

Turkey Bird Report 2007–2011

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(COMPILERS)

This report, covering the years 2007–2011, has been produced jointly by GMK, MÖ, ME and AA together with Kerem Ali Boyla, and is the third such to be co-edited by an Anglo-Turkish team, following the last two reports (*Sandgrouse* 25: 8–31, 30: 166–189). The increase in the number of in-country birdwatchers submitting records to the report, noted in the last two compilations, has been maintained, as has the number of records of rarities being documented photographically. This is the first such report to contain a selection of such photos; many others can be found on the Trakus website www.trakus.org. In contrast, reports from visiting foreign birdwatchers, although frequently posted on the internet, are now rarely submitted, yet these latter are still welcome.

Highlights of the present report include the first records in Turkey of the following eight species: Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*, Shikra *Accipiter badius*, Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*, Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*, Buff-bellied Pipit *A. rubescens japonicus*, Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha* (record dating from 1998) and Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*, while the first records of the following taxa, currently treated by us as subspecies, were also made (or came to light) during the period: *Sterna hirundo longipennis* (Common Tern), *Motacilla flava leucocephala* (White-headed [Yellow] Wagtail), *M. citreola calcarata* ([Black-backed] Citrine Wagtail), *Oenanthe lugens warriae* (Basalt Wheatear) and *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris* (Steppe Grey Shrike). Nevertheless, the status of the last-named is somewhat controversial: it having been variously treated as a subspecies of an expanded *L. excubitor* (as we conservatively elect to do here), of a more restricted *L. meridionalis*, or as a species in its own right, while even other treatments appear defensible (Olsson *et al* 2009). In addition, the reports of Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* presented here, documented photographically, represent the first unambiguous records in Turkey. Furthermore, additional reports of the



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.

following species—Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis* and Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*—were also received, but insufficient documentation is available to advocate their acceptance onto Turkey's bird list. The following additional records of special interest are presented here: the largest numbers of Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus* in Turkey (and the Middle East), many additional records of Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*, the 5–8th records of European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, the second to fourth records of Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*, at least two records of Corncrake *Crex crex* apparently breeding, the third to sixth records of Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, the second to fourth records of Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, the second to fourth records of Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, confirmation of a comparatively sizeable population of Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* in Southern Coastlands, the first definitive breeding record of Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*, the second records of Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*, Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* and Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, the seventh record of Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*, the third to fifth records of Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*, the first modern-day (post 1966) records of Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* and the second record of Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*.

Publication of a comprehensive avifauna (Kirwan *et al* 2008a) around the same time as the last of these reports provides a sound basis for this and future reports. We do not intend to use the Turkey Bird Report to update all facets of the book, but we note papers like that of Brehme (2011) that have provided new extreme dates for migrants, among other records, *eg* for Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* and Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. In addition, Hering & Buckley (2013) provided details of the first confirmed records of breeding by White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* and Özkan (2011) that of the first nesting record of Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, among many other novel breeding data from the montane region of Thrace.

Figure 1 shows the regions of Turkey as employed in this report. Records supported by photographic evidence are indicated by 'photo'. The following species, formerly of frequent appearance in these reports, do not appear in this compilation for a variety of reasons, as follows: Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (range and status not subject to recent refinement), Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (winter distribution well known; no summer records during the period), White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (range and status well understood), Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (status well understood, but breeding records should be documented appropriately), Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (range well known), Steppe Eagle *A. nipalensis* (breeding and winter records should be documented), Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga* (status well understood), Great Bustard *Otis tarda* (range now largely restricted to central and especially eastern areas, see Karakaş & Akarsu 2009), Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (regular passage migrant, especially in autumn, through the eastern third of the country, rarer further west), Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* (status well understood), Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyaetus* (status well known), Cyprus Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe cypriaca* (many records during the period from typical south-coast localities), Pied Wheatear *O. pleschanka* (status now largely elucidated, but definite breeding records should be documented), Red-tailed Wheatear *O. xanthopyrmyna* (breeding status well known, winter records should be documented), Iraq Babbler *Turdoides altirostris* (restricted to the Birecik region, where numbers appear to be increasing and spreading along the Euphrates) and Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* (confined to one small area of İstanbul, where up to ten birds were seen during the period).

The next report will cover the period 2012–2016 and records are now requested. Photographs for inclusion would be especially welcome. Contributors may either publish their pictures at www.trakus.org or www.ebird.org, and submit their sightings to www.

kusbank.org or www.ebird.org. These online data tools are actively managed and revised by the authors. Observers can also 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 editors or preferably by e-mail: gmkirwan@aol.com.

Caucasian Black Grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*

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 centred on slopes with substantial dwarf *Rhododendron* scrub cover below alpine herb zone (Atkinson *et al* 1995). Western limits of range remain unclear (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Many new sites recently discovered through targeted 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, which 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 Gecidi are presented.

Black Sea Coastlands: Posof: 22 May 08 (R Gül *et al*); 9 May 09 (E Çağlayan); 26 May 09 (F Akarsu). Ovit Dağı, Rize, 24 Apr 09 (K Karşıl). Araklı, Trabzon: 5, 26 Jun 09 (K Kahraman); 8 May 10 (H Kahraman).

Caspian Snowcock *Tetraogallus caspius*

Not uncommon but localised resident in montane areas (generally above 2400 m asl in summer) in eastern third of Turkey, west to main Taurus, but precise limits there unclear (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Only records away from regularly visited Sivrikaya (Black Sea Coastlands) and Demirkazık/Aladağlar (Southern Coastlands) areas are presented.

Black Sea Coastlands: Şavşat, Artvin, 2, 16 Jun 08 (E Çağlayan).

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

First recorded as recently as 1983 but now apparently regular winter visitor, usually in very small numbers, principally to western two-thirds of Turkey. Five counts exceeding 100 during the period under review are exceptional. Records from all regions, but just one each in South-East and East (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 106, 22 Feb 08 (İ Çelikoba); 2, 31 Jan 10 (K Kahraman); 4, 1 Feb 10 (A Atahan *et al*). 4, Karasu, Sakarya, 8 Feb 10 (S Bekir *et al*).

Thrace: Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul: 3, 14 Jan 07 (B Bilgen); 3, 4–9 Feb 07 (Ö Sözer *et al*; photo); 9, 6 Jan 08 (KA Boyla *et al*). Meriç delta: 11 Feb 07 (ÜN Başaran *et al*); 25, 26 Jan 08 (B Akyıldırım, E Bacak *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223); 11 Dec 08 (R Gül); 432, 30 Jan 11 (O Mülayim *et al*); 6, 10 Dec 11 (B Muhtar). İğneada, 19 Jan 09 (Ö Necipoğlu *et al*; photo).

Western Anatolia: Denizli, 18 Jan–6 Feb 10 (Ü Özgür; photo).

Southern Coastlands: Göksu delta: 20, 7–9 Jan 07 (M Ullman *et al*; *Birding World* 20: 12); 21, 20 Jan 07 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); 21 Dec 07 (R Gül). Burdur Gölü: 4, 26 Jan 08 (T Yılmaz; photo); 7, 4 Mar 09 (Ö Gürgey, T Yılmaz; photo); 22 Jan 11 (L Aktay *et al*).

Central Plateau: Hirfanlı Barajı: 102, 20 Jan 08 (B Demirci); 140, 9 Feb 08 (B Demirci *et al*); 30, 20 Dec 08 (G & H Welch); 114, 25 Jan 09 (B Demirci *et al*; photo). Sarıyar Barajı: 52, 27 Jan 08 (G Gençoğlu); 12, 2 Jan 11 (H Welch); 7, 20 Nov 11 (C Özcan). Kapulukaya Barajı,

Kirikkale, 4 Feb 08 (B Demirci; photo). 12, Mogan Gölü, 21 Dec 08 (G & H Welch, B Demirci *et al*). 2, Balıkdanı, 27 Dec 08 (G & H Welch).

East: Van Gölü, 10 Dec 10 (S Karaca photo). Second record from East.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

Vagrant. No records during the period, but more details concerning the movements of a bird (the eighth record in Turkey) that was tracked using satellite telemetry from its breeding grounds in north-central Siberia to the Middle East, and which briefly passed through eastern Turkey in late autumn 2006 (see Kirwan *et al* 2008b), have been published recently (Romanov & Pospelov 2010).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Rare winter visitor to western two-thirds of Turkey, with fewer than 70 records since 1966, exceptionally in very large numbers.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 26 Jan 10 (M Erturhan; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186). 5, Sarıkum, Sinop, 16 Feb 10 (F Karahan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186).

Thrace: Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul: 3, 6 Jan 08 (S Kendir; photo) with 2 still present, 10 Jan 08 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223); 4, 27 Jan 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

Western Anatolia: Gediz delta, 17 Feb 08 (Z Kurnuç; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186).

Central Plateau: Ankara Ovası, 8 Mar 08 (B Demirci; photo).

East: 5, Kuyucuk Gölü, Kars, 28 Apr 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223); exceptionally late.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Local breeder in moderate numbers in lowland wetlands of Southern Coastlands, and in tiny numbers at some wetlands on Central Plateau and in East, where seemingly almost extinct. Mainly a summer visitor but has overwintered. Status uncertain in peripheral localities. During period considered here, almost restricted to single location.

