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Technical Report · March 2010

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# - Kazakhstan -

## Nature Trip Report

(Species: 288 birds, 15 mammals, 13 reptiles, 1 amphibian,  
4 invertebrates)



Mangghystau Province (March 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009)

Almaty Province (May 30<sup>th</sup> & June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2009)

March 2010

Reference:

Le Nevé, A., Gouraud, C., Morlon, F. & Judas, J. (2010). Kazakhstan nature trip report; March to June 2009. National Avian Research Center. Unpublished. 69 p.

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## Introduction

Between March 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 we went to the Mangghystau Province in west Kazakhstan, in the framework of ecological research and conservation programmes of the Macqueen's Bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*), coordinated by the National Avian Research Center (NARC). This mission gave us the opportunity to observe an important diversity of birds. Because European ornithologists usually favour the south-east mountainous provinces characterized by both European and Asian bird species (migrant or sedentary), the Mangghystau Province is one the least visited. Consequently, some of our observations concern bird species for which few mentions exist for the Mangghystau Province or for which the last observation dates several decades ago. Some observations are even the first recorded ones for this province (e.g. Lammergeier).

As we were based in Fetisovo, most of our observations took place on the Caspian Sea shore (near Fetisovo and Kendirli) and on the Fetisovo Plateau, mainly characterized by an *Artemisia sp.* steppe but also by vast depressions such as the Vpadina Kaundy. As detailed in the "Itinerary" section, several days were devoted to the Bozashchy Peninsula (North of Mangghystau Province) also characterized by *Artemisia sp.* steppe, to an area lining the Ustjurt Nature Reserve on its West part, and to some places of the Almaty Province. Places we visited were mapped using satellite photographs (copyright: GoogleEarth 2009) and our itinerary is detailed below.

Our team comprised 10 to 15 observers (10 from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup> and 15 from May 13<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>) with 2 observers per vehicle (4x4 Toyota).

In this document, each species is associated to 2 numbers in brackets. The first one informs about the species status using the following code:

- 5 breeding
- 4 likely breeding
- 3 migrant
- 2 wintering
- 1 unknown

The second number gives the total number of observations recorded for the species during the mission.

## Itinerary<sup>1</sup>

- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, arrival at Kendirli camp
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> at Kendirli camp and working mainly at Fetisovo Plateau
- May 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> at Bozashchy Peninsula (6 observers)
- May 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> at Bozashchy Peninsula (8 observers)
- 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May at the West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve
- 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2 observers left Kendirli camp to Aktau and then Almaty
- 30<sup>th</sup> May, Almaty Province (Almaty & Almaty Lake)
- June 1<sup>st</sup> at Aktau
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Aktau and departure to Almaty
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sogety Mountains, Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park) and Saty (Kolsai National Park)
- June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in the Kolsai National Park (Kolsai Lakes & Kaïndy Lake)
- June 5<sup>th</sup>, back to Almaty.

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<sup>1</sup> Bozashchy is equivalent to Buzachi and Bozaschi, Ustjurt to Ustyurt and Ust-urt, Aktau to Aqtau, Dolina Zamkov to Charyn Canyon, Sharyn National Park to Charyn National Park, Saty to Satö, Kolsai to Kulsai, and Mangghystau to Mangistau.

## Field Guides & other books used

- *The Birds of Kazakhstan* by A. Wassink & G.J. Oreeel
- *Le Guide Ornitho : les 848 espèces d'Europe en 4000 dessins* by L. Svensson & P.J. Grant
- *Birds of the Middle East (Helm Field Guides)* by R.F. Porter, S. Christensen, & P. Schiermacker-Hansen
- *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* by R. Grimmett, C. Inskipp & T. Inskipp
- *Birds of the Palearctic: Passerines (Collins Field Guide)* by N. Arlott
- *Guide des limicoles : d'Europe, d'Asie et d'Amérique du Nord* by D.W. Taylor
- *Guide des rapaces diurnes : Europe, Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient* by B. Génsbøl
- *Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America* by Klaus Malling Olsen and Hans Larsson
- *Les Oiseaux d'Europe* by L. Jonsson
- *Pipits & Wagtails of Europe, Asia and North America* by Per Alström and Krister Mild
- *Sylvia Warblers* by Hadoram Shirihai, Gabriel Gargallo and Andreas J. Helbig
  
- *The Reptiles of the Western Palearctic* by Roberto Sindaco & Valery K. Jeremcenko











1.b





<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Birds' synthesis</b> <b>Mangghystau Province Trip, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009</b></p>
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**Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (3) (7)**

Seven observations between 29/3 and 23/5 at Fetisovo Peninsula with a maximum of 7 birds observed on 3/5.

**Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (3) (3)**

20/5: 1 adult at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

21/5: 1 adult at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

27/5: 1 adult at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (3) (4)**

A few birds have been observed at the Fetisovo Peninsula between 28/3 and 8/4. One bird observed at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on 31/3.

**Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (1) (25)**

Common but not very numerous at the Fetisovo Peninsula and at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 8/4. Maximum of 20 birds on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (1) (18)**

Fairly common but not very numerous at the Fetisovo Peninsula and at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (3) (9)**

24/3: a flock at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

31/3: a flock at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

1/4: a flock at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

8/4: a flock at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

28/4: 300 birds at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station, including breeding pairs (10 chicks at least)

5/5: a flock at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (3) (4)**

24/3: a few birds at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

26/3: 90 birds at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

6/4: 3 birds at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

8/4: a few birds at the Fetisovo Peninsula.



**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (4) (23)**

Common but not very numerous at the Fetisovo Peninsula and at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between the 24/3 and the 8/4. Last sighting: one pair at Fetisovo Peninsula on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* (3) (19)**

Common species at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 5/5. Only 1 observation (22/5) between 6/5 and 29/5.

**Gadwall *Anas strepera* (3) (12)**

Fairly common species at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 8/4. Just a few observations have been noticed until 27/5.

**Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (3) (22)**

Common species at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 8/4. Observations decreased after 8/4 even if more than 500 birds have been recorded on 28/4 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

**Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (3) (21)**

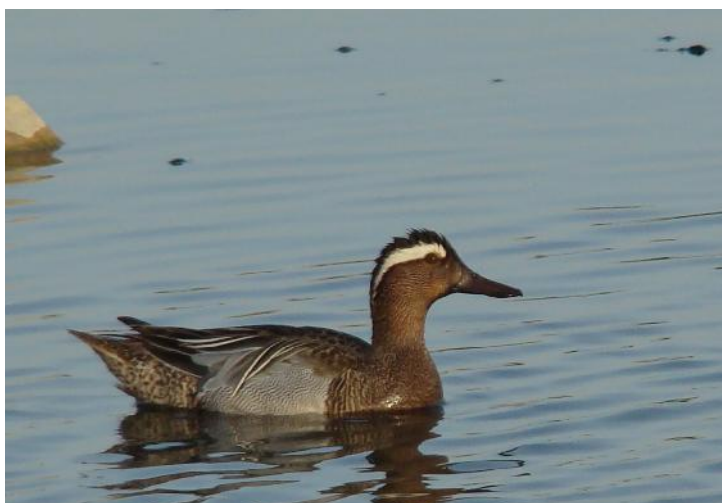
Common species but not very numerous at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 28/4. Only 2 observations have been recorded (19/5 and 21/5) between 28/4 and 29/5.

**Common Teal *Anas crecca* (3) (17)**

Common at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 6/4. Then after this date, only 5 observations recorded: 14/4, 28/4, 1/5, 3/5 and 4/5.

**Garganey *Anas querquedula* (3) (26)**

Common species at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station especially between 24/3 and 8/4 and 23/4 and 27/5. One breeding male has been observed several days around 7/5 at Kendirli Water Station.



Garganey male on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Kendirli Water Station (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



### **Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* (3) (5)**

Six observations at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station between 24/3 and 5/5. Maximum of 20 birds at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on 28/4.

### **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (3) (3)**

31/3: 1 male non-breeding at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.  
28/4: 2 males non-breeding at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.  
22/5: 1 male non-breeding at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

### **Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* (3) (5)**

31/3: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
14/4: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
28/4: 2 non-breeding birds, 1 male and 1 female, at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.  
5/5: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
22/5: one record at Fetisovo Peninsula

### **White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fuscus* (3) (3)**

24/3: 10 to 20 birds above the Caspian Sea near Kendirli.  
25/3: 10 to 20 birds above the Caspian Sea near Kendirli.  
8/4: 5 birds above the Caspian Sea near Kendirli.

### **White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* (4) (5)**

31/3: 30 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.  
28/4: 14 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station. 13 males and 1 female.  
5/5: several birds observed at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.  
6/5: 7 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station. 6 males and 1 female.  
22/5: 32 (23 males and 9 females) at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station which is an exhaustive census this day.  
All these observations include displaying males.

