Tulip Meadows of Kazakhstan & the Tien Shan Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 30 April 2017





Tulipa lemmersii

Allium karataviense







Tulipa greigii hybrids

Report and images by Neil Anderson



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Day 1

Saturday 15th April

In transit from three countries (USA, England and Norway)

After flights from the USA, England and Norway, all but Samson eventually met up at Istanbul airport, Turkey. Alpine Swifts could be seen flying around the buildings, and also a couple of Hooded Crows before we continued to Almaty.

Day 2

Sunday 16th April

Lake Kapchagai. Overcast

We arrived slightly late at Almaty where both Samson and our local guide, Vladimir were waiting for us. Having passed through customs, we were whisked away for a fine breakfast before heading to Lake Kapchagai for our first day's botanising. En route we saw about 200 Black-eared Kites that were feeding up before continuing their migration. Many were scavenging over a distant dump while others were closer, sitting in trees.

As we drove down the track to the lake we could see some of our targets growing in the arid, sandy soil. First the attractive blue flowers of *Iris tenuifolia* growing at the base of the longer rounded leaves and the diminutive cups of *Tulipa busheana*. This is part of the *biflora* group and has two leaves and several yellow based white flowers. In the same area we found the yellow flowered *Tulipa behmiana* which has glaucous, crispate leaves.

Other plants seen flowering included the tiny pink fritillary *Fritillaria (Rhinopetalum) karelinii*, several *Astragalus* species (there are some 600 species in central Asia, so we saw plenty of this genus on this trip), the tiny yellow poppy *Hypecoum parviflorum* with strange shaped petals, and the tiny maroon borage flowers of *Nonea caspica*.

Faunal interest was provided by several Horsfield's Tortoises and the small fast lizard *Eremias velox*. A male Montagu's Harrier hunted very close to us, Pied Wheatears were singing and on the lake Red-crested Pochards were with a few Mallards. As we walked to the bus, Sally spotted a perched bird which was a Turkestan Shrike which gave good views. Eastern Bath Whites were plentiful here.

We then had a huge picnic lunch courtesy of our driver and assistant. Afterwards we headed to the small hills behind where the wonderful *Tulipa alberti* grows. Here the large single yellow flowers have reddish stripes on the back of the tepals. Later in the trip we would see the red form.

After a successful day we returned to our hotel for a good night's sleep.

Day 3

Monday 17th April

Travel Almaty to Merke. Wet

Today we had a long journey to our next stop at the sanatorium at Merke. Our American friends were not familiar with rookeries so requested a stop to photograph them. These were often in very low trees, unlike in the UK, due to the lack of choice. Back in the coach Marcy, a talented artist, played the flute in homage to the birds.

We encountered our first *Juno* iris *Iris kushakewiczii*, with pale flowers and dark markings on the falls. We also saw our first *Anemone petiolulosa*, a small yellow flower that we would frequently encounter.

At the next road stop as we crossed the Kordoi Pass we were excited by the large yellow flowered *Berberis* relative, *Leontice eversmanni* with large glaucous leaves. We found the streaked leaves of *Tulipa greigii*, the yellow flowers of *T. kolpakowskiana* and eventually near the bus below a statue of a deer, Vladimir found a solitary red flowered *T. Ostrowskiana*. Everyone sighed with relief and the cameras clicked away!

Most of the rest of the drive was in pretty awful wet conditions allowing little to be seen from the windows, but Neil did spot a pair of Demoiselle Cranes in a brief break.

The sanatorium was basic but comfortable and extremely busy with the friendly residents and visitors.

Day 4

Tuesday 18th April

Merke. Grey early, sunny later

When we got up it was foggy, but this cleared after breakfast and we explored the humid, mountainous area. Ferns were found amongst the rocks included Rustyback, Forked Spleenwort and Brittle Bladder Fern. We made our first of many encounters with the tall, distinctive crucifer *Megacarpea orbiculata* with pale, creamy flowers - a very architectural plant. Much smaller was the pretty pinkish *Corydalis ledebouriana* which was another species we'd see a lot over the trip.

Vladimir wasn't too optimistic about finding our main target, *Tulipa zenaidae* in flower. Lady luck though was on our side. Vladimir suddenly spotted one above us. In fact there were several but it did involve a bit of a tortuous scramble to get close to them. Everybody eventually managed to get close and personal to them for photographs. The exquisite yellow flowers have a dark basal blotch and stained red on the outside of the tepals. This beauty was named in honour of the botanist Zenaida Botschantzeva. Though restricted to this site in Kazakhstan, it is more widespread in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.

As we descended the sun appeared and, on cue, several butterflies appeared: a couple of Brimstones, Orange Tips, two Queen of Spain Fritillaries and Yellow-legged Tortoiseshells. Several quills of Indian Porcupine were found on our return. We had good views of Blue Whistling Thrush along the stream and we often heard its distinctive song.

After lunch back at base, several raptors were noted from the bridge including Long-legged Buzzard, some Cinereous (Black) Vultures, a Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture) and a Himalayan Vulture. Heading in the opposite direction to the morning, we explored the hillside where Samson discovered the first of a couple of flowering clumps of *Iris tianschanica*. The pale *Gagea ova* and creamy flowers of *Astragalus macrotropis* were also seen.

