

A Z E R B A I J A N

3-10 October 2013



by Tomas Axén Haraldsson

Following our private adventure-birding trip in April 2012 (see trip report here <http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/azerbaijan2012.pdf>) the idea was now to set up an autumn migration group trip based on our experiences. The time, early October, was chosen mainly to get a rich variety of species in the coastal lowlands of eastern Azerbaijan which we succeeded in. We also hoped to reach snowcock grounds high in the Caucasus but failed in this attempt - fog and clouds surrounded the village Xinaliq and none of the specialities were seen.

215 species in an autumn week of birding is a good result and included Dalmatian Pelican, six species of eagle, some 30 Pallid Harriers, Saker, Sociable and White-tailed Lapwings, lots of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Richards Pipit, Citrine Wagtails, Green Warbler, Wallcreeper, Isabelline Shrike and more. Azerbaijan is a v-e-r-y exciting and little-known birders destination!

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White-tailed Lapwings, Haji Gaboul, October 2013. Photo Håkan Eklund

Arrangements and logistics

This trip was the premier tour to Azerbaijan by swedish bird tour operator AviFauna. It was done in cooperation with Baku based travel agency Caspian Tour and with Elchin Sultanov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Ornithological Society (AOS), as local guide and was planned and lead by me personally. We took 15 participants and were fully booked almost a year in advance - this region and the greater Middle East continues to attract intrest!

The price level is still fair from a Western perspective with simple countryside accommodation at 15-20 euro per person, cheap petrol and food. Return tickets with Turkish Airlines from Scandinavia to Baku at about 450 euro. A visa is needed and some paper work in connection with this, Caspian Tour offers this service as well. There are some hassles and permits needed, mainly in the Caucasus, so it takes some serious reconnaissance before a trip here. Or you go with an operator that takes care of things.

More from the trip!

- * Some guest blogging about the trip at THE website for birdwatching in Azerbaijan <http://birdingaze.blogspot.se/2013/11/swedish-birders-visited-azerbaijan-in.html>
- * video clips from this and other birding tours in the Middle East at my YouTube site <https://www.youtube.com/user/Tomas06560656>
- * wonderful Azeri landscapes and people in Jan-Michael Breiders photos http://www.pbase.com/breider/azerbaijan_2013



Red-footed Falcon, Shirvan Nationalpark, October 2013. Photo Peter Berglin

Itinerary

- 3 October evening departure from Scandinavia, meeting up and transit in Istanbul.
- 4 October arrival at 5am in Baku, afternoon birding at Besh Barmag. Two nights at Nazli Bulag near Quba.
- 5 October full day trip to Xinaliq at 2.300m a.s.l. in the Greater Caucasus.
- 6 October birding at Besh Barmag, evening in Baku.
- 7 October birding at Gobustan and Haji Gaboul, drive to Salyan.
- 8 October birding in Shirvan Nationalpark, drive to Masalli. Two nights there.

- 9 October full day birding at Kizil Agach.
- 10 October birding at Masalli, Machmud Chala and Äläť, last night in Baku.
- 11 October transfer to the airport at 2am. Arrival in Scandinavia by lunch.



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Shirvan Nationalpark, October 2013. Photo Peter Berglin

Species list

Mute Swan Knölsvan *Cygnus olor*

A family group at the "flamingo lake", Shirvan NP 8/10.

Whooper Swan Sångsvan *Cygnus cygnus*

1 at the "flamingo lake", Shirvan NP 8/10.

Ruddy Shelduck Rostand *Tadorna ferruginea*

34 migrating Besh Barmag 6/10, 7 at Haji Gaboul 7/10, 15 at Salyan 8/10 and 14 at Äläť 10/10.

