

# ORNITHOLOGICAL TRIP REPORT KAZAKHSTAN AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2009

*Arend Wassink*

## **Introduction**

From 30 August to 17 September 2009 Rene Pop and Arend Wassink made an ornithological trip in Kazakhstan. Our base was Zhabagly, a small village situated in the foothills of the Talasskiy Alatau mountains, part of the western Tien Shan mountains. From there we made trips to the Chardara and Kyzylkol lakes. The locations visited are all situated in South Kazakhstan province, unless stated otherwise.

Underneath the itinerary:

29 August Amsterdam - Almaty (43:15 N, 76:57 E)  
30 August Almaty - Chimkent (42:18 N, 69:36 E) - Zhabagly (42:25 N, 70:28 E)  
31 August - 1 September Zhabagly  
2 September Zhabagly - Chardara lake (41:13 N, 68:11 E)  
3 - 6 September Chardara lake  
7 September Chardara lake - Kyzylkol lake (43:45 N, 69:30 E)  
8- 11 September Kyzylkol lake  
12 September Kyzylkol lake - Zhabagly  
13 - 16 September Zhabagly  
17 September Zhabagly - Chimkent - Almaty  
18 September Almaty - Amsterdam

## **Acknowledgement**

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## Species list

		Zhabagly 30 Aug - 1 Sep	Chardara lake 2 - 6 Sep	Kyzylkol lake 7 - 12 Sep	Zhabagly 12 - 16 Sep
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			x	
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		x	x	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		x	x	
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>			x	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			x	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	see additional records			
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			x	
Gadwall	<i>Anas s strepera</i>		x		
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>			x	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			x	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	x		x	
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		x	x	
Chukar	<i>Alectoris chukar falki</i>			x	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix c coturnix</i>		x	x	
Common Phaasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus mongolicus</i>		x		x
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>			x	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>		x	x	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			x	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		x	x	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus m minutus</i>		x		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax n nycticorax</i>	x	x		
Little Egret *	<i>Egretta g garzetta</i>		x		
Western Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius a albus</i>		x		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea c cinerea</i>		x	x	x
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea p purpurea</i>		x		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis</i>	see additional records			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps c cristatus</i>	see additional records			
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps n nigricollis</i>			x	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			x	
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis</i>				x
Black x Black-eared Kite intergrades	<i>Milvus migrans x lineatus</i>	x	x	x	x
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus a albicilla</i>		x		
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus aureus</i>	x			
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron p percnopterus</i>				x
Eurasian Griffon Vulture *	<i>Gyps f fulvus</i>		x		x
Eurasian Black Vulture *	<i>Aegyptius monachus</i>		x	x	x
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	x		x	x
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus a aeruginosus</i>	x	x	x	x
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	x	x	x	x
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	x	x	x	x
Norhern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis schevedowi</i>				x
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter n nisus/nisosimilis</i>	x	x	x	x

Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius cenchroides</i>	x	x		x
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	x	x	x	x
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	x	x	x	x
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	x		x	x
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos canadensis</i>				x
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	x	x	x	x
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>				x
Osprey	<i>Pandion h haliaetus</i>		x		x
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	x			x
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	x	x	x	x
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius ssp</i>				x
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco s subbuteo</i>	x	x	x	x
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>				x
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallula c chloropus</i>			x	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica a atra</i>			x	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus lilfordi</i>			x	
Demoiselle Crane	<i>Grus virgo</i>	x	x	x	x
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus h himantopus</i>		x		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			x	
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus harterti</i>		x	x	
Pratincole spec	<i>Glareola spec</i>		x		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius curonicus</i>		x	x	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>		x		
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			x	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			x	x
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		x	x	
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>		x	x	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			x	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina ssp</i>			x	
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		x	x	x
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago g gallinago</i>	x	x	x	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa l limosa</i>		x		
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius p phaeopus</i>			x	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata ssp</i>			x	
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>		x	x	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	x	x	x	x
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	x	x	x	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>			x	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		x	x	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	x	x	x	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i>			x	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria i interpres</i>		x		
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>			x	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		x		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		x	x	
Pallas' s Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>		x		
Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus heuglini barabensis</i>		x		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		x	x	
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus heinei</i>			x	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula a albifrons</i>		x		
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		x		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		x		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias n niger</i>		x	x	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna h hirundo</i>		x		
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>			x	
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>			x	
Rock Dove *	<i>Columba livia</i>	x	x		x
Stock Dove	<i>Columba o oenas</i>	x			x