### **Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* (3) (12)**

Flocks mainly observed at the Fetisovo Peninsula and Toqmaq Cap between 24/3 and 31/3. Only 6 observations recorded between 1/4 and 24/5 with a maximum of 43 birds on 24/5 at Toqmaq Cap.

### **Chukar *Alectoris chukar* (4) (8)**

Seven observations in the cliffs of the Caspian Sea between Toqmaq Cap and Fetisovo between 26/3 and 24/5. One observation on 11/5 in the steppe close to Shetpe.

Chukar on May 21<sup>th</sup> in the cliffs of the Caspian Sea between Toqmaq Cap and Fetisovo (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



**Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (3) (1)**

13/5: 1 in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

**Arctic Loon *Gavia arctica* (3) (2)**

21/5: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

24/5: max 66 at Toqmaq Cap.

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (3) (1)**

28/4: 2 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (3) (32)**

Common on the Caspian Sea near Kendirli. Observed between 23/3 and 24/5. Most of the observations are between 23/3 and 25/4 with for example 50 birds observed 24/4.

**Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* (3) (1)**

6/5: 1 seen in breeding dress at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

**Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* (3) (8)**

8 observations between 23/3 and 2/06:

- on the Caspian Sea at Kendirli in April and at Aktau (on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station with 50 birds seen 28/4.

**Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* (3) (4)**

28/4: 22 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

6/5: 2 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

22/5: 1 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

24/5: 10 at Toqmaq Cap.

**Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (3) (2)**

8/4: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

13/4: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (3) (1)**

27/4: 1 immature at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (3) (40)**

Common on the Caspian Sea near Kendirli between 23/3 and 4/5. Observations are scarcer from 5/5 to 24/5.  
Breeding birds: around 30 breeding pairs on an islet at the top of Fetisovo Peninsula on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* (1) (1)**

One record in Caspian Sea at Aktau on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (3 and 4) (6)**

8/5: 1 migrant male and 1 migrant female (separated observations) in the steppe of Bozashchy

13/5: 1 migrant at Kendirli Water Station

17/5: 1 migrant male at Kendirli Water Station

20/5: 1 migrant female at Kendirli Water Station

2/06: one record at Aktau of a possible breeding bird because of the late date

**Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (3) (4)**

3/4: 1 migrant in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau

8/4: 1 migrant in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau

9/4: 1 migrant in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau

11/4: 1 migrant in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau

Great Bittern during a stopover on April 9<sup>th</sup> in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



**Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (3) (8)**

Eight observations of 1 to 4 birds (7/5) at Kendirli between 15/4 and 20/5. Most of the birds observed were adults.

**Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* (3) (2)**

20/5: 2 migrants at Kendirli Water Station.

27/5: 1 migrant at Kendirli Water Station.

**Great Egret *Casmerodius albus* (3) (5)**

15/4: 1 at Fetisovo Peninsula.

6/5: 1 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

21/5: 1 at Fetisovo Peninsula.

22/5: 3 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

27/5: 1 at Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (3) (3)**

1/5: 4 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
19/5: 2 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
22/5: 7 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* (3) (36)**

Common at the Fetisovo Peninsula and at Kendirli between 24/3 and 27/5. 35 birds flying have been observed on 6/4 above the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau. One bird observed in the steppe of Bozashchy on 8/5.

**Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (3) (17)**

No observation before 18/4 and then fairly common until 27/5 at Kendirli, at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station and at the Fetisovo Peninsula with a maximum of 4 birds observed on 13/5 near Zhangaözen. One bird observed in the steppe of Bozashchy on 9/5.

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (3) (6)**

Six observations between 1/5 and 22/5 at Kendirli with a maximum of 5 birds on 1/5.

**Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (3) (4)**

19/5: 12 at Kendirli.  
20/5: 6 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
23/5: 5 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.  
24/5: 5 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (3) (7)**

Seven observations between 31/3 and 22/5 with a maximum of 21 birds observed at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on 6/5.

**Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* (1) (15)**

Fairly common at the Fetisovo Peninsula between 24/3 and 22/5 with a maximum of 200 birds on 1/5. 7 birds have been observed at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on 28/4.

**Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 1 (subspecies unknown) at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on the 31st March
- 1 subspecies *migrans* in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 18<sup>th</sup> April
- 1 subspecies *migrans* at Kendirli Water Station on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- 1 subspecies *lineatus* at Kendirli Water Station on the 16<sup>th</sup> May



### **White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (3) (1)**

Only one record: one immature bird flying to the north along the coast of the Caspian Sea, at Fetisovo, on the 27th March.

### **Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* (1) (1)**

One record of a immature bird breaking a bone, in the Mangghystau Tauy north of Shetpe, seen from the road, flying over a big mountain, on the 11th May.

### **Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (4) (10)**

Uncommon species, probably breeding around Vpadina Kaundy and the depression more East. Two adults have been observed near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and probably a pair was feeding on the rubbish dump of Beket Ata on the 26<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).

One immature observed in the Mangghystau Tauy on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.



### **Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (1) (1)**

Only one sighting of 1 adult near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus* (1) (1)**

Only one sighting of 2 adults near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (4) (3)**

Uncommon species despite the high density of snakes in steppe and near the coastline, but these observations are maybe relative to a local breeding pair as they are already late in spring?

- 1 bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May around Kendirli
- 1 bird in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau the 18<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 bird flying near the Water Station of Kendirli on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (5) (37)**

Breeding species at Fetisovo Peninsula with a displaying male together with a female over the reedbed of Fetisovo Peninsula on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and regular observations from end of April to mid-May at this place.

Common migrating birds elsewhere in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau in March and April. First record on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and last record on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* (3) (13)**

Migrating species between the 25<sup>th</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.

**Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (3) (64)**

Common migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 10<sup>th</sup> May, and daily observation from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo and Bozashchy.

**Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species in steppe of Fetisovo and Bozashchy, but maybe under-noticed (some possible confusions with the Pallid Harrier)? Observed from the 7<sup>th</sup> April to the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Shikra Sparrowhawk *Accipiter badius* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrant species observed only at Kendirli between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. All the observation concern only one or two different immature birds.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on the 17<sup>th</sup> May)



**Eurasian sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (3) (19)**

Migrating species seen near Fetisovo and Kendirli, in the steppe of Bozashchy between the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Some possible confusions with *Accipiter badius*.

**Common buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus* (3) (3)**

Only 3 observations are related for this species:

- one bird on Kendirli on the 4<sup>th</sup> April
- one bird in steppe of Fetisovo on the 5<sup>th</sup> April
- one migrating bird to the north at the Lagoon of Zhangaözen Water Station on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* (5) (62)**

Common raptor in steppe of the Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve. Breed on coastal cliff near Fetisovo and at Vpadina Kaundy at least.

A traffic of migrant birds could be observed at the end of March to early April.

**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (5) (29)**

Observed between the 30<sup>th</sup> March to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.

Five nest areas have been found in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau with a minimum of two breeding sites with young chicks observed. The nests are directly made on the ground with some scrub vegetation and branches with few scraps of plastic.

Moreover, many juvenile birds have been observed early in the season, probably some migrant birds.



(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (3) (2)**

Only two Ospreys have been observed on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April: one seen near the coastline of Kendirli and the other landed in steppe of Fetisovo and in flight.



### **Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (5) (22)**

Some birds are observed foraging on the steppe between the 4<sup>th</sup> April and the 18<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau. One nest is found with a young in a cliff of Vpadina Kaundy on the 18<sup>th</sup> May (photo below Arnaud Le Nevé). Another territory could be occupied on the west part of the area of Fetisovo Plateau.

This Eagle is also observed near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.



### **Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* (3 and 5) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 21<sup>st</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo.

Observation of a breeding colony in the cliff of a mountain of Mangghystau Tauy, north of Shetpe, along the road to Bozashchy, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (5) (172)**

The Kestrel have been daily observed in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, on the coastline of Kendirli, at the Lake's water station of Zhangaözen, in Bozashchy steppe and near the Ustyurt Nature Reserve.

One pair breeds in a cliff of Vpadina Kaundy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **Red-footed Falcon *Falco Vespertinus* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- one bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- one bird on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's water station of Zhangaözen
- one female flying to the north at Kendirli on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- one bird observed at Bozashchy steppe on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Merlin *Falco columbarius* (3) (9)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

### **Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (3) (16)**

Common migrant specie observed on stop-over and on active migration from the 16<sup>th</sup> April to the 7<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at Bozashchy and hunting Swifts near Beket Ata on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (5) (10)**

Some adult birds have been observed during the trip in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau. One pair has a territorial behaviour on a cliff of Vpadina Kaundy in May.

### **Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (3) (6)**

Uncommon species:

- four observations made between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> March on Fetisovo Plateau and the coastline.
- 1 bird at the Lake's water station of Zhangaözen on the 31<sup>st</sup> March
- 1 bird in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 17<sup>th</sup> April
- 1 bird in steppe of Bozashchy on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* (3) (1)**

One bird on May 7<sup>th</sup> in the steppe of Bozashchy.

