Armenia in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 14 June 2019



Mammoth Wasp, Megascolia maculata



Black-eared Wheatear



Alpine Gagea/Colchicum



Scarce Swallowtail

Report by Neil Anderson



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Tour Report Armenia in Spring

Tour participants: Neil Anderson (leader)

Ani Sarkisyan and Artem Murdakhanyan (local ornithologists)

With nine Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Thursday 6th June

Arrive Terevan via Moscow

We departed late morning from Terminal 4 at Heathrow to Moscow on a comfortable Aeroflot flight. After a four-hour flight we had a similar length wait at Moscow for our connecting flight to Yerevan which arrived after midnight.

Day 2 Friday 7th June

Mount Aragats

A leisurely start to our day we had an hour's drive to Mount Aragats which is a four-peaked volcano massif which at the northern end reaches 4090 metres above sea level, the highest point in the lower Caucasus and Armenia. Our plan was to stop at various points on the ascent to explore different vegetation zones with their differing avifauna. We started by the alphabet park which was busy with tourists. Birds seen here included a singing Black-headed Bunting which was to be one of our most frequently encountered birds on the trip, a Booted Eagle passing over and a male Caspian Stonechat. The verges were colourful with masses of Variable Vetch, Oriental Poppy and *Anchusa azurea*. The warm conditions encouraged plenty of insects with Scarce Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow and Hummingbird Hawk-moth seen.

A little higher, we saw masses of the feathery umbellifer *Prangos ferulacea*, with yellow heads, and in a small orchard we could hear Common Rosefinch singing. Initially difficult to see, we were disappointed to see a rather drab first-summer male. However, in the following days this was to be a common species with many fine males seen at close quarters.

We took our lunch, with a couple of substantial wraps and other goodies, in the Juniper zone. A few of the group connected with one of our target species, Radde's Accentor, a Dunnock relative with a black bandit mask and creamy supercilium. A pair of Rock Thrush showed well, as did Red-backed Shrikes and a few of us saw a distant Golden Eagle being mobbed.

After lunch we visited a tourist hotspot at Tegher Monastery where we saw a couple of Armenian Rock Lizards as well as some interesting plants such as Henbane, bright-blue Comfrey and the delightful garlic *Allium tripedale*. Following this combined cultural/nature stop we headed for the snow-capped alpine zone. Where the snow had recently retreated, we were treated to a delightful alpine garden with yellow *Gagea glacialis*, *Colchicum*, *Puschkinia* and *Scilla*. Further up by the buildings were several Black Redstarts of the nominate form, which differs from those we see in the UK by extensive red on the vent and lower belly. Also here were Northern Wheatear and much to our surprise, Radde's Accentor, which should have been lower down. What was amazing was to watch hundreds of Painted Ladies flying low over the snow upwards. Armenia was experiencing a huge influx of this highly migratory Vanessid and was abundant throughout the trip.

Driving back a bit we stopped, and I picked up a Lammergeier flying across from us which was exciting for the group. Crag Martins flew low over us and were breeding in a small stone building. Keith spotted a Ring Ouzel, but few others got onto it. Lynn discovered some white-flowered *Pulsatilla albana*. Descending, we stopped, and

everybody had good views of a White-throated Robin; possibly not the best named bird as the white can be difficult to see, but a beautiful bird nonetheless.

We finished our day with a lovely meal with local wine in a restaurant in Yerevan.

Day 3 Armash fishponds, Noravank

Saturday 8th June

We departed the capital, Yerevan and headed for the Armash fishponds where we needed to show our passports as we were close to the border. While we waited for clearance from the security man, we saw a Purple Heron (the first of several) sitting on a large post, a few Night Herons and our first Armenian Gulls.

It was a hot and humid day and the channel held many Banded Demoiselles, a few patrolling Lesser Emperors, a few Ivory Featherlegs as well as a handsome male Broad Scarlet and both Black-tailed and White-tailed Skimmers. Dave felt a large buzzing on his neck and the culprit- a huge Mammoth Wasp, *Megascolia maculata*, then rested on his trousers where it stayed for some time as he walked around. We saw a Menetries's Warbler which seemed to have a nest between the Tamarisk and Camel Thorn. From this point we also managed to see a few Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters on the wires, the only breeding colony in the country.

Our views of the lakes were obscured by the reed growth but as we overlooked an extensive flat area with some marshy areas, we watched Glossy Ibis feeding, a few Black-winged Stilts, a pair of Northern Lapwing and, more excitingly, a pair of White-tailed Lapwings which had a couple of chicks. Later we also saw a displaying Lesser Short-toed Lark and some Collared Pratincoles. A break in the reeds enabled us to view numerous Pygmy Cormorants flying around and there were quite a few Red-crested Pochard including a family, a drake Ferruginous Duck and two male White-headed Ducks. Omnipresent amongst the reeds was the raucous sound of singing Great Reed Warblers and unbelievable numbers of Bearded Tits.

After our lunch we continued our journey to Noravank. While driving, heavy rain started and continued for a while when we reached the monastery where a wedding was underway. The monastery dates back to the 13th century and is situated in a magnificent gorge of sheer brick-red cliffs. Red-billed Choughs called overhead and we located a nesting pair of Eastern Rock Nuthatches on a cliff face. A male Blue Rock Thrush was briefly perched on the spire and a Golden Eagle was seen overhead. Perhaps the highlight was to eventually get excellent close views of Red-fronted Serins, though they were tricky to peg down.

As the weather improved, we drove further down the road to see what we could found. We had good views of another Lammergeier and also an Egyptian Vulture, whilst Stuart spotted a Bezoar Goat at the top of the cliff opposite. We managed to scope this for the group and soon found another individual. Along the road were quite a few flowers with a couple of sage species- *Salvia sclarea* and *S. nemorosa;* both species cultivated in gardens, as well as lots of pink Crown Vetch. Butterflies included a settled Cardinal (a species we were to encounter frequently) and a roosting Yellow-banded Skipper.