Day 5

Wednesday 19th April

Merke; Moyyngum Sands; Taraz; Zhabagly. Sunny

After two nights at Merke it was time to move on. Dave and Marcy had spotted a large raptor behind the building which Neil identified as a Golden Eagle, perched on a bush. Before we left the telescope was set up for all to enjoy it. They're never this easy in Scotland!

We had a long drive to reach our base at Zhabagly for the next eight nights. Our first stop was at Moyynqum Sands. Here we found a couple of good specimens of *Tulipa binutans* in the shelter of bushes. We also saw more of *Iris tenuifolia*, white patches of *Holosteum polyganum* and a small yellow flowered *Astragalus fractus*.

Vladimir took us to his home city of Taraz where we had a buffet lunch. We then visited the 11th or 12th century mausoleum of Aisha Bibi on the silk route and Vladimir explained the story of the woman: supposedly in love but probably more to do with power and politics.

Our final afternoon stop before our destination was in the Kuyuk Pass. Here we found quite a bit of the blue flowered *Iris willmottiana* which was to be the most commonly seen *Juno* species and a real delight! We also found the early species *Tulipa orthopoda* in fruit. This was the only one of the 16 species of tulip recorded that we didn't see in flower.

After a tiring but enjoyable day, we settled down in the homely environs of the Zhabagly guest house with an attractive garden in front of the snow capped peaks of the western Tien Shan.

Day 6

Thursday 20th April

Mashat. Warm and sunny

Soon after leaving our village we made an impromptu stop by a covert to see the attractive yellow flowered *Corydalis sewerzowii* and also *Tulipa bifloriformis*. We also saw the distinct foliage of *Arum korolkowii*.

We then headed to the south facing Mashat Canyon; relatively youthful in geological term! As we drove along the track we could see the blossom of the low *Prunus tianschanica* and the taller bushes of the almond *Amygdalus spinosissima*, fiercely armed as its specific epithet suggests. This hillside was filled with goodies including the lovely foliage of the large fennels *Ferula tenuisecta* and *Prangos ornata*.

We finally saw *Tulipa greigii* in flower, and other attractive plants seen in flower included the labiate *Phlomoides* speciosa, the borage *Rindera echinata* and yellow *Onosma irritans*. Distinctive foliage was provided by *Verbascum* songoricum and *Inula macrophylla*.

Many of the group managed to scramble to the top to see *Tulipa lemmersii*, a species only discovered in 2009 with an attractive yellow flower with black anthers. Three members of the group felt unable to reach the summit but Vladimir found a much easier route. The group decided they would love to return here tomorrow to enable everyone to see this beauty. In addition to the special flora, we had excellent views of a pair of Egyptian Vultures

with a Long-legged Buzzard, a Black Stork and a noisy Eastern Rock Nuthatch calling from above us. Several Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow butterflies were active, as was a Humming-bird Hawk-moth.

On our way back we stopped short of our village to examine a colony of *Tulipa bifloriformis* mixed with *Gagea turkestanica* and *G. minutiflora*.

Day 7 Friday 21st April

Mashat & Chokpak Pass. Sunny and breezy

As promised, we returned to Mashat for the morning to enable everybody to admire *Tulipa lemmersii*. We all managed to see some new plants from yesterday including the attractive pinkish red *Astragalus kronenburgii*, the mauve *A. skorniakowii*, the long pinnate leaves of *Onobrychis grandis* and a stunning group of *Tulipa greigii*. Some *Crambe kotschyana* was covered in the attractive red and black shieldbugs *Eurydema ornate*, and other plants had numerous Hairy Shieldbugs, a familiar UK species.

As we had lunch by our bus, several Alpine Swifts hunted in the gorge. After lunch we stopped further along the road to admire *Eremurus lactiflorus*; a stunning plant. As we disembarked, Samson spotted a large Glass Lizard which Vladimir managed to catch to show the whole group. Also beginning to flower was *Allium karataviense* on recent slippages and *Ferula tenuisecta*.

We then moved on to Chokpak Pass where it was windy, but we found shelter by some snow melt patches. Surrounding these were the white *Crocus alatavicus* (with maroon on the outer tepals) including one growing in water, an extensive hybrid colony of *Corydalis ledebouriana* x sewersowň, pink *Fritillaria stenanthera* and the exquisite but petite *Iridodyctium kolpokowskianum*.

Day 8 Saturday 22nd April

Kuyuk Pass; Berkera Valley. Cloudy am; sunny pm

This morning we headed to the Kuyuk Pass which consists of pre-Cambrian slates. At our first stop we noted the distinctive rosettes of the thistle relative *Cousinia karatavica* and architectural leaves of the rhubarb relative *Rheum cordatum*. There was also a good colony of *Iris willmottiana* here.

At our second stop we were fortunate to see a couple of our target species: the pretty yellow *Juno, Iris orchioides* as well as the attractive *Astragalus pachyrhizus*, which could grace any rock garden. We also saw the related *A. atrovinosus* which initially has yellow flowers but turn wine red after pollination. A Hoopoe was briefly seen here.

We stopped in the Karasai, about nine kilometres north-east of the Kuyuk Pass, to find the gorgeous *Corydalis schanginnii* ssp. *ainae*. Everybody was pleased to appreciate this gem. Vladimir also found the very rare small tree *Prunus verrucosa* which was beginning to flower; only about the third time he'd seen this.

