The Tien Shan

The Mountains of Heaven

A Greentours Trip Report

 $9^{th} - 26^{th}$ June 2011

Led by Vladimir Kolbintsev and Oron Peri

Written by Oron Peri

Day 1 Thursday 9th June Departure

Departure from London Heathrow at 1450.

Day 2 Friday 10th June Arrival – Tuyuk-Su Gate

Group arrived at 0500 into Almaty airport and was taken by Vladimir directly to Tuyuk – Su Gate. The hotel is situated in the mountains approx. 30 km south of Almaty at 2650m of elevation and is isolated in the middle of the forests in beautiful scenery under high mountains with top still covered with snow. Oron arrived an hour and a half later to join the group at breakfast.

We have spent the day exploring the forests around the hotel where the mountains are dominated by Beautiful, narrowly shaped *Picea schrenkiana*. On the side of the steep path where sun infiltrates the forest many clumps of curly *Gagea filiformis* grow under the pine trees side by side with *Tulipa heterophylla*. Above the tree line on serpentine were *Allium albyspathum* subsp *amblyophyllum*, deep wine-colour *Allium atrosanguineum*, *Papaver nudicaule* in vivid orange, fantastic red flowering *Rhodiola coccinea*, little *Lloydia serotina* and our first *Paraquilegia anemonoides* which some of us walked up a steep slope in order to take a photo. At a certain point we managed to have a good look at a Himalayan Rubythroat, and as we went down the hill we saw a Grey Marmot running to find a shelter. At the hotel we saw a couple of Red Squirrels and a hungry Red Fox not in its best shape, might be a female taking care of young ones. It came to visit regularly during our stay at the hotel. A real good start for the trip.

Day 3 Saturday 11th June Medeo Dam & Chimbulak ski-lift

After an excellent breakfast we headed down to Chimbulak which is a few km down the hill. The

plan was to take the ski lift up to the top of the mountain but for some reason the ski lift didn't work. Vladimir asked around and was told that about 0930 it would start working. As we had time we went around exploring the site to find the other side of the building a large colony of House Martin, while a Eurasian Cuckoo was heard from the nearby forest. Under a group of trees we found a little jewel, *Coralorrhiza trifida*, a small orchid with yellow-green tepals and white lip. There where about ten specimens, while high above we have seen a Lammergeyer.

By the time we got back to the Ski lift station there where many people waiting but after ten minutes the principal came to say that they are not going to open due to technical problems. And so we set for a nice coffee at the local Café and decided to go down to Medeo Dam. The huge dam was constructed in order to protect Almaty from possible avalanche and the main road practically pass on the wall itself.

We crossed the dam and walked on a path directly to the forested area. In the open field yellow *Rosa kokanica* and white-flowering *Rosa albertii* grow side by side, as we approached Corncrake flew away. Under the trees there were two *Paeonia hybrida* (under review at the moment probably *Paeonia intermedia*) in flower and in the sunny area *Euphorbia esula* subsp *tommasiniana* (syn *Euphorbia jaxartica*), beautiful shrubby *Clematis alpina* subspecies *sibirica* (syn *Atragene sibirica*) with white pendulous flowers and blue flowering *Polemonium careuleum*. We went back to our hotel for lunch and in the early afternoon we went to explore a northern slope above the hotel reaching 2900m of elevation and reached the snow line, as we came out of the wood we saw six noisy Himalayan Snowcock escaping from us, while in the same number also Grey-headed Goldfinch sat on a tree below us. In the same spot there where a few amazing *Trollius liliacinus* flowering shortly after snow melts and on the way back a few Frog Orchid; *Dactylorhiza viridis* (syn *Coeloglossum viride*). It started to rain as we have started going down toward the hotel.

Day 4 Sunday 12th June Sarysay, Almaty, and the train

It was grey but dry morning as we checked out of the hotel, heading down under Chimbulak to Sarysay. We stopped at a lower altitude in an area characterized by grassy, steep slopes and in between vast meadows with an amazing selection of plants it their peak time. Tall spikes of *Rheum witrrokii*, beautiful purple *Phlomis oreophila*, tall *Aconitum leucostomum*, *Codonopsis clematidea*, *Aquilegia atrovinosa*, deep yellow *Eremostachys speciosa* and shrubs such as *Eounymus semenowii*, *Berberis illiensis*, and fantastic yellow flowering *Rosa platyacantha*. In the lower area in damp conditions many *Dactylorhiza umbrosa* while on the rocks above lovely *Scutellaria tienschuanensis* and *Sedum hybridum* growing side by side. We also had our first two *Eremurus* on the top of the hills yellow *Eremurus altaicus* and in the lower areas large white *Eremurus robustus*.

After a late picnic we had to go to Almaty in order to take our 4pm train to Tulkubas. The journey on train was fascinating, not only the lovely experience of the train itself but until it got dark we looked at the changing habitats and immense territories, while on the telephone and electricity lines there were many birds such as Rose-colored Starling, European Roller, European Bee-eater and many rookeries with hundreds of Rooks busy feeding the young ones.

Day 5 Monday 13th June Ters Lake and Koksai Gorge

We arrived to Tyulkubas at 0345 AM where we met Yevgeny and were taken to his hotel in Jabagly (Zhabagli) in his minibus. After being shown to our comfortable rooms and unpacking we had breakfast and headed off for a long day. The village of Zhabagli is just bursting with Rose-colored Starlings that nest in every available hole, even under piles of rocks at ground level, walls etc. while Common Myna can be seen in huge numbers.

Our first stop was not far from the village as the area was covered with flowers mainly dominated by three species of *Achillea, Echium italicum*, large structural *Verbascum songaricum*, *Centaurea squarrosa*, lovely white hollyhock *Alcea nudiflora* and many more. The area along the road and the nearby stream is dominated by silvery *Elaeagnus angustifolia* and shrubby *Sophora alopecuroides* while in damp conditions farther down large clumps of *Butomus umbellatus*.

We reached Koksai Gorge for our lunch stop. It is a deep seasonal river with interesting formations created by many years of erosion made by water and winds. It is the natural border between Kazakhstan and Kirgizstan. As we approached the gorge a couple of Chukar flew to the other side of the river while many Common Quail were heard from the tall grass occasionally flying away as we explored the area. The habitat is open, windy, grassy slopes with a few scattered shrubs including yellow flowering *Rosa kokanica* and pink flowering *Rosa hissarica*. An amazing selection of plants can be seen here: *Gentiana olivieri*, blue *Allium caesium*, deep cerise colour *Allium barsczewskii*, *Allium trachyscordum*. At a higher point were two *Eremurus*, *Eremurus fuscus* and its hybrids with *Eremurus regelii* and lovely *Ixiolirion tataricum* and large areas carpeted with *Hypericum elongatum*.

We have continued our way to Ters Lake, this time for birds but already on the way we have seen many European Rollers, some near the sandy walls where they nest in holes side by side with European Bee-eaters while on the low trees a few Lesser Grey Shrikes and many Magpies. By the lake are Black-headed Gulls, Caspian Gulls, Northern Lapwings and others. We headed back to Zhabagly and had a tasty dinner at the hotel with typical Kazakh dishes.

Day 6 Tuesday 14th June Kuyuk Pass, Teskol Lake &Berkera Nature Reserve

A very interesting day as we headed east to the much drier part of Kazakhstan, areas seem to have semi-desert conditions and a completely different flora. Our first stop for the day was on the road side in Kuyuk pass where the arid blackish-grey hills are home to some extraordinary plants. The area is dominated mainly by grasses, with very few low growing shrubs such as *Spirea hypericifolia*. The first plant we noticed are the impressive *Eremurus tianschanicus*, tall, yellow flowering *Ferula karataviense* and its smaller cousin *Ferula karatavica*, large white gypsophyla-like *Allochrusa gypsophiloides*, purple *Phlomis salicifolia* a most interesting endemic, *Rhaphidophyton regelii*, a species that has been here since ancient times, and lovely compact growing *Acanthophyllum pungens* in its peak time. Temperatures where already quite high as we continued on our way East.

Our next stop was at a large reservoir not far from Bilikol Lake at 400m. As this area is very dry, semi desert conditions, the water attracts many birds; first we saw a pair of Stone Curlew in the open field and as we approached the water we saw many Northern Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, many Common Pratincoles, a pair of Little Tern, four Black Storks and more. In the water, carpets of *Ranunculus trychophyllus* in bloom and near the water many blue *Anagallis arvensis*. We have decided to leave the site as we felt we disturb the birds of which many where nesting and continued to the Berkara Natural Reserve, as we arrived we had our picnic lunch before entering.

