered
<i>Lepidium vesicarium</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı. Iğsan
<i>[Jonthlaspi clypeola</i>	Tortum]
<i>Malcolmia africana</i>	scattered
<i>Microthlaspi perfoliatum</i>	scattered
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Hamsiköy
<i>Neslia paniculata</i>	scattered
<i>Pachyphragma macrophylla</i>	Sumela, Zigana
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	scattered
<i>Ricotia aucheri</i>	Çoruh Valley, Olgunlar
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	scattered
<i>Sisymbrium loeselii</i>	scattered
<i>Sobolewsia clavata</i>	Çoruh and Barhal Valleys
<i>[Thlaspi arvense</i>	Tortum]
<i>Thlaspi ceratocapon</i>	above Olgunlar
<i>Thlaspi huetii</i>	Aktaş

[*Thlaspi violascens*
[*Turritis glabra*

Sarıkamış]
Tortum]

Buxaceae

[*Buxus sempervirens*

North facing woods – e.g. below Anzer]

Camelliaceae

Thea sinensis

Widespread in plantations - Tea

Campanulaceae

Asyneuma lobelioides

?Tortum

Asyneuma linifolium

Maçka, Barhal

[*Campanula alliarifolia*

tall white species. Lower parts of the Ovit Dag]

[*Campanula aucheri*

large blue bell in alpine turf, pale centres. Just starting to flower on the Ovit Pass and the Cam Pass]

Campanula betulifolia

the most widespread white saxatile bellflower. Macka, Sumela, Işhan Beautiful. Çoruh Valley]

[*Campanula choruhensis*

[*Campanula lactiflora*

tall with huge heads of pale lilac to mid-blue flowers – only in bud at this season]

[*Campanula latifolia*

tall with large hairy bells. Barhal]

Campanula macrochlamys

capitate heads, large bracts. Tortum. Çoruh Valley

[*Campanula olympica*

Tortum & Sarıkamış]

[*Campanula rapunculoides*

tall, slender with lilac top purple bells in spikes. Çoruh Valley etc]

[*Campanula seraglio*

another white saxatile species, smaller than *troegerae*. Cliffs by Ispir]

Campanula sibirica

Rather wiry, species with sparse spikes, flowers generally held Upright. Scattered

Campanula stevenii

Delicate pale blue species on long wiry stems. Alpine turf. Scattered

[*Campanula troegerae*

stunning large white pink flushed bells. Large group on rocks between Yusufeli and Barhal]

Cannabaceae

[*Cannabis sativa*

Ayder]

[*Humulus lupulus*

Ayder, Sarnavan, etc]

Capparaceae

Capparis spinosa

dry valleys etc

Cleome ornithopoides

dry valleys e.g. Çoruh and Barhal

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera caucasica

scattered throughout

Lonicera etrusca

Yanbolu

Lonicera iberica

Çoruh Valley

[*Lonicera xylosteum*

Fly Honeysuckle. Sumela]

<i>Sambucus edulis</i>	in leaf e.g. Sumela
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	widespread
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	scattered
[<i>Viburnum opulus</i>]	Cam Pass]
<i>Viburnum orientalis</i>	Ridos

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Arenaria acutisepala</i>	Barhal, Sarigöl, also Digor
<i>Arenaria cucubaloides</i>	below Sarıkamış
<i>Arenaria dianthoides</i>	Hamamlı, Şeytan Kalesi
<i>Arenaria gypsophiloides</i>	var. <i>glabra</i> . Below Sarıkamış
<i>Cerastium armeniacum</i>	widespread in higher areas
[<i>Cerastium dahuricum</i>]	Anzar]
<i>Cerastium purpurascens</i>	scattered at altitude, e.g. Zigana and Narman Passes, Digor
[<i>Dianthus calocephalus</i>]	Sarıkamış]
[<i>Dianthus orientalis</i>]	Ispir area on cliffs]
[<i>Gypsophila elegans</i>]	dry areas such as the Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Gypsophila nabelekii</i>]	Cam Pass
<i>Herniaria cinerea</i>	scattered
<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i>	Sarıkamış area
[<i>Minuartia aizoides</i>]	widespread in higher areas, particularly Cam Pass area]
[<i>Minuartia circassica</i>]	Scattered, similar to <i>juniperina</i> , but distinct greyish leaves and broader petals]
[<i>Minuartia juniperina</i>]	Fine-leaved tallish species on alpine tundra in the Cam Pass area]
<i>Minuartia scleranthus</i>	mainly lower altitudes
[<i>Minuartia verna</i>]	Narman Pass]
<i>Moehringia trinervis</i>	Sumela
<i>Saponaria prostrata calvertii</i>	common in the drier lower valleys
<i>Silene alba</i>	Trabzon area
[<i>Silene armeria</i>]	Yanbolu. Magenta flowers in dense broad corymb]
[<i>Silene bupluroides</i>]	Tortum and Barhal]
<i>Silene cappadocicum</i>	steppe below Sarıkamış
[<i>Silene compacta</i>]	similar to <i>armeria</i> , but this species was common Barhal area]
<i>Silene conica</i>	steppe below Sarıkamış
[<i>Silene dichotoma</i>]	Tortum]
<i>Silene italica</i>	Maçka area, also Çoruh Valley
[<i>Silene lazica</i>]	Anzer]
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	Maçka area
<i>Silene otitis</i>	scattered
<i>Silene spergulifolia</i>	scattered in the lower valleys
[<i>Silene subconica</i>]	Sarıkamış]
[<i>Silene viscosa</i>]	steppe below Sarıkamış]
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	widespread in the north
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Sumela
<i>Stellaria persica</i>	scattered in the Laşet area, also Sarıkamış

[*Vaccaria hispanica*

Tortum and on the way to Ağrı]

Celastraceae

Euonymus latifolia

Sumela, Barhal

Chenopodiaceae

Beta trigyna

steppe below Sarıkamış. Digor

[*Chenopodium vulvaria*

Çoruh Valley]

[*Krascheninnikovia ceratoides*

Tortum]

Cistaceae

Cistus creticus

Yanbolu

Cistus salviifolius

Yanbolu

Fumana procumbens

Tortum. Işhan

Helianthemum ledifolium

Tortum. Işhan

[*Helianthemum nummularium*

widespread rockrose]

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus arvensis

scattered

Convolvulus cantabrica

Barhal

Convolvulus lineatus

Tortum, Çoruh Valley

[*Convolvulus pseudogrammica*

Çoruh Valley, Barhal]

[*Convolvulus stachydifolius*

Barhal]

Calystegia sylvatica

scattered in scrubby areas, a bindweed

Cornaceae

Cornus mas

scattered throughout

Cornus sanguinea

widespread

Crassulaceae

[*Sedum pallidum*

Barhal]

Sedum spurium

Anzer

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia alba

scattered in the north

[*Bryonia aspera*

Sarıkamış]

Dipsacaceae

[*Dipsacus laciniatus*

in seed in the Çoruh Valley]

[*Knautia integrifolia*

below Olgunlar]