Shelduck Gravand *Tadorna tadorna*

22 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Wigeon Bläsand *Anas penelope*

c. 100 migrating Besh Barmag 6/10, 20 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and 40 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Mallard Gräsand *Anas platyrhynchos*

Highest count c. 250 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Pintail Stjärtand *Anas acuta*

Highest count 250+ migrating at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Gadwall Snatterand *Anas strepera*

10 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Teal Kricka *Anas crecca*

Common with hundreds going south at Besh Barmag 6/10 and c. 750 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Shoveler Skedand *Anas clypeata*

The most widespread dabbling duck with hundreds going south at Besh Barmag 6/10 and some 1000-1500 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Garganey Årta *Anas querquedula*

10 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and 5 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Pochard Brunand *Aythya ferina*

25 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Ferruginous Duck Vitögd dykand *Aythya nyroca*

1 at Haji Gaboul 7/10, 30 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and also seen at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Tufted Duck Vigg *Aythya fuligula*

5 migrating Besh Barmag 6/10 and 5 at the "flamingo lake", Shirvan NP 8/10.

Red-crested Pochard Rödhuvad dykand *Netta rufina*

15 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Black Francolin Svart frankolin *Francolinus francolinus*

7-8 at Shirvan NP 8/10.

Quail Vaktel *Coturnix coturnix*

2 flushed at Besh Barmag 6/10, 2 at Shirvan NP 8/10 och 1 flushed at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Little Grebe Smådopping *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

c. 50 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and 25 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Great Crested Grebe Skäggdopping *Podiceps cristatus*

5 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and some singles each at Kizil Agach 9/10 and Älä 10/10.

Black-necked Grebe Svarthalsad dopping *Podiceps nigricollis*

Resting at sea with 2 at Kizil Agach 9/10 and 2 at Älä 10/10.

Cormorant Storskarv *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Rather common along the Caspian coast.

Pygmy Cormorant Dvärgskarv *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

Rather common in wetlands and along canals in the south with some 150 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 och c. 200 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

White Pelican Vit pelikan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

3 migrating with Dalmatians at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Dalmatian Pelican Krushuvad pelikan *Pelecanus crispus*

8+9 migrating Besh Barmag 6/10 and 25 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Little Bittern Dvärgrördrom *Ixobrychus minutus*

1 1cy Kizil Agach 9/10.

Bittern Rördrom *Botaurus stellaris*

2 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Night Heron Natthäger *Nycticorax nycticorax*

2 1cy Kizil Agach 9/10.

Squacco Heron Rallhäger *Ardea ralloides*

5 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10, 2 at Machmud Chala 8/10 och 5 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Cattle Egret Kohäger *Bubulcus ibis*

Several records in the south during 7-10/10 with flocks of some 20 birds.



Amazingly rich wetlands at Kizil Agach on the Caspian Sea, southern Azerbaijan. Photo Tomas Axén Haraldsson

Little Egret Silkeshäger *Egretta garzetta*

Rather common in the lowlands including some 350-400 between Salyan and Machmud Chala 8/10.

Great White Egret Ägretthäger *Egretta alba*

1 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and rather widespread in the south 7-10/10 with 30 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Grey Heron Gråhäger *Ardea cinerea*

Most widespread of the herons with migration visible at Besh Barmag with 46 ex going south 4/10.

Purple Heron Purpurhäger *Ardea purpurea*

3 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and 1 at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Glossy Ibis Bronsibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

15 migrating Besh Barmag 6/10, 32 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10, 20 at Kizil Agach 9/10 and 1 at Älä 10/10.

Greater Flamingo Större flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

c. 350 at Haji Gaboul 7/10, 75 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10, 20 at Machmud Chala 8/10 and c. 250 ex flying at sea at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Spoonbill Skedstork *Platalea leucorodia*

6 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Black Stork Svart stork *Ciconia nigra*

25 at Machmud Chala 8th and 10/10.

White Stork Vit stork *Ciconia ciconia*

20 with the Black Storks at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Honey Buzzard Bivråk *Pernis apivorus*

Late migrants at Besh Barmag with 3 on the 4th and 1 on 6/10 and one each at Gobustan and Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Black Kite Brun glada *Milvus migrans*

Rather common and widespread with some 50 at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10.