We then continued for another 30-minute drive to the town of Yeghegnadzor, situated in the south of Armenia. In the evening we had a delightful outside meal at a local restaurant where an Eastern Hedgehog was roaming around. Later we had some fabulous authentic dancing from a local schoolgirl while her friend played the drums.

Day 4

Sunday 9th June

Mount Gndasar

Today was an early start, leaving in our vehicles soon after 5am. The drive was interesting as we passed various vegetation communities. When we reached our destination, it was rather slow going at first though we did start to hear the Curlew-like calls of our quarry - the Caspian Snowcock. We were surprised to hear a singing Cetti's Warbler up here and we had close views of a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes in the scrub behind.

After about an hour, one of the rangers spotted a distant Snowcock on the mountain top over the valley. Though distant, we later had much closer views on the nearer mountain side. We were thrilled when a Brown Bear appeared, swiftly followed by another. Romance was in the air and before long we could see a lot of amorous activity was going on which continued for a good half an hour or so. At one point a Snowcock was fairly close to the bears. We also saw more Bezoar here.

After feeling very satisfied with our good luck we had our packed breakfasts and drove further down the tracks. Dominating the vegetation was a tall, yellow-flowered unknown umbellifer as well as more *Prangos* and *Zosima absinthifolia, Salvia inflata* and *Onosma sericea*. The real highlight here was the large number of mud-puddling butterflies with numerous blues including Pontic Blues, numerous *Pyrgus* skippers, Scarce Swallowtails and a few fritillaries. Later we saw a couple of Southern White Admirals. Much lower down the fields were colourful with poppies, the purple larkspur *Consolida orientalis* and the blue cornflower *Cyanus depressus* (formerly *Centaurea depressa*).

As we arrived back at our hotel, we could hear a Golden Oriole that remained elusive and some connected with a Syrian Woodpecker.

After a brief break we drove back in the direction of Noravank. At our first stop we had good views of Egyptian Vulture and Eastern Rock Nuthatches. We had our only sighting of a Hermit butterfly here. As it was otherwise fairly quiet, we moved onto another site that was very productive. Amongst the quality birds seen included a pair of Isabelline Wheatears, a pair of White-throated Robins that were breeding in a bush, Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, Upcher's Warbler and also an Eastern Orphean Warbler. Other wildlife included our first prehistoric looking Caucasian Agama lizard and Nettle-tree Butterfly.

Day 5

Monday 10th June

Selim pass, Lake Sevan

We departed our hotel and had our first stop at the historic Caravanserai which was situated on the silk route and provided shelter for travellers and their camels. Nesting in a crevice between the bricks was a pair of Rock Sparrows. Also breeding in an outhouse was a pair of Black Redstarts and some Crag Martins. We also had good views of a Booted Eagle as it passed over, and our first Whinchats.

Our next stop was by a stream where a Marsh Warbler was singing. We watched Rock Thrushes collecting food for their young and Tree Pipits indulged us with their parachuting flight display. In the meadow across the road was a large colony of the marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza euxina*, resplendent in purple, and also some yellow lousewort *Pedicularis sibthorpii*.

We then drove further along the pass until we came across some old buildings and where Artem was hoping we might see White-winged Snowfinch. Our luck was almost immediate as one flew from a nest site in a cavity in the building. It flew across into the field, but we had excellent views of the pair. On the more distant lake we could see over 50 Ruddy Shelduck.

We then moved to a stop by Lake Sean, the largest lake in the Caucusus and one of the largest alpine lakes in Eurasia. There was some intermittent rain, but we could see Hoopoes and a couple of European Bee-eaters from our vehicle. Large numbers of Sand Martins resided here, with many nest holes in the bank. As we ambled along, we observed several Purple and Night Herons in flight, a Spoonbill and our first two Grey Herons of the trip. Amongst the plants seen here were the bluish flowers of Branched Broomrape, Bur Forget-me-not and the catchfly *Silene spergulifolia*.

Our final stop for the day at Lake Sevan was the site of a huge breeding colony of Armenian Gulls, where up to 6000 pairs breed. We did see quite a few chicks. There were also a few hundred Great Cormorants breeding here too. Other birds encountered were Cattle Egrets, a Little Ringed Plover and a Whiskered Tern. The area around the colony was colourful with the attractive thistle *Carduus hamulosus*, the bright yellow Ground Pine and several other species.

From here we drove to our next base in the wooded surrounds of Dilijan, a town in the north famed for its spa resorts and craft workshops.

Day 6

Tuesday 11th June

Dilijan

We had a fairly local day today with a drive up to the lake by a play area. The birds here are used to people so were pretty tame. A smart male Bullfinch fed on the ground a few metres away from us, Coal Tits and Eurasian Nuthatches were everywhere, while Common Redstarts were nesting in the eaves of a chalet. We eventually had good views of Middle Spotted Woodpecker and a Semi-collared Flycatcher. Persian Squirrels also gave some good views here. A couple of attractive new pea species were added to the list here: Lathyrus laxiflorus and L. roseus. Driving a distance back along the road we noted quite a few White and Red Helleborines in the shade of the wood and a couple of robust Bird's-nest Orchids in the shade.

At our lunch spot near a church we saw the attractive knapweed *Psephellus dealbatus* and the unusual yellow-flowered *Rhynchocorys orientalis*. On the ruins we found a couple of *Darevskia* rock lizards and a mating pair of Firebugs. On a later walk Ani found a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker for us and we eventually had a good view of a very active Green Warbler which was singing in the canopy of some mature trees.

