

# Turkey Bird Report 2002–06

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This report, covering the years 2002–06, has been produced jointly by GMK, MÖ and BD, and is the second such to be co-edited by an Anglo-Turkish team, following the last report (*Sandgrouse* 25: 8–31). The increase in the number of in-country birdwatchers submitting records to the report, first noted in the last compilation, encouragingly has been maintained, as has the number of records of rarities being documented photographically. In contrast, reports from visiting foreign birdwatchers, although frequently posted on the internet, are now rarely submitted. These latter are still welcome, as some areas of the country (and seasons) are still arguably better covered by visiting, rather than resident, observers.

Highlights of the present report include the first records in Turkey of the following 12 species: Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*, Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (one unconfirmed previous record), Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*, Blackstart *Cercomela melanura*, Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*, Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus* (apparently breeding in extreme eastern Turkey), Arctic Warbler *P. borealis* (one unconfirmed previous record), Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirotis* (one unconfirmed previous record), Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus* and Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* (one unconfirmed previous record). The first reports of the following species—Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*, Cotton Pygmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* and Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*—were also received, but insufficient documentation is available to advocate their acceptance onto Turkey's bird list. Furthermore, the following additional records of interest are presented here: the third record of Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, the 5–9th records of Eider *Somateria mollissima*, a confirmed breeding record of Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*, the discovery of large numbers of the globally threatened Sociable Plover *Vanellus gregarius* on passage and wintering in eastern Turkey, the second to fourth records



**Figure 1.** Map of Turkey showing the seven regions used in the Turkey Bird Report. 1 Black Sea Coastlands, 2 Thrace, 3 Western Anatolia, 4 Southern Coastlands, 5 Central Plateau, 6 South-East, 7 East.

of Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*, the sixth record of Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*, the second and third records of Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*, the sixth record of Arctic Tern *S. paradiseaea*, confirmation that a small population of Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* persists in southern Turkey, the third record of Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*, the first winter records of Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, an influx of Bohemian Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus*, the third records of White-crowned *Oenanthe leucopyga* and Mourning Wheatears *O. lugens*, two new records of Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, the sixth record of Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*, the discovery of a breeding population of Spectacled Warbler *S. conspicillata* in south-east Turkey, the second record of Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocactes*, the 4–8th records of Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*, and the third modern record of Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*.

The following species, formerly of staple appearance in these reports, do not appear in this compilation for a variety of reasons, as follows: Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* (temporal status and geographical distribution now well known), Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (winter distribution well known; no summer records during the period), Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* (a considerable upsurge in records, albeit largely from previously known to be occupied areas), Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* (that the species wanders widely across Turkey in the pre-breeding season is well established; breeding or suspected breeding sites will not be published here); Little Crake *Porzana parva* (status now well established, as a reasonably common and widespread passage migrant and localised, but probably also widespread breeder in smaller numbers), Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (introduced species; records now available from many parts of the country, albeit still principally confined to major city strongholds), Grey-headed *Picus canus* and White-backed Woodpeckers *Dendrocopos leucotos* (ranges within Turkey now reasonably well known), Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* (occurrence well established at Birecik, but virtually unknown elsewhere, and no records from other sites during the period), Cyprus Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* (no records during the period) and Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus* (core range largely elucidated).

We have also elected to omit the List of Observers, which has been a feature of past reports, in the interests of space and also because the vast majority of records are now being generated by Turkish observers whose records are also stored on KuşBank ([www.worldbirds.org/v3/turkey.php](http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/turkey.php)). We will continue to list observers' names beside all records, wherever they are known to us. Figure 1 is a map of Turkey showing the seven regions employed in the Turkey Bird Report. A more detailed map is in Kirwan & Martins (1994, 2000) and Kirwan *et al* (2003).

The next report will cover the period 2007–2011 and records are now requested. Photographs for inclusion would be especially welcome. Contributors may either send photographs with records or list those species for which they are available so that they may be requested at a later date. Material should be sent to any one of the three editors or preferably to: Turkey Bird Report, OSME, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK, or by e-mail to: [gmkirwan@aol.com](mailto:gmkirwan@aol.com).

### **Caucasian (Black) Grouse** *Tetrao mlokosiewiczii*

A locally scarce or not uncommon resident at subalpine elevations in the Pontic mountains, eastern Black Sea Coastlands. Apparently most common on, and perhaps primarily restricted to the northern slopes of the north ridge (which receives most precipitation). Distribution is centred on slopes with substantial dwarf *Rhododendron* scrub cover below alpine herb zone (Atkinson *et al* 1995). Western limits of range unclear although recently slightly extended (Atkinson *et al* 1995). Many new sites recently discovered through target-

ed fieldwork (İsfendiyaroglu *et al* 2007) and computer modelling has also been used (Gottschalk *et al* 2007) in an attempt to more accurately delimit the species' range and potential population in Turkey. The Turkish population is impacted, and perhaps threatened, by habitat dereliction and cover reduction through grazing. There is insufficient historical information to assess whether the population is stable. Records away from well-known sites of Sivrikaya and Cam Geçidi are presented.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Karçal Dağı, 17 Oct 04 (DT Kılıç *et al*). 17, Yusufeli, 27–28 Apr 05 (E Kartal *et al*). 6, Yeniköy Yaylası, Ardahan, 9 Sep 05 (G Welch *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 95). Çamurlu Yaylası: 7, 19 May 06 (M Bahşi *et al*); 3, 22 Sep 06 (M Özbek *et al*).

### **Caspian Snowcock** *Tetraogallus caspius*

Not uncommon but localised resident in montane areas (generally above 2400 m in summer) in eastern third of Turkey, west to main Taurus, but precise limits there unclear. Only records away from regularly visited Sivrikaya (Black Sea Coastlands) and Demirkazık/Aladağlar (Southern Coastlands) areas are presented.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 7, Verçenik Yaylası, 29 Jul 02 (S Ekşioğlu). Kılıç Dağı, 22–23 Jun 06 (C Mroczko). Hatila Vadisi National Park, 17 Jun 04 (S İsfendiyaroglu). 12, Karçal Dağı, 17 Oct 04 (DT Kılıç *et al*). Çamurlu Yaylası, 24 Oct 04 (Ö Cirik). Max. 3, between Yusufeli and İspir, 9 Apr–31 May 05 (E Kartal *et al*). Gölyayla, 6 May 05 (E Bacak *et al*). 2, Yavuzköy, 18 Jun 05 (E Bacak *et al*).

### **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

First recorded in 1983 and now apparently regular winter visitor, usually in very small numbers, in the western two-thirds of Turkey. Records from all regions except South-East.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 9, Uzungöl, 1 Feb 05 (S İsfendiyaroglu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Thrace:** Gala Gölü: 20 Jan 2003 (B Akyıldırım *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 80); 68, 15 Jan 05, with 3 until 4 Feb (Çağlayan *et al* 2005; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191); 3, 4 Feb 06 (Ö Üner *et al*).

**Western Anatolia:** 2, Marmara Gölü, 3 Jan 2003 (KuşBank). 22, Kocaeli Bay 25 Jan 06 (B Bilgen *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 190). Büyükçekmece, İstanbul: 3, 3 Dec 06 (S Bekir); 3, 9 Dec 06 (C Dalyan).

**Southern Coastlands:** Burdur Gölü, 13 Jan 02 (Demirci 2002). Up to 9, Göksu Delta, 4 Jan–16 Feb 05 (Çağlayan *et al* 2005).

**Central Plateau:** Sariyar Reservoir: 52, 27 Jan 02 (Demirci 2002; *Sandgrouse* 24: 159, where erroneously listed for 22 Jan); 34, 18 Jan 04 (J Tavares *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167); up to 31, 13 Nov 04–11 Jan 05 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95, where listed only for 19 Dec; M Özen, I Richardson); 5, from 2005 until at least 21 Jan 06 (B Demirci, KA Boyla, S Bekir; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191, where full dates not listed). 6, Balıkdamaı, 7 Mar 04 (G Welch & H Welch). 9, Eğirdir Gölü, 11 Feb 06 (KA Boyla, E Yoğurtçuoğlu). Hirfanlı Reservoir: 36, 16 Jan 2005 (DT Kılıç *et al*); 3, 27 Nov 05 (C Bilen *et al*); 2, 26 Nov 06 (R Gül, B Demirci); 10, 26 Dec 06 (M Özbek *et al*).

**East:** 18, northern Van Gölü, 1 Feb 05 (G Welch, DT Kılıç).

### **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*

Vagrant or perhaps an irregular and scarce winter visitor, principally to wetlands in Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands and Central Plateau, occasionally in large numbers. Sixteen modern (post-1966) reports, most within the period January–March, with one old (1933) and four recent April records.

**Thrace:** 2, Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 11 Feb 06 (M Özen *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü, 22 Feb 02 (I Richardson; Richardson 2003, *Sandgrouse* 24: 159). 2, Seyfe Gölü, 23 Feb 03 (I Richardson; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158).

**Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

Vagrant. The seventh and eighth modern records in Turkey (OST 1967, Kasperek 1988, Kirwan & Martins 1994, 2000, Kirwan *et al* 2003).

**East:** Haçlı Gölü, 20 Nov 04. Another passed through the country whilst moving from the environs of the Turkey/Iran/Azerbaijan border to Al-Hassakah, north-east Syria, between 30 Nov and 03 Dec 06; tracked by satellite but not seen in the field (Morozov & Aarvak 2004).

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Vagrant, but neither of the earlier two records was documented. Recently photographed in Iran (Winkel & de Weerd 2007), the only other record in the Middle East.

**Thrace:** Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 5 Jan 03 (E Çağlayan, B Akyıldırım; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158), was well described; the first post-1966 record.

**Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis*

Rare winter visitor to western two-thirds of Turkey, sometimes in very large numbers.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta: 26 Dec 04 (K Erciyes *et al*); 2 Feb 06 (OMÜKUŞ). 38, Gökent Gölü, 5 Feb 06 (B Bilgen *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Thrace:** Büyükçekmece: 80, 19 Jan 02 (A Atahan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 80); up to 320, 27 Jan–18 Feb 06 (E Tabur *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191, where full dates not given). Gölbaba, Edirne, 28 Jan 06 (ÜN Başaran).

**Western Anatolia:** Aliağa, İzmir, 4 Feb 02 (EKGT). Gediz Delta: 119, 26 Jan 02 (O Onmuş *et al*); 4 Feb 02 (EKGT). Güllük Delta, 25 Feb 06 (BW Stoneman *et al*). Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova, 10 Feb 06 (BW Stoneman *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Burdur Gölü: 5, 30 Dec 01 (see Kirwan *et al* 2003), of which 3 remained until 13 Jan 02; 11 Feb 06 (O Koçyiğit *et al*). Up to 39, Göksu Delta, 5–7 Jan 02 (Ç Şekercioğlu, M Ullman *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 80). 9, Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova, 5 Jan 02 (Ç Şekercioğlu; *Sandgrouse* 25: 80). Up to 6, Akyatan Gölü, Çukurova, 3–8 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*, Ç Şekercioğlu).

**Central Plateau:** Nallihan Kuşcenneti, Sarıyar Reservoir: 57, 27 Jan 02 (J Tavares *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 80); 18 Jan–18 Feb 04 (*Sandgrouse* 26: 167); 5, 21 Jan 06 (B Demirci *et al*); 21, 16 Feb 06 (B Susever *et al*); 18 Mar 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). Balıkdamı, 29 Jan 05 (G & H Welch; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175).

**Cotton Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus coromandelianus*

Occurrence unproven. Details supplied, but the occurrence seems insufficiently well substantiated to serve as the first record for Turkey.

**South-East:** Male, Birecik 23 May 02 (I Weiss), has been submitted to the German rarities committee.

**Marbled Teal** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Local breeder in moderate numbers in lowland wetlands of Southern Coastlands, and in small numbers, but perhaps declining, in some wetlands on Central Plateau and in East. Mainly a summer visitor but has overwintered. Status uncertain in peripheral localities.

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta: 2, 5 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*); 21, 13 Jun 02 (H & J Eriksen); 2, 12 Aug 03 (M Siol *et al*); 7 Apr 04 (KuşBank); 10 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*); 4, 22 Apr 04; 4, 1 May 04 (E & S Durand); 5, 31 Jul 04 (R Bonser *et al*); 6, 13 May 05 (KM Olsen *et al*); 2, 21 May 05 (GM Kirwan, N Blackwood); 2, 23 May 05 (KM Olsen *et al*); 2 Jun 05 (P Altun); 29 Apr 06 (B Bilgen *et al*); 7, 14 May 06 (KM Olsen *et al*), 3–4, 3 Jun 06 (S Holmstedt *et al*); 2, 30 Sep 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu). 2, Çukurova University, 6 May 05 (M Bahşi *et al*). Akyatan Gölü, 1 Jun 05 (P Altun).

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü, 31 May 02 (S Holmstedt *et al*). Sultan Marshes, 1 Jun 02 (S Holmstedt *et al*). 2, Mogan Gölü, 3 Oct 04 (G Gençoğlu, E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

**South-East:** 3, Karkamış, 8 Apr 04 (N Özbağdatlı).

**East:** Çelebibaba Marshes, 27 Jun 05 (DT Kılıç *et al*).

### **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

Local and uncommon breeder in all regions of Turkey, with strongholds in the central Black Sea Coastlands, Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands and Central Plateau, smaller numbers in East, and very local in Thrace and South-East. Population recently estimated at 500–600 pairs (Kirwan 1997). Formerly wintered in substantial numbers, but many fewer recorded in 1980s and first half of the 1990s. Only records from the latter season are presented here.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta: 13 Dec 02 (C Mroczo); 26 Dec 04 (K Erciyas *et al*). 7, Giresun, 25 Jan 06 (S Dizdar). 2, Poyrazlar Gölü, 5 Feb 06 (B Bilgen *et al*).

**Thrace:** Kartal Oto Pazarı, İstanbul, 21 Jan 05 (B Bilgen). Büyükçekmece, 25 Dec 05 (E Bacak). 2, Mert Gölü, 6 Dec 06 (Ö Necipoğlu).

**Western Anatolia:** 4, Bafa Gölü, 7 Dec 03 (A Sezer). 10, Marmara Gölü, 17 Dec 05 (O Gül). Azap Gölü, Aydın, 14 Dec 03 (A Atahan, O Bilge). 3, Manyas Gölü, 13 Dec 06 (F Seyhan).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta: 2, 6 Jan 01 (Ç Şekercioğlu; not previously mentioned in these reports); 15, 5 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*); 12 Jan 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova: 2, 26 Jan 01 (KuşBank; not previously mentioned in these reports); 4, 27 Jan 02 (KuşBank). 3, Güllük Delta, 14 Feb 06 (BW Stoneman).

**Central Plateau:** Present throughout the period in small numbers at Mogan Gölü. Sarıyar Reservoir, 12 Feb 06 (B Suseven).

**South-East:** 28, Dicle Barajı, Sep 2001 (R Karakaş *et al*; precise date unavailable). 8, Karkamış Reservoir, 20 Jan 02 (DicleKuş). İnekli Gölü, Adıyaman; 17, 9 Apr 06 (M Erturhan *et al*); 11, 12 Mar 06 (H Kılınç *et al*).

**East:** 2, Karakaya Reservoir, 30 Dec 06 (M Erturhan).

### **Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Uncommon winter visitor, principally to coasts, in western two-thirds of the country. Rarely inland, but recorded once in East in late spring. Unusually large numbers were present in Jan–Feb 2006.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 2, Sakarya Delta 29 Jan–5 Feb 06 (C Dalyan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Thrace:** İğneada: 12, 23 Jan 03 (M Bozdoğan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158); 2, 1 Jan 05 (Ö Cırık *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95). Terkos Gölü: 2, 5–12 Feb 02 (B Bilgen *et al*); mid-Feb 06 (exact date unavailable; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). 2, Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 26–29 Jan 06 (E Bacak *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). 6, Küçükçekmece, İstanbul, 12 Feb 06 (İ Çelikoba; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). 2, Catalca, İstanbul, 12 Feb 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Western Anatolia:** 5, Çanakkale, Feb 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191; precise date unavailable). 2, Kepez, Çanakkale, 16 Feb 06 (İ Sevim; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Vagrant. Fifth to ninth records in Turkey. All records have been since 1975, when the species first bred on the Ukrainian Black Sea coast; the population reached over 1000 pairs in the mid-1990s and was still increasing and expanding in 2000 (*Dutch Birding* 23: 354).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Riva, north-east mouth of the Bosphorus: eclipse male and two immatures, 8–14 Sep 02 (KA Boyla, B Demirci; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158, where listed solely for 8 Sep); 2, 3 Jan 04 with one until 22 Mar 04 at least (S İsfendiyaroğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167); nearby, 25–26 Sep 05 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu, B Bilgen; *Sandgrouse* 28: 95). 3, Kızılırmak Delta, 16–17 Dec 2005 (S Bekir, N Yavuz; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191, where listed only for 17 Dec).

**Thrace:** Terkos Gölü, 8 Dec 02 (M Bozdoğan, S İsfendiyaroğlu; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Vagrant. The ninth and tenth records in Turkey. Recorded four times in spring/summer on Van Gölü (East); all other records in winter.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sakarya River mouth, 18 Feb 04 (S İsfendiyaroğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167). Fırtına River mouth, Rize province, 26 Feb 06 (N Yavuz, S Bekir; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191, where no date listed).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Rare winter visitor in very small numbers to wetlands in the western two-thirds of Turkey. Has been recorded in spring and early summer in East, but no evidence of breeding.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 2, Gökent Gölü, 17 Feb 02 (S İsfendiyaroğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167, where listed as involving one bird). Kızılırmak Delta: 3, 15 Jan 05 (A Gürsoy *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 27: 176); 18 Feb 06 (K Erciyas *et al*).