Southern Coastlands: Göksu delta: 3, 14 May 07 (KM Olsen *et al*); 17 May 07 (G Magnin); 5 Jul 07 (S Bekir); 16, 23 Sep 07 (E Opperman); 10 including 8 chicks, 12 May 08 (M Langman *et al*); 7, 17 Apr 09 (R Gül); 5, 11 May 09 (M Langman *et al*); 3, 12–28 May 09; 10+ including 2 chicks, 7 Jun 09 (P Alfrey, D Spittle); 3, 1 Jul 09 (U Yörükoğlu); 6, 15 Apr 10 (R Gül); 2, 23 Apr 10 (S Özgünlü); 10 May 10 (M Langman *et al*); 20 Jun 10 (Ö Necipoğlu); 9 May 11 (M Langman *et al*); 4, 10 May 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 2, 26 May 11 (KA Boyla); 2, 1 Sep 11; 8, 4 Sep 11 (G Güven).

East: near Edremit, Van Gölü, 2 Jul 08 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 99).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Uncommon winter visitor, principally to coasts, in western two-thirds of the country. Rarely inland, but recorded twice in East in spring. Status recently reviewed by Karakaş (2008). However, records from South-East and East require documentation, in order to more effectively establish this species' presence in those regions, and those records listed from South-East and East here should be regarded as unproven for now.

Black Sea Coastlands: 7, Rize harbour, 5 Jan 08 (Ü Öztürk; Karakaş 2008). 6, Yeşilırmak delta, 19 Jan 08 (N Yavuz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where erroneously stated to have involved seven birds). Sarıkum, Sinop: 6, 16 Apr 95 (Karakaş 2008), has not previously been mentioned in these reports; 3, 20 Jan 09; 20 Mar 09 (F Karahan). Filyos delta, Zonguldak: 2, 1 Feb 09 (A Atahan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 31: 219); 26 Jan 10 (M Erturhan). 21, Bartın, 1 Mar 09 (V

Çukadar, M Uyan). Kızılırmak delta: 28 Nov 93; 17 Feb 02 (Karakaş 2008), have not previously been mentioned in these reports; 5, 15 Mar 09 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 219). Karasu, Sakarya, 4 (3 females, 1 male), 31 Jan 10 (M Bozdoğan *et al*); 2, 24 Nov 11 (B Bilgen).

Thrace: Meriç delta, 26 Jan 08 (B Akyıldırım, E Bacak *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223). Several, İğneada, Feb 09 (A Karataş). Hersek lagoon, Yalova: 4, 9 Jan 10 (F Bülbül); up to 2, 30 Jan–6 Feb 10 (T Gözükar, AS Gökçe). Up to 6, Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul, 24–30 Jan 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo). Kiyıköy, Vize, 30 Jan 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

South-East: Female, Kabaklı Barajı, 30 Nov 06 (Karakaş 2008), has not previously been mentioned in these reports. Cınar-Göksu Barajı: 5, 5 Nov 98; 7, 22 Apr 99 (Karakaş 2008; note correction to numbers and dates in Kirwan *et al* 2003). Bismil: male, 11 Mar 03; 2 males, 1 female, 5 Jan 04; 2 males, 3 females, 19 Jan 04 (Karakaş 2008), have not previously been mentioned in these reports.

East: 3, Erciş, Van Gölü, 28 Mar 10 (A Ertan). 3, Çakırbey Köyü, Van Gölü, 28 Mar 10 (A Ertan).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Previously considered a vagrant (Kirwan *et al* 2008), but perhaps best regarded as a scarce and local visitor to northern coasts. Tenth to 24th records in Turkey, although some duplication might be involved. 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). Photos appear to confirm that the subspecies involved in Turkey is nominate *mollissima*.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: male, 21 Apr 07 (photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); male, 18–19 Aug 07 (photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 17, 19; Kirwan *et al* 2008a); 2 females, 25 Aug 08 (N Yavuz *et al*; photo); 2, 17 Aug–20 Sep 09 (H Firat; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 26 Feb 10 (A Atahan *et al*). İzmit bay, 6 Oct 07 (B Bilgen, E Yoğurtçuoğlu; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19; erroneously listed as 7 Oct in Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Karasu, Sakarya: 3 (1 male, 2 females), 20 Jan 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223); 2 Mar 08 (B Bilgen); 8 (4 males, 4 females), 31 Jan 10 (S Kendir). Riva, İstanbul: 2 males, 31 Jan–30 May 09 (O Mülayim *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 31: 219); male, 10 Jan–14 Jun 10 (KA Boyla, E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo); 19 Nov 10 (B Bilgen); male, 16 Jan 11 (O Mülayim); male, 3–6 Feb 11 (A Karataş *et al*; photo); 8 May 11 (C Gezin); male, 19 Sep 11 (KA Boyla, GM Kirwan *et al*); 19 Nov 11 (B Bilgen).

Thrace: İğneada: female, 27 Jan 10 (Ö Necipoğlu; photo); 2 (female and first-year male), 10–11 Feb 10 (M Bozdoğan *et al*; photo). Female, Karaburun, İstanbul, 19 Dec 11 (A Shuttleworth).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Vagrant, apparently now annual. The 11–17th records in Turkey. Recorded four times in spring/summer on Van Gölü (East); all other records in winter between mid Nov and late Mar (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Black Sea Coastlands: 2 females, Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 24 Mar 08 (T Tozsın *et al*; photo).

Thrace: İğneada: female, 18 Nov 07 (S Bekir *et al*; photo); adult female, 17–19 Jan 08 (B Bilgen *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where date erroneously stated to be 16 Jan). Kiyıköy, Vize: male, 13 Feb 08 (S Kendir, Ö Necipoğlu; photo); first-year male, 10–26 Dec 08 (S Kendir *et al*; photo); first-year male, 18 Jan–14 Mar 09 (Ö Necipoğlu *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). Meriç delta, 28 Mar 09 (Ö Necipoğlu *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 219).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon and slightly irregular winter visitor, mainly to northern Turkey, especially Black Sea Coastlands and Thrace, with more occasional records in Western Anatolia and Southern Coastlands.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak: female, 18–31 Jan 09 (M Erturhan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 219, where listed only for first date); 2, 1 Feb 09 (A Atahan); 9–28 Mar 09; 4 Apr 09 (M Erturhan). Male and female, Karasu, Sakarya, 31 Jan 10 (M Bozdoğan *et al.*). 6, Kızılırmak delta, 22 Feb 08 (N Yavuz *et al.*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where erroneously stated to have involved 7 birds).

Thrace: Terkos Gölü, 7 Feb 10 (M Bozdoğan *et al.*). 2, Sultanahmet, İstanbul, 29 May 11 (J Lyles); exceptionally late.

Western Anatolia: 2, Gediz delta, 10 Feb 08 (O Gül *et al.*). 30, off Köyceğiz, Dalyan, 29 Oct 10 (J Lyles).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very local summer visitor, occasionally in large numbers, to East. Perhaps mainly a non-breeder, but known to nest on four high-altitude lakes. Otherwise a winter visitor, in small to moderate numbers, to Black sea coast and sea of Marmara. Recorded inland on Central Plateau and in Southern Coastlands in winter, and in summer in Black Sea Coastlands (Kirwan *et al.* 2008a). *In lieu* of rapid declines in this species' populations, which have led BirdLife International to consider it endangered, we have elected to list all records known to us in the period.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 16 Nov 08 (KA Boyla; photo); 2, 1 Aug 09 (K Erciyas *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 2, 28 Aug 09 (K Erciyas). 4, Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 16 Mar 11 (KA Boyla).

Thrace: Terkos Gölü: 2, 22 Feb 09 (O Mülayim *et al.*; *Sandgrouse* 31: 219); 2, 1 Mar 09 (H Yenicali). İğneada: 31 Jan 10 (M Özen *et al.*); female, 10–11 Feb 10 (M Boğazdan *et al.*; photo); female, 26 Mar 10 (Ö Necipoğlu; photo).

East: 4, Aygır Gölü, Kars, 22 Jun 08 (F Akarsu; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). 2, Aralık marshes, 13 Jan 08 (Ö Cırık *et al.*).

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: female, Uzungöl, Trabzon, 5 Feb 2010 (M Fidan; photo).

Thrace: Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul: 17 Jan 10 (N Aktan); 28 Jan 10 (E Yoğurtcuoğlu); male, 8 Feb 10 (A Karatas); 20 Feb 10 (M Özen; photo). 6 (3 males, 3 females), Meriç delta, 30 Jan 11 (O Mülayim *et al.*).

Western Anatolia: 2, Büyük Menderes delta, 29 Jan 11 (O Gül *et al.*).

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 central and eastern Black sea coast (Hales 1996, Welch & Welch 1998). Has occurred inland in summer in East.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 2, 22 Feb 08 (İ Çelikoba; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where erroneously stated to have involved 65 birds); 24, 23 Feb 08 (İ Çelikoba). Kurupelit, Samsun:

2, 13 Jan 09 (K Erciyas; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220); 31 Dec 09 (K Erciyas *et al*). Sinop: 30 Jan–27 Feb 09; 12 Mar 09; 19 Jan 10 (S Bilgin). Filyos delta, Zonguldak 6–9 Mar 09 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 220). Abana, Kastamonu, 28 Mar 09 (N Aktan). Akçakoca, Düzce, 1–2 Jan 10 (M Erturhan, T Tozsın; photo). Sakarya delta, 8 Feb 10 (S Bekir *et al*). Sarıkum Gölü, Sinop, 5 Mar 11 (S Bekir *et al*).