White-tailed Eagle Havsörn *Haliaeetus albicilla*

One adult Besh Barmag 4/10 and one younger bird 6/10 and 1 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Griffon Vulture Gåsgam *Gyps fulvus*

Rather widespread, seen on five days with 9 at Xinaliq 5/10 and several with Black Vultures and eagles at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Black Vulture Grågam *Aegypius monachus*

Only at Besh Barmag with some 15 on 6/10.

Short-toed Eagle Ormörn *Circaetus gallicus*

At Besh Barmag migrants with 1 on 4/10 and 2 on 6/10 as well as 1 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Marsh Harrier Brun kärrhök *Circus aeruginosus*

Common and widespread and lots of migrants seen with some 100 ind. in two visits heading south at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10. Also 25-30 each at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and Kizil Agach 9/10.

Hen Harrier Blå kärrhök *Circus cyaneus*

One "ringtail" in Shirvan NP 8/10.

Pallid Harrier Stäpphök *Circus macrourus*

One of the highlights of the trip was the many Pallid Harriers with nearly 30 ex seen! About 50/50 adult males and 1cy birds, no older females positively id'd. Highest count 5 and 7 respectively migrating at Besh Barmag on 4:e and 6/10.

Montague's Harrier Ängshök *Circus pygargus*

One "ringtail" at Besh Barmag 6/10 and one 2cy+ female at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10.

Sparrowhawk Sparvhök *Accipiter nisus*

Seen all days with singles, highest count ten migrants during our two visits at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10.

"Steppe Buzzard" Ormvråk *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Surprisingly rare with only some single migrants at Besh Barmag on the 4th (five ind.) and 6/10 (five ind.) as well as Kizil Agach 9/10.



Hitting the roof at some 2.100m in the Greater Caucasus near Xinaliq. Photo Tomas Axén Haraldsson

Long-legged Buzzard Örnvråk *Buteo rufinus*

1 close to Xinaliq 5/10, 1 at Besh Barmag 6/10 and 1 along the road north of Salyan 7/10.

Rough-legged Buzzard Fjällvråk *Buteo lagopus*

1 heading south at Besh Barmag 4/10.

Lesser Spotted Eagle Mindre skrikörn *Aquila pomarina*

8 migrants among the other raptors at Besh Barmag 4/10.

Golden Eagle Kungsörn *Aquila chrysaetos*

Two older and one young bird together at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10, probably a family.

Steppe Eagle Stäppörn *Aquila nipalensis*

Seemingly widespread and rather common, seen during six days including 7 and 12 on migration at Besh Barmag on 4th and 6/10 respectively, 5 at Shirvan NP 8/10 och 20 heading south at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Imperial Eagle Kejsarörn *Aquila heliaca*

1 1cy at Besh Barmag 6/10 and 1 1cy at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Osprey Fiskgjuse *Pandion haliaetus*

1 on migration at Besh Barmag 4/10, 2-3 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and also seen at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Lesser Kestrel Rödfalk *Falco naumanni*

Hundreds of Kestrels/Lesser Kestrels along the roads in the lowlands and the very social behaviour suggested Lesser Kestrels and most of those studied closely were of this species as well. Numerous around Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10 with 250+ ind.

Kestrel Tornfalk *Falco tinnunculus*

Very common.

Merlin Stenfalk *Falco columbarius*

1 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and 2 in Shirvan NP 8/10.

Hobby Lärkfalk *Falco subbuteo*

Seen during all days including 5-6 at Besh Barmag both visits involving both migrants and resident/hunting.

Red-footed Falcon Aftonfalk *Falco vespertinus*

1 1cy at Besh Barmag 6/10 och 1 1cy in Shirvan NP 8/10.