**Thrace:** Küçükçekmece, İstanbul: 27 Dec 02 (E Çağlayan; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158); 9, 13 Feb 06 (E Kartal *et al*). 5, Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 28 Dec 06 (C Dalyan *et al*). Terkos Gölü, 12 Feb 06 (B Bilgen *et al*).

**Central Plateau:** Eğirdir Gölü, 20 Jan 05 (O Mülayim, B Demirci; *Sandgrouse* 27: 176).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Previously considered a very rare winter visitor to Black Sea, Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. Recent observations suggest it is regular but uncommon in winter along Black Sea coast (Hales 1996, Welch & Welch 1998). Has occurred inland in East.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sakarya Delta: 18 Feb 04 (A Küçükala *et al*); 3, 1 Jan 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 3, 29 Jan 06 (Aİ Tireli *et al*); 22 Feb 04 (A Atahan *et al*). 7, Sarp, 7 Dec 05 (A Abuladze). Eastern Black Sea coast, 17 Feb 06 (S Bekir, N Yavuz).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 5 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*). Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova, 3 Feb 04 (S İsfendiyaroğlu *et al*).

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce winter visitor, with c20 records, mainly in the north-west of the country.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Riva, north-east mouth of the Bosphorus, 12 Dec 04 (Ö Üner, M Bozdoğan; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95). Fındıklı, Rize province, 3 Feb 06 (A Abuladze).

**Thrace:** Mimarşinan, west of İstanbul 1 Jan 98 (M Freedman; videotaped; not previously mentioned in these reports). Meriç Delta, 16 Jan 05 (B Bilgen, O Mülayim; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175). Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 28 Jan 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Sarıyer, İstanbul, 30 Jan 06 (S Armagan).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

Hypothetical.

**Western Anatolia:** c10, Sea of Marmara, 7 Sep 03 (M Warren); the record is supported by a description, but the details appear insufficient to establish a first country record for such a potentially difficult-to-identify species.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Scarce and irregular visitor offshore along Mediterranean coast in winter and spring, with occasional records in autumn. Recently recorded in the Black Sea in winter. The species is apparently severely under-recorded. Almost all records involve immatures.

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 22 Apr 04 (E & S Durand). Çukurova Deltas: Apr 2004 (B Susever; exact date unknown); 3, 11–15 Jan 06 (Ö Üner *et al*); 6 Feb 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Milleyha, Antakya: 19 Mar 05 (G & H Welch); 28 Nov 03; 14 Jan 06; 21 Aug 06 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191; 29: 14).

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor*

Vagrant. The first record for Turkey.

**Central Plateau:** Adult, Ereğli marshes, 10–16 Apr 06 (N Süllü, E Yoğurtcuoğlu; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 28: 190).

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*

Vagrant, with 12 previous records (Shirihai *et al* 2000, Kirwan *et al* 2003). The species has apparently recently colonised parts of Iraq (Salim 2002) and Iran (Scott & Adhami 2006, Sehhatiasabet *et al* 2006).

**Southern Coastlands:** Second-year, Göksu Delta, 24–25 Apr 06 (P Vantieghem; photographed; *Dutch Birding* 28: 170, 174).

**South-East Anatolia:** Diyarbakır, 7 Apr 04 (R Karakaş; *Acrocephalus* 26: 162–163).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Apparently a rare passage migrant and winter visitor throughout Turkey. Recorded in summer in north and east but no evidence of breeding. Confusion has often occurred with pale (especially immature) Black Kites *M. migrans* and undoubtedly many published records from Turkey are erroneous.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Samsun city centre, Dec 04 (S Barış).

**Thrace:** Malkara, 13 Oct 06 (Ö Üner *et al*; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**East:** 3, Çıldır Gölü, 25 Sep 04 (C Özsemir *et al*).

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Until recently a local resident in small numbers in wetland areas in Black Sea Coastlands, Thrace, Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands and probably Central Plateau and East. Now seriously endangered and precise status as a breeder unclear. A few pairs persist in Western Anatolia, and perhaps in adjacent areas of Southern Coastlands and Central

Plateau. More widespread across Turkey outside the breeding season, suggesting some immigration. Records away from well-known wintering areas of Meriç Delta, İğneada (both Thrace) and Sarıyar Dam (Central Plateau) are presented.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sarıkum Gölü: 26 Feb 02 (Ç Çavdar *et al*); 22–24 Nov 03 (C Mroczko). 3, Yedikır Dam, 18 Jan 03 (K Erciyas *et al*). Between Arakli and Arsin, 16 Nov 06 (A Abuladze).

**Thrace:** Terkos Gölü: 2, 14 Aug 03 (B Demirci *et al*); 29 Oct 03 (DT Kılıç *et al*); 8 Nov 03 (S İsfendiyaroğlu, H Erköse); 11 Apr 04 (KuşBank); 6 Feb 2005 (C Gezgin *et al*). Bosphorus: 13 Mar 05; 4 Sep 05, 16 Apr 06, 22 May 06 (L Smith, U Yardim). Boğaziçi: 12 Mar 05 (O Mülayim); 4 Sep 05 (C Dalyan *et al*).

**Western Anatolia:** Işıklı Gölü: 4 Feb 04 (O Onmuş *et al*); 10 Dec 05 (G & H Welch); 8 Jul 06 (F Orbay); 7 Oct 06 (O Koçyiğit). Akharım Reservoir, 14 Aug 05 (O Koçyiğit). Manyas Gölü, 1 Jan 04 (T Tuncalı). Bafa Gölü, 8 May 06 (S Çağırankaya).

**Southern Coastlands:** Burdur Gölü, 18 Jan 98 (M Freedman, B Güneş, G Magnin; videotaped). Göksu Delta, 12 Jan 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*).

**Central Plateau:** Beyşehir Gölü, 17 Feb 02 (T Albayrak). Eğirdir Gölü: 2 Oct 04 (İ Ceyhun); 20 Jan 05 (G Welch, G Gençoğlu).

**East:** 3, Karasu River, Erzincan, 10 Jul 06 (H Deniz).

### **Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*

Apparently a local summer visitor in very small numbers in north-west, north-east, Southern Coastlands, South-East, and perhaps also adjacent areas of the Central Plateau. Otherwise uncommon on passage across Turkey, except locally in considerable numbers in Bosphorus area and around Gulf of Iskenderun, and in moderate numbers, in spring, in eastern Black Sea Coastlands. Breeding range requires clarification. Records suggesting breeding are presented.

**Thrace:** Between Keşan and Enez, 27 Jun 04 (O Mülayim). Eğribük, Edirne province, 19 Jun 05 (ÜN Başaran). Between İskenderköy and Sazlıdere, 14 May 06 (ÜN Başaran).

**Western Anatolia:** Güllük Delta, 16 Jun 06 (BW Stoneman *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Alanya: 27 Jun 04; 16 Jul 04 (K Hendriks *et al*).

**Central Plateau:** 2, Sarıyar Dam, 25 Jun 06 (G Gençoğlu).

**East:** Between Kemah and İliç, 6 Jul 04 (B Demirci, O Mülayim). Near Girlevik waterfall, 9 Jul 04 (B Demirci, O Mülayim). 15 km east of Baykan, 20 May 05 (KM Olsen *et al*). Tohma Delta/Karakaya Dam, 5 Aug 2006 (M Erturhan). Malatya city centre, 27 Jul 05 (M Özen).

### **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor in very small numbers to Black Sea Coastlands, Thrace, Western Anatolia and Central Plateau. Recently recorded in Southern Coastlands.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Harmangölü Forest, Sinop, 12 Jan 06 (N Yavuz).

**Thrace:** Near Sabiha Gökçen airport, İstanbul, 1 Mar 03 (B Bilgen). Up to 2, Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 26–27 Jan 06 (E Tabur *et al*). 2, Bosphorus, 15 Apr 06 (L Smith, U Yardim).

**Western Anatolia:** Bafa Gölü, 24 Dec 05 (A Atahan *et al*). Gököl, Işıklı Gölü, 21 Jan 06 (O Koçyiğit; photographed).

**Central Anatolia:** Guvercinlik, Ankara, Jan 04 (M Özen).

**Southern Coastlands:** Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova, 15 Jan 06 (KA Boyla).



### **Imperial Eagle** *Aquila heliaca*

Rather local resident or partial migrant in small numbers in all regions, except perhaps South-East (and probably very local in East). Generally in wooded lowland or hilly areas at moderate altitudes during breeding season, but more widespread across Turkey on passage; in winter largely in west and south, and on Central Plateau.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Resident throughout the period, Yeniçağa Gölü. Imm, near Ardahan, 17 May 05 (KM Olsen *et al.*). Between Kıbrısçık and Bepazarı, 9 Oct 05 (G Eken *et al.*). Subad, Kalkandere, 19 May 06 (KM Olsen *et al.*). 8, Köroğlu Dağları, 9 Oct 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al.*). 2, Küre Dağları, 23 Oct 06 (K Özkan). Büyük Çamlıca, 19 Sep 02 (M Ullman *et al.*).