Day 7

Wednesday 12th June

Dilijan-Yerevan

Today involved another very early start for most of the group as we had a 90-minute drive in 4x4s from Dilijan up an exceedingly rough mountain track to seek out Caucasian Grouse. We viewed from Margahorit. Initially, little was seen, but after 30 minutes a male was spotted at the top of the cliff opposite. Fortunately, everybody had scope views of this bird, perched on a rock giving great side profile views with the sun behind us giving excellent light. It then disappeared, never to be seen again. We then drove a little higher and encountered both Tree and Water Pipits. There were some wonderful flowers included creamy-yellow Rhododendron caucasicum,

masses of *Veronica gentianoides*, fragrant *Daphne glomerata* and quite a few marsh orchids. Lynn found a couple of dwarf Frog Orchids while we tried to find a Mountain Chiffchaff.

After this hair-raising journey we returned to our hotel before departing for Yerevan. We stopped on a pass for Mountain Chiffchaff which, after much frustration, eventually gave reasonable views to clinch the ID. Even the local guides couldn't separate the song from Common Chiffchaff, so we required decent views to clinch it! In the same area was a wonderful display of Armenian Lilies with large showy yellow flowers.

Lunch was taken by Lake Sevan "Island". As we started to eat a Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared and we had good views. Not visible were a couple of Quail calling in the meadows.

Before hitting Yerevan, we had one final stop with reedbeds, fields and a small river. Great Reed Warblers showed on the reed tops while a Blue Emperor and Four-spotted Chaser were noted. In the rough field Blackheaded Wagtails perched on top of the lofty mulleins holding food for their chicks. The roadside was colourful with the poppy *Glaucium corniculatum*, *Cyanus depressus* and *Echium biebersteinii*.

It was good to finally return to our original hotel in the capital.

Day 8

Thursday 13th June

Geghard Gorges

Before reaching the gorges, we stopped on a hillside with the usual backdrop of Black-headed Bunting and Common Rosefinch. Stuart's sharp eyes then picked up a small black-and-white bird perched in a dead bush on the brow of the hill. It was our target - a fine male Finsch's Wheatear. As we watched the bird, it seemed to regularly trade places with a much larger pied bird - a Magpiel.

We then proceeded to the Temple of Garni, the only Greco-Roman colonnaded building in Armenia and is a symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. There were many visitors. Beside the temple was a deep gorge which gave us some fine birding moments. An Egyptian Vulture soared over as did a fine male Levant Sparrowhawk. On the opposite side of the gorge a Golden Eagle was mobbed by a Buzzard while we also had good views of Alpine Swifts and Red-billed Choughs. Nearby we had very close views of a pair of Black-eared Wheatears.

Walking down a steep side road we had views of a Syrian Woodpecker on a telegraph pole and observed a family of Western Rock Nuthatches. A patch of thistles had several obliging Cardinals sipping nectar and we delighted in over 30 Spoon-winged Lacewings *Nemoptera sinuata*, which were attracted to the yellow *Achilleas*. New plants here were Yellow Alkanet and the larkspur *Consolida divaricata*. We headed for lunch in a friendly fish restaurant where we were given a demonstration of dough preparation.

After lunch we headed to a rather busy gorge site where we saw a pale phase Booted Eagle and a Honey Buzzard. We then headed back to Yerevan for our final dinner in yet another fine local restaurant where we were treated to some local dancing and live music.

Day 9

Friday 14th June

Yerevan-Moscow- Heathrow

Several of the group opted for a walk in a local park in the city while a few decided on a lie-in. Those in the park were serenaded by Nightingales and we had good views of two of them. We also had a very tame Hoopoe feeding in some short turf while a female Syrian Woodpecker was busy excavating a stump. As with all the towns we visited there were large numbers of feeding Common Swifts.

We left our hotel in the late morning and made good time to the airport, where we were efficiently processed. From the lounge we had stunning views of Mount Ararat in neighbouring Turkey while a White Stork soaring in front of it gave more atmosphere.

Our flight to Moscow was delayed which meant less time hanging around there. At Moscow we said our farewells to Stuart and Carys who were travelling home to Belgium, while the rest of us continued to Heathrow.

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Species Lists

Birds (X=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

- 1 Caucasian Grouse Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi 1 male
- 3 Chukar Partridge Alectoris chukar X
- 5 Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea X
- 7 Mallard Anas platyrhynchos X
- 9 Marbled Duck Marmaronetta angustirostris X
- 11 Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca X
- 13 White-headed Duck Oxyura leucocephala X
- 15 Common Swift Apus apus X
- 17 Rock Dove [Feral] Columba livia Feral X
- 19 Eurasian Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto X
- 21 Eurasian Coot Fulica atra X
- 23 Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus X
- 25 Northern Lapwing Vanellus vanellus X
- 27 Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius X
- 29 Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus X
- 31 Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola X
- 33 Common Tern Sterna hirundo X
- 35 Black Tern Childonias niger X
- 37 Pygmy Comorant Microcarbo pygmeus X
- 39 Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus X
- 41 Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus X
- 43 Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides X
- 45 Grey Heron Ardea cinerea X
- 47 Little Egret Egretta garzetta X
- 49 Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus X
- 51 Lesser Spotted Eagle Clanga pomarina X
- 53 Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos X
- 55 Eurasian Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus X
- 57 Western Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus X
- 59 Black Kite Milvus migrans X
- 61 Common Buzzard Buteo buteo X
- 63 Eurasian Hoopoe Upupa epops X
- 65 Common Kingfisher Alcedo atthis X
- 67 European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* X
- 69 Syrian Woodpecker Dendrocopos syriacus X
- 71 Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major X
- 73 Eurasian Hobby Falco subbuteo X
- 75 Lesser Grey Shrike Lanius minor X
- 77 Eurasian Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus X
- 79 Eurasian Magpie Pica pica X
- 81 Western Jackdaw Corvus monedula X
- 83 Northern Raven Corvus corax X
- 85 Eurasian Blue Tit Cyanistes caeruleus X
- 87 Bearded Reedling Panurus biarmicus X
- 89 Eurasian Skylark Alauda arvensis X
- 91 Greater Short-toed Lark Calendrella brachydactyla X
- 93 Sand Martin Riparia riparia X

