The Ornithological Society of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia (OSME)


A fuller explanation is given in Explanation of the ORL, but briefly. Bright green shading of a row (eg Syrian Ostrich) indicates former presence of a taxon in the OSME Region. Light gold shading in column A indicates sequence change from the previous ORL issue. For taxa that have unproven and probably unlikely presence, see the Hypothetical List. Red font indicates added information since the previous ORL version or the Conservation Threat Status (Critically Endangered = CE, Endangered = E, Vulnerable = V and Data Deficient = DD only). Not all synonyms have been examined. Serial numbers (SN) are merely an administrative convenience and may change. Please do not cite them in any formal correspondence or papers. NB: Compass cards (eg N = north, SE = southeast) are used.

Rows shaded thus and with yellow text denote summaries of problem taxon groups in which some closely-related taxa may be of indeterminate status or are being studied.

Rows shaded thus and with white text indicate recent or data-driven major conservation concerns.

English names shaded thus and with yellow text contain additional explanatory information on problem taxon groups as and when necessary.


A broad dark orange line, as below, indicates the last taxon in a new or suggested species split, or where sspp are best considered separately.

The Non-passerine Reference List follows as Part B, & includes References for Hypothetical non-passerines [List in Part I]. It explains Abbreviated References cited in the species accounts. Notes; & Status abbreviations – BM=Breeding Migrant, SB/SV=Summer Breeder/Visitor, PM=Passage Migrant, WV-Winter Visitor, RB=Resident Breeder

1. PT=Parent Taxon (used because many records will antedate splits, especially from recent research) – we use the concept of PT with a degree of latitude, roughly equivalent to the formal term sensu lato, ‘in the broad sense’.

2. The term ‘report’ or ‘reported’ indicates the occurrence is unconfirmed or not yet formally accepted.

3. English names. We use the recommended names in the International Ornithological Congress World List (see www.worldbirdnames.org) with very few exceptions. The OSME preference is always listed first. We suggest that national lists for countries in the OSME Region adopt the OSME preference, but there is no compulsion to do so! Please note that unamed IOC names appear in curly brackets [...] . alternative names in round brackets (…) , superseded (re-allocated) names in square brackets […].

4. Scientific names: we use square brackets […] to indicate superspecies that comprise two or more allopecies – we use the same convention for semispecies and we use round brackets (…) where the status of a taxon is not entirely clear-cut; eg the evidence may be wholly convincing and subject to debate, it may not yet be fully available, we may have overlooked it or not found it, or the evidence on one part of a taxon’s range may differ from that in another. In its simplest form this is our ‘Don’t know’ category. (Terms such as ‘superspecies’ are explained in the Ornithological Basis of the ORL, where examples are given).

5. As more information is received, the use of abbreviations for countries concerned will increase. See the Country and Territory Abbreviations for details.

6. Many distributions will be diminished by continuing habitat loss, but note that many local extensions occur subsequent to construction of canal, dam and other irrigation works, and that the breeding and wintering distributions are likely to change, often radically, with climate change (Huntley et al 2007).

We seek information backed by references to develop and improve any part of the OSME Region List of bird taxa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Struthionidae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Ostrich (Common Ostrich) (Ostrich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struthio camelus syriacus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| North African Red-necked Ostrich (Ostrich) (Common Ostrich) |
| Struthio camelus camelus |

| Anatidae |
| Gonzalez et al 2009 analyse relationships within Anatidae; H&M4 sequence (ORL taxa) is Oxyura, Cygnus, Branta, Anser, Clangula, Somateria, Melanitta, Bucephala, Mergellus, Mergus, Aythya, Tadorna, Marmaronetta, Netta, Aythya, Spatula, Sibironetta, Mareca, Anas, Plectroanas, Sarkidiomis, Calima, Aix, Nettapus. We remain with IOC sequence. H&M4 also re-sequence within genera. NB Since 1990s, many spp now overwinter CA at recently-built irrigation reservoirs (EK-M pers comm). NB2 Many anatid spp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015. |


**True geese phylogeny PT**


**Brent Goose PT**

| Geese          | *Branta bernicla*                                                                 | Despite a partially collective consensus (including HSM4) to treat in 3 groups; extralimital Black Brant (or Brent) Goose (*nigricans* & *orientalis* NE Siberia-Canada), Dark-bellied Brent (*bernicla* NW Europe-N-C Siberia) & Light-bellied Brent (*hrota* NE Canada & Greenland, some winter Europe), as per Clements 2011, we cautiously address each taxon separately; thus *nigricans* is Nearctic ‘Black Brant’ & *orientalis* is E Palearctic ‘Grey-bellied Brant’; therefore the latter is the rare PM from E Siberian population Kazakhstan W&A 2007. However, Wassink 2015b omits mention, possibly on reassessment of records to ssp status. |

**Clade Branta**: also includes extralimital Hawaiian Goose *B. sandvicensis*, Canada Goose *B. canadensis* & Cackling Goose *B. hutchinsii* (One *B. hutchinsii* photographed Migban Markhazi, Iran Dec 2018 of uncertain status.)

**Dark-bellied Brent Goose** (Brant Goose)

| Geese          | *Branta (bernicla) bernicla*                                                                 | Breeds NW Russia-Taymyr, winters NW Europe. Straggler, vagrant to OSME Region, HBW1, but very rare PM NEKazakhstan Wassink 2015b. Kept in collections, escapes likely. Support for split of *hrota* & *nigricans* Richard Klim pers comm, but needs DNA case. Egypt Avib, BE. NB Stable isolate ratios study of *hrota* indicate extent of conflict likely with farmers’ winter crops Inger & Bearhop 2008. |

**Pale-bellied Brent Goose** (Light-bellied Brent Goose)

| Geese          | *Branta (bernicla) hrota*                                                                 | Nearctic breeder; some populations winter NW Europe E to Denmark, straggler futher E. Identified in Iran by HJ Speyer in 1960, a bird typically feeding on beach-washed weed, Roselaar & Aliabandian 2010. (Speyer was familiar with both Brent Goose and Red-breasted Goose *B. ruficollis* from his native Denmark). |

**Black Brant**

| Geese          | *Branta (bernicla) nigricans*                                                                 | Rare straggler E Kazakhstan from E Siberian population W&A 2007, although Arend Wassink 2015b omits mention, possibly on ressessment of records to ssp status. |

**Red-breasted Goose**


**Barnacle Goose**


**Bar-headed Goose**


**Snow Goose**

<p>| Geese          | <em>Anser caerulescens</em> (<em>IOC6.3: formerly Chen caerulescens</em>)                                                                 | Oltenburgs et al 2016 show that ancestral Bar-headed Goose <em>A. indicus</em> split from ancestral Branta, becoming basal to all other true geese, which later formed 2 Clades, the white geese (including A. caerulescens) and the grey geese. Snow Goose is therefore nested in <em>Anser</em>, with 2 ssp: altanticus Nearctic, nominate vagrant Kazakhstan G&amp;O 2005, W&amp;A 2007; no adequate written description, no specimens, no photographs Kazakhstan, so confirmation withheld Wassink 2015b; possible vagrant escape Russian Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan &amp; possible sporadic migrant Kyrgyzstan Koblik &amp; Arkhipov 2014 rare vagrant S of Caspian Zarudny 1911 &amp; suggested H&amp;E 1970, but not Scott &amp; Adhami 2006. NB1 Wrangel Island population has undergone population explosion due to successive warm winters allowing uninterrupted breeding (McKenna 2007); wintering birds in US (&amp; by implication elsewhere) attain migration condition by maize-dominated diet (stable isolate ratio studies, Inger &amp; Bearhop 2008), thus becoming agricultural pests. NB2 Popular in wildfowl collections. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Greylag Goose</td>
<td><em>Anser anser</em> Parent Taxon: possible potential split, but separation distance 1%; strongly supporting ssp status. Ruokonen et al. 2000; treated here as separate groups within <em>A. anser</em>. NB Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Bean Goose</td>
<td><em>Anser fabalis</em> Egypt as PT Avib, BE. IOC-3.5 splits as below (H&amp;M4 does not), but post-PT final grouping still debated. Case made for split Sangster &amp; Orel 1996, Banks et al. 2007. However, Ruokonen et al. 2008 suggested more evidence needed, except for middendorffi to be elevated to species rank; they noted fabalis, rossicus &amp; semirostris linked, conceding tabalis possesses closest haplotype grouping. Wink 2011 splits, but without taxa allocation. Ruokonen &amp; Aarvak 2011 revise middendorffi to ssp. Despite this, Dutch Binding WP List 2014 elevates middendorffi &amp; consider johanseni invalid from mtDNA &amp; haplotype re-examination of specimens, although such data not available for all breeding populations. Rebee 2015 admits 4 valid taxa: rossicus (Tundra BG), semirostris (Thick-billed BG), middendorffi (Middendorf's BG) &amp; fabalis Taiga BG: he groups rossicus/semirostris (taiga habitat) &amp; fabalis/middendorffi (tundra habitat). NB1 In N Krasnoyarsk Republic (Yssina River), intergrades of tabalis, fabalis, rossicus &amp; semirostris may comprise above 15% of population; majority of all Krasnoyarsk populations migrate S &amp; E, but a few (mostly in N) migrate W &amp; SW (Rogacheva 1992). NB2 Long bills characteristic of taiga breeders, whatever taxon, &amp; short bills characteristic of tundra Ruokonen et al. 2008. NB3 middendorffi correct spelling H&amp;M4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Tundra Bean Goose (Bean Goose)</td>
<td><em>Anser semirostris</em> Tundra BG form (semirostris, rossicus), likely only in E of OSME Region, HBW1. Rare (cited as A. semirostris) passage Kazakhstan W&amp;O 2007, but individuals do wander; very rare PM C-N Kazakhstan W&amp;O 2015b. ACU support split. NB Westernmost populations (rossicus) often cited in error in UK as species name for Tundra Bean Goose, but semirostris has priority. NB Ottenburghs et al found Tundra Bean Goose to be sister of extralimital Pink-footed Goose <em>A. brachyrhynchus</em>: the placement of Middendorff's Bean Goose taxon middendorffi is being examined in Russia at present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21 Spur-winged Goose Plectropterus gambensis Self-sustaining (?) feral population Nile delta. Genus incerta sedis; nominate occurs Sudan and beyond; 2nd ssp niger southern Africa. EORC 2018 list as fewer than 10 records. Goodman & Meininger 1989 noted history as feral/domestic in Egypt; even Menertzhagen ascribed all records to this origin. Feral status confirmed for flocks in Nile Delta Birn 2009. Bones found in archaeological digs Egypt. No documentation of any wild flocks or of introductions. NB Overshoot by this intra-tropical migrant possible, eg from abundant Ethiopian breeding population; see Ash & Atkins 2009.

22 Knob-billed Duck [Comb Duck] Sarkidiornis melanotos Genus incerta sedis; previously lumped with S American S. sylvicola. Drought once drove spadic occurrences from Pakistan into OSMRE Region HBW1; recorded rarely Pakistan (mostly extirpated except in extreme SW R&A 2012) since 1930s. Disjunct Afrotropical migrant populations winter in several countries of the Horn of Africa (Redman et al 2009), and so 'overshoot' vagrancy to Yemen & Saudi Arabia also possible. Vagrant Oman 1990s Richard Porter in litt. Several records in Arabia (single record Oman OBL7), but whether all are escapes is problematic; a few escapes possibly traded S American. American congerenn Jennings 2010. NB1 The name Comb Duck is now applied only to the separated South American S. sylvicola. NB2 H&M4 do not split.


28 Garganey Anas querquedula (IOC7.3, H&M4) (formerly Anas querquedula) Spatula querquedula (IOC7.3, H&M4) (formerly Anas querquedula) Monotypic. Breeds Caucasus, N Afghanistan R&A 2005, but most winter beyond OSMR Region to S; abundant PM, uncommon RB Iran Khaleghi zadeh et al 2017, abundant PM & common WV Oman OBL7, HBW1; mortality due to trapping in Sahel droughts significant, but overall population decline due to loss of breeding habitat there (worst in W) Zwarte et al 2009. Egypt Avib, BE.

29 Blue-winged Teal Spatula discors (IOC7.3, H&M4) (formerly Anas discors) Spatula discors (IOC7.3, H&M4) (formerly Anas discors) Monotypic. One shot May 1990 Lake Burullus, Egypt; found in market by G Nilolaus & R van Westrienen, Egypt Avib, BE.


PT Deconstruction of Anas monophyletic This change makes Anas monophyletic IOCT.3 accepts the H&M4 deconstruction of Anas by the erection of 3 new genera. Baikal Teal now forms the monotypic genus Sibirionetta; Garganey, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler are transferred to Spatula as the OSMR Region representatives; Gadwall, Falcated Duck and Eurasian Wigeon likewise become OSMR Region representatives of Mareca.

PT Spot-billed Duck [Chinese Spot-billed Duck] Monotypic. Breeds NE Kazakhstan. winters locally in N OSMR Region, HBW1, also S to Afghanistan R&A 2005; fairly common WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE. Spatula erythropus (below) and Indian Spot-billed Duck Anas poecilorhyncha (see OBL Hypothetical List). IOCT.2 accepts spil; also R&A 2005. AOU. NB Koblik & Arkhipov 2014 revised all old former USSR records to update to modern taxonomy.

Mallard  *Anas platyrhynchos*


**Aythya ferina**

Common Pochard

Monotypic Arctic breeder, winters high latitudes. Vagrant Kazakhstan K-M&K 2005, but this probably 1851 Anas platyrhynchos

**Aythya fuligula**

Parkin & Knox 2010. 2014


Northern Pintail  *Anas acuta*

Monotypic. Breeds Caucasus, N CA (Afghanistan R&A 2005), but further N than A. clypeata, HBW1, winters to S, abundant WV & PM Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE. NB Long-term decline of Eurasian and Nearctic populations thought to be driven by breeding habitat loss Zwarts et al 2009.

**Teal/Green-winged Teal PT**

*Anas crecca*

NB BOU recognise Green-winged Teal A. [crecca] carolinensis as full species; accepted in IOC v2.0. Not especially close to A. [c.] crecca Parkin & Knox 2010.

**Eurasian Teal (Common Teal)**

*Anas [crecca] crecca*

Monotypic. Abundant breeder sometimes resident N CA (Afghanistan R&A 2005), OBL7. Region winters extensively further S HBW1, abundant WV & PM Oman OBL7, common passage migrant E OSME Region SW Siberia-India (Veen et al 2005) (Route?); Egypt Avib, BE.

**Marbled Duck (Marbled Teal)**

*Marmaronetta angustirostris*


**Red-crested Pochard**

*Netta rufina*


**Southern Pochard**

*Netta erythrophalma*


**Common Pochard**

*Aythya ferina*


**Ferruginous Duck**

*Aythya nyroca*


**Tufted Duck**

*Aythya fuligula*

Monotypic. Breeds in N OSMR Region, winters extensively to S, M&B 1988, fairly common WV Oman OBL7, Egypt Avib, BE

**Greater Scaup**

*Aythya marila*


**King Eider**

*Somateria spectabilis*

Monotypic Arctic breeder, winters high latitudes. Vagrant Kazakhstan K-M&K 2005, but this probably 1851 report - no skin or description (Arend Wassink in litt), supporting rejection in G&G 2005; occurrence this latitude likely misorientation (Berthold 1999).

**Common Eider**

*Somateria mollissima (sensus lato)*

IOC2.7 draft splits extralimital Pacific Eider S. v. nigrosum: but IOC7.2 remains unsplit, while noting that there appears to be a valid case.

**Common Eider**

*Somateria mollissima* molissima

Likely only nominate of 6 ssp occurs in Region; remainder extralimital. Winter vagrant to Black Sea, W Caucasus, M&B 1988, locally scarce Turkey Kirwan et al 2014.

**Harlequin Duck**

*Histrionicus histrionicus*

Monotypic. A 1st-winter bird photographed on the River Ithryth at Osksmen easternmost Kazakhstan is 1st valid record (13-20 Dec 2016) for the country & the OSMR Region Wassink 2018, remained 01 Apr 2017.. The report on Avibase website's Kazakh list of Aug 08 we consider to be a resurrection of Zarudny's 1888 record of a shot specimen described as being near Orenburg; in Imperial Russia such records sometimes just refer to the nearest large city, even if distant from it. Orenburg lies over 50km north of modern westernmost Kazakhstan. G&G 2005 also rejected it as a Kazakh record, although the species occurs irregularly in not-too-distant Mongolia Brünich 2012. Population increasing BL20 Aug 2016.
Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca


Asian White-winged Scoter (White-winged Scoter) (Siberian Scoter) (Formerly Hump-billed Velvet Scoter, Velvet Scoter)

Melanitta (deglandi) stejnegeri (formerly M. (fusca) deglandi) 2 spp; nominate stejnegeri. Collinson et al. 2006; IOC, H&M4 notes case, but does not split. HBW1 Nearctic. Taiga hole-nester, widespread breeder in N OSME Region, Escapes and captives in Eurasia of uncertain origin and ancestry. 3 sspp in New World. Oxyurinae closer to Oldsquaw derogatory)

White-headed Duck

Numida meleagris

Monotypic. Very rare winterer W OSME Region, but H&E 1970 suggest occasionally in Black & Caspian Seas (former winterer (?) Schüz 1959), 1st documented winterer near Bautino, Kazakh Caspian 10 Jan 2015 Wassink 2016b. NB M. americana is American Scotter, HBW1, IOC.

Black Scoter & formerly

Clangula hyemalis


Common Scoter (Black Scoter)

Melanitta nigra nigra (Formerly Hump-billed Velvet Scoter, Velvet Scoter)


Long-tailed Duck (in USA, former name Oldsquaw derogatory)

Bucephala clangula


Smew

Mergellus albellus


Goosander (Common Merganser)

Mergus merganser


Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator


Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Escapes and captives in Eurasia of uncertain origin and ancestry. 3 spp in New World. Oxyurinae closer to Anserinae (Anser, Branta, Cygnus) than to any other tribe Gonzalez et al 2009, hence H&M4 place before Anserinae. Two records from Cypris (Colin Richardson pers com), that for Dec 2011 accepted by Cyprus Rarities Subcommittee as 1st for Cyprus; vagrant from a feral population in mainland Europe, as is Israel (undated) record Mitchell 2017. NB The large UK feral population has been reduced from an estimated 4000 birds to a rump of c60; it is highly likely that earlier occurrences from Ukraine to Portugal, given the timings of these records, were largely from UK-origin birds that had reverted to migratory behaviour, eg overwintering groups in Italy. The likelihood of birds from established feral populations reaching the OSME Region is thus now much diminished.

White-headed Duck

Oxyura leucocephala


Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris


Hazel grouse (Hazel Hen) (Northern Hazel Grouse H&M4)

60 Western Capercaillie
(Capercaillie, formerly Capercaillie) Tetrao urogallus
9 sppp; 7 extralimit. N Kazakhstan- Madge & McGowan (M&M) 2002, uraennis & taczanowski W&O 2007 (Ayé et al 2012); ssp taczanowski distribution as far as N Korea. (Black-billed Capercaillie T. uragalloides is extralimitl, although has reached 86°30′E, 57°50′ N, but is in serious decline Fogacheva 1992: uragalloidis has priority over parvicorpius H&M.) NB Abrahams & Denny 2018 devised successful method of deploying unmannned acoustic recorders as a tool for populations estimates derived from lekking activity: once suitable survey protocols have been established, a reliable means of estimating populations throughout the species range could become a vital conservation tool.

64 Black Grouse Lyrurus tetrix (formerly Tetrao letrix)

65 Caucasian Grouse (Caucasian Black Grouse) Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi (formerly Tetrao mlokosiewiczi)

66 Rock Ptarmigan (Ptarmigan) Lagopus muta

68 Rock Ptarmigan (Willow Grouse) Lagopus lagopus
16 sssp: 2 known for certain in Region, koreni also possible; maori & brevirostis Kazakhstan &W0 2007, Ayé et al 2012.

69 Snow Partridge Lervia lervia

69 Caucasian Snowcock Tetraoalagus causcicus

70 Caspian Snowcock Tetraoalagus capsius
Region endemic; 3 ssp: sauricus S&E Turkey, W Armenia; nominate C Armenia, SW&SE Azerbaijan, N Iran, SW Turkmenistan; semenowitschanskii Zagros Iran; N Iraq population requires confirmation Mitchell 2017. S&E Turkey, Armenia, Iran Zagros Mt & S Turkmenistan, M&M 2002. Also Iraq, HBW2.

71 Himalayan Snowcock (Ram Chukar) Tetraoalagus himalayensis

72 Tibetan Snowcock Tetraoalagus tibetanianus

73 Altai Snowcock Tetraoalagus altaicus

74 Rock Partridge Alectoris graeca

76 Himalayan Snowcock (Ram Chukar) Tetraoalagus himalayensis

78 Rock Partridge Alectoris graeca
Extralimital, 3 sssp. Introduced, ancestry unknown, Masse el Shouf Lebanon 1995-6, now declining, further releases banned Ramadan Jaradi et al 2016, ssp unknown. Avibase Aug 08 website claims introduced into Kyrgyzstan - would not be surprising.

79 Chukar Partridge (Chukar) Alectoris chukar (subsumed in A. graeca Rock Partridge) Rock Partridge by earlier authors, distribution of which split sp does not occur naturally in OSME Region) 10 of 15 ssp in Region: Alectoris NW&N Turkey, Caucusus; cyprizites Cyprus, SW&IS Turkey; kurdestanica SE Turkey, N Syria, N Iraq, Trancaciscaias, N Iran; sinaica Sinai-Syria; werae E Iraq, SW Iran; korovikovi SW Kazakhstan, SW&S Turkmennistan, N&E Iran, W&S Afghanistan, then Pakistan; subpallida C Turkmennistan-C Uzbekistan, N Afghanistan; falki C Tien Shan Kazakhstan; dzungarica E Tien Shain-Altaï, then Mongolia; nominate E Afghanistan, E to Nepal. Syria/IOC Murdoch & Betton 2008, Israel Perlman & Meyrov 2009. S Yemen Warr 1992, Caucasus, S CA (W&O 2007), mountains most CA also some deserts – increasing Kreuzberg-Mukhina pers comm: Kazakhstan, UZ steshopori (now included in korovikovi); Mangyshlak & Ustyurt (where rare resident); Kazakhstan, UZ subpallida – Kyzykum desert, S Kazakhstan, C UZ – sand dunes with Haloxylon near Aydar lake; Kazakhstan, UZ, KS falki – Tien-Shan, Karatau range, Chu-lli mts.; Kazakhstan dzungarica – Dzungarsky Alatau, Saur, Tarbagatay, S Altai, S UZ.TJ, TM korovikovi. Iran, HBW2, Afghanistan R&A 2005 (Paludan 1959 suggests pallasicans & confirm chukar). Resident Musandam Peninsula Oman OBL7. Probably introduced UAE (ssp werae, link to St Helena C Richardson pers comm?), Lever 2005, definitely so Kuwait Gregory 2002, UAE (16th century). Aspinall 1996, Egypt Avib, BE. NB1 Large-scale introductions CA possibly blur ssp ID, notably Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b. NB2 Are Oman birds the origin of introduced St Helena population, or Portuguese colony? WRP Bourne pers comm. NB3 Possibly introduced Cyprus in antiquity (WRP Bourne pers comm), note ssp cyprizites not confined to Cyprus. NB4 Extralimital whitakeri raised to species Sicilian Rock Partridge Corso 2010

76 Philby’s Partridge Alectoris philbyi
Monotypic Region endemic. Highlands of SW Arabia, HBW2, Jennings 2010; some detail for N Yemen Porter & Warn 1985.

77 Barbary Partridge PT Alectoris barbara
Spanò et al 2013 present the case for elevating this taxon to species status.

77 Cyrenaic Partridge (Cyrenaic Partridge), (Barbary Partridge) Alectoris (barbara) barbara
Monotypic if split; NW Egypt (IOC, H&M4) treat as ssp barbata. Earlier status as probable former breeder BiriE 2009, now confirmed as breeding NW Egypt & considered eligible for full species status as A. barbata Cyrenaic Partridge Spanò et al 2013. However, in adjacent NE Libya, may have declined drastically, as inferred from Isenmann et al 2016. Not yet reviewed by IIOC1.9.
Arabian Partridge
Alectoris melanocephala
Region endemic; nominate W Saudi–W Yemen, Oman; guichardi/Yemen E Hadramawt. Resident upland littoral SW Red Sea. W to Salalah (Oman), also in E Oman, HBW2; ssp guichardi in E Yemen, melanocephala elsewhere.

See-see Partridge
Ammodramus griseogularis

Sand Partridge
Ammodramus heyi
Region near-endemic. 4 ssp: nominate Sinai, Israel, Jordan-NW&C Saudi Arabia; nicollii NE Egypt; cholmeleyi SE Egypt S to N Sudan; intermedius SW Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman: extralimital NE Sudan. Widespread in low hilly or sandy hinterland NE, NW Red Sea, SW Red Sea, W to Oman hinterland & SW to Yemen below Empty Quarter OBL 7, HBW2, in C Saudi Arabia where some cover exists but not in open irrigated agriculture Jennings 2010. All 4 ssp contained within Region; heyi, nicollii, cholmeleyi & intermedius. Egypt Avib, BE NB 1st evidence of brood amalgamation N of Elat Israel May 2013 Gallardo & Moranu 2018.

Black Francolin
Francolinus francolinus

Grey Francolin
Francolinus pondicerianus
3 ssp, only mecranensis in Region, others Indian subcontinent. One old vagrancy record SE Afghanistan M&M 2002; R&A 2012 map very close to Afghanistan at Khyan). SE Iran R&A 2005, Scott & Adhami 2006. Some introduced UAE (Aspinal 1996); certainly present since 5th century AD (Pedersen & Aspinall 2010) but may even then have been introductions Lever 2005. Bred Dhiakan 2006; Jennings 2008a; possibly introduced Oman, but before 1886 Jennings 2010, expanding SW from E Oman OBL7. NB Very well adapted to aridity Roberts 1991

Grey Partridge
Perdix perdix

Daurian Partridge
Perdix daurica
2 ssp, only nominate in Region, rare resident SE & E Kazakhstan Wassirik 2015b, Kyrgyzstan, Madge & McGowan 2002, N Tajikistan Ayé et al. 2012, then E to Tuva, China; suschini extralimital China E Russia.

Common Quail
Coturnix coturnix
5 ssp, 4 extralimital, nominate in region. Widespread unpredictable summer breeder in N of OSME Region, range extension in S Kazakhstan Martin et al. 2018; winters to S as far E as India, breeds & migrant Afghanistan R&A 2005, recorded Wakhjan Sep 2006 Ayé 2007, Iran Scott & Adhami 2006; small resident population UAE Aspinal 1996. Probably now resident breeder (small numbers) in C Saudi Arabian irrigated agricultural areas since 1970s Jennings 2010; PM & WV Oman, may have bred OBL7, Egypt Avib, BE. NB Japanese Quail C japonica common import Middle East ey Kuwait Gregory 2002.

Harlequin Quail
Coturnix delegorguei

Koklass Pheasant
Pucrasia macrolopha

Himalayan Monal
Lophophorus impejanus

Green Pheasant
Lophophorus variegatus
Monotypic. Although Green pheasant distribution given in Clements (2008) & HBW2 (cites M&M 2002; McGowan also editor HBW2 pheasant ssp) & R&A 2012, HBW Aves McGowan et al 2018 confirms taxon is not present in Afghanistan, BLDZ map Feb 2018 indicating native population to Region is E of Murghab, Pakistan. For term we treat as formally extinct.

Common Pheasant
Phasianus colchicus
PT. IOC1.7 recognises Dickinson 2003 split of extralimital Green Pheasant P. c. versicolor. NB Global extent of uncontrolled commercial intensively bred stock of uncertain ancestry has blurred identity of many wild ssp. Annual releases in UK alone average 30-35 million birds GWCT Sep 2016 (Homepage). Consequent predator culling (licit or legally approved) is often undertaken without the intention of understanding the dynamics of ecosystems dominated by artificially reared, superabundant non-native same species Lees et al. 2015.
Common Pheasant  
(formerly Ring-necked Pheasant)  
**Phasianus [colchicus] colchicus**  
At least 30 ssp, & 11 in Region: _septentriornalis_ N Caucasus, W Caspian to Volga-Ural interfluve; nominate _Transcaucasia E to W &N Azerbaijan; talschensis_ E&E Azerbaijan-NC Iran; _persicus_ SW Turkmenistan, NW Iran; _principalis_ SE Turkmenistan, NW Afghanistan; _chrysonemelis_ W Uzbekistan, N Turkmenistan; _zardudyi_ E Turkmenistan Amudarya valley; _bianchi_ SE Uzbekistan, SW Tajikistan, NE Afghanistan; _zeraschianus_ Uzbekistan Buhkara & Samarkand; _tunccestancius_ S Kazakhstan Syrdarya valley to Ferghan Basin; _mongolicus_ SE Kazakhstan, N Kyrgyzstan. In all Caucasus & Central Asia Republics in OSME Region M&M 2002, NW, NC Afghanistan R&A 2005, Iran Scott & Ashmadi 2006. NB Large-scale introductions or reared stock Kazakhstan W&O 2007.

Indian Peafowl (Common Peacock)  
**Pavo cristatus**  
Monotypic. Introduced in several locations Arabia Jennings 2008b, but sustaining a feral (& tolerated) population only in UAE Jennings 2010. Feral suburban populations UAE Aspinall 2010.

Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)  
**Gavia stellate**  

Black-throated Diver (Black-throated Loon)  
**Gavia arctica**  

Great Northern Diver (Great Northern Loon)  
**Gavia immer**  
Monotypic. VW in W OSME Region, HBW1, sporadic VW Georgia Koblik & Arkhipov 2014, vagrant Turkey Mitchell 2017..

White-billed Diver (Yellow-billed Loon)  
**Gavia adamsii**  
Monotypic. Sole record: vagrant North Ossetia at 43°15’N, 44°16’E (Kazakov 2004, Komarov 2002a, 2002b)

Sweetman et al. 2017 assess ocean warming trends as likely to impact southern oceans, particularly the Indian Ocean, by steadily reducing both organic food density & oxygen content per decade through to 2100. Such trends would reduce resident and at-sea roosting seabird populations. Human fishing communities would also be badly affected.

**Oceanidae**  
IOC5.1 places these species in new family _Oceanidae_, not sister taxa to _Hydrobatidae_ Hackett et al. 2008, & resquences 3 other seabird families (see below).

Wilson’s Storm Petrel  
**Oceanites oceanicus**  

White-faced Storm Petrel (Frigate Petrel)  
**Fregata grallaria**  
6 ssp, _duclie_ probably most likely in Region from SW Australia island population. Regular off S Arabia, HBW1; Bourne 1960, one examined in hand May 1960 at 8.7°N, 73° Bailey & Bourne 1963, Prasad 2003. Vagrant Oman 2 records OBL7.7, 3rd Jun 2017 Al-Hanniyah island OBLRC.

White-bellied Storm Petrel  
**Fregata tropica**  
2 ssp, nominate vastly outnumbering _melanocephalа_ of Gough Island & breeding on many circumpolar Antarctic islands. Regular off S Arabia, HBW1; vagrant (3 records of 6 birds) Oman OBL7 OBRC. One examined in hand Sep 1960 at 8.05°N, 72.5°E Bailey & Bourne 1963. Many earlier records attributed to other spp likely this taxon (may hybridise with previous taxon Bourne 2000) WRP Bourne pers comm; Prasad 2003 appropriately cautious; however, 1964 record (Redman et al. 2009) off Socotra is supported Kirwan 1998. 2007 record (Redman et al. 2009) probably valid (Details not known to OSME). Austral VW to sub-equator Indian Ocean islands Sinclair & Lagrand 2013 NB1 may be conspecific with next taxon (suggested by DB Jul 2010 WP List). NB2 This sp has a pale-bellied form, whether a morph or not is uncertain; geographic distribution also unknown, but no confirmed records of this form yet in Region.

**Diomedeidae**  
Parent Taxon aspects abound within this family, but extent disputed. In any case, record below has insufficient data to distinguish lowest-level taxon – here guided by caution of Tickell 2000. Resequenced to follow _Oceanidae_ IOC5.1, Hackett et al. 2008. NB BL 2008, O&S 2007. IOC v2.3 separate cauta from _eremita_ (Chatham Albatross) and _salvinii_ (Salvin’s). Some regard each taxon as valid species.
Hydrobatidae

H&M4 resequences families, genera & within genera; we apply IOC5.1 resequencing, a reduced Hydrobatidae (new genus Oceanitidae & Oceanodroma) H&M4 note that taxa

Clade 1 of Wallace et al 2017 (Includes extralimal Storm Petrel H. furcata) [NE Pacific]

PT European Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae pelagicus

Monotypic if split. Regular in NE Mediterranean, HBW1. English name from cautionary checklist in Tickell 2000 App1, O&S 2007 declining to provide EU recognition; IOC 2012 would split (IOC2.8) of Atlantic/Band-Rumped Storm Petrel Diomedea sp in 2000 for the Region. H&M4 note that taxa

PT Band-rumped Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae castro (Wallace et al 2017, originally Oceanodroma castro) (Oceanodroma castro)

Original Parent Taxon split from Madeiran Storm Petrel O. castro sensu lato covered smaller (northern hemisphere he-season breeder) Monteiro’s Storm Petrel O.c. monteiroi/Bolton et al 2008. IOC v2.3 (probably extralimal). Second Parent Taxon split (IOC2.8) of Atlantic Band-rumped Storm Petrel O. castro sensu lato covered two extralimal taxa, Cape Verde Storm Petrel O. jabejabe (IOC v2.3) & Grant’s Petrel O. sp novo (IOC proposal: as yet undescribed). Robb & Mullarney 2008 2008 separated by distinct voices and by different (hot/cold season) breeding periods, supported by Sangster et al 2012. Wallace et al 2017 provide data to support H&M4 subsuming Oceanitidae, Oceanodroma & Hydrobatidae. NB The allochronic breeding cycles of these taxa mean that adult seasonal plumage wrt timing of year of sightings data to support H&M4 subsuming

Clade 1 of Wallace et al 2017 (Includes Monteiro’s Storm Petrel H. monteiroi [Azores] & Cape Verde Storm Petrel H. jabejabe [Cape Verde Islands])

PT Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Madeiran or Harcourt’s Petrel)
Hydrobatidae castro (Oceanodroma castro) (Formerly Oceanodroma [castro] castro)


Clade 3 of Wallace et al 2017 (Includes Tristan’s Storm Petrel H. tristrami [NW Pacific], Ashy Storm Petrel H. homochroa [NE Pacific] & Hornby’s Storm Petrel H. hornbyi [SE Pacific])

PT Swinhoe’s Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae monorhis (Oceanodroma monorhis) (Formerly Oceanodroma monorhis)


100 ‘Tasmanian Shy
101 Albatross’ (Shy Albatross)
Thalassarcha cauca sensu stricto

H&M4 note that taxa eremita & salvinii together may merit separation from T. cauca, but retain all in sensu lato under ‘White-capped Albatross’. IOC4.4 split to 3 species: Shy Albatross T. cauca sensu stricto, with 2 ssp, nominate & steadi; monotypic Chatham Albatross T. eremita, monotypic Salvin’s Albatross T. salvinii, also S of New Zealand. Unfortunately H&M4 taxa distributions differ considerably. IOC cite T. cauca s.n. non-breeding range as widespread in Indian Ocean, & T. salvinii similarly in Southern Ocean. We surmise that the former is more likely in OSME Region. Identified as sub-adult T. cauca (Meeth & Meeth 1998) Sep 86 at 11:50:0.0N+51:35:0.0E (off Cape Guardafui). – WRP Bourne pers comm. In: Meeth & Meeth 1988: one Diomedea cauca noted Nov 86 off Mombasa, citing GR Cunningham-

2008, IOC v2.3 [NE Pacific] & Wedge-

2012. Wallace together may merit separation from

Shirihai 1999) are this taxon. Kirwan 2008 remained unconvinced by

IOC8.1 remains with

under ‘White-capped Albatross’. IOC4.4 split to 3 species: Shy Albatross

2010. Taxon known to breed as far E as 24°E, Evvoia in Aegean, making

2017. Non-breeding range as widespread in Indian Ocean, &

2011.

Band-rumped Storm Petrel

Hydrobatidae

H&M4 resequences families, genera & within genera; we apply IOC5.1 resequencing, a reduced Hydrobatidae (new genus Oceanitidae & Oceanodroma) H&M4 note that taxa

Clade 4 of Wallace et al 2017 (Includes extralimal Fork-tailed Storm Petrel H. furcata) [NE Pacific]

PT European Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae pelagicus

Monotypic if split. Regular in E Mediterranean, HBW1, accidental Cyprus Flint & Stewart 1992. vagrant Israeli Perlman & Meyrav 2009 6th record Oct 2016 Haifa SG39(1)ATR, likely occurs Turkish waters. Up to 2012, all records credited as ‘European Storm Petrel’ taxon pelagicus; likely majority of this taxon until proven otherwise. Vagrant Georgia Koblik & Arkhipov 2014, Egypti Avbl, BE. NB Early records of this species in the Red Sea or Arabian Sea likely attributable to Wilson’s Storm Petrel Oceanodroma oceanicus, as stated forcibly in Gibson-Hill 1948.

PT Mediterranean Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae (pelagicus) melitensis

Monotypic if split. Regular in E Mediterranean, HBW1. HBW1. English name from cautionary checklist in Tickell 2000 App1, O&S 2007 declining to provide EU recognition; IOC 2012 would split (IOC2.8) of Atlantic/Band-Rumped Storm Petrel Diomedea sp in 2000 for the Region. H&M4 note that taxa

Clade 1 of Wallace et al 2017 (Includes Monteiro’s Storm Petrel H. monteiroi [Azores] & Cape Verde Storm Petrel H. jabejabe [Cape Verde Islands])

PT Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Madeiran or Harcourt’s Petrel)
Hydrobatidae castro (Wallace et al 2017, originally Oceanodroma castro) (Oceanodroma castro)

Original Parent Taxon split from Madeiran Storm Petrel O. castro sensu lato covered smaller (northern hemisphere he-season breeder) Monteiro’s Storm Petrel O.c. monteiroi/Bolton et al 2008. IOC v2.3 (probably extralimal). Second Parent Taxon split (IOC2.8) of Atlantic Band-rumped Storm Petrel O. castro sensu lato covered two extralimal taxa, Cape Verde Storm Petrel O. jabejabe (IOC v2.3) & Grant’s Petrel O. sp novo (IOC proposal: as yet undescribed). Robb & Mullarney 2008 separated by distinct voices and by different (hot/cold season) breeding periods, supported by Sangster et al 2012. Wallace et al 2017 provide data to support H&M4 subsuming Oceanitidae, Oceanodroma & Hydrobatidae. NB The allochronic breeding cycles of these taxa mean that adult seasonal plumage wrt time of year of sightings vital for assigning species identity. Curiously that Svensson et al 2009 omitted mention of any putative split, yet book is dedicated to the eponymous Grant’s memory.

PT Band-rumped Storm Petrel (Madeiran or Harcourt’s Petrel)
Hydrobatidae castro (Oceanodroma castro) (Formerly Oceanodroma [castro] castro)

Monotypic. Wanderer to Gulf of Aqaba Porter & Aspinall 2010 (E Mediterranean?) vagrant Israeli Perlman & Meyrav 2009, possibly also to S Arabian coasts, HBW1. Actual taxon identity of Region records now limited to PT, but pro tem the presence of any of the other three in the Region considered highly unlikely.

PT Swinhoe’s Storm Petrel
Hydrobatidae monorhis (Oceanodroma monorhis) (Formerly Oceanodroma monorhis)

105 Leach’s Storm Petrel Hydrobates leucorhoa (Formerly H. leucorhoa) (Oceanodroma leucorhoa) Vulnerable. 4 ssp, most likely nominate wanderer to E Mediterranean, HBW1, Gulf of Aqaba where rare Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2008 Porter & Aspinall 2010, but 40 reported Haifa Feb 2012; few records Egypt’s Mediterranean coast Goodman & Meininger 1989. UAE (Gulf) & Indian Ocean Lathorne et al 1970, 2nd record 60km off Kalba May 2018 SG40(2): 207. One moribund Sharjah airfield (UAE) Jun 1969 (Bundy & Warr 1979). Egypt Avib, BE. NB Scientific name follows HBW Alive/BLI

106 Matsudaira’s Storm Petrel Hydrobates matsudairae (Oceanodroma matsudairae) (Formerly Oceanodroma matsudairae) Vulnerable. Monotypic. One record Oman OBL7.6. Species range in BL Mar IBA e-atlas shows deep-ocean occurrence in Region below 12°N. Considered quite common equatorial western Indian Ocean 1963-5 Bailey et al 1968, whose lat/long list has 4 records in Region, 12 of 40 close, but their map shows 18 within the Region! Several recorded between 7.2°N & equator 1964 Gill 1967. Three RNBWS reports, all N of 00.00.00N; one (Mar 64) in E half of deep-ocean OSME Region, the others (10 birds, Sep 87) on successive days in E at 68-70E. O&S 2007 map to 10°N off Somalia. 14 recorded together northernmost Seychelles 2014 Bull ABC 22(1): p109. May share wintering grounds with Jouanni’s Petrel Bulweria fallax – full scrutiny of reports and records essential, WRP Bourne pers comm. IOC3.1 locates nor-breeding western distribution as ‘C Indian Ocean’.

107 Cape Petrel (Formerly Cape Pigeon, Pintado Petrel) Daption capense 2 ssp, warmer-water austrole the likelier to occur. One record Israel AERCTAC 2011 WP List. Ship-follower, often for long distances. Occurrence in Region likely partly dependent on food availability (often seasonal in N Indian Ocean), or on unusual weather events (eg errant Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone) driving southern ocean species N. Individuals do wander widely above the 25°S normal northern limit in Indian Ocean, HBW1. One RNBWS report 18°N, 57.7°E S of Ras Madraka Oman Bourne1988a. One recorded at c2°N off S Somalia Redman et al 2009. NB WR Bourne suggests all past reports in Region are inadequate; also old records of birds in Indian Ocean northern hemisphere not documented well enough to rule out subsequent release of birds found stranded aboard ships.


109 Soft-plumaged Petrel Pterodroma mollis Monotypic, although O&S 2007 list 2 ssp, that in Indian Ocean attributed as P.m. dubia, but suggested as simply a colour-phase WRP Bourne pers comm. Immatures thought to wander widely in Indian Ocean, HBW1. Eliat record Shirihai 1999; vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009. NB2

PT Fea’s Petrel PT Pterodroma feae Split of Desertas Petrel P. [feae] deserta from Parent Taxon, as an essentially cryptic species differing in voice (Robb & Magnus 2008) but little in morphology from Fea’s (Cape Verde) Petrel P.m. [feae] Fea et al 2009, IOC4.4, but H&M4 retains while spelling split; behavioural differences in breeding areas. IOC2.10 supports split. H&M4 does not.


Barau’s Petrel

Pterodroma baruaui


Sooty Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea


Cory’s Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea


Monotypic. Breeds one colony French Biscay coast, but many in Mediterranean, E to at least 28°E (Rhodes; Robb & Mullarney 2008), perhaps others undetected; rare but regular Egypt’s Mediterranean coast, wanderers to Israel, Lebanon HBW1, Perlman & Meyrav 2009; passage N coast Cyprus (Flint 1999 Stagg HBW1; MB own notes), Syria Mundoch & Betton 2008 (listed as Cory’s Shearwater); 9 records Oman May 2017 OBL7.6. Probably breeds small numbers Turkish S Aegean coast. Irregular Red Sea coast (perhaps borealis?), Goodman & Meininger 1989. RNWBS report Little Bitter Lakes Sep 64 at 30:13:0.0N+32:33:0.0E, Red Sea records 1984/5 van den Berg et al. 1991. Iran 1970s records (Scott 2008) highly likely diomedea, accepted as such Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017; 10+ ‘miss’ re-entry to Atlantic (tracked in S Atlantic below latitude of S Africa Danckwerts et al. 2017) & attempt migration via Indian Ocean. 10+ borealis reported Eliat Jul 2011 DB33(5), 4th UAE record May 2014 SG36(2) ATR. Campbell et al. 2013; vagrant 2 records Oman OBL7.6; one in southern Red Sea between Socotra and Yemen April 2015 Flood 2016.

Cory’s Shearwater

PT

PT

PT

Scopoli’s Shearwater

(South Atlantic)

Calonectris [diomedea] borealis

Monotypic. Essentially Atlantic colony breeder, but at least one breeding colony W Mediterranean (Robb & Mullarney 2008) & regular in numbers past Gibraltar, likely wanderers to E Mediterranean, HBW1. Early records of Cory’s Shearwater Red Sea, Arabian Sea & Gulf perhaps C. erecta borealis stricto; diomedea has often been tracked in Indian Ocean as far N as Kenya BLISTD Dec 2017 & borealis might ‘miss’ re-entry to Atlantic (tracked in S Atlantic below latitude of S Africa BLISTD Dec 2017) & attempt migration via Indian Ocean. 10+ borealis reported Eliat Jul 2011 DB33(5), 4th UAE record May 2014 SG36(2) ATR. Campbell et al. 2013; vagrant 2 records Oman OBL7.6; one in southern Red Sea between Socotra and Yemen April 2015 Flood 2016.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Ardenna pacifica (formerly Puffinus pacificus)

IOC5.3 treats as monotypic, subsuming chlororhyncus in nominate, which previously considered extratropical in Pacific; chlororhyncus name applied mostly to Indian Ocean breeders. Regular wanderer & from sub-equatorial breeders in W Indian Ocean, HBW1, regular in winter (Bourne pers comm) in OSME Region, occasional large assemblages probably breeders. Not infrequent vagrant Arabian waters 1951 Kirwan 1998. Off E Iran coast R&A 2005, 2012 in 1969 & 1976 Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017; 1st report Aug 2010 UAE, multiple pelagic surveys supported Very Rare status, while noting that BLISTD tracked individuals from 5 datasets reached into & past Gulf of Oman Campbell et al. 2017 from colonies in Seychelles & Réunion; rare SV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

Sooty Shearwater

Ardenna grisea (formerly Puffinus griseus)

Monotypic. Regular in numbers in all oceans bar Indian Ocean, but present in small numbers year-round (misplaced migrants? WRP Bourne pers comm) HBW1: multiple UAE pelagic surveys Gulf of Oman confirm annual in small numbers, but origins of birds obscure, possibly ‘lost’ Campbell et al. 2017, 8th report Oman May 2010 OBL7, one Raysut Jul 2016 SG39(1)ATR, has occurred both Indian seas Perlman & Meyrav 2009 one found dead Iran Khaleghizadeh et al. 2011, 3rd record Kuwait May 2013 KORC, 4th Jun 2017 Jahra pools DB8(4); 360, Egypt Avib, BE.

Short-tailed Shearwater

Ardenna tenuirostris IOC5.4 (formerly Puffinus tenuirostris)


Fleshtoed Shearwater

(Pale-footed Shearwater)

Ardenna carneipes IOC5.4 (Formerly Puffinus carneipes)

Great Shearwater
Ardenna gravis IOC5.4 (formerly Puffinus gravis)
Monotypic. Although Atlantic species, regular vagrant into Indian Ocean. HBW1, vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, one Erit, Jun 2018 Yoav Perlman in itt, Lebanon Leopold & Aspinall 2010; confirmed records elsewhere somewhat lacking. NB Christidis & Boles 2008 placed in Ardenna.

Marx Shearwater
Puffinus puffinus

Yelkouan Shearwater
Puffinus yelkouan
PT reported Egypt Avb also Blm without any reason for dismissing yelkouan. However, P. puffinus now known to be more closely related to other Atlantic shearwaters than to the following two taxa (Robb & Mullarney 2008), hence earlier PT more literary than genetic; H&M4 notes subsequent split, but treats next 2 taxa as sspp. However, Militão et al. 2014 applying stable isolate analysis within integrative taxonomy achieved species ID successfully. NB1 Tiny Menorcan population (Menorcan Shearwater) (smaller & darker) may be stabilised (?) hybrid of mauretanicus x yelkouan. 2 mtDNA lineages being present: DNA sequencing of all Mediterranean forms may help (Robb & Mullarney 2008), but this aspect unmentioned in Svenssen et al. 2009. NB 2 extinct closely-related taxa, Ibiza P. nestori, Hole's P. holei (Iberia) & Lava P.olsoni (Canary Islands) Shearwaters Robb & Mullarney 2008.

Yelkouan Shearwater
Puffinus [yelkouan] yelkouan
Vulnerable. Resident E Mediterranean, Richard Porter pers comm (eg Syria Muncho & Betton 2008), Israel uncommon Med, rare Azaba Perlman & Meyrav 2009, May 2012 record Hurghada Egypt (SGS42(2) ATR). Breeds close to OSME Region near Turkish Aegean. Egypt Avb. BE. RNIBWS report large numbers S Black Sea Jun 58 at 41:0:0.0N+29:0:0.5E, where H&E 1970 note seen regularly; summer breeder. Regular Black Sea WRP Bourne pers comm. Iankov 2007. PT listed as vagrant Caspian Sea (doubtful) Schalow 1880 (of Bogdanov 1879) would have been this taxon. However, tracking has revealed extensive overland activity N, S & E of Black Sea BLSTD Nov 2014.

Balearic Shearwater
Puffinus [yelkouan] mauretanicus

Audubon’s Shearwater/ -Little Shearwater PT (Up to 1980s, geographical distributions partly assumed; no consensus on morphology; much field data (eg WRP Bourne) overlooked)
Puffinus thermorneri/P. assimilis
Complicated incomplete taxonomic history. In 1990s, ID conclusions from few pelagic observations often misjudged. Many subtle ID characteristics now teased out, as is genetic makeup. As of 2009, we prefer to treat these taxa separately pro tem: Audubon’s as Atlantic form thermorneri (extralimit) now separated from Macaronesian P. b. baroli & Boyd’s P.b.; baroli boydi (closely related but separable by voice: Robb & Mullarney 2008), but note that IOC4.3 sequences as being more closely related to P. assimilis than to P. thermorneri! Species rank Austin et al. 2004; BOU treat boydi as sspp of baroli. Austin et al. 2004 pro ten kept Indian Ocean sspp (bailloni, nicolai, temptator, colstoni) in thermorneri, not in P. assimilis. However we follow O&S 2007, IOC4.3 who confine thermorneri as Audubon’s Shearwater to 2 Atlantic sspp, leaving Tropical Shearwater P. bailloni sspp bailloni (Mascarene Islands) and sspp nicolae (Maldives, Chagos & Aldabra); temptator placed in the additionally separated Persian Shearwater P. persicus (qv); possibly nicolai & colstoni are not valid sspp. Principle of Audubon’s -Macaronesian = baroli supported by Parkin & Knox 2010. BLI follow Brook 2004. NB BLDZ Apr 2016 treat thus : Puffinus thermorneri (incorporating baroli), P. bailloni (Baroda/Persian Shearwater Region) and P. bailloni (Carbonaras et al. 2018). BLI (Apr 2018) currently treat Little Shearwater Puffinus assimilis as comprising 4 sspp of W Pacific/S Australian waters, all extralatinal to Region.

Persian Shearwater
(Persian Shearwater (Arabian Shearwater) (Audubon’s Shearwater in previous treatments))
Puffinus [thermorneri] persicus (formerly P. thermorneri persicus)
H&M4 notes likely splits but retains as sspp of Tropical Shearwater P. bailloni. IOC4.4 cites 2 sspp, nominate in Region Oman Socotra, temptator of Comoros. BLI 2005; breeds Kuria Muria Islands. E Iran coast Zarudny 1911 RJ&A 2005. Vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009. Austin et al. 2004 revision, but O&S 2007 suggest ss persicus in Arabian Sea and temptator around Comoros. Combines the 2 taxa above, ‘common’ or ‘infrequent’ on records and the EORC. Habitat is off coast OBLT. Breeds Socotra (50%+ of world population - globally significant Porter & Suleiman 2014) & probably on many inaccessible cliffs around S Arabian coast & in Gulf Jennings 2010: abundant off UAE Gulf of Oman coat Mar-Aug on multiple pelagic surveys Campbell et al. 2017, who suspect unknown breeding location closer than Haltiyanat Islands, a sentiment echoed for Iran, where locally common Oct-Mar Khielkizadaeh et al. 2017. IOC1.6 converts to this English name. NB taxba bailloni & persicus first linked in 1950s Phillips & Sims 1957; although H&M4 maintains this link, it foottnotes likely

Tropical Shearwater
(varying Audubon’s or Persian Shearwater under previous taxonomies) (Baillon’s Shearwater)
Puffinus [thermorneri] bailloni (formerly P. thermorneri)
IOC reduces to 5 sspp, 2 extralatinal in Pacific; nominate Mauritus archipelago; colstoni Alabara: nicolae NW Indian Ocean islands. Breeds Mascarenes (O&S 2007) & Laccadives, India. RJ&A 2005 (O&S 2007), seemingly regular as far N as 4°N of St Somalia Redman et al. 2009. IOC1.6 converts to this English name. Mapped BLD2 Feb 2018 S Indian Ocean from 10°N to below 10°S. NB1 The name Audubon’s Shearwater now limited to Atlantic P.b. thermorneri. NB2 extralimit split of Galapagos Shearwater P. [thermorneri] subalasis (IOC1.6). NB3 Although Perlman & Meyrav 2009 list Audubon’s Shearwater’s P. [thermorneri] separately from taxa persicus & baroli, they have confirmed they refer to taxon bailloni, Yoav Perlman in litt Nov 09. Shirihai’s ‘atrodorsalis’ perhaps also this taxon, breeding Europa Islands, Mozambique Channel.

Macaronesian Shearwater
Puffinus [thermorneri] baroli/boydi
PT Extraditional Boyd’s Shearwater P.b./boydi split from Macaronesian Shearwater IOC2.8, previously treated as sspp P.b. baroli boydi. H&M4 note case for splits, list 3 groups under P. thermorneri.
Barolo Shearwater (formerly Macaronesian Shearwater) (previous taxonomy as Little Shearwater)

Puffinus [lherminieri] baroli
(Formerly Puffinus assimilis in Brooke 2004; formerly in ORL as P. assimilis baroli)

Monotypic Atlantic breeder. H&M4 places within [lherminieri], while noting Austin et al. 2004. Although Little Shearwater sensu stricto sspp tunneyi & elegans known to reach easternmost Indian Ocean (Shirihai 1996 had then included baroli within Little Shearwater complex for Israel Mediterranean records), unlikely. P. assimilis sensu stricto occurs in OSME Region WRP Bourne pers comm. NB1 Little Shearwater on WBDB & other Israel checklists confirmed as referring to Shirihai record (baroli), which now (Austin et al. 2004) treated as here (Yoav Perlman in litt Nov 09), likely vagrant heading north in wrong ocean; Perlman & Meyrav 2009 agree (as Barolo's Shearwater) as do Svensson et al. 2009; DB 2010 revise to Barolo Shearwater. NB2 IOC4.4 split Macaronesian Shearwater P. baroli from P. assimilis, which includes elegans, sequencing baroli after all taxonomic confusion within distance to [baroli] & [elegans]. NB3 Past OSME Region records of baroli not separated from equally vagrant boydi; hypothetical report Turkey Western Anatolia Kinwan et al. 2014 possibly this taxon or Boyd's Shearwater P. boydi (see Hypothetical List).

Bulwer’s Petrel

Bulweria bulweri

Monotypic. RNBSWS reports Sep 10:55.0.0N+56:20.0.0E Nov 83 13:56.0.0N+51:0.0.0E Feb 01 11:54:0.0N 51:42.0.0E & entries in Sea Swallow possible misidentifications of Jouainin's Petrel. ID characteristics & status then unknown; wintering grounds shared? – full scrutiny of reports & records essential – WRP Bourne pers comm. Indian Ocean records all E of 100°E, S of Sumatra, van den Berg et al. 1985, but IUCN Redlist maps its occurrence up to 10°N below Socotra, as does BLDZ, probably from Bailey 1968 (also cited by Flood 2016), but were these records Jouainin’s Petrel? In any case, now within OSME Region deep-ocean extension.

Jouainin’s Petrel

Bulweria fallax

Monotypic. First described Jouainin 1955 & ID difficulties discussed Jouainin 1957. Breeds Socotra, Taleb, 2002, but only known population possibly 4000+bp Porter & Suleiman 2014 (globally significant), which H&E 1970 had suggested, but likely breeds undiscovered S Oman (OBL7) & elsewhere in Socotra archipelago Jennings 2010. One record UAE 19 Oct 2004 Pedersen & Aspinal 2010, but 7th record comprised over 600 birds Oct-Dec 2012 EBRCB Multiple pelagic surveys UAE Gulf of Oman coast assessed status as irregularly common, sometimes absent, but occasional juveniles suggest unknown breeding locations closer than Socotra Campbell et al. 2017. BL Marine IBA Atlas Aug 2016 identifies small sea area off Ria Fartak Headland SE Yemen as a confirmed IBA for this species, the first in mainland Arabia, but without revealing if breeding, feeding, or loafing area. Socotra IBA ‘Jouainin’s Petrel Cliffs’ (location withheld) is the only known breeding colony, >4000BP Porter & Suleiman 2016, c3000BP BLDZ Aug 2016. A ‘Jouainin-like’ petrel has been found off Mozambique Channel (Peter Ryan) & in the Comoros Archipelago (Hadamorn Shirihai), seemingly smaller in form Bull. ARC 25(2):155. NB Many examples of attribution to other spp before ID standards improved and status established – WRP Bourne pers comm citing reviews of many reports eg in Sea Swallow.

Podicipedidae

P7 Little Grebe PT

Tachybaptus ruficollis

IOC2.7 split extralimital taxa tricolor, vulgarum & collaris as Tricolored Grebe T.r.tricolor in South-East Asia; IOC4.4 lists 7 sspp under T. ruficollis; H&M also consider debate on differentiation of sspp of T. ruficollis sensu lato (10 sspp) not settled.

Little Grebe (Dabchick)

Tachybaptus ruficollis

3 sspp in Region; nominate N Caucasus; raraequis Syria, SW Iran; albescens Caucasus E Iran, C Asia to Tien Shan then extralimital to Burma. Breeds most of N OSME Region, resident in much of Asia Minor to Iran, HBW1, Afghanistan, R&A 2005, 2012. Since 1970s thinly widespread breeding Arabia, associated with irrigation Jennings 2010, also Oman OBL7, Egypt Abv, BE.