**Thrace:** 2, near Malkara, 3 Dec 04 (M Bozdoğan). Between İskenderköy and Sazlıdere, 18 Dec 04 (ÜN Başaran). Tekirdağ, 16 Apr 06 (O Dochy *et al.*). 2, Gallipoli National Park, 20 Apr 06 (O Dochy *et al.*).

**Western Anatolia:** Acıgöl: several records, 2003–06. Işıklı Gölü, 4 Feb 04 (D Kahraman *et al.*). Gediz Delta, 9 Oct 05 (B Öztürk *et al.*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Regular winter visitor in small numbers, Göksu Delta (max 4). Belen Pass, 27 Apr 04 (E & S Durand).

**Central Plateau:** Regularly observed Ovaçay and Beynam areas of Ankara. Polatlı rubbish dump, 7 Nov 04 (G Eken *et al.*). Near Temelli, 19 Jan 05 (G Gençoğlu *et al.*). Near Başkent University, 19 Jan 05 (O Mülayim *et al.*). Bilkent, 30 Jan 05 (I Richardson). Near Eskişehir: 30 May 05 (O Nohut *et al.*); 2, 27 Oct 05 (G & H Welch); 2, near Çiftler, 27 Oct 05 (G & H Welch).

**South-East:** Kutlu, south-east of Lice, 21 May 02 (*Sandgrouse* 24: 159).

**East:** Refahiye, 9 Jul 04 (O Mülayim, B Demirci). İspir, 8 Jul 05 (Ö Cirik *et al.*). Keşiş Dağları, 11 Jul 05 (L Aktay *et al.*).

### **Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis*

Breeds at least occasionally on Central Plateau (several records of ground-nesting eagles in this region refer to this species and not to Imperial Eagle *A. heliaca*, as previously believed: Kirwan *et al* in press), and also recorded in East during summer without evidence of breeding, and in winter in Thrace, Southern Coastlands and on Central Plateau. Passage migrant in moderate numbers through the eastern third of the country; rarer further west. Only breeding (or potential breeding) and winter (none during the current period) records are presented.

**Central Plateau:** Nest with 3 downy young, Seyfe Gölü, 11 Jun 03 (L Haraszthy; photographed). Between Karaküllük and Cihanbeyli, 20 Jul 04. 2, near Eşmekaya, 20 Jul 04 (B Suseven *et al.*).

**East:** Tendürek Dağı: 27 Jun 05 (DT Kılıç *et al.*); 19 Jul 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al.*).

### **Greater Spotted Eagle** *Aquila clanga*

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to wetland areas in western two-thirds of Turkey, slightly more widespread on passage. Occasionally recorded in summer in north and east.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sarıkum Gölü: 3 Feb 02 (K Erciyas *et al.*); 14–17 Mar 02 (C Mroczo); 2, 8 Feb 03 (OMÜKUŞ); 21 Nov–15 Dec 03 (C Mroczo). Kızılırmak Delta: 28 Aug 05 (İ Çelikoba *et al.*); 8 Nov 06 (K Erciyas *et al.*). Imm/subad, Hopa, 20 May 06 (KM Olsen *et al.*). Abalı, Sinop, 23 Nov 06 (N Yavuz). Between Pazar and Çayeli, 4 Feb 06 (A Abuladze).

**Thrace:** Sariyer Hills, İstanbul: 11 Apr 97; 16 Apr 97; 17 Apr 97; 1 May 97 (M Freedman, KA Boyla; videotaped), have not previously been mentioned in these reports. Terkos Gölü: 3, 8

Nov 03 (S İsfendiyaroğlu, H Erköse); 2, 9 Jan 05 (B Bilgen *et al*); 30 Dec 05–12 Feb 06 (C Dalyan *et al*). Meriç Delta: 2, 15 Jan 05 (B Bilgen *et al*); 2, 18 Nov 06 (E Tabur *et al*). Kavak Delta: 4 Feb 06; 11 Dec 06 (İ Sevim).

**Western Anatolia:** Manyas Gölü: 2 Jan 04 (T Tuncalı); 31 Oct 04 (C Ünüvar *et al*). Uluabat Gölü, 23 Nov 05 (F Arıcı *et al*). Gökgöl, Işık Gölü, 4 Dec 05 (O Koçyiğit). Güllük Delta, 30 Dec 05 (BW Stoneman *et al*). Max 3, Gediz Delta, 22 Oct–16 Dec 06 (O Bilge *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta: regular winter visitor with max 12, 12 Jan 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). Near Karataş road, 6 Nov 04 (E İnan). Belen Pass: 24 Apr 04; 4, 27 Apr 04 (E & S Durand).

**Central Plateau:** Middle East Technical University, Ankara: 20 Feb 05 (G Gençoğlu *et al*); 2, 12 Mar 06 (G & H Welch). 3, Suğla Reservoir, 22 Jan 05 (B Demirci *et al*).

**East:** Aktaş Gölü, 23 Aug 03 (M Siol *et al*). Between Ahlat and Doğubayazıt, 18 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*).

### **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

A rare and local resident in Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands, South-East and adjacent areas of Central Plateau. Recently recorded in East. Past confusion between this species and other raptors, especially immature Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, has generated many possibly erroneous published records. Records excepting those from well-known site at Halfeti (South-East) are presented.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Cildir, 11 Apr 06 (A Abuladze). c30 km north of Kars, 17 Oct 06 (A Abuladze).

**Thrace:** Kirazlıyayla, 14 Dec 06 (B Bilgen).

**Western Anatolia:** Gediz and Güllük Delta: individuals recorded, early Sep–early Apr 2002–06. Bafa Gölü, 16 Nov 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu). Datça, Mugla, 3 May 06 (T Tuncalı).

**South-East:** Piriçlik, 14 May 02 (*Sandgrouse* 24: 159). Durnalık, 31 May 05 (S Bekir, Ç Şekerçioğlu). Hasankeyf, spring 2003 (A Kılıç *et al*), breeding was confirmed; 29 Aug 05 (S İsfendiyaroğlu, G Eken). Dicle University, Diyarbakır, 15 Apr 06 (R Karakaş).

**East:** Nemrut Dağı, 7 Jun 06 (M Erturhan, H Kılınç).

### **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

Status uncertain. Rarely but widely recorded on passage throughout; probably more common than records suggest. May breed very locally in small numbers.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Max 4, Kızılırmak Delta, 2 Apr–1 May 05 (OMÜKUŞ).

**Western Anatolia:** Güllük Delta, 27 Oct 02 (I Richardson *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta: 27–28 Nov 03 (C Mroczko), is the latest-ever autumn record in Turkey (Kirwan *et al* in press); 2, 21 Apr 04; 30 Apr 04 (E & S Durand); 29 Apr 06 (B Bilgen *et al*).

**Central Plateau:** Mogan Gölü; 20–25 Mar 04; 21 Oct 04 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). 2, Beyşehir Gölü, 13 Sep 04 (B Susever *et al*); 3, Hürmetçi marshes, 22 Sep 04 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). 3, Balıkdanı, 17 Sep 06 (C Bilen *et al*).

**South-East:** Diyarbakır, 4 Oct 05 (H Deniz *et al*).

**East:** Bendimahı Marshes, 20 Aug 03 (M Siol *et al*). 2–3, Erçek Gölü, 20 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*). South Van Marshes, 21 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*). Kafkas University, Kars, 23–24 Apr 06 (İ Çelikoba *et al*).

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*

Status uncertain. Rarely but widely recorded on passage throughout and probably more common than records suggest. Recorded in winter from Western Anatolia. May breed very locally in small numbers.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta, 6 Apr 2005 (N Yavuz *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Akdeniz University, Antalya, 29 Mar 04 (KuşBank).

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü, 8 Mar 04 (B Demirci *et al*), is the earliest-ever spring record in Turkey (Kirwan *et al* in press). Eymir Gölü, 15 Mar 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Kozanlı Gököl, 1 Apr 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**South-East:** Atatürk Dam, Akyatir, 22 Apr 02. Yanaköy, east of Kilis, 1 May 02 (*Sandgrouse* 24: 159).

