

Lake Van

Eastern Turkey

A Greentours Tour Report

23rd May – 5th June 2012

Leaders: Ian Green & Başak Gardner

Day 1 May 23rd to Istanbul

We met up from points Manchester, London, Brussels and New Zealand, on a warm and sunny Istanbul evening. There was time enough to settle in before a short walk through the fascinating streets of Istanbul took us to an excellent outdoor restaurant where we could look down on the sea, the impressive Blue Mosque the other side of us. Then a short night's sleep before our flight in the morning.

Day 2 May 24th Van to Doğubeyazıt

We were up very early this morning, and by four-thirty were going through airport security, thankfully at this time of morning almost empty so our progress through check-in and into the gate area was swift. Half an hour later there were queues aplenty outside!

Our flight was on time and we were soon heading east, crossing more or less the length of Turkey, something that takes two hours in a plane. The weather was fine and sunny, fabulously so as we descended across Van's turquoise blue waters, the snow-rimmed crater of Nemrut Dağı marking the start of our descent and all the while to the south we could see line after line of very snowy mountains, many of them topping 3500m. There were neat villages perched among grassy basins and occasionally along the shore of the lake itself. We passed over Akdamar Island before banking round in a semi-circle and following the shoreline into the airport. Our baggage soon arrived and then it was out to meet our drivers Samit and Salı, our regular team of local drivers for this tour. Samit is now becoming a Greentours veteran having done several other of our Turkish tours as well.

We spent half an hour stocking up on picnic supplies for the week in the local Migros supermarket and then we were off, heading into the steppelands north of Van. It took us a while to shake ourselves free of the expanding city, but soon there was nothing but wide open expanses and the occasional village and a seemingly out of place dual carriageway given the volume of traffic on it – not much! We drew to a halt next to a large damp area where Redshanks, Lapwings and Black-headed Yellow Wagtails called. There was a mass of *Orchis pseudolaxiflora* colouring the field purple in places and amongst them more robust but equally purple heads of *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*. George flushed a Corn Bunting off her nest, it contained

five eggs. Sea Arrow Grass and the lousewort *Pedicularis comosa* were common. Karen and John soon found several Common Blues and a Wood White (sp!) or two, and the little 'grizzled skipper' *Pyrgus melotis*. We move a few kilometres north and explored an area of dry steppe. This proved superbly productive with all manner of beautiful flowers, none better though than a couple of hundred or so immaculate purple blooms of *Iris barnumae*, our first oncocyclus iris of the tour. *Bellevalia longipes* had finished flowering (just) but there were *Muscari caucasicum* and *Muscari neglectum* in bloom. *Astragaluses* drew much praise with at least seven species present, notably the ground flowering *Astragalus angustiflorus*, the yellow blooms topped by a bonnet of long pinnate leaves. We also photographed *Rindera lanata*, patches of blue flowered, red-purple-bracted *Salvia multicaulis* mixed with masses of yellow *Astragalus caraganae*, and the lovely red *Adonis eriocalycina*. All the time Black-headed Buntings and Black-headed Wagtails moved past and there were Bee-eaters and Red-backed Shrikes in the small copse of trees. A Long-legged Buzzard and a Marsh Harrier had an altercation above us. The lovely golden Anatolian Copper *Lycaena ochimus* hill-topped along with several blues and several of us found the little *Spialia osthelderi*. *Primula auriculata* bloomed in a damp gully with a few more *Dactylorhiza osmanica*.

We skirted the lakeshore, the intensity of colour of the lake's waters if anything seeming stronger even though we were now in the full glare of midday sun. Suphan Dağı, a dormant volcano that reaches 4400m and is Turkey's second highest mountain rose behind the lake, a sublime scene. We reached the northeast corner of the lake and left its shores at Bendimahi, not having time to stop and birdwatch (we'd save that for a later day) and instead following the Bendimahi River valley up into the hills. We stopped for lunch at Muradiye Waterfall. The waterfall was in good spate – an impressive amount of water cascading down. Lunch was provided by a small cafe in a green grassy spot amongst poplars, and was either fried trout or a meat dish 'kurdish kavurma' both of which were rated delicious, and some of us were so hungry after the early start and breakfast that we had to have more! Two Hobbies coursed through the trees.

We walked downstream a little where Başak showed us a fine show of the wonderful *Phelypaea tournefortii*. The impressive scarlet flowers of this strange parasite, essentially a broomrape with one large bloom, are an incongruous sight! Growing nearby were plenty of Bastard Toadflax, various Euphorbias, and the lovely prostrate *Astragalus anthylloides*, the pale pink flowers turning into inflated almost peanut-like seedpods. Walking back to the minibuses I saw an Eastern Rock Nuthatch in the gorge, and George and I watched a Masked Shrike. This was a good spot for butterflies with a number of blues, including Common, Silver-spotted, Chapman's and Green-underside, as well as several Purple-shot Coppers. A Sooty Orange-tip was a nice find. Just a few hundred metres of driving further and we stopped again, this time to enjoy the huge blooms on our second oncocyclus iris of the day, *Iris iberica elegantissima*. Forty or so black-purple blooms were topped with almost luminous white standards, these lightly edged in red. There was some variation, two particularly pale plants were noted, but all were exceptionally large. Lesser Grey Shrike and Marsh Warbler were noted here. We moved a mile or so up the road to another spot to admire those fantastic irises, though it wasn't as good as the first. There was a Rock Sparrow colony here. Then it was up through Çaldıran and its wide open highland expanses and over the shoulder of Tendürek Dağı to the pass at almost 2650m. There were so many places along here that we could have stopped at but it was time to get to the hotel and so we made only one stop. The views of Ararat itself were spectacular,

though the top was shrouded in cloud, but with the perfect cone of Little Ararat next to it and with a dark rocky ridge in the mid ground and a very rural looking village as the foreground it was too good an opportunity to miss. The clouds thickened as passed Doğubeyazıt, arriving at the Sim-er Hotel at just before six. We settled, gratefully, in!

Day 3 May 25th Tendürek Pass

Several of us convened at seven for a spot of birdwatching in the hotel grounds. The owner is rather keen on natural history and has planted *Iris iberica* in the grounds as well as plenty of trees and bushes, and as the surrounding area is entirely treeless this makes it a magnet for birds. Migration was still moving along nicely judging by the large numbers of warblers seen – Garden Warblers were particularly numerous, being seen in rather languid groups, probably around forty seen in all. There was plenty of variety with them too – three Common Whitethroats, a Blackcap, several Olivaceous Warblers, an Upcher's Warbler, several Chiffchaffs, at least two pretty little Green Warblers, at least two Marsh Warblers and one or more of what seemed most likely to be Blyth's Reed Warbler. We heard the latter singing and its varied ditty included a fine rendition of a Cetti's Warbler. There were Linnets in the Box Elders, one or two female Scarlet Rosefinches, several Spotted Flycatchers and a female Common Redstart. Wood Pigeons flew out of the trees at regular intervals – were these migrants too? Outside the grounds we could hear Bee-eaters and George soon spotted them, sitting on the goalposts alongside Isabelline Wheatear and Rock Sparrow.

After breakfast we headed uphill, onto the pass that leads over Tendürek Dağı, the way we had come yesterday. We spent all day exploring the slopes either side of the pass in most magical weather with wall to wall fantastic scenery. A latterly very strong wind was the only downside! We started in a north-facing gully by the road where there were many fine *Iris iberica elegantissima* flowers as well as a nice assortment of new *Astragaluses* and mats of *Scutellaria orientalis*. The striking dwarfed umbel *Malabaila dasyantha* was common. This proved a good spot for lizards. Large Caucasian Agamas did their press-ups on rocky tops, or scuttled away rapidly downhill, a favoured route for fast escape! Strauch's Steppe-Runners, a prettily lattice-marked lizard, was rather common and I saw two large brilliant green Balkan Green Lizards. Turkish Fiery Coppers sunbathed in a dry stream bed and Karen and John also found Eastern Orange-tip and both Geranium and Blue Arguses. Two Chukar scurried off up the slope as we photographed the irises, they stopped on the top and watched us.....as we watched them... Ortolan Buntings sang from the slopes with Lesser Whitethroats and Linnets. I watched a Mongolian Trumpeter Finch flying around but it failed to land in sight! Bimaculated Lark sailed downhill.

We moved uphill a very short distance and explored a bank with much *Adonis wolgensis*, though we needn't have done this as our next spot had acres of this plant, some of it in good condition. This was to be our lunch spot so we parked up the minibuses and left the drivers to organise the picnic for us which they did marvellously well and headed off across the fresh green alpine turf. A bunch of sheep were occupying our snow slope so we feared that they might have eaten our flowers but no, there were still plenty of the sky blue squill *Puschkinia scilloides* decorating the slope. With it was quite a bit of *Gagea glacialis* and on dryer spots *Gagea taurica*. A third yellow star of bethlehem *Gagea bulbifera* grew on the rocks. The views of Ararat

were sublime. Large and Small Tortoiseshells were seen as was Brown Argus. Başak found our first fritillaries, these little *Fritillaria pinardii* as Snowfinches and Water Pipits flew about us. On the dry ridge above we found a few *Iris caucasica* still in flower and some diminutive *Pedicularis caucasica*, as well as yet more *Astragalus* species and our first pasque flowers. There were numerous herds of sheep in this area and many children came to join us, some of them riding donkeys, and this was in marked contrast to our first after lunch stop where, higher still, we found the best flower spot of the day. This was a green grassy valley leading up to some lying snow. The north-facing bank was so colourful, first with a blue, white and yellow mix of Alpine Forget-me-not, an *Anthemis*, and buttercups; this colour scheme soon morphed into a fantastic display of *Anemone narcissiflora* blowing in the wind, and this changed again into white and blue when hundreds of Spring Gentians joined the scene. We found the Prophet Flower *Arnebia pulchra* amongst all this glory, and then deep violet pasque flowers *Pulsatilla albana*. These latter provided a magical show for those who ventured up onto the plateau above, hundreds of blooms mixing with dark blue *Bellevalia pycnantha*, yellow *Potentillas*, pale blue *Violas* and even pink *Androsace albana*. *Primula elatior* subspecies *pallasii* bloomed in the gullies and Karen and John had found fritillaries, more *Fritillaria pinardii* and just a few inverted mahogany goblets of *Fritillaria caucasica*. By the snow were hundreds of *Pushkinias*, even more *Gagea glacialis*, and several hundred pink *Merendera trigyna* (*raddeana*). Even the buttercups got into the act with lots of large flowered *Ranunculus grandiflorus*, equally large flowered *Ranunculus crateris*, and the diminutive snow melt species *Ranunculus polyrhizos*.

After gorging ourselves on these blooms we tried the south side of the pass. Here drier slopes were a little ahead of usual and so the tulips and fritillaries we were expecting had finished. The *Allium akaka* on the other hand looked great and the cushions of *Androsace villosa*, *Draba rosularis* and *Thlaspi kurdica* were on top form. Luckily Karen and John had spotted the flowers we were after, below the road – indeed it was a very fine show of perfect red *Tulipa juliae* along with much *Ornithogalum oligophyllum* and the last flowers of *Corydalis oppositifolia*. There were also some rather confusing frits, probably a population of *Fritillaria assyriaca* but there was certainly some interference going from *Fritillaria pinardii* in there. A male Rock Thrush posed on some rocks and Black Redstart and Radde's Accentors were seen. Further down the road we spent twenty minutes amongst a field of *Bellevalia pycnantha* – a superb sight. There was also the large *Nonea anchusoides*.

We drove back over the pass and down into the Doğubeyazıt plain, Ararats, both big and small, looking amazing all the while. After a break, then checklists and then dinner, several of us went out on a night drive. This was rather hampered by the strong wind, then rain that arrived! Indeed the last of four Red Foxes we saw hardly wanted to move and so we were able to walk from the vehicle and get a good look at him/her! Syrian Spadefoots called in the background and an Isabelline Wheatear was seen. Returning to the hotel a small snake was in the entrance and we were able to get great photos and a close look at the rather chilled reptile! After this I popped out behind the hotel and watched a fascinating scene as a Williams's Jerboa and Fox waltzed across the night time. The jerboa was an impressive animal with long kangaroo-like back legs, a long balancing tail, cute face and large long ears. It could jump a metre in the air and rapidly across the steppe, the fox soon lost the plot, and was off fossicking elsewhere!

Day 4 May 26th

Ishak Paşa & the Çilli Pass

An early morning birdwatching trip was well attended. We drove across the flat plain to the edge of the lava flow at Ararat's foot and then through the lava, stopping to watch Isabelline and Finsch's Wheatears. We soon reached the wetland edge and spent the next hour making various short stops and scanning the expansive wetland in front of us. Actually reptiles turned out to be the star turn with Agamas, Radde's Lizards and the fantastical Sunwatcher all seen. The latter has a flattened almost circular body, almost jewel like along the back, and a short stubby head and a widely banded tail. The camouflage, on the volcanic sands we spotted them on, was incredible. This is a rare species in Turkey, known only from the flanks of Ararat. There was plenty of birdlife too with several Purple Herons, a Grey Heron, a Squacco Heron and a small flock of Cattle Egrets. Wildfowl were represented by Mallard, Shoveler, Pochard, Greylag Geese, Shelduck, lots of Ruddy Shelduck, and two pairs of Ferruginous Duck. There were Armenian Gulls, distant White-winged Black Terns, the odd White Stork and a number of Marsh Harriers. Reed Warblers sang from the reeds, and there was a deal of froggy noises. We watched a Little Owl on the return journey.

After breakfast we headed for the Ishak Paşa Palace. The fortress sits high in the colourful multistrata-ed hills behind Doğubeyazıt, a quite fantastic locations and one which overlooks what was once part of the silk route, and today is once again a major trading route. We wandered the recently repaired fortress for an hour. I popped up a nearby gully seeing three species of Orange-tip; Common, Grüner's and Eastern. Next we headed uphill. Başak took several up to look for the yellow tulips. Sadly these were not to be seen, though a few red ones were found, these *Tulipa juliae*. There were some superb mounds of *Androsace villosa*, the pretty little *Silene dianthoides* and the strange sinuate-leaved *Matthiola odoratissima*, a plant that after nightfall emits a very pleasant scent. Several of us walked up the road birdwatching. Isabelline and Northern Wheatears were common and we also saw Stonechat. Three bunting species were seen, a couple of Rock Buntings, three or four Grey-necked Buntings, and several Ortolan Buntings. Red-billed Chough coursed along the cliff tops and an Imperial Eagle sat still on a rocky pinnacle. We admired bushes of pink flowered *Onobrychis cornuta* by the roadside, finding one with Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak fluttering about it. I climbed up into the crags and found a large population of the red form of *Tulipa julia*, a few *Iris caucasica*, and lots of *Scilla monanthos*. A strange red form of *Saxifraga kotschyi* grew on the cliffs.

In the afternoon we drove out across the flat plain stopping at a meadow where we could hear Quail and see the last remnants of *Muscari coeleste*, an unusual pale sky-blue grape hyacinth with 'open' flowers. Then it was on across the wide open landscapes, passing some very rustic villages, to an area of old lava hills that descend from Ararat's western slopes. Here there were dozens of perfect *Iris iberica* ssp *elegantissima* in excellent afternoon light. There were many other flowers too with deep purple *Gladiolus atroviolaceus*, *Vincetoxicum fuscata* and after crossing an ocean of dainty white *Scandix iberica* there were slopes with hundreds of pretty *Polygala anatolica* in a variety of colours from pink to purple and also *Cerintho major* ssp *auriculata*, the blue bells of *Campanula stevenii* and some pristine deep red-brown *Orchis coriophora*.

Day 5 May 27th

Volcanos and wetlands

Early morning birdwatching in the hotel grounds showed that the majority of Garden Warblers had moved but now there were plenty of Olivaceous Warblers and one or two more Upcher's Warblers. Marsh Warbler and Willow Warbler were also seen. Masked Shrike was found by Karen and John and other birds included two male Common Redstarts, Scarlet Rosefinches, Hoopoe and of course, European Bee-eaters.

It was another superb clear morning and Ararat shone icily at us as we breakfasted on the balcony of the hotel. The light here is so crystal sharp, it seemed you could reach out and touch that magnificent (dormant) volcano. We said goodbye to the kind staff and quite comfortable Hotel Sim-er and set off for Lake Van. Rose-coloured Starlings were seen as we left the town. We stopped at the foot of the pass where a field of *Geranium tuberosum/stepporum* had attracted Sheila's interest and provided a memorable foreground for some scenery shots. The fallow field also held Henbanes, *Ixiolirions* and the little borage *Nonea melanocarpa*. Bimaculated Larks and Skylarks sang overhead and Heather had problems with hyperactive bees!

We drove up and over the Tendürek Pass, resisting the temptation to stop until we were well down into Çaldıran Ovası. Here a nice patch of orchids, pink *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*, drew us to a halt. Growing with them was *Primula auriculata* in nice condition and a large patch of *Bellevalia pycnantha*. Much paler were a few blue *Muscari armeniacum* and there was a fine clump of the yellow buttercup *Ranunculus fenzlii* growing amongst the tiniest speedwell, *Veronica pusilla*. Lapwings and Redshanks mobbed a Marsh Harrier across the road but nearer at hand we had excellent views of a pair of Citrine Wagtails and a pair of Crimson-winged Finches, side by side! There were also Black-headed Wagtails and a bunch of Banded Frogs, some with pattern like a leopard frog. Bendimahi Lizards were on the rocky outcrops whilst the grassy areas had stripey Striated Lizards, and Başak saw a Glass Snake.

We followed the river downstream until it reached Lake Van at Bendimahi and stopped there for an hour's birdwatching. A watchtower allowed views over the estuary and we also looked between reedy gaps. Great Reed Warblers sang and a pair of Bearded Tits flew in. Out on the water were several Great Crested Grebes, three White-headed Ducks, four Red Crested Pochard, lots of Common Pochard and Coots, a Ferruginous Duck and a male Garganey. Out in the fields Lesser Short-toed Larks and Calandra Larks sang overhead as we photographed fine large *Ixiolirions*, *Adonises*, the cornflower *Centaurea depressa* and the little poppy relative *Hypecoum pendulinum*. Then it was on to our lunch spot near Ercis, and being a Sunday, it was thronging with picnickers, however we managed to find a nice quiet spot and whilst the drivers and Başak set the picnic out we explored the marshy riverbank and steppe, a productive combination. A Stripe-necked Terrapin was sunning itself on a mudbank opposite whilst another one sailed along with its head held high out of the water. Further along the river there was around twenty resting on reed stems. A Little Bittern flushed out of the thick cover whilst two Night Herons circled above. Common Tern patrolled the river whilst Reed and Marsh Warblers sang from reed and willows. *Ornithogalum platyphyllum* and *Ranunculus repens* grew amongst sedges and Eleocharis. Butterflies were mainly Common Blues with a single Eastern Bath White.