- 2 Caspian Snowcock Tetraogallus caspius 2
- 4 Common Quail Coturnix coturnix H
- 6 Gadwall Mareca strepera X
- 8 Eurasian Teal Anas crecca X
- 10 Common Pochard Aythya ferina X
- 12 Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula X
- 14 Alpine Swift Tachymarptis melba X
- 16 Common Cuckoo Cuculus canorus X
- 18 Common Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus X
- 20 Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus X
- 22 Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis X
- 24 Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus X
- 26 White-tailed Lapwing Vanellus leucurus X
- 28 Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos X
- 30 Common Redshank Tringa totanus X
- 32 Armenian Gull Larus armenicus X
- 34 Whiskered Tern Childonias hybrida X
- 36 White Stork Ciconia ciconia X
- 38 Great Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo X
- 40 Eurasian Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia X
- 42 Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax X
- 44 Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis X
- 46 Purple Heron Ardea purpurea X
- 48 Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) Gypaetus barbatus X
- 50 European Honey Buzzard Pernis apivorus X
- 52 Booted Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus X
- 54 Levant Sparrowhawk Accipiter brevipes X
- 56 Northern Goshawk Accipiter gentilis X
- 58 Montagu's Harrier Circus pygargus X
- 60 Long-legged Buzzard Buteo rufinus X
- 62 Eurasian Scops Owl Otus scops H
- 64 European Roller Coracias garrulus X
- 66 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Merops persicus X
- 68 Middle Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos medius X
- 70 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Dryobates minor X
- 72 Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus X
- 74 Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio X
- 76 Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator X
- 78 Eurasian Jay Garrulus glandarius X
- 80 Red-billed Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax X
- 82 Hooded Crow Corvus cornix X
- 84 Coal Tit Periparus ater X
- 86 Great Tit Parus major X
- 88 Woodlark Lullula arborea X
- 90 Crested Lark Galerida cristata X
- 92 Lesser Short-toed Lark Calandrella rufescens pseudobaetica
- 94 Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica X

95 Eurasian Crag Martin Ptyonoprogne rupestris X 96 Common House Martin Delichon urbicum X 97 Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti X 98 Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus major X 99 Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus X 100 Mountain Chiffchaff Phylloscopus sindianus X 101 Common Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita X 102 Green Warbler Phylloscopus nitidus X 103 Great Reed Warbler Acrocephalus arundinaceous X 104 Eurasian Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scripaceus X 105 Marsh Warbler Acrocephalus palustris X 106 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler Iduna pallida X 107 Upcher's Warbler Hippolais languida X 108 Savi's Warbler Locustella luscinioides H 109 Eurasian Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla X 110 Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia curruca X 111 Eastern Orphean Warbler Sylvia crassirostris X 112 Common Whitethroat Sylvia communis X 113 Menetries's Warbler Sylvia mystacea X 114 Eurasian Wren Troglodytes troglodytes X 115 Eurasian Nuthatch Sitta europaea X 116 Western Rock Nuthatch Sitta neumayer X 117 Eastern Rock Nuthatch Sitta tephronota X 118 Eurasian Treecreeper Certhia familiaris X 119 Common Starling Sturnus vulgaris X 120 Ring Ouzel Turdus torquatus X 121 Common Blackbird Turdus merula X 122 Song Thrush Turdus philomelos X 123 Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus X 124 Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin Erythropygia galactotes syriaca X 125 European Robin Erithacus rubecula X 126 Bluethroat Luscinia svecica X 127 Common Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos X 128 White-throated Robin Irania gutturalis X 129 Semicollared Flycatcher Ficedula semitorquata X 130 Red-breasted Flycatcher Ficedula parva X 131 Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros semirufus X 132 Common Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisicus X 133 Common Rock Thrush Monticola saxatilis X 134 Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius X 135 Whinchat Saxicola rubetra X 136 Siberian Stonechat Saxicola maurus X 137 Northern Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe X 138 Isabelline Wheatear Oenanthe isabellina X 139 Black-eared Wheatear Oenanthe hispanica X 140 Finsch's Wheatear Oenanthe finschii X 142 Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus X 141 House Sparrow Passer domesticus X 143 Rock Sparrow Petronia petronia X 144 White-winged Snowfinch Montifringilla nivalis X 145 Radde's Accentor Prunella ocularis X 146 Dunnock Prunella modularis X 147 Black-headed Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava feldegg X 148 Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea X 149 White Wagtail Motacilla alba X 150 Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis X 151 Water Pipit Anthus spinoletta X 152 Common Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs X 153 Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes X 154 Eurasian Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula X 156 European Greenfinch Chloris chloris X 155 Common Rosefinch Carpodacus erythrinus X 157 Common Linnet Linaria cannabina X 158 Red Crossbill Loxia curvirostra X 160 Red-fronted Serin Serinus pusillus X 159 European Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis X 161 Corn Bunting Emberiza calandra X 162 Rock Bunting Emberiza cia X 163 Ortolan Bunting Emberiza hortulana X 164 Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala X 165 Common Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus caspia X Mammals 1 Red Fox Vulpes vulpes X 2 Caucasian Brown Bear Ursus arctos caucasicus 2 3 Bezoar's Goat Capra aegagrus aegagrus X 4 Caucasian Squirrel Sciurus anomalus X 5 Eastern Hedgehog Erinaceus concolor X Amphibians & Reptiles 1 Marsh Frog Pelophylax ridibundus X 2 Caucasian Agama Laudakia caucasia X 3 Caspian Green Lizard Lacerta strigata X

