GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Covering an area of 86,600 km², Azerbaijan lies in the eastern part of Transcaucasia, its eastern border being formed by the shore of the Caspian Sea. The country is bounded by Iran in the south, in the west by Armenia, and in the north by Georgia and Russia. To the south-west, but geographically separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by Armenian territory, lies the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, which also borders on Iran and Turkey. The south-eastern part of the Great (Greater) Caucasus extends into and dominates the north-eastern part of the country, while the lower mountains of the Little (Lesser) Caucasus lie in the south-western part and the Talysk mountains are situated on the border with Iran in the south-east. The central part of Azerbaijan is a depression drained by the Kura river and the lower reaches of its tributary, the Aras.

Azerbaijan has 52 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), covering 6,161 km² or 7% of the country’s surface area (Table 1). IBAs are relatively evenly distributed over the country, though there are gaps in the Nagorno-Karabakh region (scene of a recent war with...
Table 1 ... continued. Summary of Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan. 52 IBAs covering 6,161 km²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA code</th>
<th>1989 code</th>
<th>International name</th>
<th>National name</th>
<th>Administrative region</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
<th>Criteria (see p. 31)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>020</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Mount Bazar-Duzu</td>
<td>Bazar-Duzu</td>
<td>Kuha, Gabala (Kutganem), Kusari</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>021</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Mount Shahdag</td>
<td>Shahdag</td>
<td>Kusari</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Kusari (Gusari) area</td>
<td>Kusari (Gusari)</td>
<td>Kusari</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>023</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Samur delta</td>
<td>Samur delta</td>
<td>Khachmas</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024</td>
<td></td>
<td>Divichi liman (or Lake Akzibir)</td>
<td>Akzibir</td>
<td>Divichi</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>025</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mount Badadag</td>
<td>Badadag</td>
<td>Ismailly, Kuba</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Ismailly area</td>
<td>Ismailly</td>
<td>Ismailly</td>
<td>3,778</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>027</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ally Agach area</td>
<td>Ally Agach</td>
<td>Khizi</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>028</td>
<td>SU079</td>
<td>Pirgulu (Pirkuli)</td>
<td>Pirgulu</td>
<td>Shemakh</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>029</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barda tajik forest</td>
<td>Barda tajik forest</td>
<td>Agdash, Barda</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>030</td>
<td>SU076</td>
<td>Lake Aggel</td>
<td>Aggel, Aggel</td>
<td>Agajledy</td>
<td>9,173</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>031</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Buz-Koba</td>
<td>Buz-Koba</td>
<td>Agajledy, Beilagan, Imishli</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>032</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Sarysu</td>
<td>Sarysu</td>
<td>Imishli</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>033</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Yashma island</td>
<td>Yashma island</td>
<td>Absheron</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>034</td>
<td></td>
<td>Absheron archipelago (north) and Artem Bay</td>
<td>Absheron archipelago (north) and Artem Bay</td>
<td>Baku</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>035</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Shah Cape (Shakhova Kosa)</td>
<td>Shah Cape (Shah gilasy)</td>
<td>Baku</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>036</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Lake Krasnoye and other water-bodies of the Absheron peninsula</td>
<td>Kizilgel</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>037</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Mount Kargahazar and Mount Gush-gaya</td>
<td>Karbaghazar and Gush-gaya</td>
<td>Maraza</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>038</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Gobustan area</td>
<td>Gobustan</td>
<td>Karadaq, Maraza</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>039</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Sangachal Bay</td>
<td>Sangachal Bay</td>
<td>Karadaq</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>040</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Glynymi island</td>
<td>Glynymi island</td>
<td>Karadaq</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>041</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Hadjikubol</td>
<td>Lake Hadjikubol</td>
<td>Karadaq</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>042</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pinsagat islands and Los island</td>
<td>Pinsagat islands and Los island</td>
<td>Karadaq</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>043</td>
<td>SU078/080</td>
<td>Shurogil lakes/Shirvan Reserve</td>
<td>Shurogil</td>
<td>Neftechala</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>044</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Mogan steppe</td>
<td>Mogan steppe</td>
<td>Salyan, Imishli, Pushkin, Saatly, Sabirabad</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>045</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Mahmud-chala</td>
<td>Mahmud-chala</td>
<td>Pushkin, Dжалбад, Massally</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>046</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kura delta</td>
<td>Kura delta</td>
<td>Neftechala</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Ych-chala (Novogolovka-chala)</td>
<td>Ych Chala (Novogolovka-chala)</td>
<td>Salyan, Massally</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>048</td>
<td>SU077</td>
<td>Kizil Agash Bay</td>
<td>Kizil Agash, Khazar</td>
<td>Lenkoran</td>
<td>132,500</td>
<td>A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>049</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilajchay valley</td>
<td>Vilajchay valley</td>
<td>Lenkoran, Yardimly</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zuvand upland</td>
<td>Zuvand upland</td>
<td>Yardimly, Lenk</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>051</td>
<td></td>
<td>Girkan forest</td>
<td>Girkan Mehsasi</td>
<td>Astara, Lenkoran</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>052</td>
<td></td>
<td>Astara-chai valley</td>
<td>Astara-chai valley</td>
<td>Astara</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>B2, B3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map 1. Location, area and criteria category of Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan.
Table 2. Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan that are important for species of global conservation concern (meeting criterion A1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>IBA code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax pygmeus Pygmy Comorant</td>
<td>009, 024, 030, 032, 043, 045, 046, 047, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanus crispus Dalmatian Pelican</td>
<td>024, 030, 032, 043, 046, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer erythrophus</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser White-fronted Goose</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branta ruficollis Red-breasted Goose</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marmaronetta angustirostris Marbled Duck</td>
<td>030, 032, 043, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxyura leucocephala White-headed Duck</td>
<td>024, 030, 032, 036, 041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angipius monachus Cinerous Vulture</td>
<td>011, 015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circus macrourus Pallid Harrier</td>
<td>008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>003, 005, 007, 011, 025, 026, 027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco naumanni Lesser Kestrel</td>
<td>029, 037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrax tetrocirratus</td>
<td>001, 002, 012, 013, 020, 021, 025, 026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td>004, 006, 043, 044, 048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan that support important numbers of one or more congregatory species (i.e. meeting criteria A4 and/or B1) for the species shown in bold. IBAs meeting both criteria A4 and B1 for the species concerned, and not A4, are shown in normal type. For key to 'Season', see p. 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>IBA code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tachybaptus ruficollis Little Grebe</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiceps nigricollis Black-necked Grebe</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax pygmeus Pygmy Comorant</td>
<td></td>
<td>032, 045, 046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>030, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>032, 043, 047, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanus onocrotalus White Pelican</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanus crispus Dalmatian Pelican</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 043, 046, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nycticorax nycticorax Night Heron</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhela ralloidea Squacco Heron</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 032, 045, 046, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babulus ibis Cattle Egret</td>
<td></td>
<td>045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egretta garzetta Little Egret</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 045, 046, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egretta alba Great White Egret</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plegadis falcinellus Glossy Ibis</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 032, 045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenicopterus ruber Greater Flamingo</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cygnus olor Mute Swan</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cygnus cygnus Whooper Swan</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 034, 039, 040, 042, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>024, 035, 039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer albinos White-fronted Goose</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer erythrophus</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser White-fronted Goose</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amer anser Greylag Goose</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anas penelope Wigeon</td>
<td></td>
<td>045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anas strepera Teal</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anas acuta Scap</td>
<td></td>
<td>032, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anas acuta Pintail</td>
<td></td>
<td>032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anas cygnoides Shoveler</td>
<td></td>
<td>045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marmaronetta angustirostris Marbled Duck</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>043, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netta rufina Red-crested Pochard</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 032, 045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aythya ferina Pochard</td>
<td></td>
<td>032, 045, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aythya fuligula Tufted Duck</td>
<td></td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aythya marila Scap</td>
<td></td>
<td>033, 035, 039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxyura leucocephala White-breasted Duck</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 036, 041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulica atra Coot</td>
<td></td>
<td>030, 032, 048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>035, 039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himantopus himantopus Black-winged Stilt</td>
<td></td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glareola pratincola Collared Pratincole</td>
<td></td>
<td>040, 042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rynia stagnatilis Marsh Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xenus cinereus Terek Sandpiper</td>
<td></td>
<td>024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larus genei Slender-billed Gull</td>
<td></td>
<td>042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larus cachinnans Yellow-legged Gull</td>
<td></td>
<td>040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterna sandvicensis Sandwich Tern</td>
<td></td>
<td>042</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Species of European conservation concern with significant breeding populations at Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan (meeting any IBA criteria).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species 1</th>
<th>Minimum national breeding population (pairs)</th>
<th>Proportion (%) of national population breeding at all IBAs in Azerbaijan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax pygmeus Pygmy Comorant</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nycticorax nycticorax Night Heron</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhela ralloidea Squacco Heron</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plegadis falcinellus Glossy Ibis</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platalea leucorodia Spoonbill</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marmaronetta angustirostris Marbled Duck</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neophron percnopterus Egyptian Vulture</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyps fulvus Golden Vulture</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anipius monachus Cinerous Vulture</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accipiter brevipes Levant Sparrowhawk</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila pomarina Lesser Spotted Eagle</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraetus pennatus Booted Eagle</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco naumanni Lesser Kestrel</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrax tetrocirratus</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyps fulvus Golden Vulture</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accipiter brevipes Levant Sparrowhawk</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francolinus francolinus Black Francolin</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paspopyrpus ptilorhynchus Purple Gallinule</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glareola pratincola Collared Pratincole</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterna sandvicensis Sandwich Tern</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Only those species of European conservation concern (see Box 1, p. 12) that meet B2B criteria at IBAs in Azerbaijan are listed.
2. Data are taken from the BirdLife IBECC European Bird Database 1998 (Hobbs and Borgmeyer 2000).
3. The percentage of the national population in IBAs exceeds 100%. This is most likely to be because the national population estimate needs to be reassessed (often as a result of new data on species numbers from comprehensive surveys of IBAs themselves).
4. No national population estimate available.
Some lower mountain areas have sparse arid forest chiefly of broadleaved forests, the summits with meadow-steppe grass meadows. Mountain-steppe and mountain meadows prevail belt, some man-made) there and further inland, river valleys and Wetlands in Azerbaijan include coastal bays, river deltas and meadows predominantly grassland (lowland steppe/semi-desert and mountain some broadleaved trees. On the upper treeline, there is dwarf

**HABITATS**

Azerbaijan has an altitudinal range extending from areas below sea-level on the Caspian littoral up to the rocky landscapes, snowfields and glaciers of high peaks in the Great Caucasus at over 4,000 m. The mountains of the Great Caucasus show the typical succession of vegetation and soils from snowfields and higher slopes related to changes in temperature, precipitation and gradient. In the lower belts, and in plains by the foothills (including in river valleys), mixed broadleaved forests of the warm-temperate type (*Castanea*, *Fagus*, *Quercus*) flourish, often with evergreen undergrowth. Higher up, *Fagus* predominates; higher still, conifer forest (*Picea*, *Abies*) and some broadleaved trees. On the upper treeline, there is dwarf *Fagus* and *Betula* with dwarf *Juniperus* in drier places and, in the subalpine belt, *Rhododendron* and meadows; in the alpine belt similarly, short-grass meadows. Mountain steppe and mountain meadows prevail in the Little Caucasus, while the Talysy mountains have slopes clothed with broadleaved forests, the summits with meadow steppe. Some lower mountain areas have sparse arid forest chiefly of *Juniperus*. The Kura-Aras lowland is a semi-desert plain with a natural steppe region in the Lower Kura valley, where steppe or desert soils require irrigation for crop production (notably cotton). Wetlands in Azerbaijan include coastal bays, river deltas and marshes along the Caspian, as well as lakes (saline and freshwater, some man-made) there and further inland, river valleys and irrigation channels across plains.