The Berkara N.R. is situated at 500m with a small river that flows between the steep mountains and is practically an oasis in the middle of the dry area. Many trees such as *Celtis australis* subsp *caucasica, Fraxinus sogdiana* (syn *Fraxinus potamophylla*), *Malus pumila* (syn *Malus niedzwtzkyana*), *Cerasus mahaleb* (syn. *Padus mahleb*) with its small cherries, *Lonicera nummulariifolia* that reaches tree size and more. We where surprised to find still two flowers of *Tulipa orthopoda* and a few tall *Allium drobovii* so late in the season. We have seen a pair of White-winged Woodpeckers but the highlight of the day were the amazing Paradise Flycatchers including one pair with a female inside a nest and later also White-crowned Penduline Tit with their nest hung on a tall branch above the water, the parents came to feed the youngsters a couple of time. What a site!

Happy with our findings we went down in the afternoon to make another two short stops first in order to see the large graves 'Kurgan" from the seventh century BC where we also found many shrubs of *Salvia sclarea* in bloom, and another stop to look at the incredible *Astragalus alopecias*. We reached the hotel at dinner time.

Day 7 Wednesday 15th June Horse ride to Aksu Zhabagli up to Ulken - Kaindy

We left our luggage at the hotel and took with us smaller bags as we where about to stay for 6 days inside the Aksu Zhabagli Nature Reserve. After breakfast we where taken to the entrance to the reserve where we met our horsemen that would accompany us through all this part of the trip. Horses where chosen for us according to the experience in riding. After half an hour we set off, starting to walk up into the high mountains enjoying the warm sunny weather.

As we walked up the flora became very lush, dominated by a few species of umbels including *Mediasia macrophylla* which seeds are used as a spice and also used in conserving milk. Many clumps of *Iris halophila* var *sogdiana* (syn *Iris sogdiana*), a few large colonies of *Dactylorhiza umbrosa* particularly robust form, tall spikes of pinkish *Stachys betoniciflora* (syn *Betonica foliosa*) the rare *Morina kokanica* which is on the red list and others.

By lunch time we reached a small house that is used by the guards of the reserve, while our picnic lunch was in preparation we went farther down to look at the Sikendi fall. In the rock crevices were many *Campanula olivieri* and in the shady area a few *Codonopsis clematidea* were in flower. During our way up we have seen a couple of Common Quail, Common Pheasant, a lovely

Northern Hobby, four Common Rosefinch and two pairs Red-headed Buntings.

In the afternoon we reached our mountain house, while three of us divided a comfortable Yurta just next to it. In the late afternoon Vladimir found with his binocular a pair of Brown Bear on the top of the snowy mountain above us while on another point we have counted eleven Ibex. In the evening we saw a Forest Dormouse which Vladimir told us visit the house regularly at night. We had a lovely dinner made by Vladimir's wife who surprised us every day with new dishes.

Day 8 Thursday 16th June Upper Ulken - kaindy Valley

After breakfast we started walking up the mountain by foot up to about 2600m high. The mountain is quite steep and in some areas the vegetation was high and so we needed to walk carefully. Soon we have seen three Black Vultures flying above the ridge in front of us. In the lower parts we have found many pink flowering *Linum olgae*, *Rhodiola heterodonta* in its yellow form, low growing *Rosa hissarica* easily recognised by the sticky, highly fragrant buds. In some areas there are serpentines where only a few plants manage to grow, succulent *Allium carolinianum* (syn *Allium polyphyllum*) and lovely *Androscae sericea* with its bicolor flowers. Farther up we crossed a female Common Partridge with a few chicks running after her. Farther up at the higher elevation we found a nice group of *Tulipa greigii* in perfect conditions and not far the very rare *Primula minkwitziae* with round leaves and spikes carrying cerise flowers with yellow centre, this species is on the red list.

Around lunch time the horsemen came up with our meal with excellent coffee and tea. After lunch we went up a bit higher where many *Paraquilegia* in full bloom were growing on a northern wall. The way down took us a couple of hours as we crossed a little stream to take another route. Some nice groups of forget-me-not, *Stephanocaryum olgae* grow between the rocks together with *Viola biflora* and farther down lovely deep blue *Linum altaica*.

In the late afternoon, as we did every day, Vladimir set out his binocular, and soon located a female Brown Bear with her cub while on the other ridge an Ibex with its two young ones crossed a large patch of snow.

Day 9 Friday 17th June Ulken Kaindi Pass

We have started a bit earlier this morning as we had a long uphill walk ahead of us, about 900m. Horsemen prepared the horses very early so that we where all ready on time. It was a lovely morning with clear sky and for the first twenty minutes we could hear a Nightingale singing very loud. At a small serpentine about half way up we found a few *Allium karataviense* in perfect conditions, difficult to see as it blends perfectly with the color of the stones. At about 100m under the top we reached an area where snow has melted only recently, the flowers in this area were stunning and despite the damp conditions we all stayed for a long time to take photos. Thousands of *Allium atrosanguineum* var *fedschenkoanum* where in their peak time farther down where snow

has melted earlier, this form has deep yellow flowers turning red as flowers mature. Above, hundreds of *Tulipa dasystemonoides* and *Gagea liotardii* (syn *Gagea emarginata*) grow side by side while near the small stream many *Tulipa kaufmanniana* where already flowering.

Weather changed rapidly; as we got to the top it was drizzling with strong winds with spectacular views of Bugulutor Mountain with its 4000m peak. Some of us decide to go farther to the end of the rocky ridge, while walking Oron has spotted a Haly's (Karaganda) Pit Viper in between the rocks, surprisingly it was active despite the cold weather but we could take his photos from a very short distance. As we reached the edge we found some plants we havent seen until now, *Lonicera* sp. with pendulous yellow flowers, many tiny *Gagea minutiflora*, spiny *Onobrychis echidna*, and up on the big stones a spectacular *Arnebia euchroma* growing together with *Androsace sericea*, and in the crevices *Paraquilegia caespitosa* in full bloom.

It became stormy soon and so we had to go back down to the valley. In the early afternoon, earlier than planned, we got back very wet to our mountain house, and had a nice rest. It rained the whole afternoon.

Day 10 Saturday 18th June Baidaksay Valley

A lovely sunny morning again. We climbed aboard our horses and headed slowly up again directed to Baidkasay. Soon we found the curious borage, Solenanthus circinnatus with coiled heads of dark flowers that reminds us of a hairy caterpillar. Near the small stream that flows from the top of the mountain some lovely clumps of *Tulipa kaufmanniana* including the yellow form and the less common *Tulipa dasystemonoides* in its yellow form as well.

Between the tulips we found three fat Central Asian Toads and as we reached the top Vladimir spotted two Brown Bear running on the side of the mountain in front of us. In the drier slope we found in seed *Iris orchioides* and *Fritillaria seversovii* and in the rock crevices *Thymus karatavicus* with its relatively large flowers and *Dianthus crinitus* subsp *tetralepis* (syn *Dianthus tetralepis* easily recognised by the petals which are divided into many narrow sections. In the afternoon we have counted thirty-six Ibex with quite a few youngsters playing on the snow high above us and close to the house a curious Red Fox has been noticed near the horses.

Day 11 Sunday 19th June Upper Kshi Kaindy valley

We have started later then usual this morning as it was raining at night and there were still some showers. Sky started to clear up around ten o'clock and we have decided to take the risk and went up the mountain, while two members of the group preferred staying to rest at the house. Riding a horse up the mountain is certainly a good option in this case as the tall grass was wet and in the low areas very damp.

A pair of Golden Eagles flew above us and we could get a good look as the sun lit them. The ride took us a long time as we had to do it very slowly trying to avoid the tall vegetation in the centre

of the narrow valley. On the drier edges we have found *Dracocephalum imberbe, Papaver croceum,* lovely small cushions of *Eregomone griffithii* (syn *Arenaria griffithii*) covered with tiny white flowers and a few delicate *Corydalis ledebouriana*. Farther up those who where in front of the group could see just a few meters from us eight mature Wild Boar escaping and disappearing quickly behind the tall shrubs. We crossed the stream to the left side of the valley as it was less steep and sunny and about a hundred meters farther up we saw a Brown Bear just across the valley on the scree above. We suppose that due to the strong wind that came from the west it couldn't scent us, otherwise there is no good explanation for the fact that he didn't even look at us. The bear was searching for food under the junipers and we could follow him for the next twenty minutes until he entered the tall junipers for his day sleep. We were all very excited from it.

The conclusion was: Never stay at the base for a rest... We sat down for our picnic and then split into two small groups, a few of us wanted to go farther up to the snowline to look for other plants, while others started to go down very slowly. In fact it was a good idea as we found a few beautiful *Iris willmottiana* in flower and in the rock crevices some fine plants of *Campanula lehmanniana* subsp *capusii* (syn *Campanula capusii*). We went down and met the rest of the group as they were looking at some fine specimens of *Aquilegia atrovinosa X lactiflora*, which according to Vladimir is a natural hybrid, while on the NW facing wall were a few species of *Asplenium* and fine *Viola biflora* in bloom. Happy about seeing all these beauties we reached our mountain house in the afternoon.