**East:** 1–2, Erçek Gölü, 20 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*).

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Status uncertain. Breeding recently proven in extreme north-east (Green 1997, Kirwan *et al* 2003) and suspected on Central Plateau. Rarely but widely recorded on passage throughout; probably more common than records suggest.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta: 3 May 05 (A Gürsoy *et al*); 28 Aug 06; 19 Sep 06 (İ Çelikoba *et al*); Boğa, near Yusufeli, 16 May 02 (E de Thiersant *et al*). Yeniköy Yayla, Posof, 21 Jun 05 (G Welch; *Sandgrouse* 27: 176).

**Thrace:** Akköy, Yalova, 21 Apr 02 (C Gezgin). Taşkışla, 18 Sep 02 (B Akyıldırım). Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 30 Sep 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14). Göztepe, İstanbul, 6 Oct 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Western Anatolia:** Gediz Delta, 26 Sep 06 (EN Baskın; *Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Southern Coastlands:** Side, 7 May 06 (J Birch, CK Williams). Tuzla Gölü, Karataş, 28 Apr 01 (BW Stoneman).

**Central Plateau:** Middle East Technical University, Ankara, 2 May 04 (G Gençoğlu, C Bilgin); 8 May 05 (G & H Welch).

**South-East:** South of Kızıltepe, 9 May 02. North of Mazıdağı, 12 May 02 (*Sandgrouse* 24: 159).

**East:** Max 3, Çakmak, Kars, 14–23 May 05 (C Özsemir *et al*).

**Demoiselle Crane** *Anthropoides virgo*

Rare and very local summer visitor to East. On passage occurs in larger numbers in East, occasionally west as far as Sea of Marmara. Records (all of migrants) away from well-known breeding site in the Bulanlık area are presented.

**Central Plateau:** Kozanlı Gököl: 2, 11 Apr 04 (KuşBank; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167); 9, 27 Mar 05 (G & H Welch); 23, 1 Apr 06 (G Gençoğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Kulu Gölü: 4, 7 Apr 03 (Ö Balkız, U Özemesi); 9 May 04 (G Güven); 2, 23 May 04 (O Mülayim, B Demirci; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167). Mogan Gölü: 17, 13 Apr 05 (Ö Cırık *et al*); 4, 8 Apr 06 (K Çapacı *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**East:** 7, Iğdır Ovası, 8–9 May 04 (GM Kirwan, A Grieve, PA Lassey, L Svensson; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 26: 164, 167).

**Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax*

Status uncertain. A rare and localised resident or summer visitor on Central Plateau (where two small breeding populations discovered in 1998) and perhaps adjacent parts of

Southern Coastlands, as well as probably still in East. Recorded in late autumn in East and spring in South-East (where it is reported to winter), and recently recorded in Western Anatolia and Southern Coastlands in winter. For review of historical and recent status and distribution in Turkey, see Kasperek (1989).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sakarya Delta, 22 Feb 04 (B Demirci *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167). Kızılırmak Delta, 17 Dec 05 (S Bekir, N Yavuz; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 7 Nov 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü: 2 in courtship display, 27 Mar 04; 2, 25 May 04 (I Richardson; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167); 4, Tavşançalı, 6 Jun 04 (Ö Saygın).

**East:** Bulanlık, Jun 03 (exact date unavailable; *Sandgrouse* 26: 79).

### **Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*

Local resident and partial migrant (movements remain only partially understood) on Central Plateau and adjacent parts of Western Anatolia and Southern Coastlands, apparently in small numbers, and in South-East and East where, at least formerly, locally more common. Recorded more widely in Western Anatolia and on south coast from autumn to spring. Considerable numbers still wintered in South-East in early 1980s but no recent data from this region. Such concentrations appear too large to originate entirely from breeders in this region and may comprise birds from elsewhere in Turkey (breeding areas are largely vacated in winter) and/or outside it; there is evidence for latter possibility. Recent data (eg Heunks *et al* 2001) indicate that the species has declined significantly during recent decades.

**Central Plateau:** 19, Aliken plain, 23 Apr 06 (M Freedman). Small numbers near Kulu Gölü in migration and breeding period. East of Cihanbeyli, 4 Jun 02 (E de Thiersant *et al*). 4, Sultan marshes, 22 Apr 05 (A Bal). A small breeding population near Polatlı during the period.

**South-East:** 2, Alçık, Diyarbakır, 31 Mar 04 (A Kılç *et al*). 2, Yenidoğan, Diyarbakır, 18 Sep 04 (A Kılç *et al*).

**East:** South-west of Ardahan, 17 May 02 (E de Thiersant *et al*). 5, Muş Ovası, 3 Jun 06 (M Özen, M Erturhan). 12, Sodalı Gölü, 8 Jun 06 (M Erturhan, H Kılınc).

### **Cream-coloured Courser** *Cursorius cursor*

Scarce summer visitor (breeding confirmed) to South-East and parts of Southern Coastlands. Recorded in autumn in East.

**South-East:** Environs of Birecik and Halfeti: 4, 8–10 Jul 04 (C Türkman *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95); 11, 29 May 05 (Ç Şekercioğlu, S Bekir); 6, 26 Aug 05 (T Çetin; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96); 6, 17 May 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191); 4, 18 Jun 06 (B Bilgen *et al*).

### **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivoarum*

Occurrence unproven. The sole claim (below) lacks documentation and is unacceptable as a first country record.

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta 19 May 04 (T Clarke/Birdquest; *Dutch Birding* 26: 262).

### **Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*

Generally uncommon and local on passage, principally in eastern two-thirds of Turkey. Occasionally in considerable numbers, usually in autumn. Until recently, regularly recorded in summer, largely in East, where perhaps breeds locally, recent discovery of Collared

Pratincole *G. pratincola* apparently breeding at Bulanlık (East) may cast doubt on previous breeding-season claims of *G. nordmanni* at this locality.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Near İközdere, 10 May 06 (S Bekir, M Bahşi; photographed).

**Central Plateau:** 5, Kulu Gölü, 26 May 02 (Richardson 2003). Hürmetçi Marshes: 3, 12 Oct 03 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*); 3, 22 Sep–3 Oct 04 (H Alkan *et al*).

**East:** 2, Nazik Gölü, 17 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*). 5, between Ahlat and Doğubayazıt, 18 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*). 30, Sodalı Gölü, 18 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*). 8, South Van Marshes, 21 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*).

### **Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Passage migrant, found locally in considerable numbers on Central Plateau, occasionally in smaller numbers elsewhere. Has occurred in summer on Central Plateau, but no evidence of breeding, and in early winter on Central Plateau and South-East.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 4, Kızılırmak Delta, 9 Apr 05 (D Karadeniz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175, where listed as referring only to a single bird).

**Western Anatolia:** 20+, Altıntaş plain, Apr 02 (S Bekir *et al*; exact date unavailable). 5, Tuzla Gölü, Çukurova, 28 Oct 02 (I Richardson, BW Stoneman).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta: 2, 4 Apr 02 (H Schmaljohann); 5, 9 Apr 05 (T van Gastel).

**Central Plateau:** 300+, Tuz Gölü 30 Apr 03 (G Eken, DT Kılıç; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158). Ereğli marshes, 13 Nov 05 (N Süllü). Kulu Gölü: 7, 18 May 05 (L Veyrunes; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175); 6, 27 Oct 05 (R Gül); 14 Oct 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

### **Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*

Rare passage migrant and perhaps also a local winter visitor in large numbers to a small area in South-East, where only discovered in early 2007 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 97–98), and a significant percentage of the global population probably occurs there and in adjacent Syria temporally. Recorded in spring in Black Sea Coastlands, Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands, Central Plateau and South-East, and in autumn in eastern Black Sea Coastlands, Western Anatolia and East. For a review of the species' status see Kasperek (1992b). No records between 1996 and 2001 inclusive.

**Southern Coastlands:** 4, Akyatan Gölü, 24 Sep 03 (K Erciyas *et al*).

**Central Plateau:** Hürmetçi Marshes, Kayseri: 3, 12 Oct 03 (*Sandgrouse* 26: 79); 11 Sep 04 (B Susever *et al*); 29 Sep–3 Oct 04 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95).

**East:** 115 through various sites in eastern Turkey, 20–30 Oct 02 (*Sandgrouse* 25: 158). c125, Bulanik, 19 Oct 03 (S Bekir), was the largest count on migration ever in Turkey. 20, Erzurum plain, 18 Oct 05 (S Bekir; photographed, see *Sandgrouse* 28: 57).

### **White-tailed Lapwing** *Vanellus leucurus*

Status uncertain. Has bred Southern Coastlands and Central Plateau, but few confirmed breeding records since 1986 and many suitable sites now drained. Occasionally recorded between spring and autumn, usually in very small numbers, from Southern Coastlands, Central Plateau, South-East and East. For review of status and distribution see Kasperek (1992b).

**Central Plateau:** Mogan Gölü: 29 Sep 02 (N & Y Kahya; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158); 21 May 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Col Gölü, 13 May 2000 (R Franklin).

**Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus*

Not certainly recorded, despite many claims (for an earlier review see Flint *et al* 1997).

**East:** Non-breeding plumage, Sodalı Gölü, 18 Sep 04 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95), was subsequently rejected by the Swiss rarities committee.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant. The first record in Turkey and one of the few ever in the Middle East.

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü, 9–10 May 05 (W Rimmelzwaal; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175).

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*

Probably not uncommon passage migrant in wetlands across Turkey, though very few reports from the period. Recorded in winter on Central Plateau and in south. For discussion of status and distribution see Kirwan (1992).

**Southern Coastlands:** 3, Akyatan Gölü, 16 Aug 04 (B Bilgen).

**Central Plateau:** Balıkdamı, 24 Apr 04 (G & H Welch). Kulu Gölü: 12 Sep 04; 23 Apr 05 (I Richardson). Hürmetçi Sazlığı, 23 Sep 04 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). Mogan Gölü, 25 Sep 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

**East:** Aygır Gölü: 2, 11 Sep 05 (S İsfendiyaroğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96); 25 Mar 06 (Ö Cırık *et al*). Up to 2, Kafkas University, Kars, 23 Apr–11 May 06 (İ Çelikoba *et al*).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

Vagrant. The first confirmed record (and only the third record in the Middle East); previously known in Turkey only on the basis of an undocumented report from the north-east of the country in August 1988 (Kasperek 1990, Kirwan *et al* 1999, in press).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** First-winter, Kızılırmak Delta, 27 Nov 06 (Erciyas *et al* 2008; trapped and photographed); date previously incorrectly cited as 28 Nov (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Vagrant. The second to fourth records, following a specimen record from the 19th century. The 2002 record is supported by only scant details.

**Central Plateau:** Breeding-plumaged female, Kulu Gölü, 1 Jun 02 (S Holmstedt *et al*).

**South-East:** Birecik, 3 May 03 (H Huhtinen, P Laaksonen, R Mäki, W Velmala; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158).

**East:** Sodalı Gölü, 25 May 05 (photographed; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Previously listed as a vagrant, but probably a rare passage migrant, with over 20 reports from Turkey, though most supported by few or no details, albeit often made by observers experienced with the species in Western Europe. Recent increase in records, and thus improved knowledge of status, matched by similar changes in Lebanon (Ramadan-Jaradi *et al* 2008). Observers are requested to provide full details for records of all skua species, except Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus*.

**Thrace:** 6, Ormanlı, west of Terkos Gölü, 13 Oct 02 (KA Boyla *et al*). 6, Saros Bay, 17 Apr 06 (O Dochy *et al*).

**Western Anatolia:** 6, Meriç Delta, 22 Apr 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Off Muğla, 25 Apr 06 (*per* E Yoğurtçuoğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon but regular passage migrant along Black Sea coast, and through Bosphorus and Sea of Marmara. Probably also regular on Aegean and Mediterranean coasts. Recorded inland in several regions. Perhaps also regular in winter in the Black Sea.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Between Darıca and Yalova: 26 Sep 02; 29 Sep 02 (M Ullman *et al*). Rize: 2, 15 Feb 05 (S Ekşioğlu); 27 Mar 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Thrace:** Bosphorus: 6 Apr 03 (S İsfendiyaroğlu); 12 Jun 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Saros Bay, 17 Apr 06 (O Dochy *et al*). Sarıyer, İstanbul, 1 Apr 06 (*Sandgrouse* 28: 191). 6, Anadolu Kavağı, 18 Sep 06 (M Ullman *et al*). 2, Iğneada, 27 Nov 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** 2, Tarsus Delta, 17 Sep 06 (JR Jennings, SM Lister). Milleyha, 8 Jul 06 (A Atahan).

### **Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*

Vagrant. The sixth record in Turkey.

**Western Anatolia:** From a ferry, Sea of Marmara 5 Apr 03 (G Magnin).

### **Great Black-headed Gull** *Larus ichthyaetus*

Uncommon. A recent substantial increase in winter records is perhaps more likely to reflect true status during this season than an increase in observer coverage. Records during other seasons presumably reflect the movements of non-breeding or immature birds. Recorded in wetlands and coastal areas in all regions, but few records from Thrace, Western Anatolia and South-East. Only large concentrations and records from 'new' localities are presented. Recent increase in records reported in Lebanon, where formerly considered only vagrant (Ramadan-Jaradi *et al* 2008).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 83, Yedikır Reservoir, 18 Jan 03 (K Erciyas *et al*); Rize: 8, 10 Feb 05 (S Ekşioğlu); 69, 26 Feb 06 (OMÜKUŞ).

**Thrace:** 6, Terkos Ormanlı, 12 Feb 06 (C Dalyan *et al*).

**Western Anatolia:** Uluabat Gölü, 13 Feb 02 (ULUKUŞ).

**Central Plateau:** 3, Avanos, 3 Feb 04 (G Güven). 42, Eğirdir Gölü, 11 Feb 06 (KA Boyla, E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

**Southern Coastlands:** 2, Akyatan Gölü, Çukurova, 3 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*). Deveciusagi, 3 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*). Göksu Delta, 5 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*).

**South-East:** İnekli Gölü, 12 Mar 06 (S Koç *et al*).

**East:** 47, Karakaya Dam, 6–7 Feb 06 (M Erturhan, M Özen).

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Vagrant or scarce winter visitor. Occasionally recorded in late spring and once inland.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta, 2 Oct 05 (G Welch; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96).

**Thrace:** Haydarpaşa, İstanbul, 10 Sep 05–late Jan 06 (KA Boyla *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96); again from 27 Sep 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

### **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Formerly considered vagrant, but post-1996 records suggest it may be an uncommon, but regular, winter visitor in small numbers to Black Sea Coastlands and Thrace. Comparatively few records from other regions. Most records refer to first-winters.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 3, Rize, 27 Mar 06 (S Ekşioğlu; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191). Riva, north-east mouth of Bosphorus, 1 Nov 06 (S Bekir; *Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Thrace:** Şile, 22 Jan 05 (*per* E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

**Western Anatolia:** Max 5, Gökova, 10–15 Feb 03 (I Richardson *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158, where listed solely for 14 Feb). 10, Kavak Delta, 1 Apr 06 (İ Sevim).

**Southern Coastlands:** 2, Akyatan Gölü, 3 Jan 02 (Ç Şekercioğlu). 2, Karataş, Çukurova, 3 Jan 02 (M Ullman *et al*).

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*

Vagrant. Second and third records. Details concerning a fourth are awaited.

**Western Anatolia:** Küçük Menderes Delta 13 Mar 04 (*Sandgrouse* 26: 167), is supported by a basic description.

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 5 Jun 03 (S Hartill, G Beck), lacks supporting details.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Vagrant. The sixth record in Turkey.

**Western Anatolia:** 4, Tuzla Milas, near Bodrum, 12–27 May 05 (BW Stoneman *et al*).

**Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula eupatria*

Introduced.

**Thrace:** Pair, Kurtköy, İstanbul, Jul 02 (M Özen). Pair at nest hole, Gulhane Park, İstanbul, 15 Oct 04 (G Langley), where confirmed to breed also in 2003 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95).

**East:** Diyarbakır, 4 May 04 (GM Kirwan).

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

Vagrant. The first record in Turkey and probably the northernmost ever, although a confirmed record in Iraq, in November 2004 (Salim 2008), and a probable in Lebanon, in May 2006 (Haraldsson 2008), suggest that the species might be expected again and could even be spreading north through the Levant.

**South-East:** Female, Birecik, 23–24 May 05 (F, S & L Veyrunes; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 27: 164, 175).

**Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*

Status largely uncertain, though a small population appears to persist in forested lowlands by rivers in Southern Coastlands. For discussion of Turkish records see Magnin (1991). No records between 1990 and 2004.

**Southern Coastlands:** Pair, Antalya Dağları, since Oct 04 (Yöntem 2007; photographed).

**Tengmalm's Owl** *Aegolius funereus*

Presumably a rare breeder in montane coniferous forest over much of the northern half of the country, but no definite nesting records. Full details of a winter record in the Taurus Mountains have never been submitted. Potentially, both nominate *funereus* and *A. f. caucasicus* occur in the country. Seventh to tenth records.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Singing, Sivrikaya 23–27 May, 13–14 Jun 02 (M Robb; tape-recorded; *Dutch Birding* 24: 241). Found dead, 1 km north of Elevit, upper Firtina Valley, 8 Aug 04 (G Magnin; photographed).

**Central Plateau:** Aktaş Valley, Bolu province, 7 Apr 03 (Demirci 2003; *Sandgrouse* 25: 158). Kızılcahamam, 18 Sep 04 (Şekercioğlu 2006; tape-recorded; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95).