By the time we reached the Berkera Valley the weather had improved with warm sunshine and many Orange Tip butterflies flying near the humid conditions by the stream, with lots of ancient *Fraxinus potamophila*. Along the walk we saw many *Fritillaria senersonii* in their various colours from green to maroon and the attractive borage

Solenanthus circinatus. The star of the show was a massed colour palette of tulips: a hybrid swarm of *Tulipa greigii* mixed with *T.kaufmanniana*, and dazzling to witness. Vladimir showed us an attractive crucifer *Parrya australis* which was growing on rocks near the stream; a real subtle beauty!

On the walk back we saw and heard Scops Owl and Hoopoe, while an Oriental Turtle Dove flew through. Marsh Frogs were calling and several of us managed to see a few. We encountered these large, charismatic amphibians on every subsequent water body.

Returning to base, we stopped to observe one of the great ornithological spectacles of the area - about 2,000 Demoiselle Cranes feeding in fields with further flocks appearing from the distance. Even the less birdy members of the group appreciated this migratory event!

Day 9 Sunday 23rd April

Foothills of Ulken Buraltan; Kumntiyn sand dunes; Akkol Lake. Sunny

After a long drive we had a brief stop to stretch our legs and to admire many red *Tulipa greigii* as well as seeing *Biebersteinia multifida* and *Vicia subvillosa*. Some of the group wanted to photograph a picturesque cemetery and we stopped by a lake to allow others to do some brief birding. A couple of Great Egrets were seen from the bus and a Pygmy Cormorant was at the back of the reeds. Cetti's Warbler was singing and Marsh Frogs added to the soundscape.

Kumntiyn sand dunes was our next destination and several Sousliks were spotted from the bus. In the arid conditions we did manage to find several *Tulipa lehmanniana* in flower which can vary from red to yellow with a dark basal blotch without a border. A pair of Shikra which gave good views was certainly the birding highlight here. On leaving the dunes we paused for a photographic stop as there were several Bactrian Camels and Dromedary.

As we drove along the track to Akkol Lake we put up a total of 11 Black-bellied Sandgrouse. A pair of Great White Pelicans was at the edge of the lake and Calandra Larks sang all around us. Here we caught up with the red form of the chunky *Tulipa albertii*. Colour was also provided by yellow *Ranunculus regelianus* and the pretty vetch *Vicia subvillosa*. The foliage of *Rheum tataricum* was certainly photogenic. As with other arid sites, we encountered Horsfield's Tortoise again.

Day 10 Monday 24th April

Kshi-Kaindy. Warm and sunny

Today was a local day and we had to get the Aksu Zhabagly warden to drive us once we had our necessary permit. In glorious weather we had to scale the rough footpath to the Halfway House for lunch, and then a little further to the dramatic waterfall. Sally and Marcy decided to stay nearer the bottom and had a good time photographing a range of plants, insects and the odd bird.

We admired many plants as we climbed; many now familiar but also a few new ones. For the tulip connoisseur there was further variety in the numerous colour forms of *Tulipa kaufmanniana*, some red *T. greigii* and both the

white starry flowers with yellow base of the fragrant *T. Turkestanica*, plus a handful of the much rarer all yellow form. New shoots of *Ferula penninervis* and *Polygonatum sewersowii* were emerging, and the meadows here in summer would be a riot of colour with various *Alliums*, the purple of *Salvia deserta*, bluish teasels, *Dipsacus azureus* and yellow *Achillea filipendulina*.

Our lunch was well earned at the Halfway House. We saw tracks and feeding signs of Isabelline Brown Bears and also droppings of Siberian Ibex. Birding was unusually quiet here though we had superb close views of Golden Eagle and Booted Eagle lower down. Chukar were heard more than seen and a singing Hume's Lesser Whitethroat eventually revealed itself.

Butterflies were numerous and two new species for us were Camberwell Beauty (or Mourning Cloak for the US members of the party) and a Nettle Tree Butterfly which settled several times. Dark, iridescent Carpenter Bees were also numerous.

After the waterfall, Samson and Vladimir crossed a precarious ice patch and managed to locate the diminutive yellow *Colchicum luteum*. They also had the bizarre sighting of the venomous Haly's Pit Viper on the snow. A second one was later seen by some of the others in the group; in fact Lesley just missed treading on it and also a Steppe Snake.

Three species of juniper were seen today with *Juniperus semiglobosa* the dominant species and plentiful, much smaller *J. turkestanica*. The lousewort *Pedicularis olgae* was seen in bloom.

Day 11

Tuesday 25th April

Foothills Karatau Mountains; Kyzolkol Lake. Sunny

A long drive was needed to see our next tulip species at Kyzolkol Lake. To break up the journey we had a stop in the foothills of the Karatau. Here we saw *Astragalus xipholobus* and a Hobby flew over, while a pair of Hoopoes posed on a rock.

As we took the track from the highway towards the lake we soon spotted splashes of red. Diana Everett who wrote the Kew monograph on tulips, took three visits to see our quarry: *Tulipa borszczowii*. We were more fortunate! The red to orange flowers have a dark basal blotch visible from the outside and like several others of the tulips we had seen, had undulate, glaucous leaves. The dark anthers provided a good contrast.

Even more exciting for Neil was the discovery of two showy inflorescences of the parasitic broomrape relative *Cistanche salsa* on the side of the lake. This species is parasitic on various species of chenopod. We also found the highly localised *Astragalus denominatus* found only at this site. Unlike many of its congeners, this prostrate species has ternate leaves with dull whitish pink flowers.