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena


Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Only nominate of 3 sspp in Region, others extralimital in Africa & Australasia. Breeds N OSME Region, & scattered locations further S, incl Afghanistan R&A 2012; WU much of Mid-Region, Afghanistan Paludan 1959, southern Africa, HBW1, also India R&A 2005. Common Gulf WU, but with some isolated breeding/probable records Dhahran & Qatar Jennings 2010, similarly Iraq Salim et al. 2012, vagrant Oman OBL7, Egypt Abv, BE.

Horned Grebe (Slavonian Grebe)

Podiceps auritus


Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis


Phoenicopteridae

RNBSWS records of dead flamingo sp Socotra Mar 62.

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus (formerly P. ruber roseus)

Lesser Flamingo: *Phoeniconaias minor* (formerly *Phoenicopterus minor*) (May be junior synonym of *Phoeniconaias Torres et al 2014*)


Sweetman et al 2017 assess ocean warming trends as likely to impact southern oceans, particularly the Indian Ocean, by steadily reducing both organic food density & oxygen content per decade through to 2100. Such trends would reduce resident and at-sea roosting seabird populations. Human fishing communities would also be badly affected.

**Phaethontidae**

Kennedy & Spencer 2004 place *P. aethus* as basal to the other 2 spp. Some evidence *P. a. indicus* may be full species, but very little subsequent molecular data available. NB IOC2.0 places *Phaethontidae* after *Phoenicopartidae*.


White-tailed Tropicbird: *Phaethon lepturus* 6 spp, 3 possible in Region: nominate breeds Madagascar- Cocos Islands & further E, but non-breeder from all populations wander to Indian Ocean; europaec breeds IE Europa Mozambique Channel; fulvis breeds Indian Ocean Christmas Island; remaining 3 spp Atlantic or E Pacifis residents. Recorded observations: 1st confirmed record OSME deep-ocean area 23 May 1964 6.75°N, 55°' Gulf 1967: 3 birds) at 10:00:0.0N, 60:42:0.0E Jan 88 (MG Finn in Bourne 1989) & one in E of deep-ocean area at 20:30:0.0N−64:0.0E Nov 89 (B Grandin in HMS Cheshire 1991). One record 9°51'N, 66°44'E van den Berg 2014. Ranges deep into the Arabi/Saudi Sea, & frequent northern Indian Ocean BLISTD Dec 2017.

**Ciconiidae**


**African Openbill**

Monotypic. Breeds Casuarius Aramia Dahl 1954, Adamian & Klein 1999, CA: rare summer resident Iran Scott & Adhami 2006; Qasqhae et al 2017 review all Black Stork records for Iran & include extensive recent survey results, finding 3 new cliff-nesting locations, & concluding that it is a thinly-widespread rare breeder but a fairly common wintering species across Iran; very rarely sometimes accidental breeder, also rare PM E Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, probably N Afghanistan Paluden 1959 H&E 1970 (mapped RA 2012, BLDZ Feb 2018), formerly bred Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008, E to N China, scarce winter Arabia, mostly sub-Saharan Africa, India, also SE Iran, migrates across OSME Region, HBW1, rare WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE. NB ground-nester in treeless parts of Region Paluden 1959.

PT Woolly-necked Stork PT

Ciconia episcopus

As well as forming an established superspecies with Storm’s Stork C. stormi, Woolly-necked Stork has been split by HBW Alive into monotypic African Woollyneck C. microlepidotus and debatably polytypic Asian Woollyneck C. episcopus; extralimital ssp neglecta (Far East, Sundays) may not be diagnosable. The HBW new English names are fine for birding insiders, but will be confusing to people whose first language is not English. We prefer to treat the split as potential, given that full justification has not been published, although Inskipp & Collar 2015 note split published in del Hoyo & Collar 2014b on Tobias et al 2010 criteria. We know of no record of taxon microlepidotus in the Region, but it could wander into lower Egypt from Ethiopia & Eritrea, where fairly common migrant Ash & Atkins 2009.

140 Asian Woolly-necked Stork (Asian Woollyneck)

Ciconia (episcopus) episcopus

Vulnerable. 2 ssp, extralimital neglecta doubtfully diagnosable; vagrancy to Region possible for nominate resident India to Iran, where first recorded 1901 Zarudny 1911, Roselaar & Alladabian 2010, but not since 1950s Scott & Adhami 2006; however, mapped breeding SE Iran R&A 2005, 2012 (? error?), but confirmed breeding Thar Desert, Western Rajasthan May 2014 Singh 2015.

PT White Stork PT

Ciconia ciconia

Recorded extensively in E of region as just ‘White Stork’ where asilatica distributed, but consideration of species limits of ciconia & asilatica requires all populations to be documented. Prudent to make scupulous observations to discover extent of any cline, hence separate entries here. Re PT, split of extralimital Asian White Stork C. boyciana long accepted

144 Western White Stork (White Stork)

Ciconia ciconia ciconia

C & E Europe, Caucasus, Turkey, N&W Iraq Salim et al 2012; Iran Khaledaghizadeh et al 2018. Winters sub-Saharan Africa, funnel migration (see Berthold 1999) Levant, HBW1 common PM & WV Oman OBL7, some winter Pakistan regularly. Eastern European population migrating via Egypt & W Arabia less vulnerable to Sahel droughst than western European population, because E Sahel used only as stopover in droughsts, the wintering grounds extending beyond Ethiopia to E & S Africa Zwarts et al 2009; over 12 000 spring migration Zait Bay 260km S of Suez, Egypt Higlerish et al 2009 – Egypt Avib, BE

145 Eastern White Stork (White Stork)

Ciconia ciconia asilatica


146 Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumenifer

(Leptoptilos crumeniferus)


PT Sacred Ibis PT

Threskiornithidae

Some threskiornithid ssp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2011, 2015.

147 African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis [aethiopicus] aethiopicus

Parent Taxon: split is to extralimital monotypic Malagasy Sacred Ibis T. [a.] bernieri IOC1.6, BL 2008, H&M4 who resequence genera.


148 Black-headed Ibis

Threskiornis melanocephalus

Sporadic vagnant Uzbekistan Koblik & Arkhipov 2014

149 Northern Bald Ibis (Formerly Waldrapp)

Geronticus eremita


150 Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus


151 Eurasian Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

3 ssp, 2 in Region: nominate Turkey-C Asia, N Middle East, extralimital to Far East & China; archen probably most of Region’s Red Sea coast, especially S Red Sea Egypt Hurghada down to Halab all islands visited only 12bp Habib 2016a, but only one specimen known SW Arabia Jennings 2010; extralimital Baltic W Mauritania. Breeds W Red Sea coasts and islands & N Central Asia (irregular and rare at scattered wetlands Kazakhstan <650p Wassink 2015b) S to Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, some R&B Iraq marshes Salim et al 2012, WV Iran, Afghanistan Paludan 1959, BM Madge 1980, N Red Sea, nomadic, migrates through OSME Region to India, HBW1. Status in Arabia; RB Red Sea islands, islands off Kuwait, WV elsewhere Jennings 2010; 7th Qatar record Jan 2014 OBL8, abundant WV & PM Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Ardeidae**

H&M resequences families, genera & within genera, but we remain with IOC sequencing.


**PT** Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Parent Taxon: split is to extralimital monotypic Black-backed Bittern *I. dubius* (Australia) IOC v1.6.

154 Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* 3 ssp., only nominate in Region. H&M surely in error list paysel as breeding in Yemen, since Jennings 2010 has no breeding records at all for Yemen; perhaps its occurrence on Socotra has misled? Breeds Caucasus, CA (common SB Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b), Iran, Iraq Salim et al 2012 (Afghanistan Paludan 1959 H&E 1970 R&A 2005), Perlman & Meyrav 2009, migrants expected en route to India, HBW1. Juvenile recorded Socotra 1996 Kirwan 1998. Thnily widespread migrant in Arabia, but increasingly breeding artifical wetlands Jennings 2010 as residents. Fairly common SV sometimes breeding in Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.


158 Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* (ixobrychus flavicollis H&MJ) One isolated record, highly probably nominate, from the bay at S end of Iran-Pakistan border; see map R&A 2012; common breeding resident & PM Oman (including dark-morph ssp *B. virescens*). 2nd record Oman Apr 2014 OBRC. One recorded Qatar 2014, post-breeding dispersal, HBW1.

155 Black-crowned Night Heron (formerly Night Heron) *Nycticorax nycticorax* 4 ssp., only nominate in western hemisphere. Breeds Caucasus, CA (common BM S half Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b), Iran, N Iran, (Afghanistan R&A 2005, 2012), Middle East, SB N Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002, widely dispersive, winters to S CA, to Africa, including Red Sea, HBW1. Status in Arabia: widespread migrant and WV, occasional (since late 1980s) breeder Jennings 2010; common PM & WV Oman, some breeding OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

160 Striated Heron (Green-backed Heron, Little Green Heron) *Butorides striata* 21-26 ssp., only two resident in Region: brevipes (also in Somalia) Red Sea (including Asqaa Perlman & Meyrav 2009), now breeding Mediterranean coast Israel Checklist 2015, thought to breed Socotra Porter & Suleiman 2014, post-breeding dispersal, HBW1; javanica (priority over chloriceps) increasingly fairly common resident Iran in Gulf mangroves & islands KhaleghiZadeh et al 2017, but birds in Gulf in winter may be from large Indian population javanica; see R&A 2005, 2012 (who map breeding very close to SE Afghan border in Pakistan); S-record vagrant Jordan JBRC, now regular in Aqaba area JBRC; (2nd seen Azraq 2012) Qaneer & Butcher 2013. Bred Nile Valley Egypt Dijkstra 1997 & Bahrain Jun 2017 DB39(4): 260; 5th record Kuwait Oct 2015 KORC. 6th Juhul 2018 DB40(4): 259. 1st Cyprus record Dec-2014 Colin Richardson in litt., Status in Arabia; c.2000bp, largely resident, though some migration possible Jennings 2010; common breeding resident & PM Oman (including dark morph ssp brevipes OBL7. NB1. The name Green Heron now restricted to Nearctic B. virescens. NB2 IOC v2.3 lists extraartial (Galgapgos) Lava Heron R. auricollis.


163 Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* Monotypic. One record in Kyrgyzstan &G&G 2005 considered uncertain Koblik & Arkhipov 2014; possibility of wanderers to Kazakhstan from Mongolian population. Vagrant Oman, 2nd record Sep 2012 OBL7. One caught & released 2011 in Pakistan's Qurnbar (Karamber) NP at a location less than 5km from the Wakhan panhandle, Afghanistan Khan et al 2015, NB Species' status in area between Mongolia and SE Asia not known R&A 2012.

164 Malagasy Pond Heron (Formerly Madagascar Pond Heron) *Ardeola idae* Endangered. Monotypic. Despite breeding Madagascar & wintering in E Africa N only to equator (HBW1), has reached Arabia, specifically Socotra Aspinall et al 2004.

**PT** Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Easternmost older records will refer to PT and may include coronatus. IOC4.1, R&A 2005 accept split, H&M does not. For ID & status, see Ahmed 2011a
Western Cattle Egret (Cattle Egret)

Bubulcus [ibis] ibis


Eastern Cattle Egret (Indian Cattle Egret)

Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus (=B. ibis coromandus)


Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Only nominate of 4 ssp recorded in Region. Colonial; widespread, sometimes local breeder N OSME Region, also Iran, Afghanistan (R&A 2005) WV commonly for R & S. HBW1, E European and Asian birds more likely to migrate long distances Zwarts et al 2009. 1st bred Egypt May 2016 DB38(4) p245. Status in Arabia: common PM & 4W, but perhaps some 200p (mostly Kuwait) Jennings 2010; abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanoccephala


Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath


Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea


Great Egret (Great White Egret)

Ardea alba

IOC6.1 raised Ardea (alba) modesta to full species, Eastern Great Egret; adopted Dong et al 2010, but IOC2.10 reverted to subspecies status (aligning with the cautious argument of Pratt 2011 who suggests species limits of New World taxon should be established first), which we observe, pro tem; to this end, IOC3.5 proposes split of American Egret A. egrreta. NB1 BirdLife, DB 2009, Kirwan et al 2008 retain as/revert to Casmerodius albus/modestus, but DB38(2) adopted Ardea. NB2 Parkin & Knox 2010 note molecular data (Sheldon et al 2000) & osteological analysis (McCracken & Sheldon 1998) indicate closer affinity with Ardea.

Western Great Egret (Great White Egret)

Ardea (alba) alba (formerly Egretta alba)


Eastern Great Egret (Great Egret)

Ardea (alba) modesta

Migrant Oman OBL7. Long a likely vagrant from breeding grounds E of Afghanistan or from wintering (breeding?) range in the Indian subcontinent. Locally common resident mangroves S Persian Gulf, Iran Khalaeighizadeh et al 2017. Vagrant Russian S Caspian, accidental Ukraine Koblik & Arkhipov 2014.

Intermediate Egret PT

Ardea intermedia (AOU prefers Mesophoyx) del Hoyo et al 2014b split to Yellow-billed Egret of Africa E. brachyrhyncha, Intermediate Egret (Iranian subspecies) & extralimital Plumeg A. plumifera of New Guinea & Australia. A somewhat fuller narrative is at Perlman et al 2018. NB Sangster et al 2015 note close phylogenetic proximity of Intermediate and Great Egrets whose genetic divergence is no greater than that between Grey & Purple Herons, mitigating against separate genera for the former pair, given that reciprocal monophyly between the proposed Camerodius & Ardea remains poorly supported; Intermediate Egret is thus best placed in Ardea. H&M4 agrees, as do IOC6.2.

Intermediate Egret

Ardea (intermedia) intermedia

Accidental or vagrant in Region from Indian subcontinent, HBW1, but fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7, but fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7. 1st Qatar record Jan 2014 Morris 2014a. NB Australian-New Guinea extralimital populations split as Plumeg E. plumifera by del Hoyo & Collar 2014b on Tobias et al 2010 criteria: noted also in Insikk & Collar 2015.

Yellow-billed Egret

Ardea (intermedia) brachyrhyncha

Black Heron (Black Egret) **Egretta ardesiaca**


Little Egret **Egretta garzetta**

Only nominate of 3 ssp recorded in Region. Breeds locally CA, winters Gulf, resident populations round Arabian coasts, HBW1, N&CN Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, abundant PM & WV (some oversummer) Oman OBL7, resident W Afghanistan R&A 2005, 2012 (who also map TKM Amur Darya on N AFG border). Noticeable shift northwards of western wintering populations; thus vulnerable to colder weather rather than Sahel droughts Zwarts et al 2009, Egypt Avib, BE. Koparde & Yésou 2017 record many probable hybrids with Indian Reef Egret E.(g.) schistacea in India & Sri Lanka. NB Huang et al 2016 note that E. garzetta shares one barcoding sequence with Neartic Snowy Egret E. thula. Dutch Binding suggest that lumping may be called for, but because only 2 of the 4 garzetta samples in the COI phylogenetic tree align with the thula samples, interpretation of the results awaits deeper investigation.

Western Reef Heron **Egretta gularis**

Monotypic on grounds of functional allopatry from Dimorphic Egret E. (g.) dimorpha, although very limited overlap (Occasional? - No interbreeding documented) E African coast. However, Koparde & Yésou 2017 record many probable hybrids with Little Egret E. garzetta in India & Sri Lanka. Dark morphs occur no certain proportion Jennings 2010; breeds mainly Red Sea, S Arabia and Gulf, UAE Aspinall 1996 (Total Arabian breeders c3000, mostly in Gulf Jennings 2010; commonest breeding heron Bahrain King 2016), but also Iraq, HBW1 (all but one dark-phase Moore & Boswell 1941-46), breeds E coast Iraq R&A 2012 where common resident Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, Local breeding resident, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Taxon merits listing separately (as per Shirihai & Svensson in litt from Simon Aspinall); reversion to earlier treatment eg Moore & Boswell 1956. Claimed Cyprus Jul 2017 DB39(5): 341 (although as E.(g.) gularis); Egypt Red Sea coast BinE Avib.

Indian Reef Heron (Indian Reef Egret) **Egretta (gularis) schistacea**


Hamerkop **Scopus umbretta**


Great White Pelican (White Pelican) **Pelecanus onocrotalus**


Pink-backed Pelican **Pelecanus rufescens**


Dalmatian Pelican **Pelecanus crispus**


Fregatidae

Great Frigatebird  
Fregata minor  

Lesser Frigatebird  
Fregata ariel  

Sulidae

Northern Gannet  
Morus bassanus  

Cape Gannet  
Morus capensis  

Masked Booby  
Sula dactylatra  

Red-footed Booby  
Sula sula  

Brown Booby  
Sula leucogaster  
Only plots of 4 sssp in Region: nominate in Atlantic, brevistri & etesiaca along Pacific coasts California-Panama. Red Sea, SW Arabian coast, Socotra c.13 000bps Jennings 2010, revised by Porter & Suleiman 2014 to 200 000+ (globally significant); not unexpected along Region’s warm coasts HBW1, fairly commonly Oman OBL7; 1st Kuwait record Apr 2013 (2 birds) DB35(3) WPR, 1st Turkey record Alanya May 2013 DB35(2) WPR. Egypt Avib, BE. NB Non-Mediterranean ssp in Region, plotus, called Forster’s Booby by some.

Phalacrocoracidae

A general consensus has been reached on cormorant systematics and sequencing (see Kennedy & Spencer 2014); the new genera now ease the placement of fossil species. H&M4 resequences within genera, similar to IOC 4.3 sequencing.

Reed Cormorant  
(Formerly Long-tailed Cormorant)  
Microcarbo africanus (formerly in Phalacrocorax)  
2 ssp, pictilis Madagascar, nominate across sub-Saharan Africa to Ethiopia; wanders to SW Arabia, HBW1, Socotra Aspinall et al. 2004. 10 records Egypt, but not yet extinct EORC. However, locally resident in Khartoum State and likely further N towards Egyptian border Jenner & Taha 2016.

Little Cormorant  
(Javanese Cormorant)  
Microcarbo niger (formerly in Phalacrocorax)  

Pygmy Cormorant  
Microcarbo pygmeus (formerly in Phalacrocorax)  

Indian Cormorant (Indian Shag)  
Phalacrocorax fuscocollis  
Monotypic. Historic range W to SE Iran; BE, NE Afghanistan, Nelson 2005. Unlikely now R&A 2005 (Semhar Depression now dry long term), but being better adapted to salt water than Microcarbo niger, may be overlooked in coastal mangroves Iran. However, common in winter in Punjab 2003 c200 km from Afghan border Ali & Akhtar 2005, also indicating much of remaining Pakistan R&A 2012. Not difficult to find in甘肃 close to the Pakistan border MIR pers obs winter 2010, but BLDZ may Oct 2015 show it is nearer to Iran than previously. Widespread in W Europe, SE Asia, Australia. Frequently noted here in winter. NB Species name spelling as per IOC 9.1
Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

IOC2.2 supports split, H&M4 does not. However, Kennedy & Spencer 2014 indicate sinensis, along with lucidus, shares a (recent) common ancestor with carbo (including novaehollandiae) & with Japanese Cormorant P. capillus, the corollary being that sinensis is almost as distant from carbo as lucidus is.

Continental Great Cormorant [Great Cormorant]

Phalacrocorax [carbo] sinensis


White-breasted Cormorant

Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus

Monotypic. African taxon reaches Region on Yemen side of Bab-al Mandab (Redman et al 2009) (also Perim island?) & probably irregular along adjacent E Red Sea coast; vagrant Scoctora Redman et al 2009. One record inland Saudi Arabia Stagg 1985 Jennings 2010. NB1 Some individuals, possibly intermediates with taxon carbo, have little or no white. NB2 May reach southernmost Egyptian Lake Nasser; recorded in Sudanese part Nioulaux 1987.

Scootora Cormorant

Phalacrocorax nigrogularis

Vulnerable. Monotypic. SW Arabian waters, Scoctora archipelago (not proven on Scoctora islands) numbers 2750+ (globally significant) Porter & Suleiman 2014, breeds Gulf (27 300p reported Hawar, Bahrain Jennings 2007b, 250,000 in 1972 on the then-uninhabited Zirku (Zarukkah) island Stewart-Smith 1997, in 2016 almost none), southern Gulf coast, UAE Aspinal 1996; Jennings 2010 prudently assesses Arabian status as 110 000bp, given mobility of species & disturbance-related abandonment of colonies. Likewise Bahrain, currently with 22k bp King 2018; locally common visitor Oman, large winter roosts & flocks OBL7. Very local breeder S Iran coast, where 29 juvs recorded Jan 2009 Winkel et al 2010, HBW1, confirmed scarce resident Iran Scott & Adhami 2006. KhaleghiZadeh et al 2017. NB early change to Leucocorax genus in limbo; pro tem, applies to some southern hemisphere taxa only; resolution awaited.

European Shag

Gulosus anatolitus (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) (formerly Phalacrocorax aristotelis)


Darter PT

Anhinga melanogaster


Oriental Darter

Anhinga [melanogaster] melanogaster

Monotypic. Recently reliably recorded in Uzbekistan Kobil & Arkhipov 2014, considered accidental Ayé et al 2012 Appendix 1. R&A 2012 mapped as wintering in Pakistan within 200km of Khbeyr. BLDZ map Jul 2017 shows presence just NE of Bannu, within 50km of Afghan border. NB Numerous isolated mangrove sites remain along coast from Pakistan through Iran to Iraq.

African Darter (Darter)

Anhinga [melanogaster] rufa

2 of 3 ssp in Region: rapidly-diminishing chantrei of Iran-Iraq waterways; rufa occurs African S Red Sea/Gulf of Aden coasts, & so likely recorded SW Arabia; vulsini Madagascar. Iraq, BWK1, Iran Winkel et al 2010, HBW2, 5 Jan-Mar 2016 Hoor al-Azeem wetland, Khuzestan, Iran IBRC, 48 there Jan 2018 DB40(6):332, vagrant Israeli Perelman & Meyrov 2009; ssp chantrei extirpated Amik Golu in Turkey 1950s after drainage, HBW2. Sole Middle East breeding (chantrei/rufa?) colony Iraq marshes Salim et al 2012. A.[r.] rufa (chantrei?) cited sole Darter taxon in Region, Nelson 2005, but IOC7 note melanogaster in Pakistan, which may have been taxon at Sistan/Seistan wetlands Iran/Afghanistan prior to cutting water supply in drainage, HBW1, S Caspian Schütz 1959; breeds W Tien Shan & N Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002. WV Arabia, one breeding record Jennings 2010 & WV Bahrain, occasional breeder King 2010, sometimes abundant WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

Osprey PT

Pandion haliaetus

IOC2.0 split into 2 ssp, Western P. (haliaetus) haliaetus (ssp haliaetus & extralimital Neartic carolinensis & ridgwayi) & monotypic extralimital (Australasian) Eastern P. (h.) cristatus Ospreys; Wink et al 2004a (mtDNA only) suggested all 4 taxa be treated as full species. However, Monti et al 2015 using the cyt b and ND2 mt genes also found 4 lineages, one (Far East) being new, but carolinensis & ridgwayi did not merit specific distinction from each other. We align with Monti et al 2015, noting their passing comment that Red Sea and Persian Gulf haplotypes were of particular interest (for future work?). See also Christidis & Boles 2008, H&M4 does not split but notes possibility for cristatus. NB Parkin & Knox 2010 emphasised strong case for split into 2 or 3 species.

Western Osprey

Pandion [haliaetus] haliaetus

Nominate very rare breeder Kazakhstan (<10bp) Wassink 2015b, locally elsewhere in OSME Region eg UAE Aspinal 1996, Lake Drumul Tikjajistan, winters southern Africa, NE Afghanistan (R&A 2005), Indian subcontinent Naraobi 2006; resident coasts Red Sea (majority), S Arabia (c850bp Arabia Jennings 2007a, 2010; often ground-nester Arabia); far/African SB Iranian caspian, common WM the Gulf, KhaleghiZadeh et al 2017: local resident breeder, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Gulf, F-L&C 2001. Population increase due to pesticide bans, protection & most wintering S of Sahel Zwars et al 2009. Egyptian population appears to have declined to c300p Habib 2017c. NB Highly unlikely that any taxon other than haliaetus has occurred in Region (as mapped in Monti et al 2015), but Habib 2017c calls for DNA research on Egyptian birds, smaller and paler than any other raptor, although he does not cite haliaetus in support.

Accipitridae

IOC4.4 sequences Falconidae to follow Pididae: Falconidae are not closely related to Accipitriformes. IOC3.3 reclassified Accipitriformes genera and species, H&M4 reclassifying further, but we await IOC analysis. For a comprehensive overview of raptor migration, wintering and persecution in the Arabian Peninsula, see McGrady 2018.
**Black-winged Kite (Black-shouldered Kite)**

*Elanus caeruleus*


**Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)**

*Gypaetus barbatus*


**Scissor-tailed Kite (Formerly African Swallow-tailed Kite)**

*Chelictinia riocourii*


**Egyptian Vulture**

*Neophron percnopterus*


**European Honey Buzzard**

*Pernis apivorus*


Hooded Vulture | Necrosyrtes monachus | Critically Endangered. Monotypic. African sp. RNWBS record of bird on 01 Sep 59 settling on board ship at approx 20°0.0N+38°0.0E (near centreline of Red Sea); widespread but rare E Sudan to Red sea coast between 18-20°N Nikolaus 1987. NB Breeds on Entreath Dakl Islands di Marchi et al 2005; recorded in half-deg square map containing Perim Island (Yemen) Ash & Atkins 2009.


Apr-May 2017 survey of Karatau reserve, W Tien-Shan, Kazakhstan suggested declines of Himalayan Griffin & other scavengers, likely due to land-use changes Oppel et al 2018
215 Lappet-faced Vulture (Nubian Vulture) Torgos tracheliotos (formerly Torgos tracheliotus, *Aegypius tracheliotos*) **Endangered.** Reversion to Torgos IOC v2.3. Sub-Saharan African ss *t. tracheliotus* wanders F-L&C 2005, to E Egypt H&M, ss *negnevicensis* UAE Aspinal 1996; reintroduction scheme Israel releases post-2016; c.800bp, mostly C-Africa, also some UAE, Oman (where common breeding resident & WV OBL7); E Yemen; until 1980s reported as Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*; plains inhabitant, population seemingly increasing Arabia Jennings 2010. Egypt 20 reported Apr 2010 Bir Shalatein *Halab Triangle DB32(3):* 205, 19 in Feb 2016 DB38(2): 126, resident *Halab Triangle Dora* 2019, NB final spelling *t. tracheliotos* IIOC3.2 (Rookmaaker 1988 citing *1796 in which tracheliotos is badly printed* (p362, last line), the second ‘o’ having an open ‘o’.

216 Short-toed Snake Eagle (Short-toed Eagle) Circaetus gallicus **C.g. heptneri** claimed Turkmenistan, Bukreev 1997, but now *subsumed within nominate* Dickinson 2003; bulk extralimital ss *sacerdotis* now known from Lesser Sundas. Caucasus, CA (rare Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b), BM Afghanistan Madge 1980, probably Afghanistan F-L&C (2005); likely rare/accidental Argandeavel 1983 in Afghan Pamirs (resident Indian population also reaches SE Afghanistan R&A 2005), fairly common *SV Caspain lowlands Iran, scarce elsewhere* Khaleghizadeh *et al* 2017, Iraq Ararat *et al* 2011, Israel (and passage)Perlman & Meyrav 2008. Status in Arabia: passage migrant, winterer, but a few scattered breeding records, where birds may be resident (historical lack of observers?) Jennings 2010: common PM & WV Oman, has bred OBL7. Egypt, Avib, BE.


218 Lerner *et al* 2017 *erect* a new phylogeny and taxonomy of the Aquilinae. In *Clanga, taxon hastata* is basal.


223 Booted Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus (recently *Aquila pennata*, which had superseded earlier treatment as *Hieraaetus pennatus*) Monotypic. Reversion to *Hieraaetus* IIOC3.3 follows extensive resequencing of raptor genera contingent upon a swath of completed advanced DNA research, particularly demonstrated in Lerner *et al* 2017: conclusively, relationship of this species to all other Acciptrid raptors places it in *Hieraaetus* (notwithstanding Anderson *et al* 2009 & Sangster *et al* 2009). Summer breeder Central Asia (K-M&K 2005), rare BM & PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b. As P.o. pennata & minuta Turkmenistan, Bukreev 1997 (now treated as monotypic); Caucasus, RB SE Afghanistan BLD2 map Mar 2018, MB Afghanistan Madge 1980, rare on passage Abee-

224 Tawny/Indian Tawny/ Steppe Eagle PT *Aquila rapax/vindhiana/nipalensis* Older records of Parent Taxon likely unclear as to which present-day taxon was recorded, but significant skull structure differences suggest separation of nipalensis was ancient. Prudent to treat separately *pro tem*.
Indian Tawny Eagle  
(Tawny Eagle)  
*Aquila (rapax) vindhiana*  
**Vulnerable.** Sedentary Indian subcontinent; treated here separately from sedentary SW Arabian A.(r.) belisarius. R&A 2012 retain in *rapax*, mapping residency near Khyber. Iraq record Ticehurst et al 1921-23. One collected Iran 1901 (Zarudny), Roseàlar & Aliabandian 2010; 1970s sight records Iran (D Scott, R. Porter pers obs). Jennings 2010 suggests *A. rapax* records from E Arabia (Nov-Mar) likely include vindhiana. OBL7 concurs. Lerner et al 2017 note minimal plumage and genetic differences with *A. rapax* in Africa. Nevertheless, in the absence of evidence of gene-flow other than by stragglers between the S Asia and (largely) African populations, we invoke the null hypothesis that these are separate conservation units worthy of recognition. Earlier status, breeding or rare resident Iran Scott & Adhami 2006; (Jul 2016) & Khaleghizadeh et al 2016 agree. Has probably bred SE Iranian Baluchestan since Zarudny 1911, always in small numbers. Mapped wintering to SE Iran Arlott 2009. Recent records: 2 recorded Jan 2009 Winkel et al 2010. At least 5 recorded Gwadr near Pakistan border 2009 or slightly further W along Iran coast winter Jan 2009 Lantschev & Vermoelen 2009, which document is in final version of Amini & van Roomen 2009. In addition to these recent sight records, BLDZ map Jul 2017 indicates presence in SW Iran over an area of 16000km². Intriguingly, it excludes the Bahookalat Protected Area, a c.59km-wide “buffer zone” between the mapped distribution and the Pakistan Border. Khaleghizadeh et al 2017 assess as local resident in SE Iranian Baluchestan. NB1 1901 Zarudny specimen in AMNH New York. NB2 Iran ‘Zarudny’ specimen may be *nipalensis* A Khaleghizadeh pers comm). NB3 Destruction of open woodland since 1960s likely deters wanderers. NB4 BLDZ Jul 2017 maps in Pakistan to within 90km of Afghan border near Quetta, and 50km of Afghan border N of Peshawar; rare resident near W Pakistan-Iran border & resident Pakistan Khyber Naoroji 2006; Roberts 1991 map suggests breeding likely in tiny area of Afghanistan N of Khyber: Paludan 1959 notes one sight record, but by Meinertzhagen & so is discounted. H&E 1970 mapped Iran from Straits of Hormuz to Pakistan to c28°N.