Butterflies

1 Scarce Swallowtail Iphiclides podalirius persica

5 Radde's Rock Lizard Darevskia raddeii X

- 4 Armenian Rock Lizard Darevskia armeniaca X
- 6 Grass Snake Natrix natrix X

2 Clouded Apollo Parnassius mnemosyne nubilosus

- 3 Black-veined White Aporia crataegi iranica
- 5 Small White Pieris rapae transcaucasica
- 7 Eastern Bath White Pontia edusa edusa
- 9 Clouded Yellow Colias crocea
- 11 Blue-spot Hairstreak Satyrium spini
- 13 Turkish Fiery Copper Lycaena ochimus
- 15 Green-underside Blue Glaucopscyche alexis lugens
- 17 Eastern Mazarine Blue Polyommatus semiargus bellis
- 19 Adonis Blue Polymmatus (Lysandra) bellargus
- 21 Pontic Blue Neolysandracoelestina
- 23 Southern White Admiral Limenitis reducta mirzajani
- 25 Painted Lady Vanessa cardui
- 27 Cardinal Fritillary Argynnis pandora
- 29 Lesser Spotted Fritillary Malitaea trivia caucasi
- 31 a Marsh Fritillary 'type' Euphydryas provincialis
- 33 Woodland Ringlet Erebia medusa psodea
- 35 Saadi's Heath Coenonympha saadi
- 37 Wall Brown Lasiommata megera megaerina
- 39 Grizzled Skipper sp Pyrgus sp
- 41 Yellow-banded Skipper Pyrgus sidae
- 43 Southern Small Skipper Thymelicus sylvestris syriaca
- 45 Mediterranean Skipper Gegenes nostrodamus

- 4 Large White Pieris brassicae
- 6 Green-veined White Pieris napi
- 8 Orange Tip Anthocharis cardamines
- 10 Brimstone Gonepteryx rhamni miljanowskii
- 12 Small Copper Lycaena phlaeus
- 14 Holly Blue Celastrina argiolas
- 16 Brown Argus Aricia agrestis azerbajdzhana
- 18 Amanda's Blue Polyommatus amandus
- 20 Common Blue Polyommatus icarus
- 22 Nettle-tree Butterfly Libythea celtis
- 24 Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta
- 26 Small Tortoiseshell Aglais urticae turcica
- 28 Spotted Fritillary Melitaea didyma transcaucasica
- 30 Heath Fritillary Mellicta athalia athalia
- 32 Balkan Marbled White Maelanargia larissa astanda
- 34 'Eastern' Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina strandiana
- 36 Small Heath Coenonympha pamphilus marginata
- 38 Hermit Chazara briseis armena
- 40 Obethur's Grizzled Skipper Pyrgus armoricanus persicus
- 42 Essex Skipper Thymelicus lineola
- 44 Large Skipper Ochlodes sylvianus

Micros Moths

1 Pyralid Synaphe moldavica

Macros Moths

- 1 Chimney Sweeper Odezia atrata
- 3 Bordered Straw Heliothis peltigera
- 5 Mother Shipton Callystege mi

- 2 Rush Veneer Nomophila noctuella
- 2 Humming-bird Hawk-moth Macroglossum stellatarum
- 4 Silver-Y Autographa gamma
- 6 Burnet Companion Euclidia glyphica

Odonata

- 1 Banded Demoiselle Calopteryx splendens
- 3 Scarce Blue-tail Ischnura pumilio
- 5 Common Winter Damselfly Sympecma fusca
- 7 Blue Emperor Anax imperator
- 9 Four-spotted Chaser Libellula quadrimaculata
- 11 White-tailed Skimmer Orthetrum albistylum
- 13 Red-veined Darter Sympetrum fonscolombii
- 15 Broad Scarlet Crocothemis erythraea

- 2 Azure Bluet Coenagrion puella
- 4 Small Red-eye Damselfly Erythromma viridulum
- 6 Ivory Featherleg Platycnemis dealbata
- 8 Lesser Emperor Anax parthenope
- 10 Black-tailed Skimmer Orthetrum cancellatum
- 12 Southern Skimmer Orthetrum brunneum
- 14 Southern Darter Sympetrum meridionale

Other Invertebrates

- 1 Nose Grasshopper Acrida ungarica
- 3 Field Cricket Gryllus campestris
- 5 Shield Bug Graphosoma lineatum
- 7 Fire Bug Pyrrhocoris apterus
- 9 Spoonwing Nemoptera sinuata
- 11 Hover-fly sp. Chrysotoxum bicinctum
- 13 Mammoth Wasp Megascolia maculata

- 2 Wartbiter Decticus verrucivorus
- 4 Hairy Shieldbug Dolycoris baccarum
- 6 Shield Bug Graphosoma semipunctata
- 8 Froghopper (Red & Black) Cercopis vulnerata
- 10 Bee-fly Bombylius sp.
- 12 Paper Wasp Polistes sp.
- 14 Armenian Bumblebee Bombus armeniacus

- 15 Carpenter Bee Xylocopa sp.
- 17 Honey Bee Apis millifera
- 19 Pollen Chafer Tropinota squalida
- 21 Rose Chafer Cetonia aurata
- 23 Seven-spot Ladybird Coccinella 7-punctata
- 25 Adonis Ladybird Hippodamia variegata
- 27 Longhorn Beetle Agapanthia c.f. cynarae
- 29 Crab Spider Misumena vatia

Molluscs

1 Roman Snail Helix pomatia

Plants (* indicates a plant is endemic)