The lake held both Common and Ruddy Shelducks, several Black-necked Grebes and a pair of Gull-billed Terns. The land held many larks with Calandra Lark the most common, but Bimaculated Lark was also recorded, and Tawny Pipits. We also saw a Honey Buzzard interacting with a Long-legged Buzzard, and a strong movement of Sand Martins.

Swallowtails were numerous here and probably utilised Ferula species for larval food plants.

Day 12

Wednesday 26th April

Ters Lake; Koksai Gorge. Warm & sunny

Our first stop at Ters Lake was primarily a birding spot, where a variety of wildfowl and waders were present. Redshank and Lapwing displayed, Common Sandpipers were actively feeding and a single Black-winged Stilt was noted. Garganey was the most numerous duck with at least 25 seen.

Moving up to Koksai Gorge we put up a Little Bustard and the place seemed alive with Renardi's Vipers. Sadly a couple had been killed by vehicles, but a good number were seen alive and one posed well for photographs.

We recorded five species of Iris and saw, for the first time in flower, the pale *Juno, Iris subdecolorata*. A variety of now familiar spring flowers were enjoyed and we saw *Pedicularis karatavicus* in flower; white with a raspberry blotch.

In the long grass overlooking the gorge we saw several Dalmatian Ringlets. Many of the group descended into the gorge.

Day 13

Thursday 27th April

Aksu Canyon. Cloudy

After a bright start, the weather gave us our first cloud cover in over a week. Before we reached the canyon itself we paused near a stream and some recent snow melt where we located the whitish *Scilla puschkinioides* as well as some familiar species of *Crocus, Corydalis, Gymospermium albertii, Eranthis longistipitata* and *Gageas*.

Driving on, a Steppe Eagle flew up from a field. The route down the gorge was easy in places but trickier in others. *Eremurus lactiflorus* and *Tulipa greigii* made it look like a rock garden in places. In addition to *Solenanthus*, we saw its relative *Trachelanthus korolkowii* in flower.

Angela was fortunate to encounter a group of four Siberian Ibex and managed to photograph two of them before they disappeared again. Only Samson went to the bottom, but Lesley, Cindy and Neil went over three-quarters of the way down. Back at the summit Cindy shouted out "what's the large bird?" as a Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture) cruised past us at eyeball to eyeball distance. Goshawk, White-capped Bunting and Yellow-breasted Azure Tit were also seen around the canyon.

We got back early to the guest house as we had to pack after eight nights there, to catch a late train at nearby Tulkubas, which was much nearer to the village than the originally planned Shimkent. The weather deteriorated with poor driving conditions to the station. Unfortunately the train didn't pull in at the platform so we had to clamber up into the overnight train.

Day 14

Friday 28th April

Almaty. Wet

We arrived back in Almaty at just after 9am and headed to the hotel for a hearty breakfast. During the previous week Vladimir had received numerous text messages about avalanches in the mountains where we were due to spend our penultimate night at the Alpen Rose Hotel. Our local agents said it was okay, but after we passed the toll a police car was parked across the road and informed us we could go no further.

We started to descend and did a little botanising, where we found *Corydalis glaucescens, Viola collina* and *Pedicularis albertii*. Distinctive were the glaucous banana-like leaves of recently emerged *Ligularia macrophylla*.

While alternative accommodation was organised we had a cultural tour in Almaty, including a visit to the ornate Russian Orthodox Church known as the Zenkov Cathedral .We also admired the World War 2 memorial to the Panfilov heroes: 28 soldiers of an Almaty infantry unit who died fighting the Nazis outside Moscow. An eternal flame burns nearby commemorating the fallen from both the civil and WW2 wars.

Following lunch we visited the Green Market, which was a real taste of Almaty, before retiring to the hastily organised night at Hotel Astra, which was very comfortable.

Day 15

Saturday 29th April

Kaskalen Valley. Cloudy & sunny

Fortunately the rain had cleared so we got back to botanising at Kaskalen Valley in the Ili-Alatau National Park. Lower down, much *Spiraea hypericifolia* was flowering and we found the bearded Iris *Iris albertii* in flower and also the rare *Euphorbia yaroslavii*. Higher up there was fresh snow cover so *Tulipa dasystemon* was out of reach, but we did find *T. thianschanica* in flower lower down.

That evening we had our final dinner together and at the same time celebrated Sally's birthday with a calorific but delicious birthday cake. We all agreed it had been a wonderful, eventful trip with so much to see, and a great funfilled group that gelled so well.