### **Little Crake *Porzana parva* (3) (2)**

26/4: 1 migrant in Kendirli gardens. This bird, quite curious, came inside a building, and then has been caught and immediately released outside.

28/4: 1 at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

Little Crake on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Kendirli gardens (photo: Christophe Gouraud).





**Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* (3) (1)**

6/5: 1 immature flying above Kendirli, to the North.

**Common Coot *Fulica atra* (3) (21)**

Common at the Fetisovo Peninsula and at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station between 23/3 and 1/4. Observations then decreased until 4/5 even if a maximum of 1000 birds has been observed at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on 28/4. Then, only 2 observations on the 19/5 and 22/5.

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (3) (2)**

28/4: 7 adults at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

4/5: 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula.

**Macquenn's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* (5) (261)**

This species have been daily observed from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> May in all the steppe landscape of Bozashchy and Kendirli where the species commonly breed.

**Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (1) (1)?**

One possible observation of a Little Bustard in Bozashchy on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. The habitats there, could be favorable for the breeding of this species.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (1) (9)**

Some observations of this specie have been made on the coastline of Kendirli and the Fetisovo Peninsula from the 24th March to the 22nd May. No more than 3 birds together (17th May) and always on the shore line of the Caspian Sea.

**Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (4) (35)**

Observed from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Records in May and June could be relative to breeding birds at Kendirli Water Station, Fetisovo Peninsula, the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and Aktau (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June)?

The biggest flocks were: 19 birds in Kendirli Peninsula on the 24th April and 26 in the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen on the 28th April.

**Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May. The Pied Avocet has been observed on the coast of Kendirli and Fetisovo, and at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. The biggest flocks were 80 birds on the 24th April and 30 on the 28th April on the Kendirli shore line.

### **Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* (5) (7)**

Breeding species seen or heard from the 25<sup>th</sup> April to the 21<sup>st</sup> May. Three records come from the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and the Kendirli Water Station. Four records come from Bozashchy, including one nest with 3 eggs discovered on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* (3) (3)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 record on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Bozashchy

### **Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (3) (10)**

More occurred than the Collared one, the Black-winged Pratincole have been observed making stop-over on wetland of the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen but also directly on the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau from the 20<sup>th</sup> April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. And also seen in Bozashchy (3 observations) from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> May. No more than 2 birds together on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Zhangaözen.



(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)

### **Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

- records on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli Water Station
- one bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen.

### **Sociable Lapwing *Chettusia gregaria* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 11<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau. Some little flocks (maximum 8 birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> April) have been observed making stopover in the steppe.

### **White-tailed Lapwing *Chettusia leucora* (1) (5)**

Uncommon species:

- record on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- one bird on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- one record on the 5<sup>th</sup> May at Bozashchy
- one bird on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- two birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen.

### **Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (1) (1)**

One bird stopped at the Fetisovo Peninsula on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (3) (12)**

Eleven records from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April to the 6<sup>th</sup> May mainly at Kendirli Peninsula and still two isolated birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Maximum of 4 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (3) (22)**

This species have been observed in the Kendirli shore line from the 6th April to the 22nd May, on the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and also near Shebir in Bozashchy on the 11th May. Maximum of 6 birds on the 19th May at Kendirli Water Station.

### **Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (4) (28)**

This Plover has been recorded in the Kendirli Water Station with a first sighting on the 25th March and a second isolated record on the 12th April. Then it becomes common from the 22nd April to the 24th May but without any proof of breeding. Maximum of 10 birds on the 27th April at Kendirli Water Station.

It was also observed in Bozashchy on the 11th May and one bird was alarming on the Caspian shore of Aktau city centre on the 1st June.

### **Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (5) (58)**

Common species in all wetland and along the sandy shore line of the Caspian Sea. This species was daily observed around Kendirli and Fetisovo. Two pairs with 3 chicks each were observed at Kendirli Water Station on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

It has been also observed on the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen, in Bozashchy and Aktau. The maximum together is 15 birds at Shebir, in Bozashchy on the 11th May.

### **Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* (3) (13)**

A short but intensive migration of birds (subspecies *pamirensis*) has been observed from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May:

- a flock of 14 birds landed for a stopover in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, very talkative, with displaying males on the 21<sup>st</sup> May
- the same day, the Fetisovo Peninsula received a flock of 151 birds, also very talkative
- still 39 birds at Fetisovo Peninsula on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* (5) (163)**

The subspecies *crassirostris* is a common breeding species in all flat steppes of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)



### **Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* (5) (24)**

In the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, this plover seems to make stopover only from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The breeding has been proved in steppe of Bozashchy on the 8th May by 6 birds together including one female with a chick just hatched.

### **Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (1)**

One adult in breeding dress in stopover in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Great Snipe *Gallinago media* (3) (4)**

One bird has made stop-over at the Water Station of Kendirli from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé, on the 24<sup>th</sup> May



### **Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (3) (21)**

First sighting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Then, regular birds feed at Kendirli Water Station from the 3<sup>rd</sup> April to the 21<sup>st</sup> May. Maximum of 4 Common Snipes on the 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* (3) (9)**

Migrating species from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 24<sup>th</sup> April by flying flocks over the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and birds on the seashore of the Caspian Sea. Maximum of 150 birds flying together to the north at Kendirli on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (3) (10)**

First sighting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Then, common migrating species from the 11<sup>th</sup> April to the 6<sup>th</sup> May. A last and isolated record of 2 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula. Maximum of 77 birds together on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli.

### **Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* (3) (58)**

Daily records from the 5<sup>th</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> May with many flocks landed in steppe for stopover at Fetisovo Plateau. After that date only 5 five records until the 24<sup>th</sup> May, and mainly on the Caspian Sea coast. The greater flock was 135 birds at the Kendirli Peninsula flying to the north on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. Some birds have been observed also at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen.

### **Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (3) (16)**

Common migrating birds from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 16<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and coast of Kendirli. Isolated birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and the Fetisovo Peninsula. Last bird the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* (3) (2)**

Only two records: 4 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula

### **Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* (4) (19)**

Migrating birds from the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 16<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Possible breeding birds at Aktau observed from the 28<sup>th</sup> May to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Maximum of 6 birds together on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli.

### **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (3) (6)**

One first record on the 28<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli. Then 5 records from the 26<sup>th</sup> April to the 6<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 bird on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli Water Station
- 19 birds together on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- 1 bird on the 1st May at Kendirli Water Station
- 1 bird on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen

### **Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli
- 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen
- 1 on the 28th April at Fetisovo Peninsula
- 1 on the 8th May at Bozashchy

### **Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* (3) (20)**

Migrating species from the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> May on the coast of Kendirli and at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Maximum of 3 birds together at Kendirli on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and Zhangaözen on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* (3) (27)**

Common migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Maximum of 6 birds together on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station.



### **Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* (3) (27)**

Common migrating bird from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Most of the birds have been observed on stopover on the coastline of Kendirli, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and at Aktau from the 28<sup>th</sup> May to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Greater flocks observed at Aktau with 19 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and 30 birds the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (3) (12)**

Migrating birds from the 8<sup>th</sup> April to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Kendirli and the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Maximum of 11 birds together on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Zhangaözen.

### **Ruddy Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* (3) (18)**

Migrating species from the 28<sup>th</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Kendirli, Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and Aktau. Maximum of 15 birds together on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Sanderling *Calidris alba* (3) (21)**

A first isolated record on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli. Then regular from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Kendirli and Fetisovo Caspian coast. Maximum of 50 birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. Some flocks have been also observed flying over the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau (40 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May) and Bozashchy.

### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta* (3) (41)**

Common migrating species. A first isolated record on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at Kendirli Water Station. Then daily sightings from the 25<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli coast and the Water Station. Two records from Aktau on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Maximum of 29 birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Temminck' Stint *Calidris temminckii* (3) (22)**

Migration species from the 28<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May only seen at the Kendirli Water Station, except for 2 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen. Maximum of 5 birds together on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (3) (17)**

Migrating birds from the 25<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May around Kendirli and Fetisovo, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and at Aktau on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 21 birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> May together at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (3) (41)**

Dunlin has been observed from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June around Kendirli and Fetisovo, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen, at Bozashchy and at Aktau. The maximum is of 35 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli.

### **Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola facinellus* (3) (8)**

All the observations have been made at Kendirli Water Station and Fetisovo Peninsula from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May. The maximum is of 17 birds together at Fetisovo Peninsula and 1 other bird at Kendirli Water Station on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (3) (51)**

Common migrating species from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Many flocks of Ruff have been observed on the steppe and on the Caspian coast of Kendirli, and also at the Lake's water station of Zhangaözen, Bozashchy and coast of Aktau. The maximum is of 30 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Zhangaözen.

### **Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (3) (41)**

Common migrating species from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May around Kendirli, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen, Bozashchy and Ustyurt Nature Reserve. Daily observation from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 7<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 150 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 200 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Zhangaözen.

### **Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* (3) (1)**

One migrating bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Toqmaq Cap.