Day 12 Monday 20th June The journey down

A lovely warm and sunny morning as we left our mountain house going down to Zhabagly. Vladimir took us on a different route from the one we came up, this time going down through the gorge. Temperatures rise very quickly and we have started pealing off some layers, finally in T-shirts. At the entrance to the deep gorge some very old and structural *Juniperus polycarpos* var seravschanica (syn *Juniperus seravschanica*) grow from the rocky walls and the drier parts with some fine specimens of *Hedysarum acutifolium* and large patches of yellow flowering *Galium verum*. Farther down near the stream both *Betula pendula* var. pendula (syn Betula talassica) and red-barked Betula turkestanica grow side by side creating a perfect habitat for both Poligonathum roseum and Poligonathum sewerzowii and lovely Pyrola rotundifolia and Viola suavis. In the more sunny parts tall Codonopsis clematidea and Dictamnus albus (syn Dictamnus angustifolius) are in bloom.

After lunch some of us preferred to walk down by foot while others preferred riding. We all met down at the entrance to the Reserve an hour later and bade farewell to our excellent horsemen and horses. Even came to take us with his bus and brought us back to his hotel. The rest of the afternoon was dedicated to making a proper shower and some laundry, while at the end of the day we went out to the main road to see the 'ceremony' of the shepherds bringing back the sheep and cattle from their daily grazing in the mountains while all owners wait in front of the houses to welcome them.

Day 13 Tuesday 21st June Aksu Canyon

After a good nights sleep and fresh for a new day we left after breakfast and headed to Aksu Canyon. This morning Yevgeny decided to take us with his old Russian minibus as it wasn't far a way. Unfortunately the minibus broke down just as we started to enjoy it, only a couple of miles out of the village. We had to wait half an hour until the other minibus arrived, while waiting we entered into a dry field nearby where we found the spectacular *Hulthemia persica* (Persian Rose) with a few flowers and next to it a few *Roemeria refracta* with its deepest red color.

We reached Aksu Canyon and went down half way into the deep canyon, staying on the south facing part. Climate here is hot and dry at this time of the year with a different flora; structural Helichrysum maracandicum, Linum pallescens, lovely Scabiosa songorica, yellow flowering Onosma irritans. Few species have adapted to grow in the limestone crevices such as creamy colored Scutularia immaculata growing side by side with campanula looking Sergia sewerzowii and my favourite yellow Allium eriocoleum that reminds me of a firework.

After lunch we visited Irsu which is a typical small Kazakh village with only one large main road and houses on both sides, it seems like a paradise for birds: Lesser Gray Shrikes, Masked and Grey Wagtails, Laughing Doves and more, while going down from the village there was a large nesting area of European Bee-eaters and European Rollers. We reached our hotel earlier as we had to pack and take the night train back to Almaty.

Day 14 Wednesday 22^{ed} June Almaty and journey to Gaish Observatory

Our train arrived to Almaty just before nine in the morning, and we were taken to a hotel in the city for an enormous late breakfast. We left Almaty for our journey up to the Observatory. Our first stop was near a river as we started to walk up in elevation. Large trees of *Betula pendula* and some fine *Sorbus tianschanica* grow near the water, above in the dry part endemic *Oxytropis almaatensis* in full bloom tall *Polemonium caeroleum*, many purple spikes of *Vicia cracca* and quite a few *Dacylorhiza viridis*.

We arrived at Gaish Observatory, situated at 2740m with the main building transformed into a guest house, there where two ladies that received us and shown us our rooms where we left our luggage and went out to explore the area. The habitat is open grassy meadows dominated by *Juniperus pseudosabina* in the higher areas. It was very soon that we have spotted the first Grey Marmot sitting at the entrance to its tunnel and in total we have seen five of them during the afternoon. We also had a good look at a Lammergeyer that flew above us at low altitude and five Common Kestrels were busy, looking for food in the grassy areas.

Some fine species grow here; lovely *Comastoma falcatum* (syn *Gentiana falcata*), structural *Schmalhausenia nidulans*, *Leontopodium ochroleucus*, beautiful *Corydalis gortschakovii* and many others. Going back to the observatory we saw a couple of White-winged Grosbeak feeding on a juniper and on the conifer trees near the observatory we spotted two Red-mantled Rosefinch,

Day 15 Thursday 23^{ed} June Cosmos Station and Gaish Observatory

We woke to a beautiful sunny morning. We took the minibus and went up to the Cosmos Station situated above 3300m, the station is still active and is a centre for different researches. We parked near the entrance to the station and already saw an amazing sight: Thousands clumps of Allium atrosanguineum and in between carpets of Viola altaica in its two color forms, beautiful Pedicularis oederi, a few species of *Erigeron* including the odd-looking *Erigeron lachnocephallus*, many *Tulipa* heterophylla and yellow Tulipa dasystemon. After an hour on this site we went higher up to the top of the mountain where snow has melted just a couple of weeks before our arrival. This elevation is home to many alpine plants which we haven't seen until now; Silvery Saussurea gnaphaloides is blending perfectly with the color of the rocks, while Saxifraga oppositifolia and Thylacospermum caespitosum cover parts of the rocks densely. Beckwithia glacialis and Trollius liliacinus grow side by side with silvery-leaved Oxytropis chionobia and Primula nivalis var farinosa. In the protected side of the horizontal rocks very large plants of Paraquilegia anemonoides with many dozens of flowers, all in excellent conditions while near the base we found a few delicate, pale Corydalis glaucescens protected between the rocks. We managed to see five Himalayan Snowcocks as they escaped from us, both Alpine Choughs and Red-billed Chough, while three Güldenstädt's Redstarts were seen on the rocks near the base.

We went down again to the Observatory for a late lunch and after some of the group preferred to stay and while the others walked around the observatory to reach the edge of the hill where we could see the Big Almaty Lake down in the valley.

Day 16 Friday 24th June Big Almaty Lake

We set off after breakfast going down the road to Big Almaty Lake. This is the main source of water of Almaty. Water level was relatively low this year as there was not much snow during winter. We stopped at the end of the dam walking south on the left side of the lake. Near the shallow water pink colored *Myricaria squarosa* has been the dominant plant and in the drier areas lovely fuchsia-colored *Epilobium latifolium*. As we got closer to the forested area Vladimir noticed a Turkestan Red Pica that entered under a pile of stones, while not far from there a Grey Marmot had a sunbathe on a large rock and permitted us take a pictures of it. We crossed a damp area flooded by a small stream to create like small meadows with short grass and in between we found two little jewels: *Gentiana prostrata* var. *karelinii* and *Comastoma falcatum* (syn *Gentiana falcata*) growing side by side. Also two species of *Veronica: Veronica beccabunga* and *Veronica chamaedrys* and lovely *Pedicularis rhinanthoides*.

One of the reasons to come to the lake was the hope to see a pair of Ibisbill that have been breeding in the site for a few years, at first we haven't seen any but we did see a pair of Ruddy Shelducks. Vladimir insisted to find them and after he walked quite a distance suddenly we have seen one

flying and landing not far away where we could look at it with our binoculars. What a beautiful bird it is, on the way back we found also *Clementsia semenovii* with its unusual spikes. In the afternoon we got back to the observatory.

Day 17 Saturday 25th June Gaish Observatory and Journey to Almaty

After breakfast we went out for a a couple of hours walk above the observatory enjoying the lovely sky-blue carpets of *Myosotis asiatica* and some nice clumps of *Aster alpina* and finally we have seen a glorius male Himalayan Rubythroat sitting on one of the pines giving us a wonderful show. We returned to the observatory in order to pack and have an early lunch to then leave on our way to Almaty.

We have settled in the comfortable hotel in the centre of the city and where guided by Vladimir to see the city, visiting a central bookshop, the colourful Cathedral, and the busy covered market where some of us bought some typical Kazakh hand-made crafts. And in the afternoon had a coffee and ice-cream in a nice coffee shop on the main street. We went back to the hotel for a farewell dinner, and went to sleep early as wake up was at four in the morning.

Day 18 Sunday 26th June Departure

We have collected our breakfast boxes at the lobby and left for the airport. Flight left on time at 0700 in the morning.

Systematic List – Plants

(Families in alphabetical order)

ACERACEAE

Acer tataricum subsp semenovii (syn A. semenovii) - Berkara

ADIANTACEAE

Adiantum radiannum – Aksu Canyon

ADOXACEAE

Adoxa moschatellina – common at Chimbulak, journey uo from Almaty, Gaish Observatory

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Allium platyspathum subsp amblyiophyllum (syn A. amlyiophyllum) – Chimbulak & Big Almaty Lake, pink flowers

Allium atrosanguineum – Chimbulak, Tjuk-su Gate, Chimbulak ski-lift, Gaish Observatory

Allium atrosanguineum var fedtschenkoanum (syn A. fedtschenkoanum) - Ulken Kaindy Pass

Allium barsczeweskii - Widespread

Allium caesium – bluish color, Sary-Say, Koskai, Aksu canyon.