Peregrine Pilgrimsfalk *Falco peregrinus*

Six days with records of singles, mainly resident/hunting; Besh Barmag, Nazli Bulag, Haji Gaboul (2 ind), Kizil Agach and Machmud Chala.

Saker Tatarfalk *Falco cherrug*

1 at Kizil Agach 9/10

Water Rail Vattenrall *Rallus aquaticus*

4-5 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and several at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Little Crane Mindre sumphöna *Porzana parva*

One female-type seen well at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Moorhen Rörhöna *Gallinula chloropus*

Several records in ponds and canals in the south during 7-9/10.

Coot Sothöna *Fulica atra*

Small flocks in ponds near Baku 4/10, some 250 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and some 300 at Älät 10/10.

Purple Swamphen Purpurhöna *Porphyrio porphyrio*

7 at the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10

Common Crane Trana *Grus grus*

8 heading south at Shirvan NP 8/10 and 7 similarly at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Avocet Skärfläcka *Recurvirostra avosetta*

c. 450 at Haji Gaboul 7/10, 40 at Machmud Chala 8/10 and c. 100 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Black-winged Stilt Stytlöpare *Himantopus himantopus*

Singles along the road near Baku 6/10, c. 250 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and c. 75 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Stone Curlew Tjockfot *Burhinus oediconemus*

4 at Besh Barmag 6/10 and 1 at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Little Ringed Plover Mindre strandpipare *Charadrius dubius*

3 at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Ringed Plover Större strandpipare *Charadrius hiaticula*

Common in wader habitats in the south with c. 100 each at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and Kizil Agach 9/10.

Kentish Plover Svartbent strandpipare *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Seen in small numbers at coastal sites as well as at Haji Gaboul with 25 ind. 7/10.

Grey Plover Kustpipare *Pluvialis squatarola*

4 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Northern Lapwing Tofsvipa *Vanellus vanellus*

Small flocks on fields and pastures, mainly in the south. Highest count the 75 birds harassed by a young Peregrine at Machmud Chala on the 8th and 10/10.

White-tailed Lapwing Sumpvipa *Vanellus leucurus*

7 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Sociable Lapwing Stäppvipa *Vanellus gregarius*

1 cy/winter plumage at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Little Stint Småsnäppa *Calidris minuta*

Commonest of the small waders with highest count 500+ at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Temminck's Stint Mosnäppa *Calidris temminckii*

At least 3 among the other waders at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Dunlin Kärrsnäppa *Calidris alpina*

Common at wader sites like Haji Gaboul, Kizil Agach and Äläät with highest count 250 at Äläät 10/10.

Curlew Sandpiper Spovsnäppa *Calidris ferruginea*

10 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and 6 at Äläät 10/10.

Sanderling Sandlöpare *Calidris alba*

8 at Kizil Agach 9/10.



spectacular birding at Kizil Agach. Photo Tomas Axén Haraldsson

Ruff Brushane *Philomachus pugnax*

Fairly common and widespread including a flock of 25 migrating over the high Caucasus 5/10 and numerous at wader sites in the south with 750+ at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Common Snipe Enkelbeckasin *Gallinago gallinago*

Many records at wetlands and coastal sites, highest count 25 at Äläät 10/10.

Jack Snipe Dvärgbeckasin *Lymnocyptes minimus*

1 flushed each at Besh Barmag 6/10 and Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Black-tailed Godwit Rödspov *Limosa limosa*

3 at Haji Gaboul 7/10 and 10 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Whimbrel Småspov *Numenius phaeopus*

5 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Curlew Storspov *Numenius arquata*

3 migrating at Besh Barmag 6/10, 21 at Shirvan NP 8/10 and 6 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Redshank Rödbena *Tringa totanus*

Common at Haji Gaboul 7/10 with c. 250 ex.