“African Tawny Eagle”  
*Steppe Eagle*  
*Aquila (rapax) vindhiana*  
**Vulnerable.** In OSME Region, ssp *belisarius* uncommon sedentary resident SW Arabia (ssp *rapax* largely sub-equatorial Africa) F-L&C 2005, Jennings 2010 (c.300bp, S Tihama & foothills mostly E Yemen). Has occurred Egypt rarely, latest being May 2015. Marsa Alam EORC; earlier records doubtful, including putative 1st record of Meinertzhagen. Israel vagrant Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 6th record NW Negev July 2016 DB35(5); 331 SG39(1)ATR. Pre-split from Steppe Eagle *A. nipalensis* F-L&C 2001 map this sp also as occurring near Iran-Pakistani coast. F-L&C (2005) omit this area but indicate that the line of separation for Indian Tawny Eagle A.(r.) vindhiana covers that location in Iran and also E Oman: Jennings 2010 suggests records (Nov-Mar) from E Arabia likely A. (r.) vindhiana, OBL7 concurring. Wintered Iran Seistan & N Baluchestan Zarudny 1911, but that likely relates to all 33 taxa being treated as a single species. Egypt Avib, BE (1924 record Egypt, but associated with Meinertzhagen, all of whose records are suspect unless verifiable – Garfield 2007). 

Steppe Eagle  
*Steppe Eagle*  
*Aquila nipalensis*  

Eastern Imperial Eagle  
(Asian Imperial Eagle)  
*Aquila heliaca*  
Golden Eagle  
*Aquila chrysaetos*

Lerner & Mindell 2005 refined raptor relationships, then with advanced techniques, Nebel et al. 2015 examined the mtDNA lineage of Golden Eagles, sample bias towards Palearctic populations, finding a Mediterranean haplotype that largely coincided with the distribution of *homeyeri*, a northern haplotype that appeared in all other Holarctic populations. The 2 haplotypes likely originated from separate glacial refugia that recolonised different regions at different times. Other molecular techniques would be required to determine if there was any evidence to discriminate in favour of the ssp *chrysaetos*, *daphanae*, *kamschatica*, *japonica* & *canadensis*, although Neartic birds and *kamschatica* are similarly sized. Doyle et al. 2016 analyse the genetic structure in Neartic Golden Eagle populations and find 4 distinct populations within taxon *canadensis*: the preservation of their genetic variability would require each population to be treated as a distinct management unit. Sornthagen et al. 2012 studied a population of Golden Eagles that had colonised offshore islands in California (max sea crossing 42km), finding rapid reduction of genetic diversity in only 15 years, gene-flow from the mainland having stopped because all island territories were occupied and defended. These 3 papers provide a circumstantial basis for listing separately the 3 groupings occurring in the OSM Region. NB1 H&M4 recognise 6 Golden Eagle ssp: *chrysaetos* (Europe [less Iberia]) to Yemen; *daphanae* (Pamirs to SW & C China, S to W&C Himalayas); *kamschatica* (NE Asia Yenisei, Mongolia-Kamchatka & NE China); *japonica* (Korea, Japan); *homeyeri* (Iberia, N Africa, Middle East, Arabia to Caucasus Iran & E Uzbekistan & isolate in Ethiopia); *canadensis* (Alaska, Canada, US, NW Mexico). NB2 Nebel et al. 2015 comment on closeness of *canadensis* & *kamschatica*. NB3 Many Golden Eagle populations remain unsampled or poorly known.

225 'Northern Golden Eagle'  
*Aquila (chrysaetos) homeyeri*

English name informal@OSME. Palearctic taxa boundaries are uncertain, hence contradictory conclusions between pre-2012 authors re taxon distributions. We tentatively assess the 'chrysaetos' group as including *daphanae*, *taxon japonica* being of uncertain affinity. Nebel et al. 2015 found *homeyeri* haplotype distribution extended N of Mediterranean to Alps & E to Turkey, noting presence of *chrysaetos* haplotypes within some northern *homeyeri* populations, but whether this represents long-established or more recent gene-flow is not yet known. All non-*homeyeri* populations in Region share mtDNA lineage with N Europe & rest of Eurasia, including some at least of North America (which may have a 3rd or more lineages) Nebel et al. 2015, Doyle et al. 2016. English name informal @OSME. NB1 *kamschatica* we regard as occurring Altai & may be synonymous with *canadensis* ('American Golden Eagle' English name informal@OSME), perhaps one reason for Wassink 2015 allotting E Kazakhstan birds to *canadensis*: if that were proven, it would mirror distributions of American Swallow Hirundo (rustica) erithrogaster, Northern Shrike Lanius borealis and American Herring Gull/Vega Gull Larus (smithsonianus) vegae. NB2 taxon *daphanae* we regard as probably occurring Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan/Afghanistan/Afghanistan mountains.

226 'Mediterranean Golden Eagle' (Homeyer's Golden Eagle)  
*Aquila (chrysaetos) homeyeri*

English name informal@OSME. We tentatively assess *homeyeri* as being the sole taxon in the group. Populations *homeyeri* Turkey-Caucasus-Iraq share mtDNA lineage with Mediterranean & C Europe populations (informal name Homeyer's Golden Eagle Dutch Birding), likely this taxon 10th record Kuwait Oct 2015 KORC. Turkey homeyeri residentKirwan et al. 2008, who suggested possibly synonym of *chrysaetos*; *homeyeri* & *daphanae* resident Turkmenistan, Bukkreev 1997, RB Afghanistan Madge 1980. thinly widespread Caucasus, Iraq Arastu et al. 2011 fairly common & widespread in Iranian mountains Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017, CA (Kazakh ssp *chrysaetos* & *daphanae* Ayé et al. 2012, but Wassink 2015b gives *chrysaetos* [N half Kazakhstan] & *canadensis* instead of *daphanae* [S half], the implications of which, as a taxon previously considered solely Neartic, are considerable, given Nebel et al. 2015), Afghanistan, Iran, F-L&C (2005) east as far as Bhutan Naoori 2006. Rare resident & visitor IsraelPerlman & Meyrav 2009: Status in Arabia: locally widespread uncommon resident (c250bp) population trend uncertain, possible Oman montane decline possibly offset by increased carrion from irrigated area stock farms Jennings 2010, but OBL7 confirms decline, possibly to non-breeder. Egypt Avib, BE. NB ssp *chrysaetos* likely occurs sporadically in N Kazakhstan (it occurs from Europe to Yenisei valley H&M4).

227 'American Golden Eagle'  
*Aquila (chrysaetos) canadensis*

Taxon *kamschatica* we regard as occurring Altai & may be synonymous with *canadensis* 'American Golden Eagle' which English name informal@OSME; certainly Nebel et al. 2015 noted closeness of *canadensis* & *kamschatica*, which pro tem we infer is therefore within the *canadensis* group. This appears to be the reason for Wassink 2015 allotting E Kazakhstan birds to *canadensis*. Further study of American Golden Eagle would mirror the Eastern Palearctic distributions of American Swallow Hirundo (rustica) erithrogaster, Northern Shrike Lanius borealis and American Herring Gull/Vega Gull Larus (smithsonianus) vegae.

228 Verreaux's Eagle  
*Aquila verreauxii*

Monotypic. Established breeding pair in Aqaba-Eilat region Sinai 1996, still also in St Katherine area of Egyptian Sinai, very rare visitor S Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009. 1st breeding record Saudi Arabia Eichacker 1990, status in Arabia: scarce breeding resident (200-3000m asl) Red Sea hinterland, mostly W Yemen, but also W Oman, c60bp Jennings 2010, Dhofar mountains OBL7. 54 recorded Wadi Sayq Dhofar Jan-Mar 2012-13 Ball et al. 2015. One photographed Gebel Elba Nov 2017, another Eilat Mis Feb 2018 DB402). 121.

229 Bonelli's Eagle  
*Aquila fasciata* (formerly *Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

Gabar Goshawk  
Mecinopus gabor  

Dark Chanting Goshawk  
Meierax metabates  

PT Shikra  
Accipiter badius  
Breman et al 2012 suggest a superspecies thus: 2 clades, one (extralimital) of Frances’s Sparrowhawk Accipiter francesiae (Madagascar) Chinese Sparrowhawk A. soloensis (E Orient), the other of Shikra A. badius + Levant Sparrowhawk A. brevipes. Levant Sparrowhawk breeds SE Europe, SW Asia, wintering N sub-Saharan Africa & is closely related to the 2 African ssp of A. badius (extralimital polyzonoides & into SW Arabia sphenurus); the 3 taxa show similar intraspecific sequence divergences supportive of treatment as of equivalent taxonomic rank to other Accipiter ssp (c2.6% Breman et al 2012), hence the superspecies merits further taxonomic revision; the populations in Arabia appear to have two lines of ancestry. NB1 Taxonomic revision of some raptor genera indicate that Accipiter may be restricted to African taxa & relatives, placing other taxa into Tachyspiza; in following this concept, Eaton et al 2014 assign species status to T. sphenura, naming T. badius ‘Asian Shikra’. NB2 A. brevipes previously had been suggested as being closely related to A. soloensis (Thiollay 1994), so superspecies revision should include extralimital SE Asian ssp of A. badius (‘Eastern Shikra’; dussumieri, badius, polioptila). H&M makes no mention of breeding populations from Caucasus to Arabia (Breman et al 2012 is still [IOC7.2] not on H&M Reference List), but updates may illuminate the taxonomic flux inferred below. NB3 Long treated in Russian-language literature as separate from Levant Sparrowhawk A. brevipes Redkin et al 2015.

‘Northern Shikra’  
(African name informal@OSME)  
Accipiter (badius/brevipes) sphenurus (May move to Tachyspiza)  

‘Tihama Shikra’  
(African name informal@OSME)  
Accipiter (badius/brevipes) sphenurus (May move to Tachyspiza)  
Breman et al 2012 conclude that taxon sphenurus deserves same taxonomic rank as Shikra A. badius. Taxon sphenurus 400+ pairs Arabia Jennings 2007a; status in Arabia: max estimated 6000bp in southern Tihama (A few Dubai of uncertain origin) Jennings 2010, but records now accepted as of wild birds EORC, specimens in BMNH from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Oct 1938 (Clark & Parslow 1991). NB1 Resident (? - see BirdLife Species Account map), PM & VW populations in N Oman perhaps cenchroides, possibly dussumieri Forsmann 2018, hence our use of informal name for taxon sphenurus ‘Tihama Shikra’. NB2 If sphenurus becomes genus & African ssp sphenurus & polyzonoides are split, then species name would be T. sphenura on priority grounds. However, the ‘Tihama Shikra’ may well qualify either as a separate ssp, or even as a full species, due to its two lines of ancestry, which apparently are not present to a significant degree in African sphenurus populations.

Levant Sparrowhawk  
Accipiter brevipes (May move to Tachyspiza)  

Eurasian Sparrowhawk  
(Northern Sparrowhawk)  
Accipiter nisus May move to Tachyspiza)  
Northern Goshawk
Accipiter gentilis gentilis (May move to Astur)

Western Marsh Harrier
Circus aeruginosus

Eastern Marsh Harrier
Circus spilonotus (formerly C. aeruginosus spilonotus)
Monotypic (Oakley et al 2015 removed ssp, spilonota, reassigning it to the Pacific [Australasian] Harrier C. approximans). Probably occurs E Kazakhstan, E Tajikistan, E Kyrgyzstan, F-L&C (2005); single-vagrant E formerly 2012 map two resident 2015 show that 2012, 2nd record Oman 2011. Though possible in Egypt. Egypt Avib, BE. We agree with PT1 Northern Harrier’s suggestion that the latter is a species, with 2016 evidence for separate E populations. However, the evidence is not very definitive. Pt1 et al disagree, emphasizing the need for mtDNA. The taxon is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). It is likely widespread, but poorly known (Oatley et al 1994). 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243. "Eurasian Black Kite"

Milvus [migrans] migrans

IOC4.1 retains reversion of subsizing lineatus and govinda within migrans; we align with F-L&C 2005 for M. (m.) lineatus (qv), M. (m.) govinda (qv). Summer breeder Caucasus, CA (scarce Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b); Arabia, Iran (not in S & SW Khaelaghizadeh et al 2017), Afghanistan (Paludan 1959; Madge 1980), scarce PM Kuwait KORC, fairly common (including lineatus) PM & WV Oman OBL7, winters to S, India, sub-Saharan Africa, F-L&C 2005. Various hybrids between Black & Black-eared Kites – some ('migrans types') like the former, others ('lineatus types') resembling the latter – occur in Kazakhstan while documented records of pure Black Kite or pure Black-eared Kite (Dick Forsman in litt) seem to be lacking W&O 2008. Ayé et al 2012 suggest migrans occupies W CA. Egypt Avib. NB occasional hybrid Black Kite •


244. Black-eared Kite (Large Black Kite) (Black Kite)

Milvus [migrans] lineatus

(formerly M. migrans lineatus)


245. Indian Black Kite

Milvus [migrans] govinda


246. Yellow-billed Kite [Black Kite]

Milvus [migrans] aegyptius

(formerly M. migrans aegyptius)

Common resident Yemen, Warr 1992. Egypt, S Red Sea, SW Arabia, F-L&C 2005, Jennings 2010 estimates c 30 000bp SW Saudi Arabia & mostly SW Yemen, breeding resident SW Oman OBL7. IOC2.7 gives species specific status, citing Johnson et al 2005, 1st record Israel YoavPerlman in litt Nov 09, 2nd May 2016 DB38(4) p247 3rd Jul 2018 Yoav Perlmann in litt, bred Lake Nasser, EgyptJan 2018 Bull ABC 25(2): 235. NB1 some authors eg Scheider et al 2004 suggest southern African taxon parasitus (Daubon 1800) as a more valid ssp than aegyptius (Gmelin 1788), but did not sample aegyptius; we treat aegyptius (Gmelin 1788) as separate from parasitus, but related closely to it IOC3.3; other authors have included both populations under aegyptius. NB2 Scheider et al 2004 found parasitus (qv ORL Hypothetical) to be closer to Red Kite M. milvus than to M. migrans (see also Scheider et al 2009), but Johnson et al 2005 revealed differences between parasitus and aegyptius populations; perhaps former may be closer to Red Kite and the latter to Black Kite. Elevation of aegyptius (IOC2.7).

247. Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus


248. African Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

Monotypic. Accidental. One shot at Aswan 01 Nov 1947 now in Giza Museum (Marcel Haas in litt May 14.)

249. Pallas’s Fish Eagle (Pallas’s Sea Eagle)

Haliaeetus leucoryphus


250. White-tailed Eagle (Formerly White-tailed Fish or Sea Eagle)

Haliaeetus albicilla

Bred Turkey – E Iran & H&E 1970. Rare, quite widespread rare or scarce breeder Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, also Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, F-L&C (2005); former Kyrgyzstan breeder, but common winterer Ven 2002, uncommon resident common WV S Caspian Iran, less so elsewhere Khaleaghizadeh et al 2017; reintroduced Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 1st pair for 70 years bred 2015 Nov 2015 (all juveniles), 4th Jahra Feb 2017 KORC, 5th there Dec 2017 KORC; in winter Afghanistan R&A 2005, on passage Kabul Region Argandeav 1983, also wintering Indian subcontinent Naoroly 2006. Rare breeder, common winterer Iran Scott & Adhami 2006. Egypt Avib. BE
**White-eyed Buzzard**

*Buteastur teesa*


**Rough-legged Buzzard**

*Buteo lagopus*


**Socotra Buzzard**

*Buteo socotraensis*


**Buzzard Superspecies**

*Buteo [buteo/rufinus/hemilasius/oreophilus]*

Haring et al 1999 first proposed from a detailed genetic study that Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Long-legged Buzzard *B. rufinus*, Upland Buzzard *B. hemilasius* (then classed as *B.r.* hemilasius) & Mountain Buzzard *B. oreophilus* formed a superspecies; *B. oreophilus* is extralimital to the OSME Region, in eastern & southern African ‘sky islands’. However, the relationships between members of this group and other Palearctic *Buteo* taxa remained undefined. Riesing et al 2003 examined relationships between *Buteo* taxa within the Nearctoc and Palearctic, finding inter alia that japonicus, hemilasius & reflexus were close to all taxa within the then-defined *B. buteo*. Jowers et al 2019 (accepted paper) focused on the taxa within the Buzzard superspecies via a battery of DNA techniques. Amongst their conclusions is that taxon cirtensis is best considered an allospecies of Common Buzzard (*buteo, vulpinus*), although it has two lines of ancestry, the other being Long-legged Buzzard (*rufinus*); the Buzzard superspecies concept as here considered is valid, as is the separate identity of *B. hemilasius*.

**Buzzard/Common Buzzard**

*Buteo [buteo] buteo*

Superspecies as per Jowers et al 2019. Although taxon *buteo* is molecularly close to *vulpinus*, the range of techniques applied has been limited, but menetriesi clusters with vulpinus Kruckenhausen et al 2004; since that paper, little work has been done on the vulpinus/menetriesi relationship & so we list each taxon separately *pro tem*. Note that since menetriesi in Turkey breeds almost as far west as vulpinus does further north, the informal names of ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ are more appropriate than earlier versions.

**Common Buzzard (Buzzard)**

*Buteo [buteo] buteo*


**‘Northern Steppe Buzzard’ (Steppe Buzzard) (Common Buzzard)**

*Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Migratory. Breeds N Kazakhstan (scarce BM Wassink 2015), & in scattered CA locations; perhaps this form widespread resident Kyrgyzstan (Listed only as *B. buteo*, Ven 2002), common PM through CA, Caucasian common Kabul Region Argandeval 1983, Iran, F-L&C (2005), Afghan Wakhan 2006 Ayè 2007; however, Ayè et al 2012 2012 map as wintering N AFG & passage migrant to Indian subcontinent, whereas R&A2005 map is absent from Afghanistan except for a single vagrant; fairly common PM throughout Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017; Iraq Ararat et al 2011 (likely cline vulpinus/menetriesi); common spring passage Iraq Perlman & Meyrav 2009. Uncommon PM & WV Oman OBL7. 5th record Qatar May 2017 QBRC. 6th & 7th records Oct & Dec 2017 QBRC. Bird ringed Bredasdorp, Cape Province, SA, Nov 1968, shot in Rawu, Iraq, 6 months later in 1969, having travelled at least 6700km Bull Iraq NHM V(1); (1971), 1st recovery Iraq from Africa. English name informal @OSME.

**‘Southern Steppe Buzzard’ (Eastern Steppe Buzzard; ‘Caucasian Buzzard’)**

*Buteo buteo menetriesi*

Sedentary. Turkey Kirwan et al 2008; Bb. menetriesi Turkmenistan, Bukreev 1997, Turkey, Caucasus to Iran, common resident S Caspian Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017. Iraq Ararat et al 2011 (likely cline vulpinus/menetriesi). English name informal @OSME. NB DB2009 call ssp menetriesi Caucasian Buzzard, which Schüz 1959 reported as common breeder in foothills of S Caspian.

**‘North African Buzzard**

*Buteo [buteo] cirtensis*

Jowers et al 2019 confirm two lines of ancestry in taxon cirtensis: buteo+vulpinus & rufinus; balance of genetic information obtained clearly supports taxon cirtensis placement as allospecies of *B. buteo* & not of *B. rufinus*. Taxon cirtensis (N Africa & recently S Spain) casual breeder in Region, scarce passage, winter Egypt (István Moldován in litt); one cirtensis ringed Eliat Yosef et al 2002, one Qatar Nov 2016 QBRC, uncommon breeding resident Oman OBL7.3, rare breeding resident UAE EBRC. English name informal@OSME, based on Jowers et al assignment as allospecies of *B. buteo*. Dutch Birding 2011 WP list assigned name Atlas Long-legged Buzzard.
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| 259 | **'Eurasian Long-legged Buzzard'**  
Buteo [buteo] rufinus  
Monotypic, after Jowers et al 2019. Caucasus, CA (Common BM, PM, rare resident & WV Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b), Iran (few S Caspian Schüz 1959 but common in mountains Klagehizadeh et al 2017), Iraq Salim et al 2012, winters Afghanistan (Kabul Region & Nurestan Arganar 1963, Bamiyan Busuttil & Ayé 2009), resident breeding numbers thought declining C Arabia Jennnings 2004 (800 + bp Jennnings 2007a, c900 Jennnings 2010); former breeding sites possibly abandoned in favour of sites nearer irrigated agriculture Jennings 2010, but presence of migrants & winterners confuse picture; fairly common resident breeder Oman OBL7. N populations migratory, widespread resident Kyrgyzstan, V-W Uzbekistan. Russ Ayé et al 1986, NB1 Two morphs; pale (from very pale through rufous to dark rufous) and dark (blackish) Ayé et al 2012. NB2 Formerly considered as forming superspecies only with Upland Buzzard B.(b.) hemilasius, & then placed closer to B. japonicus, which now full species (Haring et al 1999, Jowers et al 2019), although rufinus/hemilasius hybridisation does occur; possibly also with japonicus in places? Hybrid hemilasius/rufinus individuals recorded Charyn canyon Kazakhstan 2012. NB3 Fossils of this species from 40-50KYA have been found in England Jowers et al 2019. |
| 259 | **Upland Buzzard**  
Buteo [buteo] hemilasius  
| 260 | **Eastern Buzzard PT**  
(Common Buzzard)  
Buteo japonicus  
Jowers et al 2019 propose full species. PT previous history: IOC2.0, H&M4 accepted split of B. japonicus and also of Himalayan Buzzard B.(b.) refectus Lerner et al 2008; IOC2.7 revised as B. burmanicus; this name claimed as priority (Penhallurick & Dickinson 2008) over refectus: the priority case therein was compiled & inserted by the lead author alone; this discord is superseded by Dickinson & Svensson 2012, in which the name B. hodgsoni is erected for (extralimital) eastern Himalayan populations. However, exactly which populations comprise burmanicus, japonicus or even hemilasius is far from clear. BLDZ Sep 2018 maps Himalayan Buzzard (as B. refectus) along Himalayan southern flank from Isalamabad Pakistan E to Arunachal Pradesh in NE India, but also maps Japanese Buzzard (as B. japonicus) as wintering exactly in the same area (and points E & S). Kruckenhauser et al 2004 note that B. beate can be regarded as a superspecies with rufinus taxa. Nevertheless, Lindholm & Forsten 2014 suggest a practical pro tem arrangement would confine B. japonicus to Japan & islands Korea & Manchuria, with burmanicus being a BM in N China & Siberia & refectus being the taxon in Himalayas & C China mountains, but as ssp of japonicus (Perhaps worth a small wager?). NB Dickinson & Walters 2006 originally had recommended priority for B. plumipes, now superseded by hodgsoni. H&M4 treat B. refectus as full sp. |
| 261 | **Eastern Buzzard PT**  
(Common Buzzard)  
(Himalayan Buzzard H&M4)  
Buteo japonicus refectus  
(B. refectus H&M4)  
G&G 2005, W&O 2007 (see Kruckenhauser et al 2004) R&A 2005, IOC1.7 elevate japonicus to full species (Kruckenhauser et al 2004); possibly rare E Kazakhstan mountain resident (G&G 2005), more likely rare PM & scarce WV Wassink 2015b. Status in CA vagrant Ayé et al 2012; 1st for Turkmenistan 2005 Rafael Ayé et al 2015. Rare breeding distribution (as refectus) in S Pakistan E Ladakh. Previously recorded B.(b.) pers comm, 1st record Tajikistan Ayé 2016. Brazil 2009 treats as B. japonicus. BLDZ map Mar 2018 gives breeding distribution (as B. refectus) from N Pakistan E along Himalayas. Here, we align slightly provocatively with Lindholm & Forsten 2014 by pro tem assigning refectus as the ssp present. The taxon throughout Himalayan chain that R&A 2012 map fairly close to Afghan border at N Nuristan (winter) & W Iran (scarce Scott & Adhami 2014, Kyrgyzstan, W Iran (scarce Scott & Adhami 2014, pers comm). Two morphs; pale (from very pale through rufous to dark rufous) and dark (blackish) Ayé et al 2012. NB2 Formerly considered as forming superspecies only with Upland Buzzard B.(b.) hemilasius, & then placed closer to B. japonicus, which now full species (Haring et al 1999, Jowers et al 2019), although rufinus/hemilasius hybridisation does occur; possibly also with japonicus in places? Hybrid hemilasius/rufinus individuals recorded Charyn canyon Kazakhstan 2012. NB3 Fossils of this species from 40-50KYA have been found in England Jowers et al 2019. |
| 294 | **Otididae**  
Collar et al et al31 authors) 2018 analyse the threats to Asian bustards and detail what is required to halt pending extinctions. The paper covers bustard populations OSME Region countries as well as those in the Indian subcontinent, China to Mongolia & SE Asian countries, & in Russian Asia.  
PT Great Bustard PT  
Otis tarda  
Kessler et al establish a sizeable genetic difference between the 2 ssp. tarda & dybowskii, based on DNA sequence data from the mt cyb gene & the mtDNA control region to estimate the degree of mtDNA differentiation and rates of female gene flow between the ssp. They conclude that the evidence is strong enough for the 2 taxa to at least be recognized and managed as Separate Evolutionary Units; they also suggest that O.t. dybowskii and O.t. tarda may be distinct species, but other DNA techniques are needed to validate that. Despite an ambiguously-worded sentence in the Kessler et al 2018 Abstract, dybowskii has never been recorded in the OSME Region (AE Kessler pers comm).  
Great Bustard  
Otis (tarda) tarda  
Vulnerable (likely Endangered in Asia). Rare summer breeder ssp tarda scattered areas Kazakhstan Ayé et al 2012, very rare BM, PM, resident, WV Wassink 2015b (declining Kazakhstan W&O 2007, Tajikistan Abdusalyamov 1988), rare PM Uzbekistan Martin et al 2014, Kyrgyzstan, W Iran (scarce Scott & Adhami 2006, now virtually confined to W Azarbaijan Province Iran Klagehizadeh et al 2017), winters Iraq Salim et al 2012 (former breeder), formerly (?) Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008: sole other ssp dybowskii from Russian Altai eastwards genetically (mtDNA) and in structure and plumage differs sufficiently for the two taxa to be considered Separate Evolutionary Units Kessler et al 2018. Collar et al 2018 note extinction status in several Russian provinces, with perhaps fewer than 200 birds in the whole of Asia Russian, although some small increases are thought due to an inflow from the few Kazakhs' hotspots. However, the Kazakhstn breeding population status is uncertain, from 80 to 1000 adults. In Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstn, the species status is Critically Endangered. Recently a small population, 36 birds, was discovered near Shayan, S Kazakhstan, at the Shek Khalifa Houbara Breeding Center Martin et al 2018. Writers to S of Region, HBW3, possibly incl Afghanistan R&A 2005, 2012. Ayé et al 2012; vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrow 2009, sharp population decline Iran, perhaps 40 individuals left Barati et al 2015. Rare breeder, migrant Kyrgyzstn Ven 2002, Egypt Atta 1992, accepted EORC 2011. |
Arabian Bustard

**Ardeotis arabis**

ssp arabs SW Yemen N just into SW Saudi Arabia Porter et al 1996. Now declining in range & numbers (50 breeding females optimistic estimate); only in S Tihamah Jennings 2010. **NB** ssp arabs main range Ethiopia through to NE Sudan; 2 ssp African extralimitals (one may be extinct), but sibs/likely SE Egypt. **NB** Not included in Collar et al 2018.