Yellow-eyed Dove	<i>Columba eversmanni</i>				x
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus casiotis</i>				x
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia d decaocto</i>	x	x		x
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur ssp</i>		x		x
Western Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis meena</i>		x	x	x
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis ermanni</i>	x			x
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus ssp</i>	x	x	x	x
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops pulchellus</i>	x			
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua bactriana</i>			x	
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio f flammeus</i>			x	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus sarudnyi</i>		x	x	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus ssp</i>	x	x	x	x
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo a atthis</i>	x	x	x	x
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops p persicus</i>	x	x	x	x
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	x	x	x	x
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus ssp</i>	x	x	x	x
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa e epops</i>	x	x		x
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla sarudnyi</i>	x		x	
White-winged Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucopterus</i>				x
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa</i>		x	x	
Bimaculated Lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata torquata</i>		x	x	
Greater Short-toed Lark *	<i>Calandrella brachydatyla longipennis</i>	x	x	x	x
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens heinei</i>		x	x	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata magna</i>		x	x	
Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula inconspicua</i>		x		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda aversies dulcivox</i>		x		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia ssp</i>	x	x	x	x
Pale Sand Martin	<i>Riparia diluta ssp</i>	x	x		x
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo r rustica</i>	x	x	x	x
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum ssp</i>				x
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica rufula</i>	x			x
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	x	x	x	x
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus t trivialis</i>	x	x	x	x
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>		x		x
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta blakistori</i>				x
Sykes's Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava beema</i>	x	x	x	x
Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla thunbergi</i>	x	x	x	
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla feldegg</i>	x	x		
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla c citreola</i>	x	x	x	x
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla c cinerea</i>	x	x	x	x
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		x	x	x
Masked Wagtail	<i>Motacilla personata</i>	x	x		x
Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii tenuirostris</i>				x
Eastern Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos hafizi</i>		x	x	
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica pallidogularis</i>	x	x	x	x
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola m maurus</i>	x	x	x	x
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	x	x	x	x
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe o oenanthe</i>	x	x	x	x
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>	x	x	x	x
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti atrogularis</i>			x	

Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula intermedium</i>	x			x
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *	<i>Locustella certhiola centralasiae</i>			x	
Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia straminae</i>			x	
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>			x	
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	x	x	x	x
Booted Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus caligatus</i>			x	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi</i>	x			
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	x	x		x
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca blythi/halimodendri</i>	x	x	x	x
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis ssp</i>	x	x		x
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus</i>	x	x	x	x
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus h humei</i>	x	x	x	x
Siberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita tristis</i>	x	x	x	x
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata neumanni/sarudnyi</i>	x	x	x	x
Yellow-breasted Tit	<i>Cyanistes f flavipectus</i>				x
Turkestan Tit	<i>Parus bokharensis ferghanensis</i>	x	x		x
Great Tit	<i>Parus m major</i>	see additional records			
White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz c coronatus</i>	x		x	x
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus o oriolus</i>	x	x	x	x
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius c collurio</i>	x	x	x	x
Turkestan Shrike	<i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>	x	x	x	
Daurian Shrike	<i>Lanius i isabellinus</i>		x	x	x
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach erythronotus</i>	x	x		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		x		
Steppe Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius pallidirostris</i>			x	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica bactriana</i>	x	x	x	x
Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula soemmerringii</i>		x		x
Rook	<i>Corvus f frugilegus</i>	x	x		x
Carrian Crow	<i>Corvus corone orientalis</i>	x	x		x
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax tibetanus</i>	x			x
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi/porphyronotus</i>	x	x	x	x
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	x	x	x	x
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres t tristis</i>	x	x		x
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>				
	<i>domesticus</i>	x			x
	<i>bactrianus</i>		x	x	x
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus</i>				
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus dilutus</i>	x			x
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla c coelebs</i>				x
Grey-headed Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis c paropanis</i>	x			x
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus ssp</i>	x	x	x	x
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia par</i>				x
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	x	x		x
Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	x	x		
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra buturlini</i>	x			x

## Additional records

### **Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

On 12 September 8 birds at Twentyseventh Razezd lake, Zhambyl province (43:01 N, 71:12 E).

### **Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus***

On 9 September one juvenile flying over at Kyzylkol lake. On 12 September 12 birds (including juveniles and adults) at Twentyseventh Razezd lake, Zhambyl province.

### **Purple Heron *Ardea p purpura***

On 4 September one at Chardara lake. On 7 September two in the Syrdarya valley, between Chardara and the Arys bridge. All birds were juveniles.

### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis***

On 12 September 6 birds at Twentyseventh Razezd lake, Zhambyl province.

### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps c cristatus***

On 12 September 15 birds at Twentyseventh Razezd lake, Zhambyl province.

### **Yellow-eyed Dove *Columba eversmanni***

On 2 September one in the Syrdarya valley, between the Arys bridge and Chardara.

### **Great Tit *Parus m major***

On 17 September one at Almaty, Almaty province.

## \*Notes

### **Little Egret *Egretta g garzetta***

On 2 September five birds at Chardara lake. This is the first record since many years in South Kazakhstan province.

### **Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps f fulvus***

On 5 September a flock of 11 birds at Chardara lake..

### **Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus***

On 11 September a flock of 11 birds at Kyzylkol lake

### **Rock Dove *Columba livia neglecta***

However, most belonged to *forma domestica*.

### **Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis***

On 3-5 September large flocks with a total of at least 25.000 birds on 3 km shore at Chardara lake.

### **Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola centralasiae***

On 9 September one observed at close range at Kyzylkol lake. This is the first record west of the foothills of the Zhungarskiy Alatau mountains, Almaty province.

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