Thrace: İğneada: 16 Jan 08 (A Ertan); 30–31 Jan 10 (M Özen *et al*; photo). Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul, 5–8 Dec 09 (F Can *et al*; photo). Terkos Gölü, Karaburun, 26 Dec 09 (E Bacak *et al*).

Western Anatolia: Tuzla, Balıkesir, 31 Dec 07–2 Jan 08 (Ö Necipoğlu; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where listed only for 1 Jan 08). İzmir bay, 9 Feb 09 (Ö Kulaçoğlu; photo).

Southern Coastlands: Tuzla, Çukurova deltas, 22 Feb 10 (F Toper). Konyaaltı, Antalya 18 Apr 10 (M Mert).

East: Todurge Gölü, near Erzincan, 16 Jul 2003 (B Granit, R Mizrachi, I Tsurim; photo) has not previously been mentioned in these reports. Second inland record.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce winter visitor, with c25 records, mainly in the northwest of the country. A published record from Bafa Gölü in Jan 07 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 100) represents an unprecedented count in Turkey but is unacceptable without documentation. A record from South-East, in Apr 1999, mentioned in Kirwan *et al* (2008a), is unacceptable without documentation.

Thrace: Sarıyer, İstanbul, 6 Jan 09 (G Fisher). 2, Maltepe, İstanbul, 19 Dec 10 (F Toper).

Central Plateau: Sarıyer Barajı, 27 Jan 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223).

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Vagrant. Fifth to eighth records for Turkey, and the first for nearly 20 years (1992). Previous records are all from Mar–Apr (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Western Anatolia: 2, Tekağaç Burnu, Aydın, 6 Aug 10 (Ö Necipoğlu; photo). Kuşadası, Aydın, 15 Aug 10 (R Onmuş). 3, Foça Yarımadası, 3 Oct 10 (K Kurlangıç). Gökova bay, off Köyceğiz, 12 May 11 (J Lyles).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

Hypothetical. Second claimed record, involving one following a flock of Yelkouan Shearwaters *P. yelkouan* observed from a ferry at quite close range. We consider that fuller details and preferably photos are needed to fully document this species' occurrence in Turkey.

Western Anatolia: Bozcaada, 10 Jul 09 (M Özen).

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Irregular visitor offshore along Mediterranean coast in winter and spring, with occasional records in autumn. Recently recorded in the Black sea in winter. Perhaps still under-recorded. Almost all records involve immatures.

Thrace: 2, Kadıköy, İstanbul, 7 May 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223).

Southern Coastlands: Karataş, Tarsus delta: 19 Jan 07; 4, 21 Jan 07; 3, 30 Jan 07; 2, 1 Feb 07 (E Yoğurtcuoğlu *et al*); 10 Sep 07 (Ö Üner); 24 Jan 10 (R Gül); 22 Feb 10 (F Toper). 11, Kazanlı, Mersin, 31 Dec 07 (M Erturhan, M Özen). Milleyha, Samandağ: 3, 17 Nov 07; 29 Dec 07; 2, 1 Jan 08; 3 Jan 08; 6 Jan 08; 9 Jan 08; 23 Feb 08; 31 Mar 08; 11 Dec 08; 1–6 Jan 11; 2,



Plate 1. Immature Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*, Göksu delta, Southern Coastlands, Turkey, 10 May 2011. © Ayhan Öztürk



Plate 2. Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*, Gediz delta, Western Anatolia, Turkey, 30 April 2011. © Zafer Kurnuç

23 Apr 11 (A & M Atahan *et al.*). 2, Çevlik, Hatay, 1 Jan 08 (M Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223). 4, Lara beach, Antalya, 28 Mar 09 (M Özen, Ö Sözüer). Göksu delta: 22 Feb 10 (S Karabiyik); 4, 29 Mar 10 (M Bozdoğan, E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al.*).

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Vagrant. First record for Turkey and northernmost ever.

Southern Coastlands: 2 immatures, Göksu delta, 10 May 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al.*; photo; Plate 1; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

First record, but status uncertain. Presumably same bird photographed on two different dates at same place, quite close to most popular zoo in the region. Local villagers had seen the bird previously. However, the zoo managers confirmed that none of their three birds had escaped, and no other zoos or wildlife parks in Turkey are known to hold the species.

Western Anatolia: Darica, Kocaeli: 11 Aug 10 (M Zenginer); 21 Aug 10 (A Daban).

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

Vagrant. Second to fourth records for Turkey, with all of those at Gediz delta treated as the same individual based on photos; the first was in Apr 2006 on Central Plateau (Kirwan *et al.* 2008a).

Western Anatolia: Gediz delta: 30–31 Jan 09 (Ö Döndüren *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220, where listed only for first date); 7 Jan–6 Feb 10 (O Bulut *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186, where listed only for 24 Jan); 8 Jan–30 Apr 11 (Z Kurnuç *et al.*; photo; Plate 2; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208, where listed only for last date).

Central Plateau: Kulu Gölü: 3 Jun 09 (B Kabor, Z Berenyi; photo); 22–27 Apr 11 (S Olofson *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Previously considered only a vagrant, with 12 records prior to the period under review (Shirihai *et al.* 2000, Kirwan *et al.* 2003), but speculation that the species is about to colonise southeast Turkey (Karakaş 2012) appears set to be fulfilled, with the first breeding record in spring 2013. Most, if not all, recent records have involved the subspecies *E. c. vociferus*.

The species has also recently colonised parts of Iraq (Salim 2002) and Iran (Scott & Adhami 2006, Sehhatiasabet *et al* 2006), has started to breed in northern Israel (Perlman & Israeli 2013) and is apparently extending its range in Arabia.

Thrace: Toygartepe, İstanbul, 24 Sep 09 (H Balıkçı; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101).

Western Anatolia: Küçükdere, near Denizli, 16 Feb 11 (C Schubert; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208). Only second record for region, following that in 1968 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Southern Coastlands: 2, Antalya Yamansız, 12 Apr 1998 (Erdoğan *et al* 2002 in Karakaş 2012), has not previously been mentioned in these reports. Göksu delta, 25 Dec 10–1 Jan 11 (M Demirtaş *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90; 208). Subaşı, Antakya, 12–14 Dec 11 (M Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

South-East: Between Diyarbakır and Bingöl, 18 Apr 09 (Karakaş 2012). Between Bismil and Silvan, 13 May 09 (R Mungan; Karakaş 2012). 2, Nizip and Karkamış, 6–15 Nov 10 (F İzler *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90). Kızıltepe, Mardin, 18 Dec 10 (S Ağırcan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90). Bismil, 26 Feb 11 (D Cirano; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208). Adıyaman airport, 23 Apr 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208). Şanlıurfa, 27 Apr 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208). Bozova, Urfa, 19 May 11 (E Yogurtcuoglu; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208). 2, Harran, 12 Aug 11 (B Bilgen *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105). Correction: record (from Diyarbakır) previously attributed to 6 May 99 (Kirwan *et al* 2003, Kirwan *et al* 2008a) was in fact made on 28 Mar 98 (Karakaş 2012).

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: Kızılırmak delta, 27 Apr 07 (N Yavuz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19). Borçka, 29 Sep 07 (B Willaert).

Thrace: Iğneada, 29 Oct 07 (A Ertan). Edirne, Keşan, 6 Sep 07 (Ö Üner)

Southern Coastlands: Hacılar Köyü, Burdur, 5 Feb 11 (S Özgünlü, G Sinan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Central Plateau: Esenboğa airport, Ankara, 2 May 11 (E Yoğurtcuoğlu; photo; Plate 3; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

East: Tuzluca, Iğdır, 10 Apr 07 (Y Şaşmaz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19). Kuyucuk Gölü, 10 Sep 08 (S Bilgin, D Hegedüs).

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Vagrant. First record. Smith (2012) also mentioned that falconers in the Hopa area claimed to have trapped another individual of this species c40 years ago.

Black Sea Coastlands: c4 km east of Hopa, Artvin, early Sep 06 (Smith 2012; photo).



Plate 3. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Esenboğa airport, Ankara, Central Plateau, Turkey, 2 May 2011. © Emin Yoğurtcuoğlu

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor in small (but perhaps increasing) numbers to Black Sea Coastlands, Thrace, Western Anatolia and Central Plateau. Recently recorded in Southern Coastlands and even more recently in East; only records from the last two regions are presented here.

Southern Coastlands: Isparta, 14 Apr 07 (O Gül). Burdur Gölü, 2 Mar 10 (Ö Sözüer *et al*).

East: Tuzluca, Iğdır, 4 Apr 07 (Y Şaşmaz *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19). Erzurum, 16 Mar 11 (E Bayraktar).

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

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.