### Houbara Bustard

**Chlamydotis undulata**

Re Parent Taxon, sizable (eg IOC v2.2) but incomplete (eg BB 2004a, b qv) consensus with BOU decision to split, based (mt cyt-b molecular clock more robust than mtDNA clock) on Broders et al 2003, Sangster et al 2004a, Leshore et al 2009, Korrida et al 2012, Korrida & Schweizer 2013. H&M4 splits. Cowan 2017, 2018 disagrees. While the two species are narrowly genetically distinct, Korrida & Schweizer 2013 found little intra-specific genetic differentiation. The divergence time of the two species falls within a period of extreme aridity at around 0.9Mya, likely resulting in an E-W vicariance along the Arabo-Saharan deserts. Differentiation within Houbara and Macqueen’s Bustard populations occurred later, during the Middle to Upper Pleistocene. Korrida & Schweizer 2013 surmise that population expansion of Macqueen’s Bustard (excluding Sinal-Negev birds) happened between 18 and 98KYA and thus appears synchronous with the most recent glacial period, which spanned the period 110 to 10KYA. **NB1** The Sinai population differentiated more than the other macqueenii populations, but crucially more than any undulata population to the west, and bears no trace of hybridisation events with undulata Korrida & Schweizer 2013. **NB2** Hahgani et al 2018 note that the 3 Iran macqueenii breeding populations had free gene flow within Iran, hence comprise a single clade separablefrom the Saudi populations, with which there was little or no genetic exchange. Protection of genetic diversity in future might require management to make the genetic makeup of dwindling populations more robust.

### Macqueen’s Bustard

**Chlamydotis macqueenii**


### Little Bustard

**Tetrax tetrax**


### Water Rail

**Rallus aquaticus**

Water Rail

Rallus [aquaticus] aquaticus


Corncrake (Corn Crake)

Crex crex


White-breasted Waterhen (White-breasted Bush-hen)

Amaurornis phoenicurus


PT Ballion's Crane PT

Zapornia pusilla (Porzana pusilla)

PT Split into Western & Eastern species, both occurring in the Region, by del Hoyo & Collar 2014b, Taylor et al. 2016. Western is Z. intermedia (subsuming obscura); Eastern is Z. pusilla, with remaing taxa ssp. NB H&M4 resurrect Zapornia because several ssp are closer to other genera than to Porzana: Sangster et al. 2015a agree. IOCBI remains unsplit.

Western Ballion’s Crane

Zapornia intermedia

5 sssp, 4 being extralimital in Far East: taxon pusilla occurs across N of Region to E Asia. Breeds scattered locations CA less Turkmenistan, W Caucasus, Afghanistan, resident SW Iran, HBW3 T&V 1998; common BM, PM N-C, S-C & E Kazakhstan Waskissi 2015b, assumed PM Iran Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017, Iraq Salim et al. 2012 , 1st record Qatar Nov 2012 (SGS3(1) ATR), fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7. Winters Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt Avib, BE.

Eastern Ballion’s Crane

Zapornia pusilla

5 sssp, 4 being extralimital in Far East: taxon pusilla occurs across N of Region to E Asia. Breeds scattered locations CA less Turkmenistan, W Caucasus, Afghanistan, resident SW Iran, HBW3 T&V 1998; common BM, PM N-C, S-C & E Kazakhstan Waskissi 2015b, assumed PM Iran Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017, Iraq Salim et al. 2012 , 1st record Qatar Nov 2012 (SGS3(1) ATR), fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7. Winters Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt Avib, BE.

Little Crane

Zapornia parva (Porzana parva)


Ruddy-breasted Crane

Zapornia fusca (Porzana fusca)

Bates & Lovher 1959 record as occurring “from the Afghan Frontier” in Pakistan, old records Afghanistant Madge 1980 (single record) Ayé et al. 2012. Small breeding population in reed-choked waterbodies on Pakistani side, at Thal, likely occurs similar habitats Afghan side, Taleban permitting. R&A 2012 map wintering birds fairly close to Khyber, but annotate ‘movements unclear’; BLDZ map Mar 2018 shows large wintering area N-C & NE Pakistan, and a much smaller adjoining summer breeding area centred NE of Banni, but extending to within 20km of Afghan border on River Kaltu. On WDBD 2008 Afghanistan country checklist as vagrant. Nov 2012 (present 23 Nov-4 Dec) 1st modern record for the OSME Region from Oman OBL7. Olsson 2015, 2nd Wadi Darbat May 2017 OBRC; likely ssp bakeri (H&M4), occurs W Pakistan, zeylonica W India.

Spotted Crane

Porzana porzana


Striped Crane

Aenigmatolimnas marginalis

1st record for Kuwait & OSME Region 1 Jan 2015 (originally identified as Spotted Crane Porzana porzana) correctly identified Apr 2016 KORC. This occurrence begs the question as to how many Spotted Crane records between Kuwait and (mostly) sub-Equatorial Africa were actually Striped Crane. Until recently, placed in Amaurornis. Nearest previous record is one NW Libya Feb 1970 Isenmann et al. 2016.

Watercock

Gallicrex cinerea

Purple Swamphen

_Purple Gallinule_

**Porphyrion porphyrio**

Since Trewick 1997 & Sangster 1998 were published (\& now Garcia & Trewick 2015), little disagreement to Sangster's recommended split into 6 species: Garcia & Trewick 2015 outline the phylogenetic history of Australasian Porphyrion: IOC5.3 splits Western and Grey-headed as below; extralimital spp are Black-backed _P. indicus_, Philippine _P. pulverulentus_, Australasian _P. melanotus_. Both poliocephalus & madagascariensis groups occur in the OSME Region, although Sangster 1998 argues convincingly for synonymising caspius & seistanicus with poliocephalus, which H&M does not support. We accept these 3 sspp, all of which have been recorded (poliocephalus sensu stricto) has spread as well as _Eurasian Coot_ in the Region. Garcia & Trewick 2015 synonymise seistanicus & caspius, but extend taxon limits of poliocephalus west to include the Tigris-Euphrates interfluve. Furthermore, they note that rapid differentiation in plumage colour due to local selection pressures is prevalent in poliocephalus (including seistanicus). Moreover, their conclusions strongly support a separate clade for poliocephalus (including caspius, seistanicus): IOC5.3 agrees. NB1 Specimen feathers from E Saudi Arabia sent by Jam Babbington to Steve Trewick for analysis confirmed as poliocephalus sensu lato (Steve Trewick in litt June 2015). NB2 Name Purple Gallinule now allotted to New World _P. martynica_.

**Western Swamphen**

**Porphyrion [porphyrio] porphyrio**

One record near Istanbul 1893, Kirwan et al 2008. NB _P. porphyrio sensu stricto_ occurs to the west of OSME Region.

**African Swamphen**

**Porphyrion [porphyrio] madagascariensis**


**Grey-headed Swamphen**

**Porphyrion [porphyrio] poliocephalus**

Garcia & Trewick 2015 include caspius & seistanicus in _P. poliocephalus, _ but Khaleghizadeh et al 2017 subspecies caspius in _Porphyrio (Kees Roselaar unpub): seistanicus occurs this taxon in Turkmenian Caspian Rustamov 2015 (called just 'Swamphen'), Bukreev 1997 suggested poliocephalus from Iran E to N, SW Iran, Kuwait, Turkmenistan, then extralimitally to Myanmar. P.p. seistanicus was also Afghanistan Paladin 1959, but present taxon there uncertain. seistanicus resident Azerbaijan, very rare BM & accidental resident W Kazakhstan, also N Caspian. Khaleghizadeh et al 2017 citing Kees Roselaar (unpub) examinations of multiple specimens: poliocephalus S Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, Khaleghizadeh et al 2017; occasional winter UAE P&H pers comm. More widespread than in HBW3, locally abundant breeder (seistanicus)? Syria Murdoc & Betton 2008, bred (poliocephalus?) Saudi Arabia 08 Aug 03 Meadows 2004, 1st report for Bahrain 23 Jan 2010 SG32 3rd 2017 (King 2018), 1st Qatar record Sep 2012 JBRC, 9th record vagrant Oman (we assume poliocephalus) OBL7. may occur SW AFghanistan (seistanicus?), T&V 1998; status in Arabia; irregular visitor; has bred Kuwait, E Saudi Arabia, OBL7, &. perhaps poliocephalus expanding breeding range; breeding numbers increasing Saudi, distribution increasing J Ballah in litt. A 'grey-headed' bird recorded UAE CheckList 2008; now a regular breeder at al Wathba, Abu Dhabi Campbell et al. 138, NB1 Garcia & Trewick 2015 observe that eastern poliocephalus are less greyish than those breeding in the Region (The findings of Krajewski et al 2015b. African species. 2-record vagrant Oman (Steve Trewick in litt) 2015). Caspian Rustamov 2015 (called just 'Swamphen'), Bukreev 1997 suggested poliocephalus from Iran E to N, SW Iran, Kuwait, Turkmenistan, then extralimitally to Myanmar. P.p. seistanicus was also Afghanistan Paladin 1959. Caspian Rustamov 2015 called just 'Swamphen').

**Allen’s Swamphen**

**Porphyrion alleii (=Porphyria alleii)**


**Common Moorhen**

**Gallinula chloropus**

IOC5.3 splits extralimal New World Common Gallinule **G. c. galatae**, following SACC; also **DB3(2): 205**

**Common Moorhen**

**Gallinula [chloropus] chloropus**

Resident (ssp chloropus) Caucasus, N Iran, Tigris-Euphrates, Afghanistan, summer breeder in rest of CA Ayé et al 2012, common BM Kazakhstan Wissink 2015b, scattered through S OSME Region eg UAE Aspinall 1996 (some wintering S Kazakhstan W&O 2008); Arabia holds c3500br Jennings 2010; locally abundant resident breder Oman OBL7, CA breeding populations winter in S of Region, HBW3, T&V 1998. NB Populations bear divergent cytochrome c oxidase 1 (CO1) lineages, potentially including cryptic taxa Kerr et al 2009.

**Lesser Moorhen**

**Paragallinula angulata** **[Gallinula angulata]**


**Red-knobbed Coot**

**Fulica cristata**


**Eurasian Coot**

**Fulica atra**

Resident (ssp atra) Turkey, Caucasus, Iran, S Iraq (small numbers) Salim et al 2012, Afghanistan, resident (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan) and breeder throughout CA, very common BM Kazakhstan Wissink 2015b, wintering Iran & round Gulf. In Arabia, first bred mid-1970s, now widespread & resident Jennings 2010, common to abundant WV rare local breder Oman OBL7. 2nd for Kuwait May 2013 SG35(2) ATR. Common passage migrant across E OSME Region SW Siberia to India (Veen et al 2005 (Route?)). Egypt, Avib, BE.

**Gruidae**

The findings of Krajewski et al 2010 are acknowledged by IOC7.2, reversing the conclusions of two papers co-authored earlier by Krajewski, thus restoring Leucogeranus, Antigone & Antigone. Some gruid spp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015. NB1 Crane conservation and taxonomy is based on Meine & Archibald 1996, as refined or informed by subsequent fieldwork and genetic research, but many populations remain little-studied and poorly sampled.

**Grey Crowned Crane**

_Baleara regulorum_

**Siberian Crane (Siberian White Crane)**

*Leucogeranus leucogeranus* (H&M4) (Grus leucogeranus) (Also formerly *Bugeranus leucogeranus*)


**White-naped Crane**

*Grus virgo* (Anthropoides virgo)


Although IOC4.4 lumped all Common Crane ssp in monotypicity aligning with Meine & Archibald 1996, by v.7.2 there appears to be no cited IOC reference since 2010. Mudrik et al 2015 make a reasonable case for monotypicity on genetic grounds, while calling for populations to be treated as evolutionary significant units. We remain tentatively with sspp names thus 'archibaldi' for these populations pro ten.

**Common Crane**

*Grus grus*


**Ruffed Crane**

*Grus monacha*


**Turnicidae**

**Common Buttonquail (Small Buttonquail, Kurkhanie Buttonquail)**

*Turnix sylvaticus*

Possibly E Iran, HBW3, may breed Scott & Adhami 2006 perhaps ssp dussumier (Pakistan). Recorded 19th century S Yemen Warr 1992, probably resident in small numbers W Yemen, three 2013 records suggest likely residency in SW Saudi Arabia Babbington & Roberts 2014 (leupara of Ethiopia or sylvaticus of Egypt?), also at Sabya Saudi Arabia Apr 2014 in same fields as in 2013 (sylvaticus-sylvaticus ?) SG36(2) ATR. 2-record vagrant Oman (1974, 1999) OBL7 (dussumier?); mapped Pakistan close to Khyber R&A 2012. NB1 Breeds Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009. NB2 Former English names also include Andalusian Hemipe, Little Buttonquail (now name for 7. velox of Australia) & Little Bustard Quail. Present English name as agreed by IOC 2.6 & HBW.

**Burhinidae**

**Eurasian Stone-curlew (Eurasian Thick-knee)**

*Burhinus oedicnemus* (PT (Eurasian Thick-knee)

Critical. Parent Taxon: IOC v2.0 accepts split of Indian Stone-curlew Burhinus [oedicnemus] indicus R&A 2005, as do Blu; however the taxo are separated in Pakistan by a corridor 20-70km wide that lacks correlation with any dividing topography or habitat, H&M remains unsplit, noting lack of genetic data Martens & Bahr 2010. Recent records 2010 -2012 reverse earlier findings by lead author.

**Eurasian Stone-curlew (Eurasian Thick-knee)**

*Burhinus [oedicnemus] oedicnemus*

Senegal Thick-knee  
*Burhinus senegalensis*  

Spotted Thick-knee  
(Spotted Dikkop)  
*Burhinus capensis*  

Great Stone-curlew  
(Great Stone Plover)  
*Esacus recurvirostris*  
Monotypic. SE Iran coastal region, HBW3, scarce resident Scott & Adhami 2006, most Oman records from Shirnas (Ian Harrison in litt), but also to tip of Musandam peninsula (Oman) Delany et al. 2009, UAE Sep 2011, Feb-Mar 2012 EORC, RNBNWS report Nov 87 at sea off Masirah.

**Haematopodidae**

Eurasian Oystercatcher  
*Haematopus ostralegus*  
Livezey 2010 strongly supports (see Inskipp et al. 2011) separation of Korean Oystercatcher *H. osculans*, whose Far Eastern breeding distribution does not disqualify use of ‘Eurasian Oystercatcher’ for remaining taxa. Separation criteria need wider discussion/acceptance.

Eurasian Oystercatcher  
*Haematopus ostralegus*  

**Dromadidae**

NB  Considerable resequencing of genera within a revised Lari (which would include this family) proposed by Sangster et al. 2012: likewise H&M4. We shall await IOC consideration.

**Ibidorhynchidae**

**Recurvirostridae**

PT  
Black-winged Stilt  
*Himantopus himantopus*  

PT  
Black-winged Stilt  
*Himantopus himantopus*  
Breeds Caucasus, across N CA, scarce BM, PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b: also Afghanistan (R&A 2005), Iraq Salim et al. 2012, Iran Scott & Adhami 2006: breeding in Arabia since 1970s, now probably under 200bp, but irregularly Jennings 2010; winters mostly Gulf or E Africa, HBW3, uncommon winter Israel, scarce breeder Perlman & Meyrav 2009; fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Charadriidae**

NB  Sangster et al. 2012 recommend Pluvialis precede Vanellus.

Northern Lapwing  
*Vanellus vanellus*  

Spur-winged Lapwing  
(Spur-winged Plover)  
*Vanellus spinosus* (formerly *Holoplopterus spinosus*)  

Black-headed Lapwing  
(Black-headed Plover)  
*Vanellus tectus* (formerly *Holoplopterus tectus*)  
Grey-headed Lapwing

(Vanellus cinereus)

Monotypic. Vagrant from Far East, 1st record 03 Jan 12 Sahawli Farm Salalah Hame & Jens Eriksen OBL7 - 1st record for Oman, Middle East, OSME Region & extended WP. 2nd (1st? DB40(2)): 118) record at Kazirmlak Delta, Batia, Samsun, Tukey Mar 2018. found & image by Emín Yoğurtçuluş.

Red-wattled Lapwing

(Vanellus indicus)

We follow Inskipp et al 2011 in separation of W SE Asian White-eared Lapwing V. atronuchalis; SE Asian breeding distribution does not disqualify use of 'Red-wattled Lapwing' for remaining taxa. (See also Livesey 2010). IOT7 remains unsplit.

Red-wattled Lapwing (Red-wattled Plover)

(Vanellus indicus)


Sociable Lapwing

(Vanellus gregarius / formerly Chettusia gregaria)


White-tailed Lapwing

(Vanellus leucurus / formerly Chettusia leucura)


Eurasian Golden Plover [European Golden Plover]

(Pluvialis apricaria)


Pacific Golden Plover

(Pluvialis fulva)


American Golden Plover

(Pluvialis dominica)


Grey Plover

(Pluvialis squatarola)

Migrates (ssp squatarola) over Region to and from warm sea-coast wintering grounds, HBW3; scarce PM Kazakhstan Wassinck 2015b, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE. NB wintering grounds of Wranget Listed end ssp tomkovich and known, but likely Far East.

Common Ringed Plover

(Charadrius hiaticula)

Usually Arctic or northern temperate breeder from Chukotsky W through Kola, Iceland to Greenland Delany et al 2009; psammadroma (??) possibly vagrant to Egypt. hiaticula possibly so, but tundrae (Tomkovich et al 2018) occurs throughout Region. Winters S Caspian, Iran, Iraq S to S Africa Delany et al 2009, scarce PM tundrae Kazakhstan W&O 2007, Wassinck 2015b. Widespread passage migrant through Middle East, some oversummer, Porter et al 1996; abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Migrant through Afghanistan R&A 2005, Egypt Avib, BE. NB Tomkovich et al 2018 show geolocator data for tundrae migration round trip from the Chukotsky Region (via Arabia) to Horn of Africa up to 25,000 km travelled.
Little Ringed Plover
Charadrius dubius
Widespread summer breeder (mostly curlicous) in CA region, HBW3, common BM, PM Kazakhstan Wassinik 2015b, including Afghanistan R&A 2005, Iran Scott & Adhami 2006. Curlicous widespread, buy likely jerdoni in SE corner if Iran Khaledizadeh et al. 2017, in Iraq, 2010-12, mostly in N passage, winters Salim et al. 2012, in Arabia, artificial wetlands support maybe 5000Jennings 2010; 1st bred Kuwait Apr 2012 1st Khaled Alhamen in litt; casual breeder, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Geolocators on S Sweden breeders show a wide spread of migration to winter quarters, from Nigeria across to Egypt, the Levant and Saudi Arabia, with those wintering in Pakistan and India passing through the Caucasus, Iraq and Iran. Hedenström et al. 2013, Egypt Avib, BE NB taxon jerdoni may wander from Pakistan near Khyber R&A 2012.

Three-banded Plover
(Charadrius tricolor)

Eurasian Dotterel
(Charadrius morinellus)

PT Kentish Plover
PT Anarhynchus alexandrinus (formerly Charadrius alexandrinus) sensu lato Two-stage PT split: first, Neartic extralimital Snowy Plover C. nivosus separated (IOC2.3; justification in Küpper et al. 2005, reinforced by Livezey 2010, who perversely adopted 'Kentish Sandplover' as English name) & accepted Sangster et al. 2011; second, 'restored' rediscovered Oriental taxon White-faced Plover C. dealbatus , proposed IOC2.8, but latter currently regarded as inconclusive. NB1 Sangster et al. 2015a summarise recent work indicating Charadrius is not monophyletic, hence the following change of genus based on dos Remedios et al. 2015. NB2 Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank

PT Lesser Sand Plover

PT Mongolian Sand Plover
Anarhynchus [mongolus] mongolus (Charadrius mongolus) Identified Israel 2013 from a photo taken in Israel by Itai Shanni in 2000 ssp mongolus; accepted record Yoav Perelman pers commun 21 Nov 2015. No OSME record of steppmani for which no certain Pakistan records – black line separating white throat & chestnut breast never recorded there Roberts 1991. Wanderers possible on E OSME Region coasts, C. mongolus sensu stricto has reached UK Parkin & Knox 2010 and Ireland Jul 2013. Isenmann et al. 2016 admit A. mongolus sensu lato to Libya Checklist, but omit mention of ssp of or awareness of confusability with A. leschenaulti cubominus (qf). NB A. mongolus steppmani is very unlikely to occur from its remote breeding distribution.

PT Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian Sand Plover)

Greater Sand Plover
(Formerly Large or Geoffroy’s Sand Plover)
**Caspian Plover**  
*R. benghalensis*.  
2012 & intermediately-distributed Siberian Whimbrel 2017, but relationship to *E. brevipes* breeds W Russia Arctic, scattered areas to S&E, common PM, presumably.

**Oriental Plover**  
*R. veredus*.  

**Kittlitz’s Plover**  
*R. pecuarius*  

**Egyptian Plover**  
(Crocodile-bird)  

**Rostratulidae**

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<td>Pheasant-tailed Jacana</td>
<td>Hydrophasianus chirungus</td>
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<td>Whimbrel</td>
<td>Numenius phaeopus</td>
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<td>PT</td>
<td>Eurasian Whimbrel</td>
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**Jacanidae**

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**Actitis**  
*S. hudsonicus as* NB1 **H&E** 1970 mainly in Seistan & E Iran; suggests by H&E 1970 but Ayé et al. 2012 suggest vagrant only, although BDZ map Mar 2018 gives as resident in E Afghanistan. Iran once Misonne 1976, single-record vagrant Scott & Athamani 2006, Egypt Avib, BE. Nomadic, so after rainy periods, may occur SW Arabia from W Red Sea hinterland Delany et al. 2009: 1st breeding Saudi Arabia May 2013 Tovey 2014.

**Tryngites**  

**Actitis**  
336  **Steppe Whimbrel**  *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris*
This pale-breasted, pale-underwing taxon likely low in numbers & declining, possibly through interbreeding with *phaeopus*. It was thought doubtful if *alboaxillaris* ever bred Volla-Zhayq (Ural) interfluve, Kazakhstan Arvend Wassink in litt 2009. contra W&O 2007, but Köhler et al 2013 recorded several *alboaxillaris* beside the Kazakh Ural River in Jul-Aug while searching for Slender-billed Curlew *N. tenuirostris*; Wassink 2015b accepts Thorup 2006 contra A Wassink in litt 2009 as confirming occasional breeding likely in 21st century in that area. Furthermore, 6bp recorded 1997 some 400km N of Kazakhstan at Bashkhyra (Orenburg longitude) Morozov 2000. 5 Kazakhstan records since 1985 Wassink 2015b, but very likely under-recorded Vagrant Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017 (2 records). One reported Yemen (undated) Callan Cohen in litt, 2016 DB39(1); 35. Two seen Mapulo, Mozambique Alport 2017, one captured there Mar 2016, fitted with tracker ABC Bull 23(2): 135: calls mostly differed from taxon *phaeopus*. English name informal@OSME.

337  **Hudsonian Whimbrel**  *Numenius (phaeopus) hudsonicus*
One recorded at Naksholm, Israel Dec 2013-Mar 2014 DB36(2):123-124, SG86(2) ATR.

338  **Little Curlew (Little Whimbrel)**  *Numenius minutus*

339  **Eastern Curlew (Far Eastern Curlew)**  *Numenius madagascariensis*  

340  **Slender-billed Curlew**  *Numenius hudsonicus*

341  **Eurasian Curlew**  *Numenius arquata*

342  **Bar-tailed Godwit PT**  *Limosa lapponica*
Livezey 2010 strongly supports separation of Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit *L. baueri*. Livezey's use of 'Limosa Bar-tailed Godwit' for lapponica group seems useful, but its adoption has little been discussed; see Inskipp et al 2011. Separation criteria need wider discussion/acceptance.

343  **(Sápmi) Bar-tailed Godwit (Lapland Bar-tailed Godwit)**  *Limosa (lapponica) lapponica*
Palaeartic Arctic breeder, scarce PM, non-breeding SV Kazakhstian Wassink 2015b; winters along warm OSME Region shores mostly taiga/taiga, but in southern coast Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, occurs mostly as migrant (a few vagrant lapponica?) in Region, HBW3; abundant vagrant Cyprus CBR11, abundant PM & WV (lapponica) Oman OBL7; rare Israel Perelman & Meyrav 2009. Egypt Aivb, NE. NB the name 'Sápmi' describes the land recognised by the Sami reindeer-herding peoples of norhernmost Norway, Sweden, Finland and of the Kola Peninsula, Russia and largely coincides with the breeding area of *L. lapponica*.

344  **'Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit'**  *Limosa (lapponica) baueri*
Monotypic if split: *L. lapponica* common WV Oman OBL7.3, where *baueri* also occurs in small numbers. NB Aalaskan baueri radio-tracked migrating non-stop (13 days) to New Zealand (11 700km), returning via nonstop leg to Yellow Sea (10 800km).

345  **Black-tailed Godwit PT**  *Limosa limosa*
**European** Black-tailed Godwit  
*Limosa (limosa) limosa*  
Common BM, PM very rare resident, VW S half Kazakhstan (ssp *limosa C&N*) Wassink 2015b, winters from S Caspian latitudes southwards, HBW3; common PM & VW *Iran Khaeghizadeh et al 2017 & Oman OBL7*.  
Winters also SW Afghanistan R&A 2005. Egypt Avib. BE. Decline of breeding populations (c. 6% per annum) continues due to breeding habitat loss and clutch losses (grass-mowing now over a month earlier than 1960s; in Sahel drought years, shooting of en-route migrants probably significant) Zwarts *et al*. 2009. NB Occupants (*aucklandica*) of best breeding areas also occupy best wintering areas - stable isotope ratio study, Inger & Bearhop 2008.

**Siberian** Black-tailed Godwit 'Eastern Black-tailed Godwit'  
*Limosa (limosa) melanuroidea*  
Taxon *melanuroidea* 5-record vagrant Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b; smallest of the 3 taxa, but females noticeably larger than males Groen *et al*. 2006. Winters SE Asia to Australasia, but vagrancy likely in E OSMR Region. NB Brazil 2009 elevated *melanuroidea*, as Eastern Black-tailed Godwit.

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
* Arenaria interpres  
Arctic Breeder,ssp *interpres* migrant through Region (source PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b) to winter on most shores below 40°N in OSMR Region, HBW3; common to abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7.

**Calidris Clade 1 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliacea above).** Includes Nearctic extralimital Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla*.  

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**Sanderling**  
*Calidris alba (Ereneutes alba)* (formerly *Croethia alba* by some)  
Winters warm coasts OSMR Region (ssp *alba*); widespread passage migrant mostly in small numbers, HBW3, though common to abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Little Stint**  
*Calidris minuta (Ereneutes minuta)*  
Monotypic. Winters warm coasts and at S inland waters of OSMR Region, also quite common widespread migrant, HBW3, abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7. Autumn migrant Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002, abundant PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b. Egypt Avib, BE.

**White-rumped Sandpiper**  
*Calidris fuscicollis (Ereneutes fuscicollis)*  

**Calidris Clade 2 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliacea above).** Includes Nearctic extralimital Black Sandpiper *C. tundripennis*.

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**Dunlin**  
*Calidris alpina (Ereneutes alpina)*  
Widespread Holarctic Arctic breeder, and warm coasts and ice-free inland waters in winter (1st winter records Karakol Kazakhstan 2008 Karpov & Kovshar 2009 Wassink 2010); ssp *alpina* & *centralis* common migrants in OSMR Region, HBW3, *centralis* common PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Purple Sandpiper**  
*Calidris maritima (Ereneutes maritimus)*  

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**  
*Calidris pusilla (Ereneutes pusillus)*  

**Calidris Clade 3 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliacea above).** Includes Nearctic extralimital Western Sandpiper *C. mauri*.

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**Pectoral Sandpiper**  
*Calidris melanotos (Ereneutes melanotos)*  

**Calidris Clade 4 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliacea above).** technically a subclade. Includes Nearctic extralimital Stilli Sandpiper *C. minutus*.  

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**Curlew Sandpiper**  
*Calidris ferruginea (Ereneutes ferruginea)* (*Erolia ferruginea*)  
Monotypic. C & E Paleartic Arctic breeder, widespread southern wintering areas, expected in OSMR Region anywhere on migration, HBW3, abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7; common PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, autumn migrant Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002; the recently-created Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, Abu Dhabi, has become a significant stopover site in the return migration, some 1000 birds assembling in Apr & May Campbell *et al*. 2018. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**  
*Calidris acuminata (Limicola acuminata)*  

**Baird's Sandpiper**  
*Calidris bairdii (Ereneutes bairdii)*  

**Calidris Clade 6 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliacea above).**

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**Red-necked Stint**  
*Calidris ruficollis (Ereneutes ruficollis)*  

**Temminck's Stint**  
*Calidris temmincki (Ereneutes temmincki)*  
Monotypic. Winters on parts of warm coasts & S inland waters in OSMR Region; fairly common widespread migrant, HBW3, common PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b; abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Long-toed Stint**  
*Calidris subminuta (Ereneutes subminuta)*  
**Great Knot (Formerly Eastern Knot)**

*Calidris tenuirostris*


**Red Knot**

*Calidris canutus*

Mostly transient migrant or vagrant (ssp canutus) in OSME Region, 7-record vagrant Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b; 5-record vagrant Oman OBL7. 6th Kuwait record May 2016 KORC, vagrant Iran KhalighiZadeh et al 2017: wanderers widely, HBW3, eg Azraq Jordan 25 Apr 67 Wallace 1982. Egypt Avib, BE.