Figure 1 shows that 27 of the 52 IBAs (52%) are predominantly forested, 25 (48%) are predominantly wetlands, 18 (35%) are predominantly grassland (lowland steppe/semi-desert and mountain meadows) and 17 (33%) rocky areas. Based on incomplete data, there are at least nine IBAs where more than 50% of the surface area is wooded.

Key species in the main habitats are as follows: *Ciconia nigra*, raptors, *Coracias garrulus* and woodpeckers are important in wooded river valleys. Raptors also occur higher up in mountains where there is a mixture of forest and rocky areas. *Tetrao molossus*, *Tetraogallus caucasicus* and passerines such as *Anthus spinola*, *Primella collaris* (very locally, *P. ocellaris*), *Phoenicurus erythrogaster* and *Carpodacus rubicilla* occur in areas of rocks, shrubs and mountain meadows. Wintering geese and *Tetrao tetrix* occur on lowland plains, with resident *Francolinus francolinus* also occurring in thickets along rivers and canals there. Wetlands in Azerbaijan are immensely important, both nationally and internationally, for breeding, wintering and passage waterbirds, such as *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Oxyura leucocephala* and *Porphyrio porphyrio*.

**IMPACTS ON IBAs – LAND-USE AND THREATS**

Figure 2 summarizes land-use at IBAs in Azerbaijan. The dominant land-use in the country is agriculture, this affecting 31 IBAs (60%), while 12 (23%) are used for hunting, ten (19%) for industrial purposes (primarily, the oil industry), nine (17%) for tourism and recreation, nine (17%) for fisheries/aquaculture, seven (13%) for nature conservation/research (this figure is based on incomplete information and may not be accurate; see also ‘Protection status’ and ‘Conservation’, below) and five (9%) for forestry.

All IBAs are state-owned. At least eight wetland sites, including some of the most valuable IBAs, are rented or part-rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. All nature reserves except Kizil...
Agach and Gobustan Nature Monument were formerly managed by Azerbaijan’s State Committee for Nature Conservation. Kizil Agach Reserve was (and continues to be) managed by the Department of Nature Reserves (Zapovedniki) of the former USSR in Moscow and Gobustan Nature Monument by Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Culture. No details were available for this inventory on the role of other ministries (Oil, Forestry) in respect of site ownership and management.

Threats to IBAs are summarized in Figure 3. The level of the impact at individual sites is largely unknown.

The main threats are unsustainable levels of exploitation, affecting 64% of IBAs (mainly legal and illegal hunting at over 30 IBAs), and agricultural intensification/expansion (60%) (Figure 3). Waterbirds at Azerbaijan’s most important wetlands are severely affected by hunting and poaching, also by the accompanying disturbance which, as has been suggested for some sites, is the more serious threat. Through habitat loss caused by grazing, agricultural intensification/expansion has an impact on upland species such as Tetrao mlokosiewiczi, Tetraogallus caucasicus and Tetraogallus caspius, and on geese at IBA 043. Problems are similarly created at wetlands (the most threatened IBAs) through drainage and run-off of pesticides from cotton fields; the hydrology of coastal wetlands has been further altered by the fall and rise of the Caspian Sea over the last 70 years.

PROTECTION STATUS

Table 5 and Figures 4 and 5 summarize the protection status of IBAs in Azerbaijan.

### National protection

Regarding the overlap of individual IBAs with nationally protected areas, seven are each covered by more than 90%, whilst 28 (54%) are not legally protected at all (Figure 4).

---

**Table 5. Protection status of Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan.**

A tick (✓) indicates that an IBA overlaps with a protected area (to any extent).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IBA code</th>
<th>International name</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>Zakataly</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002</td>
<td>Ilisu area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003</td>
<td>Alazani river valley</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004</td>
<td>Sheki upland</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>Karayazi forest</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006</td>
<td>Akhtala-tchai valley</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007</td>
<td>Shamkhor area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008</td>
<td>Korchai area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Varvara reservoir</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>Tarxan chai</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>Goltchay Bozdag mountains</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td>Lake Gry Gel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013</td>
<td>Mount Giamsh</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>014</td>
<td>Mount Dalilad</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>015</td>
<td>Lachin area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016</td>
<td>Shabruz area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>017</td>
<td>Ordubad area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>018</td>
<td>Mount Ilandag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>019</td>
<td>Negram mountains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>020</td>
<td>Mount Bazar-Duzu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>021</td>
<td>Mount Shadag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>Kasari (Gusar) area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>023</td>
<td>Samur delta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024</td>
<td>Divichi Ilman (or Lake Zikibir)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>025</td>
<td>Mount Babadag</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>Ismailly area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>027</td>
<td>Alley Agach area</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal of IBAs: 70 70 0 0

---

**Figure 3.** Occurrence of threats at Important Bird Areas in Azerbaijan (see Appendix 3 for definitions of threat types and impact categories).
In common with other constituent republics of the former USSR, Azerbaijan’s protected-area system comprised both Zapovedniks (strict nature reserves generally set aside solely for wildlife protection and research; goykh in Azeri) and Zakazniks (temporary reserves with less protection, sometimes acting as a buffer zone to Zapovedniks; yasaglakh in Azeri). Further protected-area categories include Game Reserve, Nature Monument (represented here by IBA 038), and National Park (none at present in Azerbaijan). Prior to its secession from the former Soviet Union in August 1991, there were 14 Zapovedniks (15 are treated in the present inventory) and 18 Zakazniks in Azerbaijan, these reserves covering, respectively, 191,200 ha and 266,100 ha, or approximately 2.2% and 3.1% of the national territory. The Azerbaijan Committee for Nature Conservation is in charge of all nature reserves (Zapovedniks) and game reserves in Azerbaijan except Kizil Agach Reserve (managed from Moscow) and Gobustan Nature Monument (Ministry of Culture).

**International protection**

Azerbaijan is party to some of the international agreements relevant to site conservation (Box 1). Only one IBA (Kizil Agach Bay 048) overlaps with a Ramsar Site (Table 5). Sites 032, 043 and 045 certainly meet Ramsar criteria, respectively, 191,200 ha and 266,100 ha, or approximately 2.2% and 3.1% of the national territory. The Azerbaijan Committee for Nature Conservation is in charge of all nature reserves (Zapovedniks) and game reserves in Azerbaijan except Kizil Agach Reserve (managed from Moscow) and Gobustan Nature Monument (Ministry of Culture).

**Box 1. International legislation and initiatives that are relevant to site conservation in Azerbaijan.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Pan-European</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Convention</td>
<td>Convention ratified/initiative supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsar Convention</td>
<td>Convention signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bern Convention</td>
<td>World Heritage Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAB Programme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas in Azerbaijan.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total area of overlap between IBA network in Azerbaijan and national protected-area system (see Table 5 for categories) = 2,357 km² (38% of total IBA area).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONSERVATION**

- No information was available for this inventory on either the more recent development of plans to establish further Zapovedniks at IBAs 014, 016, 019 and 029, the role of Zakazniks in Azerbaijan since independence (for brief mention, see sites 030, 043 and 048), or on what has become of plans to designate as National Parks IBAs 020 and 021.
- Against the background of political and social changes as well as severe economic difficulties in Azerbaijan in recent years, the Azeri authorities have had insufficient funds and manpower to secure and manage reserves, so that the country’s protected-area system has largely collapsed. Pressure on reserves has increased markedly from both illegal hunting and incursions by local communities suffering from the economic decline and with little appreciation of the importance of protected areas. Therefore, it may be difficult to justify maintaining state reserves as exclusive areas. Bold, new management practices need to be developed in order to rescue and revive the country’s reserve system and, especially, to strengthen wetland protection. Crucially, the extent of hunting and its influence on waterbird populations requires careful investigation in this context. Within the framework of an agreement between Azerbaijan’s State Committee for Ecology (SCE) and the British Petroleum/StatOil Alliance (1992), a joint Fauna-and-Flora-International/BP/StatOil team proposed for immediate attention (in 1998): 1) The development of a management plan for the Kizil Agach Reserve (IBA 048), this also to serve as a model for other reserves (the lack of such plans is a serious deficiency); 2) The development of a conservation-education programme at the Shirvan Reserve for local children and improvement of visitor facilities there with the aim of attracting foreign fee-paying visitors from Baku; 3) The assessment of wetland sites (043, 048 and others) for breeding and wintering waterbirds and, especially, to determine the status of the globally threatened *Anser erythropus, Branta ruficollis* and *Numenius tenuirostris*.