Western Anatolia: Güllük delta: 3–20 Jan 07; 18 Feb 07; 17 Dec 07 (BW Stoneman). 2, Ortakent, 10 Jan 07. Gediz delta: 4 Nov 07; 17 Jan 08 (Ö Döndüren). Çiğli, 21 Dec 08 (O Bilge). Bafa Gölü: 20 Mar 08; 26 Mar 08 (J Pels); 13 Sep 09; 1 Nov 09 (U Yörükoğlu). Köyceğiz, Dalyan: 18 Oct 09; 15 Nov 09 (J Lyles). Mudanya, 5 Feb 10 (F Arıcı). Azap Gölü: 7 Feb 10; 27 Oct 10 (BW Stoneman). Priene, 3 May 10 (L Gardella).

Southern Coastlands: Amanos Dağları, 15 Sep 11 (A Atahan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

South-East: Second-calendar-year, Narince, Adıyaman, 23 May 07 (KM Olsen *et al*).

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Precise status remains uncertain, but we list only those records that amplify our current knowledge of the species' occurrence in Turkey. Widely recorded on passage throughout; probably more common than records suggest. May breed very locally in small numbers.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 19 Nov 08 (M Erturhan). Kızılırmak delta, 15 Mar 09 (N Yavuz *et al*). Unusually late and early records, respectively.

Western Anatolia: Kumkale delta, Çanakkale, 6 Mar 11 (İ Sevim). Earliest-ever record.

Southern Coastlands: 2, Milleyha, Samandağ, Hatay, 22 Nov 08 (A Atahan *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). Second-latest record in autumn.

East: Aras ringing station, Kars, 12 Apr–18 May 07 (Y Şaşmaz *et al*). Ömekköy, Hakkâri, 30 May 11 (S Cavaillès). Records suggestive of breeding (see Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

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. Presumed to breed very locally in small numbers.

Thrace: Meriç delta, 14 Aug 08 (O Mülayim *et al*). Juvenile, Mert Gölü, Iğneada, 31 Jul 09 (Özkan 2011; photo).

Western Anatolia: Güllük delta, Muğla, 26 Apr 07 (BW Stoneman; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19). Kumkale delta, Çanakkale: 2, 10 Mar 11; 9 Apr 11; 7 May 11 (E Şengül).

Southern Coastlands: Boğazkent, Antalya, 9 Mar 08 (H Karaardıç); juvenile, 26 Aug 11 (B Ercumen). 20 km east of Alanya, 27 Apr 09 (D Robel, GP Schulze).

Central Plateau: Mogan Gölü, 18–19 Apr 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo).

East: Aralık marshes, Iğdır, 12 Sep 07 (Y Şaşmaz *et al*).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Status uncertain. Breeding proven twice in extreme northeast (Green 1997, Kirwan *et al* 2003) and suspected further west in Black Sea Coastlands and in East (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). During the period, singing males were heard during breeding period at two different localities in Black Sea Coastlands. Rarely but widely recorded on passage throughout; probably more common than records suggest. Two winter records during period.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak: 19 May 08 (J Tavares; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223); 17 Oct 08 (M Erturhan). Sinop, 29 Sep 08 (F Şahin; photo). 10, Abana, Kastamonu, 29 Sep 08 (N Aktan). Kızılırmak delta, 27 Sep 08 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 100); 5 Oct 08 (E Eser *et al*). Sivrikaya, 17 May 09 (Z Berenyi). Samsun, 15 Aug 09 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 101). Yeniçağa Gölü: 19 May 10 (E Yogurtçuoğlu); up to 15 singing males, May–Jul 2011 (R Gül, E Yogurtçuoğlu). Of, Trabzon, 8 Sep 10 (B Bilgen). 2, Kastamonu, 29 May 11 (E Yogurtçuoğlu).

Thrace: Iğneada: 25 Sep 07, 13 Jan 10 (A Ertan); latter is second-ever winter record in Turkey (see Central Plateau). Terkos Gölü, 28 Sep 08 (S Bilgin *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Western Anatolia: Dobruca, Bursa, 22 Sep 10 (F Arıcı). Ayvalık, 5 Nov 11 (M Soydaş; photo). Latter is latest-ever record in autumn in Turkey.

Southern Coastlands: Antakya, 9 May 09 (M Atahan *et al*). Subaşı, Hatay, 29 Apr 10 (O Gül). Antalya, 2 Sep 10 (B Göçmen; photo).

Central Plateau: Mogan Gölü, 5 Oct 08 (K Öge; photo). Akkaya Barajı, Niğde, 22 Dec 08 (*per* F Akarsu). Latter is first winter record in Turkey (see also Thrace).

South-East: Karkamış, 10 Oct 09 (A Atahan *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101).

East: Aras ringing station, Iğdır: 20 Apr 07; 25 Apr 07; trapped and ringed, 9 Sep 07; trapped and ringed, 7 Oct 07 (Y Şaşmaz; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19). 5, Posof, 28 May 09 (C Şekercioğlu; photo).

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*

Rare and very local summer visitor to East, with two winter records (both recent). On passage occurs in larger numbers on Central Plateau and in East, occasionally west to sea of Marmara. Records (all of migrants) away from well-known breeding site in Bulanık area are presented.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak: 3, 17 Mar 09; 41, 31 Aug 10 (M Erturhan). 4, Kızılırmak delta, 23 May 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223).

Central Plateau: Ankara Ovası: 10, 16 Aug 08 (R Gül; photo); 48, 21 Mar 09 (C Ateş; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220). 4, Hirfanlı Barajı, 12 Apr 09 (B Demirci). Kulu Gölü: 4–5 Jun 10 (E Vardar, A Erdal *et al*; photo); 9, 7 Sep 10 (G Güven). 6, Tersakan Gölü, Konya, 10 Apr 11 (B Bilgen). 2, Sultan marshes, 16–20 Apr 11 (M Ünlü *et al*; photo).

East: Erçek Gölü, 6 Apr 08 (Ş Esin). Arpaçay Barajı, Kars, 1 Jan 10 (KH Yılmaz; photo); second winter record in Turkey. 6, Idil, 26 Apr 11 (O Nilsson, M Tholin). 4, Kuyucuk Gölü, Kars, 22–23 May 11 (D Occhiato; *Birding World* 24: 238).

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. Apparently a passage migrant to Black Sea Coastlands in autumn, where regularly recorded. 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: 2 İzmit bay, 15 Apr 2008 (B Bilgen). Female/non-breeding male, Riva, İstanbul, 9 Nov 09 (Ö Furtun *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101). Female/non-breeding male, Sürmene, Trabzon, 15 Nov 09 (K Kahraman *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101). Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 26 Jan 10; 7 Nov 11 (M Erturhan; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186, 34: 105). Kızılırmak delta, 2 Feb 10 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 186). Female/non-breeding male, Ordu, 10 Nov 10 (A Karataş; photo). Female/non-breeding male, Rize, 26 Oct 10 (M Genç; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90).

Southern Coastlands: Göksu delta, 7 Feb 10 (Z Beşikçi; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186).

Central Plateau: Sarıyar Barajı, 1 Sep 09 (F Akarsu).

East: Muş Ovası including Bulanık: male, 21 May 08 (M Özbek; photo); 22 May 08 (Ş Esin); male, 23 May 09 (A Öztürk; photo); 5, 6 Jun 09 (C Şekercioğlu).

Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor*

Generally scarce and local but increasingly recorded summer visitor (breeding confirmed) to South-East and parts of Southern Coastlands. Recorded in autumn in East, and very large numbers recorded at this season in South-East.

South-East: Şanlıurfa Bozkırları: 4, 17–20 May 08 (A Atahan *et al*); 29 May 08 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*); 4 Jun 08 (S Bekir *et al*); 40, 29 Jun 08 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100, where incorrectly stated to be 30 Jun); 35, 14 Jul 08 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 100); 5, 19–21 Jul 08; 5, 27 May 09 (A Atahan *et al*); 3, 16 Jul 09 (U Yörükoğlu); 4, 21 Jul 09; 4, 21 Sep 09 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 101). Ceylanpınar: 6, 12 Oct 07 (Biricik 2009); 128, 6 Aug 09 (T Emri, R Vanyı; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 2, 27 Sep 10; 19, 28 Sep 10; 4, 30 Sep 10; 38, 1 Oct 10 (M Erturhan). Birecik: 1 May 08 (F Akarsu); 15 May 08 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 2, 9 Jul 08 (Ş Esin); 2, 17 May 09 (T Çetin *et al*); 5, 30 May 10 (F İzler); 5 Jul 11 (P Gündoğdu); 10 Sep 11 (Ö Kulaç *et al*). 3, Kızılıkuyu, 11 Sep 09 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu). 2, Suruç, 4 Jun 11 (B Bilgen). Harran Ovası: 18, 12 Aug 11; 3, 13 Aug 11; 4, 14 Aug 11 (B Bilgen).

Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus*

Vagrant. Eleventh and twelfth records for Turkey.

Southern Coastlands: Kaldırım, Çukurova deltas, 8 Apr 10 (R Martin; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186, where stated to have been seen on 19 Apr). Göksu delta, 28 Apr 11 (Z Beşikçi *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Passage migrant, found locally in considerable numbers on Central Plateau, typically 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: Riva, İstanbul: 6, 21 Mar–8 Apr 09 (A Çoban *et al*; photo); 21–22 Mar 10 (A Çoban *et al*; photo); 8 Dec 10 (S Şevkioglu); 2, 15–29 Mar 11 (S Kızılkaya *et al*; photo); 2, 10–23 Apr 11 (D & T Geçit *et al*; photo). Saltukova, Zonguldak, 16 Sep 09 (photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101). 2, Kızılırmak delta, 29 Sep 09 (Ö Sağlam; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101). Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 23 Oct 10 (M Erturhan *et al*; photo).