We continued westward, stopping for an hour at remote Göldüzü, a rustic village on the edge of Arın Gölü. This lake is an even more amazing colour than Van, being bright turquoise in

more or less any weather. We were still blessed with sun, but the 4400m peak of Suphan Dağı rearing above us to the north had a cloudy hat. Cascading down its lower slopes were great masses of lava that reached close to Arın Gölü. Presumably this dormant (there are mud hot springs on the top) volcano is the reason for the high soda content of Arın Gölü? A bunch of local kids greeted us with enthusiasm and as Pamela set about showing them how to play a game and we took a look at the wetland beyond the *Glaux maritima* and sedge dominated saltmarsh that fringes the water. Immediately apparent were the White-headed Duck. They seemed to be streaming out of the reedbed into the open water in front of us. In the end we counted 79 as a minimum total, and this was way above any previous visit, several times in fact, and as they were likely to be all breeding, it is a very important step in the right direction for this globally endangered species. Other ducks included a good number of Red Crested Pochard and Ruddy Shelduck amongst the several hundred Common Pochard. Marsh Harriers coursed back and forth and there were decent numbers of Black-winged Stilts. Whiskered Terns moved across the marsh.

Moving on we stopped in some poplar planted meadows in Adılcevaz. These held an impressive population of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa*, looking rather different from the form we'd seen at high levels in Çaldıran in the morning, here tall and leafy, and very variable in colour, ranging from dark magenta to white, with the latter predominating. Bogbean was also here. There were plenty of Olivaceous Warblers in the trees and we looked at Whitethroat, Blue Tit, Great Tit and a Barred Warbler in one particularly productive tree! Then it was on to Tatvan, passing numerous possible stopping places on the way, but it really was time to get to the hotel. This was a new hotel, set high upon the slopes of Nemrut Dağı volcano and had the most magnificent views down over the lake and of Tatvan itself.

Day 6 May 28th Nemrut Dağı

Morning reports from pre-breakfast wanderers included Montagu's Harriers and Rose-coloured Starlings. After a breakfast with a view we spent the entire day up inside the crater of the Nemrut Dağı volcano. Being already more than half way up the mountain it didn't take long for us to reach the crater rim where we stopped and admired the view down into the caldera. Some six thousand years ago this would have been a volcano to rival Ararat in size but the top five or six thousand feet blew off and into the stratosphere, though a considerable amount of it landed nearby blocking the drainage of what would have been the upper tributaries of the Tigris. This led to the formation of huge Lake Van, which this morning lay gleaming in the sunlight below us. We could see the two ferries about to cross a few miles out of Tatvan. Looking back inside the crater we could see the marvellous deep blue crater lake that fills a quarter of the caldera, the caldera walls made of cliffs and screes liberally sprinkled with birch and aspen forests and streaked with snow. Nearer at hand lay obsidian and lava strewn hollows and slopes. Along the volcano rim we found *Rindera lanata* and *Pulsatilla albana* amongst lots of *Alyssum* and *Bornmuellera cappadocica*. A male Rock Thrush sang below us, a Rock Bunting nearer at hand, whilst further afield a Cuckoo posed on a rock.

We drove down to the boulder fields at the bottom of the caldera and spent the morning exploring the beautiful rock gardens within. It was *Euphorbia denticulata*, named for the delicately fimbriate red-black shiny glands in the flowers, that first took the interest and

Heather spent a deal of time photographing this fascinating plant and its visitors. Next was *Iris caucasica* which became more prolific as we walked down the slope, joined by bunches of *Onosma bracteatum* and patches of yellow *Linum triflorum*. Dalmatian Ringlets flew back and forth. Monika found a lovely patch of *Globularia trichosantha* and below this we encountered our first fritillaries. First was the butterscotch bells of *Fritillaria minuta*, set above wide bright shiny green leaves, a distinctive combination and very different from the *Fritillaria assyriaca* with its narrow glaucous leaves and narrow unflared bells. This grew just metres away and throughout the rest of the gullies we found them growing side by side, the *minuta* by melting snow and the *assyriaca* on the drier slopes abutting this, though often they were literally right next to each other. Perhaps not surprisingly there were hybrids, exhibiting various intermediate features, and these were quite frequent. We watched a male White-throated Robin singing from prominent perches. Woodlarks sang throughout along with Skylarks too. We found lovely *Corydalis oppositifolia* subspecies *rutifolia* in shaded areas and near these the strange 'Nemrut Dağı' form of *Puschkinia scilloides*, its flowers staying in a partially opened state and the whole plant much taller with long upright hooded leaves. This form is so different that we wonder that it hasn't been given a proper name yet. *Gagea luteoides* was common by snow melt and *Gagea uliginosa* grew on damp mossy ledges, and an unknown *Gagea* in similar situations. *Arabis caucasica* and *Solenanthus stamineus* flowered well amongst the rocks which also held a small population of *Saxifraga sibirica*. Two Spur-thighed Tortoises were found, one huge, and everywhere there were Valentin's Lizards, the males looking very smart with their green marbled backs and blue-eyed flanks.

We returned to the minibuses and took tea as some light showers arrived, then set off down to the crater lake as one of these turned to hail. This had stopped by the time we reached our picnic spot and so as Başak and the drivers set the picnic out the rest of us explored this beautiful spot. Inland of us were herby grassy low rolling hills. Lake side dropped steeply through a rocky Aspen wood. Under these small trees was quite a population of *Dactylorhiza flavescens*, the Georgian Orchid, and just a few pink *Orchis pinetorum*. There were *Geraniums*, tall *Ranunculus kotschyii* and lots of irises including large clumps on the steep ground, one having no less than thirty five flowers. Some nice looking Morels were found. A male Ring Ouzel sang from the tree tops and during another excellent picnic (and what a location!) a male Montagu's Harrier sailed past.

In the afternoon we explored an area of steppe in the centre of the crater where *Valeriana alpestris* put on a fine show, *Gagea bulbifera* didn't receive so many plaudits! Across the road by a snow patch we found a marvellous show of *Merendera trigyna* of the broad-tepaled 'raddeana' form. There were thousands of them, growing quite thickly close by the snow. *Ranunculus crateris* and *Ranunculus diversifolius* were two rather fine buttercups and we found the blue flax *Linum trinervium*.

We drove down through some remarkable scenery, slopes covered in beautiful bronze-leaved Aspens, the understorey juniper, interspersed with scree slopes. Stopping by a small lake at the bottom we walked to the shore and felt the very hot water coming out of one of many springs along the shore. We soon found our first snake skin, the whole skin intact from tail tip to nose and around a metre and a half long until I broke it into three trying to get it out! A minute later a snake of a similar size slithered off in front of us and hid under a rock. Fortunately it was still visible and we could see the tail, parts of the body and head of this rather large and nicely

patterned snake. Further along we found numerous skins, at least ten shed skins, and Karen found one looking out of its hole at us. Straight after we saw another snake, this a Dice Snake, *Natrix tessellata* basking on the reed stems in the water and all had a decent look at this one. More snake skins and then walking back I found another of the 'biggie's' slithering off in front of me. I alternated between yanking the snake back by its tail and trying to get my camera out, but the snake won! It was beautifully patterned with rows of dark spots on a light background. The various views we had of this snake gave us enough information to piece together their identity - Four-lined Rat Snakes. It was nice to know that so many of them could make a living at this spot. With dark clouds coming in we drove back across the crater, passing several herds of sheep and some nomads who looked like they'd bought all the summer camp gear up but had not yet starting erecting said camp, and then we descended to the hotel. Just before we arrived it started raining/sleeting so we were pleased to get indoors!

Day 7 May 29th Bitlis Circuit & Halkıs Dađı

Group 1 set off at eight-thirty bound for Halkıs Dađı. We just drove straight there, it being a long way. We stopped at a petrol station where the toilet doors held several chrysalids. We reached the Mesopotamian Plain where Mediterranean flora became noticeable. At Halkıs Dađı we met our local guide and his nephew. It was a long walk so we had to keep going, little time to stop and enjoy fauna or flora on the way. We made some short stops to photograph various insects and flowers. The lovely purple *Campanula reuterana* was much appreciated. Arriving close to our target we could see a violent looking storm approaching, so as soon as we found the *Iris gatesii* we set too photographing them. The irises were amazing, so huge, the flowers up to fifteen centimetres cubed, and strange ghostly colours, pastel mauves and greys, looking like stormy weather, rather aptly. It wasn't long before the heavens opened and large hail stones hit us so photography and any thoughts of lunch were abandoned, and we headed downhill. The storm passed as we descended, and we stopped at a great viewpoint. Bařak prepared an egg and tuna salad and we enjoyed a nice picnic. Our clothes dried rapidly in the sun. We headed down quickly now as it was getting late. Tea was ready for us when we reached the village, and then we set off on the long journey back to Tatvan.

The rest of us set off at nine, stopping in Bitlis for picnic supplies and then, after a brief dalliance with an auto repair yard (a wrong turning) we found the correct back road and headed into the green hills. We'd only managed a few hundred metres when great patches of vibrant purple-pink drew us to a halt. This was a magnificent show of *Aethionema* cascading down the roadside banks. Below the road John found one plant of *Iris sari* in flower, a very large and tall specimen. *Paracaryums*, Poppies and various legumes made it a flowery place and we saw our first *Gundelia tournefortii*, a striking thistle that dries into a tumbleweed later in the year. Mazarine Blues were quite common and festoons too and we found a superb *Tomares romanovii* butterfly, a speciality of the region and rather similar to Provence Hairstreak in colour scheme, being orange and green. Two White-throated Robins were seen well.

We stopped a few metres further up the road when a female Cinereous Bunting was spotted and then hardly further on where a pond was croaking with Marsh Frogs. A single Desert Tree Frog, *Hyla savignyi*, was found too. Up on the rocks the purple, pink and blue 'golden drops' of *Onosma albo-caeruleum* mixed with *Ornithogalum schelkownikovii* and *Muscari caucasicum*.

Another female Cinereous Bunting flew out from a roadside culvert and I saw a male a little further up the slope. These were outnumbered by numerous Black-headed Buntings and we could hear Golden Orioles and Nightingales. However it was the butterflies that were really exceptional here. There were very many Glanville Fritillaries, over fifty of them visiting streamsides, and also the larger Freyer's Fritillary was noted. Festoons and Clouded Yellows flew past at regular intervals as did Orange-tips and Eastern Orange-tips. There were many blues, over a hundred of them, and probably 75% were Mazarine Blues. One big group of these also contained Green-underside Blues, Amanda's Blues and Zephyr Blues. Skippers were also varied with Dinky Skippers, Mallow Skippers, Oriental Marbled Skippers, *Spialia osthelderi* and the similar Hungarian Skipper, and the grizzled skipper *Pyrgus melotis*.

We spent an hour exploring a couple of oak woodland sites. These were exceptionally good for Spur-thighed Tortoises and for lizards, especially Balkan Green Lizards which were common and continually rustling in the undergrowth. Green Hairstreak (the normal one!) was photographed amongst the oaks. *Parentucellia latifolia* in the yellow form covered dry slopes with a *Moenchia* species. The only orchids we could find were *Dactylorhiza flavescens*. We stopped for lunch in a wide green valley with cattle grazing amongst the buttercups. Common Buzzards, a pale phase Booted Eagle, Bee-eaters and Greenfinches flew over as we enjoyed the comfort of a thick grass and herb sward during our picnic! A flock of Rose-coloured Starlings was spotted, a big one, so after lunch we drove down to the road and found them noisily occupying some big willows. Sporadically they erupted as starlings do, making a fantastic sight. We made a brief count – there were at least seventeen hundred of them. In the field we found just one *Gladiolus kotschyanus* in flower and a few *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*, whilst back by the road there were a couple of hundred *Orchis coriophora*, ranging in colour from almost white to deep red.

During the afternoon we explored the main road south from Bitlis. Once again we'd managed only a few yards when a wet field was spotted full of orchids. These were just the usual *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*, but my, they were magnificent, there were very many of them, thick in places, and all were tall, some very tall, reaching a metre in some cases. In the middle of the field was a great clump of *Ranunculus sericeus* in bloom. Further down we visited the site for *Epipactis veratrifolia*, but these were some way from flowering, so it was on down to drier lands some twenty km down the valley. Though rock smashing machinery was busy destroying one half of the valley we looked at the other half which was still good, though the arrival of rain rather limited the butterfly activity and the terrain limited access for some. Two plants really stood out – the fine large pink-purple flowered spiny *Centaurea urvillei*, and the dark purple bells of *Campanula reuterana*. There were two *Silenes*, one pink, the other with white fimbriate petals, as well as *Scutellaria megalaspis* and *Alcea kurdic*, the latter just coming into flower. Dippers and Grey Wagtails were along the river and Upcher's Warblers and Goldfinches in the Zagros Oaks. These oaks formed a very mixed small tree/shrub community with *Berberis*, *Pistacia terebinthus* and *Pistacia mutica*, *Acer monspessulanum* and *Paliurus spina-christi*. There were butterflies too, Riley's Hairstreaks proved difficult to pin down, however Eastern Meadow Brown and Lattice Brown were common. Mountain Small Whites, Nettle Tree Butterfly and Saadi's Heath were also noted. Then it was back uphill to the hotel on the edge of Nemrut, a considerably cooler spot than the last one we'd visited!

Day 8 May 30th

South Lake Van

We departed the hotel on a hill at nine and trundled down to Tatvan and thence to a tiny village the other side where we spent a happy hour exploring the wooded slopes by the village. Our prime target here were peonies and though we only found one small clump they were in fine condition, this being *Paeonia mascula*. The scrubby oak was a delight, if rather difficult to wander in! The light shone through the fresh bright green foliage to the accompaniment of loud Nightingale and Golden Oriole songs. Both were seen inside the 'forest'. In the understory we found Greater Butterfly Orchid, some of the typical white form and some decidedly greenish. Helleborines were in bud and one *Dactylorhiza flavescens* was still in flower. I photographed Pontic Blue on the way back to the minibuses.

We drove along the southern shore of the lake reaching a large area of roadworks which had unfortunately destroyed our usual orchid in oak scrub site, or at least had destroyed part of it and made access impossible. We decided to explore a little further along the slopes. A dry streambed proved attractive to butterflies with several Glanville Fritillaries and a Queen of Spain Fritillary. Mazarine Blues were frequent and there were several Inky Skippers. The thistle *Gundelia tournefortii* was dominant on the dry slopes. Başak and I explored the higher areas which were covered in oak scrub interspersed with dry meadows in the hope of finding orchids and in particular Komper's Orchid. In this I was successful, or partially so, for the one specimen I found was in late bud and too high for anyone to realistically reach! There were many other nice flowers up here including *Campanula involucrata*, *Aethionemas* and *Hypericum lydiium*. Going down through a more productive area orchid-wise I found several lovely *Cephalanthera kotschyana*, a fine large-flowered white helleborine, Toothed Orchids and Greater Butterfly Orchids. Rock Buntings were common.

We took lunch under a spreading walnut tree, a nice comfortable spot and still with lovely weather. Then we explored some nearby poplar woods which had a good population of large forms of *Cephalanthera kotschyana*. These were exceptionally beautiful and easily reached too! Two large Orange Birch Boletes fruited next to them and there were other interesting looking mushrooms too. Walking back we found some great plants of the birthwort *Aristolochia bottae*, foodplant of the festoons.

We now took a major chunk out of the journey arriving around 3pm at the top of the Kizkunkiran Pass. This is a relatively low pass at just over 2000m, but still had snow patches facing northeast. By these we found a little *Fritillaria minuta*, some *Gageas* (*taurica*, *gageoides* and most commonly, *luteoides*) and some just about over *Corydalis*, but it was the buttercups that took centre stage. Both *Ranunculus vanensis* and *Ranunculus bulbiferus* are, in Turkey, known only from this site (the latter is found in Iran and Iraq too), and both are rather cute little snowmelt species. There was also *Ranunculus cuneatus* and *Ranunculus brachylobus*. Red-fronted Serins continued to evade most, but there were good views of both Rock Sparrows and White-throated Robins.

Downhill, we soon reached a little area of woodland and meadow that was to be our last stop of the day. This proved a quite flowery place though there were several skippers too, notably Oberthur's and Sandy Grizzled Skippers. Golden Oriole was seen and Olivaceous Warbler heard. There were masses of the local yellow rattle *Rhinanthus angustifolius* and some fine stands of *Gladiolus kotschyanus* in pastel mauves and pinks. However it was orchids we were

seeking. Bug Orchid proved rather common, and there were occasional Pyramidal Orchids too. We found a single *Ophrys transhyrcana* and later I found a few more rather faded examples. Best though were some superb *Ophrys holoserica*. Depending on where you stood there were either masses of *Ornithogalum shelkovnikovii* or *Ornithogalum platyphyllum*. Both *Adonis eriocalycina* and *Adonis flammea* were seen and there was *Orobancha anatolica* too. And then it was on to the excellent Merit Hotel and a slap-up buffet and checklists.

Day 9 May 31st Karabet Pass

Another sunny morning, except... we couldn't see the sun as we were enveloped in a thick fog. Actually it was not so much a fog as dust-laden air, coming up from the south. We set off for the high country at nine hoping it would clear and indeed by the time we were up in the snowy heights it had cleared so that we could enjoy the fabulous snowy mountain scenery. First stop though was much lower down, by a rock smothered in the white flowers of the woody-based *Potentilla lignosa*. Pink *Hesperis persica* bloomed on the roadside bank and little *Campanula karakuschensis* was out of reach of most on the rockface. A Grey Wagtail sang from the wires and there were several wheatears here, but not the Kurdish Wheatear we hoped for. The sudden appearance of the army on manoeuvres resulted in a cheery meeting and a 'don't come home too late' from the heavily communications-laden officer.