**Bar-tailed Lark** *Ammomanes cinctura*

Vagrant; all three records are from the same, south-coast locality (Kirwan & Martins 2000, Kirwan *et al* 2003).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 21 May 05 (GM Kirwan; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175).

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

Perhaps regular passage migrant in very small numbers in all regions except South-East.

**Thrace:** Büyükçekmece, İstanbul, 19 Sep 06 (M Ullman *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** 15, Göksu Delta 21–23 Apr 04 (E & S Durand).

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

Not uncommon summer visitor to eastern Black Sea Coastlands, East (see Kasparek 1992a) and Central Plateau. Apparently increasing and spreading, and breeding expected in other regions in the near future. Widespread and fairly common on passage, although scarcer in western third of the country. The first two winter records are presented here.

**Western Anatolia:** Büyük Menderes Delta, 24 Dec 05 (A Atahan *et al*).

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 19 Dec 04 (V Konrad *et al*).

**Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

A rare and highly irregular winter visitor or vagrant, with one extremely unusual (and perhaps doubtful) record from late May. The following constitute the eighth to 12th post-1960 records, and the first since 1994 (Kirwan & Martins 2000). Clearly, there was an exceptional influx in winter 2005/06, although, interestingly, none was reported during the previous winter, when numbers reached well south of their usual winter range, including to Armenia and Georgia (Schmidt 2007).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Toptepe Forestry Centre, near Samsun 23 Nov 05 (Yavuz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96). c40–50 in two flocks, Hopa, 11 Jan 06 (A Abuladze). 7, Asarcık, Samsun, 2 & 7 Apr 06 (S Girişen; photographed).

**Western Anatolia:** 3, Bandırma, 27 May 06 (I Sevim), seems extraordinarily late record and lacks any description or other documentation.

**Central Plateau:** Ankara, 27 Jan 06 (M Hughes).

**Grey Hypocolius** *Hypocolius ampelinus*

Vagrant. The second record for Turkey, following one in 1986 (Kirwan & Martins 2000), but the sighting is supported only by rather brief details.

**Southern Coastlands:** Side, Antalya province, 19 Nov 02 (A Vittery).

**Siberian Accentor** *Prunella montanella*

Vagrant. The first record in Turkey and only the second in the Middle East, following one in Lebanon in 1958 (Ramadan-Jaradi & Ramadan-Jaradi 1999). The second record followed rapidly, in autumn 2007 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 20).

**Thrace:** Rumelifeneri, İstanbul, 2 Nov 06 (Bekir 2007; photographed).

**Blackstart** *Cercomela melanura*

Possible vagrant. First record in Turkey, though occurrence supported by only a basic plumage description and thus probably best considered hypothetical in the country. Given relative lack of previous history of vagrancy in the species, it seems questionable whether

the record below is referable to a breeding population or wandering birds, but the lack of evidence for the species' presence in any nearby areas of Syria is pertinent (or Lebanon), and better-quality documentation is desirable before adding it to the list of birds reliably recorded in Turkey.

**South-East:** 2, Suçeken, Batman province, 3 Oct 04 (Cofta *et al* 2005), has been accepted by the Polish rarities committee.

### **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Status uncertain. Formerly believed to be primarily an uncommon passage migrant, mainly through eastern two-thirds of Turkey. However, several records at coastal localities in Southern Coastlands of definite *O. cypriaca* (Cyprus Pied Wheatear) have demonstrated unsurprising occurrence of the latter form as an apparently regular overshooting spring migrant on south coast (though none was recorded during the period treated here), and might confuse assessment of status of *pleschanka*. Thus many previous records of 'Pied Wheatear', particularly in central southern Turkey, are probably attributable to *cypriaca*. Status of *cypriaca* and the continental form *pleschanka* can only be clarified if observers supply detailed field descriptions or other documentation for future records.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta, 30 Apr 05 (N Yavuz); 22 Sep 02 (S İsfendiyaroğlu).

**South-East:** Male, Işıklı, 23 May 05 (GM Kirwan, N Blackwood). Records mentioned by Karakaş & Kılıç (2005) are unsupported by details and are thus rejected.

**East:** Female, Doğubayazıt, 22 Aug 03 (M Siol *et al*). Female, Karakceki, near Siverek, 4 May 04 (GM Kirwan, A Grieve, PA Lassey, L Svensson; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167). Kelkit, Sivas, 1 May 05 (G Welch).

### **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

Status uncertain; perhaps only a vagrant, but has reportedly bred at Birecik (Peter 1994). Many reports are inadequately documented. The 2006 record is the first from the Black Sea Coastlands.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Sakarya Delta, 14 Nov 06 (S Bekir; photographed).

**East:** Kuyucuk Gölü, Kars, 25 Sep 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14), is not supported by a description.

### **Red-tailed Wheatear** *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna*

An uncommon, sparsely distributed summer visitor in small numbers to South-East and East. Recorded on passage in Southern Coastlands. Only records from previously unknown sites are reported here.

**East:** 5, Beydağları, Malatya, 27 May 06 (M Erturhan *et al*). 3, Kemaliye, Erzincan, 20 May 05 (M Özen, H Kılınc).

### **Mourning Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugens*

Vagrant. The third record in Turkey, following those in February 1914 (Kasperek 1992a) and April 1996 (Kirwan & Martins 2000).

**South-East:** Male, south of Çatak 23 May 05 (T Epple & U Pittius *per* S Pfützke), is supported by a description.

### **White-crowned Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucopyga*

Vagrant. The third record in Turkey, following those in August 1993 (Sorace 1996) and March 1996 (Kirwan & Martins 2000).

**Southern Coastlands:** Adult, Phaselis, south of Kemer, Antalya province, 2 Mar 05 (T Sacher, U Lasch; photographed), has been submitted to the German rarities committee.

**Dark-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*

Vagrant. The first record in Turkey. Both records in Lebanon are post-2000 (Ramadan-Jaradi *et al* 2008).

**Central Plateau:** Adult female/first-winter *atrogularis*, Altınpark, Ankara, 15 Feb 06 (Yoğurtuoğlu 2006).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Status uncertain. Apparently scarce/rare passage migrant through western two-thirds of Turkey. No recent evidence of breeding (see Kumerloev 1967).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta: 6, 11 Apr–11 May 05; 2, 29 Apr 06 (OMÜKUŞ).

**River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*

Rare passage migrant in small numbers across Turkey, but probably more widespread and frequent than records suggest. A recent June record from Black Sea Coastlands suggests that the species may occasionally breed in Turkey.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 12, Kars ringing station, 14–25 May 05 (Ç Şekercioğlu *et al*). 8, Kızılırmak Delta ringing station, 15 Aug–7 Sep 05 (OMÜKUŞ).

**Southern Coastlands:** Samandağ, Hatay, 14 Oct 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14), is the latest-ever record.

**South-East:** South of Kızıltepe, 9 May 02 (*Sandgrouse* 24: 159).

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Vagrant.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta ringing station, 28 Mar 06 (OMÜKUŞ; ringed).

**Southern Coastlands:** Fethiye, 5 Apr 99 (P Hope; not previously mentioned in these reports), is supported by a brief description.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Vagrant with two previous records (Kirwan & Martins 1994, Kirwan *et al*. 2003).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta, 10 Sep 04 (OMÜKUŞ).

**Southern Coastlands:** Ringed, Akyatan Gölü, Çukurova, 24 Sep 03 (*Sandgrouse* 26: 79).

**Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*

Very rare summer visitor to at least three sites in East and recently discovered apparently breeding at one locality in South-East; elsewhere a very scarce passage migrant, although two recent (1998) records from the Central Plateau are also suggestive of breeding.

**Southern Coastlands:** Göksu Delta, 22 Apr 04 (E & S Durand); has previously been recorded on migration from this locality.

**South-East:** Birecik: 5, 3 May 04 (L Svensson, GM Kirwan, A Grieve, PA Lassey); 2, 23 May 05 (GM Kirwan, N Blackwood; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175); apparently territorial birds found at the same locality, in consecutive years.

**East:** South Van Marshes: 2, 7 Jun 03 (L & J Enger); up to 6, 19–20 May 05 (KM Olsen *et al*); c10, 19 May 06 (CG Bradshaw, GM Kirwan *et al*); 5, 22–23 May 06 (KM Olsen *et al*); 4, 6 Jun 06 (G Petersson). Çenge Gölü, 26 Jun 04 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95). Bendimahi Marshes: 21 Sep 04

(H Schmaljohann *et al*); 4, 15 Jul 06 (B Bilgen *et al*). 2, Vali Uğur Boran Kuşçenneti, Bitlis, 16 Jul 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*).

**Booted Warbler** *Hippolais (Iduna) caligata*

Vagrant, or perhaps regular passage migrant in very small numbers principally through eastern third of the country.