Scabiosa rotata

scattered in lower valleys

Scabiosa crinita

scattered

Ebenaceae

Diospyros kaki

Sarigöl, Işhan

Diospyros lotus

Çoruh Valley, Sarigöl, Işhan

Elaeagnaceae

Eleagnus angustifolius

widespread

[*Hippophae rhamnoides*

Sarnavan]

Ericaceae

[*Arbutus andrachne*

Sumela]

[*Empetrum nigrum*

in seed on the Zigana Pass]

Erica arborea

Yanbolu

Rhododendron caucasicum

Higher slopes where often the dominant shrub – not in flower this year

Rhododendron luteum

widespread

Rhododendron ponticum

widespread

[*Rhododendron ungeri*

above Olgunlar]

Vaccinium arctostaphylos

above Laşet, also Çağrankaya Yaylası. Ridos

Vaccinium myrtillus

scattered

Euphorbiaceae

Andracne telephioides

scattered

Euphorbia falcata

Çoruh Valley

Euphorbia helioscopia

scattered

Euphorbia marschalliana

Çoruh Valley

[*Euphorbia oblongifolia*

Anzer]

Euphorbia peplus

Sumela, İkizdere area

Euphorbia pubescens

Hamsiköy

[*Euphorbia szovitsii*

probably this species Tortum]

Euphorbia virgata

scattered

Fabaceae

[*Anthyllis vulneraria*

scattered]

Argyrolobium biebersteinii

Zigana, Hamsiköy

Astragalus asicocalyx

Tortum. Işhan

[*Astragalus campylosema*

Sarıkamış]

[*Astragalus cicer*

Çoruh Valley]

Astragalus christianus

white-flowered. Below Laşet

Astragalus cylindriacus

all areas above about 2500m east of Olgunlar

Astragalus cf. fabaceus

something like this at Işhan though leaflets way too large!

Astragalus falcatus

Çoruh Valley

Astragalus fragrans

yellow. Widespread

[*Astragalus fraxiniifolius*

Çoruh Valley]

Astragalus galegiformis

Sarıkamış, Ardahan

Astragalus glycyphyllos

Çoruh Valley

<i>Astragalus lineatus</i>	frequent, especially in the north
<i>Astragalus nitens</i>	Tortum. Çoruh Valley and Işhan
[<i>Astragalus ponticus</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Astragalus tigridius</i>	Tortum. Işhan
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Yanbolu, Barhal
[<i>Caragana grandiflora</i>	Tortum]
[<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Chamaecytisus hirsutus</i>	Kafkasör and Şavşat area
<i>Chamaecytisus supinus</i>	Işhan
<i>Chesneya elegans</i>	Tortum. Çoruh Valley
<i>Cicer anatolicum</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Cicer pinnatifidum</i>	Çoruh Valley, below Barhal
<i>Colutea armena</i>	Işhan
<i>Colutea cilicica</i>	Çoruh Valley
[<i>Coronilla coronata</i>	Maçka]
<i>Coronilla orientalis</i>	widespread at higher altitudes
[<i>Coronilla varia</i>	scattered with pink and yellow forms]
[<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>	Yanbolu]
[<i>Dorycnium pentaphyllum</i>	Maçka]
[<i>Galega orientalis</i>	above Artvin]
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Sumela, Hamsiköy
[<i>Hedysarum cappadocicum</i>	Tortum]
[<i>Hedysarum elegans</i>	Tortum – both these <i>Hedysarums</i> are very beautiful!]
[<i>Hedysarum pestalozzae</i>	Çoruh Valley. Pink blooms with a yellow spot]
[<i>Lathyrus aureus</i>	Zigana – not to be confused with <i>Vicia crocea</i> !]
[<i>Lathyrus brachypterus</i>	Sarıkaş area]
[<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Lathyrus cyaneus</i>	scattered in subalpine meadows]
<i>Lathyrus laxiflorus</i>	widespread in the north
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Çoruh Valley. Yanbolu
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Sumela, Hamsiköy
[<i>Lathyrus roseus</i>	scattered, mainly north-facing slopes]
<i>Lathyrus rotundifolius</i>	widespread
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Hamsiköy
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	widespread
<i>Lotus ornithopodoides</i>	Yanbolu
[<i>Lotus suaveolens</i>	probably this species Yanbolu]
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	scattered
<i>Medicago granadensis</i>	Sumela
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	scattered
[<i>Medicago minima</i>	scattered]
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	scattered
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	scattered
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	widespread
<i>Onobrychis cornuta</i>	Tortum and Narman, Işhan

<i>[Onobrychis atropatana</i>	Sarıkamuş]
<i>Onobrychis huetiana</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Onobrychis transcaucasica</i>	scattered
<i>Oxytropis lupinoides</i>	Tortum. Işhan
<i>[Pisum sativum</i>	scattered]
<i>[Psoralea acaulis</i>	scattered]
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	widespread, planted
<i>[Sophora alopecuroides</i>	scattered in the Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Yanbolu]
<i>[Trifolium argutum</i>	Sarıkamuş area]
<i>[Trifolium arvense</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Trifolium boissieri</i>	Cam Pass]
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Yanbolu
<i>[Trifolium canescens</i>	Anzer]
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Sumela
<i>[Trifolium hybridum</i>	scattered]
<i>[Trifolium medium</i>	Sumela]
<i>[Trifolium nigrescens</i>	Yanbolu]
<i>[Trifolium ochroleucum</i>	scattered in subalpine meadows]
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	widespread
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	scattered
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Yanbolu
<i>Trigonella tenuis</i>	Işhan
<i>[Trifolium rytidosemium</i>	Sarıkamuş]
<i>[Trifolium scabrum</i>	Yanbolu]
<i>[Trifolium spadiceum</i>	Ardahan area]
<i>[Vicia alpestris</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>Vicia balansae</i>	Barhal
<i>[Vicia canescens</i>	Narman]
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Sumela, Yanbolu
<i>[Vicia crocea</i>	northern slopes at mid-levels in forest]
<i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	Sarıkamuş, Laşet
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hamsiköy, Çoruh Valley
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	scattered
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	scattered throughout
<i>[Vicia seriocarpa</i>	Maçka, Hamsiköy]
<i>[Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Yanbolu]

Fagaceae

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	widespread in forested areas
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	common in forest on northern slopes – often dominant
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	locally frequent
<i>Quercus pontica</i>	Çağrankaya Yaylası
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	near Maçka

Fumariaceae

[*Corydalis alpestris*
Corydalis angustifolius
Corydalis caucasica
Corydalis (erdelii) narinnianna

handsome lilac-blue species in scree. Anzer]
Cam Pass
above Laşet
Ovit and Cam Passes. Really think these are two different things!?
Widespread *erdelii* and on the Cam Pass something different with
almost white flowers – *narinianna*?