We headed up through very rustic Kurdish villages on the new asphalt road, so much quicker of course than the old road! Soon the mountains close to the road became snow-streaked and then patches of snow appeared by the roadside. This road takes us up over a very high pass, 3000m, and so by the time we reached the top part almost all was snowy around us. We stopped by a clear area, speckled with the pale blue of *Puschkinias*. There were very many of them, tens of thousands. And not just one species. The 'real' *Puschkinia scilloides* showered a pale green slope with blue, but there were also paler ice-blue plants, even more abundant, some along the road edge and many out further. These have yet to be given a name (we've been saying that for ten years!), so we just call it *Puschkinia karabet*. *Gagea luteoides* was common and there were good populations of *Fritillaria minuta* and *Corydalis oppositifolia* too. One *Merendera kurdica* was found growing in a stream. Radde's Accentors appeared from time to time, and Northern Wheatears were common. Linnets and Twite too. Alpine Choughs flew over but the best bird(s) certainly were the two Golden Eagles that fell through the sky, their talons just grappling each other as they fell out of sight into the valley below. We never saw them come back up again!

We headed up over the pass not stopping for the continuing show of *Puschkinias* as we went. Around was a fabulous snowscape, interrupted by a few areas of gravel and turf and by the great cliffs that reared up at the back of the main cirque to our left. We crested the pass, and continued down the far side, the size of the scenery in all directions impressive. Our lunch spot was spectacular in all respects. A little roadside knoll had magnificent views down the valley towards Bahçesaray and all round to high snowy peaks. There was a high level of verticality at this spot! As the picnic was set out we explored the little ridge below and found one of the floweriest spots imaginable. There were some wonderful specimens of pink *Tulipa humilis* and further down we started finding some magnificent *Tulipa armena*. Goblets of brilliant red centred with black and yellow. This lovely sight suddenly because a mad rush to get Heather

for in one of the tulips we found an extraordinary red bug, just red, and covered in red hairs! There were some fine *Fritillaria crassifolia* about too, with groups of them particularly prolific on an area of limestone pavement where their vari-coloured green (almost pure in one or two) or more commonly dark red brown tessellated bells were shown off to wonderful effect. There was also a magnificent clump of *Iris caucasica* here with many flowers in bloom. *Rindera lanata* was particularly fine at this spot and *Eremurus spectabilis* would clearly shower the rocky slope with its yellow wands in a week or two. There was the usual suite of alpine buttercups, which is to say four species, but here we saw the unusual *Ranunculus polunini* in bloom. Back on the top of the ridge was the architectural *Rindera albida*. Rock Thrushes, Black Redstarts and various wheatears were seen.

We stopped again just below the pass for pictures of the scenery and to view *Saxifraga kotschy* through the telescope. Downwards now we looked for *Merendera kurdica* and found it in abundance on one slope above the road. The wet gravels below a snow slope were littered with the impressively large pink blooms alongside *Corydalis* and *Muscaris*. A little further up we found our last main target for the day, the lovely golden *Fritillaria minima*, a great rarity known from only one or two locations in the world.

It was time to head back, but not before we'd stopped for pictures of the very rustic village of Yukarı Narlıca. Most of the group headed back to the hotel around 5pm but some of us stayed out, taking a little side track by the hamlet of Mezne. We explored the highly diverse little valley above the hamlet. A series of partially natural terraces have a varied flora and fauna. A Rose-coloured Starling perched in a tree right above our heads whilst around us was a fine population of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa* in a wet sedgey meadow. On the dry slopes above were some fantastic *Phelypaea tournefortii*, the best we'd yet seen. Dragonflies whizzed around the large pool where lots of Mountain Small Whites congregated on the mud.

Day 10 June 1st Erçek Lake

We set off at nine, stopping briefly in town, and then were off on to the road to Iran due east of Van. After ten kilometres or so Erçek Lake appears, a large lake, set even higher than Van at 1900m and surrounded by hill or mountainous steppe, a wide open and very beautiful sparsely inhabited landscape. Our first stop was by a small marsh for many years now the home of a very few pairs of White-headed Ducks. Sure enough these were there, though as at Arın numbers were the highest we'd seen with fourteen birds present. We watched the almost comical males displaying, their bodies swelling as they put their heads down, swollen blue bills pushed out and charge There was also a pair of Ferruginous Ducks and a Marsh Harrier gave fantastic views to all as she quartered the marsh. It was great watching her move her wing feathers expertly to fly in the strong breeze. There were Great Reed and Reed Warblers, Little Grebes and Common Pochard, and many Marsh Frogs. One snake swam across the water, too far out to identify. The botanists explored the marshy fields and some steppe behind the marsh. *Ranunculus kotschy* and *Ranunculus sceleratus* were in the wetter areas and orchids too, *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*. A very beautiful *Convolvulus* was found.

Moving on we found ourselves on the wide flat valley floor east of the main lake. Here the damp, slightly salt-imbued steppe had a vast population of the *Orchis pseudolaxiflora*, perhaps a million or more likely more! In places they grew thickly and there were very occasional white

or strawberry milkshake forms. *Ornithogalum platyphyllum* was noted.

Our lunch spot was close by a tower hide put up to overlook Erçek's marshes. We watched Black-winged Stilts, Redshank, Little Ring Plovers and Wood Sandpipers along the shore. As well as the common ducks two more White Headed Ducks were seen and two Night Herons and a Little Egret too. George found a nice Bearded Tit and there were Black-headed Wagtails about. In the distance we could see many gulls and around thirty-five Greater Flamingos.

During the afternoon we completed a circuit of the lake along quiet back roads and tracks through rolling arable and steppelands and all the time in the most fabulous light. Hardly a car to be seen, just a few small Kurdish villages with cow dung 'hives' drying in the sun, and only the songs of the abundant larks as soundtrack. These comprised Bimaculated, Lesser Short-toed and Skylarks. There were also Tawny Pipits in some numbers and Long-legged Buzzards were seen on a number of occasions. Başak found a flock of Rose-coloured Starlings. We photographed tall spires of *Eremostachys laciniata* and fields full of the red poppy *Glaucium grandiflorum* and pink Sainfoin. We stopped for *Iris barnumae* but they had finished, but at this site we found lots of the lovely two-tone yellow *Salvia suffruticosa*. *Astragalus lagurus* was seen and in places the fine yellow *Astragalus caraganae* was abundant. Butterflies were not so frequent, though did include Knapweed Fritillary and Sooty Orange-tip. Karen and John had seen another of these in the morning, and it was they who came up with the best sighting, a fine Yellow-banded Skipper.

Day 11 June 2nd

Güzeldere Pass, Zernek & Albayrak

The early morning birdwatching took us to where the Dörümeç River meets Lake Van in a mass of reed beds, marshes and sand bars, in short a very good habitat for wetland birds. Coots and Armenian Gulls outnumbered everything else, however there was plenty to get our optics busy. Pochard were frequent along with a few each of Ferruginous Duck and Red Crested Pochard. There were White-headed Ducks, again several of them, one lone male right out in the open water was an odd sight. Waders were few other than the common species, however a Spur-winged Plover was a good find, it seems regular at this site. Bearded Tits flew past at regular intervals and Great Reed Warblers and Marsh Frogs were noisy in the reeds. Moments after arriving we heard the distinctive sound of a European Bittern booming. After hearing it a few more times John spotted one flying and once it had landed in an area of low marshy vegetation we were able to watch it wandering about the marsh – distant, but very much in the open. Other large birds with long bills included White Storks, Grey Herons, Purple Herons, Little Egrets and Night Herons. A pair of Rollers were watched below our vantage point. The little purple poppy *Roemeria hybrida* was seen.

After breakfast we headed out along the road towards Başkale from the southeast corner of Lake Van. The day once again was bright and sunny and today was exceptionally clear with the snowy peaks standing out very clear above the turquoise waters. Our first stop was by the equally turquoise Zernek Reservoir where the flowery steppe cloaking the rather arid hills drew our attention. There were fine stands of *Eremostachys laciniata* and we found its strange-looking brethren *Eremostachys molucceloides*. The pale lime bracted *Hymenocrater calycinus* had blue flowers, the lovely *Salvia atropatana* had yellow, and the large bloomed

Salvia kronenburgii had white. Large pale flowers of *Silene swertifolia* perched atop sticky stems. Orange-lined wands of creamy *Onobrychis galegifolia* were a pleasant sight as were more of the lovely *Iris paradoxa*. We found tall *Muscari longipes*, huge *Crambes*, and Heather enjoyed the abundance of insects visiting the flowers of *Ferula orientalis*. A European Swallowtail was seen as were several Sooty Orange-tips.

Our next stop was dedicated to finches with pink on them (and one that didn't have pink). In a dry rather unpromising looking valley we found our quarry. This site has produced these birds each year since we found it, so a good site for these rather elusive birds. It did not take us long to find Mongolian Trumpeter Finches, four or so were rather active in front of us, though it took us a while to get a good look at them. This we eventually did, and my what good views we eventually had. Meantime a pair of striking Crimson-winged Finches had landed. These didn't hang around for long but we didn't mind for at the same time there were two Trumpeter Finches, the male with a striking red beak, sitting in the stream bed. Two Goldfinches also flew in! A Pied type Wheatear (the plumages and status of these wheatears in the far east of Turkey and in western Iran needs looking at I think!) appeared briefly and we also saw Finsch's Wheatear, Rock Sparrows and Tawny Pipit. Meanwhile the botanists had a chance to see more of *Iris paradoxa*.

We continued on up to the Güzeldere Pass not stopping until we reached the top. Here we had a very pleasant picnic with magnificent views all round. Up to four Griffon Vultures and a Long-legged Buzzard sailed past. The very dwarfed alpine flora here was rather good with some nice cushions of *Androsace villosa*, some with flowers so thick that was all we could see. The straw-coloured pom-poms of *Centaurea vanensis* grew with *Silene dianthoides*, veronicas and the gorgeous bright pink and silvery haired *Hedysarum cappidocicum*. There were a good number of very dwarfed specimens of *Iris paradoxa* too. The *Onobrychis cornuta* bushes attracted some green hairstreaks, these probably being *Callophrys paulae*. Dalmatian Ringlets flew back and forth.

After lunch we descended a little! Our bird target here was Bluethroat and Karen picked one out moments after setting foot outside the bus. This one proved a little elusive as it wandered along the slope opposite, frequently hiding in the young *Ferula*. However a walk up the side valley soon sorted that out with great views of a male Bluethroat. The race here is '*magna*' with an unspotted shimmering blue throat. We also had good views of at least three Radde's Accentors, two males and two female Scarlet Rosefinches, a Tree Pipit, a Water Pipit, Lesser Whitethroat, Red-backed Shrike and Snow Finch. There were good displays of *Primula auriculata* along the wet valley floor, in places with *Gentiana verna*. *Trollius ranunculinus* was going over and so too the *Fritillaria crassifolia* which clearly had been abundant not so long before. There were some nice *Allium akaka* too. The little skink *Ablepharus chernovii* was seen.

Now we headed downhill and eastwards, eventually reaching the farmed country to the south of Albayrak, just a couple of kilometres from the Iranian border. The views all around the in the crystal clear mountain air were incredible. Far to the south (probably close to 100km away) we could see the jagged marble peaks of the Cilo-Sat Dagi sitting on the Turkey-Iraqi border. On the steppe next to the road we could already see the shining yellow heads of *Iris barnumae urumiensis*. This is a fabulous iris, the whole flower being yellow of differing shades, many two-tone, some pale and a goodly number a bright rich butter yellow, even some egg-yolk yellow. The lowering sun allowed some marvellous backlit photos. On one slope we reckoned

there to be two to three thousand blooms in a few hundred metre stretch, an absolutely fantastic sight. The wide open landscapes allowed one to choose a background for those wide angle shots. A Little Owl was seen and various larks sang in the blue sky, a Cuckoo from a pylon. Then it was back towards Van, stopping en route for backlit and forelit photos of the rather mythical-looking Hosap Castle. We went up to look at the marvellous gate now sitting pretty in a fully restored set of walls.

Day 12 June 3rd Çatak Valley

This morning was just as sunny and even warmer than previous ones! We set off again at nine, heading for the Catak Valley. Our first stop was amid open country where areas of relict steppe were interspersed with arable land. Here we enjoyed a wonderful display of hundreds of *Iris paradoxa*, in beautiful condition and glorious clear sunshine. There were some groups of ten or more and lots of variety in the population with some plants having standards strongly blue-ink lined, others with standards of a curious pale green colour. All though had the narrow velvety falls that are so distinctive. Bee-eaters were common along the roadside and there were various larks in the air, and a Marsh Warbler in the few small trees present. Orange-lined *Onobrychis galegifolia* was common and we all enjoyed lovely *Moltkia caerulea*.

Now we moved through a gorge and into a high valley where a large herd of sheep was being herded into a green valley. We pulled up next to a temporary camp, not summer transhumance as it turned out, but material salespeople from Adıyaman! We walked up the barren-looking hill behind. Various wheatears and Crimson-winged Finches were seen and at the foot of the hill by some water Odd-spot Blue was a nice find. Up the hill we found the last remnants of *Tulipa sintenisii* and some nice plants of *Bellevalia longistyla*. Eventually, and it took a while, we found the first plants of an iris up here. These looked very like *Iris sari* however as we explored up the hill we found plenty of variety with many of the plants small, and with strong blue tints in the standards (some were clear mid-blue!) and narrower falls than you would expect of *Iris sari*. It seems that this must be a hybrid population with *Iris sari* and *Iris paradoxa* the parents. Certainly *Iris paradoxa* we know comes to within three or four kilometres to the north (maybe closer) and *Iris sari* comes up from the south, so a meeting point is quite conceivable here. There were very many *Astragalus* on this slope, a few we knew like *Astragalus fragrans* and *Astragalus lagurus*, but many we did not know. The delicate *Convolvulus lineatus* grew with clumps of *Onobrychis* and on the way down we saw the dwarf furry *Astragalus nanus*.

Our picnic was taken back down in the gorge. This sunny spot proved very attractive to butterflies. Down in the almost dry streambed were many blues, mostly Zephyry but also Odd-Spot Blue and its closer relative, the locally endemic *Turanana cytis*. Both Eastern Baton Blue and Bavius Blue were noted and there were skippers and fritillaries too. Rock Sparrows and Rock Thrush were both noisy on the rocky crags and several Crimson-winged Finches and a couple of Mongolian Trumpeter Finches were seen. Along the roadside was brilliant yellow *Hypericum scabrum* and yellow umbels too. Up the slope was the large yellow *Astragalus macrocephalus* and the large yellow broomrape *Orobanche kurdica*. Along the road Başak showed us some fine large golden-yellow *Linaria grandiflora*, a truly spectacular steppe plant, growing next to an equally fine rock plant in pink silvery-foliaged *Centaurea karduchorum*.

After our picnic we visited a little village where the ferula dominated slopes below the village harboured an exquisite population of *Iris sari*, here more typical in form though still variable, and larger than the plants we'd seen in the morning. These were devoured by the iris photographers who moved from one to the other trying wide angles, close ups etc etc. Growing even more commonly here was the lovely *Astragalus halicacabus* with pale pink flowers, but more importantly, masses of inflated pink seedpods which in places obscured the ground. Olivaceous Warblers sang from willows where we spotted our first Clouded Apollo of the trip.

Now the group split, some going off to the ancient site of Çavusteppe, an important Urartian site. The rest of us continued down the Çatak Valley to warmer climes where we spent an hour exploring an area of cultivated land and walnut groves by the river. This proved a great spot for butterflies with fritillaries particularly noticeable, Niobe and Cardinal among them. I saw a single *Tomares romanovii* across the river. Scarce Swallowtail and Southern Comma flew about the walnuts. There was a pretty little Campanula across the way.

Then it was back up to the hamlet of Mezne where we spent forty minutes admiring, in turn, a wonderful big population of scarlet *Phelypaea tournefortii* (it seems all the Phelypaeas we saw are the same species and the Turkish flora needs updating!) and many mud-puddling Mountain Small Whites. Then it was back to Van for a rest before dinner.

Day 13 June 4th

Akdamar Island, the Urartu Carpet Shop & Museum, and Gurpinar

We made an early morning visit to South Van Marshes where things were quieter than usual, it seemed that perhaps the continuous warm sunny weather meant that there were no migrants at all left. Aside from two fly-by Temminck's Stints the only waders were breeders such as Avocets, Redshanks, and Little Ringed Plovers. There were half a dozen White-headed Duck and a few Pochard and gulls including a surprise Lesser Black-backed Gull. Marsh Harriers quartered the reeds in which sang Greet Reed Warblers. Bearded Tits were frequently glimpsed and Başak had good views of a Paddyfield Warbler just before we left.

We departed as usual at nine and headed south and then west along the shore. We stopped to admire a European Bee-eater colony en route, before pulling up at the ferry terminal and heading out to the island. This is always a most pleasurable experience as the boat chugs across the turquoise water the fabulous views of the mountains south of the lake opens up. Jackdaws were a constant companion to the boat, but as we started to circle the island the birdwatching went up a notch or two. There is a large breeding colony of Armenian Gulls on the island and many Rock Doves too. A few Night Herons sat in trees or flew about, and there were abundant Alpine Swifts and four Lesser Kestrels in the air above us. A big surprise was the appearance of two Lanner Falcons, these giving pretty good views. Landing, we all went up to the newly restored church. The superb relief carvings had been repaired slightly, but were basically unchanged. Showing major scenes from the old testament (Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, etc), plus the founding bishops, nevertheless, the main emphasis was on the local fauna (fish, birds, goats, deer, rabbits, etc) and flora, including a frieze of grape vines. Inside, the frescoes had been slightly brightened and the damaged plaster repaired. The whole has now been weatherproofed, with new windows, retiling of the roof and protection of the

exterior against erosion. Then we split up and wandered around the island. Some found several nests of the Armenian Gulls and were given a good hard laughing for their pains. A single lark turned out to be a Calandra Lark. One of the other visitors flushed a snake, but no luck for any of us in the search for dwarf snakes. Plantwise, most of the *Roemeria refracta* was now over but there were stands of white *Ornithogalum shelkovnikovii* and the big architectural *Smyrniium cordifolium*.

Karen and John spent the morning behind the restaurant photographing butterflies. In this they were pretty successful with a mix of coppers and blues that included Lesser Fiery Copper, Osiris Blue, Amanda's Blue, and it was here that we finally caught up with Tessellated Skipper.

We all met up at the excellent restaurant by the boat landing at Akdamar where we were treated to a fine lunch of 'et sote' served in sizzling dishes, this made of little pieces of various vegetables and lamb, and served with bulgur and salad – excellent!