Allium eriocoleum – Yellow flowers – Aksu Kanyon

Allium drobovii, tall cremy white – Berkara, Aksu - Zhabagli

Allium fetissovii – single leaf, pink fower -Chimbulak, Aksu Zhabagli

Allium hyemenorhizum - soft pink, mostly in buds, astonishing numbers, Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Allium karataviense – growing in serpentines, two glaucous leaves- Aksu Zhabagly

Allium karelini – Chimbulak

Allium polyphyllum – Chimbulak, curved leaves

Allium tracyscordum - Koksay

Allium suworowii – Sarysay, Upper Aksu zhabagli

APIACEAE

Angelica brevicaulis – Tuyuk – Su Gate, Gaish, Kosmostation

Angelica archangelica subsp decurrens (syn A. decurrens) – Chimbulak

Anthriscus sylvestris – Chimbulak

Carum carvi - Widespread

Conium maculatum – Ulken Kaindy

Ferula akitschkensis – Chimbulak

Ferula karatavica – Sary-Say, Taskol

Ferula karataviensis – Teskol

Ferula penninervis – Koskai, Ulken Kaindy

Ferula tenuisecta – Widespread

Heracleum dissectum – Berkara, Upper kshi-Kaindy Valley

Ligusticum discolor (syn Paraligusticum discolor) – Aksu Zhabagli

Mediasia macrophylla – Ulken Kaindy

Prangos pabularia – Widespread

Shrenkia sp. – Ters Pass

Sphenolobium tianschanicum (syn Selinum coriaceum) – Upper ulken Kaindy Valley

Greentours Natural History Holidays www.greentours.co.uk 11

Torilis leptophylla – Baidaksy Valley Turgenia latifolia – Koksay

ARACEAE

Arum korolkowii - Taskol

ASPARGACEAE

Polygonatum roseum— Tuyuk Pass Polygonatum severzowii — on way up to the mountain house

ASPLENIACEAE

Asplenium ruta-muraria - Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley Asplenium septentrionale – rocky outcrops, Chimbulak and Cosmos Station Asplenium tricomanis – Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley Asplenium viride- Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley

BALSAMINACEAE

Impatiens parvilora – Sary-Say, Berkara

BETULACEAE

Betula pendula (syn B. talassica) – Sary-Say, Way to Gaish Betulla turkestanica – Lower Aksu –Zhabagli

BORAGINACEAE

Anchusa azurea - Ters, Koksai, Aksu Canyon

Arnebia euchroma (syn Macrotomia euchroma) – Ulken Kaindy Pass

Arnebia ugamensis (syn Macrotomia ugamensis) - Berkara

Asperugo procambens – Ters

Echium vulgare - Koksay, Berkara

Eritrichium villosum - Chimbulak, Gaish, Kosmostation

Lapulla microcarpa – Koksay, Berkara

Lapulla tianschanica - Sary-Say, Ulken Kaindy, Aksu Canyon, Big Alamaty Lake

Lindelofia tschimganica – Kaindy

Lithospermum officinale – Ters

Myosotis asiatica - Widespread

Myosotis stricta (Syn Myosotis micranatha) - Koksay, Big Alamaty Lake

Onosma irritans – Ulken Kaindy, Aksu Canyon

Onosma setosa var dichronotha (syn Onosma dichronotha) - Koksay, Taskol

Rindera oblongifolia – Ulken Kaindy Valey

Solenanthus circinnatus – Baidaksay Valley

Trachelanthus korolkowii – Upper Ulken Kaindy

Tricodesma incanum - Taskol

BRASICACEAE (CRUCIFERACEAE)

 $Barbarea\ vulgaris\ (syn\ Barbarea\ arcuata)-Tjuk-su,\ Chimbulak,\ yellow\ flowers\ Brassica\ rapa\ (syn\ Brassica\ campestris)-Sary-Say$

Cardamine parviflora – below Chimbulak

Capsella bursa-pastoris – scattered

Chorispora bungeana – Tjuk-su Gate, steep path above hotel at Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory,

Cosmos Station, small plant with pink flowers

Erysimum virgatum (syn Erysimum croceum) – Tjuk-su, path above Big Almaty Lake

Eutrema altaicum (syn Taphrospermum altaicum – Gaish, Cosmos Station, white flowers)

Eutrema pseudocordifolium – Tjuk-su, Chimbulak

Isatis tinctoria – on dam below Chimbulak

Megacarpaea orbiculata – Berkara

Parrya albida (syn Neurolooma albidum) – Upper Aksu Zhabagli

Smelowskia calycina - Cosmos Station, white flowers

Thlaspi arvense – scattered

Turritis glabra – Sary-Say, Ulken Kaindy,

BUTOMACEAE

Butomus embelatum - Koskay River

CAMPANULACEAE

Asyneuma argutum – Ulken Kaindy, Aksu Zhabagly, Aksu Canyon

Campanula alberti - Aksu Zhabagly

Campanula glomerata – Aksu - Zhabagli

Campanula lehmanniana subsp capusii (syn C. capusii) - Ulken Kaindy, Kshi Kaindy Valley

Codonopsis clematidea – Aksu Zhabagli, Gaish, Sary Say

Sergia sewerzowii – Aksu Canyon

CANNABACEAE

Celtis australis subsp caucasica (syn C. caucasica) – Berkara, Aksu Canyon

CAPPARACEAE

Capparis spinosa – Berkera

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Lonicera hispida – Tuyuk Su, Chimbulak, Gaish, Kosmostation

Lonicera humilis – Gaish, Kosmostation

Lonicera karataniensis - Berkara

Lonicera karelinii – Common at high elevations

Lonicera microphylla – Aksu zhabagli, Big Almaty Lake

Lonicera nummulariifolia - Berkara, Aksu zabagli

Lonicera olgae – Ulken Kaindu Pass

Lonicera tianscanica - Koksay, Baidaksay Valley

Morina kokanica – Lower Aksu Zhabagli

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Acanthophyllum pungens – Compact shrub, pink flowers, Taskol Pass

Allochrusa gypsophiloides – Taskol Pass

Cerastium cerastoides – widespread

Cerastium dahuricum – widespread

Dianthus karataviensis – Berkara, Lower Aksu - Zhabagli

Dianthus crinitus subsp tetralepis (syn D. tetralepis) – Koksai, Berkara, Baidaksay valley

Eremogone griffithii (syn *Arenaria griffithii*) – Aksu - Zhabagly

Herniaria caucasica- Aksu Canyon, Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Minuartia kryloviana – Tjuk-su Gate, Gaish Observatory, Cosmos Station

Minuartia macranatha - Gaish, Kosmostation

Petrohagia alpina (syn *Gypsophila stricta*, *Tunica alpina*) – Aksu Zhabagli at high elevetions *Stellaria graminea* – widespread

Thylacospermum caespitosum – Cosmos Station & Gaish Observatory, like a green cushion

CELASTRACEAE

Eounymus nanus (syn Eounymus koopmannii) – Ulken Kaindy Eounymus semenovii – Ters

CHENOPODIACEAE

Chenopodium album – Sary-say, Koskai *Rhaphidophyton regelii* – Taskol Pass

COLCHICACEAE

Colchicum luteum – In seeds, Aksu Zhabagli

COMPOSITAE (ASTERACEAE)

Achillea filipendulina – Zhabagly, Ters Pass, Aksu Zhabagli, Aksu Canyon

Achillea micranata - Zhabagly, Ters Pass, Aksu Zhabagli, Aksu Canyon

Achillea millefolium - Zhabagly, Ters Pass, Aksu Zhabagli, Aksu Canyon

Artemisia absinithium – Sary – Say

Artemisia dracunculus – Ters pass

Artemisia santolinifolia – Aksu Canyon

Artemisia vulgaris – Berkara

Aster alpinus - Tuyuk-Su Gate, Ulken Kaindy, Gaish, Kosmostation

Centaurea depressa – Koksai, Taskol

Centaurea iberica – Koksai

Centaurea squrossa - Ters, Taskol, Aksu Canyon

Centaurea turkestanica – Aksu Canyon

Cichorium intybus - Ters, Aksu Canyon

Cousinia fetissowii – Ulken Kaindy Pass

Cousinia karatavica – Berkara

Cousinia minkwitziae – Ters, Aksu Canyon

Cousinia umbrosa – Aksu Zhabagli

Doronicum turkestanicum – Tuyuk –Su, Chimbulak, Gaish, Kosmostation, Big Alamaty Lake