Marsh Sandpiper Dammsnäppa *Tringa stagnatilis*

30 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Spotted Redshank Svartsnäppa *Tringa erythropus*

Seen at wader sites in the south including 10 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Greenshank Gluttsnäppa *Tringa nebularia*

Like other *Tringa* waders, small numbers in the south, maximum 40 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Green Sandpiper Skogssnäppa *Tringa ochropus*

A few birds at most wetlands visited.

Wood Sandpiper Grönbena *Tringa glareola*

Like Green Sandpiper, surprisingly rare.

Common Sandpiper Drillsnäppa *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen along the road south of Salyan 8/10.

Arctic Skua Kustlabb *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Causing excitement among birds and birders with 10+3 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Mediterranean Gull Svarthuvad mås *Larus melanocephalus*

4 1cy at Älä 10/10.

Little Gull Dvärgmås *Larus minutus*

2 and 5 respectively at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10 as well as some at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Black-headed Gull Skrattmås *Larus ridibundus*

Common, numerous at some areas in the south including c. 1000 along the road south of Salyan 8/10.

Slender-billed Gull Långnäbbad mås *Larus genei*

Small numbers at the coastal sites Kizil Agach and Älä 10/10 as well as inland at Salyan. Highest count c. 150 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Caspian Gull Kaspisk trut *Larus cachinnans*

Common and widespread with a huge congregation at the rubbish tip north of Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10 with at least 1500+.

Armenian Gull Armenisk trut *Larus armenicus*

One adult bird at the "flamingo lake", Shirvan NP 8/10.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Silltrut *Larus fuscus*

1 adult migrating at Besh Barmag 6/10 and 1 south of Salyan 8/10.

"Tundra Gull" "Tundratrut" *Larus (fuscus) heuglini*

1 south of Salyan 8/10 och 3-4 at Kizil Agach 9/10, all adult or near-adult birds.

Gull-billed Tern Sandtärna *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Rather widespread in small numbers, mainly along the coast with highest count 12 at Besh Barmag 4/10.

Caspian Tern Skräntärna *Hydroprogne caspia*

5 at Kizil Agach 9/10 and 2 at Älät 10/10.

Common Tern Fisktärna *Sterna hirundo*

Singles at Besh Barmag 6/10, Kizil Agach 9/10 and Älät 10/10.

Sandwich Tern Kentsk tärna *Sterna sandvicensis*

2 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

White-winged Black Tern Vitvingad tärna *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Common at Machmud Chala and numerous at Kizil Agach where hundreds were foraging with Whiskered Terns.

Black Tern Svarttärna *Chlidonias niger*

1 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Whiskered Tern Skäggtärna *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common at Kizil Agach 9/10 with hundreds together with White-winged Black's, 1000+ *Chlidonias*-terns in all.

Rock Dove Klippduva *Columba livia*

Several records in suitable habitat.

Wood Pigeon Ringduva *Columba palumbus*

Rather common in the south 7-10/10.

Stock Dove Skogsduva *Columba oenas*

2 migrating at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Collared Dove Turkduva *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common in towns and settlements.

Laughing Dove Palmduva *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Like Collared Dove but rarer and in more urban settings.

Cuckoo Gök *Cuculus canorus*

1 each Salyan 7/10, Kizil Agach 9/10 and Masalli 10/10.

Nightjar Nattskärna *Caprimulgus europaeus*

1 flushed each Besh Barmag 6/10 och Kizil Agach 9/10.

Short-eared Owl Jorduggla *Asio flammea*

1 Besh Barmag 6/10.

Barn Owl Tornuggla *Tyto alba*

Two birds (a pair?) flushed from a wooden box in a lookout tower in Shirvan NP 8/10. Breeding site?

Swift Tornseglare *Apus apus*

1 migrating at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Kingfisher Kungsfiskare *Alcedo atthis*

Many records in wetlands and canals in the south 7-10/10 with 4-5 at the "flamingo lake", Shirvan NP 8/10 and same number at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Bee-eater Biätare *Merops apiaster*

c. 10 migrating at Besh Barmag 4/10.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Grön biätare *Merops persicus*

Surprisingly common, despite being October, from Shirvan and southwards 8-10/10 with c. 75 at Shirvan NP 8/10 and similar numbers at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Roller Blåkråka *Corcarias garrulus*

3 just west of Masalli 9/10, on the Yardimli road, and 1 along the main road north of Masalli 10/10.