In the afternoon we split into two groups. Başak's visited the carpet shop and museum where there was much oohing and aahing at the many wonderful carpets and kilims shown. Afterwards they continued on into Van for some shopping. Some of us instead headed for the Kurubaş Pass, where we found things rather dry after all the good weather we'd been having. A damp area by the road held several of the commoner blues and coppers, but not the rare species we were hoping for so we continued downhill and spent the remainder of the afternoon on some arid looking marly slopes. The flora here was sparse but it did contain two unusual species, the rather fine *Serratula serratuloides*, a pale pinkish knapweed, and the lovely pink *Hedysarum syriacum*. The latter is the foodplant of one of the rare blues we hoped for, Rose's Blue, no sign of the butterfly though!

Day 14 June 5th

Van Castle and departure

Pamela left at eight fifteen to catch the morning flight to Istanbul, and some while later her ipad caught her up, walked on to the aircraft by Başak just prior to take-off! The rest of us were a little late leaving now and we still had a stop to make for picnic supplies too before reaching the carpark below Van Castle. A local guide showed us around. Intriguingly he was one of the children who used to hassle me twenty years before on my first visits to the 'rock' and who had decided to learn about the castle and make a living from it, very well done that man! He took us to see some cuneiform inscriptions announcing kingly things about the place and then we walked uphill to see a burial chamber outside of which was a cliff face covered in the cuneiform writings. Up above he showed us a flat area, a kind of temple, where drainage grooves were well-marked in the rock, one to drain sheep's blood, the other, cow's blood. We looked out over the old Urartian capital now visible just as foundations. Mosques out there were from the Ottoman period and nearer at hand was an archway from the Seljuck period. We learnt that in fact it was the Assyrians who had built the castle in the first place, and that they had been usurped by the Urartians at a later date. Two Hobbies overflew the marsh below where Marsh Harriers quartered back and forth. A Western Rock Nuthatch gave great close views. Down in the woods a veritable snow storm was blowing from the poplar trees, heavily laden in wispy fruit. Olivaceous Warblers and Great Tits were frequent in here, and I found a nice plant of yellow *Rosa foetida*, no doubt planted though. Up on the rocks of the castle and

certainly native were *Zygophyllum fabago*, *Lycium ruthenicum*, and some great plants of the showy but spiny knapweed *Centaurea urvillei*.

We convened at a local cafe for our picnic, the cafe providing the drinks. By one am we were back at the hotel checking out and do last minute packing. I left for points east of Ararat, and the group headed off to Van airport at 1.30pm.

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

The majority of the taxonomic order and nomenclature has been taken from the Turkish Flora (edited by P H Davis) although the more recent treatment of the orchids in Die Orchideen der Turkei (C. A. J. Kreutz) has been preferred for that group. Grateful thanks in particular to Rodney Burton, Peter Sheasby and Adil Guner for much of the original identifications and to Mervyn Southam for providing us with so much useful information on the umbellifers. Non-woody dicot and monocot species are in flower unless otherwise stated. This is a composite list based on sightings from 2000 to 2012. Locations given cover all those years. [Blue colour indicates the species seen in 2012.](#)

Acanthaceae

Acanthus dioscoridis

In leaf and early bud along the south side of Lake Van. Summer 2004 found in good flower at several localities

Aceraceae

Acer hyrcanum subsp.
tauricum.

South of Van circular.

Acer monspessulanum subsp.
cinarescens.

South of Van circular. Çatak Road. Akdamar Island between Van & Dogubeyazit

Acer negundo

between Van & Dogubeyazit

Acer platanoides

Nemrut Dagi

Anacardiaceae

Pistacia mutica

South of Bitlis

Pistacia terebrinthus

South of Bitlis

Apiaceae

Anthriscus cerefolium

Muradiye Waterfall area and near Bolukyazi

Anthriscus nemorosa

Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Damp meadows near Ahlat also in Nemrut Crater

Apium nodiflorum

near Adilcevaz

Astrodaucus orientalis

Scattered throughout

Bunium brachyactis

Noted near Dogubeyazit

Bunium cylindricum

South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano

Brunium ferulaceum

On the road to Çatak.

Brunium microcarpum

Scattered throughout

Bunium paucifolium

Noted around Dogubeyazit, the south side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, and the environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry

Bunium verruculosum

Van Castle

Bupleurum falcatum ssp.
polyphyllum

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Carum carvi

Caucalis platycarpa

East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road

Chaerophyllum crinitum

Near Ahlat. Muradiye

Chaerophyllum hakkiaricum

The eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass

<i>Chaerophyllum macropodum</i>	West side of Lake Van
<i>Chaerophyllum macrospermum</i>	Damp meadows near Ahlat, 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Cymbocarpum anethoides</i>	Near Otanca in the Özalp direction from Van. ? Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Or Turgenopsis foeniculacea
<i>Falcaria vulgaris</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat. Leaves only; South of Van circular.
<i>Ferula amanicola</i>	Noted in the Bitlis/Tatvan area – leaves only
<i>Ferula angulata</i>	Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction
<i>Ferula bernardii (stellata)</i>	(stellata) Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Ferula cf. elaeochrytis</i>	Muradiye Waterfall – leaves only
<i>Ferula haussknechtii</i>	Upstream from Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Ferula longipedunculata</i>	Souther shores of Van Lake – leaves only; On the road to Çatak
<i>Ferula orientalis</i>	West side of Lake Van. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Ferula rigidula</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hosap road. Leaves only
<i>Grammosciadium cornutum</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road
<i>Grammosciadium daucoides</i>	? 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road
<i>Grammosciadium platycarpum</i>	Called Grammosciadium confertum on the tour. Muradiye Waterfall area and near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat
<i>Grammosciadium pterocarpum</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater
<i>Heptaptera anisoptera</i>	Not sure where Mervyn's specimen came from?
<i>Heracleum persicum</i>	Along the south Van circular. Leaves only at this
<i>Lagoecia cuminoides</i>	Sason
<i>Lecokia cretica</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Laserpitium carduchorum</i>	Çatak
<i>Malabaila dasyantha</i>	Noted in the Ahlat area and Tendurek
<i>Malabaila lasiocarpa</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, Akdamar Island; On the road to Çatak
<i>Malabaila secacul</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, also on Akdamar Island
<i>Myrrhoides nodosa</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Oenanthe sophiae</i>	in wet meadows a little south of the Van Circular en route to Hizan
<i>Opoponax persicum</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area – by the river; between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Pimpinella affinis</i>	? 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Pimpinella anthriscoides</i>	Eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass
<i>Pimpinella kotschyana</i>	West side of Van Golu
<i>Pimpinella peregrina</i>	Dogubeyazit area

<i>Pimpinella peucedanifolia</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Pimpinella tragium</i> ssp. <i>lithophila</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit Subsp? On the road to Çatak.
<i>Prangos acaulis</i>	Dogubeyazit area
<i>Prangos</i> cf. <i>corymbosa</i>	
<i>Prangos ferulacea</i>	
	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and also at the Muradiye Waterfall area; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Prangos pabularia</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Prangos peucedanifolia</i>	Where? Dogubeyazit area
<i>Prangos platychlaena</i>	West side of Lake Van
<i>Prangos uechtriztii</i>	Either on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass or en route to Guzeldere
<i>Prangos uloptera</i>	Dogubeyazit area
<i>Scandix aucheri</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Scandix iberica</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, and at Bendimahi Marshes at NE
<i>Scandix pectin-veneris</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Scandix stellata</i>	
	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Çatak Road
<i>Seseli libanotis</i>	Two forms of this variable species seen – neither greatly resembling the Western European forms!
<i>Seseli peucedanoides</i>	? Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road
<i>Smyrniopsis aucheri</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Smyrnium cordifolium</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road and on Akdamar Island; between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Torilis leptophylla</i>	Akdamar Island. Muradiye. Ercek Lake
<i>Trinia scabra</i>	Dogubeyazit
<i>Turgenia latifolia</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area; On the road to Çatak. Seeds from last year mostly!
<i>Zosima absinthifoliua</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.
Aristolochiaceae	
<i>Aristolochia bottae</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis. Also east of Ercek Golu.
Asclepidaceae	
<i>Vincetoxicum fuxcatum</i>	Cili Pass
<i>Vincetoxicum tmoleum</i>	Ahlat steppe
Asteraceae	
<i>Achillea arabica</i>	(<i>biebersteinii</i>) southwest shore of Ercek Golu. Dogubeyazit area
<i>Achillea vermicularis</i>	Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry; On the road to Çatak. Also east of Küçüksu

<i>Amberboa moschata</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road
<i>Anthemis cretica</i>	on slopes of Nemrut Dagi. Cilli Pass.
<i>Anthemis wiedemanniana</i>	Bendimahi. Ercek
<i>Artemisia splendens</i>	? The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – on a rock ledge above <i>Fritillaria minuta</i> . In bud.
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	widespread in meadows
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. Ishak Paşa?
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
<i>Centaurea albonitens</i>	Dry hills between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Centaurea aucheri</i>	? 10km west of Dogubeyazit on the Agri road. Zernek Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, also the southwest shore of Ercek Golu, and in Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van
<i>Centaurea depressa</i>	
<i>Centaurea glastifolia</i>	in leaf only
<i>Centaurea handellii</i>	cliffs in the first gorge along the Çatak Road
<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	widespread, weedy.
<i>Centaurea karduchorum</i>	Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road – cliff above south-heading road
<i>Centaurea pseudoscabiosa</i>	? Nominate? Van Castle, Akdamar Island, and the environs of Ayamis Castle
<i>Centaurea pterocaula</i>	? East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat
<i>Centaurea pulchella</i>	Van Castle. In bud – stems strikingly pale. Çatak Road Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction, and 2km or so south of the Guzeldere Pass
<i>Centaurea rhizantha</i>	
<i>Centaurea triumfettii</i>	Common. Meadows 1km northeast of Caldiran, inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and in steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road
<i>Centaurea urvillei</i>	Subsp. <i>armata</i> Common in Van area
<i>Centaurea vanensis</i>	Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit. ? Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Or <i>Cephalorrhynchus rechingeranus</i> ?
<i>Cephalorrhynchus tuberosus</i>	
<i>Chardinia orientalis</i>	Dry hills between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Subspecies <i>vestitum</i> . Scattered
<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, and roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat. Also between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayazit. Also at Meteor
<i>Cousinia eriocephala</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Cousinia nabelekii</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

<i>Cousinia vanensis</i>	near Kurubas Pass.
<i>Crepis pulchra</i>	Nominate. Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, Akdamar Island
<i>Crepis sancta</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Balaban Forest
<i>Echinops orientalis</i>	Ercek Lake
<i>Erigeron caucasicum</i>	Tendurek Mountain
<i>Filago arvensis</i>	Scattered
<i>Filago pyramidalis</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Gerapogon hybridum</i>	Bitlis circuit
	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Between Van and Bendimahi
<i>Gundelia tournefortii</i>	
<i>Helichrysum arenarium</i>	
<i>Subspecies aucheri.</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Helichrysum arenarium</i>	
<i>Subspecies rubicundum</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of
<i>Helichrysum graveolens</i>	? South side of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
	Nominate. 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and also at Van Castle
<i>Helichrysum plicatum</i>	
<i>Inula helenium</i>	South of Van circular.
	in leaf only – meadows north of Dogruyol on the Bitlis Circuit
<i>Inula macrophyllum</i>	
	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Mainly in bud.
<i>Inula peacockiana</i>	
	Salt mine at Tuzluca, Around Sim-er Hotel near Dogubeyazit
<i>Koelpinia linearis</i>	
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scattered
<i>Onopordum carduchorum</i>	Bitlis circuit
	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Rhagadiolus angulosus</i>	
	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, and around Sim-er Hotel near Dogubeyazit; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Scorzonera cana</i>	
	East side of the Çilli Pass, Ararat, inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Çilli Pass population had otherwise identical plants with yellow or violet flowers side by side!
<i>Scorzonera mollis</i> subspecies <i>szowitsii</i>	
<i>Scorzonera parviflora</i>	? East shore of Ercek Golu
<i>Scorzonera phaeopappa</i>	Nominate. 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road
	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, in the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and on slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. In bud at the middle site otherwise leaves only
<i>Senecio eriospermus</i>	

<i>Senecio taraxacifolius</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit. Widespread; weedy. East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and on the southwest shore of Ercek Golu – dominant in areas of the former
<i>Senecio vernalis</i>	
<i>Serratula serratuloides</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	scattered
<i>Tanacetum chiliophyllum</i>	10km west of Dogubayazit on Agri road – in bud The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road – on a cliff. On Pamuk Dagi between Igdir and Dogubayazit.
<i>Tanacetum partheniifolium</i>	
<i>Tanacetum uniflorum</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit. 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and in oak woodland and the grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis
<i>Tanacetum zahlbruckneri</i>	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	scattered
<i>Tragopogon buphthalmoides</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
<i>Tragopogon coloratus</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Flowers purple, pappus purplish The Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat, southwest shore of Ercek Golu
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	
<i>Tragopogon longirostris</i> var. <i>Abbreviatus</i>	Catak road junction
<i>Tripleurospermum decipiens</i>	? 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular ? North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass, and the ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction
<i>Tripleurospermum oreades</i>	
<i>Tripleurospermum parviflorum</i>	? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir Widespread in leaf, Van and roadsides in the area – in bud
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Xeranthemum annuum</i>	
<i>Xeranthemum longipapposum</i>	Scattered throughout around Lake Van
Berberidaceae	
<i>Bongardia chrysogonum</i>	Roadsides between Van and Bendimahi Subspecies not known. In seed by Muradiye Waterfall. Should check next time as it might be <i>armeniicum</i> which hasn't been recorded in Turkey before?
<i>Leontice leontopetalum</i>	
Betulaceae	
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	?streamsides south of Lake Van
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Also Cilli Pass. Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan
<i>Populus tremula</i>	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Salix triandra</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri
Boraginaceae	
<i>Alkanna froedinii</i>	Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry. Further west too!

<i>Alkanna orientalis</i>	Scattered throughout. Called various things on the tour including a Moltkia and Anchusa!
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i> Subspecies <i>orientalis</i> .	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular. Looks like an odd Lappula.
<i>Anchusa aucheri</i>	? Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat and near Ayamis Castle and near Dogubeyazit
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Throughout. Most was of the odd-looking pale azure flowered form
<i>Anchusa leptophylla</i>	below Tendurek
<i>Anchusa strigosa</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Arnebia decumbens</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Arnebia pulchra</i>	Tendurek Mountain
	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, the east side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and the terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Asperugo procumbens</i>	
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	(Syn. <i>Lithospermum arvensis</i>) Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; Tendürek Pass.
<i>Caccinia macranthera</i> var. <i>crassifolia</i> .	
<i>Cerintho minor</i> Subspecies <i>auriculata</i> .	Scattered throughout. Nominate. Cilli Pass west of Ararat
<i>Cynoglossum montanum</i>	Nemrut Crater
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Muradiye Waterfall. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Cynoglossum vanense</i>	In flora as <i>montanum</i>
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Catak Road
<i>Heterocaryum szovitsianum</i>	? 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Zerneke.
<i>Lappula barbata</i>	Widespread
<i>Lappula squarrosa</i>	Widespread
<i>Lappula stricta</i>	Widespread
<i>Moltkia caerulea</i>	South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van. Zerneke. spp 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Annual with fruiting pedicel curving round axis
<i>Myosotis</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit, and the north-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass, and the
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass
<i>Myosotis diminuta</i>	? East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat
<i>Myosotis heteropoda</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Myosotis minutiflora</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Myosotis ramosissimum</i>	? East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Myosotis stricta</i>	Tatvan, Tugkoyu Village
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Sim-Er
<i>Neostemma apulum</i>	east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale and Tendurek
<i>Nonea anchusoides</i>	

<i>Nonea caspica</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Nonea melanocarpa</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. Ishak Paşa
<i>Nonea melanthera</i>	along the Çatak Road
<i>Nonea pulla</i> Subspecies <i>scabrisquamata</i>	10km west of Dogubeyazit on
<i>Nonea pulla</i> Subspecies?	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Nonea stenosphon</i>	Nemrut Dage and another place on the Bitlis circuit
<i>Onosma albo-roseum</i> Var <i>sanguineolentum</i>	Zernek
<i>Onosma araraticum</i>	bright yellow flowered around Tendurek
<i>Onosma bracteatum</i>	Sason
<i>Onosma isauricum</i>	Ercek Lake
<i>Onosma nemoricolum</i>	Meteor, widespread along south shore of Van (procerum) 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Onosma procera</i>	(sericeum) Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap
<i>Onosma sericea</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road
<i>Paracaryum cristatum</i> Subspecies <i>carduchorum</i> .	South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass as well
<i>Paracaryum racemosum</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. On Pamuk Dagi between Dogubayazit and Igdir.
<i>Paracaryum strictum</i>	South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Rindera albida</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Zernek
<i>Rindera caespitosa</i>	
<i>Rindera lanata</i>	var. <i>canescens</i> Resadiye on the south Van circular and on the east side of the Guzeldere Pass
<i>Rochelia disperma</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, the crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and the east side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat. Bitlis Circuit.
<i>Solenanthis stamineus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area, inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Solenanthis circinnatus</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area, oak scrub slopes a little west of
<i>Symphytum kurdicum</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis
Campanulaceae	
<i>Campanula coriacea</i>	Scattered throughout. Leaves only in leaf. Rocks on the Tendurek and Cilli Passes
<i>Campanula crispa</i>	<i>Campanula stevenii</i>
<i>Campanula flaccidula</i>	another tiny species along the Çatak Road
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	By campsite near Akdamar Ferry, Gevas

<i>Campanula involuocrata</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Campanula karakuschensis</i>	tiny species noted along the Çatak Road and along south side of Lake Van
<i>Campanula ledebouriana</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Campanula reuterana</i>	beautiful deep violet flowered species near Çatak Crag and slopes south of Sim-Er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, also 11 km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes
<i>Campanula stevenii</i>	
<i>Jasione supina</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Legousia pentagonia</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan.

Caprifoliaceae

<i>Lonicera caucasicum</i>	Nominate. Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular.
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	in the crater of Nemrut.