**Ruff**

*Calidris pugnax IOC7.2, H&M4 (Formerly Philomachus pugnax)*

Monotypic. Widespread Arctic, subarctic & accidental BM NW Kazakhstan, where abundant PM Wassink 2015b; common migrant OSME Region, winters warm coastal/free inland waters, HBW3, abundant PM & VW Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE. European breeding populations only 10% of 1900 levels; decline continues (2002-8); in Sahel, vulnerable to trapping (up to 60% of winterers) on margins of today's artificially reduced annual floods Zwarts et al 2009. NB BOU place in Calidris; Sangster et al 2012.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper**

*Calidris falcinellus IOC7.2, H&M4 (Formerly Limicola falcinellus)*


**Bull-breasted Sandpiper**

*Calidris subruficollis IOC7.2, H&M4 (Formerly Tringites subruficollis)*


**Asian Dowitcher (Asiatic Dowitcher)**

*Limnodromus semipalmatus*


**Long-billed Dowitcher**

*Limnodromus scolopaceus*


**Eurasian Woodcock**

*Scolopax rusticola*


**Jack Snipe**

*Lymnocryptes minimus*


**Solitary Snipe**

*Gallinago solitaria (formerly Capella solitaria by some authors)*


**Pin-tailed Snipe (Pintail Snipe)**

*Gallinago stenura*


**Swinhoe’s Snipe**

*Gallinago megalia*

Great Snipe

Gallinago media

Monotypic. Formerly bred E-most Kazakhstan, but not in N &NW Wassin 2015b, Ayé et al 2012, status very rare PM Wassin 2015b; most migrate through W OSME Region, HBW3; rare autumn PM Oman OBL7, vary rare migrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, Jordan Mitchell 2017. Iran Salim et al 2012, one Belsith-e Masoumeh wetland Gom Province Iran Apr 2016 IBRC, uncommon WV, PM N&W Iran Khaleghi Zadeh et al 2017. Species known for high site fidelity on migration, its occurrence at many marshes in spring on Cyprus may reflect more than one breeding population in transit (Found at two specific sites over several years on a first visit to check its presence MB pers obs), possibly former breeder Kazakhstan W&O 2007; no recent records Arend Wassin in litt. No proof breeds Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002. Once regular in small numbers Aden Bundy & Warr 1979, N Yemen Porter & Warr 1985. Egypt Avib, BE.

PT

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

PT Split from extralimital Nearctic Wilson’s Snipe G. [g.] delicata Knox et al 2008 Livezev 2010 IOC2.10 H&M4 (see Inskipp et al 2011)

Common Snipe

Gallinago [gallinago] gallinago (formerly Capella gallinago by some authors)


Terek Sandpiper

Xenus cinereus


Wilson’s Phalarope

Steganopus tricolor (formerly Phalaropus tricolor)


Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus


Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)

Phalaropus fulicarius


Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucus


Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis maculurus

Monotypic. IOC BOU revert to Actitis. Vagrant OSME Region HBW3. 1 accepted record Turkey Kirwan et al 2008.

Tringa Clade 1 (Huang & Tu 2016: qv Scopoliaceidae above). Includes Neartic extralimital Solitary Sandpiper T. solitaria.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus


Common Redshank

Tringa totanus


Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Monotypic. Common BM, PM Kazakhstan Wassin 2015b, most migrate directly across Region, few stopover hence relatively few records & most in spring eg Afghanistan Paludan 1959, Turkey Kirwan et al 2008. However, 4020 counted Gylyagazhah Aug 2017 DB39(5): 344; Common PM Iran winters Khaleghi Zadeh et al 2017; winters widely along warm shores S (common PM & WV Oman OBL7) to S Africa and Australia, HBW3. Egypt Avib, BE.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

### Bird Species

| Common Greenshank | Tringa nebularia | Monotypic. Although many map as breeding Kazakhstan, no breeding records Arend Wassink *in litt.*, scarce PM Wassink 2015b, 1st Kazakh Caspian wintering record Lake Karakol 12 Jan 16 Wassink 2016b; most migrate directly across Region, but more numerous than T. stagnatilis, more stopping over, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7; larger breeding area to E & N, HBW3, passage & wintering Afghanistan Paludan 1959. Egypt Avib, BE |
| Spotted Redshank (Formerly Dusky Redshank) | Tringa erythropus | Monotypic. Widespread on migration & f. from Arctic breeding areas, 2nd Kazakh winter record Lake Sorbulak, Almaty, Wassink 2016b, fairly common PM & WV Oman OBL7; many winter Iran, Iraq, HBW3, some Afghanistan R&A 2005. Egypt Avib, BE |

### Families

- **Laridae**: Considerable resequencing of genera within a revised *Lari* which would include this family proposed by Sangster et al. 2012. We shall await IOC consideration.

### Genera

- **Glareolidae**: Livezey 2010 places Small Pratincole in Subglareola. NB Considerable resequencing of genera within a revised *Lari* (which would include this family) proposed by Sangster et al. 2012. We shall await IOC consideration.

**Cream-coloured Courser** *(C.c. somalensis, also IOC3.2 & H&M4*)

| Cream-coloured Courser (Cream-colored Courser) | Cursorius cursor | NB Sangster et al 2012 acknowledge split of Somali Courser C.c. somalensis, also IOC3.2 & H&M4 |

### Species

- **Collared Pratincole** *(formerly Large Indian Pratincole)*

  | Glareola pratina (formerly Glareola glareola by some) |ssp pratina breeds wetlands CA common BM S&W Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, also NW & S Iran & S Kazakhstan, megadivers note & wide range South America, Wintering population, ssp glacialis, Khaleghizadeh et al 2012; widespread sites Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, Iran HBW3, common migrant eg Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009: small Arabian breeding population (c2000p) at irregular locations, but mainly migrant Jennings 2010; fairly common PM, SW & occasional breeder Oman OBL7. Winters mostly sub-Saharan Africa but also Pakistan & India Delany et al 2009. Egypt Avib, BE |

- **Oriental Pratincole** *(formerly Large Indian Pratincole)*


- **Black-winged Pratincole**


- **Small Pratincole** *(formerly Little or Small Indian Pratincole)*


**Sweetman et al. 2017** assess ocean warming trends as likely to impact southern oceans, particularly the Indian Ocean, by steadily reducing both organic food density & oxygen content per decade through to 2100. Such trends would reduce resident and at-sea roosting seabird populations. Human fishing communities would also be badly affected.
White Noddy (White Tern) (Angel Tern, Fairy Tern)
Gygis alba
Feb 1964: 4 records of 18+ birds total between 6.5°N & equator at c55°E Gill 1967. Map (Fig 9b) in Bailey 1968 indicates at least 5 records in extended deep-ocean OSME area. RNWBS record Mar 64 at Menai Island Seychelles at 5 24.0.05-46.15.0.0E, W of OSME Region deep-ocean extension; ssp candida breeds Seychelles, Mauritius, Réunion E to S Pacific implying interchange of individuals over long distances, & henceBLDZ Jul 2015 map presence in SE & S of deep-ocean extension of OSME Region. IOC 2.6 noted DNA evidence that this taxon is a noddy and not a tern (subsequent to Bridge et al. 2006).

African Skimmer 
Rynchops flavirostris
Monotypic. African species, Egypt (eg Dec 2011 DB34(1); 58), vagrant, Israel, Porter et al. 1996.

Indian Skimmer
Rynchops albicollis

Black-legged Kittiwake (Kittiwake)
Rissa tridactyla

Sabine's Gull
Xema sabini (formerly Larus sabini)

Slender-billed Gull
Chroicocephalus genei (formerly Larus genei)
Monotypic. Widespread scattered SB CA, scarce BM, PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, rare migrant Volga Delta Arkhipov 2006; also Afghanistan Palundar 1959, Turkey Kirwan et al 2008; winters on warm coasts, abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7. Resident S Iraq Salim & el 2012, common SVN N Iran, WV N&W Iran Khaleghizad et al 2017. In Arabia, primarily WV to all coasts, but common RB Kuwait KORC. SW Pakistan coasts R&A 2005. Likely construction of duplicate Suez canal has concentrated scattered breeding colonies into one location at saltlans10km E of original Suez Canal, some 15 km SSW of Port Said (from Iatfon in Habib 2018a). this colony represents 12% of known breeders in the Mediterranean & Black Sea. Egypt Avib, BE.

Brown-headed Gull (Formerly Tibetan Gull)
Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus (formerly Larus brunnicephalus)
Monotypic. Breeds Tajikistan, occurs Uzbekistan, MO&L 2004, recorded Afghan Wakhan Sep 2006 Ayé 2007. Possibly elsewhere in OSME Region, not certainly recorded Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002; vagrant to Gulf, Israel Periman & Meyrov 2009. 4-record vagrant SE Iran coast Khaleghizadeh et al 2017; 2nd Saudi record Jan 2014 SG36(2) ATR. Hoogendorn 1991 throws doubt on the following; RNWBS reports in the Gulf (also Bourne & Bundy 1990) at eg 25:0:0:0.05:3.0:0.0E, single-vagrant record offshore Oman 1988 OBL7, 2nd at Raysut Nov 2018 DB41(1); 55. Afghanistan E Dickinson pers comm; R&A 2012 map suggests some winter Nuristan.

Common Black-headed Gull (Black-headed Gull)
Chroicocephalus ridibundus (formerly Larus ridibundus)

Grey-headed Gull (Grey-headed Gull)
Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus (formerly Larus cirrocephalus)
Monotypic. Species, ssp poicephalus has occurred Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Israel, Jordan MO&L 2004, Egypt Einemb & Miller 2003, accepted EORC 2011, IOC 10 re-adopted English name Grey-headed Gull. NB given et al 2005, in a study of masked gulls, proposed splitting the South American and African populations of this species. However, their sample size for all the studied species was tiny, and their proposal in the same paper to elevate to species status the New Zealand Red-billed Gull L. scopulinus and Australian Silver Gull L. novaehollandiae was reversed by Gill et al 2010 because of inadequate sample size.

Little Gull
Hydrocoloeus minutus (formerly Larus minutus)

Franklin's Gull
Leucophaeus pipixcan (formerly Larus pipixcan)

Relict Gull
Ichthyaeetus relictus
Audouin’s Gull Ichthyaetus audouini
Monotypic. Mostly confined to Mediterranean, declining Cyprus Hellicear 2016, recorde Israel Mitchell 2017, occasionally inland in Turkey (not confirmed Kirwan et al 2008), 4th for Georgia Aug 2015 DB17(6); 409, 1st for Russia Sochi Myrina River mouth DB40(5); 333 (7.5km from Georgia). Egypt, MO&L 2004, vagrant Jordan, has occurred Lebanon Mitchell 2017, Egypt Avib, BE.

Mediterranean Gull Ichthyaetus melanocephalus

Great Black-headed Gull (Pallas’s Gull) Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus

White-eyed Gull Ichthyaetus leucophthalmus

Sooty Gull (formerly Hemprich’s Gull, Aden Gull) Ichthyaetus hemprichii

Common Gull Mew Gull Larus canus
MO&L 2004 did split Common & Mew, but others have since re- lumped under Mew Gull. However, Chuck 1998 & Zirk et al 1995 suggest separating Neartic taxa as Mew L. brachyrhynchos & Kamchatka L. kamtschatschensis from Common L. canus, Mew & Kamchatka being closer to each other than to Common. ‘Mew’ name variously used for all canus or just for brachyrhynchos, for which ‘Short-billed Gull’ is preferred by CSNA 2019. However, Sternkopf 2011 in her Dissertation made the case for splitting. Johnson et al 2010 noted that Scandinavian canus is an old lineage, distinct from the large white-headed gulls, whereas Neartic canus is more recent, but also more closely related to Herring Gull L. argentatus & a host of Nearctic & Western Paleartic large white-headed gull taxa.

Common Gull (Mew Gull) Larus [canus] canus

Ring-billed Gull Larus delawarensis
Monotypic. 1st record photos for Kazakhstan and OSME Region at Aktau, Mangystau (NW Caspian) 07 Jan 2015, seen at same location S Nov 2015 & 29 Dec 2016 DB39(1); 51, 10 Nov 2017 Wassink 2018, at Aqtau 24 Nov 2018 DB41(1): 55.

NB Sternkopf et al 2010 show complex ancestral genetic differentiation between intra-specific populations of species of large Holarctic gulls and much shared inter-species ancestry (including next 2 spp) between certain populations, citing past & present geographic distributions. Ancestral relationships of other large gull taxa in Sonsthagen et al 2016.

Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus
### Glauous Gull

**Larus hyperboreus**


The relationships between the large white-headed gull taxa are complex. Some taxa may be undefinable in terms of species or subspecies, but nevertheless include diagnosable populations, making a broader view necessary, as outlined in Sondhagen et al. 2016. Our PT approach allows complexities to be highlighted & so aligned with published analyses only where these are not in disagreement for taxa that occur in the OSME region. Although our approach may be seen as an eclectic mix of the radical and the traditional, we note that complex relationships occur in other groups (eg the large grey shrikes and the *larus/citrinae* group), which also merit taking the broader view.

### Parent Taxon

**Larus argentatus**

Parent Taxon issue ongoing and long-term, with nested PT groups. We note, re the large white-headed gulls, Yésou 2002 (Malling Olsen & Larsson (MO&L) 2004 largely in alignment), the modifications proposed by Collinson et al. 2008 & subsequent thought-provoking ideas of Pierre Yésou (pers comm). Apparent lack (since excellent summary by Bourne 1996) of large-scale systematic observations of large white-headed gulls wintering in Region makes for uncertain conclusions on trends, but Kraj et al 2013 studying Adriatic Yellow-legged Gulls *L. michahellis* provide increased understanding of factors (eg food source stability, population pressure, nest-site availability) influencing post-breeding movements & dispersal that may also apply to many other taxa. Liebers-Helbig et al 2010 provide convincing overview of origins to supersede ring-breeding approaches. Livelier ssp is *ant Artifex* gull, may be *L. argentatus*.

### European Herring Gull

**Larus argentatus**


### American Herring Gull

**Larus smithsonianus**

PT follows BOU here; see Sangster et al. 2007, Collinson et al. 2008 (who note that the case for vegae as a species awaits further research). Pierre Yésou (pers comm) is certain that the strong diagnostic phenotypical differences between these Asian and N American taxa recorded in Alaska demand a different conclusion, namely *L. vegae* vegae and *L. v. mongolicus*; we note that this view does not rule out earlier descent of these taxa from a common ancestor of *L. smithsonianus*. Full diagnosability criteria for these 3 taxa in relation to each other yet to be proved Parkin & Knox 2010. See also Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010. We expect much remains to be discovered. HAM include vegae & mongolicus in *smithsonianus*.

### East Siberian Gull

**Larus (smithsonianus) vegae**

Here we agree with Yésou 2002 (pers comm) who advises taxonomic uncertainties in white-headed gulls will be long-standing; taxa are prime candidates for combined genetic/field/museum studies (including breeding biology & statistical analysis of phenotypical variations). Although Rogacheva 1992 suggested PT breeds as far W as Anabar River mouth in Arctic, ‘clear hybrids not being uncommon’, ID knowledge at this time was less clearcut - Pierre Yésou pers comm. NB1 separation from *L. argentatus* mtDNA grounds alone, far from clear-cut (Sangster et al 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (Collinson et al. 2008, Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010) make strong case. NB2 Sangster et al 2007 (BOU) & Collinson et al 2008, Liebers-Helbig et al 2010 also make the case for the PT for *L. (smithsonianus/vegae*) vegae (see Hypothetical List) and *L. (s.m.)* mongolicus to be American Herring Gull *L smithsonianus*. NB3 *L. (smithsonianus*) vegae is prone to wandering: one recorded Wexford, Ireland 10 Jan 2016 by Killian Mullarney.

### Mongolian Gull

**Larus (smithsonianus/vegae) mongolicus**

Variable leg colour; regarded variously as southern ssp of East Siberian Gull or as full ssp: eg Yésou 2002, Clements 2007 & Shimba 2007, but now fits better as taxon of American Herring Gull, Collinson et al. 2008. Rare Kyrgyzstan (Ven 2002). Breeding range does not reach easternmost Kazakhstan (Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010, Veen 2002) & Caspian Sea, common BM, PM, rare to uncommon. NB1 separation from *L. argentatus* mtDNA grounds alone, far from clear-cut (Sangster et al 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (Collinson et al. 2008, Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010) make strong case. NB2 Sangster et al 2007 (BOU) & Collinson et al 2008, Liebers-Helbig et al 2010 also make the case for the PT for *L. (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae* (see Hypothetical List) and *L. (s.m.)* mongolicus to be American Herring Gull *L smithsonianus*. NB3 *L. (smithsonianus*) vegae is prone to wandering: one recorded Wexford, Ireland 10 Jan 2016 by Killian Mullarney.

### Caspian Gull

**Larus cachinnans**

Yellow-legged Gull
(Latin: *Larus michahellis*

Now widely acknowledged as distinct from *argentatus & cachinnans*, *MO&L* 2004, Collinson et al. 2008, Pierre Yésou pers comm. In Region, *ssp michahellis* breeds Black Sea, Eastern Mediterranean (sedentary), declining Cyprus Hellicar 2016, may also wander to Red Sea, *MO&L* 2004. Most colonies Turkey this taxon *Kirwan et al.* 2008. Kralj et al. 2013 show that Adriatic ringed birds disperse widely to N, E & W, adults to N & E, creating potential for range expansion. 1st colony for Egypt at the outer sandbar of Lake El Mallahah, just E of Port Fouad, Port Said Habib 2017b. NB1 Methodical application of established ID criteria to this & previous taxon surprisingly absent from many records submitted to national records committees. NB2 Serra et al. 2016 document conservation measures adopted in some parts of distribution, while noting the species attaining pest status in others & having deleterious effects on some breeding passerines and non-passerines.

Armenian Gull
(Latin: *Larus armenicus*

Monotypic. BOU; nearer *michahellis, not cachinnans*. Breeds inland Turkey, N&W Iran (*Khaleghizadeh et al.* 2017), Armenia; winters river deltas Iraq, E Med; also to Gulf (confusion with *barabensis* taxon?) *MO&L* 2004, scarce WV Kuwait KORC, uncommon WV Iran Gulf coasts *Khaleghizadeh et al.* 2017, lower reaches Nile via Israel Perlman & Meyray 2009. *Tigris* (WRP Bourne). Meinertzhagen Tring specimens likely reliable WRP Bourne pers comm. DNA research indicates *armenicus* is old taxon, originating from early invasion of pre-atlantis form into Mediterranean; *michahellis* (*qv*) originates from subsequent invasion - Collinson et al. 2008. Regular winter Egypt. NB Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/ reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank

Lake Beysehir Gull
(Latin: *Larus armenicus x michahellis*

Small, probably stabilised, fertile hybrid population (known since 1964, with some *armenicus & michahellis* pairs) on islands in Lake Beysehir, Turkey (MB pers obs 1996), likely to have arisen from secondary contact between *armenicus* and colonising *michahellis*. Liebers & Helbig 1999, Collinson et al. 2008; no other known hybridisation site despite quite extensive (*Kirwan et al.* 2008) range overlap in SW inland Turkey. English name informal @OSME.

Lesser Black-backed/Baltic/Heuglin’s Gull
(Latin: *Larus fuscus*

Taxonomy complex; subtleties slowly becoming uncovered via molecular and morphological studies. Liebers et al. 2004, Sangster et al. 2007 & Collinson et al. 2008 indicate that all morphological & genetic evidence correlates with geographic clinal differences from taxon *graellsii* to vegea, although mtDNA analysis shows slight step from *fuscus to heuglinii* Parkin & Knox 2010; indeed, Liebers & Helbig 2002 found little mtDNA variation between *graellsii, intermedia, fuscus, heuglinii & taimyrensis*. However, Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010, investigating the entire cytochrome b gene & a hypervariable part (HVR-1) of the mitochondrial control region, improved the resolution of the phylogeny of these taxa. Taxon identity is normally, but not solely, based on genetic separation: studies of zones of contact may quantify extent of hybridisation & introgression Parkin & Knox 2010. Also low levels of gene flow with *heuglinii* still apparent despite ecological separation; BOU suggest *heuglinii*-related taxa best subsumed in *fuscus* as ssp. We note that much remains to be learned; Collinson et al. 2008, Parkin & Knox 2010 conclude that laboratory research, morphology (and work such as Yésou’s field-work-driven conclusions) need to be reconciled through careful interpretation - many gull populations remain poorly-known. Most early records will not be separable under these criteria due to lack of descriptions: eg Egypt Avib, BE

Western Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Latin: *Larus fuscus graellsii*

1st record for Israel and the OSME Region at Ma’agan Michael Nov 2014 & Ashdod Dec 2015 returned in Region, *intermedia* 1998-2004, *fuscus* 2005-2010. Time to see the species there as well. Widespread in Mediterranean wintering grounds, increasing its range there & elsewhere. It is old taxon, originating from early invasion of pre-atlantis form into Mediterranean; *michahellis* (*qv*) originates from subsequent invasion & pre-atlantis form into Mediterranean. Collinson et al. 2008 note that low levels of gene flow with *michahellis* especially significant, particularly the case for *fuscus* subsp. *fuscus*. Gravity of situation for smaller, rarer gull species. Also, notable: NB1 Methodical application of established ID criteria to this & previous taxon surprisingly absent from many records submitted to national records committees. NB2 Serra et al. 2016 document conservation measures adopted in some parts of distribution, while noting the species attaining pest status in others & having deleterious effects on some breeding passerines and non-passerines.

Continental’ Lesser Black-backed Gull
(Latin: *Larus fuscus intermedium*

Following Collinson et al. 2008 & *MO&L* 2004. Wanders to E Mediterranean in small numbers *Kirwan et al.* 2008. We retain *intermedium* as ssp (under the 75% rule [not the 90% rule] of diagnosable individuals in population), *Yésou* 2002.

‘Baltic’ Gull (Lesser Black-backed Gull)
(Latin: *Larus fuscus*


Heuglin’s Gull
(Latin: *Larus (fuscus) heuglinii*

Probably recorded under L. cachinnans, L. armenicus or *taimyrensis* in past, *Yésou* 2002. Sangster et al. 2007, Collinson et al. 2008 note that low levels of gene flow with *fuscus* still apparent despite ecological separation. Egypt Avib, BE. Pierre Yésou (pers comm) argues a dissenting line, noting there are clearcut phenotypic differences between parapatric Heuglin’s Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull as well as a quite marked ecological segregation, leading to the lack of proven hybridisation, reinforcing the case for speciation. We note both views, but essentially we remain undecided. Liebers et al. 2001 found Heuglini barabensis & *taimyrensis* to be very closely related, while Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010 documented enough distinctiveness of populations. IOC4.1 omits mention *taimyrensis*. Van Dijk et al. 2011 provide a reasoned framework for recognition of *taimyrensis*, Liebers-Helbig et al. 2010 noting its distinct (if close to Heuglini) haplotype.

414 Heuglin’s Gull (Lesser Black-backed Gull)  
Larus (fuscus/heuglini) heuglini

MO&L 2004, occurs Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan (K&M&K 2005); PM, WV in Region: N Kyrgyzstan, rare, Ven 2002, Kazakh Caspian & Aral Seas, rare PM Kazakhstan Wassinik 2015b, 1st winter record Aqtau, Caspian, 1 Dec 15-09 Jan 16 Wassinik 2016b, 2nd record same area Dec 2017 Wassinik 2018, Israel coasts uncommon Perelman & Meyraw 2009, Jordan JBRC; heuglini common winterer S Arabia, Gulf (abundant PM & WV Oman OBL7 fairly common PM S Caspian Iran, Fairly common WV Iran Gulf Bushehr & to E. Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, Red Sea W India coasts; hence must cross Iraq Salim et al 2012; darker heuglini in Gulf, ‘taimyrensis’ (qv) suggested mostly E India coasts (Bourne 1996), but now thought to winter in Pacific in Van Dijk et al 2011; ‘taimyrensis’ > Vega Gull L. vegae hybrids declining phenomenon; Parkin & Knox 2010 note argument of ‘taimyrensis’ (qv) as invalid taxon (Yésou 2002), but see van Dijk et al 2011. Migrant Afghanistan R&A 2005, Link L. (c.) barabensis records? Pierre Yésou’s view (pers comm): heuglini phenotypically different from neighbouring fuscus; also various arguments re ‘taimyrensis’ (qv) status employ different population sets, but see van Dijk et al 2011. Above DNA conclusions re amercissius distinguished rationale of barabensis/armenicus intergrades (as was suggested WRP Bourne, pers comm). Collinson et al 2008 summary analysis of ssp argument for L. fuscus to include heuglini and barabensis in the present state of knowledge, but also see Dubois 2003.

415 Steppe Gull (Baraba Gull) (Lesser Black-backed Gull)  
Larus (fuscus/heuglini) barabensis (L. cachinnans) barabensis has been proposed

Likely superspecies with L. f. heuglini? (MO&L 2004), Common PM Kazakhstan Wassinik 2015b, who adopts this taxon as ssp of L. cachinnans citing MO&L 2003 (2004?) & Clements 2014. Wintering birds reach S Arabian seas, status there unclear; possibly winters S Iraq Salim et al 2012, those reaching Oman included in OBL7 under Caspian Gull L. cachinnans; recorded Bandar Abbas area Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017. Taxonomy uncertain: while acknowledging DNA case to treat as Luscas ssp (Collinson et al 2008) & recognising the biometric & morphological differences from heuglini (see Kraw et al 2008) (suggesting neither is a ssp of L. heuglini to be a ssp of heuglini, we’re seeing a species in reproductive isolation unable, Yésou 2002, Pierre Yésou’s view (pers comm) notes barabensis distinguishable in the field from heuglini, but since they are not parapatric, he guesses they are different species. R&A 2012 map suggests specimens collected just within E/E&SE Afghanistan. NB1 WRP Bourne (pers comm) suspects intergrades with ‘taimyrensis’ (qv) & heuglini winter in Gulf, barabensis dominant winterer lower Gulf between heuglini & cachinnans areas; however, see Dubois 2003. NB2 Those ‘cachinnans’ ringed Lake Chany, SW Siberia & recovered E Caspian & Uzbekistan, & those recovered near Chany but ringed in SE Kazakhstan & also attributed to ‘cachinnans’, may be barabensis taxon: Veen et al 2005.

416 Taimyr Gull (Lesser Black-backed Gull)  
Larus (fuscus/heuglini) taimyrensis

Despite the preponderence of doubt amongst authors writing on large white-headed gulls citing ‘taimyrensis’ as an unstable & doubtfully diagnosable hybrid, we consider that van Dijk et al 2011 have provided a sufficiently coherent appraisal of the taimyrensis population & with the same geographical boundaries as that considered by Collinson et al 2008 to render its inclusion here (the data in Liebers-Helbig being much more closely related to Lesser Crested Tern 2008) & Great Crested Tern 2011 have provided a map suggests specimens collected just within E/E&SE Afghanistan. NB1 WRP Bourne (pers comm) suggests intergrades with ‘taimyrensis’ (qv) & heuglini winter in Gulf, barabensis dominant winterer lower Gulf between heuglini & cachinnans areas; however, see Dubois 2003. NB1 ‘taimyrensis’ is genetically close to the fuscus/heuglini group, but is phenotypically representative of the vegae group Collinson et al 2008. NB2 Putative taimyrensis reported & photographed Goa15 Dec 2015 Mark Newsome in litt, only 200km from the OSME Region Indian Ocean boundary at 15°N 70°E.

417 Gull-billed Tern (Common Gull-billed Tern)  
Gelochelidon nilotica (formerly Sterna nilotica)


419 Caspian Tern  
Hydroprogne caspia (formerly Sterna caspia, Hydroprogne ischegrava)


419 Greater Crested Tern (Swift Tern, Great Crested Tern)  
Thalasseus bergii (formerly Sterna bergii)

Bridge et al 2005. Gulf, Red sea part-resident, most warm shores winter. HBW3, likely mostly ssp velox: perhaps 13 000hp in Arabia, mostly in Gulf, also Oman where abundant resident breeder PM & WV OBL7, & Red Sea, but present year-round Jennings 2010; one Elliat Jul 2018 Yoav Perlman in litt. 1st breeding record Egypt 20 Jul 97 Castell 1998. Egypt Avib, BE. (Name reversion IOC2.9)
Lesser Crested Tern

Thalasseus bengalensis (formerly Sterna bengalensis)


Sandwich Tern

Thalasseus sandvicensis

New World extralimital polytypic Cabot’s Tern S. acuflavida now split Sangster et al 2011

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons (formerly Sterna albifrons)

Bridge et al 2005. Widespread breeder & PM (ssp albifrons) through N OSME Region (including Afghanistan R&A 2005), less so further S, in Arabia, a few in Red Sea, but mostly in Gulf (200bp) Jennings 2010, fairly common SV wetlands in Iran, N Oman Kavanagh et al 2017, uncommon PM & WV Oman OBL7 (also Iraq Salim et al 2012, winters along warm coasts, HBW3. Egypt’s Port Said colonies declining through construction and disturbance Habib 2016; new colony at Lake Nasser Bull ABC; 93; plumage characteristics of this population (and seemingly as far as Kuwait), suggest it may be a new taxon, for which DNA results await formal publication (Norman Dean van Swelms et al in litt 2019). Egypt Avib, BE.

Saunders’s Tern

Sternula sandvicensis (formerly Sterna sandvicensis)


Bridled Tern

Onychoprion anaeathetus (formerly Sterna anaeathetus)


Sooty Tern

Onychoprion fuscatus (formerly O. fuscata, Sterna fuscata)

Bridge et al 2005. Taxon in Region nubilosus. Probably vagrant Bahrain Skakuj & Stawarcky 1997, Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009. Rare breeding SV Oman amongst O. anaeathetus colonies OBL7. Wanders late autumn Iran Scott & Adhami 2013. vagrant Khaleghizadeh et al 2017. Fewer than 30bp, mostly Musandam island Oman although has been recorded occasionally from S Red Sea to Gulf; many past records now thought better attributed to O. anaeathetus Jennings 2010.