Echinops talssicus – Aksu Canyon

Echinops tschimganicus - Zhabagli

Erigeron auraniticus – Tuyuk – Su Gate, Chimbulak, Gaish, Kosmostation

Erigeron cabulicus – Ulken Kaindy

Erigeron chorossanicus ??- Baidaksay Valley,Big Almaty Lake

Filago arvensis – Aksu Canyon

Handelia trichophylla – Ters Pass

Helychrisum maracandicum - Ters Pass, Aksu Zabaghly

Hieracium echinodes – Aksu Zhabagli

Inula macrophylla – Taksol Pass

Leontopodium campestre (syn *L. fedtschenkoanum*) – Kosmostation

Leontopodium ochroleucum - Tuyuk Su Gate, Gaish, Kosmostation, Big Alamaty Lake

Ligularia macrophylla - Widespread

Ligularia songarica – Aksu Zhabagli

Pyrethrum pyrethroides - Ulken Kaindy, Kshi Kaindy

Sassurea gnaphaloides - Kosmostation

Schmalhausenia nidulans - Gaish. Kosmostation, Big Alamaty Lake

Scorzonera incospicua – Widespread

Solidago virgaurea – Aksu Zhabagli at high elevations

Tanacetum pseudoachillea – Aksu Zhabagly

Taraxacum montanum - Kosmostation

Tragopogon marginifolius - Berkara

Tragopogon turkestanicus- Koksai, Ters, Berkara

Tripleurospermum maritimum subsp inodorum (syn T. inodorum) – Koksay, Taskol

Tussilago farfara – Tuyuk –Su, Chimbulak

Xylanthemum tianschanicum (syn *Pyrethrum tianschanicum*)

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus arvensis – Ters Pass, Aksu Canyon

Convolvulus lineatus – Koksay, Taksol

Convolvulus pseudoacantabricus - Ters, Berkara

CRASSULACEAE

Clementsia semenovii – Chimbulak, Big Almaty Lake

Rhodiola coccinea – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory, small

Rhodiola heterodontha – Aksu Zhabagli

Rhodiola linearifolia - Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory, like the above but much larger

Rosularia aplestris - Tjuk-su Gate, Gaish Observatory

Sedum ewersii – Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory

Sedum hybridum – Chimbulak

CUPRESSACEAE

Juniperus communis varieta sxatilis (syn J. sibirica) – Chimbulak, Kosmostation, Gaish

Juniperus pseudasabina – Tjuk-su, Gaish

Juniperus sabina – Chimbulak

Juniperus semiglobosa – common in Akso zhabagly

Juniperus polycarpos var. seravschanica (syn J. seravschanica) – Aksu zhabagly

CYPERACEAE

Blysmus compressus – Chimbulak, damp places

Carex nigra – Sary-Say, Ulken Kaindy

Luzula pallescens (syn L. pallidula) – Tuyuk-su Gate, Kosmostation

DRYOPTERIDACEAE

Dryopteris filix-mas – Under Gaish, Big Almaty Lake

ELAEAGNACEAE

Elaegnus angustifolia (syn A. oxycarpa) – Ters, Koksai, Berkara

EPHEDERACEAE

Ephedra equisetina – frequent Ephedra intermedia – Koskay

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum arvense — Sary-say Equisetum fluviatile — Lower Aksu- Zabagli, Taskol Equisetum ramosissimum — Big Almaty Lake

ERICACEAE

Pyrola rotundifolia - Aksu Zhabagli

EUPHORBIACEAE

Euphorbia humilis - Kaindy Valley & K. Pass Euphorbia jaxaratica – Chimbulak, Koksay Euphorbia thomasoniana (syn E. tianschanica) – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

FUMARIACEAE

Corydalis glaucescens – Gaish Observatory, pink flowers, under large tree Corydalis gortschakovii – Gaish Observatory, yellow flowers Corydalis ledebouriana – Ulken kaindy Pass, Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley Cysticarydalis fedtschenkoana – single none flowering plant, Cosmos Station Fumaria vaillantii – Koksai

GENTIANACEAE

Centarium pulchellum - Berkara

Comastoma falcatum (syn Gentiana falcata) – Gaish, Kosmostation

Gentiana prostrata var karelinii (syn Gentiana karelinii) – Gaish, Big Almaty Lake

Gentiana olivieri - Widespread

 $Gentianella\ turkestanorum\ (syn\ Gentiana\ tuekestanorum)- Aksu\ Zhabagli$

Swertia varaiabilis – Baidaksay Valley

GERANIACEAE

Geranium albiflorum – Tjuk-su, Shimbulak

Geranium collinum – Ulken Kaindy

Geranium pratense - Widespread

Geranium rectum – Tjuk-su, small pink flowers

Geranium robertianum – Chimbulak

Geranium saxatile – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory, large purple flowers

GROSSULARIACEAE

Ribes meyeri – Tjuk-su Gate, steep path behind hotel at Chimbulak, Big Almaty Lake

HYPERICACEAE

Hypericum elongatum - Widespread Hypericum perforatum - Widespread Hypericum scabrum - Widespread

IRIDACEAE

Crocus alatavicus — Gaish, in seeds Iris halophila var. sogdiana (syn Iris sogdiana) — Aksu Zhabagli Iris songorica — Koksay Iris willmottianna — Aksu Zabagli, Taskol Pass, Gaish Iris orchioides - Ters, Aksu Zhabagli, - in fruits

IXIOLIRIACEAE

Ixiolirion tataricum – Koksay

LAMIACEAE

Betonica foliosa – Taskol, Zhabagli

Draconocephalum grandiflorum - Tuyuk-Say, Chimbulak, Gaish

Draconocephalum imberbe – Aksu Zhabagli at high elevations

Draconocephalum integrifolium – Aksy Zhabagli

Draconocephalum nutans - Widespred

Draconocephalum stamineum – Big Almaty Lake

Eremostachys karatavica – Berkara, in seeds.

Eremostachys speciosa – Sary-Sai, Ters, Koksay, Aksu Zhabagli

Lagochilus knorringianus – Aksu Canyon

Lagochilus occultiflorus subsp occultiflorus (syn L. tianschanicus) - koksai

Lamium album – widespread

Lamium amplexicaule – Aksu – Canyon

Mentha aquatica – Berkara

Mentha longifolia var. Asiatica (syn M. asiatica) – Sary-Say

Nepeta mariae – Aksu Zhzbagli at high altitudes

Nepeta nuda subsp nuda (syn N. pannonica) – Aksu Zhabagli, Aksu Canyon

Origanum vulgare – Sary-Say, Ters

Origanum vulgare subsp gracile (syn O. tyttanthum) – Ulken Kaindy Pass, Aksu Canyon

Phlomis oreophila – Tuyuk – Su, Gaish, Kosmostation

Phlomis pratensis – Sary – Say

Phlomis salicifolia – Berkara, Aksu Canyon

Salvia deserta - Ters, KOKSAI, Berkara, Aksu Zhabagli, Aksu-Canyon, Gaish

Salvia sclarea – Taskol Lake, Berkara

Scutellaria cordifrons – Aksu – Zhabagly

Scutellaria Kurssanovii – Ters

Scutellaria sieversii (syn S. transiliensis) – Sary-Say

Stachynopsis oblongata – Aksu Zhabagli at high elevations

Thymus karatavicus - Widespread

Thymus seravschanicus – Sary – say, Gaisk, Kosmostation

Ziziphora clinopodioides subsp bungeana (syn Z. bungeana) – Sary-Say, Koksay, Taskol

Ziziphora tenuior - Koksay, Taskol

LILIACEAE

Fritillaria stenanthera (syn Rhinopetalum stenantherum) – on way up to the mountain house

Fritillaria swerzowii (syn Korolkovia severzovii) - way down from mountain house seed pods only

Gagea dshungarica- Koksai Gorge, Ulkun Valley & Ulkun Kaindi Pass

Gagea liotardii (syn Gagea emarginata) – Ulken Kaindy Pass, Kosmostation

Gagea filiformis - widespread

Gagea minutiflora – Ulken Kaindi Pass

Lloydia serotina- Common at high elevations

Tulipa dasystemon - Kosmostation

Tulipa dasystemonoides – Aksu Zhabagli

Tulipa greigii – Aksu zhabagli

Tulipa heterophylla – Tuyuk-su Gate, Chimbulak, Kosmostation

Tulipa kaufmanniana - Koskay and common in Aksu - zhabagli

Tulipa orthopoda – Koskai, in seed

Tulipa ostrovskiana- Sary-say, in seed

Tulipa turkestiania- Kuyuk Pass in seed

LEGUMINOSAE (Fabaceae)

