AZERBAIJAN
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](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](image)

**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!

* video clips from this and other birding tours in the Middle East at my YouTube site [https://www.youtube.com/user/Tomas06560656](https://www.youtube.com/user/Tomas06560656)

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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 Älät, 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 Älät 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** Ärta *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.

**Ferrugineous 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 Älät 10/10.

**Black-necked Grebe** Svarthalsad dopping *Podiceps nigricollis*

Resting at sea with 2 at Kizil Agach 9/10 and 2 at Älät 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** Dvägrördom *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 Älät 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 *Haliaetus 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”** Ornvråk *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 skrikörrn Aquila pomarina*

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

**Golden Eagle** *Kungsörm 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** *Kejsarörm 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 naumannii*

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 Crake** *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** *Sothōna 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** *Purpurhōna 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** *Styiltlöpare 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 oedicnemus*
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 1cy/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 Älät with highest count 250 at Älät 10/10.

**Curlew Sandpiper** Spovsnäppa *Calidris ferruginea*

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

**Jack Snipe** Dvärgbeckasin *Lymnocryptes 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 Dammnäppa *Tringa stagnatilis*

30 at Haji Gaboul 7/10.

Spotted Redshank Svartnäppa *Tringa erythropus*

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

Greenshank Glutsnäppa *Tringa nebularia*

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

Green Sandpiper Skogsnäppa *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 Älät 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 Skrattnås *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 Älät 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** Klippduv *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** Nattskärra *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 *Coracias 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* (southermost 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** Korttålärka *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** Toflärka *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** Backsvala *Riparia riparia*
Seen most days in commonly so at the wetlands with reed beds in the south 8-10/10.

**Barn Swallow** Ladusvala *Hirundo rustica*
Common.

**House Martin** Hussvala *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 piplärka *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** Vattenpipplärka *Anthus spinolaeta*
Common in the Caucasus and around Xinaliq 5/10.

**Yellow Wagtail** Gulärla *Motacilla flava*
Rather common and widespread migrant but in small numbers.

**Citrine Wagtail** Citronärla *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** Forsärla *Motacilla cinerea*
2 at Besh Barmag 4/10 and 4 along the Guidalchay river, Caucasus 5/10.

**White Wagtail** Sädesärla *Motacilla alba*
Common.

**Dipper** Strömstare *Cinclus cinclus*
1 at a bridge over the Guidalchay river near Xinaliq 5/10.

**Wren** Gärdsmyg *Trogodytes 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** Trädnäktergal *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.

**Menetriers Warbler** Östlig sammetshätta *Sylvia mystacea*
Only recorded at Kizil Agach 9/10, seemingly common in the scrubs near Baliqcilar 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 petroglyh 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** Stjärtmes *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** Törnskata *Lanius collurio*

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

**Isabelline Shrike** Isabellatörnskata *Lanius isabellinus*

1 at Baliqicilar, Kizil Agach 9/10.

**Magpie** Skata *Pica pica*

Rather common except in the Caucasus.

**Jackdaw** Kaja *Corvus monedula*

Common.

**Rook** Råka *Corvus frugilegus*

Common.

**Common Crow** Kråka *Corvus corone*

Common.

**Raven** Korp *Corvus corax*

Several records in the Caucasus and at Gobustan.

**Jay** Nötskrïka *Garrulus glandarius*

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

**Red-billed Chough** Alpkråka *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 sparf *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** Sävsparv *Emberiza schoeniclus*

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

**Corn Bunting** Kornsparv *Emberiza calandra*

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