**ANALYTICAL METHODS**

- Most of the bird data (species composition and numbers) in this inventory were collected, and the majority of IBAs identified, by M. Patrikeev (Institute for Conservation of World Biodiversity, Canada; formerly at the Ecological Centre of Azerbaijan) in the period 1988–1991, with additional information (mainly helicopter-based counts, 1993) for IBAs 024, 046 (extending beyond delta to cover entire Kura estuary), 005, 032, 033, 042 and 045 supplied by E. Sultanov (Azerbaijan Ornithological Society). The accounts for four wetland sites (IBAs 030, 032, 045, 048) were expanded on the basis of counts (estimates and more exact counts from boat, helicopter and on
Box 2. Potential IBAs in Azerbaijan. No recent data are available on these sites. With more current information or study these sites may well in the future be considered as IBAs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site description</th>
<th>Admin region</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Altitude</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zakataly</td>
<td>Belokany, Zakataly</td>
<td>41°44'N 46°40'E</td>
<td>630–3,648 m</td>
<td>23,844 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilisu area</td>
<td>Kakhi (Kah)</td>
<td>41°34'N 47°01'E</td>
<td>700–2,000 m</td>
<td>9,345 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SITE ACCOUNTS**

**Zakataly**

Admin region Belokany, Zakataly
Coordinates 41°44'N 46°40'E
Altitude 630–3,648 m
Area 23,844 ha

**Site description**

An area on the southern slope of the main Caucasian ridge (Great Caucasus). All the high-altitude vegetation zones are well defined, from broadleaved forest (mainly of Fagus, also Quercus, Carpinus, Acer, etc.) to alpine meadows. The relief is mountainous with deep chasms.

**Habitats**
- Forest and woodland (93%; broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (28%; alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas

**Land-use**
- Unknown

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetrao mlokosiewiczii</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetraogallus caucasicus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Snowcock</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Tetrao mlokosiewiczii and Tetraogallus caucasicus have suffered from habitat loss since reserve boundaries changed, the reserve was split into two and some meadows were lost to grazing. It is recommended

**Protection status**

National High International None
23,800 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Zakataly goryhy, 23,800 ha).

**Conservation issues**

Tetrao mlokosiewiczii and Tetraogallus caucasicus have suffered from habitat loss since reserve boundaries changed, the reserve was split into two and some meadows were lost to grazing. It is recommended

**Ilisu area**

Admin region Kakhi (Kah)
Coordinates 41°34'N 47°01'E
Altitude 700–2,000 m
Area 9,345 ha

**Site description**

The site is situated on the southern slopes of the Great Caucasus. Forests are the dominant vegetation, mostly broadleaved, especially Fagus and (above 1,800 m) Betula. All land-uses are prohibited.

**Habitats**
- Forest and woodland (93%; broadleaved deciduous forest)

**Land-use**
- Nature conservation/research (100%

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cajcayus monachus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Over 90 species breed at this IBA, including at least 11 raptors (Gypaetus barbatus: status uncertain, probably visits the area for foraging) and several woodpeckers; Dryocopus martius being rare and Dendrocopos medius common. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aegypius monachus (2–3 pairs).

**Protection status**

National High International None
9,345 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Ilisu goryhy, 9,345 ha).

**Conservation issues**

The site was designated as a Zapovednik in 1987 and is under the control of the Azerbaijan Committee for Nature Conservation.

**Glossary**

chala marsh or other wetland with reeds, or other emergent vegetation.

tugai periodically flooded riparian forest in arid, semi-desert or semi-savanna regions; in Azerbaijan, originally with tall Populus and Salix (outside protected areas, most such trees are now felled) and dense, impenetrable understorey of Crataegus, Rubus, lianas, etc.

place-names Azeri names are used in the majority of cases, but some are transliterations from Russian. The Aras is the Azeri name for the river otherwise known as the Araks.

**Acknowledgements**

Ehlin Sultanov, Chairman of the Ornithological Society of Azerbaijan (Academy of Sciences), supplied valuable information on eight IBAs, winter waterbird counts and other monitoring work particularly at sites vulnerable to the impact of the oil industry. Peter Cranswick (Wildfowl and wetlands Trust) reported on recent sightings of Oxyura leucocephala at two IBAs.

**References**

Footnote made during the winter of 1996 through a collaborative effort between Azerbaijan (State Committee for Ecology, Academy of Sciences) and international agencies (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, NOF/BirdLife Norway) coordinated by Fauna and Flora International, with logistical support coming from BP/StatOil.

- Significant numbers of certain SPECs are considered to breed at a number of sites (018, 019, 022, 023, 028, 049 and 051), although no quantitative data are available, therefore the B2 criterion has been applied at the level of the whole site, rather than to the relevant species.
- Information on land-uses and threats is derived from the above sources and the literature.
- Some sites were surveyed very well. At others, rapid assessment was carried out, with time spent at many sites varying from one day to a week. Only five to six sites were visited for longer periods or repeatedly with over a month of fieldwork per site. Nature reserve staff, hunters, teachers, and game wardens throughout Azerbaijan were interviewed and/or completed questionnaires.
- Some other data were available on eight further sites (Box 2) but, based on these data, it was not possible to assign IBA criteria. In the future, with more information, these sites may be considered as IBAs.
Alazani river valley

Admin region: Kakhi (Kah), Zakataly, Belokany
Coordinates: 41°27'N 46°29'E
Altitude: 100–500 m  Area: 5,000 ha

Site description

Patches of tugai forests with Populus, Salix, etc. in the Alazani river valley adjacent to the Georgian border. Land-uses include forestry and some cattle- and sheep-grazing.

Habitats: Forest and woodland (100%; broadleaved deciduous forest)
Land-use: Agriculture, Forestry

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila pomarina</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Probably partly on Georgian side

This is a notable site for forest raptors, especially Aquila heliaca; with Accipiter brevipes probably breeding and Pandion haliaetus a rare visitor throughout the year. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Haliaeetus albicilla (formerly bred, with probably 1 pair surviving). Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: Ciconia nigra (5–6 pairs).

Protection status

National: None  International: None

Conservation issues

Threats: Other (U)

Threatened by illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat).

Karayazi forest

Admin region: Kazakh, Akstafa
Coordinates: 41°19'N 45°10'E
Altitude: 0–200 m  Area: 10,000 ha

Site description

The reserve is bounded to the north by the Tbilisi–Baku railway, and to the south by the Kura waterway. Tugai forest in Kura valley, with Populus, Salix, Morus, etc. and, above valley, Quercus, Pistacia and Morus. There are also pastures, arable land, temporary islands.

Habitats: Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest)
Land-use: Nature conservation/research

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Late 1980s/early 1990s.

Over 70 species (c. 50 passerines) recorded in reserve. Breeding species include Ardea cinerea, Ciconia nigra, Pernis apivorus, Buteo buteo, Aquila pomarina, Phasianus colchicus, Sturnus albifrons, Columba oenas, Strix aluco and Picus viridis. Coturnix coturnix and Gallinago gallinago are numerous on passage.

Protection status

National: Partial  International: None

Conservation issues

Threats: Unknown

This is the only Zapovednik protecting the threatened tugai forests of Azerbaijan, with the exception of a small patch in Turianchay Zapovednik. The forest has benefited since the establishment of the reserve (in 1978), large mammals and birds less so (there are frequent violations of the Zapovednik regime). However, the best stands of tugai forest are not included in the Zapovednik.

Sheki upland

Admin region: Sheki
Coordinates: 41°12'N 47°10'E
Altitude: 100–1,500 m  Area: 10,400 ha

Site description

The lower foothills of the Great Caucasian mountains, with a few patches of broadleaved forest (mainly in the central part), with bushes and scrub in the river valleys. Land-uses include sheep- and cattle-grazing and some cultivation/arable farming.

Habitats: Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (scrub)
Land-use: Agriculture

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetrax tetrax</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A wintering area for Tetrax tetrax, most of which occur outside the Game Reserve. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aegypius monachus (visitor throughout the year, formerly bred), Circus macrourus (non-breeding summer visitor), Aquila heliaca (breeds), Falco naumanni (status uncertain, probably breeds), Crex crex (common on passage in some years), Otis tarda (extremely rare on migration and in winter). Among breeding raptors are Milvus migrans, Circus gallicus, Accipiter brevipes and Aquila pomarina, while Aquila nipalensis is common on passage, Phasianus colchicus and Alectoris chukar are very common; Francolinus francolinus is rare.

Protection status

National: Partial  International: None

Conservation issues

About half of the IBA is covered by a Game Reserve.

Akstafa-chai valley

Admin region: Kazakh
Coordinates: 41°08'N 45°26'E
Altitude: 200–500 m  Area: 200 ha

Site description

This site is close to Karayazi forest (IBA 005). The area contains the last remaining tugai forest on the banks of the River Akstafa, a right-bank tributary of the Kura river. Main land-uses are firewood-collection (‘Other’ land-use) and tourism. There is also some sheep-grazing.

Habitats: Forest and woodland (100%; broadleaved deciduous forest)
Land-use: Agriculture, Other, Tourism/recreation

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila pomarina</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aquila heliaca (visits the site throughout the year from IBA 005, but probably does not breed). Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: Aquila pomarina (1 pair, possibly more). Alcedo atthis and Coracias garrulus are very common breeding birds.

Protection status

National: None  International: None

Kakhi (Kah), Zakataly, Belokany
Conservation issues

Threats: Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Other (U)

Threats include illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat), which is being phased out, and grazing on the edge of the forest which inhibits regeneration. A game reserve for Phasianus colchicus is planned.

Shamkhor area

Admin region: Shamkhor
Coordinates: 40°56′N 46°15′E
Altitude: 0–200 m
Area: 10,000 ha

Site description

Tugai forests with Populus, Salix in the Kura valley and remnants of tugai forests in the Iori delta (Mingechaur reservoir). There are also pastures, semi-arid steppe and scrub. Land-uses include grazing (buffalo and sheep) and some cultivation/arable farming.

Habitats: Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (steppelands), Scrub (scrub), Wetland (river/stream; standing fresh water)

Land-use: Agriculture

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Aquila heliaca</em></td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>B —</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Franccolus francolinus</em></td>
<td>Black Francolin</td>
<td>R —</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Haliaeetus albicilla* (visitor throughout the year, formerly bred). Significant proportion (21%) of national population breeding at site: *Phalacrocorax carbo* (15–20 pairs), *Aquila pomarina* (2–3 pairs, possibly more). Other breeding birds include *Alcedo atthis* (very common), *Coracias garrulus* (common) and woodpeckers. *Ciconia nigra* (status uncertain, probably breeds).

Protection status

National Partial International None

IBA partly covered by Game Reserve.

Conservation issues

Threats: Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Other (U)

The Game Reserve was established mainly to protect Phasianus colchicus, Francolinus francolinus and game animals. The Iori delta section is not protected. Grazing inhibits forest regeneration and illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat) also occurs.

Korchai area

Admin region: Khanlar, Mingechaur
Coordinates: 40°52′N 46°36′E
Altitude: 100–500 m
Area: 15,000 ha

Site description

The area consists of semi-desert plains with low hills, low arid mountains, scrub along rivers, and a reservoir. Land-uses include sheep-grazing, agriculture in river valleys, and oil prospecting.