Astragalus alatvicus – Gaish Observatory, yellow flowers

Astragalus alopecias - Taskol

Astragalus alpinus – below Chimbulak

Astragalus andaulgensis Ulken Kaindy, Kshi Kaindy

Astragalus sieversianus – Sary-Say, Ters

Astragalus ugamicus – Ulken Kaindy

Cicer songoricum – Gaish Observatory, Big Almaty Lake, purple flowers

Hedysarum acutifolium – Koskay

Hedysarum alopecorus - Taskol

Hedysarum cephalotes – Aksu Zhabagli

Hedysarum neglectum – over bridge in afternoon at Chimbulak, large red spikes

Hedysarum sulphuresens (syn H. flavescens) - Kosmostation

Lathyrus pratensis – widespread

Lotus tenuis - Berkara

Medicago lupulina –Ulken Kaindy

Onobrychis chorassanica – Ters

Onobrychis echidna - Ulken Kaindy Pass, Baidaksy Valley

Onobrychis arenaria subso arenaria (syn O. sativa) - Ters

Orobus luteus – lots on roadside below Chimbulak

Oxytropis albovillosa – Ulken Kaindy Pass

Oxytropis almaatensis – Chimbulak, Sary-Say

Oxytropis brachycarpa – Big Almaty Lake on dam

Oxytropis chionobia – Gaish Observatory, silver leaves purple flowers

Oxytropis talassica – Aksu Zhabagli

Oxytropis trichocalycina – Ulken Kaindy Pass, Baidaksay Valley

Sophora alopecuroides (syn Vexibia alopecuroides) Ters, Taxol

Thermopsis alpina – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Trifolium pratense – widespread

Trifolium repens — widespread
Trifolium campestre (syn T. karatavicum) — Aksu Zhabagly at high elevations
Vicia cracca — Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory, Baidaksy Valley
Vicia sepium — Tjuk-su, on way up to Gaish Observatory
Vicia tenuifolia — Aksu Zhabagl

LINACEAE

Linum altaicum – Ulken Kaindy Linum olgae – Aksu Zabagly Linum palescens – Sary-Say, Aksu Canyon

LYTHRACEAE

Lytrum salicaria - Berkara

MALVACEAE

Alcea nudiflora – At lower elevations, White flowers

OLEACEAE

Fraxinus sogdiana (syn Fraxinus potamophila) - Berkara

ONAGRACEAE

Epilobium angustifolium (syn Chamerion angustifolium) – Kaindy, Baidaksay Epilobium latifoilium (syn Camerion latifolium) – Big alamaty lake Epilobium tianschanicum - Ulken Kaindy Epilobium hirsutum – Ulken Kaindy

ORCHIDACEAE

Corallorhiza trifida -Shimbulak Dactylorhiza umbrosa — locally abundant in wet flushes Dactylorhiza viridis (syn Coeloglossum viride) — Chimbulak, Gaish

OROBANCACEAE

Orobanche kotschyi – Aksu Zhabagli *Orobanche uralensis* – Koksay

PAEONIACEAE

Paeonia hybrida – Chimbulak

PAPAVERACEAE

Glaucium fimbrilligerum - Berkera Glaucium squamigerum - Upper Ulken Kaindy valley Papaver nudicuale (syn Papaver croceum) – Tjuk-su Gate, yellow flowers, Gaish, Kosmostation Roemeria refracta – Ters Pass, Zhabagli

PINACEAE

Picea schrenkiana- Common at higher elevations

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago lanceolata – Sary Say, Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley

PLUMBAGINACEAE

Acantholimon albertii – Ulken Kaindy Pass Acantholimon aulieatense – Taskol Pass

POACEAE

Aegilpos cylindrical – Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Bromus inermis (syn Bromopsis inermis) – Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Bromus japonicus – Aksu Canyon

Calamagrostis epigeios – Aksu - Zhabagli

Festuca valesiaca - Common in Aksu Zhabagli

Hordeum bulbosum – Koskay, Taskol

Poa alpina – Kosmostation

Poa angustifolia - Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Stipa caucasica – Koskay, Ulken – Kaindy, Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Stipa karataviensis – Berkara

POLEMONIACEAE

Polemonium careuleum - Chimbulak, Gaish, Big Alamaty Lake

POLYGALACEAE

Polygala comosa (syn Polygala hybrida) – widespread

POLYGONACEAE

Oxyria digyna –Cosmos Station

Persicaria alpina (syn Polygonum alpinum) – Aksu Zhabgli

Polygonum ellipticum (syn P. Nitens) – Tjuk-su, Chimbulak, common

Polygonum cognatum (syn Polygonum rupestre) Big Almaty Lake

Polygonum coriarum - widspread

Rheum maximowiczii – Taskol, Aks- Zhabagli

Rheum wittroeki – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Rumex acetosa - Shimbulak, Gaish, Kosmoatation

Rumex crispus - widespread

Rumex thianschanicus - Chimbulak, Tuyuk-su Gate, common

PRIMULACEAE

Anagalis arvensis – Berkara, Taskol Lake

Androsace akbajtalensis - Tuyuk - Su Gate, Gaish

Androsace fedtschenkoi - Widespread

Androsace maxima - Ters

Androsace septentrionalis - Gaish

Androsace sericea – Ulken Kaindy

Cortusa brotheri – Tuyuk –Su, Chimbulak, Kosmostation.

Cortusa matthioli subsp turkestanica (syn Cortusa turkestanica) – Aksu Zhabagli

Primula algida – Tuyuk – Su Gate, Ulken Kaindy Pass

Greentours Natural History Holidays www.greentours.co.uk 20

Primula minkwitziae – Aksu Zabagli at high elevations

Primula nivalis – Kosmostation,

Primula nivalis var farinosa (syn *P. turkestanica*) – Tuyuk su gate, Kosmostation

RANUNCULACEAE

Aconitum leucostomum – Tuyuk Su Gate, Chimbulak

Adonis aestivalis- Ters Pass

Anemone protracta – Tjuk-su Gate, common elsewhere

Aquilegia atrovinosa – Tjuk-su Gate and Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory

Aquilegia atrovinosa x lactiflora – Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley, a natural hybrid

Beckwithia glacialis (syn Oxygraphis glacialis) - Cosmos Station, like a lesser celandine

Callianthemum alatavicum— Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Clematis alpina subsp sibirica (Atragene sibirica) - Tjuk-su Gate and Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory

Delphinium confusum – Aksu Zabagli

Isopyrum anemonoides (syn Paropyrum anemonoides) – Tjuk-su Gate, Gaish Observatory, white flowers

Paraquilegia anemonoides – Talgar Pass and Cosmos Station

Paraquilegia caespitose – Ulken Kaindy

Pulsatilla campanella – Gaish Observatory

Ranunculus alberti – Gaish Observatory

Ranunculus grandifolius - Tuyuk-Su Gate

Ranunculus longicaulis – Big Almaty Lake, large leaves, in damp conditions.

Ranunculus peltatus subsp baudotti (syn R. trichophyllus) – in water resevouirs.

Ranunculus rubrocalyx – Aksu Zhabagli at high elevations, Cosmos Station

Ranunculus sewerzowii – Ulken-Kaindy Pass

Thalictrum simplex - widespread

Trollius altaicus – Aksu Zhabagli at higher elevations

Trollius dschungaricus – Tjuk-su Gate, Gaish Observatory

Trollius lilacinus - Chimbulak and Cosmos Station

RESEDACEAE

Reseda lutea – Ters pass

Reseda luteola – Sary – Say

RHAMNACEAE

Rhamnus catharica - Lower Aksu Zabagli, Aksu Canyon

Rhamnus coriacea - Aksu Canyon

ROSACEAE

Agrimonia eupatoria subsp asiatica (syn Agrimonia asiatica) – Taskol Pass

Alchemilla retropilosa – Baidaksay valley

Alchemilla sibirica – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Cerasus mahaleb (syn Padellus mahaleb) – Berkara, Aksu Zhabagli at low altitude.

Cerasus tianschanica - Koksay, Berkara, Ulken Kaindy

Cotoneaster karatavicus – Berkara

Crataegus pontica – Aksu Canyon

Crataegus songarica – Chimbulak

Crataegus turkestanica - Berkara

Geum urbanum - scattered

Geum rivale – by stream below Chimbulak

Hulthemia persica (syn Rosa persica) – Zhabagli, Taksol, Aksu Canyon

Malus pumila (syn Malus niedzwetzkyana) – Berkara

Malus sieversii – Widespread

Pentaphylloides phyllocalyx – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Potentilla chrysantha (syn Potantilla asiatica) - Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory, red stem

Potentilla hololeuca – Aksu- Zhabagli at high altitudes

Potentilla nervosa – Tjuk-su, Gaish Observatory

Potentilla orientalis – scattered

Potentilla pedata – Widespread.