Day 16

Sunday 30th April

Almaty to home

A very early start meant leaving our comfortable beds by 4am to get our bus to Almaty airport. We said goodbye to Vladimir and Samson while the rest of us returned to Istanbul. Here Sally, Joan and Marcy went their way while the rest of us continued to Gatwick, arriving late afternoon and another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Plants

Code	Site Name				
AC	Aksu Gorge	AL	Akkol Lake	AIM	Almaty mountains
BV	Berkera Valley	Ch	Chokpak Pass	K	Kumntiyn Sands
Ka	Karasai	KG	Koksai Gorge	KK	Kshi-Kaindy
KL	Kyzolkol Lake	KM	Karatau Mountains	KP	Kordoi Pass
KU	Kuyuk Pass	KV	Kaskalen Valley	LK	Lake Kapchagai
LT	Lake Ters	Ma	Mashat	Me	Merke
MS	Movvngum Sands	U	Ulkun Burultan		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location	
Alliaceae			
Allium drobovii		Ma, KK	
A. eriocoleum		AL, AC	
A. jodantum		KL	
A. karataviense		Me, KU. Ma, AC	
A. kuyakense		BV	
A. pratensum		KL	
A. turkestanicum		KL	
Amaryllidaceae			
Ungernia sewersowii		KK, KG, AC	
Araceae			
Arum korolkowii		Ma, Me, AC	
Asphodelaceae			
Eremurus altiaicus		AIM	
E. cristatus		LK, Me	
E. inderiensis		LK, MS	
E. lactiflorus		KU, Ma, AC	
E. regelii		Ma, KK	
E. robustus		KV	
E. sogdianus		Ma, AC	
E. tianshanicus		KV	
Colchicaceae			
Colchicum luteum		KK	
Convallariaceae			
Polygonatum sewersowii		KK, AC	
Hyacinthaceae			
Scilla puschkinoides		AC	

Phragmites australis

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Iridaceae		
Crocus alatavicus		KP, Ch, KK, AC
Iridodyctium kolpokowskianum		KP, Ch, KK, AC, KG
Iris albertii		KV
I. kuschakewiczii		KP
I.orchiodes		KU, AL, KG
I. sogdiana		KK, AC
I. songorica		KG
I. subdecolorata		KL, KG
I. tenuifolia		LK, KL
I. tianschanicus		Me, KG
I. willmottiana		KP, Ma, KK, AC
Ixioliriaceae		
Ixiolirion tataricum		Ma, KV
Liliaceae		
Fritillaria karelinii		LK, KL
F. sewersowii		KP, BU, KK, AC
F. stenanthera		Ch, KP,KK, KG, AC
Gagea alberti		LK
G bulbifera		LK
G. chomotovae		MS
G. emarginata		KK
G. filiformis		KP, KK
G. minutiflora		AK, Zhabagly
G. olgae		Me
G' ova		LK, KU, KP
G. popovii		AC
G. turkestanica		KP, Zhabagly
Tulipa alberti		LK, AL
T. behmiana		LK
T' bifloriformis		Me, KK
T. binutans		MS
T. borszczowii		KL
T. busheana		LK, KP
T. greigii		common in west
T. kaufmanniana		KK, KG, AC
T. kolpakowskiana		LK, KP, Me
T. lehmanniana		K
T. lemmersii		Ma
T. orthopoda		KU
T' ostrowskiana		KP, KV
T. tianschanicus		KV
T. turkestanica		KK
T. zenaidae		Me
Poaceae		
Hordeum bulbosum		Ma

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lakes

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Di	cots	
Aceraceae		
Acer negundo	Box Elder	Ma, Me
A. semenovii		Ma, Me
Anarcadiaceae		
Pistacio vera		Ма
Apiaceae		
Aegopodium tadshikorum		BV
Ferula karatavica		AL, KL
F. karataviense		Ма
F. leucographa		Ма
F. penninervis		KK, AC
F. samarkandica		AC
F. tenuisecta		widespread
F. varia		LK, AL
Prangos pabularia		BV
P. ornata		Ма
Scandix pectin-veneris		Ма
Screnkiana golickeana		Common
Talassia tortillioides		KG
Asteraceae		
Achillea filipendulina		widespread
A. millefolium		
Artemisia absinthium	Wormwood	Me, Ma, KK, KV
A. dracunculus	Tarragon	KK, KV
A. rutifolia		Me, AC
Centaurea squarrosa		Widespread
Cichorium intybus		Common
Cousinia affinis		LK
Cousinia alberti		Ma, BV
C. karatavica		KU, KP, Ma
C. triflora		roadsides
C. umbrosa		KK, Ac
Echinops talassicus		AC
E. tschanganicus		AC
Handelia trichophylla		KG
Inula macrophylla		Ma, BV, AC
Ligularia macrophylla		KV
Onopordum acanthium		widespread
Scorzonera circumflexa		LT
T. officinale agg.	Dandelion	Common
Tragopogon marginifolius		LK, Ma, AC
T. rubra		AL, KL
Tussilago farfara	Coltsfoot	KK
Xanthium strumarium	Cocklebur	LK, KU
Berberidaceae		
Berberis oblonga		AC

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
B. sphaerocarpa		AIM
Gymnospermum alberti		common
Leontice eversmanii		KP
L. inserta		KL
Betulaceae		
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	AIM
Betula turkestanica		Me, KK
Boraginaceae		
Asperugo procumbens		Taraz
Echium italicum		Ма
Lappula microcarpa		LK
Lithospermum arvense		KP, Ma
L. tenuiflorum		LK
Myosotis micrantha		KP, AC
Nonea caspica		LK, MS
Onosma dicroanthum		LK, MS
O. irritans		KP, Ma
Rindera echinata		Ma, BV, AC
R. oblongifolia		KK
R. tetraspis		LK, Ma
Solenanthus circinnatus		Ma, BV, AC
Trachelanthus korolkowii		AC
Brassicaceae		
Alliara petiolata	Garlic Mustard	BV
Alyssum turkestanicum		LK, MS
Barbaraea planisliqua		
Cammelina microcarpa		
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's Purse	
Conringia clavata		Ма
Crambe kotschyana		Ма
C. orientalis		roadsides
Descourania sophia	Flixweed	AL
Drabopsis nuda	0 14/1/11	Me, Ma, KK, AC
Erophila verna	Common Whitlow Grass	common
Lepidium draba	Hoary Cress	Ma, Me
Megacarpea orbiculata		Me, Ma, KK, AC
Menioicus linifolius		LK BV
Parrya australis Thlaspi kotschyana		ВV
Campanulaceae		Mo. AC
Sergia sewersowii		Ma, AC
Caprifoliaceae		Ma
Abelia corymbosa		Me
Lonicera microphylla		AIM
L. tianschanica		KK, AC