Habitats: Desert (semi-desert), Scrub (scrub), Wetland (standing fresh water)

Land-use: Agriculture, Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Neophron percnopterus</em></td>
<td>Egyptian Vulture</td>
<td>W —</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Circaetus macroura</em> Pallid Harrier</td>
<td>W —</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Francolinus francolinus</em> Black Francolin</td>
<td>R —</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tetrax tetra</em> Little Bustard</td>
<td>W —</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breeding species: *Tadorna ferruginea* (10–15 pairs), *Buteo rufinus* (3 pairs), *Alectotis chukar* (150 pairs), *Pterocles orientalis* (very rare). Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (non-breeding visitor throughout the year), *Falco naumanni* (breeds), *Otis tarda* (winter visitor: 2–5, not annual). *Aquila nipalensis* occurs, with 3–4 wintering and some tens passing through; *Anthepeodes virgo* is rare on migration.

Varvara reservoir

Admin region: Mingechaur
Coordinates: 40°44′N 47°05′E
Altitude: 0–100 m
Area: 4,000 ha

Site description

The reservoir was created in 1956–1957, thereby flooding tugai forests in the Kura river basin. Reedsbeds have grown up along the western and eastern shores and there is also some *Tamarix* on islands. The reservoir water is used for various purposes; there are fishponds, and hunting takes place in autumn and winter.

Habitats: Wetland (100%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation)

Land-use: Fisheries/aquaculture, Hunting, Water management

Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Phalacrocorax pusillus</em> Pygmy Cormorant</td>
<td>R —</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. 30th birth wintering.

The site supports a range of breeding waterbirds: herons, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, terns. *Egretta alba* and *Phalacrocorax carbo* bred in dead trees standing in the reservoir until 1962. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Haliaeetus albicilla* (rare winter visitor). Up to 7,000–8,000 waterbirds (ducks and *Fulica atra*) winter; *Larus ichthyetaria* occurs rarely in the same season; *Larus minutus* is a rare, non-breeding summer visitor.

Protection status

National None International None

Conservation issues

Threats: Unknown

Threats are unknown, but intensive hunting is probably the reason why many waterbirds move to Mingechaur reservoir.

Turianchai

Admin region: Agdash, Evlakh
Coordinates: 40°44′N 47°29′E
Altitude: 400–650 m
Area: 12,634 ha

Site description

A reserve on the heavily-eroded slopes of the Bozdag ridge, in the southern foothills of the Great Caucasus. The principal habitats are steppe and sparse, arid forest mainly of *Juniperus* with *Pistacia* and, less so, *Quercus*. A small patch of tugai forest along Turianchai river of *Alnus, Salix, Populus*, etc.

Habitats: Forest and woodland (61%; native coniferous forest; broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (steppe/semi-arid calcareous grassland), Wetland (river/stream)

Land-use: Unknown

95
At least 112 species recorded, with c.60 passerines. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni* (status uncertain, perhaps only on passage). Among other raptors in the best area for birds of prey in Azerbaijan are: *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circus gallicus*, *Aquila pomarina*. *A. clanga* (passage only), *Hieraetus fasciatus* (pair in April 1991). *Merops superciliosus*, *Coracias garrulus* and *Emberiza melanocephala* also occur and huge numbers of *Turdus* thrushes winter in the reserve when there is a good *Juniperus* berry crop.

**Protection status**

National High  International None

12,600 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Turiuchani gorysh), 12,600 ha.

**Conservation issues**

Lack of natural regeneration in the arid, sparse forests results from earlier overgrazing. The situation has improved since the reserve was established in 1958 and erosion has been reduced. Return to the reserve of the 16,000 ha (i.e. part of Gekchai Bozdag, IBA 011) lost in 1961 is considered essential for the better protection of Azerbaijan’s arid landscapes.

**Site description**

Low mountains with *Juniperus* forests extending between the Turiuchani and Gekchai rivers; there are also cliffs, ravines, etc. This site is situated close to IBA 010 (Turiuchani).

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gypaetus monachus</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6,010</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquila pomarina</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>4–6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Falco naumanni*. Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: *Neophron percnopterus* (5+ pairs). Other notable breeding birds: *Circus gallicus*, *Buteo rufinus*, *Aquila pomarina* and *Bubo bubo*.

**Protection status**

National None  International None

**Conservation issues**

The main threats are from illegal tree-felling, and grazing.

**Site description**

An area of forest (in main reserve of 6,739 ha: *Quercus*, *Fagus*, *Carpinus*, etc.), subalpine and alpine meadows, with mountain lakes, rivers and springs, on the deeply incised slopes of Mount Kyapaz (3,065 m) in the north-eastern Murovdag range (Little Caucasus).

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetrax moskvinewiczi</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetratax exemplis</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>A3, B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhcors</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Chough</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 50 species breed, existing 35 in the forest zone. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus*. Other breeding vulture species are *Gyps barbatus*, *Neophron percnopterus* and *Gyps fulvus*. The subalpine and alpine zones support at least four of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome, as well as *Alectoris chukar*, *Anthus spinoides*, *Serinus pusillus*, *Carduelis flavirostris*, *Carpathus erythrinus*, among others.

**Protection status**

National High  International None

7,131 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Geygel gorysh, 7,131 ha).

**Conservation issues**

The main threats are the drawing of water from Lake Gey Gel for Gandja (Kirovabad) (‘Other’ threat), increased access for tourists to the lake environs, and associated development of facilities, also strip farming and cattle-driving. The separate northern section of the reserve exists primarily to protect the rare endemic pine *Pinus eldarica*.

**Site description**

The highest peak of the Murovdag ridge (Little Caucasus). A mountainous area with some forests and bushes. The main land-uses are sheep- and cattle-grazing, and tourism.

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetrax moskvinewiczi</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetratax exemplis</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>A3, B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhcors</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Chough</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The alpine and subalpine zones support at least three of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome. This is also a notable site for breeding raptors, including *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Otus scopus* and *Bubo bubo*. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (breeds), *Aquila heliaca* (status uncertain; probably does not breed).

**Protection status**

National None  International None
**Conservation issues**

**Mount Dalidag**  
Admin region Kelbadzh, Lachin  
Coordinates 39°55’N 46°03’E  
Altitude 1,500–3,166 m  
Area 10,000 ha

**Site description**

The highest peak of the Karabakh uplands (Little Caucasus). Precipices, ravines, cliffs, rocks and steep slopes, and some forest near the foot of the mountain. The main land-use is (summer) sheep-grazing.

Habitats: Forest and woodland, Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland; alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; inland cliff)

**Land-use** Agriculture

**Protection status**

National Partial International None

**Birds**

Species | Season | Year | Pop min | Pop max | Acc | Criteria
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
*Tetraogallus capitus* | R | — | 75 | — | — | A1, B2

1. 150+ adults.

Probable the most important area in Azerbaijan and the Transcaucasus for *Tetraogallus capitus*, a species restricted to the Eurasian high-montane biome. Other breeding birds include *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Circaetus gallicus* (possibly breeds), *Aquila chrysaetos*, *Falco peregrinus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Alectoris chukar* and *Melanocorypha bimaculata*. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (status uncertain).

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Among threats are intensive grazing and poaching, and the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia may also have had a deleterious impact (‘Other’ threat). A nature reserve (Zapovednik) was planned.

**Language** Agriculture

**Site description**

Low mountains of Karabakh ridge and Karabakh upland. More than half the site is covered by *Juniperus* forests, and there is mountain steppe in the north. The main land-use is sheep-grazing.

Habitats: Forest and woodland, Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland)

**Land-use** Agriculture

**Birds**

Species | Season | Year | Pop min | Pop max | Acc | Criteria
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
*Aegypius monachus* | Cinereous Vulture | R | — | 5 | — | — | A1

Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni*, *Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*, *Ciconia ciconia* and *C. nigra*, at least 14 raptor species and *Alectoris chukar* (very common) also breed. *Milvus milvus* is a very rare summer visitor and *Gypaetus barbatus* possibly breeds.

**Protection status**

National Partial International None

**IBA partly covered by Game Reserve.**

**Conservation issues**

**Shahbuz area**  
Admin region Shahbuz, Nakhichevan  
Coordinates 39°34’N 45°41’E  
Altitude 1,500–3,120 m  
Area 7,000 ha

**Site description**

High mountains of the Little Caucasus (including Mount Kukudag, 3,120 m) with alpine meadows, ravines, precipices, etc. and the Bichenek high-altitude forest. Land-uses include sheep- and cattle-grazing, and mining.

Habitats: Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest; mixed forest), Grassland (alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas (inland cliff)

**Land-use** Agriculture, Urban/industrial/transit

**Birds**

Species | Season | Year | Pop min | Pop max | Acc | Criteria
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
*Tetraogallus capitus* | Capitan Snowcock | R | — | 20 | — | — | A1, B2

The alpine and subalpine zones support at least one of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus*. Other breeding raptors include *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Aquila chrysaetos* (possibly breeds) and *Bubo bubo*.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Intensive grazing is a threat and the war with Armenia is likely to have caused damage (‘Other’ threat). This IBA contains the only forest in the Nakhichevan region. A nature reserve is planned.

**Language** Partial

**Site description**

The wildest part of Nakhichevan: high mountains of the Zangezur (including Mount Kamydyjik, at 3,904 m) with rocky slopes, cliffs, ravines, alpine meadows. There are also low, semi-arid mountains and some areas of semi-desert. Land-uses include grazing (intensive), some agriculture and mining.

Habitats: Desert (semi-desert), Grassland (alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; inland cliff)

**Land-use** Agriculture, Urban/industrial/transit

**Birds**

The alpine and subalpine zones support at least two of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus*, *Aquila heliaca* (probably...
breeds), Falco naumanni. Raptors also breeding at this site include Gypaetus barbatus, Neophron percnopterus and Gyps fulvus. Among breeding passerines are Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, Irania gutturalis and Bucanetes githagineus (B. mongolicus was also locally numerous in 1969–1970).

### Protection status
National High International None

40,000 ha of IBA covered by Game Reserve.

### Conservation issues

Threats include poaching, overgrazing and potential damage from the war with Armenia (‘Other’ threat). The Game Reserve, where only hunting is prohibited, was established primarily for the conservation of Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax and certain mammals. Virtually unexplored by ornithologists.

### Site description
Low, semi-arid mountain surrounded by undulating semi-arid plain, steep slopes, rocky area, some bushes.

#### Habitats
- Desert (semi-desert), Rocky areas (scree/boulders), Scrub (scrub)

#### Land-use
- Agriculture

### Birds
Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Falco naumanni. Aquila nipalensis also occurs on passage. Status uncertain: Chlamydotis undulata (recorded here in early 19th century; unconfirmed reports of irregular occurrence in late 1980s), Apus affinis (possibly breeds; occasional records in Nakichevan, including at this site, following late 19th century observations elsewhere in Azerbaijan).