Potentilla songorica - Kosmostation

Pyrus regelii – Berkara

Rosa albertii – Tjuk-su, Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory

Rosa corymbrifera – Berkara

Rosa fedtschenkoana - Widespread

Rosa hissarica - Koksay, Ulken Kaindy

Rosa kokanica - widespread

Rosa maracandica – Baidaksy Valley

Rosa nanothamnus – Aksu Kanyon

Rosa persica – see Hultemia persiaca

Rosa plantycantha – Chimbulak, Sary – Say

Rubus caesius - Berkara

Sanguisorba minor subsp muricata (syn Poterium polygamum) -Scattered

Sanguisorba officinalis – Chimbulak

Sibbaldia tetrandra –Cosmos Station

Sorbus persica – Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Sorbus tianschanica – Tjuk-su and Chimbulak, Gaish Observatory, Kosmostation

Spiraea hypericifolia - Widespread

Spirea lasiocarpa – Chimbulak, Sary-Say

Spirea pilosa – Ulken Kaindy

Spiraeanthes schrenkianus – Taksol Pass

RUBIACEAE

Asperula karataviensis (syn Galium karataviense) - Berkara

Galium verum – Aksu Zhabagli

Rubia regelii – Ulken Kaindy Pass

RUTACEAE

Dictamnus albus (syn Dictamnus angustifolius) – Chimbulak, Ulken Kaindy Pass, Lower Aksu Zhabagli

Haplophyllum perforatm - Taksol

SALICACEAE

Populus tremula – by road below Chimbulak

Salix alatavica – Big Almaty Lake, by road below Chimbulak

Salix alba – Sarry-Say, Koksai, Berkara

Salix capusii (syn S. niedzwieckii) – Berkara, Ulken Kaindy, Aksu -Zhabagli

Salix cinerea - Big Almaty Lake

Populus talassica – Aksu Kanyon

SANTALACEAE

Thesium alatavicum – Chimbulak, steep grassy slope below

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Chrysosplenium nudicale - Kosmostation, Chimbulak ski-lift

Parnassia laxmanni –Gaish Observatory

Saxifraga alberti – Ulken Kaindy Pass

Saxifraga macrocalyx – Tjuk-su, Chimbulak ski-lift, steep path behind hotel at Chimbulak, Gaish

Observatory, Cosmos Station, yellow flowers

Saxifraga oppositifolia – Cosmos Station, purple flowers

Saxifraga sibirica – widespread

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Dodartia orientalis – Ters Pass, Aksu Canyon

Euphrasia pectinata (syn Euphrasia tatarica) – Aksu Zhabagli, Koksai

Lagotis integrifolia - Gaish, Kosmostation

Leptorhabdos parviflora - Gaish

Linaria popovii – Aksu Canyon

Pedicularis alatauica – Tuyuk – Su Gate, Kosmostation

Pedicularis dolichorrhiza - Widespread

Pedicularis macrophilla - Widespread

Pedicularis oderii - Big Almaty Lake

Pedicularis olgae - Kaindy

Pedicularis rhinanthoides – Kosmostation

Pseudolysimachion spicatum (syn Veronica porphyriana) – Baidaksy Valley

Pseudolysimachion spurium (syn Veronica spuria) - Aksu Zhabagli

Rhinanthus glaber (syn R. songoricus) – Aksu Zhabagli

Schrophularia incisa - Baidaksai Valley, Kshi Kaindy Valley, Big Almaty Lake

Verbascum songoricum – Aksu Zhabagli, Sary-Say, Berkara

Verbascum blattaria – Berkara

Veronica beccabunga – Sary-Say, Ulken Kaindy Valley, Big Almaty Lake

Veronica chamaedrys – Sary-Say, Berkara

Veronica porphyriana see Pseudolysimachion spicatum

Veronica spuria – see Pseudolysimachion spurium

Veronica tianschanica – Ulken Kaindy Pass

Veronica verna – Ulken Kaindy Pass

SOLANACEAE

Hyoscyamnus niger - Ters Pass

TAMARIACEAE

Myricaria squamosa – Big Almaty Lake Tamarix ramosissima - Berkara

ULMACEAE

Ulmus pumila – Berkara

URTICACEAE

Parietaria judaica – Baidaksay vally Urtica dioica – widespread

VALERIANACEAE

Valeriana fedtschenkoi – Ulken Kaindy Valeriana dubia (syn V. turkestanica) – Chimbulak, Sary- Say, Gaish

VITACEAE

Vitis vinifera – Berkara

WOODIACEAE

Cystopteris fragilis – common

VIOLACEAE

Viola acutifolia – steep path behind hotel at Chimbulak, yellow flowers Viola altaica – Tjuk-su, Chimbulak ski-lift, Gaish Observatory, flowers purple/yellow Viola biflora – Tjuk-su, up steep path behind hotel at Chimbulak, small yellow flowers Viola rupestris – Chimbulak ski-lift, on way up to Cosmos Station, purple flowers Viola suavis - Chimbulak, Berkara Viola tianschanica – Cosmos Station, purple flowers

XANTHORRHOEACEAE

Eremurus altaicus — Sary-say
Eremurus cristatus — Koskay
Eremurus fuscus — Koskay
Eremurus lactiflorus — in seeds - Taksol, Aksu- Canyon,
Eremurus regelii — widspred
Eremurus robustus - Sary-Say
Eremurus tianschanicus, in buds — Berkara, Ulken Kaindy

Systematic list No. 2 Birds

Written by Vladimir Kolbintzev

Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	4 in Berkara
Great Egert	Egretta alba	One in Taskol

Grev Heron Ardea cinerea 4 in Ters, 4 in Taskol Lake

Black Stork Ciconia nigra One at Sary-Say

Ruddy Shelduck Tadorna ferruginea Variuos Water reservouirs, total 8

in number

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus 3 in Taskol Lake

1-Chimbulak, 1-Sary-Say, 1Aksu Northern Sparrowhawk Accipiter nissus

Canyon

Longe-legged Buzzard 1-Chimbulak, 1- Sary-Say, 1Aksu Buteo rufinus

Canyon

1- Sary-Say, 1 Berkara, 1 Aksu Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus

Zhabagli, 1 Aksu Canyon

1 in Gaish **Booted Eagle** Hieraaetus pennatus

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetus 2 in Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley, 1

in Gaish

1 in Chimbulak, 1 in Gaish Lammergeier Gypaetus barbtus Black Vulture Aegypius monachus Total 4 in Aksu Zhabagli Northern Hobby

Falco subbuteo 1 – Berkara, 1 Ulken Kaindy, 3

Aksu Canyon

Common Kestrel Falco tinnunculus Common, seen everyday

Himlayan Snowcock Tetraogallus himalayensis 6 – Chimbulak, 5 Kosmostation Cuckar Partridge

Alectoris chukar 2 in Koskay, 2 every day in Aksu

Zhabagli

Grey Partridge *Perdix* perdix 2- Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley, 2

Baidaksay Valley, 2-Upper Kshi

Kaindy Valley

Common Quail Coturnix Coturnix 2 - Koksay, many in Aksu

Zhabagli

Common Pheasant Phasianus colchicus 1 in Ulken Kaindy

Corncrake Crex crex 1- Chimbulak, 1 Koksay

Coot Fulica atra Berkara

Burhinus oedicnemus Stone -curlew 2- Taskol Lake Charadrius dubius Little Ringed Plover 2 – Taskol Lake Charadrius alexandrinus Kentish Plover 2 – Taskol Lake

Northern Lapwing Vanellus vanellus 5- Ters, many at Taskol Lake

Black- winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus 2 – Sary-Say

Ibisbill Ibidorhincha struthersii 1- Big Alamaty Lake Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 1- Big Alamaty Lake Common Pratincole Many in Taskol Glareola pratincola

Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus Many in Ters Larus cachinnans Caspian Gull 2- Ters, Many in Taskol Gull-billed Tern Gelochelidon nilotica 1- Taskol Lake Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia 1- in Ters Little Tern 2 – Taskol Lake Sterna albifrons Widespread Woodpigeon Columba palumbus Many in Sary-Say & Koksay Stock Dove Columba oenas Rock Dove Columba livia Widespread Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto 2 – Ters, 4 – Taskol, 2 – Upper Ulken Kaindy Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur 2 – Sary- Say, 4- Koksay Rufous Turtle Dove Streptopelia orientalis Widespread Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis 3-Ters, 2- Berkara, 2 – Upper Ulken Kaindy, 1- Aksu Zhabagli, 2- Aksu Canyon Eurasian Cuckoo Cuculus canorus Widespread Eurasian Scops Owl Otus scops 1- Koksay, 1- Berkara, 1- Upper Ulken Kaindy European Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus 1- Berkara 1- Ulken Kaindy, 1-Upper Kshi Kaindey Valley **Eurasian Swift** 4- Tuyuk – Su Gate Apus apus European Roller Coracias garrulus Common in Drier habitats European Bee-eater Merops apiaster Widespread Hoopoe Upupa epops 4- Aksu Zhabagli, 2- Aksu Kanyon, 2- Gaish White-winged Woodpecker Dendrocopus leucopterus 1- Berkara Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica Widespread Delichon urbica House Martin Many at Chimbulak, 2- Teskol, 2-Ulken Kaindy, many at Big Almaty Lake Crested Lark Galerida cristata 3- Ters Calandra Lark Melanocorypha calandra Many at Koksai & Ulken Kaindy, 1- Aksu Canyon Skylark Alauda arvensis Many at Koksay, 1 Berkara, Anthus campestris Tawny Pipit 1- Berkara, 1- Aksu Canyon Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis 1- Sary- Say, 2- Chimbulak, 1-Ulken Kaindy Pass 3- Ulken Kaindy, 1- Gaish, 1-Water Pipit Anthus spinoletta Kosmostation Black-headed Wagtail Motacilla feldegg 1- Taskol Lake Motacilla cinerea 1- Chimbulak, 1- Upper Ulken **Grey Wagtail** Kaindy, 1- Upper Kshi Kaindy