16 Common Carder Bee Bombus pascuorum

18 Buprestid beetle Julodis andreae

20 Pollen Chafer Oxythyrea funesta

22 Soldier Beetle Rhagonycha fulva

24 Five-spot Ladybird Coccinella 5-punctata

26 Orange Ladybird Halyzia sedecimguttata

28 Sheep Tick Ixodes ricinus

Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

Scientific name Common name

PTERIDOPHYTES FERNS & ALLIES

Aspleniaceae Spleenwort Family

Asplenium ruta-muraria Wall Rue

Cystopteridaceae

Cystopteris fragilis Brittle Bladder-fern

Dryopteridaceae Buckler-fern Family

Dryopteris filix-mas Male Fern

GYMNOSPERMS CONIFERS

CupressaceaeCypress FamilyJuniperus communis var. saxatilisProstrate Juniper

Juniperus depressus

Ephedraceae Joint Pine Family

Ephedra procera Joint Pine

PinaceaePine FamilyPinus sylvestris var. hamata (P. kochiana)Koch's Pine

ANGIOSPERMS FLOWERING PLANTS

Eu-Dicots True Dicotyledons

Adoxaceae Moschatel Family

Sambucus ebulus Danewort
Sambucus nigra Elderberry
Viburnum lantana Wayfaring Tree

AmaranthaceaeGoosefoot FamilyAtriplex patulaCommon Orache

Beta corolliflora

Chenopodium album Fat Hen

Scientific name

Common name

Oak-leaved Goosefoot Chenopodium glaucum Chenopdodium hybridum Maple-leaved Goosefoot Suaeda maritima

Sea-blite

Apiaceae

Carrot Family

Angelica archangelica Anthriscus sylvestris Chaerophyllum temulum Chamaesciadium acaule

Cow Parsley Chervil

Foeniculum orientale

Fennel Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Malabaila dasyantha Prangos ferulacea

Sanicle

Sanicula europaea Turgenia latifolia

Zosima absinthifolia

Apocynaceae Cynanchum acutum

Dog-strangler Vine

Periwinkle Family

Betulaceae

Birch Family

Betula pendula subsp. pendula (B. verrucosa)

Birch Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus (C. caucasicus)

Oriental Hornbeam

Carpinus orientalis Corylus avellana

Hazel

Boraginaceae

Borage Family

Alkanna orientalis Anchusa arvensis

Yellow Alkanet

Anchusa azurea

Cerinthe minor

Bugloss Large Blue Alkanet

Buglossoides arvensis

Lesser Honeywort Hound's-tongue

Cynoglossum officinale

Bieberstein's Bugloss

Echium biebersteinii Echium russicum (E. rubrum)

Red Bugloss Viper's-bugloss

Echium vulgare

Bur Forget-me-not Alpine Forget-me-not

Lappula squarrosa Myosotis alpestris

Nonea armeniaca Onosma microcarpum

a Golden Drops a Golden Drops a Golden Drops

Onosma sericeum Onosma setosa

Onosma taurica Solenanthus stamineus

Rough Comfrey

Symphytum asperum

Brassicaceae

Cabbage Family Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata Camelina laxa Capsella bursa-pastoris Cardamine bulbifera

a Gold of Pleasure Shepherd's Purse Coralroot Bitter-cress

Cut-leaved Bitter-cress

Cardamine impatiens Cardamine uliginosa

Scientific name

Common name

Crambe orientalis Oriental Kale
Descurania sophia Flixweed

Draba bruniifolia Brown-leaved Whitlow-grass

Hesperis matronalisDame's VioletIsatis tinctoriaWoadLepidium drabaHoary CressLepidium latifoliumDittander

Sisymbrium loeselii False London Rocket
Thlaspi arvense Field Pennywort
Turritis glabra Tower Mustard

Campanulaceae Bellflower Family

Campanula armena -

Campanula sp.

Campanula stevenii subsp. beauverdiana -

Campanula tridentata -

Cannabaceae Hop Family

Celtis australis subsp. caucasica Caucasian Hackberry

Capparaceae Caper Family

Capparis spinosa Caper

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

Cephalaria gigantea Lonicera caucasica Scabiosa micrantha -

Caryophyllaceae Pink Family

Cerastium purpurescens Gypsophila elegans Silene conoidea -

Silene latifolia White Campion
Silene ruprechtii Ruprecht's Catchfly

Silene spergulifolia -

Stellaria media Chickweed

Telephium imperati subsp. orientale -

CelastraceaeSpindle FamilyEuonymus latifoliaBroad-leaved Spindle

Compositae (Asteraceae) Daisy Family

Bieberstein's Milfoil

Achillea arabica (A. biebersteinii) Achillea filipendulina (yellow)

Achillea millefolium

Amberboa moschata Sweet Sultan
Artemisia absinthium Wormwood

Artemisia caucasica Artemisia fragrans -

Carduus hamulosus Centaurea iberica Cirsium congestum

Cirsium echinus

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12

Scientific name

Common name

Stonecrop Family

Orpine

Cirsium obvallatum Cruprina vulgaris Cyanus cheiranthifolius (Centaurea c., white) Cyanus depressus (Centaurea depressa, blue) -

Echinops orientalis Oriental Globe Thistle
Erigeron uniflorus One-flowered Fleabane

Gundelia tournefortii

Helichrysum armenium Armenian Everlasting

Inula helenium Elecampane

Jurinea moschus subsp. pinnatisecta

Leucanthemum vulgareOxeye DaisyOnopordum acanthiumCotton ThistlePetasites albusWhite Butterbur

Serratula coriacea Tragopogon reticulatus -

Tussilago farfara Colt's-foot

ConvolvulaceaeBindweed FamilyCalystegia sepiumHedge BindweedConvolvulus arvensisField Bindweed