#### Protection status
National None International None

#### Conservation issues

Threats include overgrazing and poaching. A nature reserve (Zapovednik) was planned.

### Site description

The highest peak in Azerbaijan and part of the mountain lying in Dagestan (Russia). Habitats range from broadleafed woodland up to the zone of eternal snow.

#### Habitats
- Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest; native coniferous forest; mixed forest; treeline ecotone), Grassland (alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas (scree/boulders)

#### Land-use
- Agriculture, Tourism/recreation

### Birds
This site supports a rich diversity of typical mountain birds, including at least four of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome, as well as raptors (Gypaetus barbatus, Gyps fulvus, Neophron percnopterus, Aquila chrysaetos) and such passerines as Phoenicurus erythrogaster. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aegypius monachus.

#### Protection status
National None International None

#### Conservation issues

Threats include sheep-grazing and some poaching. A National Park was planned.

### Site description

One of the highest mountains in Azerbaijan (4,243 m) with ravines, cliffs, alpine and subalpine meadows, glaciers and eternal snow. Land-uses include sheep-grazing and mountaineering.

#### Habitats
- Grassland (alpine/subalpine/boreal grassland), Rocky areas (scree/boulders; inland cliff)

#### Land-use
- Agriculture, Tourism/recreation
The alpine and subalpine zones support at least four of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome. The site also supports breeding raptors (Gypaetus barbatus, Gyps fulvus, etc.) and, among passerines, Cinclus cinclus, Phoenicurus erythrogaster and Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aegypius monachus (possibly breeds), Aquila heliaca (possibly breeds).

**Protection status**
National None International None

**Conservation issues**
Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)
Threats include intensive grazing and some poaching. There was a plan to designate the area as a National Park.

### Kusari (Gusari) area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admin region Kusari</th>
<th>Coordinates 41°29’N 48°23’E</th>
<th>Altitude 200–1,500 m</th>
<th>Area 15,000 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Site description**
Flooded with water from the Samur, which extends into Dagestan (Russia). Sand beaches along Caspian coast have been largely lost (inundated) since mid-1980s—a few pebble beaches remain. Main land-uses around, and to some extent within, forest patches are crop-growing and cattle-grazing, while increasing numbers of tourists and others frequent the Caspian coast.

**Habitats**
Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Wetland (shingle/estuary river; river/stream)

**Land-use**
Agriculture, Tourism/recreation

**Birds**
Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Haliaeetus albicilla (1–2 breeding pairs still present on the Dagestan side of this site). Other breeding species include Ciconia nigra, Aquila pomarina, Alcedo atthis (30+ pairs), and Coracias garrulus (50+ pairs).

There is a congregation of seabirds off the delta from July to August (some thousands, but never counted) including Pelecanus sp. (some tens).

**Protection status**
National None International None

**Conservation issues**
Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Recreation/tourism (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

Threats come from fragmentation of the forests for agriculture and disturbance from tourism. There is also some poaching.

### Divichi liman (or Lake Akzibir)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admin region Divichi</th>
<th>Coordinates 41°19’N 49°05’E</th>
<th>Altitude (-27) to (-27) m</th>
<th>Area 7,000 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Site description**
A shallow (0.5–1.2 m) lake with vast reedbeds on its western side in the Khachmas coastal lowland. It is leased by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. The lake area varies from 1,600 to 7,000 ha depending on irrigation and rainfall.

**Habitats**
Wetland (100%; standing fresh water; water-fringe vegetation)

**Land-use**
Futters/ aquaculture, Hunting

**Birds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>A1, A4i, B1i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanus crispus</td>
<td>Dalmatian Pelican</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A1, A4i, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platalea leucorodia</td>
<td>Spoonbill</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>A1, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cygnus cygnus</td>
<td>Whooper Swan</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>A1, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyasa leuccephala</td>
<td>White-headed Duck</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirundo rustica</td>
<td>Black-winged Swift</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>B1i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurvirostra avosetta</td>
<td>Avocet</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gareola pratincola</td>
<td>Collared Pratincole</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tringa stagnatilis</td>
<td>Marsh Sandpiper</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>A1, B1i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xenus cinereus</td>
<td>Black Sandpiper</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B1i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Early October.
2. August–October.
3. November and March.
4. Some tens in November.
5. August.
6. August–September.

Among breeding species are large colonies of herons (including Botaurus stellaris, Ixobrychus minutus and Ardea purpurea). Porzana parva and Porphyrio porphyrio also breed. The site is especially important for the autumn migration of waterbirds, more than 70,000–80,000 pass each year, with about 5,000 wildfowl wintering (Anas platyrhynchos, A. clypeata, A. crecca, A. querquedula, A. strepera, Aythya fuligula, Netta rufina), and up to 5,000 Fulica atra.

**Protection status**
National None International None

**Conservation issues**
Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

There is threats from agriculture and foreshore exploitation (U) affecting breeding the site.
### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Other (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The main threat comes from very intensive hunting, this being one of the most visited sites in Azerbaijan (about 225,000 shots per year). There are frequent changes in the water-level (‘Other’ threat), and it was probably polluted by pesticides from agricultural run-off.

### Site description

One of the four highest peaks of the Great Caucasus in Azerbaijan. Habitats include ravines, subalpine meadows, rock, mountain forests (on south-western slopes only). There are some abandoned orchards on the southern slopes. Part of the area is leased by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan.

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrao mlokosiewiczii</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetraogallus caucasicus</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Snowcock</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

Subalpine meadows are damaged by intensive grazing and poaching is a further threat. There is a hunting lodge near the mountain.

### Site description

The subalpine and alpine zones support at least two of the 10 species in Europe that are restricted (when breeding) to the Eurasian high-montane biome. Breeding species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (3–4 pairs). Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: *Gypaetus barbatus* (1+ pair), *Neophron percnopterus* (4–5 pairs), *Gyps fulvus* (8–10 pairs) and *Bubo bubo* (2+ pairs).

### Protection status

**National** Partial **International** None

IBA partly covered by Game Reserve (Ismailly).

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Snowcock</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Other (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

Over 100 species typical of upland forests have been recorded. Breeding birds include raptores, *Coracias garrulus* and woodpeckers, *Dryocopus martius* being rare.

### Protection status

**National** High **International** None

5,778 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Ismailly goryhy, 5,778 ha).

### Site description

Low mountains on the easternmost part of the Great Caucasus. Most of the site is forested and there are also areas of steppe and numerous small lakes.

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraaetus pennatus</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A preliminary survey found more than 65 species, including 20 raptors. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (2+ pairs), *Falco naumanni* (breeds), *Tetrao mlokosiewiczii* (very rare, possibly breeds), *Crex crex* (common on passage). Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: *Hieraaetus pennatus* (6+ pairs). *Aquila nipalensis* is common on migration.

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Unknown

Secondary meadows above 1,900 m were damaged by grazing before the reserve’s establishment in 1981.

### Site description

A reserve in three sections: the basin of the Kyrkbulak stream, Mount Pirgulu; wooded spurs east of Chagan. Habitats include open areas, ancient pasture, hay-meadows, cliffs, screr, open water, and *Carpinus, Fagus, and Quercus* forest.

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hieraaetus pennatus</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Aegypius monachus* (status uncertain), *Aquila heliaca* (status uncertain), *Coracias garrulus* (status uncertain) and *Hieraaetus pennatus* (status uncertain).

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Unknown

Threats probably include illegal tree-cutting and firewood-collection. Alty-Agach Zapovednik was established in 1990. Few field studies have been carried out at the site.

### Site description

A reserve lies on the southern slope of the Great Caucasus. Broadleaved forest (*Fagus, Carpinus, Quercus*, etc.) predominates, with only 227 ha of subalpine meadows. All land-uses are prohibited.

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila heliaca</td>
<td>Imperial Eagle</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Black Grouse</td>
<td></td>
<td>R</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian Snowcock</td>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. 30–40 adults.
uncertain). Breeding birds include: *Pernis apivorus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Gyps fulvus* (recorded in breeding season), *Buteo buteo*, *Hieraaetus pennatus*, *Alectoris chukar* and woodpeckers.

### Site description

Barda tugai forest

Admin region: Agdash, Barda

Coordinates: 40° 23’N 47° 22’E

Altitude: 0–100 m

Area: 4,000 ha

Habitats: Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (scrub), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream)

Land-use: Agriculture, Forestry

### Conservation issues

**Threats**

Unknown

Prior to the establishment of the reserve (1968), the main threat was destruction of the forest habitat and consequent erosion. The present reserve is considered too small (an increase by c.4,000 ha is recommended) and its division into three separate sections a disadvantage. The fauna, including birds, has been little studied.

### Site description

The site encompasses tugai forest (mainly *Populus* and *Salix*), along the meandering Kura river. This is one of the two last big areas of this habitat in Azerbaijan. The main land-uses are forestry and agriculture (including grazing).

Habitats: Artificial landscape (arable land), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (scrub), Wetland (standing fresh water; river/stream)

Land-use: Agriculture, Forestry

### Birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accipiter brevipes</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levant Sparrowhawk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falco naumanni</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franchinus franzolinus</td>
<td>Black Francolin</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Haliaeetus albicilla* (formerly bred; 3–5 birds winter), *Aquila heliaca* (probably breeds) and *Crex crex* (uncommon on passage). Significant proportion (21%) of national population breeding at site: *Ciconia nigra* (2+ pairs), *Coracias garrulus* (50+ pairs) and both *Dendrocopos syriacus* and *D. medius* are common.

### Protection status

National: None

International: None

### Conservation issues

**Threats**

Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Firewood collection (U), Other (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The main threats are illegal tree-felling (*‘Other’ threat*), firewood-collection, grazing and poaching. The area is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Forestry. The area is partly an unprotected game reserve. A nature reserve was planned.

### Lake Aggel

Admin region: Agjabed

Coordinates: 40° 05’N 47° 40’E

Altitude — Area: 9,173 ha

### Site description

Shallow (0.5–3.0 m) saline lake (freshwater in the past) with vast *Phragmites*, *Typha* and *Scirpus* beds, open-water areas linked by channels through reeds, together with saltmarsh fringes and semi-desert islands with *Salix*, etc., lying between the Kura and Aras rivers. Surrounding Mil steppe is slightly undulating alluvial plain with semi-desert and desert vegetation. The wetland area has recently decreased in size, having previously increased from 4,400 ha to 10,000 ha as a result of receiving water from irrigation systems. This wetland, together with lakes Boz Koba (IBA 010) and Sarysu (IBA 032), forms the water-body system of the Mil steppe.