Hoopoe Härfågel *Upupa epops*

Our only Hoopoe flapped its way south at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Större hackspett *Dendrocopos major*

1 at Nazli Bulag 6/10 and 1 at the Shikra site near Masalli 10/10. The latter bird was of the near-endemic subspecies *poelzami* (southernmost Azerbaijan and adjacent regions of northern Iran).

Syrian Woodpecker Balkanspett *Dendrocopos syriacus*

1 at Shirvan NP 8/10.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Mindre hackspett *Dendrocopos minor*

1 at the resort in the Talysh, west of Masalli 9/10.

Green Woodpecker Gröngöling *Picus viridis*

1 at Nazli Bulag 6/10 and 1 along the road 7/10.

Calandra Lark Kalanderlärka *Melanocorypha calandra*

c. 100 migrating at Besh Barmag 4/10 and several records in the south 8-10/10 with the c. 350 at Shirvan NP 8/10 being the highest count.

Short-toed Lark Korttälärka *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Only one bird positively id'd, at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Lesser Short-toed Lark Dvärglärka *Calandrella rufescens*

5 at Besh Barmag 6/10 and c. 10 at Shirvan NP 8/10.

Crested Lark Tofslärka *Galerida cristata*

Common except in the Caucasus.

Skylark Sånglärka *Alauda arvensis*

Rather common and widespread in small numbers.

Shore Lark Berglärka *Eremophila alpestris*

Rather common at Xinaliq, high Caucasus 5/10, with 35-40 around the village.

Sand Martin Backsvåla *Riparia riparia*

Seen most days in commonly so at the wetlands with reed beds in the south 8-10/10.

Barn Swallow Ladusvåla *Hirundo rustica*

Common.

House Martin Hussvåla *Delichon urbicum*

Only a few migrating at Besh Barmag 4/10.

Tawny Pipit Fältpiplärka *Anthus campestris*

1 each Besh Barmag 6/10, Shirvan NP 8/10 and Kizil Agach 9/10.

Richards Pipit Större pipilärka *Anthus richardi*

1 seen and heard well at the beach with scattered scrub at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Tree Pipit Trädpiplärka *Anthus trivialis*

Singles heard migrating overhead during some days.

Meadow Pipit Ängspiplärka *Anthus pratensis*

3-4 along the road high in the Caucasus 5/10.

Water Pipit Vattenpiplärka *Anthus spinoletta*

Common in the Caucasus and around Xinaliq 5/10.

Yellow Wagtail Guläråla *Motacilla flava*

Rather common and widespread migrant but in small numbers.

Citrine Wagtail Citronäråla *Motacilla citreola*

Seen at Kizil Agach 9/10, at the edge of the lagoon as well as on the outer sea shore, a total of some 10 birds. Also 1 at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Grey Wagtail Forsäråla *Motacilla cinerea*

2 at Besh Barmag 4/10 and 4 along the Guidalchay river, Caucasus 5/10.

White Wagtail Sädesäråla *Motacilla alba*

Common.

Dipper Strömstare *Cinclus cinclus*

1 at a bridge over the Guidalchay river near Xinaliq 5/10.

Wren Gärdsmyg *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Mountain bird; several each at the resorts of Nazli Bulag 5-6/10 and Talysh/Masalli 9-10/10.

Dunnock Järnsparv *Prunella modularis*

1 at Nazli Bulag 6/10.

Robin Rödhake *Erithacus rubecula*

Appearance like Wren but also some records in the southern lowlands.

