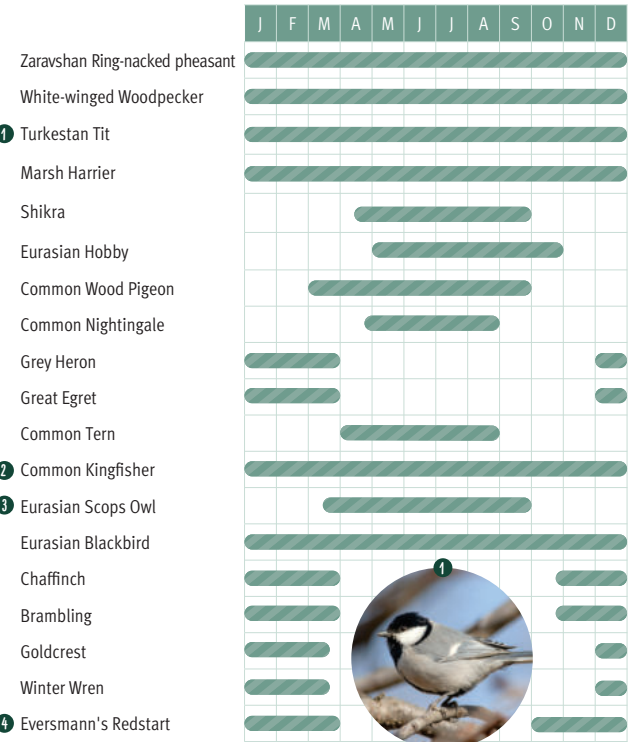
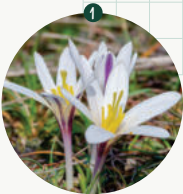
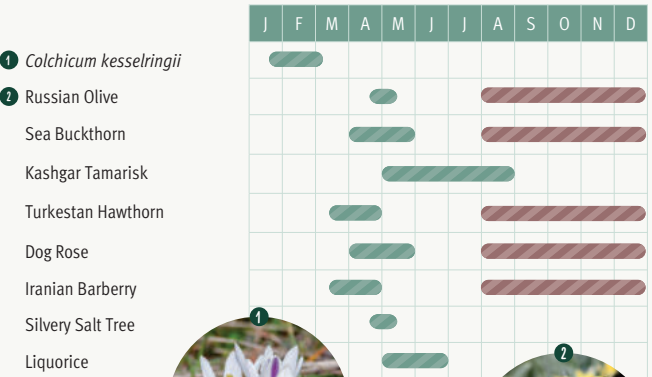


# Bird watching calendar



# Flowering and fruiting calendar



# Park's goals and objectives

- conserve and restore tugai forests, conduct research, carry out environmental education activities, and develop ecological tourism;
- restore and conserve populations of the **Bactrian red deer**, **Zaravshan ring-necked pheasant**, and **Central Asian otter**;
- protect other wildlife;
- protect all types of tugai vegetation, particularly **Asiatic poplar**, and **sea buckthorn**, a valuable medicinal shrub;
- restore the extinct **porcupine** population and facilitate the growth of the **steppe tortoise** population.



A HABITAT FOR DIVERSE BIRD SPECIES, SOME OF WHICH ARE RARE, THE ZARAFSHAN PARK ATTRACTS NUMEROUS BIRDWATCHERS ALL YEAR ROUND.

Zarafshan National Nature Park is open every day from 08:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Photos: N. Marmazinskaya, B. Mardonov, R. Granovskaya



Зарафшанский национальный природный парк  
zarafshonmilliytabiatbogi  
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ZARAFSHAN  
NATIONAL  
NATURE PARK



## History

strip of tugai forest reinforcing the banks of the Zarafshan River transferred to Samarkand Forestry Department

1948

territory designated Important Bird Area (IBA) of Uzbekistan

2008

1975

nature reserve established to protect the tugai forests and the Zarafshan subspecies of the common pheasant

2018

reserve restructured into Zarafshan National Nature Park

## Territory

The park's territory is a narrow strip 300 to 1,500 metres wide and 30 kilometres long stretching from the Tajik border along the Zarafshan River from north-west to south-east.