### **Mew Gull *Larus canus* (3) (3)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli:

- one record on the 26<sup>th</sup> March
- one record on the 8<sup>th</sup> April
- one immature on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula

### **Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans cachinnans/barabensis* (3) (73)**

Common migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, on the Caspian coast around Kendirli and Aktau, flying over steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. Maximum of 10 birds together on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini heuglini* (3) (11)**

Migrating birds from the 8<sup>th</sup> April to the 12<sup>th</sup> May along the shore line of the Caspian Sea at Kendirli. Maximum of 12 birds flying to the North on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* (3) (13)**

Migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and Fetisovo Peninsula. Maximum of 7 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (3) (56)**

Migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June around Kendirli, at Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen and Aktau. Maximum of 25 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> at Zhangaözen.

### **Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* (3) (61)**

Common migrating species from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June around Kendirli sea shore and Aktau. Maximum of 55 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* (3) (1)**

One adult on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, in breeding dress flying to the North along the shore at Kendirli, seen by all the staff during a meeting.

### **Little Gull *Larus minutus* (3) (5)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- one record on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli
- one record on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- one bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Aktau

### **Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* (3) (24)**

Migrating bird from the 13<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May around Kendirli and at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen or flying over the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. Maximum of 6 birds on the 21<sup>st</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating bird:

- one record on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli
- one record on the 8<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one record on the 20<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- one bird roosting in a flock of terns on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula

### **Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (3) (31)**

Migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May on the Caspian coast around Kendirli. Maximum of 9 birds together on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (5) (53)**

First observation on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli. A little colony breeds together with Little Terns on a sandy island at Fetisovo Peninsula with around 25 pairs on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. Moreover, 5 pairs breed at Aktau on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, in a little marsh threatened by a rubbish dump.

The maximum is a flock of 520 birds together on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, roosting on the evening on sandy islands at Fetisovo Peninsula.

### **Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* (5) (74)**

First observation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Kendirli. A little colony breeds together with Common Terns on a sandy island at Fetisovo Peninsula with around 25 pairs on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The maximum is of 65 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula (including the breeding colony).

### **Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (3) (23)**

Migrating species from the 28<sup>th</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June around Kendirli, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen, at Bozashchy and Aktau. Maximum of 40 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Zhangaözen.

### **White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* (3) (48)**

Migrating species from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May around Kendirli, flying over the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, at the Lake's Water Station of Zhangaözen.

The maximum is of 200 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1000 birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> May on the Lagoon at Zhangaözen.

### **Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* (3) (5)**

Uncommon migrating bird:

- 1 to 2 birds from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula
- 1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula
- 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Aktau.

### **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* (1) (1)**

One bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

### **Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis* (4) (69)**

Common species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> May. The species is probably breeding although any certain indice was found.

The greater flocks are observed drinking at Kendirli Water Station:

- 21 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> May
- 34 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> May
- 110 birds together on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (4) (28)**

Observed mainly at Kendirli Water Station from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> May, for drinking. This species probably breeds in the closest rocky cliffs all around Kendirli and Fetisovo. Maximum of 5 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Stock Dove *Columba oenas* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- one record on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli
- one record on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station
- one bird on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station
- one record on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- one record on the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli

**European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (3) (8)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 bird together with an Oriental Turtle Dove on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station
- 6 records of 1 to 3 birds from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station
- 1 bird at Aktau on the 29<sup>th</sup> May.

**Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 bird together with an European Turtle Dove on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station
- 6 records of 1 to 2 birds from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station

**Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (3) (16)**

Migrating bird from the 27<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and Bozashchy. Maximum of 6 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station.

**Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* (3) (1)**

One bird at Kendirli Water Station on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Oriental Cuckoo**

***Cuculus optatus* (3) (4)**

According to the lack of knowledges on the range of this species in Kazakhstan especially in that part of the country, and because of its difficult identification, there is a possible doubt on the records of this species.

One bird on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station, heard singing one short time (but not enough to be sure at 100%), smaller than Common Cuckoos seen together.

Possible Oriental Cuckoo  
(photo: Christophe Gouraud)



**Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (3) (22)**

Fairly common migrant species in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and near Fetisovo between 25/4 and 27/5.

Common Cuckoo on May 18<sup>th</sup> in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



**Common Scops-owl *Otus scops* (3) (1)**

One on the 25<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of the Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Jonathan Ollivier).



**Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* (3) (3)**

27/3: 1 near the beach at Kendirli.

6/4: 1 flying above the beach at Kendirli.

10/4: 1 near the beach at Kendirli (photo: Jonathan Ollivier).

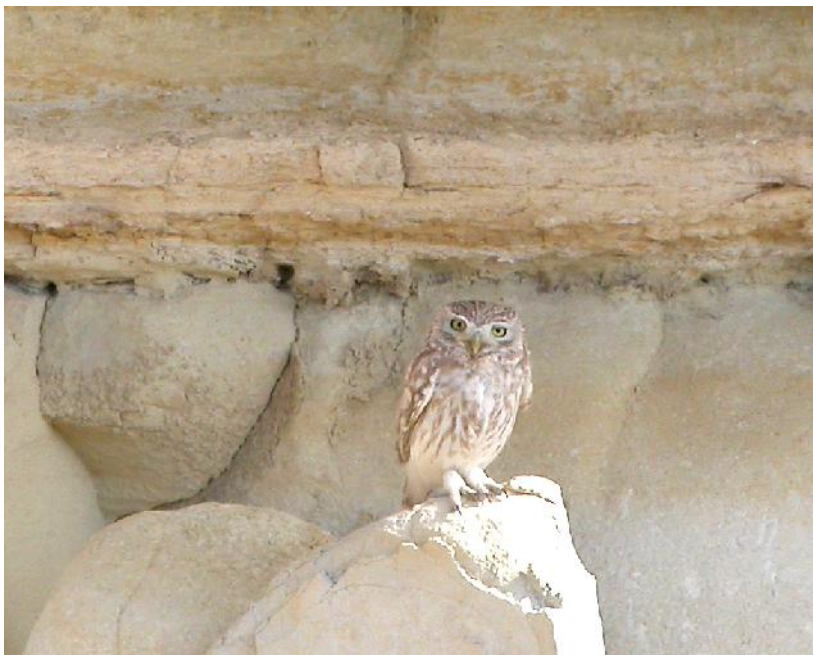




**Little Owl *Athene noctua* (4) (30)**

Common species in the steppes of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and at West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve between 28/3 and 26/5.

Little Owl on May 19<sup>th</sup> in Vpadina Kaundy (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).



**Eurasian Eagle-owl *Bubo bubo* (4) (26)**

Fairly common species in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and the steppe of Bozashchy between 27/3 and 24/5.

Eurasian Eagle-owl on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Vpadina Kaundy (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).



**Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* (1) (4)**

30/4: 1 migrant in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.  
9/5: 1 migrant in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.  
15/5: 1 migrant in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.  
19/5: 1 migrant at Kendirli Water Station.

**Common Swift *Apus apus* (5) (77)**

Very common species in the steppes of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and at West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve between 18/4 and 26/5. Only 7 observations recorded before 18/4 (first observation on 26/3 in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau).

Breeding birds: a colony sits on the south-east corner of Vpadina Kaundy.

**Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* (4) (21)**

Fairly common species in the steppes of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and at West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve between 26/4 and 26/5. Only 3 observations recorded before 26/4 (first observation on 9/4 in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau).

Breeding birds: a colony sits on the south-east corner of Vpadina Kaundy and another near Beket Ata

**Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (3) (1)**

4/5: 1 migrant at Kendirli fishing on the Caspian Sea shore.

**European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (4) (15)**

Common migrant species near Fetisovo and Kendirli between 22/4 and 24/5 with a maximum of 12 birds on 7/5.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* (3) (35)**

Very common migrant species near Fetisovo and Kendirli, in the steppe of Bozashchy and at the West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve between 1/5 and 27/5 with a maximum of 15 birds on 17/5 and 20/5 at Kenderli Water Station.

**European Roller *Coracias garrulus* (3) (8)**

8 observations of migrant birds near Fetisovo and Kendirli, and in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau between 28/4 and 24/5. Two birds have been observed at different places at Bozashchy on 10/5.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)



**Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* (5) (179)**

Very common species daily observed between 23/3 and 29/5 near Fetisovo and Kendirli, in the steppes of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and at West border of the Ustjurt Nature Reserve.

**Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (3) (6)**

6 observations of single migrant bird in Kendirli and around from 19/4 to 4/5.

**Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* (5) (130)**

Common species at Fetisovo Plateau, west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve and Bozashchy. Daily observations from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> May, by all the cars. Ten observations near the sea around Fetisovo and Kendirli.

### **Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata* (5) (102)**

Common species at Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. Daily observations from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> May, by all the cars. Only one record at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. No data near the sea around Fetisovo and Kendirli.