Crassulaceae

Sedum telephium

Hylotelephium caucasicum

Sedum hispanicum Sedum pallidum -

Cucurbitaceae White Bryony Family

Bryonia dioica White Bryony

Elaeagnaceae Sea-buckthorn Family

Elaeagnus angustifolia Russian Olive

Elaeagnus orientalis -

Hippophae rhamnoides Sea-buckthorn

Ericaceae Heather Family

Rhododendron caucasicum -

Euphorbiaceae Spurge Family

Euphorbia glaberrima Euphorbia oblongata -

FagaceaeBeech FamilyFagus orientalisOriental Beech

Quercus petraea subsp. ibericaGeorgian OakQuercus macrantheraCaucasian Oak

GentianaceaeGentian FamilyGentiana verna ssp. ponticaPontic Gentian

Geraniaceae Geranium Family

Fradium absinthaides subsp. armonum Armonian Stark's k

Erodium absinthoides subsp. armenum Armenian Stork's-bill
Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill

Scientific name

Common name

Geranium pyrenaicum Hedgerow Crane's-bill Geranium robertianum Herb Robert

Geranium sanguineum

Geranium sylvaticum

Helb Robert

Bloody Crane's-bill

Wood Crane's-bill

Hypericaceae St. John's-wort Family

Hypericum hyssopifoliumHyssop-leaved St. John's-wortHypericum perforatumPerforate St. John's-wort

Hypericum scabrum

Juglandaceae Walnut Family

[Juglans regia] Walnut

Lamiaceae Deadnettle Family

Ajuga chamaepitys ssp. chia -

Ajuga orientalis Oriental Bugle
Lamium album White Deadnettle

Mentha suaveolens-Nepeta betonicifolia-Nepeta meyeri-

Nepeta racemosa
Phlomis armeniaca Phlomis herba-venti subsp. pungens -

Phlomis orientalis Phlomoides laciniata (Eremostachys iberica) -

Prunella vulgaris Selfheal

Salvia staminea (S. armeniaca) Salvia hydrangea (S. dracocephaloides) Salvia nemorosa (S. staminea subsp. armena) Salvia sclarea -

Salvia verticillata Whorled Clary Scutellaria orientalis Oriental Skullcap

Sideritis montana -

Stachys atherocalyx Atherocalyx Woundwort

Stachys inflata -

Stachys rectaYellow WoundwortStachys sylvaticaHedge WoundwortTeucrium orientaleOriental GermanderTeucrium poliumFelty Germander

Thymus sp.

Ziziphora tenuior -

Leguminosae (Fabaceae)Pea FamilyAlhagi pseudalhagiCamelthorn

Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. boissieri a Kidney Vetch

Astracantha microcephala Astragalus cancellatus

Astragalus cicer Wild Lentil

Astragalus fragrans -

Astragalus glycyphyllus Wild Liquorice

Astragalus goktschaicus Astragalus macrocephalus ssp. finitimus Astragalus sevangensis -

Scientific name

Common name

Liquorice

Scarlet Pea

Glycyrrhiza glabra

Lathyrus digitatus (Orobus cyaneus)

Lathyrus laxiflorus

Lathyrus miniatus

Meadow Vetchling Lathyrus pratensis

Lathyrus roseus Pink Pea

Bird's-foot Trefoil Lotus corniculatus Medicago lupulina **Black Medick**

Medicago minima

Medicago sativa Lucerne Melilotus altisimus Tall Melilot

Onobrychis arenaria Onobrychis michauxii Onobrychis radiata Onobrychis transcaucasica

[Robinia pseudacacia] False Acacia Securigera varia Crown Vetch Sphaerophysa salsula Red Bladder-vetch

Sophora alopecuroides Sophora

Trifolium canescens

Trifolium hybridum Alsike Clover Trifolium medium Zig-zag Clover Red Clover Trifolium pratense White Clover Trifolium repens Vicia balansae Balan's Vetch Vicia cracca **Tufted Vetch** Vicia sepium **Bush Vetch** Variable Vetch

Vicia tenuifolia ssp. variabilis

Flax Family

Linum orientale

Linaceae

Malvaceae **Mallow Family** Alcea rugosa a Hollyhock **Dwarf Mallow** Malva neglecta

Nitrariaceae Peganum harmala

Peganum Family

Syrian Rue

Olive Family

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Ash Fraxinus angustifolia (F. rotundifolia)

Orobanchaceae

Euphrasia caucasica Melampyrum chlorostachyum

Orobanche ramosa Pedicularis armena Pedicularis condensata

Rhinanthus minor agg. Rhynchocorys orientalis

Pedicularis sibthorpii

Broomrape Family

Caucasian Eye-bright

Branched Broomrape Armenian Lousewort Condensed Lousewort Sibthorp's Lousewort

Rattle

Scientific name

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Fumaria parviflora Glaucium corniculatum Papaver arenarium

Papaver fugax
Papaver macrostomum
Papaver orientale

Papaver persica

Papaver rhoeas (P. commutatum)

Plantaginaceae

Linaria grandiflora

Plantago major

Veronica austriaca Veronica beccabunga

Veronica chamaedrys Veronica gentianoides Veronica multifida Veronica persica

Polygalaceae

Polygala alpicola Polygala anatolica

Polygonaceae

Persicaria bistorta
Persicaria hydropiper
Persicaria maculata

Polygonum cognatum (P. alpestre)

Rumex acetosa Rumex crispus Rumex scutatus

Primulaceae

Glaux maritima

Primula veris subsp. macrocalyx

Ranunculaceae

Aconitum sp Actaea spicata

Caltha palustris (C. polypetala)

Consolida divaricata

Consolida orientalis
Pulsatilla albana
Ranunculus acris
Ranunculus sceleratus
Thalictrum minus

Trollius ranunculinus (T. patulus)

