



## 2015/2016 Winter Season 1<sup>st</sup> Trip field trip launched on 9<sup>h</sup> Jan

The main hope of this trip was to try to see if a Wallcreeper could be found in the environs of St Hilarion Castle – On 9<sup>th</sup> January a small ‘but perfectly formed’ group of birders went in search of a Wallcreeper. In past years there have been reports in and around the castles walls and rocks. Thanks to the Ministry of Tourism we had secured pre-arranged free entry in the afternoon for our members to hunt for this bird - as a positive sighting could be good for tourism.

### Taşkent

Stonechat many, Black Redstart 2 female, Blue rock thrush, Kestrel, Cyprus Warbler pair, Jackdaw ~20, Finsch's wheatear 4, Spectacled warbler heard, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, House sparrow, Robin heard, Rock dove ~50

### Haspolat

Chiffchaff ~10 (many occupying phragmites), Moustached Warbler, Robin, Teal >100, Spur-winged Plover ~40, Lapwing ~60, Common Buzzard 2, Marsh Harrier >3, Cattle Egret, Shoveller ~30, Mallard ~50, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Coot hundreds, Moorhen many tens, Meadow Pipit, Red-throated Pipit (heard), Pochard >300, Ferruginous Duck ~20, Widgeon Pair, Grey Heron, Great White Egret, Kingfisher, Woodpigeon, Kestrel 2, Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler, Chaffinch, Greenfinch; **Haspolat to main road** - Many Serin heard

### Hamitköy Reservoir

This was a new location for many of the group, where we were able to have lunch and chat about the day so far whilst enjoying the sunshine. We didn't check the back end just near the barrage but there were disappointingly low numbers of birds on the water - Coot few, Little Grebe few, Goldfinch

### St Hilarion Castle in search of a Wallcreeper

Black redstart ~10, Robin, Great tit ~10, Kestrel 4, Rock Dove, Blackbird 2, Rock Bunting ~15, Sardinian Warbler, Cyprus Warbler (heard)

Well we didn't get a positive sighting of a Wallcreeper even though Gavin is convinced he did spot one glide past above the focus of our attention - we were all excitedly concentrating on the group of Rock buntings below us as we looked over the lower castle walls. Nevertheless - we set off down the narrow path by the Castle shop (LHS) to go anti-clockwise around on a goat track around the outside in search of the bird but saw only better views of the Rock Bunting.... A mystery yet to be resolved.... Stay tuned!

**Attendees:** Marina Çetinaslan, Fiona Donaldson-Myles, Linda Barrett, Christina Hessenberg, Gavin Croucher, Robin Snape.

## KUŞKOR's Monthly Field Trip Reports

**Gavin Croucher**

*photo through internet: St. Hilarion Castle*

