

NEW



AZERBAIJAN

An introduction to... Birds, History & Culture

May 20-29



Wildlife Areas & Highlights.

Independent since 1991, **Azerbaijan** offers wonderful Southern Caucasian hospitality & grandiose scenery. Semi-desert, wetlands, broad-leaved woodland, mountain-steppe & stunning alpine meadows below the snow-capped Caucasian Mountains makes for a rich & varied avifauna.

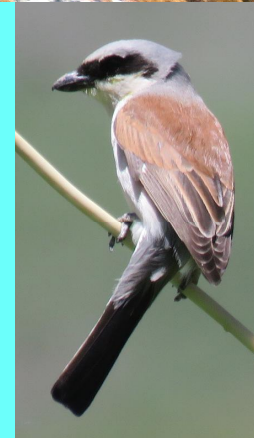
Sought after breeding birds: Whiskered Tern, Menetries Warbler, Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater, Black Francolin, Isabelline Wheatear & Lesser Kestrel, Red-breasted & Semi-collared Flycatchers, Green Warbler, Rock Nuthatch, Rock Sparrow & Rock Thrush, Finsch's Wheatear, Eastern Black Redstart & Pale Rock Sparrow, Caucasian Snowcock, Common Rosefinch & White-winged Snowfinch, Caucasian Black Grouse & Caucasian Chiffchaff.



OUTLINE ITINERARY

- May 20:** Fly London Gatwick via Istanbul with *Turkish Airlines*:
- May 21:** Arrive **Baku** morning & drive to **Shirvan NP**, en route stopping to visit the **Mad Volcano**. Afternoon drive to **Massalli** for 2-night stay at *Massalli Hotel*.
- May 22:** Am visit **Girkan NP**. Pm. Visit **Gizilaghaj State Nature Reserve** & return to to Massalli.
- May 23:** All day exploring the **Zuvan Plateau**. Then drive to *Tobassom Hotel* outside Lerik for overnight stay.
- May 24:** Drive back to **Baku** for overnight stay at *Pullman Hotel* in Baku, en route stopping to visit the Gobustan Historical Art Reserve.
- May 25:** Drive to **Xinaliq**, staying for 2 nights at *Nazdi bulag Hotel*. Pm birding around Xinaliq with Tour of village.
- May 26:** Birding in the Shagdal NP within the stunning **Greater Caucasus Mountains** above Xinaliq.
- May 27:** Drive to Shahdag Ski Resort for more mountain birds, staying o/night at the *Shagdag Hotel*.
- May 28:** Return to **Baku**, staying overnight at the *Pullman Hotel*.
- May 29:** Early morning return flight via Istanbul to London.

Local Tour Leader will be Dr. Elchin Sultanov, Chairman of AOS



Cost: £2545 (£365 s/s) **Deposit:** £250 **B/L due:** Mar. 12

Included in the cost: 8 nts. accommodation, b/fast & dinner, all lunches, all entrances to NP's, full transportation & full local guidance throughout.

Not included in the cost: Return flights London/Baku (approx £450), drinks, gratuities & personal items.

(NB: Cost based on 8 guests min.)