Gentianaceae

[*Centaurea erythraea*
Gentiana aquatica
[*Gentiana cruciata*
[*Gentiana pyrenaica*
Gentiana verna pontica
[*Swertia iberica*

Yanbolu]
near the hotel on Zigana, also bogs at the foot of the Cam Pass
leaves Zigana etc]
small purple species – Zigana and Ovit Passes]
scattered, deep blue
leaves only – Ovit Pass]

Geraniaceae

Erodium ciconium
Erodium cicutarium
Geranium asphodeloides
[*Geranium cinereum*
Geranium columbinum
Geranium molle
[*Geranium palustre*
[*Geranium platypetalum*
[*Geranium psilostemon*
[*Geranium pratense*
Geranium purpureum
Geranium pusillum
Geranium pyrenaicum
Geranium robertianum
Geranium sanguineum
Geranium stepporum
Geranium sylvaticum
[*Pelargonium endlicherianum*

Çoruh Valley, Işhan
scattered
widespread
subspecies *palmipartitum*. Beautiful. Above Ispir]
Çoruh Valley, İkizdere area
Yanbolu
Sumela, Hamsiköy]
Barhal, Sarıgöl]
tall, deep magenta with black-eye – Anzer and valleys below]
Narman]
Sumela, Barhal
scattered
widespread
widespread in north
Çoruh Valley, Barhal
Çoruh Valley
scattered
near Yusufeli]

Globulariaceae

Globularia trichosantha

Hamsiköy. Olgunlar

Grossulariaceae

[*Ribes alpinum*
Ribes biebersteinii
Ribes orientalis
Ribes uva-crispa

Sarnavan]
Olgunlar, Çam Pass
Widespread
Olgunlar

Hypericaceae

<i>[Hypericum androsaemum]</i>	Sumela]
<i>[Hypericum bupleuroides]</i>	in bud. Ridos]
<i>Hypericum orientale</i>	Anzer. Barhal
<i>Hypericum scabrum</i>	Corymbs of golden flowers, frequent in drier areas
<i>[Hypericum perforatum]</i>	scattered]

Juglandaceae

<i>Juglans regia</i>	widespread orchard tree
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Lamiaceae

<i>Acinos rotundifolius</i>	Tortum
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Cam Pass, Laşet, İkizdere
<i>Ajuga orientalis</i>	widespread
<i>[Ajuga reptans]</i>	Aktaş]
<i>[Ajuga salicifolia]</i>	Sarıkamuş]
<i>[Ballota nigra]</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
<i>[Dracocephalum ruyschiana]</i>	below Olgunlar]
<i>[Dracocephalum spp]</i>	below the Narman Pass. There are no white species in the flora....]
<i>[Eremostachys laciniata]</i>	Tortum]
<i>Lamium album</i>	widespread
<i>[Lamium galactophyllum]</i>	Tortum]
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Barhal
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Sumela and Çoruh Valley
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	scattered
<i>[Lallemantia canescens]</i>	Sarıkamuş area]
<i>Lallemantia iberica</i>	Sarıkamuş area
<i>[Mentha longifolia]</i>	Çoruh Valley near Artvin]
<i>[Marrubium parviflorum]</i>	Sarıkamuş]
<i>[Nepeta betonicifolia]</i>	Aktaş]
<i>[Nepeta fissa]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Nepeta transcaucasica</i>	Sarıkamuş area
<i>[Origanum rotundifolium]</i>	large creamy bracts. Tortum]
<i>[Phlomis armeniaca]</i>	Çoruh Valley, Tortum]
<i>[Phlomis russeliana]</i>	common south of Trabzon]
<i>[Prunella vulgaris]</i>	Anzer]
<i>[Salvia aethiopsis]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Salvia forskahlei]</i>	above Ispir]
<i>[Salvia huberi]</i>	Tortum]
<i>[Salvia hydrangea]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Salvia limbata]</i>	above Ispir]
<i>[Salvia multicaulis]</i>	steppe below Sarıkamuş]
<i>[Salvia nemorosa]</i>	scattered]

<i>[Salvia pachystachys]</i>	large white flowers. Mat-forming. between Horasan and Ağrı]
<i>[Salvia pilifera]</i>	Çoruh Valley below Artvin]
<i>[Salvia poculata]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Salvia rosifolia</i>	beautiful species. Tortum, Çoruh Valley
<i>[Salvia sclarea]</i>	whitish with sticky pungent leaves. Below Şavşat]
<i>Salvia stamineus</i>	frequent in Ardahan and Sarıkamış area
<i>[Salvia verbenacea]</i>	Tortum]
<i>Salvia verticillata</i>	widespread
<i>Sideritis montana</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>[Scutellaria albida]</i>	small white flowers on spikes. Barhal]
<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Stachys annua</i>	scattered
<i>Stachys atherocalyx</i>	Sumela, Hamsiköy, Barhal
<i>[Stachys laetivirens]</i>	above Ispir]
<i>[Stachys lavanduliflora]</i>	Sarıkamış area]
<i>[Stachys macrantha]</i>	loose heads of long-tubed pink flowers – mid altitudes]
<i>[Stachys sylvatica]</i>	Sumela]
<i>[Stachys woronowii]</i>	Tortum]
<i>[Teucrium chamaedrys]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Teucrium orientale]</i>	Pretty blue species. Tortum]
<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>[Wiedemanni multifidus]</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı]
<i>[Ziziphora capitata]</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>[Ziziphora tenuior]</i>	Çoruh Valley]

Lauraceae

<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Yanbolu
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Lentibulariaceae

<i>[Pinguicula balcanica]</i>	Ovit Pass]
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Linaceae

<i>Linum austriacum</i>	large blue-flowered flax. Scattered
<i>Linum bienne</i>	small blue-flowered flax. Scattered
<i>[Linum catharticum]</i>	tiny white-flowered flax. Anzer Yayla]
<i>[Linum mucronatum]</i>	yellow-flowered flax. Tortum]
<i>[Linum obtusatum]</i>	Çam Pass]
<i>[Linum pycnocephalum]</i>	medium-sized white-flowered flax. Sarıkamış area]

Loranthaceae

<i>[Viscum album]</i>	subspecies <i>austriacum</i> near Artvin and subspecies <i>abietinus</i> on pines at Kafkasör]
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Lythraceae

[*Lythrum salicaria*

Barhal]

Malvaceae

[*Alcea apterocarpa*

Barhal]

[*Alcea calvertii*

Çoruh Valley]

Malva parviflora

scattered

Monotropaceae

Monotropa hypopithys

pale yellow saprophyte – yellow bird's nest. Cam Pass. Just coming up

Moraceae

Morus alba

cultivated. Dry areas, e.g. Çoruh Valley

Ficus carica

widely planted

Morinaceae

[*Morina persica*

Tortum – in bud]

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior

scattered in damper situations

Jasminum fruticans

scattered

[*Ligustrum vulgare*

Maçka]

[*Phillyrea latifolia*

Yanbolu]

Onagraceae

[*Epilobium hirsutum*

Kafkasör]

[*Epilobium montanum*

Sarıkamış]

Orobanchaceae

[*Orobanche* sp

on *Rubus*. Sumela]

Orobanche sp

on *Rhus*. Çoruh Valley

Orobanche caryophyllacea

Yanbolu

Orobanche minor

Yanbolu

[*Orobanche pubescens*

Anzer]

[*Phelypaea tournefortii*

a very nice population above Ispir. Also between Horasan and Ağrı]

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella

widespread

Oxalis corniculata

Sumela, Yanbolu

Papaveraceae

Papaver armeniacum

Smallish pale orange flowers. Barhal, Sarıkamış

[*Papaver bracteosum*

Olgunlar]

<i>Papaver dubium</i>	dry valleys
<i>Papaver lacerum</i>	near Eleşkirt
[<i>Papaver lateritium</i>	fine orange flowered species. Zigana and Ovit Passes[
[<i>Papaver paucifoliatum</i>	Sarıkamuş]
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı
<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Çoruh and Barhal Valleys
<i>Glaucium grandiflorum</i>	İhşan, Sarıkamuş
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	frequent in north

Paeoniaceae

<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	between the Ovi Pass and Ispir and above Olgunlar. Only leaves 2026
[<i>Paeonia wittmanniana</i>	stunning palest yellow goblets above Laşet. Avalanche damaged this year!]