Thrush Nightingale Näktergal *Luscinia luscinia*

1 at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Rufous Bush-Robin Trädnäkttergal *Cercotricas galactotes*

1 at Besh Barmag 6/10

Bluethroat Blåhake *Luscinia svecica*

Several at Kizil Agach 9/10 and at least 1 at Machmud Chala 10/10.

Black Redstart Svart rödstjärt *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Seemingly common in the Caucasus and around Xinaliq with 20+ birds 5/10. Most *ochruros* but also several males *semirufus*.

Redstart Rödstjärt *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Several records at the coastal migrant sites like Besh Barmag and Kizil Agach.

Whinchat Buskskvätta *Saxicola rubetra*

1 each Besh Barmag 6/10 and Kizil Agach 9/10.

Siberian Stonechat Vitgumpad buskskvätta *Saxicola maurus*

Some 18-20 birds seen during five days, from 2.300m in the Caucasus to the Caspian shore. All seemingly *hemprichii* (earlier known as *variegatus*) except for a few birds, one female at Xinaliq looking very much like *torquatus*.

Northern Wheatear Stenskvätta *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Rather widespread, seen most days and sometimes in congregations like at Xinaliq 5/10 with 15-20 birds.

Desert Wheatear Ökenstenskvätta *Oenanthe deserti*

1 male at the beach at Besh Barmag 6/10. Possibly only the 3rd modern time record.

Finsch's Wheatear Finschstenskvätta *Oenanthe finschii*

At least 1 male at the petroglyph site, Gobustan 7/10.

Blackbird Koltrast *Turdus merula*

Singing birds noted in the Talish and Caucasus mountain forests, seemingly common.

Song Thrush Taltrast *Turdus philomelos*

Singles at Nazli Bulag and Besh Barmag 6/10.

Mistle Thrush Dubbeltrast *Turdus viscivorus*

1 at the petroglyph site, Gobustan 7/10.

Reed Warbler Rörsångare *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Several records in the many reed beds in the south 8-10/10.

Moustached Warbler Kaveldunsångare *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

1 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Great Reed Warbler Trastsångare *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

4-5 at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Olivaceous Warbler Eksångare *Iduna pallida*

1 at Besh Barmag 6/10.

Menetriés Warbler Östlig sammetshätta *Sylvia mystacea*

Only recorded at Kizil Agach 9/10, seemingly common in the scrubs near Baliqçilar with 8-10 birds at least.

Common Whitethroat Törnsångare *Sylvia communis*

Three sites with single birds in migrant scrubs; Gobustan, Shirvan NP and Kizil Agach.

Lesser Whitethroat Ärtsångare *Sylvia curruca*

2 at the petroglyph site, Gobustan 7/10 and several at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Blackcap Svarthätta *Sylvia atricapilla*

Three days with records, single birds.

Garden Warbler Trädgårdssångare *Sylvia borin*

1 at Nazli Bulag 6/10.

Chiffchaff Gransångare *Phylloscopus collybita*

Fairly common and quite numerous in coastal scrubs but also seen in the gardens of Xinaliq at 2.300m a.s.l.!

Willow Warbler Lövsångare *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Several at Besh Barmag 4th and 6/10 and also at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Green Warbler Kaukasisk lundsångare *Phylloscopus nitidus*

1 late but much appreciated bird in the scrubs on the beach, Besh Barmag 6/10.

Red-breasted Flycatcher Mindre flugsnappare *Ficedula parva*

Rather common in the lowland gardens and coastal scrubs, especially so around Kizil Agach 9/10 with at least 50 birds during the day!

Spotted Flycatcher Grå flugsnappare *Muscicapa striata*

1 each at Kizil Agach 9/10 and Masalli 10/10.

Bearded Tit Skäggmes *Panurus biarmicus*

Several records of family groups in the reeds of the "flamingo lake" Shirvan NP 8/10 and several at Kizil Agach 9/10

Long-tailed Tit Stjærtmes *Aegithalos caudatus*

Heard at Nazli Bulag 5/10 and 4-5 at the resort in the Talysh 10/10.