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Arenaria cucubaloides</i>	11km south of Kucuksu, south of Tatvan
<i>Arenaria gypsophiloides</i>	The Aras Valley 16km beyond Tuzluca
<i>Arenaria holostea</i> subspecies <i>macrantha</i>	Crag and rocky slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Cerastium armeniacum</i>	? Various spots around Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Cerastium dahuricum</i>	? on south slopes of Tendürek Pass. Oak woodlands south side of Van Lake.
<i>Cerastium longipetala</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Cerastium purpurascens</i>	Guzeldere Pass, Tendürek Pass
<i>Cucubalus baccifer</i>	Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Gypsophila bitlisensis</i>	Shales east of Ercek Golu, Ahlat area
<i>Gypsophila elegans</i>	Walls of Aras Valley 16km beyond Tuzluca and 2km below Kurubas Pass south of Van
<i>Gypsophila patrinii</i>	Crag south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and same crags above Ishak Paşa
<i>Gypsophila pulvinaris</i>	The Vegetable Sheep (purported to be <i>Gypsophila aretoides</i>) Hotel, Dogubeyazit and also noted on the same crags above the Ishak Paşa
<i>Gypsophila ruscifolia</i>	Ahlat area
<i>Herniaria agaea</i>	Tendurek. Sepals ciliate, leaves glabrous
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Scattered
<i>Herniaria incana</i>	Scattered
<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Lepyrodiclis holostioides</i>	Picnic site near Igdir
<i>Lepyrodiclis tenera</i>	? 'Kate's Gully' near the Ishak Paşa, Dogubeyazit. Petals pink. New to Turkey if correct!
<i>Minuartia acuminata</i>	? Just below Guzeldere Pass on the east side. New to Turkey if correct!
<i>Minuartia</i> ????	Meteor
<i>Minuartia hamata</i>	Crag south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit

<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Subspecies <i>turcica</i> . Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi near Bitlis
<i>Minuartia juniperina</i>	On the road to Çatak.
<i>Minuartia lineata</i>	2km below Asaginarlica at foot of Karabet Pass, Zerne
<i>Minuartia sclerantha</i>	? Near Ayamis Castle and elsewhere
<i>Moenchia mantica</i>	Nominate. Noted in grasslands around Ahlat and Tatvan
<i>Paronychia kurdica</i>	South Van Circular and Akdamar Island
<i>Paronychia turcica</i>	Akdamar Island, Meteor
<i>Saponaria</i> sp	Aras Valley near Calpala – apparently not in flora? Same or another species seen on the Bitlis circuit!
<i>Saponaria kotschyi</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Scleranthus uncinatus</i>	West Lake Van area; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.
<i>Silene alba</i> Subspecies <i>ericalycina</i>	Bendimahi, Cilli Pass; South of Van circular.
<i>Silene ampullata</i>	on south slopes of Tendürek Pass; between Tatvan and Hizan; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. ? Caespitose white flowered campion in crevices on Van Castle may have been this species? In flower now though
<i>Silene araratica</i>	Oak woodlands around Tatvan where common
<i>Silene capitellata</i>	Cilli Pass
<i>Silene cappadocica</i>	2km south of Kurubas Pass, south of Van. Noted east of Ercek. The plants at Zerne fit well other than their habit of being single flowered!
<i>Silene chlorifolia</i>	Adilcevaz area. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Silene conica</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Silene conoidea</i>	? Near Muradiye Waterfall – possibly this species. Also Tendurek Pass
<i>Silene dianthoides</i>	Ishakpasa
<i>Silene marschallii</i>	
<i>Silene montbretiana</i>	
<i>Silene pungens</i>	? High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass Crag and rocky slopes south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit; in the crater of Nemrut; On the road to Çatak
<i>Silene spergulifolia</i>	North of Lake Van
<i>Silene subconica</i>	Zerne
<i>Silene swertifolia</i>	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i> subspecies <i>commutata</i>	Widespread, mainly in bud in
<i>Stellaria persica</i>	Near Bolukyazi
<i>Vaccaria hispanica</i>	Fields in the Aras Valley near Calpala.
Chenopodiaceae	
<i>Beta corolliflora</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Chenopodium vulvaria</i>	? Shales east of Ercek Golu
<i>Bassia (Kochia) prostrata</i>	Scattered around Van

<i>Salsola ruthenica</i>	Near Tuzluca's salt mine
Cistaceae	
<i>Helianthemum ledifolium</i>	Between Van and Bendimahi
<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>	North slope of Nemrut Dagi and 2km below Kurubas Pass south of Van
Convolvulaceae	
<i>Convolvulus altheoides</i>	Graveyard along Hakkari Road
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Scattered
<i>Convolvulus calvertii</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Between Tatvan and Hizan; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.
<i>Convolvulus galaticus</i>	Ercek Lake
<i>Convolvulus lineatus</i>	Catak Road
Crassulaceae	
<i>Rosularia aizoon</i>	south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Nemrut Dagi
<i>Rosularia elymaitiica</i>	near Adilcevaz
<i>Rosularia radiciflora</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Rosularia sempervivum</i>	Van Castle, Akdamar Island. Subspecies <i>kurdica</i> (given at the time as <i>Rosularia radiciflora</i>) Nemrut Crater
<i>Subspecies persica</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area. <i>Sedum tetramerum</i> is now included in this species
<i>Sedum aetnense</i>	
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i> var. <i>semiglabrum</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area and on Akdamar Island
<i>Sempervivum</i>	cf. <i>armenum</i> on south slopes of Tendürek Pass – may be an incorrect identification?
<i>Sempervivum davisii</i>	Rocky outcrops on the Tendurek Pass
	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Umbilicus erectus</i>	
<i>Umbilicus tropaeolifolius</i>	Akdamar Island
Cruciferae	
<i>Aethionema arabicum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Aethionema armenum</i>	Either side of Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Aethionema cordatum</i>	Tendurek Pass
<i>Aethionema elongatum</i>	North of Lake Van
<i>Aethionema grandiflorum</i>	but flowers smaller and darker and plant more woody
<i>Aethionema grandiflorum</i>	Widespread in the Van region. At least one more
<i>Aethionema membranaceum</i>	Between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayezit
<i>Aethionema speciosum</i>	? Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular. Like
<i>Aethionema trinervium</i>	? Ridge above the Ishak Paşa and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Scattered
<i>Alyssum condensatum</i>	? Nominate. Lip of Nemrut Dagi's crater
<i>Alyssum contemptum</i>	? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van

<i>Alyssum dasycarpum</i>	? Tendurek and Caldiran areas
<i>Alyssum desetorum</i>	Ishak Paşa
<i>Alyssum lepidotum</i>	? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van Craggs behind Sim-er Hotel and also shales east of Ercek Golu
<i>Alyssum linifolium</i>	
<i>Alyssum longistylum</i>	? High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass
<i>Alyssum minus</i>	2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van
<i>Alyssum stapfii</i>	Ishak Paşa
<i>Alyssum xanthocarpum</i>	? 2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van
<i>Anchonium elichrysofolium</i>	Scattered – smells of pudding!
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi, near Bitlis
<i>Arabis (Turritis) glabra</i>	Cilli Gecidi on Ararat
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Nominate. Widespread
<i>Arabis montbretiana</i>	? Hillsides west of Resadiye on the Van circular
<i>Arabis nova</i>	Cilli Gecidi on Ararat; above Ishak Paşa Palace. ? Aras Valley near Calpala; On the road to Karabet Pass.
<i>Barbarea minor</i>	
<i>Barbarea plantagineum</i>	
<i>Bornmuellera cappadocica</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Widespread
<i>Capsella rubelia</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Muradiye and Nemrut Dagi
<i>Cardamine uliginosa</i>	Scattered
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Widespread on road verges etc
<i>Coluteocarpus vesicaria</i> subspecies <i>boissieri</i> .	Lip of Nemrut Dagi crater
<i>Coluteocarpus vesicaria</i> subspecies <i>vesicaria</i>	Above Ishak Paşa Palaca, Dogubayazit and at Tendürek Pass. Roadsides – e.g. in the Agri area; south of the harbour for
<i>Conringia orientalis</i>	
<i>Conringia perfoliatum</i>	Dogubeyazit area
<i>Crambe orientalis</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Widespread in the Aras Valley and Dogubeyazit areas Subspecies indeterminate. A variety of forms were noted
<i>Draba bruniifolia</i>	
<i>Draba cappadocica</i>	High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Draba polytricha</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa and on the Tendürek Pass.
<i>Draba rosularis</i>	Tendürek Pass; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Draba siliquosa</i>	Tendürek Pass.
<i>Drabopsis verna</i>	Tendürek Pass; in the crater of Nemrut.
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Scattered
<i>Erysimum alpestre</i>	Tendurek Pass
<i>Erysimum leptophyllum</i>	? Scattered throughout the area north of Lake Van

<i>Erysimum sintenisianum</i>	Synonymous with <i>Erysimum alpestre</i> ? East side of the Kuskunkiran Pass south Van circular
<i>Euclidium syriacum</i>	Scattered
<i>Fibigia macrocarpa</i>	Ravine on road to Bolukyazi near Bitlis
<i>Fibigia suffruticosa</i>	South of Kurubas Pass – south of Van, west of Ercek
<i>Hesperis bicuspidata</i>	Zernek
<i>Hesperis persica</i>	On the road to Karabet Pass. Guzeldere
<i>Hesperis rupestris</i>	Steppe between Ahlat and Tatvan
<i>Isatis cappadocica</i> subspecies <i>steveniana</i>	Scattered in the Van area
<i>Isatis glauca</i>	Steppe 10km west of Dogubeyazit. In bud
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i> subspecies <i>tomentella</i>	? Ravine with road to Bulakyazi
<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	Meadows just east of Kucuksu on the Van circular
<i>Lepidium cartilagineum</i>	Near Ayamis Castle
Subspecies <i>crassifolium</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Locally common in the Dogubeyazit area as well as near
<i>Lepidium pefoliatum</i>	This highly distinctive plant with very swollen stem nodes
<i>Lepidium vesicarium</i>	Scattered
<i>Malcolmia africana</i>	(<i>farinosa</i>) Zernek
<i>Matthiola anchoniifolia</i>	Nominate. Ridge above Ishak Paşa.
<i>Matthiola odoratissima</i>	
<i>Matthiola longipetala</i> subspecies <i>bicornis</i>	Guzeldere Pass and ravine at junction of road to Çatak
<i>Neslia apiculata</i>	Noted west of Ercek; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-officinale</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. Adilcevaz meadows
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Aras Valley near Calpala ? On shales to the east of Ercek Golu. New to Turkey! Similar to <i>Neslia</i> but with long straight style; petals whitish and a few simple hairs
<i>Schimperia arabica</i>	
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	roadsides
<i>Sisymbrium loesellii</i>	Scattered around Dogubeyazit and in the Aras Valley
<i>Sterigmostemum incanum</i>	2km below Kurubas Pass – south of Van
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>	? Meadows by Tugkoyu
<i>Thlaspi kurdicum</i>	? High ridge south of Guzeldere Pass. ?Cilli Pass in the crater of Nemrut; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i>	
<i>Torularia</i>	spp Crags south of Sim-er Hotel. Not in flora
Cupressaceae	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	in the crater of Nemrut
<i>Juniperus excelsa</i>	Mountainsides to the south of Kucuksu; between Tatvan and Hizan; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Ridge above Ishak Paşa
Dipsacaceae	

<i>Centranthus longiflorus</i>	On the road to Çatak.
<i>Cephalaria syriaca</i>	? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Pterocephalus kurdicus</i>	East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Akdamar Island.
<i>Scabiosa rotata</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Çatak Road
<i>Valeriana alpestris</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Valeriana dioscoridis</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Valeriana leucophaea</i>	Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Karabet Pass
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Rugged hills above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubeyazit. Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van
<i>Valeriana sisymbriifolia</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit, also Muradiye Waterfall; On the road to Çatak
<i>Valerianella carinata</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Valerianella coronata</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Valerianella cymbicarpa</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road, in the Muradiye Waterfall area, and in the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Valerianella oxyrhyncha</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road, and also 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road
<i>Valerianella plagiostephana</i>	Scattered, common in the north
<i>Valerianella vesicaria</i>	Bitlis circuit
Elaeagnaceae	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. South Van Circular
Ephedraceae	
<i>Ephedra nebrodensis (major)</i>	Crags above Sim-er Hotel; Pamuk Dagi (W slopes of Agri Dagi) near Cilli Pass.
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Euphorbia armena</i>	Ishak Pasa
<i>Euphorbia arvensis?</i>	Between Igdir and Tuzluca – check!
<i>Euphorbia cheiradenia</i>	West side of lava plain north of Dogubeyazit
<i>Euphorbia denticulata</i>	South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano, Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, Ravine at Çatak-Karabet-Van road junction
<i>Euphorbia heteradena</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Euphorbia kotschyi</i>	Degirmanli near Ercek
<i>Euphorbia macrocarpa</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater
<i>Euphorbia macroclada</i>	West side of lava plain north of Dogubeyazit, South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagi Volcano

<i>Euphorbia petrophylla</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Nominate – southwest shore of Ercek Golu.
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i> Subspecies <i>niciciana</i>	– Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca
<i>Euphorbia stricta?</i>	Dogubayazit
<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area
Fabaceae	
<i>Astragalus aduncus</i>	Tendurek Pass
	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Small, scapose
<i>Astragalus alyssoides</i>	
<i>Astragalus angustiflorus</i> subsp. <i>Angustiflorus</i>	2B, 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Acaulous, yellow; between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Astragalus armeniacus</i>	? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit
<i>Astragalus bicolor</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Subscapose, lilac
<i>Astragalus cadmicus</i>	Dogubayazit area
<i>Astragalus camopylosema</i> Subspecies <i>nigripilis</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hosap road. Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Scapose
	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van, and Muradiye Waterfall area. Caulescent, peduncles short, yellow
<i>Astragalus caraganae</i>	
<i>Astragalus chaldiranicus</i>	on hills near Caldiran.
<i>Astragalus cinereus</i>	? Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit. Scapose, yellow
<i>Astragalus clavatus</i>	? Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.
<i>Astragalus cylindriacus</i>	? Scattered. Scapose, yellow
<i>Astragalus densifolius</i>	Ravine at junction of road to Çatak en route back from Karabet Pass. Scapose, purple
	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass. Seen west of Kuzkunkiran Pass
<i>Astragalus fragrans</i>	
<i>Astragalus galegifolia</i>	Ercek Lake
<i>Astragalus guttatus</i>	? East shores of Ercek Golu. An annual
	Muradiye Waterfall area - at entry side of valley. Muradiye Waterfall. also on the road to Catak
<i>Astragalus halicacabus</i>	
<i>Astragalus hirticalyx</i>	Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.
<i>Astragalus hyalolepis</i>	? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit. Scapose, purple
	South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van and again 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass. Spiny, racemes held above leaves. Calyx reddish; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp.
<i>Astragalus lagopoides</i>	
<i>Astragalus lagurus</i>	Catak, Pale pink, hairy long flower heads
	Scattered throughout. Acaulous. Yellow, leaflets very few and broad. Common in the Zerneke area
<i>Astragalus latifolius</i>	

<i>Astragalus lineatus</i> ssp. <i>longipes</i>	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Astragalus macrocephalus</i> subsp. <i>finitimus</i>	between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Astragalus microcephalus</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Astragalus macrourus</i>	Oak woodlands west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Scapose, yellow
<i>Astragalus nanus</i>	Catak, purple-pink globose flower heads, very hairy leaves
<i>Astragalus onobrychis</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hosap road. Caulescent, purple
<i>Astragalus ornithopoiooides</i>	? 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road, Muradiye Waterfall area. Caulescent, purple
<i>Astragalus pinetorum</i>	? Meadows 1km northeast of Caldiran. Acaulous, yellow
<i>Astragalus rechingeri</i>	? The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – actually at the crag above the picnic site. Spiny. White flowers with a pink flush
<i>Astragalus stevenianus</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Caulescent, purple
<i>Astragalus subrobustus</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Scapose, violet
<i>Astragalus viridissimus</i>	above Ishak Pasa, Prostrate, scapose, reddish-purple flower and calyx, hairless
<i>Cicer anatolicum</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area, Muradiye Waterfall area;
<i>Chesneya rytidosperra</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan
<i>Colutea cilicica</i>	Meteor
<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>	Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Hedysarum cappadocicum</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Çatak Road and south side of Van Lake
<i>Hedysarum syriacum</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hosap road, Guzeldere Pass
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	East of the Kurubaş Pass
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Cilli Pass west of Ararat
<i>Lathyrus inconspicuus</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area; between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, also Akdamar Island
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Lathyrus roseus</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road and near Bolukyazi en route to Bitlis. In leaf in
<i>Lathyrus rotundifolius</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Scapose, violet
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Noted on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Oak woodlands near Bolukyazi en route to Bitlis
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Widespread near Dogubeyazit

<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri; Above Ishak Paşa
<i>Medicago medicaginooides</i>	Also known as <i>Trigonella arcuata</i> . Salt mine at Tuzluca
<i>Medicago minima</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Van Kalesi?
<i>Medicago monantha</i>	Nominate. Marly slopes at east end of Zerneke Reservoir on the Hosap road, and environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Medicago orthoceras</i>	? Around Sim-er Hotel near Dogubeyazit, Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Medicago radiata</i>	Ahlat
<i>Medicago rigidula</i>	Ahlat
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Nominate. Scattered
<i>Medicago x varia</i>	Tendurek
<i>Melilotus altissima</i>	?probably this species along roadsides etc.
<i>Onobrychis atropatana</i>	East of Ercek. Also another unidentified
<i>Onobrychis cornuta</i>	Widespread. Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and on the south side of Kurubas Pass
<i>Onobrychis galegifolia</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Onobrychis radiata</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Very pretty!
<i>Onobrychis spp</i>	East of Ercek. Also another unidentified species seen in the area
<i>Onobrychis sulphureus vanensis</i>	Another stunning species. Zerneke
<i>Pisum sativum</i> subspecies <i>elatius</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	Scattered as a planted tree
<i>Securigera (Coronilla) orientalis</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, in the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Adilcevaz – by the road!
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Roadsides
<i>Sophora alopecuroides</i>	Roadsides in the Aras Valley. Edremit area near Van
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Zerneke.
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan
<i>Trifolium formosum</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i> subspecies <i>petrisavii</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Trifolium pauciflorum</i>	ID as <i>Trifolium pilulare</i> on the tour. Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis

<i>Trifolium phleoides</i>	ID as <i>Trifolium arvense</i> on the tour. Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan, and in terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Trifolium physodes</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. Bitlis Circuit.
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. Near Sarikum between Ahlat and Tatvan and in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Bitlis Circuit.
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	
<i>Trifolium speciosum</i>	Purple-flowered species. Oak woodlands near Kucuksu
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Trigonella caeruleascens</i>	Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz, Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat. Also near Hosap. The blue fenugreek 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van and campsite near the ferry to Akdamar Island, Gevas. Cilli Pass.
<i>Trigonella velutina</i>	
<i>Vicia anatolica</i>	Near the Sim-er Motel
<i>Vicia balansae</i>	? Akdamar Island. South side of Van Lake
<i>Vicia canescens</i> subspecies <i>variegata</i> .	East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Also north of Van. Like an astragalus. Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Vicia cappadocica</i>	
<i>Vicia cracca</i> ssp. <i>stenophyllus</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Vicia dalmatica</i>	Akdamar Island
<i>Vicia ervilia</i>	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Akdamar Island
<i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat Near Resadiye, South Van Circular. Near Bendimahi, Van
<i>Vicia michauxii</i>	
<i>Vicia peregrina</i>	Balaban forest this pretty species was on marls around Zernek and along the Çatak road
<i>Vicia raflige</i>	
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Akdamar Island Seen in Oak woodlands near Yassaca near Resadiye on South Van circular. Cilli Pass
<i>Vicia trunculata</i>	
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>villosa</i>	
Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus brantii</i>	Sason
<i>Quercus libani</i>	Var <i>pinnata</i> . Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis; On the road to Çatak Subspecies <i>pinnatiloba</i> . 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater

Ficaceae

Ficus carica

Subspecies *rupestris*. Çatak Road

Fumariaceae

Corydalis nariniana

Guzeldere Pass. Spur almost straight.