### Protection status

National: None

International: None

### Conservation issues

**Threats**

Aquaculture/fisheries, Drainage

The main threats are fluctuations in the water area and salinity, including the artificial lowering of the water-level in a quarter of the lake in order to create sheep pastures, and the drowning of birds in fishing nets. There is some poaching, but this does not constitute a serious threat. A Zakaznik of 9,173 ha was established in 1964, 4,400 ha being designated as a Zakaznik in 1978 (expanded to 7,000 ha in 1988 or 1989). It is recommended that the size of the reserve be increased by 2,500 ha, creating a buffer zone c.500 m wide, that commercial fishing should cease, and that fresh water be fed into the lake and other measures implemented to stabilize the hydrological regime. Lake Aggel is probably the most important wetland in Azerbaijan since Kızıl Ağach (IBA 048) lost some of its importance as a wintering site.

### Lake Boz-Koba

Admin region: Agjabed

Coordinates: 40° 02’N 47° 53’E

Altitude — Area: 4,000 ha

### Site description

A chain of oxbow lakes and channels in the ancient valley of the Kura river uniting to form a single lake in flood and lying between lakes Aggel (IBA 030) and Sarysu (IBA 032), and containing shallows, vast reedbeds and sparse *Tamarix* scrub. The main land-uses are legal hunting, oil extraction, grazing, etc. Part of the area is rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan, and part is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Oil.

### Protection status

National: None

International: None

### Conservation issues

**Threats**

Agriculture, Hunting, Urban/industrial/transport

The main threats are habitat loss, including the artificial lowering of the water-level in a quarter of the lake in order to create sheep pastures, and the drowning of birds in fishing nets. There is some poaching, but this does not constitute a serious threat. A Zakaznik of 9,173 ha was established in 1964, 4,400 ha being designated as a Zakaznik in 1978 (expanded to 7,000 ha in 1988 or 1989). It is recommended that the size of the reserve be increased by 2,500 ha, creating a buffer zone c.500 m wide, that commercial fishing should cease, and that fresh water be fed into the lake and other measures implemented to stabilize the hydrological regime. Lake Aggel is probably the most important wetland in Azerbaijan since Kızıl Ağach (IBA 048) lost some of its importance as a wintering site.
One of the best sites for waterbirds in the interior of Azerbaijan with 70,000–80,000 in years with good conditions (usually 40,000–50,000) in the beginning of winter. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aythya nyroca (30+ pairs), Haliaeetus albicilla (formerly bred, 2–3 winter). Other breeding birds include herons (Ardeidae), shorebirds (Scolopacidae), gulls, terns, Goosander (Mergus merganser), and ducks, some also wintering, Caspian Tern (Sterna caspia) and Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator), both wintering, and White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons), which breeds nearby. Threats include poaching and pollution.

**Birds**

The partly reed-covered shores of the Artem Bay, near Baku, and small islands near the north-eastern coast of the Absheron Peninsula. Part of the bay is leased by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. Threats come from pollution of the bay, by the oil industry and (especially affecting Aythya fuligula) fishing nets. Yashma island has not been properly surveyed by ornithologists.

**Site description**

A low sandy island at the Absheron Peninsula. There are shallows with patches of reeds. The island and the adjacent mainland shore are rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats including poaching (alongside legal hunting), and pesticide run-off from cotton fields is also a problem. Lake Sarysu undoubtedly merits protection and designation as a Ramsar Site (since it supports at least 20,000 waterbirds and eight species meet the ≥1% population criterion).

**Birds**

Undoubtedly a site of great significance for waterbirds with 10,000–20,000 birds wintering in the late 1980s (although formerly 40,000–50,000). Breeding waterbirds include Botaurus stellaris, Isabeychus minutus and colonies of other Ciconiiformes totalling 1,000+ pairs. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Phalacrocorax pygmeus (breeds), Pelecanus crispus (the last site in Azerbaijan where this species bred; formerly 5–15 pairs, could still survive), Marmaronetta angustirostris (breeds), Oxyura leucocephala (non-breeding winter visitor), Haliaeetus albicilla (non-breeding, 2–3 winter). Other breeding birds include Tadorna ferruginea, Circus pygargus, Fringillus francolinus, Porphyrio porphyrio, Chettusia leucura and passerines.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats include poaching and pollution.

**Lake Sarysu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A1, A4i, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pygmy Cormorant</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A system of saline lakes with vast reedbeds, 3 areas of open water (the eastern by far the largest), a few small islands, shallows, etc.; the bottom is covered by Potamogeton. Formerly connected to the Kura river during the spring flood, but water-levels are now dependent on irrigation channels. Most of the site is rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. There is also fishing (including with nets), grazing and oil extraction.

**Site description**

A system of saline lakes with vast reedbeds, 3 areas of open water (the eastern by far the largest), a few small islands, shallows, etc.; the bottom is covered by Potamogeton. Formerly connected to the Kura river during the spring flood, but water-levels are now dependent on irrigation channels. Most of the site is rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. There is also fishing (including with nets), grazing and oil extraction.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats include poaching and pollution.

**Birds**

One of the best sites for waterbirds in the interior of Azerbaijan with 70,000–80,000 in years with good conditions (usually 40,000–50,000) in the beginning of winter. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Aythya nyroca (30+ pairs), Haliaeetus albicilla (formerly bred, 2–3 winter). Other breeding birds include herons (Ardeidae), shorebirds (Himantopus himantopus, Chettusia leucura, etc.), Francolinus francolinus and Alectroathrix. Phoenicopterus ruber is a rare visitor throughout the year and Asio flammeus occurs rarely in winter.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)
in some years), investigations have been carried out.

Birds

Protection status
National None International None

Conservation issues
Threats Industrialization/urbanization (U), Recreation/tourism (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The area suffers from pollution by oil and industrial waste, disturbance from recreation and intensive hunting, including the use of power-boats for poaching (especially for Cygnus, Fulica atra, etc.). Few field investigations have been carried out.

Shah Cape
(Shakhova Kosa)
Admin region Baku
Coordinates 40*17’N 50*20’E
Altitude (-27) to (-27) m Area 500 ha

Site description
The site is the tip of the Absheron peninsula near Baku, formerly with sandy beaches, about a third of which was flooded as the level of the Caspian Sea rose during the 1980s. The flooded area is now being colonized by reeds. All land-uses are prohibited.

Habitats Wetland (100%; sand-dunes/sand beach; water-fringe vegetation)
Land-use Nature conservation/research

Birds

Protection status
National High International None

Conservation issues

Although the whole site is protected as a Game Reserve (for waterbirds, Caspian Seal Phoca caspica and reintroduced Gostred gazelle Gazella subgutturosa), which is owned by the Azerbaijan Committee for Nature Conservation, heavy poaching is a threat.

Lake Krasnoyёe and other water-bodies of the Absheron peninsula
Admin region —
Coordinates 40*20’N 49*45’E
Altitude (-27) to (-27) m Area —

Site description
In the 1920s, Puta Bay of the Caspian Sea was dyked and partly land-claimed. The remaining water-body was known thereafter as Lake Krasnoyёe (Ozero Krasnoyёe) or Kizilgel.

Habitats Wetland
Land-use Unknown

Birds

In the early 1940s, ducks, Fulica atra and Phoenicopterus ruber wintered at Lake Krasnoyёe. Some stands of Typha were present there then (Vereshchagin 1946, 1950). In the late 1980s, the lake no longer supported any emergent vegetation. A chemical factory was constructed on its shores, causing severe water pollution. However, 140 Oxyura leucocephala were seen at Lake Krasnoyёe in February 1998 (P. Cranswick et al. 1998).

Site description
Apart from the Oxyura leucocephala data in 1998 no up-to-date information is available on the conservation status of the lake.

Mount Kargabazar
Mount Gush-gaya
Admin region Maraza
Coordinates 40*22’N 49*20’E
Altitude 200–284 m Area 3,000 ha

Site description
An area of low, rocky mountains in the semi-desert of Gobustan upland. Land-uses include intensive sheep-grazing and some oil exploration.

Gobustan area
Admin region Karadag, Maraza
Coordinates 40*11’N 49*22’E
Altitude 0–200 m Area 5,000 ha

Site description
Low, semi-arid mountains, including the flat summits of Beukdash, Kichikdash, Kagnizdag, Djingirdag and the dry stream of Djerankhezme. Some trees and bushes on the eastern slopes (wild Pyrus, Ficus, Punica, etc.). Quarrying for limestone has taken place in the past.

Habitats Desert (semi-desert), Forest and woodland (wooded desert/semi-desert), Rocky areas (scrubland), Scrub (scrubland)
Land-use Agriculture, Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

Protection status
National None International None

Conservation issues
Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The main threat is overgrazing. There is also some poaching.

Lake Krasnoyёe and other water-bodies of the Absheron peninsula
Admin region —
Coordinates 40*20’N 49*45’E
Altitude (-27) to (-27) m Area —

Site description
In the 1920s, Puta Bay of the Caspian Sea was dyked and partly land-claimed. The remaining water-body was known thereafter as Lake Krasnoyёe (Ozero Krasnoyёe) or Kizilgel.

Habitats Wetland
Land-use Unknown

Birds

In the early 1940s, ducks, Fulica atra and Phoenicopterus ruber wintered at Lake Krasnoyёe. Some stands of Typha were present there then (Vereshchagin 1946, 1950). In the late 1980s, the lake no longer supported any emergent vegetation. A chemical factory was constructed on its shores, causing severe water pollution. However, 140 Oxyura leucocephala were seen at Lake Krasnoyёe in February 1998 (P. Cranswick et al. 1998).

Protection status
National Unknown International None

Conservation issues
Threats Industrialization/urbanization (A)

Apart from the Oxyura leucocephala data in 1998 no up-to-date information is available on the conservation status of the lake.

Mount Kargabazar
Mount Gush-gaya
Admin region Maraza
Coordinates 40*22’N 49*20’E
Altitude 200–284 m Area 3,000 ha

Site description
An area of low, rocky mountains in the semi-desert of Gobustan upland. Land-uses include intensive sheep-grazing and some oil exploration.

Gobustan area
Admin region Karadag, Maraza
Coordinates 40*11’N 49*22’E
Altitude 0–200 m Area 5,000 ha

Site description
Low, semi-arid mountains, including the flat summits of Beukdash, Kichikdash, Kagnizdag, Djingirdag and the dry stream of Djerankhezme. Some trees and bushes on the eastern slopes (wild Pyrus, Ficus, Punica, etc.). Quarrying for limestone has taken place in the past.