River Tern

Sterna aurantia


Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Mostly around E & S Oman waters in winter, HBW3, but fairly common summer breeder ssp andeenesis (also in Seychelles & Madagascar) off coasts Oman OBL7, thought declining Jennings 2010, vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, vagrant UAE Mitchell 2017. Egypt Avib. BE.

Black-naped Tern

Sterna sumatranus

ssp mathewsi breeds on W Indian Ocean islands H&M4, also on the Lakadeshwara archipelago off SW India (80°16′-13°58′N, 71°44′-74°24′E) BLDZ (also maps the main pelagic area of occurrence as including the OSME Region deep-sea extension). Thus likely rare vagrant off Socotra & Arabian Sea coast, including Masirah; numbers may be subject to displacement at sea by violent tropical storms. 1960 RNBSW report in OSME Region, Daimanisat Islands at 23:55:0.0N 57:59:0.0E, but old description inadequate; perhaps misidentified, WRP Bourne pers comm. Plausible report Masirah 1970 of small numbers in summer & party of 25 on 28 Aug close inshore Strickland 1978; 1962 Gulf of Aden RNBSW report and 1970 Gulf of Oman report, but none acceptable by current standards. We seek first acceptably documented observations. Several RNBSW reports S&E of 10:00:00N 61:24:00E (well within deep-ocean extension of OSME Region). May have occurred off Somali E coast Redman et al 2009. Likely vagrant from SW India R&A 2005. NB Mapped HBW3, BLDZ Jul 2015 as occurring in much of S of deep-ocean extension of Region.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Breeds extensively also PM Turkey Kirwan et al 2008 (ssp hirundo) N Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, in N OSME Region, also Afghanistan R&A 2005 (ibeliana), some Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, Iraq Salim et al 2102, (ssp uncertain), winters to S HBW3. 1st Kazakhstan winter record 03 Dec 14 Tsentek Delta Ailmaty Province Wassirk 2016b; common PM Uncommon WV, SV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib. BE. NB ssp ibeliana (all-black bill), recorded Iran Seistan Zarunud 1911 likely migrant from breeding grounds to N & E avg Tibetan plateau.
White-cheeked Tern

Sternula repressa


Arctic Tern

Sternula paradisaea


Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

ssp 'hybrida' breeds locally in much of N OSME Region, scarce BM W Half of Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, (indica Afghanistan Paludan 1959: now included in 'hybrida'). irregular migrant Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002, common to abundant SV Iran (Khaleghizadeh et al 2017), Iraq, disperse widely, some remain in Gulf, HBW3; abundant PM Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

White-winged Tern (White-winged Black Tern)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Monotypic. Has similar contiguous breeding area to C niger common PM Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, breeds high elevation Turkey Hering & Buckley 2013, but scarcer over slightly smaller area; abundant BM, PM Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, summer breeder/resident S Iraq Salim et al 2012, almost regular migrant N Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002, Afghanistan Reeb 1977. Winters Gulf or disperses further. eg inland Africa HBW3 although has bred Gulf Jennings 2010; common PM & WV Oman OBL7. Egypt Avib, BE.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger


South Polar Skua

Stercorarius maccormicki (formerly Catharacta maccormicki)


Brown Skua (Subantarctic Skua)

Stercorarius antarcticus (formerly Catharacta antarcticus)

Monotypic. Follow BOU re Stercorarius. Sangster et al 2011, IOC1.6 agrees English name in Cohen et al 1997 & Andersson 1999. Breeds, winters subantarctic wanderers to OSME Region; 3-record vagrant Oman OBL7; ssp antarcticus probably involved; ssp hamiltoni discountable. However, some juveniles Indian Ocean likely (eg all Sri Lankan specimens De Silva 1989, 1991) Subantarctic Skua S. lonnbergi IOC treat as ssp of Brown Skua & English name Subantarctic confusingly once used for all 3 taxa that IOC describe as Brown Skua! In Australasia previously treated as S. (C.) (a.) lonnbergi, as in Scott & Adhami 2006, Iran. Should lonnbergi be confirmed in OSME Region deep-ocean extension, the ORL would treat it as S. (a.) lonnbergi. 3 RNIBWS reports, Aug 64 (11:3:0.0+N-53:30:0.0E off C Guardafui), Nov 88 Jebel Ali (25:6:0.0+N-55:12:0.0E) & Sep 90 in the Gulf (25:0:0.0+N-54:0:0.0E) are considered southern Skua taxa.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua (formerly Catharacta skua)


Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)

Stercorarius pomarunus

Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)  
Stercorarius parasiticus  

Long-tailed Skua (Long-tailed Jaeger)  
Stercorarius longicaudus  
IOC1.6 notes English name parity. Most pelagic of skuas (HBW3); likely longicaudus & not palilus sensis in Region; vagrant Turkey Kerim et al 2008, Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, some overland migration through OSME Region occurs (Francis Ward in litt: single 1958 record S Caspian Schölz 1959); no records yet Kazakhstan Arend Wassink in litt. Rare Iran Rosekar & Alibandian 2010, vagrant Iraq Salim et al 2012, 6-record vagrant Oman OBL7, S Israel coast, very rare N Israel coast Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 4th record Kuwait Jul 2015 KORC, 2nd record Qatar Apr 2013 SG35(2) ATR: 2 Mersin, Turkey Dec 09 DB40(3): 32. Egypt Avib, BE.

Razorbill  
Alca torda  

Atlantic Puffin  
Fratercula arctica  

Cohen 2011, Clade A

Tibetan Sandgrouse  
Syrrhaptes tibetanus  

Pallas’s Sandgrouse  
Syrrhaptes paradoxus  

Black-bellied Sandgrouse (Formerly Imperial Sandgrouse)  
Syrrhaptes orientalis  

Cohen 2011, Clade A1 (Sister to Clade A)

Cheestnut-bellied Sandgrouse  
Syrrhaptes exustus  
Syrrhaptes exustus (Pterocles exustus)  

Cohen 2011, Clade B

Spotted Sandgrouse  
Syrrhaptes senegallus  

Crowned Sandgrouse (Formerly Coronetted Sandgrouse)  
Pterocles coronatus  
Resident aratus locally common Iran CA & deserts Kheglehyzadeh et al 2017 in Arabia, virtually confined to S Oman as breeder (c6000b) Jennings 2010, some Yemen SW Saudi, fairly common stony deserts Oman OBL7; sautures N Oman hills. Also Egypt, HWB4, SW Afghanistan (aratus Paludan 1959) R&A 2005, vagillas NE Egypt to Jordan rare Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 25 NW Qatar Jun 2016 SG39(1)ATR: coronatus W Egypt Goodman et al 1986, likely this taxon Gebel Elba, Halab Triangle Dora 2019: extralimital to E in W Pakistan & disjunctly W to Saharan Africa. Egypt Avib, BE.
449 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse

Pterocles alchata


450 Lichtenstein’s Sandgrouse

Nyctipèrè 'easternus' (Pterocles lichtensteini)


451 Rock Dove (Common Pigeon)

Columba livia

Populations free of or with little introgressive DNA from domesticated or feral pigeons (see next row) occur almost solely in mountainous or uninhabited areas (eg in Arabia Jennings 2010: abundant montane resident Oman OBL7 or on sea cliffs. C.l. livia & neglecta Turkmenistan Bukreev 1997. Resident S-C Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b livia in N, neglecta in S, but see next taxon; neglecta Afghan Nurestan gaddi rest of Afghanistan Paludan 1959. Widespread Middle East, CA & Caucasus Gibbs et al 2001 Iran, Afghanistan R&A 2005. Egypt Avlb, BE. Our English name differentiates from Feral Pigeon, whose status differs.

452 Feral Pigeon (Common Pigeon)

Columba livia forma domestica


453 Hill Pigeon

Columba rupestris


454 Snow Pigeon

Columba leucomonot


455 Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea


456 ‘Western Stock Dove’ (Stock Pigeon)

Columba oenas oenas

Monotypic. Widespread SW (winter) & NE (Kyrgyzstan, breeding) CA & Caucasus, Turkey to NW Iran Gibbs et al 2001: rare BM, common PM, rare resident, WV Wassink 2015b, found N Iraq Moore & Boswell 1956 uncommon winterer Salim et al 2012, 9th Kuwait record Nov 2015 KORC, uncommon Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 2-record vagrant Oman OBL7, but was yarkandensis ruled out?. Egypt Avlb, BE

457 ‘Eastern Stock Dove’

Columba oenas yarkandensis


458 Yellow-eyed Pigeon (Pale-backed Pigeon) (Eastern Stock Dove)

Columba eversmanni


459 Common Woodpigeon (Common Wood Pigeon)

Columba palumbus


460 African Olive Pigeon

Columba oeniarchus

European Turtle Dove

*Streptopelia turtur*


Dusky Turtle Dove (Pink-breasted Dove)

*Streptopelia lugens*


Rufous Turtle Dove

*Streptopelia orientalis*


Oriental Turtle Dove

(Rufous or Eastern Turtle Dove)

*Streptopelia (orientalis) orientalis*


Rufous Turtle Dove (Mountain Turtle Dove)

*Streptopelia (orientalis) meena*


Eurasian Collared Dove

(Indian Ring Dove)

*Streptopelia decaocto*


African Collared Dove

(Pink-headed Dove)

*Streptopelia roseogrisea* (Streptopelia risoria)

Although species name risoria, not roseogrisea as in Opinion 2215 ICZN 2008 (Richard Klim in litt), IOC3.5 reverted to roseogrisea on grounds that Opinion 2215 was reached through flawed data. However, van Grouw 2018 details the lengthy and confused history of the naming of this species to demonstrate that the correct genus and species names by precedence are Streptopelia roseogrisea Linnaeus 1758? We await IOC’s view on this paper. SW Arabia, African species HBW4; ssp in Region arabica; rare RB or MB SW Oman, increasing OBL7. Vagrant Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009 (but much debate on origin, history & current status Yoav Perlman in litt Nov 09)., Egypt, S of Shalaleen, Habal Triangle Bonsall R.; RNWBS report Aden Feb 91 12:0:0.0+45:0:0.0. In Arabia, SB W Saudi in broad swath extending to whole Yemen into SW Oman Jennings 2010, numbers reaching perhaps 1 million bp some years; 2 record vagrant Bahrain King 2018. NB Opinion 2215 interpreted as allowing captive and feral populations of ‘Barbary Dove’ as S. risoria forma domestica, as in Kuwait Gregory 2002. Generations of captive breeding have produced distinctive variations, confusingly referred to as roseogrisea. Pedigrees linked to the origin of the descriptions of S Caspian specimens by Pallas in 1772-3, cited in Gmelin 1784 (Schüz 1959).

Mourning Collared Dove

*Streptopelia decipiens*

First record for WP: found Abu Simbel village, Egypt Dec 2010 de Rouck & Collin 2012: photos (Steve Moldovan in litt); present until at least 01 Aug 2013 Haas 2017; ssp decipiens recorded as common just S of Egyptian border in N Sudan in 120km² grid 21°N, 30°E Nikolaus 1987 and S upstream along Nile. EORC accepted. Previously in ORL Hypotheticals.

Red-eyed Dove

*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Monotypic. SW Arabia: African species HBW4. Resident SW-most Saudi Arabia, W Yemen (c 100 000bbp Jennings 2010. RNWBS report Oct 73 at Ras Binnmah at 11:4:0:0+53:0:0.0.0.0.

Red Turtle Dove (Red Collared Dove)

*Streptopelia tranquebarica*


PT Spotted Dove

*Spilopelia chinensis*

del Hoyo & Collar 2014b, del Hoyo et al 2018 split into Western S. suratensis & extralimital polytypic Eastern S. chinensis

Western Spotted Dove

(formerly, Spotted Dove, Spotted-neck Dove) (Split makes S. suratensis as Western Collared Dove)

*Spilopelia suratensis* (Formerly Spilopelia chinensis, Stigmatopelia chinensis & Streptopelia chinensis)

Laughing Dove (Palm Dove, Little Brown Dove) Spilopelia senegalensis (formerly Stigmatopelia senegalensis & Streptopelia senegalensis)


Zebra Dove Geopelia striata Popular cagebird from SE Asia. Reported as introduced self-sustaining resident Doha Corniche (Sheraton) Qatar 11Mar 07.


Cuculidae

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis ssp aegyptius in Egypt, resident Nile Delta & S discontinuously along Nile Mitchell 2017 BoA III.

White-browed Coucal Centropus superciliosus ssp superciliosus SW Arabia; HBW4 includes sokotae, Afrotopical species (ssp sokoteae) breeding SW Saudi Arabia, W Yemen & Socotra; 14 000bp (mainland), perhaps Jennings 2015.

Great Spotted Cuckoo Clamator glandarius Monotypic. Breeds Turkey, N Iraq, Levant, Cyprus occasional Arabian, HBW4, scarce breeder Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, 4th Qatar record Dec 2017 QBRC, 3-record vagrant Masirah Oman OBL7, 3rd record UAE Apr 2012, 5th Feb 2017 EBRC, one Absineh, Hamedan Province Iran May 2016 IRDG rare SW W Zagros Khalaghizadeh et al 2017, 2nd for Georgia reported Apr 2017 Batumi DB40(3); 182, vagrant Armenia, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen Mitchell 2017, Egypt Avib, BE.

Pied Cuckoo (Jacobin Cuckoo) Oxylophus jacobinus (Clamator jacobinus)

Oxylophus because of plumage and wing-shape differences, HBW4, although this may not be sustained: Entizue et al 2012, H&M remain with Clamator, but acknowledge Oxylophus: ssp pica occurs Sub-Saharan Africa & Pakistan, Indian subcontinent; Oman, S Arabia migration (scare migrant S Yemen Warr 1992) records overshoots from Pakistan or sub-Saharan breeding areas, HBW4; some (pica) are trans-oceanic migrants boreal autumn India-E Africa prey ing on dragonflies exploiting ITZC movement Anderson 2009. However, small summer-breeding population in W Yemen (possibly also SW Saudi Arabia) of uncertain identity (300+ birds), 2 records from N of breeding distribution Jun & July 2016 Tanoumah SG39(1)ATR: two specimens of African taxon serratus from Yemen locations (1922 & 1948) are Meinertzhagen’s, and are thus suspect, although the breeding location holds many other Afrotopical breeders or visitors Jennings 2010. Uncommon impactive PM Oman (eg 2011) OBL7, 4th UAE record Jul 2015 EBRC. Breeds SE Iran &A 2005, but Khalaghizadeh et al 2017 assess as vagrant, 2 records since 2004 Khalaghizadeh et al 2011. Afghanistan E Dickinson pers comm. NB We retain English name ‘Pied Cuckoo’ because it is most apt. NB2 Possible ID confusion if any Yemen reports with wandering Levaillant’s Cuckoo O. levaillanti (see Redman et al 2009 p21) wintering on N Somali coast?

Asian Koel  

Sosp. scolopaceus  

Eudynamys [scolopaceus] scolopaceus  

SSP scolopaceus  


Diederik Cuckoo (Diederik, Diedrik or Didric Cuckoo)  

Chrysococcyx caprulus  


Klaas’s Cuckoo  

Chrysococcyx klaas  


Grey-backed Cuckoo  

Cacomantis passerinus  


Common Hawk-Cuckoo (Indian Hawk-Cuckoo)  

Hierococcyx varius (=Cuculus varius)  

SSP varius vagrant Oman, Porter et al 1996 2 records OBL7 3rd Jun 2016 SG38(2); 233. Overseers from India or NE Pakistan; westemmost Pakistan range near Khyber & Kunar river, Chitral, see map Grimmett et al 2009, hence possibly in Afghan Daryā-ye & Kunar valleys. Possibly breeds E Afghanistan: map in Erritzoe et al 2012.

Lesser Cuckoo (Asian Lesser Cuckoo)  

Cuculus poliocephalus  


Oriental Cuckoo PT (Himalayan Cuckoo)  

Coculus saturatus  

Early treatment encompassed many taxa (composition of which & specific name not universally agreed); now assessed as superspecies. IOC1.6 notes split of C. saturatus into Oriental (C.[s.] optatus) & Himalayan (C. [s.] saturatus) & the extralimital Sunda (C.[s.] epipus) Cookeos Payne 2005, Collar & Pilgrim 2007. The corollary is that taxon saturatus in the Russian Federation (Kobil & et al 2006) is listed as such because Blyth 1843 antedates Gould 1845, under whose arrangement it would be described as C. [s.] optatus! Whatever species name applies in Russia, it has long had the English name Oriental Cuckoo (Anufriev et al 1997). Song analysis (Lindholm & Linden 2007) suggests deeper complexity but although Entizee et al 2012 assess differences as minor, while conceding their taxonomic conclusions are tentative, Xia et al 2015 clearly demonstrate well-differentiated songs across a wide geographical range. NB1 H&M4 note optatus antedates horsfieldii. NB2 IOC2.3 is unchanged from 1.6, but absence of defined breeding distributions for taxa listed here may yet see Horsfield’s Cuckoo C.[s.] horsfieldii revived for some populations. NB3 From his monograph on Old World Cuckoos, examination of such as type specimens suggests some early misidentification, thus perpetuating distributional errors Clive Mann pers comm.

Himalayan Cuckoo  

Coculus [saturatus] saturatus  

Breeds foothills Himalayas E to China H&M4. In Region, vagrant or migration overshoot, eg from NE Pakistan Roberts 1991 map? From map in Erritzoe et al 2012, probably this taxon vagrant Iran although Porter & Aspinall 2010 suggest C.[s.] optatus.

Oriental Cuckoo  

Coculus [saturatus] optatus  


Common Cuckoo  

Coculus canorus  

C.c. subteletphonus Turkistan. Widespread breeder N OSM Region HBW4, N Iraq Moore & Boswell 1956, Thought to breed occasionally Musandam Peninsula on UAE/Oman border Jennings 2010, female collected (male present but not captured) Tab Island 1920 Ticehurst et al 1926; fairly common PM Oman OBL7, Afghanistan subteletphonus & canorus Paludan 1959, also Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017 where common SV N Iran & highlands elsewhere & common PM; in boreal autumn some are trans-oceanic migrants India-E Africa (loop migrants) preying on dragonflies exploiting ITZC movement Anderson 2009. Egypt Avib, BE. NB Once treated by some as conspecific with C. saturatus.

Tytonidae
Clade Western Barn Owl sensu Aliabadian et al. 2016

Tyto alba

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

OIC:2.0, H&M4 originally split Barn Owl into Western Tyto (alba) alba, extralimital Eastern T.(a.) deliciula Barn Owl of Lesser Sundas, Australasia and sundry islands between & also E to Pacific islands (the initial split had referred to javanica of Malay Peninsula, Greater & (part) Lesser Sundas, but just ESE of Jalalabad); only likely stertens of Indian Subcontinent were then grouped in T. (a.) alba) and extralimital Andaman (Barn Masked Owl T.(a.) deroepstorffi, Wink et al 2004b, Christidis & Boles 2008. Consequently, IOC2.5-6.2 listed javanica & stertens under T. alba. However, Aliabadian et al 2016 from their results devised Clades for the barn owl complex & showed that javanica & stertens belong to the deliciula Clade; consequently, the name javanica had priority over deliciula for that geographically much-enlarged Clade; Uva et al 2018 strongly support Aliabadian et al 2016. Eaton et al 2016 note that good vocal and plumage differences yet to be documented. Note stertens, from the maps in BLDZ & Xeno-canto, occurs just into Afghanistan past the Torkham border post, as part of the sensu lati javanica Clade; No other Barn Owl taxon occurs in Afghanistan. Split supported by Collor 2017.

Clade Eastern Barn Owl sensu Aliabadian et al. 2016

Tyto [alba] javanica


Strigidae

H&M4 heavily resequences ORL Strigidae genera, species and within species; we remain with IOC.

PT

Collared Scops Owl PT

(Otus bakkamoena

IC:6 splits Collared Scops Owl. English name Collared Scops Owl now applies to extralimital taxon O.[b.] letitia. Remaining sps are Indian Scops Owls Otus [bakkamoena]bakkamoena , just in Region) and extralimital Japanese Scops Owl O.[b.] semitorques and Sunda Scops Owl O.[b.] dempshi; H&M await better definition of vocal repertoire. NB Pons et al 2013 split Socotran (socotranus) as originating from Indian Ocean/Indo-Malayan clade and Arabian (pamelae) as early offshoot of East African clade.

Indian Scops Owl (formerly Collared Scops Owl

O. bakkamoena

SE Afghanistan ssps deserticolor König et al 1999, König & Weick 2008 (=K&W 2008); may occur SE Iran. R&A suggest Indian subcontinent endemic resident, although mapped exactly to Afghan border, where overlaps with summer-breeding O. scops . However, BLDZ map May 2017 includes a long sliver of Afghanistan centred on the Golam River, the distribution covering up to 5km from Pakistan.

Paleid Scops Owl (Striated or Bruce’s Scops Owl

O. brucei

Confirmed as full species Pons et al 2013, but as early offshoot of Indian Ocean/Indo-Malayan clade. Rare, declining SE Anatolia (obsoletus) Kirwan et al 2008. N Middle East, once thought rare winterer S Israel Pielman & Meyrov 2009 but now known as sympatric breeder with Eurasian Scops Owls O. scops Rift Valley Ben Dou & Kiat 2016, CA (S &) summer breeder in semi-open areas Ayé et al 2012, uncommon Turkmenistan Rustamov 2015, rare BM SSE Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b; Afghanistan (Wakhan Paludan 1959) König et al 1999, formerly (?) bred Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008; 1st breeding for 105 years Dead Sea area Israel, 50 territories 10 confirmed breeding pairs Ben Dou & Kiat 2016, resident/summer breeder Iraq Salim et al 2012. probably fairly common resident or SV E & S Iran Khaleghizadeh et al 2017; 3100 obsoletus/exiguus 7 pairs Arabia Jennings 2007a., revised to 2600bp Jennings 2010: breeding exiguus confirmed only E UAE, NE Oman where uncommon to fairly common.


PT

African Scops Owl PT

O. senegalensis

K&W 2008. IOC4.4 agree split Arabian Scops Owl O.(s.) pamelae (qv); previously regarded as ssp. African Scops Owl O.(s.) senegalensis sensu stricto novo: now relegated to OBL Hypothetical List: no evidence found of this taxon in Region. Pons et al 2013 admit taxon pamelae as full species & early offshoot from Afro-Palearctic clade, IOC:1 agreed, del Hoyo et al 2014 also; long separated from rest of clade probably warrants omission from superspecies.

Arabian Scops Owl

O. pamelae (O. [sengalensis] pamelae)

Monotypic. Pons et al 2013 confirm taxon as full species, an early offshoot from Afro-Palearctic clade, IOC:1 accepts. Resident SW Yemen SW Saudi Arabia & NE to S Oman K&W 2008, as O.s. pamelae Porter et al 1996 & as O.(s.) pamelae Porter & Aspinall 2010: BLDZ map Feb 2018 agrees (as full sp). Status in Arabia: probably 30 000bp in highlands of SW Saudia Arabia, W Yemen & Yemen/oman border areas Jennings 2010; fairly common likely widespread SW Oman border areas and not the OBL7. Taxa assumed to occur from the Athenaen Club member Harry St John Bridger Philby in 1917 after the Club librarian, Pamela Lovibond: Jobling 2010 (the Athenaen emblem is an owl).

PT

Eurasian Scops Owl PT

O. scops

Cyprus Scops Owl O.(j.) cypricus: split from O. scops: Robb et al 2015 (song), Flint et al 2015 (evaluation of plumage, biometrics & voice: phylogenetics from several series of museum specimens; residential status, breeding season and detailed application of BSC criteria also analysed). IOC6.3.

495 Cyprus Scops Owl Otus [scops] cypricus Cyprus endemic taxon cypricus H&E 1970, named Cyprus Scops Owl in 2001 by Flint et al (unpub) and listed by Dutch Birding 2011, Robb et al 2015, contra Mikkola 2012 suggestion that it occurs Asia Minor. Taxon probably partially migratory, but migratory component may be reducing due to more benign winters in Cyprus Flint & Richardson 2017. Elevated IOC6.3.


498 Eurasian Eagle Owl PT Bubo bubo PT – ascalaphus & interpositus reported often as B. bubo; IOC2.0 accepts split of Indian Eagle Owl B.[b.]


501 Pharaoh Eagle Owl (Desert Eagle Owl) Bubo ascalaphus Monotypic. Wink et al. 2009 confirm taxonomic status, H&M4, Sangster et al 2013 agree. Formerly (still?) from Western Desert Egypt Goodman et al. 1986 through Egypt N to Syria (note uncommon S Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009), E to Gulf, SE to Oman, HBWS, vagrant Bahrain Mitchell 2017, W Iraq K&W 2008 who note sympatric with B. (b.) interpositus (H&E suggest reach Al-Haditha in W Iraq); confirmed breeding 2011 al-Shenkey 2012. Status in Arabia: widespread resident, c2500p Jennings 2010; indications of spread to irrigated areas; rare widespread resident breeder Oman OBL7. K&W 2008 treat ascalaphus as monotypic, subsuming desertorum (Desert Owl); more field research needed, including sizable (Svensson et al 2009) extralimital distribution of Sudan to Ethiopia & W Libya-Tunisia to Chad-Mauritania. Egypt Avib, BE. NB May have reached Iran where Iraq border meets Gulf. In addition, the type locally for ‘b. paradoxus’ on Iran/Arghan border needs re-examination: the assumption made was that it is subspecies in B. ascalaphus Kajalezhadeh et al. 2017, who give Domaniewski 1933 as the Original Descriptor, but the relevant pages are behind a paywall, the ORL interpretation is that ascalaphus, if mentioned in Domaniewski 1933, is an assumption no longer warranted and that paradoxus is a synonym for omissus (as in Weick 2006) or nikolski.
**Spotted Eagle Owl**

*Kabo* africanus

2008 suggested allopatric Arabian populations taxon miles to be elevated to species level on colour, size & vocalisations, those in the Arabian peninsula may also warrant future split to be monotypic, the 3 extralimital sspp Monotypic. One recorded 09:45N, 53:45E 22 Nov 1987 is a Sri Lanka endemic and may also warrant future taxonomy. It occurs from the Indian subcontinent to Myanmar & South China. However, zoological evidence is based on considerable differences in bare part of the bird. Historically data used by del Hoyo & Collar 2014b on Tobias to support the view that the Arabian population forms a separate species, but those nearest the Arabian shore were taxon miles but those nearest the African shore were taxon cinerascens, which may thus be an accidental in the Region That many hunted and fed on tired migrants, suggesting that many ships lacking bird observers are visited by large owls as learned behaviour.

**Vermiculated Eagle Owl**

*Bubo africanus* cinerascens


**Brown Fish Owl**

*Bubo zeylonensis*

Recent work to establish distribution limits in southern Turkey (van den Berg et al 2011) complemented by molecular analysis (NB n=1) suggests this population could be separable, but much data needed. Pro tem we consider semenowi if split to be monotypic, the 3 extralimital sspp zeylonensis, leschenaulti, orientalis forming Eastern Brown Fish Owl. However, zeylonensis is a Sri Lanka endemic and may also warrant future elevation; leschenaulti occurs from the Indian subcontinent to Myanmar & orientalis from Malaysia to China, but the latter's separate identity is disputed.

**Western Brown Fish Owl**

(Brown Fish Owl Robb & the Sound Approach 2015)

*Bubo (zeylonensis) semenowi* (Ketupa zeylonensis) (Bubo semenowi Robb & the Sound approach 2015)

Monotypic if split. Occurs from SW Turkey disjunctly to Iran. BDZ Sep 2018 then map Brown Fish Owl semenowi late continuously from NW Pakistan (less than 10km from Afghan border) through S Kashmitr & NW (Monotypic). SW Saudi Arabia-N Yemen & Oman populations (4000bp Jennings 2007a) possibly fully species HBWS, likely K&W 2008, Mikkola 2012. Status in Arabia: breeds S from Jeddah in SW Saudi Arabia, W Yemen, Oman (Dholar & Muscat areas), perhaps 2000bp overall Jennings 2010, likely rare resident breeder N & S Oman OBL7; 2 recorded Al Hajar Mts UAE Nov 2017 DB40(1): 51, two there Apr 2016, but c10 territories mapped by May 2018 EBRC; see also Robb et al 2016. RBWS report Kuria Muria Is Nov 87. NB English name informal @OSME

**Tawny Owl**

*Strix aluco*

IOC2.0 accepts split of extralimital Himalayan Owl S.(a.) nivicolum R&A 2005, K&W 2008, which includes other sspp ma & yamadane; Inskipp & Collar 2015 note split supported by del Hoyo & Collar 2014b et al 2010 criteria. H&M notes different opinion, but remains unresolved.