Coal Tit Svartmes *Parus ater*

Seen and heard at the resort in the Talysh 9-10/10.

Blue Tit Blåmes *Parus caeruleus*

Five days of records from the high Caucasus to the Shirvan, singles or families.

Great Tit Talgoxe *Parus major*

Appearance like Bluetit.

Rock Nuthatch Klippnötväcka *Sitta neumayer*

Dominant species at the petroglyph site, Gobustan 7/10 with 2-3 vocal pairs at least.



Close encounter with a Wallcreeper, Xinaliq. Photo Peter Berglin

Wallcreeper Murkrypare *Tichodroma muraria*

4 at Xinaliq 5/10, both at the village as well as among the rocks up the slope.

Tree-creeper Trädkrypare *Certhia familiaris*

1 each at Nazli Bulag 6/10 and the resort in the Talysh 9/10.

Penduline Tit Pungmes *Remiz pendulinus*

Several records in the reed beds of the south 8-10/10 with small groups.

Red-backed Shrike Törnškata *Lanius collurio*

Five days with records, mainly in the south and with 8-10 birds at Kizil Agach 9/10.

Isabelline Shrike Isabellatörnškata *Lanius isabellinus*

1 at Baliqçilar, Kizil Agach 9/10.

Magpie Skata *Pica pica*

Rather common except in the Caucasus.

Jackdaw Kaja *Corvus monedula*

Common.

Rook Râka *Corvus frugilegus*

Common.

Common Crow Krâka *Corvus corone*

Common.

Raven Korp *Corvus corax*

Several records in the Caucasus and at Gobustan.

Jay Nötskrika *Garrulus glandarius*

Seen at Quba and in the Caucasus 4-6/10.

Red-billed Chough Alpkrâka *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Seen around Xinaliq 5/10 with 35-40 ind. and at Gobustan 7/10 with 20.

Starling Stare *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common and at times numerous; thousands migrating at Besh Barmag on 4th and 6/10 and thousands also at evening roost at Machmud Chala 8/10.

House Sparrow Gråsparv *Passer domesticus*

Very common.

Spanish Sparrow Spansk sparv *Passer hispaniolensis*

Common in the southern lowlands 8-10/10 including roosts at Machmud Chala 8/10 with 1000+ birds.

Tree Sparrow Pilfink *Passer montanus*

A few records near habitations in the south; Shirvan and Masalli 8-10/10.

Rock Sparrow Stensparv *Petronia petronia*

Only seen at Xinaliq 5/10 with 10 birds and a likely flock of 40 along the road.

Chaffinch Bofink *Fringilla coelebs*

Rather common.

Brambling Bergfink *Fringilla montifringilla*

Surprise with four records of migrants overhead; Besh Barmag 4/10, the Caucasus 5/10, Kizil Agach 9/10 and Masalli 10/10.

Greenfinch Grönfink *Carduelis chloris*

Four days with records, mainly in the coastal scrubs.

Goldfinch Steglits *Carduelis carduelis*

Rather common and widespread, a flock of c. 50 in the gardens of Xinaliq 5/10.

Linnet Hämpling *Carduelis cannabina*

Common around Xinaliq 5/10 and also seen at Kizil Agach 9/10.

"Asia Minor Twite" Vinterhämpling *Carduelis flavirostris brevirostris*

4 at Xinaliq 5/10.

Hawfinch Stenknäck *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two records of single birds around Masalli 9-10/10.

Rock Bunting Klippsparv *Emberiza cia*

Fairly common in the Caucasus 5/10, along the road and around Xinaliq.

Reed Bunting Sävsparrv *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Seen at some reed beds in the south, low numbers.

Corn Bunting Kornsparrv *Emberiza calandra*

Rather common in the lowlands with c. 150 at Besh Barmag 6/10 and similar numbers in Shirvan NP 8/10.