Habitats Desert (semi-desert), Forest and woodland (wooded desert/semi-desert), Rocky areas (scrubland), Scrub (scrubland)
Land-use Agriculture, Urban/industrial/transport

Birds

Protection status
National None International None

Conservation issues
Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The main threat is overgrazing. There is also some poaching.

Lake Krasnoyёe and other water-bodies of the Absheron peninsula
Admin region —
Coordinates 40*20’N 49*45’E
Altitude (-27) to (-27) m Area —

Site description
In the 1920s, Puta Bay of the Caspian Sea was dyked and partly land-claimed. The remaining water-body was known thereafter as Lake Krasnoyёe (Ozero Krasnoyёe) or Kizilgel.

Habitats Wetland
Land-use Unknown

Birds

In the early 1940s, ducks, Fulica atra and Phoenicopterus ruber wintered at Lake Krasnoyёe. Some stands of Typha were present there then (Vereshchagin 1946, 1950). In the late 1980s, the lake no longer supported any emergent vegetation. A chemical factory was constructed on its shores, causing severe water pollution. However, 140 Oxyura leucocephala were seen at Lake Krasnoyёe in February 1998 (P. Cranswick et al. 1998).

Protection status
National Unknown International None

Conservation issues
Threats Industrialization/urbanization (A)

Apart from the Oxyura leucocephala data in 1998 no up-to-date information is available on the conservation status of the lake.
Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Fulica atra* (non-breeding; rare winter visitor). Breeding species include *Buteo rufinus*, *Alectoris chukar* (rare), *Cercotrichas galactotes*, *Oenanthe pleschanka*, *Oenanthe finschii*, *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, *Petronia petronia* and *Emberiza melanocephala*.

### Protection status
National Partial International None

IBA partly covered by Nature Monument (Gobustan Nature Monument, 4,400 ha).

### Conservation issues
- **Threats**: Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Disturbance to birds (U), Recreation/tourism (U)

Threats come from sheep- and cattle-grazing, and disturbance from tourists and low-flying military aircraft. The central and southern part of the IBA is covered wholly, and the northern section partly, by the Gobustan Nature Monument. The area is a Nature Monument (virtually unprotected), established to safeguard archaeological artifacts.

### Site description
A bay in the Caspian Sea with sandy beaches many of which are becoming overgrown with reeds and typical coastal vegetation. Part of the bay is rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. There is a military base and the area was formerly important for oil production, although only half of the derricks are now used.

#### Habitations
- Wetland (100%; sand-dunes/und beach; water-fringe vegetation)
- Land-use: Hunting, Military, Urban/industrial/transport

#### Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Cypurus cygnus</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooper Swan</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>B1i</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Cypurus cygnus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whooper Swan</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A4i, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Netta rufina</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-crested Pochard</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A4i</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aytha fulgida</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tufted Duck</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>A4i, B1i</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Fulica atra</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>B1i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The site is notable for staging and wintering wildfowl and *Fulica atra*. At least 20,000 diving ducks and 30,000 *Fulica atra* stage here every autumn. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Pelecanus onocrotalus* (200–300 per year), *Plegadis falcinellus* (500+), *Himantopus himantopus* (200+), *Sterna caspia* (August).

### Protection status
National None International None

### Conservation issues
- **Threats**: Industrialization/urbanization (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The area suffers from pollution (oil and other industrial waste) and some poaching—its proximity to Baku makes it very popular with hunters. It is rarely visited by ornithologists, however, and there have been no systematic studies.

### Site description
The largest island of the Baku archipelago, Glynnanyi is volcanic in origin and almost devoid of vegetation, because of its large rabbit population.

### Protection status
National Partial International None

IBA covered by Game Reserve.

### Conservation issues
- **Threats**: Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The island is a protected Game Reserve, with no access during the breeding season, except to scientists. Hunting is prohibited, but there are frequent violations, and egg-collecting is a major threat.

#### Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pop min</th>
<th>Pop max</th>
<th>Acc</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxyura leucocephala</em></td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>A1i</td>
<td>A4i, B1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-headed Duck</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Although this lake had relatively few reed stands, many waterbirds rest there in winter (e.g. *Anas platyrhynchos*, diving ducks and sometimes *Fulica atra*). In the past, good numbers of species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *Alectoris chukar*, *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950). *A. albifrons*, *A. erythropus* and *Branta ruficollis* were recorded resting during the day after feeding in the Shirvan steppe. The three *Anser* species still occur at Lake Hadjikabul, but their numbers are very low (Vereshchagin 1950).

### Site description
The Pirsagat islands (six main limestone ones and many smaller rocks) form part of the Baku archipelago (which also includes the volcanic Los island) and extend as a chain from the Cape of Pirsagat into the Caspian Sea. They are rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan. There was formerly oil-drilling on Los island.
A total of about 5,500–6,000 pairs of seabird breed; 4,000+ on Pelikanyi, 1,000+ on Baburayi, 300 on Los. Gulls in 1989 included 28 pairs of Larus melanocephalus (the only colony in the Caspian Sea) and other breeding terns in the same year were Gelochelidon nilotica (75 pairs; first recorded breeding in Azerbaijan), Sterna hirundo (1,000+ pairs) and S. albifrons (25 pairs). Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Branta ruficollis (vagrant, probably a common migrant formerly).

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats: Disturbance to birds (U), Industrialization/urbanization (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U).

Threats come from egg-collection, disturbance caused to breeding birds by fishermen, hunting (autumn) and pollution from the oil industry.

**Site description**

An alluvial plain extending inland from the Caspian Sea. Predominantly dry semi-desert steppe with Artemesia and a high diversity of grasses. Canals run across the steppe and there are also saline lakes. The Shorgel lakes, with their rich aquatic vegetation, are fed by irrigation water. Part (c.3,500 ha) of this wetland lies within the reserve, the remainder extending into a contiguous Zakaznik.

**Habitats**

Grassland (40%; steppe/dry calcareous grassland), Wetland (standing brackish water; water-fringe vegetation)

**Land-use**

Nature conservation/research

**Birds**

Species | Season | Year | Pop min | Pop max | Acc | Criteria
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Cygnus cygnus | Whooper Swan | W | 500 | 1,000 | A4i, B1i | 1. Cantact with nesting site
Glaerola pratincola | Collared Pratincole | B | 1989 | 80 | 90 | A4i, B1i, B2
Sterna sandvicensis | Sandwich Tern | B | 1989 | 4,000 | — | A4i, B1i

1. 500–600, also on migration. 2. First breeding in Azerbaijan since 1955.

Among breeding birds at this IBA are Ardea purpurea, Tadorna ferruginea, T. tadorna, Netta rufina, Circus aeruginosus, Francolinus francolinus, Burhinus oedicnemus, Charadrius alexandrinus and Gelochelidon nilotica. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria (all observed in winter): Anser erythropus (27 in 1996), Aysegypus monachus, Halauetus albicilla, Aquila heliaca. Other wintering birds include Phoenicopterus roseus (200–300), also wildfowl (Cygnus cygnus and others), Fulica atra, etc. Report of 20,000–35,000 wintering wildfowl, while 150,000–200,000 stage at the site in autumn. Aquila nipalensis also occurs on passage.

**Protection status**

National High International None

26,000 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Shirvan goryhy, 26,000 ha). Zakaznik of 22,000 ha adjacent.

**Conservation issues**

Threats: Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Aquaculture/fisheries (U), Disturbance to birds (U), Extraction industry (U).

The chief threats are grazing by sheep (100,000 sheep graze in the reserve legally, a condition under which the reserve was gazetted) and, more recently, cattle, leading to destruction of goose pastures; continuing oil extraction and fishing (fishermen’s camps are located within the Zapovednik and the Zakaznik), pollution of some lakes by pesticides and disturbance by shepherds. The oil-drilling operation should be isolated from the reserve. Shirvan Reserve (Zapovednik) was established in 1969 partly within the Byandovan Zakaznik, the aim being to give better protection to the Goitred Gazelle Gazella subgutturosa. Some new facilities have been built and the site has considerable education potential.

**Mugan steppe**

Admin region Salairny, Imishli, Pushkin, Saatly, Sabirabad

Coordinates 39°38′N 48°34′E

Altitude 0–100 m Area 100,000 ha

**Site description**

A semi-desert plain, cut across by many irrigation channels, with pastures and, to a lesser extent, cotton fields.

**Habitats**

Artificial landscape (arable land), Desert (semi-desert)

**Land-use**

Agriculture

**Birds**

Species | Season | Year | Pop min | Pop max | Acc | Criteria
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Tetrax tetrax | Little Bustard | W | — | 10,000 | 30,000 | A1

1. Peak numbers in October–November, some may disperse to the south.

Certainly the most important area for wintering Tetrax tetrax in Azerbaijan, probably also in the former USSR; discovered only in 1989. Breeding species include Ciconia ciconia (in some villages), Francolinus francolinus (rare, in scrub along channels), Burhinus oedicnemus, Merops superciliolus (common) and larks (Alaudidae). Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: Branta ruficollis (formerly very common winter visitor, now very rare and not annual), Otis tarda (very rare winter visitor, not annual). Aquila nipalensis is common on migration, when Grus grus and Anthropoides virgo also occur.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

Threats: Disturbance to birds (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

Main threats are poaching and disturbance of Tetrax tetrax by shepherds and other local people.

**Lake Mahmud-chala**

Admin region Massally, Pushkin, Djalilabad

Coordinates 39°25′N 48°40′E

Altitude — Area 4,000 ha

**Site description**

A shallow saline lake (depth 0.5–2.0 m) with a few small islands. Reedbeds cover large parts of the lake, especially in the central and southern parts. There are some Tamaria groves (largely flooded) along the southern shore. The lake is surrounded by saltwort Salsoia semi-desert in the south and cotton fields in the north; there are also some saltmarshes. The lake is rented by the Hunters’ Society of Azerbaijan and sheep graze the edges.
This is an important site for breeding waterbirds, totalling 12,000–15,000 pairs. Species of global conservation concern that do not meet IBA criteria: *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (summer visitor, possibly breeds; 1 bird also winter 1996), *Aythya nyroca* (5+ pairs), *Oxyura leucocephala* (occasional in winter). Terns and shorebirds (including *Charadrius alexandrinus* and *Tringa leuconota*) also occur. Winter waterbird numbers range from 10,000 to 40,000, or more.