Corydalis oppositifolia

Subspecies *kurdica*

Nemrut Dagi crater and also on the east side of Kuskunkiran Pass and on the south face of Tendürek

Fumaria asepalae

Scattered throughout

Fumaria microcarpa

In the Aras Valley 15km west of Tuzluca

Fumaria officinalis

Cilli Pass west of Ararat

Fumaria parviflora

South of Van circular

Fumaria vaillantii

Near Dogubeyazit

Gentianaceae

Gentiana cruciata

in leaf meadows along the south side of Lake Van

Gentiana olivieri

The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Also Kizkunkiran Pass

Gentiana verna

Subspecies *pontica*. Guzeldere Pass and Tendurek Pass

Swertia longifolia

In leaf by the stream on the east side of the Guzeldere Pass

Geraniaceae

Biebersteinia multifida

This is the strange foetid-leaved plant found by Rodney found with the Iris sari on the Çatak Road south of Van. Tuberos foetid herb with narrow bipinnatifid leaves and 5 pale yellow lacinate petals. Little known in Turkey

Erodium absinthoides ssp. *armenum*

Cilli Pass, Ararat and also Aras Valley walls 16km past Tuzluca, north-facing slope of Tendurek Pass

Erodium cicutarium

Roadsides 1km east of Kucuksu, Van circular

Geranium collinum

North-facing slopes of Tendurek Pass

Geranium molle

between Tatvan and Hizan. Akdamar.

Geranium pratense

Subspecies *kurdicum*

Along South side of Lake Van

Geranium pyreniacum

South side of Lake Van

Geranium rotundifolium

Akdamar Island; South of Van circular. Bitlis Circuit

Geranium stepporum

Widespread on steppes

Geranium tuberosum

Widespread in the north

Geranium

tuberosum/stepporum

Cilli Pass, Ararat. Intermediate between two species?

Globulariaceae

Globularia orientalis

in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hizan 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular

Globularia trichosantha

Guttiferae

Hypericum linaroides

Nemrut Crater

<i>Hypericum lydium</i>	11km south of Kucuksu, Tatvan; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Hypericum helianthemoides</i>	? East end of Zernek Baraji, near Hosap
<i>Hypericum scabrum</i>	Widespread
<i>Hypericum spectabilis</i>	Leaves only, Bitlis circuit
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Widespread
Juglandaceae	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Cultivated in valleys around Dogruyol near Bitlis and in Çatak valley
Labiatae	
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	East of Ercek Golu
<i>Acinos rotundifolius</i>	Widespread in steppe. The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the south-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagı Volcano
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i> subspecies <i>?chia.</i>	Widespread. South-facing lower slopes of Nemrut Dagı Volcano. Tendurek Pass
<i>Eremostachys laciniatus</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, the ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and the Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Eremostachys moluccelloides</i>	Marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road
<i>Hymenocrater bituminosus</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road. A small shrub with blue flowers within lime coloured bracts.
<i>Lallemantia canescens</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. East of Ercek
<i>Lallemantia iberica</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road as well as between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayezit.
<i>Lallemantia peltata</i>	Quite common north of Lake Van
<i>Lamium album</i>	Scattered – often in disturbed habitats
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Near Tuzluca and oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis; on south slopes of Tendürek Pass; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road, and the Muradiye Waterfall area; On the road to Çatak
<i>Lamium rotundifolium</i>	above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit – in leaf
<i>Molucella laevis</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Nepeta congesta</i>	? The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, the marly slopes at east end of Zernek Reservoir on the Hosap road, and the environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Nepeta fissa</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van

<i>Nepeta heliotropifolia</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Between Van and Bendimahi. Zerneke.
<i>Nepeta meyeri</i>	Crags and slopes south of Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; south slopes of Tendürek Pass
<i>Nepeta transcaucasica</i>	Southwest shore of Ercek Golu, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Phlomis armeniaca</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van and near Ayamis Castle north of Van. Zerneke
<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Widespread especially in the north
<i>Salvia atropatana</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Leaves linear, flowers later
<i>Salvia brachyantha</i>	South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van. Calyx violet. Corolla only 12mm; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Salvia ceratophylla</i>	Between Ercek Lake and Ozalp; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Salvia frigida</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Salvia kronenburgii</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Calyx wide open, glabrous and whitish green; dry hills near Hosap. Çatak Road.
<i>Salvia limbata</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area (EP). Corolla white with pale yellow lower lip. 25mm.
<i>Salvia microstegia</i>	East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale by the road and Muradiye Waterfall area. Corolla white
<i>Salvia multicaulis</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area, and oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Calyx wide open, purplish violet, corolla 18mm
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca. Corolla purple, 10-12mm. Bracts purple 5-10mm. Çatak Road
<i>Salvia poculata</i>	noted at Muradiye and at Zerneke
<i>Salvia stamineum</i>	Sim-er Motel, Dogubeyazit]
<i>Salvia trichoclada</i>	Terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis. on the road to Çatak
<i>Salvia verticillata</i> subspecies <i>amaniensis</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area. South of Lake Van
<i>Scutellaria megalaspis</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i>	Subspecies <i>pinnatifida</i> . In ravine near Bolukyazi near Bitlis. Tendurek Pass
<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i> subspecies <i>sosnowskyi</i> .	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, and the south side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van.
<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i> subspecies <i>virens</i> .	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular. Nominant. Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca, Squamulate; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Sideritis montana</i>	
<i>Stachys annua</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan

<i>Stachys annua</i> var. <i>lycaonica</i>	is on Çatak road
<i>Stachys iberica</i>	Subspecies <i>stenostachya</i> . Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Stachys lavandulifolia</i>	Widespread in steppe
<i>Stachys macrantha</i>	on north slopes of Tendürek Pass
<i>Teucrium chaemedrys</i> ssp. <i>sinuatum</i>	Zernek
<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Akdamar Island ? Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Ercek area.
<i>Thymus kotschyanus</i>	
<i>Thymus sipyleus</i>	above the Ishak Paşa Palace
<i>Ziziphora capitata</i>	On the road to Çatak ? Fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and shales 6km south along minor road.
<i>Ziziphora persica</i>	
Linaceae	
<i>Linum austriacum</i>	Common in Dogubeyazit area
<i>Linum densiflorum</i>	[The large white flowered species along the Çatak road]
<i>Linum flavum</i>	Ahlat
<i>Linum hirsutum</i>	large blue flowers. Ishak Paşa Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; On the road to Çatak
<i>Linum meletonis</i>	Oak woodlands near Resadiye on the Van circular and 2km below the Kurubas Pass south of Van; in the crater of Nemrut.
<i>Linum mucronatum</i> subspecies <i>armenum</i>	? Cilli Pass on Ararat and 11km east of Kucuksu, near Tatvan
<i>Linum nervosum</i>	
<i>Linum pycnophyllum</i> ? subspecies <i>kurdicum</i>	? Kurubas Pass south of Van and west of Dogubeyazit
<i>Linum triflorum</i>	Nemrut - yellow
<i>Linum trinervium</i>	Nemrut - blue
Malvaceae	
<i>Alcea kurdica</i>	Bitlis circuit Scattered in steppe. Between Tuzluca and Igdir; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Akdamar Island.
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	
Oleaceae	
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan; On the road to Çatak.
Orobanchaceae	
<i>Orobanche anatolica</i>	Fairly widespread. On Salvia
<i>Orobanche bungeana</i>	Zernek abundant in rough fields at the north end of the Çatak Road.
<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Purple one seen in steppe south of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, Cili Pass
<i>Orobanche cernua</i>	
<i>Orobanche cilicica</i>	Muradiye Waterfall
<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Cilli Pass
<i>Orobanche kurdica</i>	Catak Road

<i>Orobanche lutea</i>	East of Ercek Golu
<i>Orobanche purpurea</i>	Fairly widespread. On Achillea
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Akdamar Island. Zerne
<i>Orobanche schultzi</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit. Also Mezne. It seems that all the <i>Phelypaeas</i> we saw are <i>tournefortii</i> . <i>Phelypaea coccinea</i> is not found in Turkey according to a recent paper on the genus by Cullen. Heather Angel tracked this information down
<i>Phelypaea tournefortii</i>	
Paeoniaceae	
<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Flowering in Aspen Woodland and scrub above the village of Tugkoyu
Papaveraceae	
<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Aras Valley. Zerne
<i>Glaucium grandiflorum</i>	Zerne
<i>Hypecoum pendulum</i>	Scattered localities around Van
<i>Papaver arenarium?</i>	Muradiye Waterfall – side valley
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	Ishakpasa Noted east of the Sim-er, Dogubeyazit – orchards in the next village
<i>Papaver commutatum</i>	
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Subspecies <i>laevigatum</i>
<i>Papaver macrostomum</i>	Ercek Lake
<i>Papaver persicum</i>	This taxon includes previously separate <i>Papavers fugax tauricola</i> and <i>acrochaetum</i> . Noted in a variety of localities most at about lake level of which were seen – the and <i>acrochaetum</i> all of which were seen – the
<i>Papaver pseud-orientale</i>	Muradiye Waterfall – side valley – in bud; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Weeds on fields.
<i>Roemeria hybrida</i>	Purple. Few in flower by the Van-Agri-Dogubeyazit road junction; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Çatak Road
<i>Roemeria refracta</i>	Bright red. Widespread around Van
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago atrata</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass Widespread on meadows and disturbed habitats.
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Guzeldere Pass
<i>Plantago major</i>	Somewhere!
Plumbaginaceae	
<i>Acantholimon bracteatum</i>	
Subspecies <i>capitulum</i>	East of Ercek Golu
<i>Limniopsis davisii</i>	Çatak Road
Polygalaceae	

<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	well out of range but clearly this species on the Cilli Pass.
<i>Polygala anatolica</i>	11km south of Kucuksu, south of Tatvan; between Van-Muradiye-Dogubayazit; between Tatvan and Hizan.
<i>Polygala hohenbekeriana</i>	Tendurek Pass
Polygonaceae	
<i>Atraphaxis</i> sp.	Zernek
<i>Polygonum alpinum</i>	on north slopes of Tendürek Pass.
<i>Polygonum cognatum</i>	Between Dogruyol and Bolukyazi, near Bitlis
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Between Ercis and Ahlat
<i>Polygonum polycnemoides</i>	Tatvan area
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Zernek East end of Zernek Baraji and also shales east of ercek Golu. This was also the 'rhubarb'-like thing being sold in local markets!
<i>Rheum ribes</i>	Bitlis Circuit
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Widespread on disturbed habitats.
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Ravine near Bolukyazi, Bitlis & at Muradiye Waterfall; South of Van circular.
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	11km south of Kucuksu
<i>Rumex angustifolius</i>	Meadows 1km east of Kucuksu
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	
Primulaceae	
<i>Androsace armeniaca</i>	Short stemmed species with pink flowers Tendurek Pass East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat and on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, also above the Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubeyazit
<i>Androsace maxima</i>	
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit and the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz and the meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Primula algida</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass
<i>Primula auriculata</i>	Seen on Tendurek Pass
<i>Primula elatior</i> ssp. <i>meyerii</i>	
Pteridophyta	
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Limestone cliffs on Akdamar Island
<i>Cheilanthes persica</i>	in the crater of Nemrut. Along the Çatak Road
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern. Scattered throughout ? south face of Tendürek Pass; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	meadows between Tatvan and Hizan
<i>Equisetum palustris</i>	Between Van and Dogubeyazit
<i>Equisetum ramossissimum</i>	
Ranunculaceae	

<i>Adonis aestivalis</i>	Between Van and Muradiye; On the road to Çatak. Fields around Dogubeyazit
<i>Adonis eriocalycina</i>	Slopes by campsite near Akdamar Ferry and also near Ayamis Castle; On the road to Çatak. Ercek Golu area.
<i>Adonis flammea</i>	Widespread. A local farmer told us he used it to make an infusion 'to keep cancer at bay'
<i>Adonis wolgensis</i>	Noted on the ridge above the Ishak Pa ^o a and also as common on the lower north-facing slopes of the Tendurek Pass near Somkaya village
<i>Anemone (Pulsatilla) albana</i>	On the crater rim of Nemrut Dagi and at Tendürek Pass.
<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>	
<i>Subspecies willdenowii</i>	. A little to the north of Tendurek Pass. Güzeldere Pass
<i>Ceratocephalus testiculatus</i>	Less common than following species – e.g. Arin Golu
<i>Ceratocephalus falcatus</i>	Common especially in north
<i>Clematis orientalis</i>	Noted 3km east of Tuzluca. Çatak Road
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Quite common in fallow or disturbed ground in the Aras Valley. Also near Edremit and at Van Kalesi
<i>Nigella segetalis</i>	? Fields near Gevas
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Scattered throughout in fields and waysides
<i>Ranunculus brachylobus</i> subsp. <i>incisilobatus</i>	Kuskuniran Pass – just on the east side as well as Tendürek Pass. In the crater of Nemrut; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Ranunculus bulbilliferus</i>	Has bulbils in the axils of the stem leaves. Tripartite or trisect leaves, sepals spreading. Described as recently as 1992 as being new to Turkey – from Van area. Top of the Kizkunkiran Pass
<i>Ranunculus constantinopolitanus</i>	Wet meadows along the Van circular south side.
<i>Ranunculus crateris</i>	Noted between Van and Bendimahi – very distinctive leaves
<i>Ranunculus cuneatus</i>	First noted around the Sim-er and as quite common in dry areas north of Lake Van
<i>Ranunculus dissectus</i> subsp. <i>Glabrescens</i>	Ishakpasa
<i>Ranunculus dissectus</i> subsp. <i>huetii</i>	On the road to Karabet Pass and between Van and Bendimahi
<i>Ranunculus diversifolius</i>	The tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands south of Lake Van
<i>Ranunculus fenzlii</i>	Another tall large-leaved buttercup in the woodlands south of Lake Van!
<i>Ranunculus grandiflorus</i>	Both sides of Tendurek Pass in saturated ground
<i>Ranunculus illyricus</i>	The Cilli Pass west of Ararat; in the crater of Nemrut.
<i>Ranunculus isthmicus</i>	north of Van, fruits like a clown's hat
<i>Ranunculus kochii</i>	By snowmelt at many localities – like a squat celandine!
<i>Ranunculus kotschyi</i>	Wet meadows east of Agri and Nemrut Dagi Crater – locally common

<i>Ranunculus myosuroides</i>	just coming into flower on the Karabet Pass
<i>Ranunculus oxyspermus</i>	Tendurek and Tatvan
<i>Ranunculus poluninii</i>	Karabet Pass – just coming into flower
<i>Ranunculus polyanthemus</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Ranunculus polyrhizos</i>	On the ridgetop south of the Guzeldere Pass. Near top of Tendurek Pass
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Noted near Igdir and near Bolukyazi. Scattered in wet areas around Van.
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Wetlands at base of Mount Ararat in several localities and also seen in wet meadows near Adilcevaz
<i>Ranunculus sericeus</i>	Wet meadows near Bendimahi and along south shore of Lake Van
<i>Ranunculus sphaerospermus</i>	A water crowfoot. Roadside ditches just outside Dogubeyazit
<i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i>	Bitlis circuit
<i>Ranunculus vanensis</i>	South of Van circular – top of Kizkinkiran Pass
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Riversides and wet areas south of Lake Van
<i>Thalictrum isopyroides</i>	Scattered in mountains south of Lake Van. Flowering at 2750m at this season
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	shaley slopes between Ercek & Ozalp, above Ishak Pa ^o a Palace & many other places
<i>Thalictrum sultanabadence</i>	Karabel and Catak

Trollius ranunculinus

A few plants on the Guzeldere Pass east of Hosap

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea

Scattered on steppe and disturbed habitats.