Phytolaccaceae

<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	scattered alien – not flowering at this season
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Plantaginaceae

<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	widespread
<i>Plantago major</i>	widespread

Plumbaginaceae

<i>Acantholimon spp</i>	scattered – not in flower
<i>Plumbago europaea</i>	Tortum

Polygalaceae

<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Çam Pass. Ridos meadows
[<i>Polygala anatolica</i>	Hamamlı]
<i>Polygala major</i>	Sumela
<i>Polygala papilionacea</i>	scattered
<i>Polygala pruinosa</i>	steppe below Sarıkamuş
[<i>Polygala supina</i>	Zigana Pass and above Hamamlı]
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Anzer Yayla

Polygonaceae

[<i>Atraphaxis billardieri</i>	rather pretty little shrub – not at all dock-like! Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Atraphaxis spinosa</i>	Tortum]
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	above Olgunlar
<i>Polygonum alpinum</i>	Between Barhal and Yaylalar. Çam Pass
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Sarıkamuş, Calı Gölü
[<i>Polygonum bistorta carneum</i>	Olgunlar]
[<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	scattered]
[<i>Rumex alpinus</i>	Anzer]
[<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Anzar Yayla]

Rumex scutatus

widespread

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis

Yanbolu

[*Androsace albana*

Zigana Pass, Olgunlar]

Androsace armeniaca

Çam Pass, Şeytan Kalesi

[*Androsace intermedia*

above Hamamlı]

[*Androsace villosa*

Olgunlar]

Cyclamen parviflorum

var. *parviflorum*. Anzer, Zigana

[*Lysimachia vulgaris*

Barhal]

[*Primula algida*

smaller in stature than *auriculata* with short calyx. Ovit Pass, Olgunlar]

Primula auriculata

widespread in mountains

Primula elatior meyeri

handsome deep pink species, rosettes of crinkled leaves, loose heads.

Ovit Pass, Olgunlar (only here this year), Çam Pass

Primula elatior pallasii

large rather round heads of creamy-yellow flowers. Common in Cam Pass and Sarıkamış region

Primula veris columnae

frequent in the mountains south of Trabzon

Primula veris macrocalyx

very common in the mountains west of Artvin, also on the Cam Pass

Primula vulgaris

lower parts of the Zigana Pass

Primula vulgaris

subspecies *rubra*. İkizdere

Punicaceae

Punica granatum

orchards

Pyrolaceae

[*Moneses uniflora*

Hamsiköy area]

[*Pyrola minor*

Hamsiköy]

Ranunculaceae

Adonis aestivalis

frequent east of the Çoruh Valley

Adonis annua

Tortum, Çoruh Valley

[*Adonis eriocalycina*

Tortum]

Adonis flammea

Sarıkamış, Çoruh Valley

Anemone blanda

Zigana Pass

[*Anemone narcissiflora*

widespread at altitude]

Aquilegia olympica

scattered, mostly in the north

Caltha polypetala

widespread at altitude

Clematis orientalis

Barhal

Clematis vitalba

Yanbolu

Consolida orientalis

mainly Çoruh Valley

[*Consolida regalis*

Sarıkamış, Kars etc]

Helleborus orientalis

frequent in the north

Pulsatilla albana

widespread in dry areas at altitude

Ranunculus arvensis

Ihşan, Sarıkamış

<i>Ranunculus brachylobus</i>	Ovit Pass]
<i>Ranunculus brutii</i>	Anzar, Ridos etc
<i>Ranunculus buhsei</i>	frequent in the Şavşat and Cam Pass areas
<i>Ranunculus cappadocicum</i>	frequent in woodlands in the Trabzon area
<i>Ranunculus caucasicus</i>	widespread
<i>Ranunculus cuneatus</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Ranunculus constantinopolitanus</i>	frequent in the Yaylalar, Şavşat and Cam areas
<i>Ranunculus dissectus</i>	Zigana Pass
[<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	common in water meadows west of Ardahan. Scarce plant in Turkey!]
<i>Ranunculus grandiflorus</i>	Narman Pass, Çam Pass, Sarıkamış where locally dominant
<i>Ranunculus marginalis</i>	Yanbolu, Çoruh Valley
<i>Ranunculus obesus</i>	Sarıkamış meadows
[<i>Ranunculus oreophilus</i>	Çam Pass]
<i>Ranunculus polyanthemos</i>	frequent in meadows in Trabzon area
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	scattered throughout
[<i>Ranunculus rionii</i>	tiny-flowered water-crowfoot near Göle]
[<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Kuyucuk, Sarıkamış]
<i>Ranunculus strigosus</i>	near the hotel at Sarıkamış – not in flower in 2026
[<i>Ranunculus tempskyanus</i>	Zigana Pass]
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	scattered
<i>Trollius ranunculinus</i>	widespread at altitude

Resedaceae

<i>Reseda lutea</i>	scattered
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Sumela

[

Rhamnaceae

[<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Sumela, Barhal]
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	common Çoruh Valley, Barhal etc
[<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Anzer]
<i>Rhamnus cornifolius</i>	cliffs between Barhal & Sarıgöl
<i>Rhamnus iberitanus</i>	Laşet, Çağrankaya Yaylası
<i>Rhamnus microcarpus</i>	Anzer
<i>Rhamnus pallasii</i>	Tortum, Barhal
<i>Ziziphus lotus</i>	dry valleys

Rosaceae

[<i>Aremonia agriminoides</i>	Tortum]
<i>Alchemilla</i> spp	Various <i>Alchemilla</i> were seen, many of which would have formerly been ascribable to <i>mollis</i> , but splitting has taken it's toll!
[<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	widespread in damper areas]
<i>Cotoneaster nummularia</i>	scattered
<i>Cotoneaster integerrimus</i>	Çoruh Valley
[<i>Crataegus curvisepala</i>	Çam Pass]