### Conservation issues

Poverty caused by pesticide run-off from cotton fields threatens both breeding and wintering birds. Threats also include intensive hunting, trampling of nests on islands by buffaloes grazing in water and the effects of fluctuating water-levels (dependent on watering of cotton fields further north) on the timing of breeding by Pelecaniformes and Ciconiiformes (*Other* threat, above). In supporting at least 20,000 waterbirds and at least 1% of the regional population of three species (*Anas penelope*, *A. clypeata*, *Aythya ferina*), the IBA qualifies for designation as a Ramsar Site.

### Site description

Delta of the Kura, the largest river in the Transcaucasus, with reedbeds, flooded areas, bushes and shallows. Land-uses include hunting, fishing, grazing and fish-ponds. To the south there are oil fields. Flooded areas, bushes and shallows. Land-uses include hunting, fishing, grazing and fish-ponds. To the south there are oil fields. Wetlands in Azerbaijan despite its proximity to Kizil Agach Zapovednik (*IBA 048*). A very shallow lake (0.5–1.0 m in depth) which is mainly covered by reeds. It occasionally dries out in very hot years, but can flood the surrounding area during autumn rains. The water-level is also affected by irrigation. Land-use includes grazing domestic cattle and buffaloes.

### Protection status

National None International None

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

The main threats are intensive poaching and contamination of the lake by pesticide run-off from cotton fields. The IBA is immediately adjacent to a Zapovednik (*Kizil Agach, 88,360 ha*), but there is no overlap and so the lake is not protected. One of the least-known wetlands in Azerbaijan despite its proximity to Kizil Agach Zapovednik (which has scientific staff).

### Site description

Adjacent to Kizil Agach Zapovednik (*IBA 048*). A very shallow lake (0.5–1.0 m in depth) which is mainly covered by reeds. It occasionally dries out in very hot years, but can flood the surrounding area during autumn rains. The water-level is also affected by irrigation. Land-use includes grazing domestic cattle and buffaloes.

### Protection status

National None International None

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

### Site description

Kizil Agach Bay, an open bay connected to the Caspian, and Kichik (Little) Kizil Agach Bay, which is a freshwater reservoir separated from the sea by an artificial dam and is greatly silted-up and overgrown. The relief is characterized by alternating low ridges, open hollows and ancient, silted-up channels. Emergent vegetation includes beds of *Phragmites*, *Scirpus* and *Juncus*. Adjacent, low-lying semi-desert areas with *Atemisia*, *Salsola* and dry scrub with *Rubus*.

### Protection status

National None International None

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

### Site description

Kizil Agach, 88,360 ha), but there is no overlap and so the lake is not protected. One of the least-known wetlands in Azerbaijan despite its proximity to Kizil Agach Zapovednik (which has scientific staff).

### Protection status

National None International None

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Industrialization/urbanization (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)

### Site description

An open bay connected to the Caspian, and Kichik (Little) Kizil Agach Bay, which is a freshwater reservoir separated from the sea by an artificial dam and is greatly silted-up and overgrown. The relief is characterized by alternating low ridges, open hollows and ancient, silted-up channels. Emergent vegetation includes beds of *Phragmites*, *Scirpus* and *Juncus*. Adjacent, low-lying semi-desert areas with *Atemisia*, *Salsola* and dry scrub with *Rubus*.

### Protection status

National None International None

### Conservation issues

**Threats** Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Industrialization/urbanization (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)
Important Bird Areas in Europe – Azerbaijan

**Birds**

The IBAs holds the largest colonies of Pelicaniformes and Ciconiiformes in Europe, though there has been a decline: from 250,000 pairs of 10 species in 1957 to c.60,000 pairs in the 1980s. Other breeding species include Botaurus stellaris, Ardea purpurea, Tadorna ferruginea, Himantopus himantopus, Chlidonias leucopterus, and including the use of power-boats. This is largely subsistence hunting essential to local people (lots of shot or netted ducks and Fulica atra are sold at the roadside), but complete refuges for waterbirds are urgently needed (Lake Kara Gush in the north of the Zapovednik serves to some extent as such a refuge, its boggy shores making access difficult). There was no indication in the early 1990s that any conservation measures were being taken by the Azerbaijani government to save Kizil Agach. Significant spawning grounds of several fish species are situated at this site. The reserve was initially (in 1926) designated as a Zakaznik, then (in 1929) as a Zapovednik (of 180,000 ha, later reduced to 132,500 ha and finally to 88,360 ha); the rest is Zakaznik or unprotected.

**Protection status**

National Partial International High

88,360 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Kizil Agach, 88,360 ha): includes larger bay and northern section (5,000 ha) of smaller bay. Southern part of smaller bay partly protected as a Zakaznik (10,700 ha). 132,500 ha of IBA covered by Ramsar Site (Kirov Bays, 132,500 ha).

**Habitats**

Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (scrub)

**Land-use**

Agriculture

**Conservation issues**

Removal of water for irrigation and regulation of water have created unfavourable conditions for waterbirds, with changes in the aquatic vegetation (submerged vegetation has changed since the 1960s with Potamogeton replacing Zostera). Outflow of water via many channels to the Caspian has led to the drying-out of habitats, causing birds to leave for Iran or the interior of Azerbaijan, while the rising sea-level may kill off freshwater habitats (‘Other’ threat). Water contaminated with pesticides flowing through the southern part of the reserve causes Tamaxis thicketes to dry out, thus threatening the colonies of Ciconiiformes, etc. there. Agricultural changes (from rice and grain to vegetables, grapes and cotton) have affected the availability of food for geese, but there are plans to improve the freshwater wintering sites for dabbling ducks, and fields have been sown with barley to attract the geese. The presence of fish-farms has adversely affected the surrounding steppe, which is now criss-crossed by channels, dams, and embankments and is gradually disappearing. In addition, there is disturbance and intensive hunting (several shots per minute in 1989), even involving reserve wardens and including the use of power-boats. This is largely subsistence hunting essential to local people (lots of shot or netted ducks and Fulica atra are sold at the roadside), but complete refuges for waterbirds are urgently needed (Lake Kara Gush in the north of the Zapovednik serves to some extent as such a refuge, its boggy shores making access difficult). There was no indication in the early 1990s that any conservation measures were being taken by the Azerbaijani government to save Kizil Agach. Significant breeding grounds of several fish species are situated at this site. The reserve was initially (in 1926) designated as a Zakaznik, then (in 1929) as a Zapovednik (of 180,000 ha, later reduced to 132,500 ha and finally to 88,360 ha); the rest is Zakaznik or unprotected.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

**Site description**

Broadleaved forests with bushes and scrub in the valley of the Vilajchai river, which flows eastwards from the Talysh mountains.

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

**Site description**

Semi-arid plateaus and mountains near the Iranian border with some broadleaved forests. The area, which has a high population density, was formerly part of the border zone, with all land-uses prohibited, but there is now intensive sheep-grazing and some forestry.

**Habitats**

Artificial landscape (other urban/industrial areas), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland)

**Land-use**

Agriculture, Forestry

**Conservation issues**

**Site description**

The main threats are intensive grazing, which prevents forest regeneration, poaching of Phasianus colchicus, and illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat).

**Protection status**

National None International None

**Conservation issues**

**Site description**

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**Land-use**

Agriculture, Forestry

**Conservation issues**

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**Habitats**

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**Land-use**

Agriculture, Forestry

**Conservation issues**

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Semi-arid plateaus and mountains near the Iranian border with some broadleaved forests. The area, which has a high population density, was formerly part of the border zone, with all land-uses prohibited, but there is now intensive sheep-grazing and some forestry.

**Habitats**

Artificial landscape (other urban/industrial areas), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland)

**Land-use**

Agriculture, Forestry

**Conservation issues**

**Site description**

Semi-arid plateaus and mountains near the Iranian border with some broadleaved forests. The area, which has a high population density, was formerly part of the border zone, with all land-uses prohibited, but there is now intensive sheep-grazing and some forestry.

**Habitats**

Artificial landscape (other urban/industrial areas), Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Grassland (steppe/dry calcareous grassland)

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**Land-use**

Agriculture, Forestry

**Conservation issues**
Among other breeding raptors at this site are Circus gularis, Buteo rufinus, Aquila chrysaetos and Bubo bubo. Alectoris chukar and Perdix perdix also breed, as do passerines such as Phoenicurus erythrogaster, Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, Carpodacus brachyactyla and Emberiza buchananii.

**Protection status**

National Partial International None

IBA partly covered by a Game Reserve.

**Conservation issues**

Threats Agricultural intensification/expansion (U), Other (U)

Threats come from grazing and some illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat).

**Site description**

Ancient broadleaved forests, mainly situated on the Ulyssy ridge, part of the Talysh mountains, but one small area (81 ha only) is in the lowlands. There is also a reservoir (400 ha).

**Habits**

Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Wetland (standing fresh water)

**Land-use** Unknown

**Birds**

Breeding birds include Ciconia nigra (probably still 1 pair), Hieraetus pennatus (1+ pair), Otus scops and four woodpeckers, Dendrocopos syriacus and D. medius being common. Milvus milvus: status uncertain, mainly a very rare winter visitor. The site holds a good representation of restricted-range subspecies (chiefly passerines).

**Protection status**

National Partial International None

2,900 ha of IBA covered by Zapovednik (Girkani goryhy, 2,900 ha).

## REFERENCES


**Conservation issues**

Threats Unknown

All land-uses are prohibited. Some illegal tree-cutting and firewood-collection take place, but this was not deemed a threat, nor were other threats evident, in 1991. The Girkan goryhy formerly called Girkansky Zapovednik, founded in 1936, is the only real nature reserve in the Talysh mountains.

**Site description**

Broadleaved forests and scrub in the Astara-chai valley. When part of the Soviet Union, the area had been within the restricted border zone, requiring a special pass to enter (‘Other’ land-use).

**Habits**

Forest and woodland (broadleaved deciduous forest), Scrub (scrub)

**Land-use** Other

**Birds**

The only area in Azerbaijan where the P. c. talishensis subspecies of Phasianus colchicus has a good chance of survival (up to 75 breeding pairs). Accipiter badius possibly breeds, though there have been no definite records since 1953. There are a number of restricted-range passerine subspecies. Significant proportion (≥1%) of national population breeding at site: Aquila pomarina (3+ pairs). Alecito atthis, Coracias garrulus and Dendropicos medius are all very common breeding birds. Milvus milvus is a rare visitor, especially in the winter, and possibly breeds.

**Protection status**

National None International None

Current threats include illegal tree-felling (‘Other’ threat) and poaching of Phasianus colchicus.

**Conservation issues**

Threats Other (U), Unsustainable exploitation (U)