### **White-winged Lark *Melanocorypha leucoptera* (3) (2)**

Only two dead birds since probably the last winter, found in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. No breeding birds found either around Fetivoso, nor Bozashchy, Zhangaözen or west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve.

### **Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (5) (61)**

Local species at Fetisovo Plateau (maybe more in the east part, south of Vpadina Kaundy) and Bozashchy. Daily observations from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> May, by all the cars. No sighting at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. Three sightings at Kendirli: observed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April, and 1 drinking at Water Station on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* (5) (222)**

Common species at Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. Daily observations from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 29<sup>th</sup> May, by all the cars. Only one record at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. No data near the sea around Fetisovo and Kendirli.

### **Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* (5) (107)**

Local species at Fetisovo Plateau between the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Four sightings at Bozashchy. Two sighting at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. Common near the sea around Fetisovo, Kendirli and Toqmaq Cap with 32 observations out of 107.

Crested Lark subspecies *tenuirostris* (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



### **Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (3) (6)**

Migrating birds observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> April: 4 records at Fetisovo Plateau and 2 at Kendirli.

### **Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris brandti* (5) (42)**

Local species at Fetisovo Plateau between the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and the 29<sup>th</sup> May, usually found on rocky outcrops places, sometime not far from the sea. One sighting at Bozashchy: one pair on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Also, singing birds from the road crossing the Mangghystau Tauy north of Shetpe on the 5, 8 and 11<sup>th</sup> May. Two sightings at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. Two observations at Kendirli: 1 bird on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and 1 drinking at the Water Station on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* (3) (28)**

Migrating birds observed from the 19<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May, mainly around Kendirli (16 out of 27 data). Maximum of 100 birds at the Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 11 at Kendirli on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (3) (147)**

Migrating birds observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Kendirli, and Bozashchy. Daily observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 24<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 100 birds at the Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 10 the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Common House Martin *Delichon urbica* (4) (8)**

Uncommon migrating species between the 17<sup>th</sup> April and the 17<sup>th</sup> May in steppe and at Kendirli. Possible breeding birds at Aktau city centre near the sea: 2 Common House Martin on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10 on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and observed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (3) (1)**

Two birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (5) (24)**

Local breeder at Fetisovo Plateau. Often found by pair near rocky outcrops at Toqmaq Cap area or near the cliffs of Vpadina Kaundy. No sighting at Bozashchy and west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. Eight records at Kendirli.

### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 25<sup>th</sup> March to the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli and its Water Station.

### **Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (3) (51)**

Common migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Half of the observations come from Kendirli and the other half from the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. No data around Ustjurt Nature Reserve. Daily observed from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 22 birds resting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 24<sup>th</sup> April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli and its Water Station. One bird on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 3 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Water pipit *Anthus spinoletta coutellii* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 1 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at Kendirli
- 1 (subspecies *coutellii*) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli.



### **White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* (3 and 5) (195)**

Subspecies *alba* migrating birds (n = 149) observed from the 23<sup>th</sup> March to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Kendirli and Bozashchy. Daily observed from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 12<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 7 birds on the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

One breeding pair (male feeding) at Aktau city centre, on the 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Subspecies *personata* (n = 46) observed from 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 25<sup>th</sup> April at Fetisovo Plateau and around Kendirli.

### **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* (3 and 5) (173)**

Indeterminate subspecies (n = 70), often migrating females, observed from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli. Almost daily observed from the 16<sup>th</sup> April to the 24<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 28 birds all subspecies taken together on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Zhangaözen Lagoon Water Station.

Subspecies *flava* (n = 24) observed from the 16<sup>th</sup> April to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Kendirli and Bozashchy.

Subspecies *beema* (n = 12) observed from the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Kendirli and Bozashchy.

Subspecies *feldegg* (n = 19) observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 20<sup>th</sup> May mainly at Kendirli and its Water Station (only 2 records in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau).

One breeding pair is found at Aktau city centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Subspecies *thunbergi* (n = 24) observed from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May mainly at Kendirli and its Water Station (8 data at Fetisovo Plateau and 1 at Bozashchy).

Subspecies *tschutchensis* (n = 5) observed from the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 22<sup>th</sup> May mainly at Kendirli and its Water Station (only one data from the Fetisovo Plateau).

Subspecies *leucocephala* (n = 1) observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau.



(White-headed Wagtail  
*Motacilla flava leucocephala*;  
photo Arnaud Le Nevé)

Subspecies *lutea* (n = 14) observed from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May mainly at Kendirli and its Water Station (only one data at Fetisovo Plateau and one at Bozashchy).

Subspecies *superciliaris* (n = 1) on the 28<sup>th</sup> May on a little wetland at Aktau city centre.



Also some hybrid males of these subspecies have been seen:

- 1 *flava x superciliaris* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- 1 *feldegg x tshutschensis* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- 1 *flava x thunbergi* on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli

### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* (3) (9)**

Uncommon migrating species between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Kendirli and Bozashchy.

### **Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (3) (109)**

Indeterminate subspecies (n = 75), often migrating females, observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli (only one record at Bozashchy). Almost daily observed from the 20<sup>th</sup> April to the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 12 birds all subspecies taken together on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli.

Subspecies *citreola* (n = 29) observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli (photo: Christophe Gouraud).

Subspecies *calcarata*: 1 male on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1 male on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 1 male on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

Subspecies *werae*: 1 male on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and 1 male on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.



### **Dunnock *Prunella modularis* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli seaside resort: 1 bird on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1 bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* (3) (3)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli seaside resort: 2 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and species observed on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* (3) (13)**

Uncommon migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli seaside resort from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 30<sup>th</sup> April, and 1 bird on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.

### **Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (3) (5)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli: 1 bird between the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> April: 3 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli.

**Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau and Vpadina Kaundy: 1 bird on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> May. Two birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (3) (1)**

One carcass found at Kendirli seaside resort on the 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (3) (12)**

Migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli seaside resort from the 29<sup>th</sup> March to the 1<sup>st</sup> May (subspecies *svecica* or *pallidogularis*).

**European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* (3) (7)**

Migrating species at Kendirli seaside resort: one bird on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltarensis* (3) (9)**

Migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli seaside resort from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> April. A last and isolated bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

**Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (3) (106)**

Common migrating species at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy and Kendirli seaside resort from the 6<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Daily observed from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to the 17<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 14 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and 15 on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* (3) (47)**

Migrating species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy, and along the sea side at Kendirli from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Almost daily observed from the 17<sup>th</sup> April to the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 12 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Kendirli.

**Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus maura* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau from the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* (3) (2)**

One female or immature on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli (photos).

Pied Bushchat female or immature on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).



**Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* (3) (59)**

Migrating birds at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy and Kendirli from the 28<sup>th</sup> March to the 24<sup>th</sup> May. Almost daily observed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> April to the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii* (5) (160)**

Common breeding species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, often found near rocky outcrops areas or little dry river beds, also inside the depression of Vpadina Kaundy. Observed from the 25<sup>th</sup> March to the end of the trip.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)



**Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* (5) (83)**

Common breeding species in steppe near rocky areas such as cliffs or dry river beds. Also few pairs at Kendirli seaside resort breed into holes' walls or under roofs of houses. Breeding pairs have been found at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy and west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve. Observed from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the end of the trip.

White-throated (*vittata*) morph has been observed at two places:

- the first one few kilometres south of Kendirli, on the edge of the lagoon and close to the cliff of Fetisovo Plateau (42°44'N ; 52°44'E).
- the second one along the cliff and the stairs of Beket Ata sanctuary.

### **Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata obistholeuca* (3) (6)**

Migrating birds: on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, and one the 28<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli seaside resort.

### **Eastern Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* (5) (11)**

Uncommon breeding species observed from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 26<sup>th</sup> May. Found at least at two places: a depression (42°46'N ; 53°25'E) right to the east of Vpadina Kaundy and Beket Ata sanctuary.

### **Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* (5) (37)**

Uncommon breeding species observed from the 25<sup>th</sup> March to the 25<sup>th</sup> May. It seems to be more common at Bozashchy than at Fetisovo Plateau. Seen also at the west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve and observed few kilometres south of Kendirli, on the edge of the lagoon and close to the cliff of Fetisovo Plateau (42°44'N ; 52°44'E).

### **Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* (5) (171)**

Common breeder everywhere in steppe and daily observations all the trip.

### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* (3) (64)**

Common migrating species from the 27<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May, at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy, west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve and Kendirli seaside resort. Daily records between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 39 different birds observed in steppe on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### **European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* (3) (13)**

Migrating species from the 19<sup>th</sup> April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli seaside resort. Also a late female observed on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, one “grey morph” male at Kendirli.



### Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* (3) (2)

One male on the 25<sup>th</sup> April and one immature 2CY (photo) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli.