The protected area is 5,234 hectares. The tugai forest composed of various trees and shrubs occupies the entire “lower section” of the park 1,400 hectares in area. The rest of the territory from the lower section upstream to the Tajik border, to the junction of the Turkestan and Zarafshan Ranges, is called the “upper section” and consists of pebble semi-arid or semi-desert plains.

TUGAI IS A SPECIAL FORM OF FLOODPLAIN GALLERY FOREST IN CENTRAL ASIA GROWING ALONG THE BANKS OF PERMANENT RIVERS.



ZARAFSHAN RING-NECKED PHEASANT  
ENDEMIC TO THE ZARAFSHAN VALLEY LIVES  
IN THE PARK'S THICKETS.

## Vegetation

About 300 species of plants grow on the territory of the park. The dominating tree species making up the body of the Zarafshan tugai forest are the Asiatic poplar, Turkestan hawthorn, two willow species and the Russian olive. Shrubs are mainly represented by the Kashgar tamarisk, common salt tree and sea buckthorn.

## Animals

More than 200 species of birds can be observed in the Zarafshan Park in different seasons throughout the year. The impenetrable thickets of the tugai are an excellent shelter for birds and their nests.

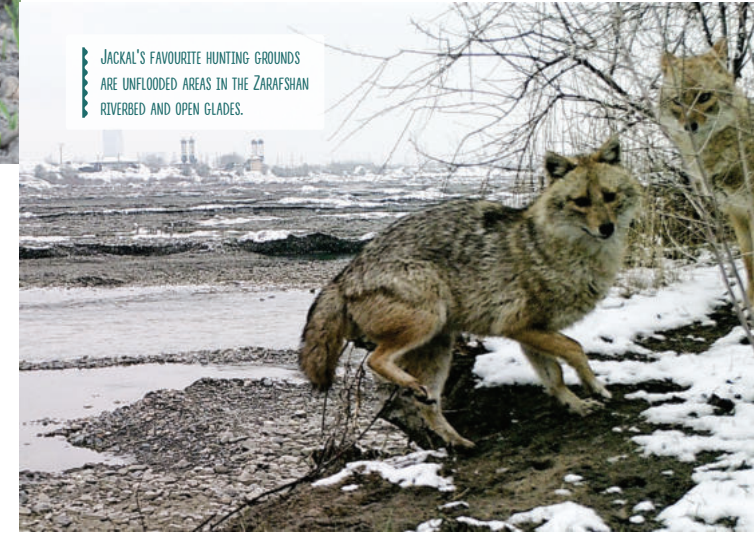
Predators such as the golden jackal<sup>1</sup>, Karagan fox<sup>2</sup>, steppe and jungle cats, badger, steppe polecat and occasionally the marbled polecat and weasel arrange their lairs in dense thickets.

The park is also home to the tolai hare<sup>3</sup>, long-eared hedgehog, and tamarisk jird. The largest inhabitant of the tugai forest in the Zarafshan Park is the Bactrian red deer, an endemic to Central Asia.



The specialists of the park get information about the species of animals that inhabit the territory, as well as about their numbers and lifestyle, from camera traps and during seasonal surveys.

JACKAL'S FAVOURITE HUNTING GROUNDS  
ARE UNFLOODED AREAS IN THE ZARAFSHAN  
RIVERBED AND OPEN GLADES.



## Rehabilitation centre

The Zarafshan Park has a small rehabilitation centre to breed species that once inhabited it and treat injured animals. Most often, it nurses large birds of prey.

STEPPE EAGLE, ONE OF THE “PATIENTS”  
IN THE REHABILITATION CENTRE.