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Caryophyllaceae Cerastium inflatum Holosteum polyganum Holosteum umbellatum Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Ma LK, MS LK ruderal
Celastraceae Euonymus koopmannii E. semonovii		KK Me, AIM
Chenopodiaceae Anabasis truncata Ceratoides papposa Kochia prostata Nanophyton erinaceum Rhaphidophyton regelii Salsola lariccifolia		KL LK LK AL Ka Ka
Convolvulaceae Convolvulus arvensis	Field Bindweed	Ма
Crassulaceae Pseudosedum longidentatum Rosularia glabra Sedum alberti S. hybridum		LK, Me LK, KP, KK LK, KK, AC AIM
Cuscutaceae Cuscuta lehmanniana		Ма
Dipsacaceae Dipsacus azureum		Ma, BV, KK
Euphorbiaceae Euphorbia helioscopa E. rapulum E. yaroslawii	Sun Spurge	Ma LK, KP KV
Fabaceae Astragalus abolinii A. anisomerus A. atrovinosus A. balchagchensis A. deuominatus A. fedtschenkoanus		Ma, AC KK Ma, KU, AC LK KL Me
A. fractus A. kronenburgii A. kurdaicus A. macrotropis A. megalomerus A. nematodus A. mucrurus		Ma AC Me, Ma, AC Ma KP, MS, Ma

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
A. neolypskianus		Ma, KG
A. pachyrhizus		Ku, AC
A. scabrisetus		LK
A. sewersowii		KG
A. sieversianus		common
A. skorniakovii		Ma, AC
A. syreichnkowii		KG
A. xipholobus		Karatau stop
Calophaca tianschanica		Ma .
Caragana camile-schneiderii		KV
C. balchashensis		Ka, AL
Lathyrus cicera		Ma
Medicago minima		Ма
Onobrychis grandis		Ma, AC
Vicia subvillosa		LK, AL
V. tenuifolia		AC
Fumariaceae		
Corydalis glaucescens		ALM
C. ledebouriana		common
C. ruksonsii		KK
C. sewersowii		Zhabagly
Gentianaceae		
Gentiana olivieri		KG
Geraniaceae		
Biebersteinia multifida		KP, Ma, AL, AC
Erodium cicutarium	Common Storksbill	Me
E. hoefftianum		LK, KP
Geranium pratense		AIM
G. robertianum	Herb Robert	Me
G. rotundifolium	Round-leaved Cranesbill	KP
G. transversale		common
Grossulariaceae		
Ribes odoratum	Buffalo Currant (garden escape)	Ма
Hypericaceae		
Hypericum elongatum		KK, KG
H. perforatum	Perforate St. John's-wort	Me
H. scabrum		Ma, KU, KK, AC
Lamiaceae		
Betonica foliosa		KK
Eremostachys karatavicus		KU
E. molluceloides		
Lamium album		
L. amplexicaule		AC, Ma
Mentha asiaticus		Ма
Origanum tyttanthum		KV
Phlomoides brachystegia		Me, KK, AC

Androsace maxima

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
P. salicifolia		Ma
P. speciosa		Me, Ma, KG, AC, KV
Pseudoeremostachys sewersowii		AC
Salvia aethiopis		roadside
S. deserta		Me, KK, AC
S. sclarea		Ma
Scutellaria immaculata		Ma, AC
S. transiliensis		KV
Thymus karatavicus		Ма
Ziziphora bungeana		Mo AC
Malvaceae		Me, AC
Alcea nudiflora		common
Malva neglecta	Dwarf Mallow	Ма
Oleaceae		
Fraxinus potamophila		BV
Onagraceae		
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Willowherb	Ма
Orobranchaceae		
Cistanche salsa		KL
Papaveraceae		
Glaucium sqamigerum		KG
Hypecoum parviflorum		LK, MS
Papaver pavoninum		
Roemeria refracta		Ma, KM
Peganaceae		
Peganum harmala		AL
Plantaginaceae		
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	roadsides
Plumbaginaceae		
Acantholinum alberti		KK, AC
A. aulieatense		KU
Goniolinum speciosum		LK
Polygonaceae		
Atraphaxis pyrifolia		Ма
A. virgata		Me
Calligonum macrocarpa		MS
Rheum cordatum		Kp, KG, AC
R. tataricum		AL Almostic
Rumex crispus R. tianschanicus		Almaty Me
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Primulaceae		