Collared Flycatcher (immature 2CY) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli. The white wingbar of the median coverts looks similar to the Semi-collared Flycatcher but it is shorter here. Moreover, see the global cold brown colour, the nape and the uppertail-coverts pale grey, the large white wingbar of the greater coverts, and the large and rounded white patch at the primaries base. (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé)

### Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata* (3) (11)

Uncommon migrating species from the 12<sup>th</sup> April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, mainly at Kendirli seaside resort but one record in steppe:

- one bird on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one bird on the 15<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one male on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli
- one male in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau (photo) and one female at Kendirli on the 25<sup>th</sup> April
- one female on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one female on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli.



Semi-collared Flycatcher male on the 25<sup>th</sup> April in steppe (photos: Arnaud Le Nevé).



### **Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (3) (15)**

Migrating species from the 13<sup>th</sup> April to the 14<sup>th</sup> May, which we can list:

- 1 female or immature at Kendirli on the 29<sup>th</sup> April,
- 1 male at Kendirli from the 29<sup>th</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> May,
- 1 male and 1 female or immature in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- 1 male and 2 females or immatures at Kendirli on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- 1 male at Kendirli on the 6<sup>th</sup> May
- 2 females or immatures at Kendirli on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 female or immature at Tigen (Bozashchy) on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Also, daily observations between the 29<sup>th</sup> April and the 7<sup>th</sup> May.



Flycatcher sp., on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli (photos: Arnaud Le Nevé).

The totally black bill appearing thick, cold grey colour of breast and face and eye-ring hardly visible above and in front of eye, the black legs, pale fringes of tertials (not reddish) are relative to a Taïga Flycatcher. But black bill regularly occur in *parva* according to Arend Wassink (*comm. pers.*). Moreover the brown rectrices and uppertail-coverts, lacking contrast with the back, are a typical character of a Red-breasted Flycatcher.

### **Taïga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* (3) (1)**

According to the lack of knowledges on the range of this species in Kazakhstan especially in that part of the country, and because of its difficult identification, there is a possible doubt on the records of this species.

One male in breeding dress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta* (3) (1)**

One observation on the 21<sup>st</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

### **Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (3) (9)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli (only one sighting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau). No more than one bird per observation.

### **Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* (3) (17)**

Migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli (and two records in steppe of Bozashchy). Maximum of 7 birds at Kendirli on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **European Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus* (3) (5)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli but probably under detected within the important crowd of Blyth's Reed Warbler:

- 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 on the 16<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the lagoon of Zhangaözen Water Station
- 1 on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Aktau city centre

### **Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* (3) (23)**

Migrating species from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy and Kendirli. Observation of amazing falls of birds some mornings at Kendirli:

- at least 100 birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> May
- 200 birds on the 17<sup>th</sup> May
- 38 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- 25 on the 24<sup>th</sup> May

### **Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* (3) (9)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli. Maximum 3 birds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### **Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 bird on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 16<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 20<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 2 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 29<sup>th</sup> May at Aktau city centre

### **Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (3 and 4) (5)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli:

- 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> May
- 3 on the 17<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 at Kendirli and 1 at the Fetisovo Peninsula on the 24<sup>th</sup> May

One observation of possible breeding birds:

- 4 singing birds in reed beds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the lagoon of Zhangaözen Water Station.

### **Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* (3) (3)**

Uncommon migrating species: 5 males singing at Bozashchy from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Sykes's Warbler *Hippolais rama* (5) (20)**

Breeding species at Kendirli seaside resort: first observation of 3 singing males on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Maybe 5 different pairs breed at Kendirli and its Water Station. One pair builds his nest on the 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Also, 4 singing males and 2 other birds at Bozashchy on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, one singing male at Fetisovo Peninsula on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, one singing male at Senek on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1 singing male on the 29<sup>th</sup> May at Aktau city centre.

### **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida* (3) (5)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and Fetisovo Peninsula. No more than one bird per observation.

### **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (3) (66)**

Subspecies *acredula* is common in migration from the 20<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy, Kendirli, Zhangaözen, Beket Ata. Daily observed from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum 37 birds at Fetisovo Plateau on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Subspecies *yakutensis* has been possibly observed two times at Kendirli on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, but without measurements. No more than one bird.

### **Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (3) (56)**

Subspecies *abietinus* is common in migration from the 2<sup>nd</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and at Kendirli. Two records at Bozashchy on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May. Almost daily observed from the 12<sup>th</sup> April to the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum 10 birds on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli.

Records of subspecies *tristis/fulvescens*:

- one bird on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, and 6<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- one bird on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May at Bozashchy

### **Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (3) (11)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. Also one record at Vpadina Kaundy on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum 3 birds on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and its Water Station.

### **Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 male on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 male on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 15<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

### **Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* (3) (16)**

Migrating species from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. One sighting on the 14<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, one on the 25<sup>th</sup> May at Beket Ata. Maximum of 7 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and its Water Station.

### **Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli:

- 1 male on the 6<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 male on the 12<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 male and 1 female on the 16<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 female on the 17<sup>th</sup> May (the same?)
- 1 male and 1 female on the 20<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 female on the 27<sup>th</sup> May

### **Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* (3) (20)**

Subspecies unknown (9): first sighting on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, last on the 7<sup>th</sup> May

Subspecies *blythi* (4): migrating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli. Maximum of 2 birds on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

Subspecies *halimodendri* (7) has been observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> April to the 9<sup>th</sup> May:

- 1 pair on the 24<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- 1 male on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- 1 male on the 29<sup>th</sup> April in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- 1 male on the 30<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 bird on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau
- 2 birds and 1 male on the 9<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Bozashchy.

### **Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* (5) (15)**

Breeding species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau: 1 pair feeding on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 4 km north of Fetisovo. Also sightings from the 13<sup>th</sup> April to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.

### **Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* (3) (18)**

Migration species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy, Kendirli, Fetisovo Peninsula, Toqmaq Cap. Maximum of 2 birds on the 14<sup>th</sup> in steppe of Fetisovo (one pair) and the 20<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

### **Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species: one sighting on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at Kendirli.

**Bearded Parrotbill *Panurus biarmicus* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migration species (or maybe wintering?): two sightings at Kendirli on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier)



**Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (3) (31)**

Migrating species from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy, Kendirli, Toqmaq Cap, Beket Ata. Almost daily observed from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 7 birds on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli.

**Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (3) (46)**

Common migrating species from the 29<sup>th</sup> April to the 24<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy, Kendirli, Fetisovo Peninsula and Toqmaq Cap. Almost daily observations from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May. Maximum of 7 birds on the 16<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Plateau and Kendirli.

**Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species: 1 male on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at a cemetery of Bozashchy (44°59'N ; 52°22'E). Not seen the days after.

(photo: Jonathan Ollivier)



**Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* (4) (19)**

Probably breeding species around Fetisovo: 2 pairs into suitable habitat at Kendirli and Fetisovo Peninsula from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> May (end of the trip).

First sighting on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and species seen also in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.



### **Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis pallidirostris* (5) (64)**

Common breeding species in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy. Also breeding pairs at Fetisovo Peninsula: 1 family with 3 juveniles on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula soemmerringii* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species: 1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station.

### **Rook *Corvus frugilegus* (4) (80)**

A group of 40 to 50 birds use to daily visit Kendirli from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 7<sup>th</sup> May. It begins to be seldom after this date: only few birds observed on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 birds on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Also one sighting comes from Bozashchy on the 5<sup>th</sup> May and another from the west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Carrion Crow *Corvus corone orientalis* (3) (4)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- one sighting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Kendirli
- one sighting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March at Kendirli
- one sighting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- one bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Fetisovo Peninsula

### **Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* (3) (17)**

Migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 18<sup>th</sup> May, mainly at Kendirli, but seen also at Bozashchy and Zhangaözen.

### **Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis* (4) (4)**

- one male flying on his back and shout at Vpadina Kaundy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May;
- one bird landed on the edge of the road Zhangaözen – Fetisovo (close to Zhangaözen), on the 6<sup>th</sup> May;
- probably two pairs (one flying and shouting) at west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Common Raven *Corvus corax* (4) (11)**

It is difficult to say if all these observations coming from Kendirli and the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau are really relative to the Common Raven or the Brown-necked Raven?

One bird flying in the mountain of Mangghystau Tauy north of Shetpe, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, supposed to be the more reliable observation of this species during the trip.

### **Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (3) (39)**

Migrating species from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 14<sup>th</sup> May. Daily observed between the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* (3) (47)**

Common migrating species from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and at Kendirli. Daily observed. Maximum of 225 birds at Kendirli and its Water Station on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.



Rose-coloured Starling, ready to roost for the night in *Ulmus sp.* at Kendirli Water Station, on the 7<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).

### **House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (5) (73)**

Subspecies *domesticus*: breeding birds at Kendirli. Maximum of 20 House Sparrow on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Subspecies *bactrianus*: probably breeding at Kendirli Water Station but no more than 4 males and 1 female together. Moreover, a colony of 10 pairs has been found on the 25<sup>th</sup> May in a cliff of the west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve (43°09'N ; 54°03'E).