Thrace: 2, Kumburgaz, 27 Aug 09 (F Can; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101). 7, Sarıyer, 24 Apr 11 (S Bilgin *et al*).

Southern Coastlands: 2, Anamur, 1–2 Apr 10 (N Tez *et al*; photo).

Central Plateau: Kulu Gölü: 2, 14 Oct 07 (R Gül *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); 206, 23 Mar 08 (G Welch; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223); 14, 12 Oct 08 (B Demirci, K Özkan *et al*; photo);

Sandgrouse 31: 100); 11, 28 Mar 10 (A Atahan *et al.*). Cihanbeyli: 5, 20 Oct 07 (F Akarsu *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); 9, 29 Oct 07 (R Gül; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); 70, 17 Apr 10 (B Demirci *et al.*); 100, 1 Apr 11; 71, 3 Apr 11 (A Karataş; photo). 2, Ankara Ovası, 27 Dec 08 (O Karacasu). 5, Kadınhanı, 14 Nov 10 (C Bilgin).

South-East: 23, Ceylanpınar, 24 Mar 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Vagrant. Third to sixth records.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 1 Oct 09 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 186); 26–28 Sep 11 (N Yavuz *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

Southern Coastlands: Tuzla Gölü, 20 May 11 (R Amiet, P Frara, T Luthi; photo; Plate 4), has been accepted by the Swiss rarities committee.

East: Kuyucuk Gölü, Kars, 8 Oct 11 (S Bekir *et al.*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

Sociable Plover *Vanellus gregarius*

Passage migrant and perhaps also winter visitor in large numbers to small area in South-East, where only discovered in early 2007 (*Sandgrouse* 29: 97–98), with significant percentage of global population probably occurring there and in adjacent Syria. Additionally, recorded very rarely in spring in Black Sea Coastlands, Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands and Central Plateau, and in autumn in eastern Black Sea Coastlands, Western Anatolia and East, with very large numbers (perhaps most of world population) now confirmed to move through eastern third of country. For a historical review of the species' status see Kasperek (1992). No records between 1996 and 2001 inclusive.

South-East: Ceylanpınar: 250, 5 Mar 07; 615, 6 Mar 07; 1017, 7 Mar 07 (S Bekir, K Özkan *et al.*); 737, 9 Mar 07; 203; 10 Mar 07; 78, 11 Mar 07; 223, 12 Mar 07; 140, 13 Mar 07 (M Bozdoğan *et al.*); 1810, 12 Oct 07; 3200, 13 Oct 07 (Biricik 2009); 871, 12 Mar 08; 820, 13 Mar 08; 201, 14 Mar 08 (M Biricik *et al.*); 100, 1 Mar 08 (A Atahan *et al.*); 58, 27 Sep 10; 783, 28 Sep 10; 45, 1 Oct 10 (M Erturhan); 652, 14 Oct 10 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 90, where it is erroneously stated that 6612 birds were seen in eastern Turkey during this period). Akçakale: 300, 1 Mar 08; 156, 8 Mar 08; 34, 7 Mar 09; 55, 11 Mar 10 (A Atahan, B Bilgen, Ş Esin *et al.*; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186). 48, Bismil Ovası, Diyarbakır, 9 Mar 07 (M Biricik *et al.*).



Plate 4. A Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Tuzla Gölü, Southern Coastlands, Turkey, 20 May 2011. © Thomas Luthi

East: 105, Malazgirt–Muş, 12 Oct 08 (S Bekir; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). Erzurum Ovası: 24, 20 Oct 07 (E Çoban); 4, 25 Sep 09 (O Mülâyim); 38, 26 Sep 10 (A Karataş *et al*); 30 Sep 10 (B Öztürk); 20, 1 Oct 10; 22 Sep 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*).

White-tailed Plover *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 (1992).

Central Plateau: 2, Tuz Gölü, 20 Oct 07 (F Akarsu *et al*).

South-East: Hancağız Barajı, Nizip, 22 Apr 08 (F İzler; photo). Dicle river, Diyarbakır, 1 Apr 11 (S Kaya; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

East: Erzurum Ovası, 28 Apr 08 (C Sevindi; photo). Kuyucuk Gölü, 1 May 08 (F Orbay; photo).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Vagrant. First record in Turkey and only the third in the Middle East, following those in Cyprus (December 2009: Roberts 2011) and Oman (November 1987: Eriksen & Sargeant 2000).

Southern Coastlands: 2, Göksü delta, 23 May 2011 (P Kennerley *et al*).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Vagrant. The second to fifth records; the first was in May 2005 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a,b).

Thrace: adult, Gala Gölü, 8–9 Oct 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo; Plate 5; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90).

Southern Coastlands: 2 adults, Yumurtalık, Adana, 6 Oct 08 (S Bekir; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Central Plateau: juvenile, Kozanlı Gökgöl, 20 Sep 08 (G Welch; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). Kulu Gölü, 4 Oct 08 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 108); we lack any information concerning this record and would welcome full details.

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).

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 31 May 08 (K Erciyas *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223);

27–28 Apr 11 (M Demir; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208); 11 May 11 (ÖÜ Özkoç; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208, where erroneously stated to be on 13 May); 27 Sep 11 (KA Boyla *et al*). Sazköy, Zonguldak, 4 May 09 (T Tozsın *et al*; photo).

Western Anatolia: Uluabat Gölü, 12 May 07 (Ö Döndüren).



Plate 5. Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Gala Gölü, Thrace, Turkey, 9 October 2010. © Ayhan Öztürk

Central Plateau: Mogan Gölü: 9 Aug 09 (H Uzun; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 29 Apr 10 (H Welch); 6 Sep 10 (G Güven); 18 Apr 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu). Çöl Gölü, 2 Apr 11 (B Demirci). Akkaya Barajı, Niğde: 16 May 08 (M Langman *et al*); 24 Apr 09 (A Karataş; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220); 13 May 10 (M Langman *et al*).

East: Aras ringing station, Kars: 17–27 Apr 07; 16 May 07 (Y Şaşmaz, Ç Şekercioğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19); 25 Sep 08 (M Özen; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Previously listed as a vagrant, but probably a rare passage migrant, with more than 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: Boğazi, İstanbul, 15 Sep 07 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 19). Immature, Karaburun, İstanbul, 31 Dec 10–2 Jan 11 (S Bekir; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Western Anatolia: Kuşadası, 31 May 07 (O Onmuş *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 19).

Southern Coastlands: Kundu, Antalya, 22 Mar 09 (M Özen). Millheya, Hatay, 5 Feb 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Vagrant or irregular passage migrant. Ninth to 11th records in Turkey, and the first since 1999 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Previous records have all been in May–Jun and Sep. The Dec record in 2009 is especially notable.

Thrace: İstanbul Boğazi, 29 Apr 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Black Sea Coastlands: 2 subadults, Büyük Camlica, 29 Sep 1979 (L Svensson) was incorrectly dated 23 Sep in Kirwan *et al* (2008a) and wrongly stated to have been over the Bosphorus in both Martins (1989, where dated correctly) and Kirwan *et al* (2008a).

Southern Coastlands: Mersin harbour: 21–22 Dec 09 (M Erturhan *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186); 24 Apr 10 (M Özen *et al*).

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*

Vagrant. Seventh record for Turkey, although most, including this one, lack documentation. Most previous records are from Southern Coastlands (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Southern Coastlands: Karataş, Tarsus delta, 25 Apr 11 (X Larruy, M Gil, J Bécares, A Burgas, D Carrera & M García Tarrasón).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Vagrant or scarce winter visitor. Occasionally recorded in late spring and once inland. Most records in the period probably referred to the same long-staying individual.

Thrace: Haydarpaşa harbour and nearby areas, İstanbul: 17 Jan 07 (photo); 20 Feb 08 (İ Çelikoba); 30 Oct 09 (KA Boyla; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 29–30 Dec 09 (E Bacak, A Karataş; photo); 4–5 Oct 10 (K Altan, E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 2, 13 Oct 10 (E Üç; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90); 19 Oct 10 (F Toper); 12 Sep 11 (*Sandgrouse* 34: 105); 15 Oct 11 (ÖÜ Özkoç); 5–8 Nov 11 (A Kezer, K Cem; photo).

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos delta, Zonguldak: 2, 5 Jan 09 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 220); 11 Sep 11 (M Erturhan). Kızılırmak delta, 2 Sep 10 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 90).

Black-legged Kittiwake *Larus tridactyla*

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

Thrace: Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul, 21 Jan 07 (C Dalyan, E Kartal *et al.*). Rumelfeneri, İstanbul, 9 Nov 08 (S Kendir). Karaburun/Terkos Gölü, İstanbul: first-winter, 14 Dec 08 (KA Boyla *et al.*; photo); 12–13 Dec 10 (T Gözükar, B Bilgen; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90); 3 first-winters, 19 Nov–11 Dec 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu *et al.*; photo). Kilyos, 9 Nov 08 (İKGT).