[<i>Crataegus meyeri</i>	south side of Zigana Pass]
[<i>Crataegus microphylla</i>	south side of Zigana Pass]
[<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	widespread]
[<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Sarıkaş
[<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Kafkasör]
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	scattered
[<i>Fragaria viridis</i>	Sarıkaş]
[<i>Geum coccineum</i>	bright orange! Anzer, Olgunlar]
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Sarıkaş, bogs at the foot of the Çam Pass
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	scattered in the north
<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Medlar. Sumela, Yanbolu
[<i>Padus avium</i>	Çam Pass]
<i>Poterium muricata</i>	scattered
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Zigana Pass
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Ovit Pass, bogs at the foot of the Çam Pass
<i>Potentilla micrantha</i>	Zigana area
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	scattered
<i>Potentilla rupestris</i>	scattered
<i>Prunus avium</i>	scattered
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	frequent in forests Trabzon and İkizdere areas
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	scattered
[<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Sumela, Hamsiköy]
<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i>	scattered
<i>Rosa canina</i>	widespread
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	scattered throughout
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	Barhal
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	in leaf. Sarıkaş
<i>Rubus caucasicus</i> agg.	Sumela
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Yanbolu
[<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Reddish flowers, Barhal]
<i>Sibbaldia parviflora</i>	widespread in mountains. Both <i>glabra</i> and nominate forms
[<i>Spiraea crenata</i>	Çam Pass]
<i>Spirea hypericifolia</i>	Şeytan Kalesi
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Çam Pass
<i>Sorbus persica</i>	Olgunlar
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Sumela, Çoruh Valley

Rubiaceae

[<i>Asperula armenum</i>	Tortum]
<i>Asperula orientalis</i>	Çoruh Valley, Sarıkaş
<i>Asperula setosa</i>	Tortum, Sarigöl, Işhan
<i>Asperula taurica</i>	frequent south of Trabzon
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Zigana, Çam Pass etc
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Sumela
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Çam Pass, Şeytan Kalesi

[<i>Galium cappadocicum</i>	cliffs near Ispir]
[<i>Galium cruciata</i>	Hamsiköy]
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sumela
[<i>Galium rotundifolium</i>	Anzer, below Çam Pass]
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Sumela, Maçka

Rutaceae

[<i>Dictamus albus</i>	Sumela and Hamsiköy]
<i>Haplophyllum armenum</i>	Çoruh Valley, south side of Zigana Pass
[<i>Haplophyllum buxbaumii</i>	Şeytan Kalesi]
[<i>Haplophyllum telephioides</i>	in bud above Hamamlı]

Salicaceae

<i>Populus tremula</i>	common and widespread
<i>Populus x uzbekistana cf afghanica</i>	widely planted upright tree
<i>Salix alba</i>	scattered
<i>Salix caprea</i>	scattered
<i>Salix pseudodepressa</i>	in raised bogs at the eastern foot of the Çam Pass
<i>Salix pseudomedemii</i>	Laşet
<i>Salix triandra</i>	Laşet

Santalaceae

<i>Thesium spp</i>	noted
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Saxifragaceae

<i>Chrysosplenium dubium</i>	Zigana hotel area
<i>Saxifraga adscendens</i>	Zigana
<i>Saxifraga cymbalaria</i>	widespread little yellow species, ivy-like leaves
<i>Saxifraga exarata</i>	Çam Pass, Şeytan Kalesi
<i>Saxifraga juniperifolia</i>	Olgunlar
[<i>Saxifraga moschata</i>	Olgunlar]
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	widespread, common on rocks, encrusted leaves
<i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>	scattered, round, hairy leaves
<i>Saxifraga sibirica</i>	Çam Pass, Çoruh Valley

Scrophulariaceae

<i>Bunaea trifida</i>	Tortum, Çoruh Valley, Işhan
[<i>Euphrasia pectinata</i>	Sarıkamış]
[<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i>	Zigana Pass]
[<i>Linaria armeniaca</i>	Çoruh Valley & Tortum]
<i>Linaria corifolia</i>	Çoruh Valley & Tortum
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>	scattered to the east, e.g. Aktaş, Göle etc
[<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>	Çoruh Valley]
[<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Zigana – the yellow form here]

<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	bartsia with yellow flowers – Yanbolu
[<i>Pedicularis caucasica</i>	white flowers, low growing. Widespread at high altitudes]
[<i>Pedicularis comosa</i>	tall white/cream species. Widespread]
[<i>Pedicularis condensata</i>	dense heads of creamy flowers. Zigana and Ovit Passes, Olgunlar]
[<i>Pedicularis pontica</i>	small pink lousewort. Zigana Pass]
[<i>Pedicularis wilhemslana</i>	leafy heads with tiny yellow and maroon flowers. Widespread at Altitude]
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	widespread and common
<i>Rhyncocorys elephas</i>	Barhal
[<i>Rhyncocorys orientalis</i>	Şavşat area]
[<i>Rhyncocorys stricta</i>	Sumela]
<i>Scrophularia chrysantha</i>	distinctive yellow figwort. Ovit and Cam Passes
<i>Scrophularia ilwensis</i>	widely scattered
<i>Scrophularia kotschyana</i>	orange flowers. Sumela, Çam Pass
[<i>Scrophularia olympica</i>	Anzer]
[<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Yanbolu]
<i>Scrophularia umbrosa</i>	Tortum
<i>Verbascum decursivum</i>	Zigana area
[<i>Verbascum euphraticum</i>	Laşet]
[<i>Verbascum insulare</i>	Ovit Pass and below]
[<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Hamamli, Sarıkamış]
<i>Verbascum varians</i>	very common Laşet and the forested parts of the Çam Pass
<i>Veronica armena</i>	bright blue species Kars, Sarıkamış
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Anzer, Laşet
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Anzer
<i>Veronica filiformis</i>	scattered
<i>Veronica gentianoides</i>	relatively large flowers in spikes. Widespread hardly in flower this year
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Sumela
<i>Veronica orientalis</i>	Çam Pass, Çoruh Valley
<i>Veronica peduncularis</i>	widespread
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Sumela, Yanbolu
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Anzer, Çam Pass

Simaroubaceae

[<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Barhal]
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Solanaceae

[<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	scattered - Sumela, below Ovit Pass etc]
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	scattered throughout
[<i>Hyoscyamus reticulatus</i>	Tortum and between Horasan and Ağrı]
[<i>Physalis ahlkengi</i>	Çoruh Valley]
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Çoruh Valley

Staphyleaceae

Staphylea pinnata

forests in north, e.g. Sumela, Ikizdere

Tamaricaceae

[*Myricaria germanica*

Tamarix smyrniensis

Tortum, valleys below Sarıkamış]

frequent along the Çoruh and tributaries

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne glomerata

[*Daphne mezereum*

Daphne pontica

widespread but not in flower this year

Ovit Pass]

Hamsiköy area, Ikizdere

Tiliaceae

Tilia platyphylla

Tilia rubra

northern forests where frequent at lower altitudes. Also Barhal

Sumela

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabra

Ulmus minor

forests throughout

Sumela, Yanbolu

Urticaceae

Urtica dioica

Parietaria judaica

widespread

rocks and cliffs e.g. Sumela

Valerianaceae

Centranthus longifolius

Valeriana alliarifolia

[*Valeriana leucophaea*

Valeriana officinalis

[*Valeriana phu*

scattered in the lower valleys

large triangular leaves, huge corymbs of flowers. Widespread

scattered at high altitudes east of Şavşat]

scattered

Ovit Pass, Olgunlar]