### **Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (3) (6)**

End winter migrating species at Kendirli:

- one sighting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March
- one sighting on the 26<sup>th</sup> March
- one sighting on the 28<sup>th</sup> March
- one sighting on the 6<sup>th</sup> April
- one sighting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April
- 1 male on the 24<sup>th</sup> May (late bird) at Kendirli Water Station

### **Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 1 on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, feeding with House Sparrows seeds on the ground at Kendirli.

### **Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia kirhizica* (5) (24)**

First observation on the 7<sup>th</sup> April. At least, 10 breeding pairs at Vpadina Kaundy (42°50' ; 53°01'E) on the 17<sup>th</sup> May and on the west border of Ustjurt Nature Reserve (43°20'N ; 54°33'E) on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Daily observations from the 13<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station where birds come to drink when the sun is high.

### **Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (3) (42)**

Common end winter migrating species, from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 10<sup>th</sup> May, mainly at Kendirli. Daily observed from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* (3) (19)**

Migrating species from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Kendirli. Maximum of 10 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Common Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migration species:

- one sighting at Kendirli on the 27<sup>th</sup> March
- one male at Kendirli on the 1<sup>st</sup> May

### **Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* (3) (11)**

Migration species from the 24<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, at Kendirli. Maximum of 10 birds on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* (3) (3)**

Uncommon end winter migrating species:

- one sighting at Kendirli on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- one sighting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 25<sup>th</sup> March
- one sighting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 6<sup>th</sup> April

### **Desert Finch *Rhodopechys obsoleta* (5) (20)**

Breeding:

- 1 pair with 3 juveniles at Beket Ata on the 26<sup>th</sup> May
- 1 pair with 1 juvenile at Kendirli on the 27<sup>th</sup> May

Species observed from the 12<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Only seen around Fetisovo, Kendirli and at Beket Ata.

**Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githaginea* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species: one sighting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (3) (42)**

Common migrating species from the 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli. Maximum of 115 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli and its Water Station.

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (3) (9)**

Three periods of sightings:

- birds between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> April at Kendirli
- 1 pair between the 25<sup>th</sup> April and the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli and its Water Station
- 1 pair on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli Water Station

**Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* (3) (1)**

Uncommon migrating species: 1 female on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli, feeding seeds on the ground with Yellowhammers.

**Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* (3) (7)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- one sighting in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April
- one sighting at Kendirli on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- 1 female and 1 immature at Kendirli on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April
- 1 female at Kendirli on the 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (3) (27)**

Common migrating species from the 17<sup>th</sup> April to the 24<sup>th</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau, Bozashchy and Kendirli. Maximum of 7 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May in steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

**Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migrating species at Kendirli:

- 1 bird on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* (3) (6)**

Uncommon migrating species from the 26<sup>th</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Kendirli.

**Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* (5) (49)**

Species observed since the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and daily observed since this day. Breeding at Kendirli: several pairs. Maximum of 8 birds on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at Kendirli.

Also the Red-headed Bunting has been observed at Bozashchy, Toqmaq Cap, Beket Ata and Aktau.

**Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* (3) (2)**

Uncommon migrating species:

- 1 male on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at Kendirli
- 1 male on the 18<sup>th</sup> May in steppe near Vpadina Kaundy

**Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* (3 and 5) (13)**

Breeding: one breeding pair at Kendirli observed from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> May (end of the trip).

Migrating birds at Kendirli:

- 8 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- 1 bird on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- 1 bird on the 6<sup>th</sup> May



**Birds' synthesis**  
**Almaty Province Trip, on May 30<sup>th</sup> and between June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Date	Scientific name	English name	Location	Comments
04/06/2009	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork	Kolsai National Park	
03/06/2009	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	Pair with ducklings
04/06/2009	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	Kolsai National Park	2 pairs with ducklings
05/06/2009	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Ruddy Shelduck	Kaındy Lake	
05/06/2009	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	Kaındy Lake	
30/05/2009	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	Almaty Lake	
04/06/2009	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Lammergeier	Kolsai National Park	Adult
03/06/2009	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian Vulture	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
03/06/2009	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle	Sogety Mountains	
04/06/2009	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	Booted Eagle	Kolsai National Park	
05/06/2009	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	Booted Eagle	Almaty Province	
03/06/2009	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Black eared Kite	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
04/06/2009	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Black eared Kite	Kolsai National Park	
05/06/2009	<i>Milvus migrans lineatus</i>	Black eared Kite	Kaındy Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Long-legged Buzzard	Sogety Mountains	
03/06/2009	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	Sogety Mountains	
05/06/2009	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common Kestrel	Almaty Province	
04/06/2009	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby	Kolsai National Park	Pair
05/06/2009	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Eurasian Hobby	Kaındy Lake	Pair
30/05/2009	<i>Falco columbarius pallidus</i>	Merlin	Almaty Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	Choukar	Sogety Mountains	
04/06/2009	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crane	Kolsai National Park	Heard
05/06/2009	<i>Crex crex</i>	Corn Crane	Kaındy Lake	Heard
05/06/2009	<i>Grus virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane	Almaty Province	5 birds
04/06/2009	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	Kolsai National Park	
03/06/2009	<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Pigeon	Saty	
03/06/2009	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	Sogety Mountains	
04/06/2009	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common Swift	Kolsai National Park	
03/06/2009	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European Bee-eater	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
05/06/2009	<i>Merops persicus</i>	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Almaty Province	
03/06/2009	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	European Roller	Sogety Mountains	
05/06/2009	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Eurasian Hoopoe	Almaty Province	
29/05/2009	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Eurasian Crag Martin	Almaty city centre	
03/06/2009	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
05/06/2009	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Kaındy Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Northern House-Martin	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
04/06/2009	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Eurasian Skylark	Kolsai National Park	
05/06/2009	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit	Kaındy Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	White Wagtail	Sogety Mountains	
04/06/2009	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	Kolsai National Park	Female
30/05/2009	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	White-throated Dipper	Almaty Lake	
05/06/2009	<i>Prunella atrogularis</i>	Black-throated Accentor	Kaındy Lake	
04/06/2009	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren	Kolsai National Park	
30/05/2009	<i>Luscinia pectoralis</i>	White-tailed Rubythroat	Almaty Lake	
30/05/2009	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i>	Eversmann's Redstart	Almaty Lake	
30/05/2009	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>	Blue-capped Redstart	Almaty Lake	
04/06/2009	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>	Blue-capped Redstart	Kolsai National Park	
05/06/2009	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i>	Blue-capped Redstart	Kaındy Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Saxicola torquatus maurus</i>	Siberian Stonechat	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
04/06/2009	<i>Saxicola torquatus maurus</i>	Siberian Stonechat	Kolsai National Park	
03/06/2009	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabelline Wheatear	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
05/06/2009	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	Isabelline Wheatear	Almaty Province	
03/06/2009	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	Pied Wheatear	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
04/06/2009	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird	Kolsai National Park	
05/06/2009	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird	Kaındy Lake	
03/06/2009	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)	
04/06/2009	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	Kolsai National Park	
30/05/2009	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Blue Whistling Thrush	Road to Almaty Lake	
04/06/2009	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat	Kolsai National Park	

05/06/2009	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat	Kaındy Lake
30/05/2009	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>	Hume's Whitethroat	Almaty Lake
04/06/2009	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Greenish Warbler	Kolsai National Parks
05/06/2009	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	Greenish Warbler	Kaındy Lake
04/06/2009	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	Hume's Leaf-warbler	Kolsai National Park
30/05/2009	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest	Almaty Lake
03/06/2009	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
05/06/2009	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	Kaındy Lake
04/06/2009	<i>Parus cyanus</i>	Azure Tit	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Isabelline Shrike	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
04/06/2009	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Isabelline Shrike	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Lesser Grey-shrike	Almaty Province
03/06/2009	<i>Pica pica</i>	Eurasian Magpie	Sogety Mountains
04/06/2009	<i>Pica pica</i>	Eurasian Magpie	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	Sogety Mountains
04/06/2009	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	Kolsai National Park
05/06/2009	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	Kaındy Lake
03/06/2009	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
05/06/2009	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	Almaty Province
03/06/2009	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	Sogety Mountains
04/06/2009	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	Kolsai National Park
05/06/2009	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	Kaındy Lake
04/06/2009	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Red-fronted Serin	Kolsai National Park
05/06/2009	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	Red-fronted Serin	Kaındy Lake
03/06/2009	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linet	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
04/06/2009	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linet	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	Saty
04/06/2009	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	Kolsai National Park
05/06/2009	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	European Goldfinch	Kaındy Lake
30/05/2009	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>	Plain Mountain Finch	Almaty Lake
04/06/2009	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Common Rosefinch	Kolsai National Park
05/06/2009	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Common Rosefinch	Kaındy Lake
30/05/2009	<i>Carpodacus rhodochlamys</i>	Red-mantled Rosefinch	Almaty Lake
03/06/2009	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	Grey-necked Bunting	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
04/06/2009	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	Grey-necked Bunting	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	Pine Bunting	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)
04/06/2009	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	Pine Bunting	Kolsai National Park
04/06/2009	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Rock Bunting	Kolsai National Park
03/06/2009	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	Red-headed Bunting	Sogety Mountains
05/06/2009	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	Red-headed Bunting	Almaty Province
03/06/2009	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Corn Bunting	Dolina Zamkov (Sharyn National Park)