Black Sea Coastlands: İzmit bay, 5 Nov 07 (B Bilgen). First-winter, Artvin, 2 Feb 08 (E Kaytan; photo). Kızılırmak delta, 23 Feb 08 (İ Çelikoba *et al.*); 3 May 08 (*Sandgrouse* 30: 223). First-winter, Kozlu, Zonguldak, 21 Nov 11 (T Tozsın; photo).

Western Anatolia: 4 adults, off İzmir bay, 4 Feb 08 (F Bengil; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223, where incorrectly stated to be just two birds). Adult, Gediz delta, 3 May 08 (O Gül; photo).

Southern Coastlands: adult and first-winter, Yumurtalık, Çukurova deltas, 11 May 08 (S Oruç; photo). Adult, Lara beach, Antalya, 22 Mar 09 (M Özen; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220).

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

Vagrant. Fourth record, following previous records in Southern Coastlands, in May 1973 and June 2003, and Western Anatolia in March 2004.

Southern Coastlands: Eleri beach, Kemer, east of Antalya, 26 Dec 04 (A-A Weller), has not previously been mentioned in these reports; some descriptive details provided.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo longipennis*

Nominate race is a widespread and common summer visitor and passage migrant throughout the country, albeit less numerous in Black Sea Coastlands, East and South-East, with a handful of winter records. First records of race *longipennis* in Turkey.

Black Sea Coastlands: 3, Bafra, 5 Jun 89 (JR Hough, B Lee, G Shorrock, S Smethurst), has not previously been mentioned in these reports; some descriptive details provided.

Southern Coastlands: Karataş, Çukurova deltas, 3 May 11 (O Nilsson, M Tholin; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208), is documented with photos (see also www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt-IIwaoMnA8) and a description.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

Formerly locally numerous resident in South-East, with very rare (and mainly old) records from elsewhere (Western Anatolia, Southern Coastlands, Central Plateau and East), but seemingly has been declining inexorably for at least a decade (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). All records known to us are listed.

South-East: Urfa Ovası: 2, 19 May 08 (A Atahan); 6, 4 Jun 08 (S Bekir); 6, 29 Jun 08 (A Atahan); up to 7, 14–19 Jul 08 (A Atahan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100); 9 Jun 09 (C Şekercioğlu); 3 Jul 09 (T Çetin); 2, 17 Jul 09 (U Yörükoğlu); 21 Jul 09 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 32: 101); 3, 11 Sep 09 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu); 2, 11 Mar 10 (Ş Esin; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186); 2, 30 Jul 11 (H Meşe). Harran Ovası: 35, 12 Aug 11; 7, 13 Aug 11 (B Bilgen).

Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

Vagrant; previously considered hypothetical (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). The first and second records.

Western Anatolia: *S. o. meena*, Ayvalık, Balıkesir, 12 Jan–6 Feb 11 (M Kutluk *et al*; photo; Plate 6; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Black Sea Coastlands: Yeşilırmak delta, 7 Feb 11 (N Yavuz; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

Vagrant. The second to fourth records, following the first in May 2005 (*Sandgrouse* 27: 164; Kirwan *et al* 2008a), with additional reports received in 2012. Although the species is kept as cagebird in Turkey, the recent records are coincident with expansion observed elsewhere in Middle East.

Black Sea Coastlands: female, Sinop, 23 May–2 Jun 08 (S Bilgin; photo).

Central Plateau: sex uncertain, Çukurbağ, Niğde, 13 May 10 (M Langman).

South-East: male, Birecik, 21 Jun 09 (P Gündoğdu, S Sabırlı; photo; Plate 7).

Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*

Until very recently status was considered to be largely uncertain; the continued presence of a small population in forested lowlands by rivers in Southern Coastlands was reconfirmed in late 2004 (Yöntem 2007) and subsequently (since June 2009) at several different sites by van den Berg *et al* (2010). Additional surveys (by S Bekir) have since confirmed breeding at more than ten localities in the vicinity of Antalya, Mersin and Adana, with more than one pair being regularly seen at Oymapınar Barajı (Albegger 2011).

Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*

Presumably resident in montane coniferous forest over much of the northern half of the country, but just one definite nesting record (in 2010). Full details of a winter record in the Taurus mountains have never been



Plate 6. Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis meena*, Ayvalık, Balıkesir, Western Anatolia, Turkey, January 2011. © Yasemin Can



Plate 7. Male Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*, Birecik, South-East, Turkey, 21 June 2009. © Soner Sabırlı



Plate 8. Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*, Uludağ, Bursa, Western Anatolia, 27 July 2010. © Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu

submitted. Potentially, both *A. f. funereus* and *A. f. caucasicus* occur in the country (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Eleventh to 15th records.

Black Sea Coastlands: heard, Unye, 5 Jun 10 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 90). 5, Bolu, 11 Jun 10 (M Atay; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90). 4, Sivrikaya, Ikizdere, 13 Dec 10 (E Yogurtcuoglu, S Eksioglu; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90, where erroneously listed for 14 December). Arkut Dağı, Gerece: 4, 26 Apr 11; 2, 28 May 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu).

Western Anatolia: Uludağ, Bursa: begging juvenile, 27 Jul 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; photo; Plate 8; *Sandgrouse* 33: 90); 14 Jul 11 (B Bilgen); 6, 16 Jul 11 (M Özen).

Desert Lark *Ammomanes desertii*

Presumably resident (although the record listed here is the first to be published between Oct and Feb in Turkey) at one locality (Birecik) in South-East, where first discovered in 1983 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). Confusion with Bar-tailed Lark *A. cincturus* in this region (see *Orn. Soc. Bull. Turkey* 13: 4) clouds understanding of the status of *A. deserti*, and it is still possible that the former might also prove to occur very locally in South-East.

South-East: 4, Birecik, 8 Dec 10 (S Ağırcan).

Black Lark *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*

Vagrant. Second record for Turkey following a specimen collected in October 1914, with two possible records, one historical and the other recent (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Southern Coastlands: just east of Side, 23 May 11 (B Harding) is supported by a description.

(Western) Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Widespread and common summer visitor (*M. f. feldegg*) and passage migrant, in which capacity an additional seven races have been recorded in the country, *flava*, *thunbergi*, *lutea*, *cinereicapilla*, *beema* and *superciliaris*, of which the four last-named appear to be uncommon or rarer, while *dumbrowskii* (often regarded as an inter-racial hybrid) has been mentioned in the literature but does not seem to have been certainly recorded (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

East: race *leucocephala*, south Van marshes, 25 Apr 11 (O Nilsson, M Tholin; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208; Plate 9). First record of this taxon in Turkey.



Plate 9. Male (Western) Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava leucocephala*, south Van marshes, East, Turkey, 25 April 2011. © Oskar Nilsson

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Not uncommon summer visitor to eastern Black Sea Coastlands, East 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. Two previous winter records, in 2004 and 2005 (Kirwan *et al* 2008b).

Western Anatolia: male, possibly *M. c. calcarata*, Çalış marsh, Fethiye, 15 Jun 11 (A Davis).



Plate 10. Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola calcarata*, south Van marshes, East, Turkey, 18 May 2011. © Daniele Occhiato

South-East: Nizip, Gaziantep: 27 Jan 08 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223; Kirwan *et al* 2008a); 10 Dec 11 (*Sandgrouse* 34: 106). Third and fourth winter records.

East: male, *M. c. calcarata*, south Van marshes, 17–18 May 11 (Occhiato 2011); photo; Plate 10; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208). First record of this taxon in Turkey and the Western Palearctic.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers and probably wintering in southernmost Turkey.

Western Anatolia: Dalyan, Muğla: 3, 6 Apr 2007; 2, 22 Sep 2010 (J Lyles).

Southern Coastlands: Milleyha, Samandağ, Hatay: 29 Dec 07 (A Atahan); up to 5, 22 Nov–20 Dec 08 (M Atahan *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100); 3, 17 Nov 10 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 91); 4, 22 Jan 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208); 2, 5–9 Feb 11 (M Atahan, O Gül; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208); 4, 22 Oct 11; 1 Nov 11; 17 Dec 11 (A & M Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*

Vagrant. First and second records for Turkey.

Southern Coastlands: first-winter, trapped and ringed, Titreyengöl, south of Manavgat, 19 Sep 06 (Prünthe *et al* 2010), has not previously been mentioned in these reports.

South-East: trapped and ringed, Dicle ringing station, Diyarbakir, 06 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 100), has not previously been mentioned in these reports.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens japonicus*

First record in late 2008 has been followed by regular winter observations of small numbers in southernmost corner of the country. Elsewhere in Middle East, the species is considered a passage and winter visitor to Israel and United Arab Emirates, and a vagrant to Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Syria (Porter & Aspinall 2010).

Southern Coastlands: Milleyha, Samandağ, Hatay: 22 Nov–11 Dec 08 (Atahan & Atahan 2009); 20 Dec 08 (B Bilgen; presumably same); 14 Feb 10 (M Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186); 11 Jan 11; 2, 5 Feb 11 (M Atahan); 12 Feb 11 (A Atahan); 14 Mar 11 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208); 3, 13 Nov 11 (A Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 106); 5, 27 Nov 11 (A & M Atahan). Kırıkhan, 11 Feb 11 (A & M Atahan); 2, 17 Dec 11; 31 Dec 11 (A Atahan).