Verbenaceae

Verbena officinalis

Akta Gölü

Violaceae

Viola alba

Viola altaica

Viola arvensis

Viola canina

[*Viola kitaibeliana*

Viola occulta

Viola odorata

Viola rupestris

Anzer, Olgunlar, Cam Pass

Zigana. Masses above the road to Korahmet from Yaylalar

scattered

Zigana Pass

Anzer]

Aygır Gölü

Zigana Pass, Cam Pass

scree above Olgunlar

<i>Viola sieheana</i>	scattered
<i>Viola suavis</i>	above Olgunlar
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Cam Pass, Sarıkamış

Vitaceae

<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grapevine. Widespread. Wild plants in some areas
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Zygophyllaceae

<i>[Peganum harmala]</i>	Tortum]
<i>[Tribulus terrestris]</i>	Sumela]

Dioscoreaceae

<i>Tamus communis</i>	scattered
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Cyperaceae

<i>Carex pallescens</i>	mountains south of Trabzon
<i>Carex pendula</i>	mountains south of Trabzon

Iridaceae

<i>Crocus aerius</i>	Anzer. Also near Handere after group departed
<i>Crocus fibroannulatus</i>	Anzer
<i>Gladiolus atrovioleaceus</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>[Gladiolus kotschyanus]</i>	scattered]
<i>[Iris aphylla]</i>	aka <i>furcata</i> . Nice population of this little purple iris to the east of Ardahan]
<i>Iris iberica elegantissima</i>	between Horasan and Ağrı. Also south of Sarıkamış and near Digor
<i>Iris caucasica caucasica</i>	only in flower on the Çam Pass this year
<i>Iris caucasica nezahatae</i>	weird peachy-brown juno. Near Yusufeli
<i>Iris histrioides</i>	fabulous. Anzer
<i>[Iris sibirica]</i>	Ardahan]
<i>[Iris spuria musulmanica]</i>	near Eleşkirt]
<i>Iris taochia</i>	Narman. Abundant this year in the Çoruh Valley

Juncaginaceae

<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Aktaş
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	Sarıkamış area. Bogs foot of the Camp Pass

Liliaceae

<i>[Allium decipiens]</i>	Çoruh Valley & Barhal]
<i>[Allium scorodoprasum]</i>	Barhal]
<i>Allium zebdanense</i>	fine white campanulate species. Çoruh Valley, Barhal
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	scattered

<i>Bellevia forniculata</i>	fantastic sky-blue species. Sarıkamış. Also bogs at the bottom of the Cam Pass
<i>Bellevia paradoxa</i>	frequent in the Cam Pass and Sarıkamış areas
<i>Bellevia pycnantha</i>	locally common Sarıkamış area. Many Turkish botanists place these two under the same species but <i>pycnantha</i> is always robust and grows typically in flat inundated areas, whereas <i>paradoxa</i> is few flowered and grows on rather dry alpine turf
<i>Colchicum szovitsii</i>	Ovit and Anzer. Superabundant this year!
<i>Eremurus spectabilis</i>	Yaylalar and roadside rocks above Ispir
<i>Fritillaria armena</i>	almost over on the Narman Pass. Above Hamamlı
<i>Fritillaria caucasica</i>	Ovit Pass. Aygır Gölü. Scattered in the Sarıkamış area
<i>Fritillaria latifolia</i>	Ovit Pass, Olgunlar and Çam Pass
<i>Fritillaria michailovskyi</i>	fabulous blooms below Sarıkamış
<i>Fritillaria pinardii</i>	Olgunlar – a curious and beautiful striped form
<i>Gagea alexeenkoana</i>	glaucous five-angled hard leaves, pointed tepals. Narman Pass & Çam Pass
<i>Gagea bulbifera</i>	Aygır Gölü
<i>Gagea commutata</i>	Ovit Pass and Çam Pass
<i>Gagea fragifera</i>	widespread
<i>Gagea glacialis</i>	Zigana, Ovit Dag and Olgunlar
<i>Gagea luteoides</i>	Zigana
<i>Gagea minima</i>	Çam Pass – rarely recorded species
<i>[Lilium ciliatum]</i>	Sumela]
<i>[Lilium kesselringianum]</i>	in bud Laşet]
<i>[Lloydia serotina]</i>	first found in Turkey at this site on the Çam Pass on a Greentours trip a few years ago. Under snow this year though]
<i>Merendera trigyna</i>	Çam Pass
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	widespread
<i>Muscari aucheri</i>	frequent Olgunlar
<i>Muscari aff azureum</i>	Calı Gölü
<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	Sarıkamış area
<i>Muscari caucasicum</i>	Çoruh Valley and Sarıkamış area
<i>[Muscari tenuifolium]</i>	Yanbolu]
<i>[Ornithogalum alpigenum]</i>	Tortum]
<i>Ornithogalum balansae</i>	common south of Trabzon
<i>Ornithogalum cuspidatum</i>	scattered south of Trabzon
<i>Ornithogalum hajastanicum</i>	Işhan
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Çoruh Valley
<i>Ornithogalum oligophyllum</i>	widespread in the mountains
<i>[Ornithogalum schelkovnikovii]</i>	Tortum and in Çoruh Valley below Artvin]
<i>Ornithogalum sigmoideum</i>	frequent Çam Pass and Sarıkamış
<i>Ornithogalum transcaucasicum</i>	Sarıkamış
<i>Paris incompleta</i>	Zigana and Laşet
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	widely scattered
<i>Polygonatum orientale</i>	lower parts of the Ovit Pass

<i>[Polygonatum verticillatum]</i>	Sarıkaş
<i>[Prospero autumnalis]</i>	Yanbolu. Checked in October when there were many seedheads present so assume that there were just spring flowering examples of this species]
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	scattered
<i>Ruscus colchicus</i>	Laşet, İkizdere
<i>Scilla monanthos</i>	scattered in the Cam Pass, Bulbulen areas
<i>Scilla rosenii</i>	stunning. Forms drifts on the alpine turf of the Cam Pass, and other high areas in the Ardahan region
<i>Scilla sibirica armena</i>	Ovit Pass
<i>Scilla sibirica caucasica</i>	Zigana area
<i>[Scilla winogradowii]</i>	Ovit Pass & Anzer. Looks like a <i>Puschkinia</i> !]
<i>Smilax excelsa</i>	Sumela and Yanbolu
<i>Tulipa juliae</i>	I think the yellow tulips below Yaylalar and above Olgunlar were this species rather than the following
<i>[Tulipa gumusanica]</i>	below Olgunlar. This rare taxon is currently included within <i>Tulipa armena</i> . Difficult to imagine this though given the combination of yellow flowers, tall habit, and geographical location. I think the original naming of it as a separate species has some credence.]
<i>Veratrum album</i>	Scattered, large ribbed leaves – no flowers yet!