**East:** Balatos, 3 Jun 02 (I Weiss), has been submitted to the German rarities committee.

**Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata*

Previously considered a vagrant, though some of the six records between 1969 and 1983 do not appear to be well documented. A seemingly quite large breeding population recently discovered at one site in South-East Anatolia. More details are required concerning the status of this population; whether it is restricted to this site and whether it is resident or migratory.

**South-East:** Karacadağ, 45 km east of Siverek: up to 16 adults, 29–30 May 02 (Welch & Welch 2004); 3, 21 Jun 06 (B Bilgen *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 28: 191).

**Cyprus Warbler** *Sylvia melanothorax*

Vagrant. The sixth record in Turkey and the first away from the Southern Coastlands.

**Western Anatolia:** Male, Milas airport, Bodrum, 13 Apr 2003 (BW Stoneman).

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*

Vagrant. The first documented record in Turkey (see Kirwan *et al* 1999).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta, 25 Oct 02 (Erciyas & Özçam 2002; trapped and photographed), is supported by a detailed description and some biometrics.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Vagrant. The fourth and fifth records in Turkey, and the first since 1976. Precise date/s for the Manyas bird, which was trapped and ringed sometime between 26 August and 19 October, are currently unavailable.

**Western Anatolia:** Manyas Gölü, autumn 03 (Didrickson *et al* 2004; trapped). Ege University campus, Izmir, 29 Oct 04 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95).

**Plain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus neglectus*

Recently recorded at one site in South-East, where apparently breeding and habitat appears similar to areas in western Iran where the species is known to nest. Further details are ideally required in order to more fully document this interesting range extension, as the sound-recording (see below) is very short and of poor quality. The first records in Turkey.

**South-East:** Çatak, south of Van Gölü: 24 Jun 04 (IA Green; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95); 2–3, 25–26 Jun 06 (S Pfützke *et al*; sound-recorded; *Sandgrouse* 27: 95); 2, 23 May 05 (T Epple, U Pittius *per* S Pfützke); food-carrying, 13 Jun 05 (D Robel *et al*).

**Iraq Babbler** *Turdoides altirostris*

Recently found breeding at a site in South-East, following apparent range expansion through Syria (*Sandgrouse* 24: 79, Murdoch *et al* 2002). The first record in Turkey (but see also Kirwan *et al* 1999).

**South-East:** Four adults and 2–3 dependent young, Birecik, 29–30 May 06 (Donaghy 2006; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 28: 190), and at least 3 still present, 4 Jul 06 (*Dutch Birding* 28: 324). There were further observations in May 2007 (cf *Dutch Birding* 29: 250–251; J Lamsdell pers comm).

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce winter visitor to the western two-thirds of Turkey, most frequently to Thrace.

**Thrace:** Gölbaba, Edirne: 2 Jan 05; 30 Jan 05; 2, 29 Oct 06 (ÜN Başaran); 3 Dec 06 (Y Yörük); 10 Dec 06 (ÜN Başaran). Terkos Gölü: 30 Dec 05 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 9 Dec 06 (Ö Necipoğlu). 2, Ormanlı Köyü, İstanbul, 9 Dec 06 (C Dalyan). Hayakadın, Edirne, 1 Jan 05 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 96). Hatıpköy, Edirne, 9 Jan 05 (Y Yörük).

**Central Plateau:** Balıkdamı, 2 Nov 05 (O Mülayim; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96). Akharım (Örenler) Reservoir, near Afyon, 2 and 10 Dec 05 (O Kocyyigit; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96). Altınpark, Ankara, 1 Feb 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

Vagrant. The 14th and 15th records in Turkey. Thus far, of those definitely ascribed to form, only *phoenicuroides* (Turkestan Shrike) and *isabellinus* (Daurian Shrike) have been recorded. Future observers of this shrike in the country are encouraged to attempt, where possible, racial identification and, preferably, to document occurrence with photographs.

**Southern Coastlands:** Male *isabellinus*, Göksu Delta, 30 Apr–1 May 04 (E & S Durand; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 26: 167).

**South-East:** Birecik, 30 Sep 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Eurasian (Spotted) Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

Vagrant. The second record in Turkey, following one on the Central Plateau in November 1966. Elsewhere in the Middle East, the species is considered ‘irregular’ in northern Iran in the southern Caspian region (Hüe & Etchecopar 1970), from where there is at least one recent record, in March 2005 (Sehhatiasabet *et al* 2006), with a recent report from Syria, in ‘late summer’ 2006 which, although published, lacks the appropriate level of documentation necessary for acceptance as a first record (Ottelin 2008).

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 2, aboard a ship eventually departed for the Turkish shore at Trabzon, 4 Oct 05 (DR Calder).

**Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*

Vagrant. The first record in Turkey and the northernmost report ever.

**Southern Coastlands:** Belen Pass, 22 Mar 05 (Welch & Welch 2006), was well described by observers with extensive previous experience of the species.

**Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis*

Status uncertain. As a variety of escaped species have been noted from Ankara and environs, the records below are assumed to originate from escapees rather than reflecting westward range expansion.

**Thrace:** İstanbul: 15 Dec 03; 7, 29 May 04; 22, 16 Apr 05; 12 Aug 05; 9, 10 Sep 05 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 96, 175; 28: 96), with adults observed food-carrying in summer 05 (M Özen).

### **Pale Rock Finch** *Carpodacus brachydactyla*

Local and usually rather uncommon summer visitor (occasionally in large numbers) to parts of South-East and immediately adjacent parts of Southern Coastlands and East. Recorded twice in south-east Black Sea Coastlands. Found in both open grassland and on partially scrub-covered, rocky slopes, or in vineyards and other crops. Usually a rather late-arriving migrant, apparently in variable numbers. Evidence suggests that breeding range may vary, to some extent, with seasonal conditions and/or vagaries of apparently irruptive or semi-nomadic movements, although some core areas are certainly occupied in all years (Kirwan 1998). Status and distribution have come under closer scrutiny in recent years with the advent of intensive survey work within its main range in Turkey, but are still subject to clarification. Records outside of core range listed here.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** 20+, west side of Aktaş Gölü, 22 May 05 (A Abuladze).

**South-East:** 2, Durnalık, 13 Sep 04 (H Schmaljohann *et al*), is one of the latest-ever observations in Turkey.

**East:** Doğubayazıt, 22 Aug 03 (M Siol *et al*). c10, Van, 4 Jul 04 (K Hendriks *et al*). 6, Nemrut Dağı, 5 Jul 04 (K Hendriks *et al*). c50, Ahlat, Van Gölü, 23 May 06 (A Abuladze). 15 singing males, Taşharman, 23 May 06 (A Abuladze).

### **Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Very rare and irregular winter visitor. One summer record from Black Sea Coastlands (Kirwan & Martins 2000).

**Central Plateau:** Altınpark, Ankara, 15 Nov 05 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96).

### **Trumpeter Finch** *Bucanetes githagineus*

Probably rare summer visitor, recorded from Southern Coastlands, South-East and East. Occurrence perhaps due more to nomadic rather than strictly seasonal movements. Has bred. Recent confirmation that it, at least occasionally, occurs at same sites as Mongolian Finch *B. mongolicus* is less surprising given finding of Panov & Bulatova (1972) that the latter might be systematically closer to Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* than *B. githagineus*, though recent genetic results appear to confirm close, congeneric relationship of *githagineus* and *mongolicus* (Arnaiz-Villena *et al* 2008).

**East:** 7+ including 2 fledged juveniles, Doğubayazıt, 24 Jun 04 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 95); nest found, mid Jul 06 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*). Çaldıran, 15 Jun 05 (I Richardson, S Bekir). 2, Nemrut Dağı, 6 Jun 06 (M Erturhan, M Özen).

### **Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Vagrant. The first documented record in Turkey and the Middle East, following one which lacked sufficient supporting evidence for acceptance as a first record in September 1987.

**Thrace:** Rumelifeneri, İstanbul, 2 Nov 06 (Bekir 2007; photographed), was found on the same day as the first Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella* in Turkey!

### **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Vagrant. The fourth to eighth modern-day records in Turkey.

**Black Sea Coastlands:** Kızılırmak Delta: 1 Nov 04 (Ö Sağlam, C Özsemir); 3, 28 Nov 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Thrace:** Vize, 21 Nov 06. Iğneada, 27 Nov 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14).

**Central Plateau:** Kulu Gölü, 13 Feb 05 (I Richardson; *Sandgrouse* 27: 175–176, where listed as 12 Feb).

**East:** Malatya, 19 Sep 06 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 14), is unsupported by a description and strongly suggests confusion with White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*.

### **Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Vagrant, with two recent (1974 and 1997) and about six 19th-century specimen records.

**Western Anatolia:** Male, between Sandıklı and Kızılören, Afyon province 30 Nov 2005 (O Koçyiğit; photographed; *Sandgrouse* 28: 96).

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