Olive-backed Pipit

Vagrant. Second record for Turkey, following one in Apr 1992 (Kirwan 1993).

South-East: trapped and ringed, Dicle ringing station, Diyarbakir, 2006 (*Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

A rare and irregular winter visitor, with one extremely unusual and perhaps doubtful record from late May. Still only c20 records post-1960, but there was clearly an exceptional influx in early 2011, following that in winter 2005/06 (Kirwan *et al* 2008b).

Black Sea Coastlands: Çaycuma, Zonguldak, 8 Jan 09 (M Erturhan). Asarcık, Samsun (where local people claimed species is observed annually): 7, 1–3 Mar 09 (S Girişen *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220); 4, 27 Feb 11; 21, 28 Feb 11; 36, 4 Mar 11; 22, 5 Mar 11; 57, 7 Mar 11 (*per* E Yogurtçuoğlu; photo; Plate 11; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208, where largest total and date of record incorrect); last-mentioned count is highest-ever number in Turkey. 4, Yeni ömerli, 1 Mar 11 (*per* E Yogurtçuoğlu). Emirmusa: 6, 1 Mar 11; 4, 2 Mar 11; 1, 4 Mar 11 (*per* E Yogurtçuoğlu). 2, Gökköy, 2 Mar 11 (*per* E Yogurtçuoğlu).

Central Plateau: Akyurt, Ankara, 24 Feb 10 (G Güven).



Plate 11. Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, Asarcık, Samsun, Black Sea Coastlands, Turkey, 5 March 2011. © Nizamettin Yavuz

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*

Vagrant. The second record, following the first in Nov 2006 (Bekir 2007), was remarkably discovered by the same observer. Subsequent investigation suggests that the first record, which was photographed, involved the race *badia*, a subspecies previously unrecorded in the Western Palearctic (CS Roselaar *in litt* 2010).

East Anatolia: Gelinkaya, Erzurum, 12 Oct 07 (S Bekir; *Sandgrouse* 30: 20).

Eastern (Siberian) Stonechat *Saxicola maurus*

Precise distribution poorly known (*S. m. variegatus*, previously referred to as *S. m. armenicus*: see Svensson *et al* 2012), breeding in small numbers in eastern third of country and probably more widely distributed in non-breeding season, but contact, if any, during breeding season with European Stonechat *S. rubicola* very poorly known (Kirwan *et al* 2008a). One previous possible record of *S. m. hemprichii* in Turkey, from 1999, which taxon was previously referred to as *S. m. variegatus* (see Svensson *et al* 2012). Records of *S. m. maurus*, *S. m. hemprichii* or any other stonechat taxon, except *variegatus* and *rubicola*, in Turkey require detailed documentation.

South-East: *S. m. hemprichii*, Urfa, 11 Mar 10 (Ş Esin); first record in Turkey of this taxon.

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

Status uncertain; perhaps only a vagrant, but has reportedly bred at Birecik (Peter 1994). Many reports are inadequately documented.

Black Sea Coastlands: Male, Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 12 Mar 10 (G Cıvdı; photo).

Western Anatolia: Kocaçay delta, 30 Oct 10 (T Gözükarı; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91).

Southern Coastlands: Antalya, 13 Mar 09 (O Kepiroğlu). Female, Samandağ, Hatay, 6–11 Jan 11 (A Atahan *et al*; photo; Plate 12; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

South-East: Ceylanpınar, Urfa, 12 Oct 11 (S İsfendiyaroğlu, E Tabur).

Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*

Vagrant. The fourth and fifth records in Turkey, following those in Feb 1914 (Kasperek 1992a), Apr 1996 (Kirwan & Martins 2000) and May 2005 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Southern Coastlands: second-calendar year, *O. l. lugens* or *O. l. persica*, Göksu delta, 27 Mar 08 (R Wüst-Graf; photo; Plate 13) has been accepted by the Swiss rarities committee.



Plate 12. Female Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, Samandağ, Hatay, Southern Coastlands, Turkey, January 2011. © Ali Atahan



Plate 13. Mourning Wheatear *Oenanthe lugens*, Göksu delta, Southern Coastlands, Turkey, 27 March 2008. © R. Wüst-Graf

South-East: first-summer male *O. l. warriae*, paired with female Finsch's Wheatear *O. finschii*, Suruç, Urfa, 27 Apr–4 Jun 11 (D Domuschiev *et al*; photo); raised two young and was last reported 13 Aug 11 (B Bilgen). Further details of this remarkable record appear in Shirihai *et al* (2011) and Shirihai (2012).

Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha*

Vagrant. First record. Comparatively regular vagrant to Cyprus, where 16 records to the end of 2011 (Richardson 2012), and recently (May 2012) recorded for first time in Greece (Bekel-Kastrup *et al* 2013).

Southern Coastlands: male, Göksu delta, 20 Feb 98 (F Orbay; photo), has not previously been mentioned in these reports.

Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

Vagrant. Second record, following the first in Feb 2006 (Yoğurtuoğlu 2006). That the species might occasionally appear in small flocks in Turkey is unsurprising given status in neighbouring Iran.

East: up to 14 *atroglaris*, Erzurum Ovası, 13–20 Mar 11 (C Sevindi *et al*; photo; Plate 14; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208, where incorrectly stated that record involved eight individuals).



Plate 14. Dark-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atroglaris*, Erzurum Ovası, East, Turkey, 20 March 2011. © Ayhan Öztürk

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

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

West Anatolia: Bafa Gölü: singing, 19, 22 and 23 Mar 08 (J Pels).

Southern Coastlands: Dalyan, Muğla, 6 Apr 07 (J Lyles). Kırhan, Hatay, 3 Apr 11 (*Sandgrouse* 34: 106). Balık Gölü: 28 Aug 11, 10 Sep 11 (*Sandgrouse* 34: 106).

East: Aras ringing station, Tuzluca, Iğdır: 25 Apr 07; 7 May 07; trapped and ringed, 2 May 09 (Kuzey Doğa Derneği; photo).

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

Rare passage migrant in small numbers across Turkey, but almost certainly more widespread and frequent than records suggest. One Jun record from Black Sea Coastlands suggests that the species might occasionally breed in Turkey.

Thrace: Gala Gölü, 21 Aug 11 (M Özen).

Western Anatolia: Efes ruins, Selçuk, 01 May 07 (S Fisher).

Central Plateau: Kozanlı Gölü, 20 Apr 11 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu; photo).

East: Tuzluca ringing station, Iğdır: 15 trapped between 8 Apr and 16 May 2007; 4 trapped between 23 Aug and 23 Sep 07 (Kuzey Doğa Derneği; photo).

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Very rare summer visitor to at least three localities 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. Only records from new localities are presented.

East: Aras ringing station, Iğdır: 23 May 07 (Y Şaşmaz); 13 Aug 09; 6 Sep 09 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 101).

Booted Warbler *Hippolais (Iduna) caligata*

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

Black Sea Coastlands: up to 2, Rize, 5–8 Sep 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu, B Bilgen; photo; Plate 15; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91).

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

Common summer visitor to South-East and parts of adjacent East; more widespread on passage. A record of one singing in Istanbul (Thrace) in May 1998, suspected to be the first documented in Europe (Kirwan *et al* 2003, 2008a), has recently been reviewed by the observer concerned, and the tape-recording re-identified as a Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (L Svensson).

Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*

Vagrant. Second record for Turkey (the first was in Nov 1970), but quickly followed by another in spring 2013.

Black Sea Coastlands: Filyos, 29 Oct 11 (M Erturhan *et al*; photo; Plate 16; *Sandgrouse* 34: 106, where incorrectly listed for 30 October).

Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax*

Seventh record and the first since 2003; six have been in Southern Coastlands (all but one of them at Göksu delta) and all have been in spring.

Southern Coastlands: Göksu delta, 19 Apr 10 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 187).

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

Previously considered a vagrant, though some of the six records between 1969 and 1983 are not well documented. An apparently quite large breeding population



Plate 15. Booted Warbler *Hippolais (Iduna) caligata*, Rize, Black Sea Coastlands, 8 September 2010. © Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu



Plate 16. Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana*, Filyos, Black Sea Coastlands, Turkey, 29 October 2011. © Mustafa Erturhan

recently discovered at a site in South-East (Welch & Welch 2004), where seen again in 2009 (C Şekercioğlu), with a smaller one since found in Southern Coastlands (Gül & Atahan 2011). The latter at least is resident.

Southern Coastlands: Kırıkhan, Hatay: 8 (4 pairs), 23 Apr–1 May 10 (Gül & Atahan 2011); 2, 29 Oct 10 (M Atahan); 4, 30 Oct 10 (B Demirci); 5, 25 Dec 10 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 91); 2, 5 Jan 11 (M Atahan); 3, 11 Feb 11 (*Sandgrouse* 33: 208); 5, 3 Dec 11 (A Atahan).

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Considered hypothetical by Kirwan *et al* (2008a) given lack of sufficient documentation discriminating any of the previous five records from Green Warbler *P. nitidus*; we prefer to await definitive photographs and sound-recordings before adding this species to the Turkey bird list. The sixth and seventh records, but also lacking acceptable documentation.