Orchidaceae

<i>[Anacamptis laxiflora dinsmorei]</i>	a nice population close to Eleşkirt]
<i>[Anacamptis pyramidalis]</i>	Pyramidal Orchid. in bud Sumela]
<i>[Cephalanthera damasonium]</i>	White Helleborine. Widely scattered]
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine. Hamsiköy
<i>[Cephalanthera rubra]</i>	Red Helleborine. Kafkasör]
<i>[Coeloglossum viride]</i>	Frog Orchid. Sarıkaş]
<i>[Corallorhiza trifida]</i>	Çam Pass]
<i>[Dactylorhiza incarnata]</i>	Early Marsh Orchid. Just 1 – near Sarıkaş]
<i>Dactylorhiza euxina</i>	Ovit Pass and Olgunlar. The very heavily spotted <i>markowitsii</i> form also seen in various localities
<i>Dactylorhiza flavescens</i>	Georgian Orchid. Yellow or red. Locally common
<i>[Dactylorhiza osmanica]</i>	common in the Laşet, Ardahan and Sarıkaş region]
<i>Dactylorhiza saccifera</i>	frequent in wet flushes south of Trabzon
<i>Dactylorhiza umbrosa</i>	widespread, particularly in the east
<i>[Dactylorhiza urvilleana]</i>	slender. Widespread]
<i>[Epipactis helleborine]</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine. In bud. Kafkasör]
<i>[Epipactis pontica]</i>	above Artvin]
<i>[Epipactis veratrifolia]</i>	Eastern Chatterbox Orchid. Çoruh Valley below Artvin]
<i>[Gymnadenia conopsea]</i>	Fragrant Orchid. In bud Hamsiköy]
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade. Scattered on meadow-edge throughout
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Birds-nest Orchid. Scattered in woodland throughout. Not in flower
<i>[Ophrys apifera]</i>	Bee Orchid. Macka]
<i>Ophrys caucasica</i>	frequent Macka and Hamsiköy
<i>Ophrys cornuta (oestriifera)</i>	frequent Macka and Hamsiköy

<i>[Ophrys caucasica X cornuta</i>	1 Hamsiköy]
<i>Orchis caucasica</i>	around the bungalows at Laşet
<i>[Orchis coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid. Frequent on the Cam Pass and east and south of there]
<i>Orchis mascula pinetorum</i>	Early Purple (Pinewood) Orchid. Widely scattered - 2026 only Olgunlar
<i>Orchis pallens</i>	yellow. Scattered
<i>[Orchis picta</i>	Kafkasör]
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid. South of Trabzon
<i>Orchis stevenii</i>	Steven's Orchid. A robust and elegant orchid. A good number in the vicinity of Hamsiköy but not in 2026, when only seen at Laşet
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid. Hamsiköy
<i>[Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid. Scattered. In bud]
<i>Serapias orientalis</i>	Yanbolu where numerous and also noted Kafkasör
<i>Stenisiella satyroides</i>	Hooded Orchid. Hamsiköy area. Quite a few plants this year
<i>[Traunsteinera sphaerica</i>	Yellow Globe Orchid. Many in late bud on the mountain north of Sarıkamış]

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Only 2026 records indicated. 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. As we arrived after dark on the first day this day is not included for this purpose.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Only noted at Çıldır Gölü and Çalı Gölü
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1 off of Yanbolu, common at Aktaş
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	1 on Çıldır Gölü, 12 birds on Boğatepe Gölü. Also, after group departed, 10 pairs on Asboğa Gölü, Sarıkamış, a significant breeding population of this scarce species
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 off of Yanbolu, several on Aktaş, c.10 on Çalı Gölü
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Black Sea, Aktaş (common) and Aygır Gölü
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1 flew out of a petrol station we pulled into just west of Yanbolu on the Black Sea Coast!
Nigh Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	a colony breeding by the bridge in Ardahan
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2 near Göle
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1 at Yanbolu and 2 Aktaş
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	scattered - scarce
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	c.10 Balçesme Valley near Kars
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	just 1 at Ardahan and c.30 near Göle
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1 Balçesme Valley near Kars
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	3 Aktaş, 2 near Göle
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Aktaş
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Common in the Ardahan and Kars areas with up to 100 daily. 3/13
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Aktaş and 1 at Çalı Gölü
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	5 Sarıkamış
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Scattered. 4/13
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	2 Boğatepe Gölü
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	several Çıldır Gölü
Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	Aktaş, Çıldır Gölü and Çalı Gölü
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Aktaş, Çıldır Gölü and Çalı Gölü
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	One of the highlights of the tour was the passage of around 450 over Şeytan Kalesi. Also c.20 near Hamamlı
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	scattered – quite a few this year. 5/13
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	3 – 2 adults and 1 immature at Anzer and 1 fabulous adult Cam Pass
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	1 Balçesme Valley near Kars
Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	2 over Şeytan Kalesi, 2 just outside Ardahan and 2 Boğatepe Gölü

Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	2 along the Çoruh Valley and 1 near Hammalı
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	scattered, mostly Ardahan area. 4/13
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	7+ Aktaş, 1 Balçesme Valley near Kars, and 1 near Digor
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1 below Anzer Yayla
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2 Şeytan Kalesi
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	a female above Anzer Yayla village
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	widespread. 10/13
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Common, especially around Ardahan and in the Çoruh Valley. 10/13
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	frequent in forests around Ardahan, Göle and Sarıkamış. 4/13
Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	an adult just west of Ardahan
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	1 east of Ardahan and 1 Boğatepe Gölü
Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	1 Şeytan Kalesi
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1 Anzer and 1 Balçesme Valley near Kars
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	singles near Ardahan and Sarıkamış
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	1 male on the Ovit Dagı Pass and 1 Anzer
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	scattered throughout. 9/13
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	a male on the Ovit Dagı Pass
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1 Şeytan Kalesi
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	Leader only! Day after the group left I watched one displaying near Handere!
Caspian Snowcock	<i>Tetraogallus caspis</i>	Leader only! 1 nearly hit me above Olgunlar
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	almost certainly what Ozan saw on the Cam Pass
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	lakes and wetlands Ardahan. 3/13
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Leader only – after the group left I saw 8 at Kuyucuk
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Ardahan Valley
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	scattered in the Ardahan/ Sarıkamış area. 4/13
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	1 at Boğatepe Gölü
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1 Sarıkamış
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	3 at the little wetland at foot of the Cam Pass. One exhibiting display activity
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	scattered in the Ardahan/ Sarıkamış area. 3/13
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	scattered
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	1 Çıldır Gölü
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1 along the Çoruh Valley. Also Aktaş. Huge colony at Çalı Gölü
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	5 past Yanbolu
Yellow-legged Herring Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	along the Black Sea Coast
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1 near Göle
Armenian Gull	<i>Larus armenicus</i>	common in the Ardahan area. 3/13