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LK, KP

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Ranunculaceae		
Aconitum leucostomum		AIM
Anemone petiolulosa		widespread
Ceratocephalus orthocera		widespread
Clematis orientalis		Ma
Delphinium longipedunculatum		AL
Eranthis longistipitata		KP, Ma, CH, AC
Ranunculus arvensis	Corn Buttercup	Ма
R. regelianus		common
R. scleratus	Celery-leaved Buttercup	Ма
Thalictrum isopyroides		LK, Ma, AL,AC
Rhamnaceae		
Rhamnus catharticus	Purging Buckthorn	AC, KV
R. coriacea		AC
Rosaceae		
Amygdalus communis		planted
A. petunnikowii		Ma, AC
A. spinosissimus		Ma
Armeniaca vulgaris		Me, AIM
Crataegus pontica		Ма
C. songarica		Me, AIM
C. turkestanica		BV
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	
Malus sieversii		Ma, KK
Padus mahaleb		Ma, AC
Potentilla songarica		Me
P.fedtschenkoana		AC
P. orientalis		widespread
Poterium polyganum	Salad Burnet	common
Prunus tianschanicus		LK, Me, AC, KK
Pyrus regelii		BV
Rosa corymbifera		BV
R. fedtschenkoana		AC
R. kokanica		AC
R. persica		common
Spiraea hypericifolia		common
S. pilosa		AC
Rubiaceae		
Galium aparine	Goosegrass	Ма
G. verum	Lady's Bedstraw	Ма
Rutaceae		
Haplophyllum latifolium		Ma, AC
H. perforatum		Ma
Salicaceae		
Populus nigra	Black Poplar	Me
P. tremula	Aspen	AIM

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Saxifragaceae		
Saxifraga sibirica		Ma
Camaga Cismoa		· · ·
Scrophulariaceae		
Bungea vesiculifera		Ма
Parentucellia flava		Ма
Pedicularis alberti		Me, AIM
P. alatavicus		KG
P. karatavicus		KG
P. olgae		KK, AC
Verbascum songoricum		
Veronica beccabunga		Ma
V. hederifolia		
V. persica		Taraz
Ulmaceae		
Celtis caucasica		Me, Ma
Ulmus pumila	Siberian Elm	common
Urticaceae		
Urtica diocia	Stinging Nettle	Ма
Valerianaceae		114.40
Valeriana chionophila		LK, AC
V. ficarifolia		BV, AC
Valerianella turkestanica		KP
Violaceae		
Viola collina		AIM
V. suavis		Me, BV, KV
Vitaceae		
Vitis vinifera	Grape Vine	Ma
Zygophyllaceae		
Zygophyllum budensis		KL
Z. fabago		roadside
Z. macropterum		KL
GYMNO	OSPERMS	
Cupressaceae		
Juniperus semiglobosa		KK, KG
J. seravscanica		KK,AC
J. turkestanica		KK
or tarriodarnoa		
Ephadraceae		
Ephedra equisetina		widespread
Pinaceae		
Picea screnkiana		AIM

Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
Aspleniaceae		
Aspenium ceterach	Rustyback Fern	Me
Asplenium septentrionale	Forked Spleenwort	Me
A. trichomanes	Maidenhiar Spleenwort	AC
Woodsiaceae		
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder Fern	Me

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
1	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea	Seen most wetlands in ones/two
2	Common Shelsuck	Tadorna tadorna	1 KL
3	Gadwall	Anas strepera	Small numbers AL, LT
4	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Small numbers
5	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	several wetlands, max of 15 LT
6	Garganey	Anas querquedula	commonest duck, max 25 LT
7	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca	1 pr LT
8	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	8 LT
9	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	several KL
10	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina	1 male 27th Junction Lake
11	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina	3 LK, male LT
12	Chukar Partridge	Alectoris chukar	common, heard more than seen
13	Common Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	several
14	Great-crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	LT + 27th Junction Lake
15	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	15+ KL
16	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	2 KL
17	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	4 LK
18	Pygmy Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pygmeus	1 27th Junction Lake
19	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	2 LT
20	Great Egret	Ardea alba	2 27th Junction Lake
21	Western Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	2 from bus
22	Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus	1 Me, 1 AC
23	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus	1pr Ma
24	Himalayan Vulture	Gyps himalayensis	1 Me
25	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus	1
26	Cinereous Vulture	Aegypius monachus	5 Me, 1 KK, 1 KV
27	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	1 Me + 2 from bus
28	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis	1 KG
29	Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Me, KK + 3 KV
30	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Several
31	Shikra	Accipiter badius	I pr K
32	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	1 AC
33	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1pr 27th Junction Lake
34	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus	1m LK
35	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	200+ LK area + solo birds later in trip
36	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus	Common mountain areas
37	Steppe (Common) Buzzard	Buteo buteo vulpinus	Small numbers, more in valleys
38	European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus	1 KL
39	Little Bustard	Tetrax tetrax	1 KG
40	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	27thJunction Lake
41	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	several lakes