Pine Bunting (photo: Jonathan Ollivier)

## Mammals

Mangghystau Trip 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

### Caspian Seal *Pusa caspia*

First sighting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, the second one in April, then regularly observed from the shore at Fetisovo Peninsula, Kendirli and the Toqmaq Cap in May, swimming or sleeping on their back at the sea surface. Maximum 20 seals fishing together at Toqmaq Cap on the 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### Saiga Antelope *Saiga tatarica tatarica*

Only seen at Bozashchy, but each day. Only females alone or little flocks. Maximum of 16 Saiga on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. One young discovered on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

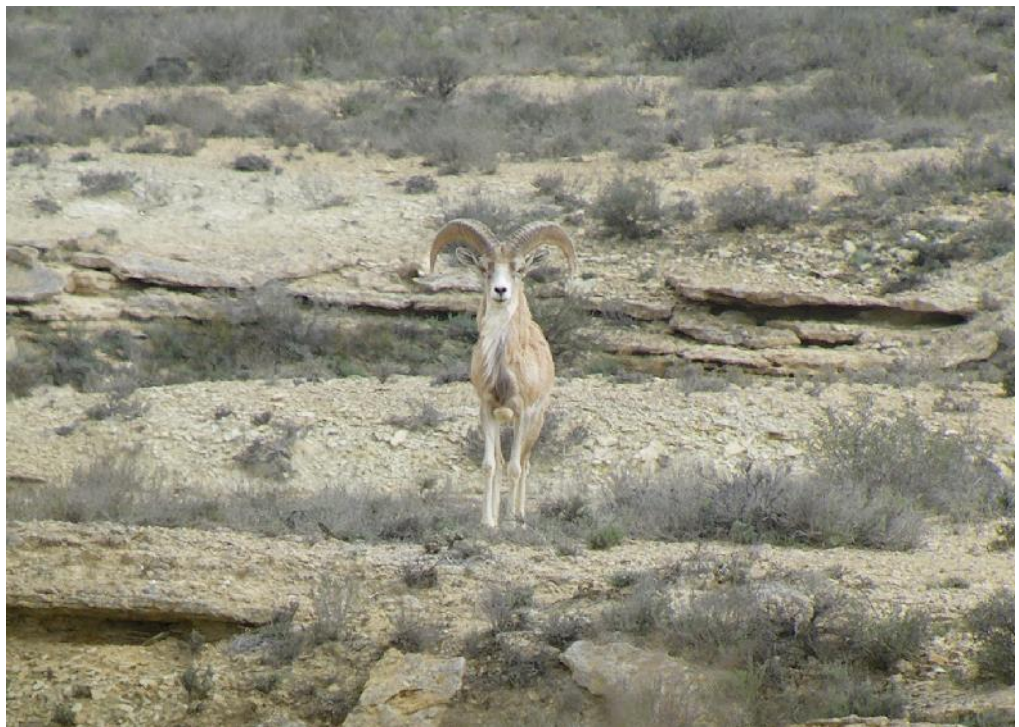
Young discovered on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Bozashchy (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



### Argali sp. *Ovis sp.*

One on the 1<sup>st</sup> May in the east of the Fetisovo Plateau.

(Photo: Francis Morlon)





**Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa***

First sighting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, 4 pregnant females in the east of Vpadina Zhazgurli and Vpadina Pazgurli (more east than the map 1.a).

Common at Bozashchy. One female give birth to a young on Fetisovo Plateau in May (observed pregnant then with its young).

**Caracal *Caracal caracal***

Four observations of 2 Caracals together or 1 animal, always in the same area on Fetisovo Plateau.

**Sand Cat *Felis margarita***

Around 10 observations on Fetisovo Plateau.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier, on the 9<sup>th</sup> April)



**Steppe Polecat *Mustela eversmannii***

One dead animal on the 19<sup>th</sup> April on the road Zhangaözen – Fetisovo.

**Wolf *Canis lupus***

Several observations of one or two Wolves together on Fetisovo Plateau and Toqmaq Cap.

(Photo: Jonathan Ollivier, on the 18<sup>th</sup> April)



**Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes***

Common mammals in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé, on the 14<sup>th</sup> May).



**Corsax Fox *Vulpes corsac***

Uncommon mammals in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Andrei Villaeiev, on April 6<sup>th</sup>).





***Spermophilus fulvus***

Very common mammal both at Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.

Young Ground Squirrel (Souslik) on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Christophe Gouraud).



**Brandt's Hedgehog *Paraechinus hypomelas***

Few observations of this species at Fetisovo Plateau.

***Allactaga sp.***

One observation at Fetisovo Plateau on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This Jerboa could be a Small Five-toed Jerboa (*Allactaga elater*).

(Photo: Christophe Gouraud)



**Great Gerbil *Rhombomys opimus***

At least on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at Bozashchy.

(Photo: Jean-Marc Chavatte)



## **Tolai Hare *Lepus tolai***

Several observations in the steppe of the Fetisovo Plateau. Sympatry between *L. europaeus* and *L. capensis* in Kazakhstan has been documented with no evidence of hybridation (<http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3/browse.asp?s=y&id=13500139>). Tolai Hare is the most common *Lepus* species in the area covered in this report.

Tolai Hare on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Christophe Gouraud).





**Reptiles and amphibians**  
Mangghystau Trip 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

**Green Toad *Pseudepidalea viridis***

One sighting at Bozashchy of a young Green Toad on May 11<sup>th</sup> (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé). Unidentified croaks at the Water Station of Kendirli.



**Horsfield's Tortoise *Agrionemys horsfieldii***

Common tortoise in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau and Bozashchy.



An adult on April 25<sup>th</sup> (Photo: Andreï Villaeïev)



A young on April 25<sup>th</sup> (Photo: Christophe Gouraud)



***Cyrtopodion (Tenuidactylus) caspium***

This gecko seems to be *Cyrtopodion (Tenuidactylus) caspium*?

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Kendirli Water Station)



***Cyrtopodion (Mediodactylus) russowii***

This gecko seems to be *Cyrtopodion (Mediodactylus) russowii*?

(Photos: Arnaud Le Nevé on April 25<sup>th</sup> on Fetisovo Plateau)







***Eremias arguta***

Only seen at Bozashchy.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 10<sup>th</sup>)



***Eremias velox***

Records at Kendirli and Bozashchy.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 10<sup>th</sup>)





***Phrynocephalus mystaceus***

One sighting at Bozashchy.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 9<sup>th</sup>)



***Phrynocephalus sp.***

One sighting near the Ustjurt Nature Reserve at the location  
43°09'N ; 54°03'E.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé, on May 25<sup>th</sup>)





*Trapelus agilis sanguinolentus*

Common at Kendirli and Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Jonathan Ollivier, on April 14<sup>th</sup>).



*Trapelus agilis sanguinolentus* on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Fetisovo Peninsula (photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).





*Trapelus agilis sanguinolentus* on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Fetisovo Plateau (photo: Andreï Villaeïev)

***Eryx miliaris***

Few records on Fetisovo Plateau.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 18<sup>th</sup>)



***Elaphe quatuorlineata***

Common snake in the steppe of Fetisovo Plateau.

Subspecies *quatuorlineata* on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Fetisovo Plateau (Photo: Christophe Gouraud).



Subspecies *sauronates* on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Fetisovo Plateau (Photo: Christophe Gouraud).



***Natrix tessellata***

Common snake at Kendirli and along the Caspian coast. Easy to sea hunting and eating fishes in the Caspian Sea.

One melanistic form seen at Kendirli.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Kendirli)



***Psammophis schokari***

Few records on Fetisovo Plateau.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé, on April 27<sup>th</sup>)





**Halys Viper *Gloydius (Agkistrodon) halys***

At least two records: one on Fetisovo Plateau and one at Bozashchy.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Bozashchy)





## Invertebrates

Mangghystau Trip 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

### Buprestidae

#### *Julodis variolaris freygessneri*

Few records on Fetisovo Plateau, at Bozashchy and near the Ustjurt Nature Reserve.

Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé, on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Vpadina Kaundy.



### Cerambycidae

#### *Neoplocaederus scapularis*

Common near the Ustjurt Nature Reserve at the location 43°09'N ; 54°03'E, on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, seen in the east of Vpadina Kaundy.

(Photo: Arnaud Le Nevé).



## **Scarabaeidae**

### ***Scarabeus winckleri***

Hundreds at Bozashchy but only few individuals at Fetisovo Plateau.

### ***Onitis humerosus***

Few individuals at Fetisovo Plateau.