Valley, 2- Big Almaty Lake

2- Ters, 2- Taskol Lake, 1- Ulken Masked Wagtail Motacilla personata Kaindy, 2- Aksu Canyon Long-tailed Shrike Lanius schach 1- Koksay, 1- Berkara, Aksu Zhzbzgli, 1- Aksu Canyon, 1-Gaish Lesser Grey Shrike Lanius minor Widespread Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus 3- Koksai, many Taskol, Ulken Kaindy, 1-Aksu Zhabagli Many in Sary-SAY, Ters, Koksai, **European Starling** Sturnus Vulgaris Taskol Common at lower altitudes Rose-coloured Starling Sturnus roseus mainly in villages Common Maina Acridotheres tristis Common at lower altitudes mainly in villages Magpie Pica pica common Spotted Nutcracker Nucifraga caryocatactes 2- Chimbulak, 2- Sary-Say Red-billed Chough Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax 4- Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley, 4-Ulken Kaindy Pass, 2 Kosmostation Many at Ulken Kaindy Pass, 22-Alpine Chough Pyrrhocorax gracilis Baidaksay Valley, 3-Kosmostation Corvus monedula Jackdaw In large numbers in Sary-Say, Ters, Koksai, Berkara, Gaish Rook Corvus frugilegus In large numbers in Sary-Say, Berkara, Gaish Corvus corone Carrion Crow Common **Hooded Crow** Corvus cornix 1- Sary - Say Common Raven Corvus corax 2 - Tuyuk - Su Gate, 1- Sary -Say, Cinclus cinclus 1- Sary-Say White-throated Dipper **Brown Dipper** Cinclus pallasi 1- Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley Northern Wren 1- Tuyuk - Su Gate, 1- Gaish, 1-Troglodytes troglodytes Kosmostation, 1- Big Almaty Lake 1 - Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley, 1-**Brown Accentor** Prunella fulvescens Gaish, 1- Kosmostation Black-throated Accentor 1- Tuyuk - Su Gate, 2- Gaish, 1-Prunella atrogullaris Sary-Say, 1-Gaish, 2-Kosmostation, 2- Big Almaty Lake Grasshopper Warbler Locustella naevia 1- Sary- Say, 1- Big Almaty Lake Whitethroat 1- Sary- Say, few in Aksu Sylvia communis Zhabagli Hume's Lesser Whitethroat 1- Koksay, few in Aksu Zhabagli Sylvia althaea

Greenish Warbler	Phylloscopus trochiloides	Many in Tuyuk – Su Gate, Sary – Say & Chimbulak
Hume's Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus humei	Many in Tuyuk – Su Gate, Sary – Say, Chimbulak & Big Almaty Lake 1- Ulken Valley, 2 – Gaish, 2- Kosmostation
Asian Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi	6 – Berkara, 1- Aksu- Zhabagly
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Many in Berkara, 1- Aksu- Zhabagly
Siberian Stonechat	Saxicola torquata	In total 13 at Aksu - Zhabagli
Pied Stonechat	Saxicola caprata	1- Ulken Kaindy, 1 Aksu Canyon
Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	1- Kosmostation
Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina	2- Ters
Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	2- Koksay, Many in Berkara, 15 in
	0 0	Aksu Zhabagli
Himalayan Rubythroat	Luscinia pectoralis	1 - Tuyuk – Su Gate, 1-
	,	Kosmostation, 1- Big Almaty Lake
Blue-headed Redstart	Phoenicurus caeulecephalus	4 - Big Almaty Lake
Guldenstadt's Redstart	Phoenicurus erythrogaster	3 -Kosmostation
Blackbird	Turdus merula	Widespread
Mistel Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Widespread
Blue Whistling Thrush	Mylophoneus caeruleus	1 in each: Tuyuk – Su Gate, Sary –
Ç		Say , kosmostation, 4- Aksu Zhabagli,
White-crowned Penduline Tit	Remiz coronatus	2- Berkara, nest in Ulken Kaindy & Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley
Rufous-naped Tit	Parus rufonuchalis	Two in Lower Aksu Zhabagli
Yellow-breasted Azure Tit	Parus flavipectus	2- Ulken Kaindy, 1- Lower Aksu Zhabagli
Azure Tit	Parus cyanus	1- Big Almaty Lake
Great Tit	Parus major	2 in each: Tuyuk – Su Gate,
	,	Chimbulak, Sary-Say
Turkestan Tit	Parus bokharensis	1 - Koksay, 1-Berkara
Coal Tit	Parus ater	1 in each: Tuyuk – Su Gate,
		Chimbulak, Sary-Say
Common Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	1-Tuyuk – Su Gate
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	1- Sary-Say, 1 Gaish
Indian Sparrow	Passer indicus	1 – Ters, 2- Berkara, 1 - Lower
		Aksu Zhabagli, 1- Aksu Canyon
Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis	Many at Berkara
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	1- Koksay, 2- Berkara, 1 - Lower
		Aksu Zhabagli

Red-fronted Serin Serinus pusillus 2 at each: Gaish, Kosmostation, 3-Big Almaty Lake Grey-headed Goldfinch Carduelis caniceps 2- Tuyuk - Su Gate, 6-Chimbulak, 8 -Sary-Say, 1-Aksu Zhabagly, 2- Gaish, 2-Kosmostation, 6 - Big Almaty Lake Linnet Acanthis cannabina 1- Chimbulak, 1- Aksu Zhabagly, 1- Big Almaty Lake Plain Mountain Finch Lecosticle nemoricola 7- Gaish, many in Kosmostation, 1 - Big Almaty Lake Common Rosefinch Widespread *Carpodacus erythrinus* Red-mantled Rosefinch Carpodacus rhodochlamys 2- Gaish, 1- Big Almaty Lake White-winged Grosbeak Mycerobas carnipes 4- Gaish, 3- Kosmostation, 3 - Big Almaty Lake Corn Bunting Emberiza calandra Many in Koksay, 4- Taskol, 1-Aksu Zhabagly Emberiza stewarti White-capped Bunting One in Aksu Zhabagli Emberiza cia 1- Ulken Kaindy, 2 – Baidaksay **Rock Bunting** Valley, 1- Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley, 2- Lower Aksu Zhabagly Widespread Red-headed Bunting Emberiza bruniceps

Systematic List No. 3 Reptiles & Amphibians

Central Asian Toad Bufo pewzovii 1 – Berkara, 1- Baidaksy Valley

Marsh FrogRana ridibunda3- TersStepperunnerEremias arguta1- TersDesert Lidless SkinkAblepharus deserti1- Sary -Sai

Alpine Lidless Skink

Asymblepharus alaicus

Many at Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley,

1- Baidaksay Valley, 5- Upper Kshi

Kaindy Valley

Orsini's Viper Vipera ursinii 1- Koksai

Halys's Pit Viper Agkistrodon halis 1- Ulken Kaindy Pass

Systematic List No. 4 Animals

Grey Long-heard Bat *Plecotus austriacus* 1- Baidaksy Valley Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* 3- Koksai

Turkestan Red Pica Ochotona rutila 1- Big Almaty Lake Red Squirrel Sciurus vulgaris 2 in each: Tuyuk-Su Gate,

Chimbulak, Sary-Say

Grey Marmote Marmota baibacina 1- Tuyuk-Su Gate, 5- Gaish, 1-

Kosmostation, 2- Big Almaty Lake

Forest Dormouse Dryomys nitedula 1- Ulken Kaindy, Upper Ulken Kaindy, 1- Baidaksay Valley, 2-

Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley

Turkestan Rat Rattus turkestanicus 1- Berkara

Wood Mouse Apodemus sylvaticus 1- Ulken Kaindy, 1- Upper Ulken

Kaindy Valley

Red Fox Vulpes vulpes 1- Tuyuk-Su Gate, 1- Koksai, 1-

Baidaksay Valley

Brown Bear Ursus arctos 2 - Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley, 2-Ulken Kaindy Pass, 2- Baidaksay

Valley, 1- Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley

Stoat *Mustela erminea* 1- Big Almaty Lake

Wild Boar Sus scrofa 8- Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley

Ibex Capra sibirica 12 - Ulken Kaindy, 11- Upper Ulken Kaindy Valley. 2- Ulken Kaindy

Kaindy Valley, 2- Ulken Kaindy Pass, 37 - Baidaksay Valley, 37 -Upper Kshi Kaindy Valley, 6 - going

down from Aksu Zhabagli