Black Sea Coastlands: 2, Ayder plateau, 13 Jun 08 (J Tavares, E Çağlayan). Aras ringing station, Kars, 25 Sep 08 (M Özen; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*

Vagrant. Second record for Turkey.

Black Sea Coastlands: probably first-winter, Pelitköy, Samsun, 19 Nov 11 (M Danacı; photo; Plate 17; *Sandgrouse* 34: 106).



Plate 17. Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*, Pelitköy, Samsun, Black Sea Coastlands, Turkey, 19 November 2011. © Murat Danacı

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Vagrant. The sixth to 12th records in Turkey suggest that this species might eventually prove to be a more or less regular passage migrant in tiny numbers.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: trapped and ringed, 17 Oct 08 (OMÜKUŞ; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100); trapped and ringed, 21 Mar 10 (*Sandgrouse* 32: 186); 24 Oct 10; 6, 25 Oct 10 (OMÜKUŞ; erroneously listed as 25–27 Nov in *Sandgrouse* 34: 105). Rize, 9 Jan 10 (M Genç, M Özcan; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186; Plate 18). Kadıköy, İstanbul, 22–23 Oct 11 (I Eroğlu *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105). Riva, İstanbul, 2 Nov 11 (M Bozdoğan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

Pallas's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Vagrant. First to third records.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta, 23 Oct 11 (N & K Yavuz; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105). Riva, İstanbul, 2 Nov 11 (M Bozdoğan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105).

East: Singing, Hasankeyf, near Batman, 26 Mar 10 (M Zucca; photo).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce winter visitor to the western two-thirds of Turkey, most frequently to Thrace. The following comprise the first record for South-East (an individual of the nominate race, like the vast majority of other records in Turkey identified to subspecies) and the first three records of race *pallidirostris* (so-called Steppe Grey Shrike) from Central (Middle) Asia, which subspecies has sometimes been recommended for species status (Hernández *et al* 2004) or included within Southern Grey Shrike *L. meridionalis* (Dickinson 2003). Just one previous record of *meridionalis* in Turkey, a specimen taken in the environs of İstanbul, but subsequently lost and therefore impossible to validate (Mathey-Dupraz 1921, Kirwan *et al* 2008a). However, a recent molecular study found high levels of incongruence between molecular and other data with respect to the taxonomy of



Plate 18. Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*, Rize, Black Sea Coastlands, Turkey, 9 January 2010. © Murat Genç



Plate 19. Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*, Rize harbour, Black Sea Coastlands, Turkey, 4 November 2010. © Murat Genç



Plate 20. First-winter Great Grey Shrike *Lanius e. excubitor*, west of Ceylanpınar, South-East, Turkey, 2 November 2009. © Emin Yoğurtçuoğlu



Plate 21. Turkestan Shrike *Lanius isabellinus phoenicuroides*, Gediz delta, İzmir, Western Anatolia, Turkey, 21 January 2008. © Zafer Kurnuç



Plate 22. Daurian Shrike *Lanius i. isabellinus*, Karkamış dam, South-East, Turkey, 12 October 2008. © Fatih İzler

‘grey shrikes’ (Olsson *et al* 2009). As a result, we retain all records under *excubitor* until such time as a more robust dataset pertaining to this group becomes available.

Black Sea Coastlands: *L. e. pallidirostris*, Yomra, Trabzon: 8 Sep 2010 (K & V Kahraman; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91); 11 Sep 2011 (E Yogurtçuoğlu *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 34: 105). *L. e. pallidirostris*, Rize harbour, 4 Nov 2010 (M Genç; Plate 19; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91, where incorrectly dated 26 Nov).

South-East: first-winter, race *excubitor*, west of Ceylanpınar, 2 Nov 09 (JL Copete, D López-Velasco, E Yogurtçuoğlu; photo; Plate 20).

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Vagrant or perhaps very scarce passage migrant, with two recent winter records. The 16th to 22nd 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 these red-tailed shrikes in the country are encouraged to attempt, where possible, racial identification and, preferably, to document occurrence with photos.

Black Sea Coastlands: first-winter female *isabellinus*, Gelemen, Kızılırmak delta, 24 Nov 07 (OMÜKUS; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 17, 20). Filyos delta, Zonguldak, 30 Sep–2 Oct 08 (Ö Gemili; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Western Anatolia: second-calendar year male *phoenicuroides*, Gediz delta, 19–21 Jan 08 (O Döndüren, B Öztürk; photo; Plate 21; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223). Ayvalık, Balıkesir, 26 Apr 09 (G Fisher).

Southern Coastlands: Yamansaz, Antalya, 5 Oct 08 (M Özen, Ö Sözüer; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). Kırıkhan, Hatay, 12 Dec 08 (A & M Atahan; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

South-East: probably immature female *isabellinus*, Karkamış dam, 12 Oct 08 (A Atahan, F İzler; photo; Plate 22; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Eurasian (Spotted) Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryoctactes*

Vagrant. Third to fifth records in Turkey, following those on the Central Plateau in Nov 1966 and off Black Sea Coastlands in Oct 2005. Elsewhere in the Middle East, the species is

considered 'irregular' in northern Iran in the southern Caspian region (Hüe & Etchécopar 1970), from where there is at least one recent record, in Mar 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). Also a recent documented record from Azerbaijan, in Sep 2011 (Heiss 2013).

Thrace: 2, Durusu, near Çatalca, İstanbul, 16 Oct–8 Dec 08 (İKGT *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100). 2, Kemerburgaz, 18 Jan 09 (Ö Üner; photo) were possibly same individuals.

East: Erzurum plain, 8 Oct 08 (C Sevindi; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 100).

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

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

Thrace: Beykoz, İstanbul, 12 Dec 10 (A Ertan).

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

Rare summer visitor to South-East and East, with other records from Southern Coastlands; has bred in the first two regions. Occurrence perhaps due more to nomadic rather than strictly seasonal movements. Records listed here represent previously unknown localities for the species; those in Kızılırmak delta are first for Black Sea Coastlands.

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta: 1 May 10 (S Barış), 30 Apr–1 May 11 (Ü Malkoçoğlu *et al*; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

Southern Coastlands: Samandağ, Hatay, 1 Apr 08 (A & M Atahan).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Irregular winter visitor, occasionally in quite large numbers, mainly to Black Sea Coastlands. Those records presented here bring the total of acceptable records in Turkey to 12 (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Black Sea Coastlands: Kızılırmak delta, 6 Feb 10 (O Sağlam; photo; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186). Kefken, Kocaeli, 13 Nov 11 (M Bozdoğan; *Sandgrouse* 34: 106). Bartın, 18 Nov 11 (NK Özkazanç; *Sandgrouse* 34: 106).

Thrace: Vize, 22 Oct 07 (Ö Necipoğlu; photo). Terkos Gölü, İstanbul, 13–14 Dec 08 (S Bilgin, KA Boyla, T Türker; *Sandgrouse* 31: 101).

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

Vagrant. The second record, following the first in Nov 2006 (Bekir 2007).

Thrace: İğneada, 11 Feb 10 (E Yoğurtçuoğlu, M Bozdoğan *et al*; photo; Plate 23; *Sandgrouse* 32: 186).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Vagrant, but occurrence poorly documented, with no extant specimens and just two previous modern (post-1966) reports, both in Black Sea Coastlands in Apr 1992, which



Plate 23. Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*, İğneada, Thrace, Turkey, 11 February 2010. © Emine Nurhan Tekin



Plate 24. Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*, Subaşı, Hatay, Southern Coastlands, Turkey, 13 November 2010. © Mehmet Atahan



Plate 25. Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*, Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul, Thrace, Turkey, 11 January 2008. © Fikret Can

although made by observers familiar with the species lacked documentation (Kirwan *et al* 2008a), making the two records in November 2010 the first to be fully documented in the country.

Southern Coastlands: Subaşı, Hatay, 13 Nov 10 (M Atahan; photo; Plate 24; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91).

South-East: Karkamış, Gaziantep, 27 Nov 10 (F İzler; *Sandgrouse* 33: 91).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

Vagrant. Second to fifth modern (post-1966) records (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Black Sea Coastlands: Karasu, Sakarya, 18–20 Jan 08 (S Bekir *et al*; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223). Ordu, 11 Dec 08 (A Karataş; photo).

Western Anatolia: Uludağ University campus, Bursa, 14 Feb 09 (M Coşkun; photo).

Central Plateau: Middle East Technical University, Ankara, 15 Mar 09 (K Kırlangıç; photo; *Sandgrouse* 31: 220).

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

Vagrant. The tenth to 13th records in Turkey (Kirwan *et al* 2008a).

Thrace: adult female, Büyükçekmece Gölü, İstanbul, 10–16 Jan 08 (F Can; photo; *Sandgrouse* 30: 223; Plate 25).

Central Plateau: Yahyalı, Kayseri, 31 Jan 11 (M Ünlü; photo; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208).

East: Akçadağ, Malatya, 30 Jan 08 (M Erturhan). Trapped and ringed, Tuzluca ringing station, Iğdır, 16 Mar 11 (Kuzey Doğa Derneği; *Sandgrouse* 33: 208, where stated to be 13 Mar).

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