	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
42	Demoiselle Crane	Grus virgo	total 3,000 birds over several days Kuyuk Pass
43	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	total 7 birds, 1 LT
44	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	Several from bus, max 20 LT
45	Green Sandpiper	Tringa ochropus	several
46	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	10+ LT
47	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	several, 10 LT
48	Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	2 at KL
49	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	2 LT, 2 stream stop
50	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	1 from bus
51	Caspian Gull	Larus cachinnans	several LT, LK
52	Steppe Gull	Larus barabensis	1 LT
53	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Pterocles orientalis	11 KG, 4 AL
54	Rock (feral) Dove	Columba livia feral	common
55	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	small numbers
56	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	common in villages
57	Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	garden Zhabagly guesthouse
58	Oriental Turtle Dove	Streptopelia orientalis	1 BV, 2 KV
59	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	1 BV, 1 Zhabagly village
60	Eurasian Scops Owl	Otus scops	Me, BV, Zhabagly village
61	Little Owl	Athene noctua	1 KL
62	Common Swift	Apus apus	several Taraz
63	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	6 Ma
64	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops	several singletons, 2 foothills Karatau
65	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	1 pr on wires seen from bus
66	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	common in lowlands
67	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni	2 on wires seen from bus
68	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	1 foothills Karatau
69	Turkestan Shrike	Lanius phoenicuroides	Small number in arid areas
70	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	common
71	Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	small numbers most days
72	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	abundant in agricultural areas
73	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	common
74	Northern Raven	Corvus corax	small numbers in mountains
75	Rufous-naped Tit	Periparus rufonuchalis	4+ AC
76	Yellow-breasted Azure Tit	Cyanistes cyanus flavipectus	1 Me, 1 AC
77	Great Tit	Parus major	common Almaty
	(Turkestan) Great Tit	Parus major bokharensis	several Zhabagly
78	Eurasian Skylark	Alauda arvensis	several KL
79	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	Several KL
80	Calandra Lark	Melanocorypha calandra	commonest lark- most arid plains
81	Bimaculated Lark	Melanocorypha bimaculata	1 KL
82	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	100+ passing through KL
83	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	2 Me
84	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	small numbers several days
85	Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	seen on 2days, max 15 LK
86	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica	1 from bus Karatau
87	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	1 singing 27th J Lake
88	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus dumetorum	2 27th J Lake
89	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	small numbers, Eastern form.
90	Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	4 KV
91	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	3 with 2 LT
92	Hume's Whitethroat	Sylvia althaea	1 singing KK

	Common name	Scientific name	Notes
93	Eastern Rock Nuthatch	Sitta tephronota	1 AC
94	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	abundant
95	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	small number
96	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	small numbers
97	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	1 Me, 5 KV, 1 BV
98	Blue Whistling Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus	4 Me, 1 AC, 1 heard KV
99	Common Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis	1 male on wires KG
100	Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola maurus	1 KK, 3 AL
101	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	1 AC, 1 pr KG
102	Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka	several sites
103	Desert Wheatear	Oenanthe deserti	3 KL
104	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Almaty
105	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	6+ Zhabagly Village
106	Masked Wagtail	Motacilla alba personata	small numbers, most at Me
107	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	most streams
108	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava beema	6+ KL on migration
109	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	4 KL
110	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	2 Me
111	European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	1 singing Almaty rail station
112	European (Grey-capped) Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis subulata	several Me
113	Common Linnet	Linaria cannabina	5 KG
114	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra	2 wires
115	Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia	1 Me
116	Grey-necked Bunting	Emberiza buchanni	1 Ma
117	White-capped Bunting	Emberiza stewarti	1 male AC
118	Red-headed Bunting	Emberiza bruniceps	1 male KG

Mammals

10

1	Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus
2	Siberian Ibex	Capra sibirica
3	Wild Boar	Sus scrofa
4	Asian Badger	Meles leucurus
5	Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes
6	American Mink	Neovison vison
7	Brown Bear	Ursus arctos isabellinus
8	Indian Porcupine	Hystrix indica
9	Souslik	Spermophilus citellus

Reptiles & Amphibians

Tien Shan Vole

1	Haly's Pit Viper	Gloydius halys	
2	Renardi's Viper	Vipera renardi	
3	Steppe Snake	Elaphe dione	
4	Glass Lizard	Ophisaurus ventralis	
5	Stepperunner	Eremias arguta	
6	Alpine Lidless Skink	Asymblepharus alaicus	
7	Grey Rock Gecko	Tenuidactilis russowii	1 Ma
8	Horsfield's Tortoise	Agrionemys horsfieldii	
9	Marsh Frog	Pelophylax ridibundus	
10	Central Asian Green Toad	Bufo pewzowii	

Microtus ilaeus

	Common name	Scientific name	Notes		
Butterflies					
1	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon			
2	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa			
3	Small White sp.	Pieris sp.			
4	Large White	Pieris brassicae			
5	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni			
6	Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines			
7	Eastern Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus			
8	Comma	Polygonia c-album			
9	Peacock	Aglais io			
10	Camberwell Beauty	Nymphalis antiopa			
11	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui			
12	Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis xanthomelas			
13	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	several		
14	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia			
15	Dalmatian Ringlet	Proterebia afra	3 sites with 5 KG, 1 KK		
16	Nettle Tree Butterfly	Libythea celtis			
17	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus			
18	Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus sp			
Oth	er Insects				
1	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	Macroglossum stellatarum			
2	Carpenter Bee	Xylocopa sp			
3	7-spot Ladybird	Coccinella 7-punctata			
4	2-spot Ladybird	Adalia 2-punctata			
5	hairy flower eating beetle	Epicometis hirtella			
6	Oil Beetle sp.	Meloe sp.			
7	Hairy Shieldbug	Dolycoris baccarum			
8	Ornate Shieldbug	Eurydema ornata			
9	Sand Wasp	Ammophila sp			

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