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus pallasii

in the crater of Nemrut; between Tatvan and Hizan; On
the road to Çatak. Meteor

Rosaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria

Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near
Bitlis

Alchamilla erithoperta

scattered

Amygdalus orientalis

North of Van

Amygdalus trichamygdalis

Cilli Pass

Cotoneaster integerrimus

Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel,
Dogubeyazit

Cotoneaster nummularia

in the crater of Nemrut.; South of Van circular

Crataegus aronia

Cilli Pass

Crataegus curvisepala

Bitlis Circuit

Crataegus meyeri

Near Bolukyazi

Crataegus monogyna

South of Van circular

Crataegus orientalis

Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. Leaves
only

Filipendula ulmaria

Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van

<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i> Subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	var <i>orientalis</i> . South of Van circular
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Akdamar
<i>Potentilla bifurca</i>	Muradiye Waterfall area. Zernek. Ercek
<i>Potentilla lignosa</i>	On the road to Karabet Pass. Çatak Road
<i>Potentilla orientalis</i>	Çatak Road
<i>Potentilla reptans?</i>	Tendurek 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Very pretty!
<i>Potentilla supina</i>	
<i>Prunus (Cerasus) prostrata</i>	South of Van circular. Karabet. (<i>Cerasus</i>) Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass.
<i>Prunus brachypetala</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular; in the crater of Nemrut.
<i>Prunus divaricata</i>	(<i>Cerasus angustifolia</i>) Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit; on Pamuk Dagı between Dogubayazit and Igdir. Strange looking plant that only vaguely resembles a cherry!
<i>Prunus incana</i> var. <i>sintensisii</i> .	
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Bitlis Circuit Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Leaves only
<i>Pyrus syriaca</i> subsp. <i>syriaca</i> .	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Oak Woodlands south side of Lake Van
<i>Rosa foetida</i>	scattered
<i>Rosa haemisphaerica</i>	probably this species - Cilli Pass
<i>Rosa heckeliana</i> var. <i>heckeliana</i> .	Small shrubs above Ishak Paşa and Cilli Pass
<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	between Tatvan and Hizan. Picnic site near Calpala in the Aras Valley; widespread in meadows
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	
<i>Sorbus persica</i>	South Circular Woods
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Leaves only. Var <i>cretica</i> . Near Bolukyazi near Bitlis
<i>Sorbus umbellata</i> var. <i>taurica</i>	

Rubiaceae

<i>Asperula arvensis</i>	Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Asperula glomerata</i>	Subspecies ? <i>eriantha</i> Craggs and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, also on terraces at west edge of Dogruyol village near Bitlis
<i>Asperula orientalis</i>	

<i>Asperula setosa</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, and also on the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular. East of Ercek Golu
<i>Asperula xylorrhiza</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road
<i>Callipeltis cucullaria</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca and the marly slopes at east end of Zerne Reservoir on the Hosap road
<i>Cruciata taurica</i>	Common throughout – <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> almost certainly present too?
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Scattered near habitation especially
<i>Galium czerepanovii</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Galium incanum</i>	Subspecies <i>elatius</i> . Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Galium spurium</i>	Nominate. 2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and in fields in Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir
<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Adilcevaz
Rutaceae	
<i>Haplophyllum schelkovnikovii</i>	? Near Ayamis Castle; west of Van Lake, on slopes of Nemrut.
Santalaceae	
<i>Thesium billardieri</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area; above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit.
<i>Thesium impressum</i>	Aras Valley north of Tuzluca. Muradiye.
Saxifragaceae	
<i>Saxifraga cymbalaria</i>	spring half way along the South Van Circular By stream through oak woodland near Bolukyazi near Bitlis
<i>Saxifraga hederacea</i>	
<i>Saxifraga kotschy</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit though the bright orange petals seem a little odd! The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass and on the pass itself some superb specimens
<i>Saxifraga sibirica</i>	Ravine on the Bitlis to Bolukyazi road; in the crater of Nemrut. Tendurek Pass
Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Bunaea trifida</i>	Scattered on steppe. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, and 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. Zerne. Meteor
<i>Dodartia orientalis</i>	Fallow fields near Igdir in the Aras Valley
<i>Euphrasia juzepczukii</i>	Cilli Pass
<i>Euphrasia pectinata</i>	Scattered
<i>Lagotis stolonifera</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit; On the road to Çatak.
<i>Linaria armeniaca</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Zerne.

<i>Linaria chalepensis</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Cilli Pass, Ararat. Muradiye
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>	
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> subspecies <i>confertifolia</i>	Zernek
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> subspecies <i>prealti</i>	east of Ercek Golu
<i>Linaria grandiflora</i>	Catak Road
<i>Linaria simplex</i>	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis. Cilli Pass, Ararat. As the subspecies name suggest it is yellow flowered!
<i>Subspecies flaviflora</i>	
<i>Pedicularis caucasica</i>	Meadows in the Kucuksu area. Tendurek Pass
<i>Pedicularis comosa</i>	Widespread and common – both wet meadow and dry rocky slope forms
<i>Pedicularis condensata</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular. Zernek
<i>Subspecies grandiflorus</i>	
<i>Scrophularia ilwensis</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Scrophularia libanotica</i>	Van Castle
	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit – on screes. An intermediate between this and the following species was found on rocks here too; Tendurek Pass.
<i>Scrophularia nachitschevanica</i>	
<i>Scrophularia orientalis</i>	Tendurek Pass
<i>Scrophularia rivanum</i>	By Ayamis Castle north of Van
<i>Scrophularia umbrosa</i>	Environs of campsite 1km towards Gevas from Akdamar ferry and at the wetland justside Ahlat
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road. Cilli Pass
	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. In range of allied <i>Verbascum nudicaule</i> ?
<i>Verbascum suworowianum</i>	
<i>Verbascum vanense</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
	? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir; On the road to Çatak. Adilcevaz
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	
<i>Veronica anagalloides</i>	Bitlis Circuit
	East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, the Ishak Paşa Palace above Dogubeyazit, and the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular
<i>Veronica biloba</i>	
<i>Veronica bornmuelleri</i>	? 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van
	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat as well as the Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Veronica bozakmanii</i>	
<i>Veronica gentianoides</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass
	Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis
<i>Veronica intercedens</i>	

Veronica orientalis

Veronica polita

Veronica pusillus

Scattered throughout

11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

Caldiran

Monocotyledons

Alismataceae

Alisma lanceolatum

Alisma plantago-aquatica

East shore of Ercek Golu; between Tatvan and Hizan

on the Bitlis Circuit

Amaryllidaceae

Ixiolirion tataricum subspecies
montanum

Widespread in steppe

Araceae

Arum detrunctum
(*conophalloides*)

Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular, also 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and in the ravine at Çatak- Karabet-Van road junction

Butomaceae

Butomus umbellatus

East shore of Ercek Golu and also at Bendimahi. By Van Kalesi

Iridaceae

Crocus cancellatus

Brian Matthew confirmed that the single bulb collected from the hillside where *Iris sari* was prolific along the Çatak Road was this autumn-flowering species

Gladiolus atroviolaceus

East side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van; between Ercek Lake and Ozalp. Also east of Hosap.

Gladiolus kotschyanus

Muradiye Waterfall area and around Ayamis Castle. Also several places south and east of Lake Van 10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road. On the road to Ercis on dry hillsides, c. 30 km from Van, 1730 m altitude. East of Ozalp, particularly in the military area.

Iris barnumae

this stunning sulphur form was common in the steppe near Albayrak

Iris barnumae urumiensis

Iris caucasica

Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit; Tendürek Pass and inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater; On the road to Karabet Pass.

Iris gatesii

very good clumps seen at Sason

Iris iberica

Subspecies *elegantissima*. 10km west of Dogubeyazit on Agri road. Also below the crags and on the slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit, as well as around the hotel itself. Also on the east side of the Cilli Pass, Ararat, and in the Muradiye Waterfall area.

<i>Iris paradoxa</i>	Forma choschab. South side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van, the approach to the Guzeldere Pass, and the road between Zerneke and Lake Van. Also noted along the roadsides along the Zerneke Reservoir. Also on the road to Çatak
<i>Iris persica</i>	Plants in seed noted on the Bitlis circuit
<i>Iris pseudocaucasica</i>	Just a few plants in flower on a ridge above our picnic site on the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and a few on the eastern approaches to the Karabet Pass; dry hills east of Ozalp (in seed there). In seed in
<i>Iris sari</i>	Steppe and fields 16km south of road 975 on the Çatak road and fields around the village of Kay(r?)abogaz a little south of there; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry. A large colony of mixed colours on the Çatak Road had several plants intermediate (hybrids?) between this species and <i>Iris paradoxa</i> ? A single plant also seen in flower north of Dogruyol in the Bitlis area.
<i>Iris spuria</i> subspecies <i>musulmanica</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van; between Ercek Golu and Ozalp – not yet in flower
Juncaginaceae	
<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Soguksu meadows south of Tendurek Pass, the meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass. Ercek Golu
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>	Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz and 1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van Circular. Ercek Golu
Liliaceae	
<i>Allium akaka</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit, also the south side of Kurubas Pass, south of Van and 2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van and at Ayamis Castle.
<i>Allium atroviolaceum</i>	Near Adilcevaz
<i>Allium dictyoprasum</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Allium hirtifolium</i>	Van Castle and a variety of south Van locations
<i>Allium pseudoampeloprasum</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area. Note the perianth segments are smooth and obtuse – may be another species?
<i>Allium scabriscapum</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass; Kurubas Pass; south of the harbour for Akdamar ferry.
<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Subspecies <i>waldsteinii</i> . Akdamar Island
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Noted on the first visit to Muradiye Waterfall. Cilli Pass
<i>Asparagus palaestinum</i>	Zerneke
<i>Asparagus persicus</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit.
<i>Bellevalia fominii</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Also Çatak Road and oak woodlands
<i>Bellevalia longipes</i>	North of Van

<i>Bellevalia longistyla</i>	Generally quite common in the Van area – e.g. Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass
<i>Bellevalia paradoxa</i>	(including <i>Bellevalia pycnantha</i>) North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass
<i>Bellevalia rixii</i>	Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Colchicum kotschyana</i>	On the road to Çatak. (in leaf – autumn-flowering)
<i>Colchicum szovitsii</i>	Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale; Kurubas Pass. Tendurek Pass
<i>Eremurus spectabilis</i>	Scattered at lower levels to the south and east of Lake Van
<i>Fritillaria alburyana</i>	On north facing slopes of ravine northwest of Muradiye Waterfall – a single dried-up flower found!
<i>Fritillaria assyriaca</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, Tendurek
<i>Fritillaria caucasica</i>	Tendürek Pass.
<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i>	<i>kurdica</i> x <i>pinardii</i> , Several on the Tendurek Pass appeared to be intergrades between these two species
<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i>	East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass.
<i>Fritillaria crassifolia</i> subspecies 'kurdica'	and possibly 'crassifolia' involved though practical delimitation of these subspecies seems impossible in this area. The form seen on the Tendurek Pass which superficially looks like <i>Fritillaria michailovskyi</i> is subspecies <i>kurdica</i> probably of the form <i>grossheimiana</i> described from Iran some years ago
<i>Fritillaria minima</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Several thousand in flower this year – a very rare fritillary known from only three or four sites
<i>Fritillaria minuta</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, also on the east side of the Kuskunkiran Pass south van circular, and above Yukarinarlica on the Karabet Pass
<i>Fritillaria minuta</i> x <i>assyriaca</i>	Nemrut Dagi. Very common hybrid and very easy to 'pick' with bright glossy green leaves and narrow slightly waisted flowers
<i>Fritillaria pinardii</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass. The status of plants in Nemrut Dagi Volcano is unclear though possibly this species is not present there
<i>Fritillaria straussii</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular – in fruit
<i>Gagea bohemica</i>	Nemrut Dagi crater lip and Karabet Pass

<i>Gagea bulbifera</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit, by the Hosap Fortress, and on the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater of Nemrut.
<i>Gagea confusa</i>	Lip of Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Karabet Pass. Also by lava fields at Tendurek Pass
<i>Gagea fistulosa</i>	Widespread and common near snowmelt everywhere
<i>Gagea gageoides</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit, the Kuskunkiran Pass on the south Van circular, hills above Ercek and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. First gorge along the Çatak Road
<i>Gagea glacialis</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; in the crater of Nemrut. Also on Tendurek
<i>Gagea helenae</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass; Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
<i>Gagea luteoides</i>	in the crater of Nemrut; South of Van circular. Karabet Pass
<i>Gagea stylosa</i>	Tendürek Pass.
<i>Gagea taurica</i>	in the crater of Nemrut and on Tendurek Pass. Above Ishak Paşa. Also on the Karabet Pass
<i>Gagea tenera</i>	Nemrut Dagi and Karabet Pass
<i>Gagea uliginosa</i>	Nemrut Dagi crater and Karabet Pass
<i>Gagea villosa</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit
<i>Hyacinthella longipes</i>	Kurubas Pass.
<i>Hyacinthella siirtensis</i>	Above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit.
<i>Merendera kurdica</i>	The eastern approach to the Karabet Pass
<i>Merendera trigyna</i>	North-facing slopes near snowline on the Tendurek Pass, and the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. The plants from the Tendurek Pass fit the form ' <i>raddeana</i> ' with wide perianth segments and broad leaves
<i>Muscari armeniacum</i>	Locally common throughout
<i>Muscari aucheri</i>	2km west of Taslicay, east of Agri, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass. Also Nemrut Dagi and Guzeldere
<i>Muscari caucasicum</i>	Widespread – much commoner than previous species In very damp meadows just north of Dogubeyazit and near Ishak Paşa Palace – one of the 'open-flowered' Bellevalia
<i>Muscari coeleste</i>	
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Scattered
<i>Muscari longipes</i>	Kurubas Pass; On the road to Karabet Pass. Çatak Road
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Above Ishak Paşa Palace, Dogubayazit. East of Ercek Golu.
<i>Ornithogalum arcuatum</i>	along the south shore of Lake Van in fields ? Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit. Probably not montanum but certainly looked like it!
<i>Ornithogalum montanum</i>	

<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	Akdamar and Çatak Road
<i>Ornithogalum oligophyllum</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Ornithogalum orthophyllum</i>	10km east of Ercek Golu and then shales 6km south along minor road
<i>Ornithogalum platyphyllum</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas Pass south of Van. Bitlis Circuit
<i>Ornithogalum shelkovnikovii</i>	Widespread
<i>Ornithogalum wiedemannii</i>	Or <i>oligophyllum</i>
<i>Puschkinia</i>	'nemrut dagi' A doubtfully distinct ' <i>Puschkinia</i> ' rather uncommon in the crater floor
<i>Puschkinia</i>	'karabet' Grows with 'scilloides' but much the commoner of the two – pyramidal inflorescence, different filament structure etc.
<i>Puschkinia scilloides</i>	North-facing slopes on the Tendurek Pass, the east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – locally very abundant at all these sites
<i>Scilla monanthos</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa Palace
<i>Scilla sibirica</i>	Above the Ishak Paşa Palace
<i>Tulipa armena</i>	Subsp. <i>armena</i> Tendurek Pass, above Ishak Pasa, also Karabet Pass
<i>Tulipa biflora</i>	Slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale. Both white with yellow centre and fully yellow forms
<i>Tulipa humilis</i>	East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, the slopes above and south of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale, and the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass
<i>Tulipa julia</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit and on the rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit
<i>Tulipa sintenisii</i>	Recently finished plants were seen south of Bolukyazi. A large colony in good flower by the end of the first gorge on the road to Çatak, very good colony seen at Çatak
<i>Tulipa sylvestris</i>	Between Hosap and Guzeldere Pass.
Orcidaceae	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular – mostly in bud. Several at the little roadside wood west of Gevaş
<i>Cephalanthera kotschyana</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, the hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	In scrub above the South Van Circular near Resadiye
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular. On the Guzeldere Pass
<i>Comperia comperiana</i>	Several found in oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular. Leader only this year

<i>Dactylorhiza flavescens</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater. Oak woods on South Van Circular
<i>Dactylorhiza iberica</i>	very many in bud in marshy fields on the west wide of the Kizkunkiran Pass.
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	between Ercis and Ahlat.
<i>Dactylorhiza osmanica</i>	A large population south of Bendimahi was a surprise! Widespread in wet meadows. The very tall plants with densely leafy stems and elongate bracts from the wet meadows near Adilcevaz fit the form ' <i>longibracteata</i> '. Strangely this highly distinctive form appears nowhere in Kreutz's work! The ' <i>chuhuensis</i> ' form with purple-marked leaves and bracts was seen north of Lake Van
<i>Dactylorhiza umbrosa</i>	In leaf at Adilcevaz and above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	In leaf above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan
<i>Epipactis persica</i>	Bitlis Circuit near village Icgecit
<i>Ophrys holoserica</i>	North of Kuslu (north of Bolukyazi)
<i>Ophrys phrygia</i>	Noted in a little roadside wood west of Gevaş
<i>Ophrys straussii</i>	
<i>Ophrys transhyrcana</i>	Nominate. Akdamar Island. One or two in good flower in oak scrub on the south Van circular. Several at the little roadside wood west of Gevaş
<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	The walls of the Aras Valley 16km west of Tuzluca on the Kars road, oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis, and in the Selcuk Cemetery at Ahlat. Road to Çatak. Quite common in some marshy fields south of Lake Van
<i>Orchis palustris</i>	East shore of Ercek Golu;?between Ercis and Ahlat
<i>Orchis pinetorum</i>	Inside Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater, and 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Orchis pseudolaxiflora</i>	Very good population seen at Ercek Lake 11km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and on oak scrub slopes a little west of Resadiye on the south Van circular
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	
Cyperaceae	
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz
<i>Blysmus compressus</i>	Carex divulsa
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	Subspecies leersii
<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	East shore of Ercek Golu
<i>Carex diluta</i>	Meadows at Adilcevaz
<i>Carex distans</i>	? Junction of the Van-Agri-Dogubeyazit roads
<i>Carex divisa</i>	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Widespread
Subspecies <i>serratula</i>	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular

<i>Carex orbicularis</i> Subspecies <i>?kotschyana</i>	2km or so south of the Kurubas
<i>Carex panicea</i>	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular, and a little east of Asaginarlica below the Karabet Pass
<i>Carex tomentosa</i>	1km east of Kucuksu on the south Van circular
<i>Carex kurdica</i>	Pass south of Van
<i>Scirpiodes holoschoenus</i>	Scattered
Juncaceae	
<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>	Meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	East shore of Ercek Golu etc East shore of Arin Golu near Adilcevaz and meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Juncus gerardi</i>	
Poaceae	
<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Scattered throughout
<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat etc
<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	Subspecies pectinatum ? Aras Valley near Calpala west of Igdir and meadows 14km east of Adilcevaz
<i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i>	
<i>Alopecurus aucheri</i>	Lip of Nemrut Dagi Volcano crater
<i>Alopecurus laguroides</i>	Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Near Ulu Kumbet at Ahlat
<i>Bromus lanceolatus</i>	? Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat, Van Castle
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Scattered
<i>Bromus tomentellus</i>	Scattered
<i>Catabrosa capusii</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Catabrosella parviflora</i>	Subspecies calvertii
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Near Edremit
<i>Eremopoa songarica</i>	Scattered ? Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Eremopyrum distans</i>	
<i>Festuca callieri</i>	Nominate. Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit East side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Festuca sclerophylla</i>	
<i>Hordeum geniculatum</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Subspecies <i>?glaucum</i>
<i>Hordeum violaceum</i>	Bendimahi Marshes at NE corner of Lake Van
<i>Melica persica</i>	Subspecies cf. <i>inaequiglumis</i> Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol.
<i>Milium vernale</i>	New to
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	On Tendürek Pass
<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	Widespread – the commonest grass. Fertile specimens at Inside Nemrut crater