White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	a flock near Göle
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	widespread and common – wild birds too. 9/13
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	locally abundant around Sarıkamış. 3/13
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2 above Sarıkamış
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	only noted near Yanbolu
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1 above Yaylalar
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	heard almost daily, seen occasionally
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	heard from Laşet
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	heard at the hotel at Zigana
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Leader Only! One after the group had left near Handere
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Leader Only! A dead one roadside near Kars. After the group had left
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Leader Only! One after the group had left near Handere
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Leader Only! Sarıkamış area after the group had left
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	scattered, mainly in the Ardahan area. 5/13
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	only noted in the Çoruh Valley
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	a few groups migrating high overhead. 4/13
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Ozan saw 1 in the Çoruh Valley
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	heard Laşet
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	one calling at Işhan
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	heard Zigana and Sarıkamış
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Leader Only! heard Sarıkamış after group left
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Zigana, also Çam Pass. 4/13
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Işhan
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	South of Zigana Pass, also heard Sarıkamış
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	frequent Ardahan and Sarıkamış. 6/13
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	frequent at alpine levels. 4/13
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Aktaş and Çalı Gölü
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	scattered throughout. 5/13
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	scattered in low numbers. 7/13
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	only noted Aktaş
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	scattered, mostly Ardahan area. 4/13
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	widespread. 9/13
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Anzer
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	locally frequent in the Ardahan area. 3/13
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	frequent at alpine levels. 6/13
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>	locally abundant Ardahan and Sarıkamış. 5/13
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	several at the wetland at the foot of the Cam Pass, and also noted at Çalı Gölü
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	noted daily up to Day 8, not thereafter. 8/13
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	widespread. 12/13

Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	frequent along most white waters. 5/13
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	scattered. 4/13
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	scattered in the Zigana area
Radde's Accentor	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>	5 Anzer
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Zigana and Sarıkamış
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	frequent. 8/13
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	race 'samamisticus' Scattered. 3/13
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	scattered, sometimes common. 6/13
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Şeytan Kalesi and Cam Pass
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Digor
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	locally common. 9/13
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	1 Çoruh Valley
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	scattered. 3/13
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1 Çoruh Valley
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	1 Anzer and at least 5 on the Cam Pass
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	widespread and common. 10/13
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	heard in Zigana area and seen Laşet
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	frequent in alpine and sbalpine areas. 8/13
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	heard Çoruh Valley and Digor
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	several at the wetland at the foot of the Cam Pass, and also noted at Çalı Gölü
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1 above Yaylalar and lots in Ardahan
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	scattered. 2/13
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	scattered throughout. 5/13
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	one very cold looking individual in snow on the Ovit Pass
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	scattered. 4/13
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	mostly heard, seen (4/13) occasionally
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	1 Ovit Pass
Mountain Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i>	several, Anzer, Yaylalar, Çam Pass and Sarıkamış. 4/13
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	scattered. 3/13
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1 at the hotel, Zigana
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Zigana and the Çam Pass
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1 Işhan and 2 Sarıkamış
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegitaphalos caudatus</i>	scattered. 3/13
Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>	Leader Only. 1 Çoruh Valley
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	widespread. 11/13
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	widespread. 13/13
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	widespread. 13/13
Kruper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	heard below the Çam Pass
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	A total of 4 birds seen below Yaylalar
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	7 together along the Çoruh Valley, 1 Işhan
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	widespread. 9/13
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	widespread 12/13

Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	widespread. 11/13
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Only noted above Olgunlar
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	scattered throughout. 4/13
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common around Ardahan & Sarıkamış. 8/13
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Common around Ardahan & Sarıkamış – absent elsewhere. 4/13
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus (corone) cornix</i>	widespread and common. 13/13
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	widespread. 10/13
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common around Ardahan & Sarıkamış. 7/13
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	very few! 4/13
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	near Ispir, also at Laşet. 2/13
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Sarıkamış area
White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	only 2 on the Ovit Dagi Pass
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	locally common. 10/13
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Şeytan Kalesi
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	scattered. 4/12
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	scattered. 4/12
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	scattered. 2/12
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Laşet
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	mostly in Ardahan area. 2/12
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	just 1 seen on the Cam Pass
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Leader Only. Sarıkamış, after the group left
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	locally common. 7/12
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2 Laşet
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	scattered throughout. 4/12
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Balçesme Valley and Sarıkamış
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	scattered. 2/12

Systematic List Number 3 Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	1 below Laşet (leader only)
Stone Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	2 below Yaylalar, 1 Laşet and 1 Sarıkamış
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	1 above Olgunlar. Stoat has not been confirmed as occurring in Turkey. Heinz has a good photograph that doesn't show the tail. Both Heinz and I saw the black-tipped tail but we have no photo evidence of that. However the nice clear of photo of the face has done the rounds of various mammal experts all of whom confirm it's a Stoat. So it looks like a first record for Turkey!
Wolf	<i>Lupus lupus</i>	1 seen at 04.30 or so just below Olgunlar (leader only!)
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	1 seen near Laset restaurant. Heard 'singing' from the bungalows on one of the nights there
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	several seen including one sitting on a roof
Brown Bear	<i>Ursos arctos</i>	At least 15 seen. Most were seen by several of the group too! First one was watched above Limni Lake, Zigana mid-afternoon. A mother with two tiny cubs watched from the hotel in Yaylalar, and then a total of 5 more bears seen from or close to that village. The rest were seen in and around Sarıkamış including 4 at the dump!
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Several offshore of Yanbolu
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	at least one offshore of Yanbolu
Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	a pod offshore of Yanbolu. This is the endemic subspecies <i>ponticus</i> found only in the Black Sea
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	1 Korahmet above Yaylalar, leader only
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	A total of 33 seen mostly between Yaylalar and Olgunlar, with quite a number seen from the hotel!
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	scattered
Yellow-necked Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	at least two seen in the woods near Laşet (leader only)
Snow Vole sp	<i>Chionomys sp</i>	abundant sign by snowmelt and a few glimpsed too – there are at least three species occurring in Northeastern Turkey

And from Ian's couple of days at the tours end

Marbled Polecat	<i>Vormela peregusna</i>	superb sighting of one near Handere
Wolf	<i>Lupus lupus</i>	1 seen at close range at 07.30 in the Allahuekber Mountains National Park
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	several very pale individuals
Brown Bear	<i>Ursos arctos</i>	At least 17 more seen – mostly along the track into Allahuekber Mountains National Park and mostly in daylight!
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	at least 7 along the track into Allahuekber Mountains National Park
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	scattered
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	2 in the Allahuekber Mountains National Park

Systematic List Number 4 Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and the systematic order have been taken from Ahmet Bytaş's "A Fieldguide to the Butterflies of Turkey" published by NTV (2007). Very few species (22) on the 2026 tour (compare with the 108 species in 2024!)

Papilionidae

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Çoruh Valley
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Pieridae

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	scattered
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Only Sumela
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	scattered
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	widespread in low numbers
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	here and there
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>	scattered throughout
Eastern Wood White	<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>	Çoruh Valley

Lycaenidae

Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Çoruh Valley
Alpine Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys chalybeitincta</i>	Olgunlar
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	just one near Sarigöl
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	Anzer
Osiris Blue	<i>Cupido osiris</i>	scattered records
Green Underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	near Sarigöl
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	Çoruh Valley
	<i>Polyommatus corydonius</i>	1 Çoruh Valley

Nymphalidae

Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	5 below Anzer, and 3 on the Çam Pass
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	below Anzar Yayla
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	only a very few
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	scattered at higher altitudes
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	1 Sumela
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Zigana

Satyridae

Dalmatian Ringlet	<i>Proterebia afra</i>	Çoruh Valley (Heinz)
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