Resedaceae Reseda lutea Common name

Poppy Family

Greater Celandine Small-flowered Fumitory

-

Purple Sand Poppy

-

Persian Poppy Common Poppy

Plantain Family

Greater Plantain

Jiealei Fiaillai

Brooklime

Germander Speedwell Gentian-like Speedwell Many-lobed Speedwell Common Field Speedwell

Milkwort Family

-

Knotweed Family

Bistort

Water-pepper Redshank Alpine Knotgrass

Sorrel
Curled Dock
French Sorrel

Primrose Family

Sea Milkwort

-

Buttercup Family

Baneberry Marsh Marigold

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Oriental Larkspur a Pasqueflower Meadow Buttercup Celery-leaved Buttercup Lesser Meadow-rue a Globeflower

Mignonette Family

Mignonette

Scientific name

Common name

Rhamnaceae

Buckthorn Family

Rhamnus pallasii

Rosaceae

Rose Family Alchemilla sp. a Lady's-mantle

Cotoneaster sp.

Oriental Hawthorn Crataegus orientalis Fragaria vesca Wild Strawberry Wood Avens Geum urbanum Potentilla anserina Silverweed Potentilla crantzii Alpine Cinquefoil Potentilla hirta Hairy Cinquefoil Potentilla recta Sulphur Cinquefoil Poterum sanguisorba subsp. balearicum Fodder Burnet Wild Cherry

Prunus avium

Prunus fenzliana (Amygdalus fenzliana)

Prunus padus Pyrus caucasica Pyrus salicifolia Rosa pimpinellifolia Rubus idaeus Sibbaldia parviflora Sorbus aucuparia

Spiraea hypericifolia

Bird Cherry Caucasian Pear Willow-leaved Pear **Burnet Rose** Raspberry Sibbaldia

Rowan or Mountain Ash

Rubiaceae

Cruciata laevipes Galium aparine Galium odoratum

Galium c.f. verum

Bedstraw Family

Crosswort Cleavers Woodruff

Lady's Bedstraw

Willow Family Goat Willow

Salicaceae

Salix caprea Salix pentandra

Sapindaceae

Field Maple Acer campestre

Acer monspessulanum subsp. ibericum

Acer platanoides Acer pseudoplatanus

Acer heldreichii subsp. trautvetteri

Maple Family

Bay Willow

Norway Maple Sycamore

Trautvetter's Maple

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga cymbalaria

Scrophulariaceae

Scrophularia ilvensis Ilven Figwort

Scrophularia rupestris Verbascum speciosum

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissimus (A. montana)

Figwort Family

Tree of Heaven Family

Tree of Heaven

Scientific name

Common name

Solanaceae

Nightshade Family

Hyoscyamus nigra

Henbane

Tamaricaceae

Tamarisk Family

Tamarix ramosissima

Branched Tamarisk

ThymelaeaceaeDaphne glomerata

Mezereon Family

'-

Ulmaceae

Elm family

Zelkova carpinifolia (Ulmus carpinifolia)

Caucasian Elm

Urticaceae

Nettle Family

Parietaria elliptica Parietaria judaica .

Urtica dioica subsp. dioica

Pellitory-of-the-Wall Common Nettle

Valerianaceae

Valerian Family

Valeriana alliariifolia Valeriana leucophaea

_

Valeriana officinalis

Common Valerian

Valeriana tilliifolia

Zygophyllum Family

Zygophyllaceae Zygophyllum fabago

Syrian Bean-caper

Monocots

Allium tripedale (Nectaroscordum tripedale)

Monocotyledons

Amaryllidaceae

Daffodil Family

Allium cardiostemon

-

Araceae

Lords-and-Ladies Family

Arum sp.

-

Asparagaceae

Asparagus Family

Bellevalia paradoxa (P. pycnantha)

-

Leopoldia caucasica (Muscari caucasicum)

Leopoldia

Leopoldia tenuiflorum

Grape Hyacinth

Muscari neglectum

_

Ornithogalum balansae Ornithogalum hajastanum

Armenian Star-of-Bethlehem Puschkinia

Puschkinia scilloides

Armenian Squill

Scilla siberica subsp. armena

Colchicum Family

Colchicaeae Colchicum szovitsii (Colchicum bifolium)

-

Cyperaceae

Carex divulsa

Sedge Family

Bolboschoenus maritimus

Sea Clubrush Grey Sedge Pale Sedge

Carex pallescens Carex spicata

Spiked Sedge

Common name

Scientific name

Carex sylvatica Wood Sedge

Round-headed Clubrush Scirpoides holoschoenus

Iridaceae Iris Family

Gladiolus caucasicus Caucasian Gladiolus

Liliaceae **Lily Family**

Glacier Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem Gagea glacialis

Lilium armenum Amenian Lily

Melanthiaceae **Herb-Paris Family** Veratrum lobelianum Green False-helleborine

Orchidaceae **Orchid Family**

Anacaamptis pseudolaxiflora White Helleborine Cephalanthera damasonium Red Helleborine Cephalanthera rubra Dactylorhiza viridis Frog Orchid Dactylorhiza euxina a Marsh Orchid

Dactylorhiza umbrosa (D. sanasunitensis)

Dactylorhiza urvilleana

Neottia nidus-avis Bird's-nest Orchid Orchis mascula Early Purple Orchid Platanthera chlorantha Greater Butterfly Orchid

Poaceae **Grass Family** Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Foxtail

Drooping Brome Anisantha tectorum Bermuda Grass Cynodon dactylon

Hordeum bulbosum

Hordeum murinum Wall Barley Phragmites australis Common Reed Poa bulbosa var. vivipara Viviperous Bulbous Meadow-grass

Puccinellia distans Reflexed Salt-marsh Grass

Stipa pulcherrima a Feather-grass

Typhaceae **Bulrush Family**

Typha latifolia Bulrush