<i>Psathyrostachys fragilis</i>	Crags and slopes south of the Sim-er Hotel, Dogubeyazit
<i>Puccinellia distans</i>	Subspecies <i>sevangensis</i> Reservoir on the Hosap road
<i>Sclerochloa dura</i>	Van Castle Rugged hills above the Ishak Paşa Palace by Dogubeyazit and east side of the Guzeldere Pass between Hosap and Baskale
<i>Sesleria phleoides</i>	
<i>Stipa arabica</i>	? Muradiye Waterfall area
<i>Stipa holosericea</i>	Environs of Ayamis Castle north of Van and roadsides in the area
<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Subspecies <i>crinitum</i>
<i>Triticum baeoticum</i>	Subspecies ? <i>thaouidar</i>
<i>Ventenata subenervis</i>	Hill above Tugkoyu Village southeast of Tatvan. New to East Turkey
<i>Vulpia ciliata</i>	Nominate. Roadsides near the hotel at Ahlat Oak woodland and grazed valley west of Dogruyol near Bitlis
<i>Zingeria pisidica</i>	
Typhaceae	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Adilcevaz
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Ahlat area
<i>Typha minima</i>	Hillsides 3km east of Tuzluca

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

Only 2012 records included. The taxonomy and order of the following list largely follows Voous (1977, List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species). An indication of frequency of sightings is given by the number of days out of 13 a species was seen on – thus 4/13 means a species was noted on four days during the holiday. The arrival day in Istanbul is not included.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	scattered. 3/13
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	several each at Arın Gölü and the Dörümeç Rivermouth
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	several on Erçek Gölü
Common Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	1 watched for some time at the Dörümeç Rivermouth
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1 on steppe north of Van and a male near Erciş
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	scattered. 4/13
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2 at wetland at foot of lava flows, Dogubeyazit and several Arın Gölü
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	c.8 at wetland at foot of lava flows, Dogubeyazit
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1 at Erçek Gölü and several at the Dörümeç Rivermouth
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	scattered. 5/13
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2+ at Arın Gölü, several at the Dörümeç Rivermouth
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	scattered throughout. 6/13
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	c.35 at Erçek Gölü (distant!)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	noted at wetland at foot of lava flows, Dogubeyazit
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	locally common. 5/13
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1 at wetland at foot of lava flows, Dogubeyazit, 3 at the Dörümeç Rivermouth
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	2 at Arın Gölü
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	scattered. 5/13
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	a male at Bendimahi
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	locally very common. 6/13
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	4 at Bendimahi, 15+ at Arın Gölü, 6+ at Dörümeç Rivermouth
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Locally common. 4/13
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	4 at wetland at foot of lava flows, Dogubeyazit, 2+ at Arın Gölü, 2 at the small wetland close to at Erçek Gölü. 3/13
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1 at Arın Gölü
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	fantastic year for this species. 3 at Bendimahi, 79 at Arın Gölü, 15 at the small wetland close to at Erçek Gölü and one by the lake itself, several at Dörümeç Rivermouth and 6+ at South Van Marshes. 4/13
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	1 at the Güzeldere Pass, 1 at Hoşap, 1 Gurpınar. 2/13
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	3+ at the Güzeldere Pass
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	1 Bitlis circuit
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	widespread. 8/13

Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	a scatter of records, in the north. 3/13
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 at the Sim-er Motel!
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	uncommon. 3/13
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	widespread. 11/13
Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	1 above the Ishak Paşa Palace. 2/13
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	1 on the Tendürek Pass and 2 on the Karabet
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1 on the Bitlis Circuit
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	scattered. 2/13
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	widespread in low numbers. 7/13
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	scattered. 4/13
Lanner	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	unusual record of 2 over Akdamar Island
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>	scattered. 3/13
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	heard in Nemrut Dagi
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	heard close by Doğubeyazıt
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1 at the small wetland close to at Erçek Gölü
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	locally abundant. 7/13
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	widespread in wetlands. 4/13
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	locally frequent in wetlands. 3/13
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	1 by the Merit Hotel (Karen and John)
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	scattered. 3/13
Spur-winged Plover	<i>Hoplopterus spinosus</i>	1 at the Dörümeç Rivermouth
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	locally common. 8/13
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	2 at South Van Marshes
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	widespread in wetlands. 7/13
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2 at Erçek Gölü
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1 near Zerneke
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	2 near the Merit Hotel, Edremit
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	scattered. 4/13
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1 South Van Marsh
Armenian Gull	<i>Larus (argentatus) armeniacus</i>	widespread. 31/13
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1 Arın Gölü and 1 Erçek Gölü
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	1 Arın Gölü
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Bendimahi and Arın Gölü
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	1 at Ararat's Wetlands and 2 at Arın Golu. 2/13
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	several at wetland at foot of lava flows, Doğubeyazıt
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	2 near Gurpınar
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	widespread – some wild birds too. 13/13
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	scattered. 4/13
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	towns. 5/13
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	widespread. 7/13
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	scattered. 4/13
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	widespread. 13/13
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	scattered throughout. 5/13
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	widespread. 13/13
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	widespread. 9/13
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	widespread. 12/13
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus syriacus</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	scattered. 3/13
Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>	locally frequent. 7/13
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	Arın Gölü where common, also Erçek Gölü

Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	scattered. 2/13
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Several in Nemrüt Dağı crater and 1 on the Çilli Pass
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	widespread. 8/13
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	widespread especially above 2000m. 8/13
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	locally abundant. 6/13
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	scattered. 5/13
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	widespread. 9/13
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	only noted once on north side of Lake Van
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	scattered. 5/13
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1 on the Güzeldere Pass
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	locally common at high altitude. 3/13
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	widespread. 10/13
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	a pair near Başeğmez, south foot of Tendürek Pass
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	scattered. 2/13
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	widespread. 10/13
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	singles twice, south of Lake Van. 2/13
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	noted on the Bitlis circuit
Radde's Accentor	<i>Prunella ocularis</i>	1 on the Tendürek Pass, common on the eastern approach to the Karabet Pass – and also noted on the Güzeldere Pass. 3/13
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Seen along the south shore of Lake Van. Heard frequently in some areas
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	the fabulous magna race on the Güzeldere Pass
White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>	scattered. 3/13
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	scattered. 3/13
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	several noted. 3/13
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	in the Doğubeyazıt area. 2/13
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	scattered. 4/13
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellinus</i>	widespread. 13/13
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	widespread. 12/13
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	a fine male on Nemrüt Dağı, also one near Zerne
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	scattered. 4/13
Finsch's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe finschii</i>	locally frequent. 6/13
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	only noted around the Ishak Paşa Palace
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	several seen in the Nemrüt Dağı crater
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	few records this year!
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	heard at a number of localities
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	1 at South Van Marshes
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	?at least two birds at the Sim-er Motel appeared to be this species, their song certainly sounded like this species
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	very common in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt, also noted in the near Mezne. 3/13
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	scattered throughout. 5/13
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	at most wetlands around Van. 5/13
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>	widely scattered. 5/13

Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>	several in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt, also noted south of Bitlis. 3/13
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	1 Adilcevaz
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	widely scattered. 4/13
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	scattered. 2/13
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	abundant in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. 3/14
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1 in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	several in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
Green Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus nitidus</i>	2+ in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	2 in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	several in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. 3/13
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	2 at Bendimahı, some at the small wetland close to at Erçek Gölü, and some by the lake itself, and also noted South Van Marshes. 4/13
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	scattered. 2/13
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	widely scattered. 6/13
Eastern Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronata</i>	1 Muradiye Şelalesi, also noted in the Çatak Valley
Western Rock Nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>	1 at the İshak Paşa Palace and also note Van Kalesi. 2/13
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	scattered. 5/13
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	mostly the Doğubeyazıt area. 5/13
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	2 north of Van
Masked Shrike	<i>Lanius nubicus</i>	several, mostly in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt. 4/13
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	mostly south of Lake Van. 3/13
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	widespread. 13/13
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax gracilis</i>	common on the Karabet
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	scattered throughout. 4/13
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	widespread. 13/13
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	locally common. 8/13
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus (corone) cornix</i>	widespread. 13/13
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	scattered. 5/13
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	widespread. 13/13
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	widely scattered, good numbers this year, with one spectacular flock of 1700+ neat Bolukyazı, Bitlis area. 8/13
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	widespread, near habitation. 13/13
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	widespread. 13/13
Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	locally common by snow. 3/13
Red-fronted Serin	<i>Serinus pusillus</i>	scattered. 3/13
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Bitlis area
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	scattered. 5/13
Linnet	<i>Caduelis cannabina</i>	widespread. 9/13
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	locally common in areas above 2000m. 4/13
Crimson-winged Finch	<i>Rhodopechys sanguinea</i>	scattered throughout. 5/13

Mongolian Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i>	1 at the base of the Tendürek Pass, 4+ in the Zerneke area and also noted along the road towards Çatak. 3/13
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githaginus</i>	2 at close range - Zerneke area. A Turkish rarity several (almost all females) in the garden of the Sim-er Motel, Doğubeyazıt, also noted on the Güzeldere Pass. 3/13
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	scattered throughout. 7/13
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	widely scattered. 6/13
Grey-necked Bunting	<i>Emberiza buchanani</i>	not uncommon in dry areas east of Van. 5/13
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	The thick-billed race noted at South Van Marshes
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Widespread. 12/13
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Widespread. 13/13

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and the systematic order have been taken from Baytaş's Butterflies of Turkey (2007).

Papilionidae

<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Swallowtail	A scatter of records
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Scarce Swallowtail	A scatter of records
<i>Zerynthia deyrollei</i>	Eastern Steppe Festoon	Common in area along the south shore of Van
<i>Parnassius menmosyne</i>	Clouded Apollo	only one seen was at Mezne

Pieridae

<i>Pieris bowdeni</i>	Bowden's White	Karen & John have photos
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White	Widespread
<i>Aporia crataegi</i>	Black-veined White	scattered
<i>Artogeia ergane</i>	Mountain Small White	locally very common, e.g. at Mezne
<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Small White	scattered throughout
<i>Pontia chlorodice</i>	Small Bath White	Bitlis circuit
<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Eastern Bath White	Scattered
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip	scattered
<i>Anthocharis damone</i>	Eastern Orange-tip	scattered throughout
<i>Anthocharis gruneri</i>	Grüner's Orange-tip	above the Ishak Paşa Palace (IG only) and noted along the Çatak Road
<i>Zegris eupheme</i>	Sooty Orange-tip	A good scattering of records of this normally uncommon species
<i>Colias crocea</i>	Clouded Yellow	widespread
<i>Gonepteryx farinosa</i>	Powdered Brimstone	Bitlis circuit
<i>Gonepteryx rhamnii</i>	Brimstone	only noted in the Çatak Valley
<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i>	Eastern Wood White	frequent. It is possible we saw <i>Leptidea sinapsis</i> Wood White as well, but all of the photos checked show <i>duponcheli</i>

Lycaenidae

<i>Satyrrium acacia</i>	Sloe Hairstreak	a few south of Bitlis
<i>Satyrrium marcidum</i>	Riley's Hairstreak	a few south of Bitlis
<i>Callophrys paulae</i>	Pfeiffer's Green Hairstreak	found above the Ishak Paşa Palace and at Mezne
<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Green Hairstreak	scattered
<i>Tomares romanovi</i>	Romanoff's Vernal Copper	stunning butterfly. Noted on the Bitlis circuit day and one also at Mezne
<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	Purple-shot Copper	scattered throughout
<i>Lycaena asabinus</i>	Anatolian Fiery Copper	reasonably frequent
<i>Lycaena candens</i>	Balkan Copper	by the Akdamar landing
<i>Lycaena ochimus</i>	Turkish Fiery Copper	scattered throughout
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper	widespread
<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>	Lesser Fiery Copper	scattered throughout
<i>Lycaena tityrus</i>	Sooty Copper	scattered throughout
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Long-tailed Blue	only record was near Zerneke
<i>Cupido osiris</i>	Osiris Blue	scattered
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue	a few records, mostly south side of Van

<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	Green-underside Blue	widespread
<i>Turanana endymion</i>	Odd-spot Blue	noted along the Çatak Road
<i>Pseudophilotes bavius</i>	Bavius Blue	noted along the Çatak Road and Akdamar Landing
<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>	Eastern Baton Blue	scattered
<i>Plebeius argus</i>	Silver-studded Blue	scattered
<i>Plebeius pylaon</i>	Zephyr Blue	widespread
<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i>	Geranium Argus	north side of the Tendürek Pass
<i>Aricia agestis</i>	Brown Argus	scattered throughout – a very beautiful spring silvery form
<i>Aricia anteros</i>	Blue Argus	scattered
<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	Mountain Argus	probably this species seen on the Güzeldere Pass
<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	Mazarine Blue	locally abundant south of Lake Van where most were of the Eastern <i>bellis</i> subspecies
<i>Polyommatus amanda</i>	Amanda's Blue	scattered
<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>	Adonis Blue	east side of Lake Van and along the Çatak Road
<i>Polyommatus coelestinus</i>	Pontic Blue	scattered throughout, particularly common in the Albayrak area
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common Blue	widespread
<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>	Chapman's Blue	east side of Lake Van and Akdamar Landing

Libytheidae

<i>Libythea celtis</i>	Nettle-Tree Butterfly	1 on the Bitlis Circuit
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Nymphalidae

<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	Southern White Admiral	along the Çatak Road
<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Large Tortoiseshell	1 on the Bitlis circuit and either this or Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell on the Tendürek Pass
<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Painted Lady	widespread
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small Tortoiseshell	high mountains - Tendürek Pass & Karabet Pass
<i>Polygonia egea</i>	Southern Comma	scattered
<i>Pandoriana pandora</i>	Cardinal	Albayrak areas and Akdamar Landing
<i>Argynnis niobe</i>	Niobe Fritillary	along the Çatak Road
<i>Argynnis paphia</i>	Silver-washed Fritillary	1 on the Akdamar Landing
<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Queen of Spain Fritillary	scattered
<i>Melitaea arduinna</i>	Freyer's Fritillary	quite common south and east of Lake Van
<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Glanville Fritillary	widespread
<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	Knapweed Fritillary	scattered
<i>Melitaea punica</i>	Algerian Fritillary	noted on the Çatak Road
<i>Melitaea trivola</i>	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	Akdamar Landing & Bitlis circuit

Satyridae

<i>Protoerebia afra</i>	Dalmatian Ringlet	Nemrüt Dağı
<i>Maniola telmessia</i>		Bitlis circuit
<i>Coenonympha leander</i>	Russian Heath	Güzeldere Pass
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath	widespread
<i>Coenonympha saadi</i>		south of Bitlis
<i>Lasiommata maera</i>	Large Wall Brown	Bitlis circuit and along the Çatak Road
<i>Kirinia roxelana</i>	Lattice Brown	south of Bitlis

Hesperiidae

<i>Pyrgus armoricus</i>	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	along south shore of Van and along the Çatak Road
<i>Pyrgus cinarae</i>	Sandy Grizzled Skipper	along south shore of Van
<i>Pyrgus cirsii</i>	Cinquefoil Skipper	along east side of Van Lake
<i>Pyrgus melotis</i>	Aegean Skipper	scattered
<i>Pyrgus serratulae</i>	Olive Skipper	Mezne
<i>Pyrgus sidae</i>	Yellow-banded Skipper	scattered – south and east side of Lake Van
<i>Spialia orbifer</i>	Hungarian Skipper	widespread – strongly marked
<i>Spialia phlomidis</i>	Persian Skipper	east side of Lake Van
<i>Muschampia poggi</i>	Pogge's Skipper	Akdamar Landing
<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Mallow Skipper	scattered
<i>Carcharodus lavatherae</i>	Marbled Skipper	east side of Lake Van and Erçek Gölü
<i>Carcharodus orientalis</i>	Oriental Marbled Skipper	Bitlis circuit
<i>Erynnis marloyi</i>	Inky Skipper	along the south shore of Lake Van
<i>Erynnis tages</i>	Dingy Skipper	Bitlis Circuit and along the south shore of Lake Van
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Essex Skipper	Akdamar Landing
<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	Small Skipper	Akdamar Landing

Systematic List Number 4

Reptiles & Amphibians

Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	noted at several localities
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelopodates syriacus</i>	heard on night drive north of Sim-er Motel
Desert Treefrog	<i>Hyla sauvignyi</i>	noted on the Bitlis circuit
Banded Frog	<i>Rana camerani</i>	Almost everywhere, especially common in high altitude open sites like Tendürek Pass
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Most common amphibian: in every site with water
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	Common around Van Lake, Erçek etc quite a few seen
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	Common in rocky places around Mt. Ararat
Caucasian Agama	<i>Laudakia caucasica</i>	a superb individual on the lava fields at the foot of Ararat. This is the only place this species is known to occur in Turkey, though it is much more widespread in Iran
Sunwatcher	<i>Phrynocephalus</i>	Lower slopes of Tendürek Pass where quite common
Strauch's Racerunner	<i>Eremias strauchi</i>	high steppe areas
Dwarf Lizard	<i>Lacerta parva</i>	a number of records
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	one of the commonest lizards in the area
Valentin's Lizard	<i>Lacerta valentini</i>	Noted on the Tendürek Pass
Bendimahi Lizard	<i>Lacerta bendimahiensis</i>	several in the damp turf of the Çaldıran Ovası
Striated Lizard	<i>Lacerta strigata</i>	above the Ishak Paşa Palace
Radde's Lizard	<i>Lacerta raddei</i>	scattered north of Lake Van
Snake-eyed Lizard	<i>Ophisops elegans</i>	Noted on the Güzeldere Pass
Chernov's Skink	<i>Ablepharus chernovii</i>	Başak saw on in the Çaldıran Ovası
Glass Snake	<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>	Tendürek Pass
Ravergier's Whip Snake	<i>Coluber ravergieri</i>	a large population in the screes on Nemrut Dağı
Four-lined Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe quadrilineata</i>	or possibly Persian Snake (<i>Eirenis persicus</i>). Noted on the Bitlis circuit
Roth's Dwarf Snake	<i>Eirenis rothii</i>	several in high altitude ponds on the Güzeldere Pass
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	