**Tawny Owl (Wood Owl)**

*Strix [aluco] aluco*

Asia Minor (aluco, syvatica) to Levant & Iran; S. wifikowskii, harmsi Turkmenistan, Bukhreev 1997; Könö et al (1999) not mapped there; cites Turkestan. CA (Kazakhstan, siberiana vagrant harmsi very rare resident Wassinik 2015b), (Iran Scott & Adhami 2006), perhaps rare resident/winterer in N Iraq Salim et al 2012 not Afghanistan Könö et al (1999) contra H&E 1970 & R&A 2005, E&NE Afghanistan, also Roberts 1991 Paladin 1959 biddulphi (biddulphi in Könö et al 1999); voice suggests relic of western aluco group rather than member of adjacent nivicolum (Chinese) group. However, map of Tawny Owl world distribution in Doña et al 2015 allots Afghanistan population to senticulinae. NB The general conclusions of Doña et al 2015 are that phylogenetic differences are marked (based on DNA barcoding research of Iberian and North African populations) indirectly suggesting that other subspecies may merit molecular research as to status.
PT Hume’s Owl PT Strix butleri

PT Understanding of the taxonomy of and linkage within this complex is rapidly evolving. Some comments here are provisional. Kirwan et al 2015 demonstrate that the population of S. butleri from Egypt to W Arabian peninsula & SW Oman (excluding taxon omanensis in N Oman) differ morphologically and in DNA from the type specimen labelled as taken at Ormara in SW Pakistan. Ormara is 200km from the present Iran border, but then was considered as being part of eastern Baluchistan, a tribal area that nowadays also includes easternmost Iran & southernmost Afghanistan. No other records are documented from this immediate area, although there are 7 national parks or protected area in its southernmost half. Kirwan et al 2015 renamed the sampled Arabian populations (save omanensis) as Desert Tawny Owl S. hadorami. A Strix owl photographed Jan 2015 near Mashhad in N Iran appeared similar to the S. butleri sensu lato type specimen. DNA samples were obtained from the Masshad bird and from a trapped Omani Owl in 2015, both proven to be the same species. Robb et al 2015 preprint. Kirwan et al 2015 did not include any specimen from Eastern Province Saudi Arabia, nor did Robb et al 2015, which population we attribute to S. butleri sensu stricto. NB It would be useful if the DNA of specimens of the desert form of Tawny Owl S. aluco sacctinolca of SE Iraq/SW Iran could be compared with the S. [b.] hadorami & S. [b.] butleri type specimen data.

505 Omari Owl (Hume’s Tawny Owl) Strix [butleri] butleri

Data Deficient. Discovered in northern Oman in 2013 Robb et al 2013 and then named S. omanensis; seemingly tiny relict population in remote and rocky ravine-wadis, further calling heard here Oct & Nov 2012, S newly-discovered pair Apr 2013 DB36(3); p200. Second locally identified from calls heard (but not then attributed) 2008, 33km N of first discovery van Eijk 2013. However, Robb et al 2016 showed by molecular analysis that the type specimen of S. butleri, the population attributed as S. omanensis and an owl trapped near Mashhad Jan 2015 are all the same species. Musavi et al 2016 confirmed that the Mashhad bird and another seen in 2000 near Minab Hormozgan, and another found at Jam Game Guard Station Bushehr are all Omanani Owl: 3rd record Mehriz Yazd Province Oct 2015 IBRC, another Jan 2016 Balgh, Yazd Province, one Bandar-e Lengeh, Hormozgan Province Aug 2016 IBRC (another photographed there Jul 2018 DB40(4): 263)one rescued 31 Dec 2018, then later released near Shadatz Castle. Dezfoul, Khuzestan Iran, only 99km from Iraq border DB41(1): 56; 1st record UAE Mar 2015 EBRC, he is a passerine in desert mountains area some 15km wide between the E88 (al-Halah) & E99 (al-Abidiya) roads DB93(2): 209, 2nd record there Mar 2017 EBRC. Circumstantial evidence of its occurrence at the eastern end of the lower plateau of Jebel Sarah, northern Oman at roughly 23.3N, 57.1E: within a 1.5km circle to the E, there are at least 12 similar canyon complexes. Jennings 2018. The previous attribution of the type specimen of Hume’s Tawny Owl was in error. The name omanensis is thus a junior synonym of butleri. NB1 English name proposed by Robb et al 2015 & noted by IOC is here adopted pro tem; assigning the eponym to any of the sensu stricto taxa would compound confusion. NB2 The breeding distribution of S. butleri sensu stricto is unknown; other adjacent Strix taxa may yet be described. NB3 The map in Doña et al 2015 of Tawny Owl world distribution places S. aluco wilkonskii in NW Iran sympathetically with the Masshad Oman Owl. Some re-evaluation of the Iran wilkonskii population may be called for.

506 Desert Owl (Hume’s Tawny Owl, Desert Tawny Owl, formerly treated also as Hume’s Owl) Strix [butleri] hadorami

Monotypic. This taxon, known as butleri for decades until Kirwan et al 2015 showed it to be a separate species-level taxon from its type specimen (for which see entry for butleri above): patchily from SE Egypt, Sinai K&W 2008, S Sinai & Gesm Marsa Alam, Red Sea Governate Habib et al 2018, where sedentary on territory-year round. S Israel to Arabian Peninsular, HBW5 (1700p patchily widespread Arabia Jennings 2007a (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, W Oman), revised from survey work to c3000bp Jennings 2010); breeds also Sinai, Palestine, Jordan Mitchell 2017, uncommon breeding resident SW Oman OBL7. Suggested occurs Iran König et al 1999, but unlikely, Derek Scott pers comm; latter recorded by Derek Scott et al 2015. Aural report S Oman Wadi A Shuwaymiyah Dec 06, 2 Khor Muhayyat Jan 07, 1lh pers comm. Detailed breeding biology studied in Israel 2015-16 Ben Dov et al 2017. NB1 Neither Kirwan et al 2015 nor Robb et al 2015 obtained specimens or samples from Eastern Province Saudi Arabia populations previously attributed to S. butleri sensu lato., & so pro tem, we leave these unsampled populations designated as Strix taxon inquirenda. NB2 English name proposed by Robb et al 2015 & noted by IOC is here adopted pro tem: assigning the eponym to any of the sensu stricto taxa would compound confusion. NB3 The Eastern Province Saudi Arabia populations previously attributed to S. butleri sensu lato, are technically unidentified and need to be confirmed, but more important is that the current relationship between hadorami & butleri sensu stricto populations is unknown. Is there atopyalga, sympathy or a separate taxon?

507 Ural Owl Strix uralensis

N Kazakhstan (K-M&amp;C 2005), HBWS: rare resident n & NE Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b (Originally rejected WAO 2007 Arend Wassink in litt as rare breeder E Kazakhstan province, but uralsensis confirmed breeder in N Kazakhstan Zuban 2013, NE Wassink 2014; just inside NE Kazakhstan border Flint et al 1984), NB Characteristically very local and in small numbers in parts of Europe, and so may exhibit same behaviour in underwatched southern taiga zone of Region.

508 Great Grey Owl PT Strix nebulosa

Palearctic lapponica separated by molecular analysis from Nearctic taxon (nebulosa & yosemitensis) by Nijman & Aliaadadian 2013, named Lapland Owl & separated by voice by Robb & the Sound Approach 2015; no recognition of this split IOC7.1. NB Hull et al 2014 formally recognise yosemitensis as ssp novo, IOC6.1 noting further consideration needed, but still awaited in IOC7.1.

509 Lapland Owl [Great Grey Owl] Strix [n.] lapponica [Strix nebulosa]


510 Northern Hawk-Owl Surnia ulula


511 Eurasian Pygmy Owl Glaucidium passerinum

Collared Owlet

Glaucomys sabrinus

Afghanistan, Vielliard 1969, not obviously supported in König et al. (1999), maps show conveniently just short of Afghanistan Wakhan corridor to China. "Desert Little Owl", Afghanistan. Paludan 1959. CA, Caucasus, 1999, E Iran. R&A 2005, Iran. K&W 2008, Iraq, Salim being present in Egypt (not Nile valley) & C Arabia; English name: may also be species (2015); elevated to sp 'Northern Little Owl'. May be separable. Occurs from Altai and Europe to North African Little Owl (priority), but see . 2015, 'Byzantine Little Owl' for Little Owl & (also then collected) Afghanistan, Vielliard 1969, not obviously supported in König & . Re the latter point, we'll await establishment of taxa breeding boundaries.

Proposed alternative PT Little Owl

Athene (noctua) noctua

Robb et al. 2015 name the western European taxon Athene (noctua) vidali as 'Little Owl' sensu stricto (extralimital to OSM Region) and 'A.(n.) vidali 'Cucumiau', & lump glaux & lidith. Re the latter point, we'll await establishment of taxa breeding boundaries.

Little Owl ('Cucumiau': Robb et al. 2015)

Athene (noctua) noctua

A.n. bactriana & orientalis Turkmensistan, Bukrev 1997, bactriana common resident S half Kazakhstan orientalis rare resident E Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, bactriana Afghanistan Paludan 1959-CA, Caucasus, Afghanistan König et al. (1999), E Iran R&A 2005, Iran & K&W 2008, Iraq Salim et al. 2012. Fairly common widespread resident breeder Oman. OBL7. In Arabia, lidith (qv) may be the taxon in N-C Arabia, saharae seemingly in E: however, various morphs may exist, requiring investigation as to spp ID Jennings 2010. Informal English name 'Saharan Little Owl' used by some - also extralimital across Sahara. NB1 sister taxon lidith does not occur in the region. NB2 Dutch Binding proposed 'Italian Little Owl' for taxon noctua (seemingly superseded by 'Cucumiau' in Robb et al. 2015), 'Byzantine Little Owl' for indigena & subsiffe in glaux as Liilith Owl; because spp distribution limits far from agreed. 1st, English name choices debated; 2nd, English name admirable should species rank be attained; 3rd, lumping awaits confirmation of status of lidith & glaux.

'Byzantine Little Owl' (Little Owl)

Athene (noctua) indigena

(Monotypic). See PT Notes above. English name informal @OSME - the extent of the early Byzantine empire encompasses much of the taxon's distribution (from Michael Wink pers comm) of the Balkans, Greece, Crete, W Turkey & Cyprus. (Pellegrino et al. 2015 map two different genotype clusters in Cyprus populations linked to clusters centred on Sardinia and Italy). This taxon cited as present in NW CA (presumably Kazakh hinterland of N Caspian) Ayé et al. 2012, very rare resident, NW NW Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b: also thought to be the form in NW Iran Khagehizadeh et al. 2017. May occupy lusher and lower-altitude habitats than lidith. NB specimen obtained by Radde in 'Sw Caspian', but there A.n. bactriana (also then collected) now sole expected taxon

Little Owl (Little Owl, Liilith Owl)

Athene (noctua) lidith

See PT Notes above. K&W 2008 map SE Turkey (much of E Turkey, Michael Wink pers comm), Cyprus (Pellegrino et al. 2015 map two different genotype clusters in Cyprus populations linked to clusters centred on Sardinia and Italy), E Sinai, E to Iraq (probably this taxon in Moore & Boswell 1956, and so also pair photographed in SE Iraq desert 2010 Salim et al. 2012) & SW Iran on Gulf, & S to C Saudi Arabia: saharae said to be in E Arabia, uncertain which taxon in Yemen & W Oman Jennings 2010, reinforced in OBL7; Mikkola 2012 assigns lidith to all Arabia. 5700bp (all taxa) Arabia Jennings 2007a, 5000-6000bp Jennings 2010. Scarce resident breeder Gaza Al Safadi 2006, lidith-type SE Turkey Kirwan et al. 2008, lidith-type breeding Qatar Jan 2014 SG36(2) ATR, taxon undocumented UAE Aspinall 1996. K&W separation on DNA, song, sympathy with A. noctua sp. May occupy drier and hillier habitats than liilith.

'Northern Little Owl' (Little Owl)

Athene (noctua) plumps

Monotypic. See PT Notes above. Recent resident NE-most Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b, Ayé et al. 2012, Mikkola 2012. K&W 2008 suggest elevation possible & note extralimital distribution stretches from Altai to S of Lake Baikal, Mongolia, China to Korea. NB English name informal @OSME, but used elsewhere subsequently eg Birding Asia 14 Dec 2010.

'North African Little Owl' (Little Owl, 'Liilith Owl')

Athene (noctua) glaux

English name here informal @OSME, but based on distribution information from Michael Wink pers comm. NB DB 2009 citing Vervuren & 2009 list Liilith Owl as A. glaux, ssp glaux & lidith (latter sometimes called Caspian Little Owl), treating lidith under glaux (priority), but see PT Notes above. Individual variation in Western Desert Egypt masks differences between glaux & taxon saharae Goodman et al. 1986, possibly why some authors subsume saharae into glaux. However, HBW (Alive) & IOC7.2 treat saharae separately, hence we add it as the next entry. Taxon glaux occurs coastal Israel, probably C to S Sinai from opinion attributed to Vaurie. May be unsafe to separate from lidith.

'Kleinschmidt's Little Owl' ('Desert Little Owl', 'Saharan Little Owl')

Athene (noctua) saharae

HBW (Alive) gives taxon distribution as N & C Sahara (5 to Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad & Sudan) E, discontinuously, into Arabian Peninsula; IOC7.2 as Morocco to W Egypt, C Arabia, aligning well with earlier assumption of A.n. saharae being present in Egypt (not Nile Valley) & C Arabia. English name informal @OSME & relating to type specimen description.
519 Spotted Owlet (Spotted Little Owl) Athene brama
ssp indica SE Iran (Baluchestan Minkola 2012), Afghanistan König et al (1999); R&A 2005, 2012 say Afghan verification (specimen) needed, Ayé et al 2012 agree, mapped Grimmett et al 1998, 2009. K&W 2008 less informative; no mention of Afghanistan, but they map distribution exactly to Pakistan/Arabian border in 2 places. This caution is mirrored in BLDZ map, where the 2 affected populations are quite discrete: the Iranian distribution runs parallel to (but c20km from) the western Pakistan border for 130km (mostly in the Bahookalat Protected Area), whereas that in Pakistan occurs on the coast from 325km eastwards and then north-eastwards to the Sada-Peshawar area, neatly matching much of the Afghan border. Despite this wide geographical separation, the 2 populations belong to the same ssp, indica.

PT Boreal Owl PT Aegolius funereus
From Nijman & Allabadian 2013 molecular analysis, Robb & the Sound Approach 2015 (voice), split Palearctic taxa (funereus) from Nearctic taxa (richardsoni).

517 Tengmalm’s Owl (Boreal Owl) Aegolius funereus

520 Long-eared Owl (Northern Long-eared Owl: distinguishing from African Long-eared Owl, aka Abyssinian Owl) Asio otus

521 Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus
ssp flammeus CA, Caucasus, wintering Afghanistan König et al (1999); HBW5 has wintering not breeding CA, Iran Afghanistan: widespread winterer Iran Salim et al 2012, K&W 2008 have breeding in N Iran not far from NW Afghanistan, but given as WV to Kjetil Kjelleighadze et al 2017; Ayé et al 2012 map breeding Kazakhstan only, but widely, Wassink 2015b details common BM, PM, rare resident, WV Kazakhstan . Egypt Avib, BE. Rare to uncommon PM & WV Oman OBL7; recorded winter Israel Moore & Boswell 1956, likewise Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, 1st record for 40 years Nov 2014 Lebanon Ramadan-Jaradi & Itani 2016.

Caprimulgidae

522 Grey Nightjar Caprimulgus jotaka
BLDZ map (Jun 2016) shows summer distribution reaching just into Afghanistan N of Peshawar, but possibly just spring migration overshoot to Afghanistan, ssp hazarae, from NW Pakistan (H&M4) in conditions of strong E/NE winds; old records accepted Ayé et al 2012. Recently split from C. indicus Jungle Nightjar IOC4.1; see Hypothetical List but note this split long recognised in Russian-language literature Red’kin et al 2015.

523 European Nightjar (Eurasian Nightjar) Caprimulgus europaeus

524 Egyptian Nightjar Caprimulgus aegyptius

525 Sykes’s Nightjar (in error, Syke’s Nightjar) Caprimulgus mahrattensis

526 Nubian Nightjar Caprimulgus nubicus

527 Montane Nightjar (Mountain or Cleere 2010 Abyssinian Nightjar) Caprimulgus poliocephalus

528 Indian Nightjar Caprimulgus asiaticus
529 Plain Nightjar Caprimulgus inornatus Monotypic. African sub-Saharan species with montane breeding population SW Saudi Arabia, Yemen Porter & Aspinall 2010, perhaps 2000bp, mostly in Yemen Jennings 2010, winters Africa, HBW5. One on board Nov 87 40km off Kuria Muria Islands Bourne 1988a. Previously thought to be a 2-record vagrant. It is currently known to be found near Djibouti City and at the DECAN (Decouvri et Aider la Nature) Reserve 10km further S Dove et al 2017.

Apodidae

530 Himalayan Swiftlet Aerodramus brevirostris (formerly Collocalia brevirostris) Swiftlets reported Socotra Nov 2007, following a cyclone, assessed as this extralimital species (Hugh Buck pers comm), likely ssp brevirostris Himalayan foothills Himalachal Pradesh & points E & S; occurrence accepted in Redman et al 2009, Porter & Aspinall 2010, NB Known spring wanderer well to E of normal range (Japan) Brazil 2009.


532 African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus African species with population ssp parvus in SW Arabia, HBW5, essentially Tihamah (beyond old BWP WP boundary). Some 15 000bp Jennings 2011; distribution linked to that of Hypolyta hebeica for nesting & roosting. No acceptable records Egypt Haas et al 2010b. EGRC 2011.


534 Common Swift Apus apus Widespread; A.A. pekinensis Turkmistan Bukreev 1997, Afghanistan Paludan 1995, this (S Kazakhstan) & apus N Kazakhstan WAO 2007. Nominate in Caucasus, CA, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, HBW5. Egypt Avib BE. NB1 Colony at Amangerdy W-C Kazakhstan where breeding distributions of both ssp apalus & hold birds resembling both ssp: interbreeding (suggested in Wassink 2015b), or perhaps sympatric breeding? NB2 This species has the highest lift/drag ratio (13.3:1) of any bird so far measured: Henningsson et al 2008. NB3 Separation from A. pallidus made on morphology, nesting diet, foraging behaviour in mixed colonies and voice; Päckert et al 2012 suggested genetic distances were fairly low from mtDNA cyt b, but Pellegrino et al 2017 found considerable differences in mt DNA markers COI, ND2 & control region, all aligning with estimated separation some 2Mya.

535 Pallid Swift Apus pallidus ssp brehmorum breeds Cyprus. NWASC Turkey, NW Egypt &H&M; elsewhere ssp pallidus eg Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008, Egypt to Iran & H&M. In Middle East (Jennings 2010) suggests in N & C Arabia only, all other records in S Arabia attributable to A. berliozi; estimated population of 25 000bp takes this division into account; probable localised SB to coastal cliffs & offshore islands Oman (certain PM) but confusion with A. berliozi requires clarification OBL7. Colourised towns UAE Aspinall 1996, S Iran (where seemingly resident Porter & Aspinall 2010), winters sub-Saharan Africa, some (resident Scott & Adhami 2006) in SE Iran, HBW5, Pakistan Meknian coast R&A 2012, possibly also Iraq Moore & Boswell 1956, confirmed but uncommon Salim et al 2012. Egypt Avib, BE NB See above species for genetic separation between A. pallidus & A. apus.


537 Pacific Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) PT PT Apus pacificus IOC2.10 reverts to English name Pacific Swift for only 2 taxa, pacificus (breeding in Kazakhstan in Altai) & extralimital (? kurodae which now amended to kanoi, because the type collected for pacificus sensu lato may have been within kurodae H&M); split off are Salim Ali's Swift A. salimali, Blyth's Swift A. leuconyx, & Cook's Swift A. cooki (see NB2 below). Leader 2011 (on morphological grounds). Taxon leuconyx (breeds Pakistan) probably wanders to OSME Region & possibly occurs (via ITCC cycles) in Iran, UAE & Oman (see Hypothetical List); how many taxa have definitely occurred is unclear; taxa would have to be examined in the field. NB1 ID character aid: pacificus broad white (15-25mm) rump Luiten 2017; salimali narrow white throat patch (Wikipedia); leuconyx narrow (10mm) white rump (Wikipedia); broad pale (not white) throat patch; cooki indiscernent green sheen & shallow tail fork (Wikipedia). NB2 H&M suggests taxon cooki relates more to Dark-rumped Swift A. acuticaudata (both extralimital): indeed Päckert et al 2012 emphasise that cooki and acuticaudata are closer to than the other pacificus taxa, but also note that more distinctive molecular markers for separation may be needed.

538 Pacific Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) Apus [p.] pacificus Very rare BM NE-most Kazakhstan (SW Altai G&G 2005) Wassink 2015b may be locally common Ayé et al 2012; migrant easternmost OSME Region, vagrant elsewhere, eg 2-record vagrant Oman (pacificus) Blyth’si OBL7, 4 records UAE (probably pacificus EBEC); possible 1st for Israel Mar 2017 DB40/2 113. Vagrant to UK Parkin & Knox 2010.
Little Swift (House Swift)  
**Apus affinis**  

White-rumped Swift  
**Apus caffer**  

**Coraciidae**  
Johansson et al 2018 revise relationships within Coraciidae, but postpone endorsement of taxonomic revisions save to recommend re-evaluation of Dollarbird *Euystomus orientalis* species limits. Clade names here are informal @OSME.  

Clade A. Johansson et al 2018 show the sp as sister to the dissimilar African extralimital Racket-tailed Roller *C. caudatus* (occurs from Tanzania latitudes S to Botswana)  

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller  
**Coracias naevius**  
African species, vagrant Yemen, HBW6, nearest known breeding population ssp naevius Somalia H&M.  

Clade B. Johansson et al 2018 show that extralimital Purple-winged Roller *C. temmincki* of Sulawesi groups with taxon *affinis* (Indochinese Roller) as sister to *C. benghalensis*.  

Indian Roller  
**Coracias benghalensis**  

Clade C. Johansson et al 2018 group the 3 listed below as sister to Asian *Coracias* rollers  

Purple-rumped Roller (Cinnamon Roller)  
**Euryostomus caeruleus**  
Nearest population Erithrea BLDZ map May 2018, One, possibly ssp aff S of Sudan, found dead, Adal Deeb, Elba Protected Area Egypt, by Ahmed Badry Sayed, Area Ranger 30 Oct 2010, EORC accepted.

**Alcedinidae**  

Broad-billed Roller (Cinnamon Roller)  
**Halcyon smyrnensis**  
Resident, ssp smyrnensis, E Mediterranean coasts, probably Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008, Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, NE Afghanistan, HBW6 (smyrnensis Khyber-Kabul Ayé et al 2012), easternmost UAE Aspinall 1996; Kuwait numbers small (Jennings 2010), but increased sightings elsewhere in E Arabia suggest slow range expansion. Rare migrant visitor Cyprus CBR11, 1st Masirah, Oman Nov-Dec 2015 OBRC. Egypt Avib, BE.

Grey-headed Kingfisher  
**Halcyon leucocephala**  
Resident African species, with breeding populations, endemic Arabian ssp semicaerulea; SW Arabia S Yemen just to Oman. HBW6; breeds foothills, perhaps 6000bp in Arabia Jennings 2010; common breeding SW SW Oman OBL7.

Collared Kingfisher (White-collared Kingfisher)  
**Todiramphus chloris** (formerly Halcyon chloris)  
Much splitting of former 50+ ssp Red Sea African coast to S Pacific now (IOC6.2) reduced to 14 ssp, abyssinicus S Red Sea coasts, hinterland, SW Arabia; Oman Kalbaensis; HBW6; Joint Oman & (larger) UAE Khor Kalba mangrove population (kalbaensis) small & vulnerable, Red Sea population, perhaps 2000bp mostly In Saudi Arabia, but expected in Yemen Jennings 2010, so vagrant status Yemen Stanton 2009 liable to revision; uncommon highly localised resident breeder N Oman. Egypt Avib, BE.

Malachite Kingfisher (African Malachite Kingfisher)  
**Corythornis cristatus** (Alcedo cristata)  
550 Common Kingfisher (European Kingfisher)  
  *Alcedo atthis*  
  Only ssp. *atthis* known in Region; Turkey-Afghanistan, scarce BM, PM, rare resident, WV in suitable habitat in SE Kazakhstan Wissark 2015b, 2nd winter record Lake Karakol, Caspian W Kazakhstan Wissark 2018, resident Caucasus, SE Iraq (uncommon Salim et al. 2012), SW & NW Iran; breeds CA, resident permanent waters S-C & CA Aye et al. 2012, Afghanistan (Paludan 1959: athris now includes pallasii), winters N Red Sea, Gulf, S Iran, HBW6: common PM & WV Oman OBL7. May have bred NW Saudi Arabia where permanent streams Jennings 2010. Egypt Avib, BE.

555 Crested Kingfisher  
  *Megaceryle lugubris*  
  NE Afghanistan, IOC, Fry et al. 1992, HBW6. (? Aye et al. 2012, ssp. continental. BLDZ maps just into Afghanistan near the Nari-Upper Dir border as the westernmost distribution.

552 Pied Kingfisher  
  *Ceryle rudis*  

553 White-throated Bee-eater  
  *Merops aliciculus*  

551 Green-beater PT  
  *Merops orientalis*  
  Split by del Hoyo et al. 2014d, BLDZ into superspecies, African Green Bee-eater M. [o.] vindissimus (2 ssp, nominate & cleopatra, latter in Region). Arabian Green Bee-eater M. [o.] cyanophrys (2 ssp nominate & muscatensis) & Asian Green Bee-eater M. [o.] orientalis (4 ssp, only beludschicus reaching Region, the rest from India to China.). IOC7.1 remains lumped.

554 African Green Bee-eater  
  *Merops [orientalis] vindissimus*  
  Only sssp in Region cleopatra Nile Valley Egypt & H&M4, has occurred Western Desert Egypt Goodman et al. 1986; nominate S Sudan west to Senegal. E to Ethiopia.

556 Arabian Green Bee-eater  
  *Merops [orientalis] cyanophrys*  
  2 ssp, endemic to Region: nominate S Israel, W Jordan, W&S Arabian littoral; Arabian Green Bee-eater M. [o.] cyanophrys (2 ssp nominate & muscatensis) & Asian Green Bee-eater M. [o.] orientalis (4 ssp, only beludschicus reaching Region, the rest from India to China.). IOC7.1 remains lumped.

558 Asian Green Bee-eater  
  *Merops [orientalis] orientalis*  

557 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (Persian Bee-eater) [Madagascar Bee-eater]  
  *Merops persicus* (formerly subsumed in *M. superciliosus*)  

560 European Bee-eater  
  *Merops apiaster*  
  Monotypic. Breeds Asia Minor–Afghanistan inc Caucasus, common BM much of Kazakhstan Wissark 2015b; much of Middle East; declining UAE, Oman below 1990s max of 2000bp Jennings 2010. Now almost uncommon BM N Batihan Oman, common to abundant PM Oman OBL7. 7 shot Lebanon (1st record for 70 years) Dec 2016 Ramadan-Jaradi et al. 2017. Egypt Avib, BE. NB1 DB 2009 call ssp chrysococerus Saharan Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. NB2 Name Madagascar Bee-eater was applied to extralimital M. superciliosus, but since has been superseded as Olive Bee-eater, which sp occurs as intra-tropical breeder in NW Somalia and parts of Ethiopia and coastal Eritrea Redman et al. 2009. NB3 In boreal autumn some persicus are trans-oceanic migrants India-E Africa (loop migration) preying on dragonflies exploiting ITZC movement Anderson 2009; this raises the possibility that individuals may join existing largely sedentary populations in Arabia for a season or two (or permanently) before continuing their return migration to India.

559 Eurasian Hoopoe  
  *Upupa epops*  
  IOC2.5 recognised extralimital African and Madagascar Hoopoes (*U. africana & U. marginata*); H&M4 does not.

561 African Grey Hornbill  
  *Lophoceros nasutus* (formerly *Toechus nasutus*)  

562 Picidae  
  *Winkler et al. 2013 revise Piciidae*, mostly via mtDNA, but link to other molecular studies. Genera sequence changes follow Winkler et al. 2014 Appendix 2.

563 Eurasian Wryneck  
  *Jynx torquilla*  
Speckled Piculet  

*Speckled Piculet* 

**Vivia innominata** (formerly *Picumnus innominatus*)


Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker  

**Picoides tridactylus**


Arabian Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos dorsae** (formerly *Dendrocopos dorsae, Dendrocopos dorsalis*)

Vulnerable. Monotypic. Genus change: Fuchs & Pons 2015 refine Winkler et al 2013, while noting further work may confirm or revert. SW Arabia, E Red Sea coast, HBW7. Arabian endemic resident where acacia present in woodland & bushy forest in Tihama & foothills, possibly 75 000bp Jennings 2010 who doubts Vulnerable status valid at present. NB Winkler et al 2014 indicate that this sp may link the Leiopticus & Dendrocolaptinae genera as sisters.

Brown-fronted Woodpecker (Brown-fronted Pied Woodpecker)  

**Dendrocopos auriceps** (formerly *Leiopticus auriceps, Dendrocopos auriculus*)


Middle Spotted Woodpecker PT  

**Dendrocopos medius** (formerly *Leiopticus medius, Dendrocopos major*)

Kamp et al 2018 reveal a deep ancestral divergence of 1.42MY between European populations (medius) & Asian populations (s Sanctijohannis) [isolated Zagros mountain forests, Iran & E into Iraq, caucasicus (N coastal Turkey E to N&S Caucasus, including S Krasnodar as far as Sea of Azov) & anatolica (coastal W Turkey from Ayvakkı S, then E along Mediterranean & S again into coastal N Syria in a thin strip as far as northernmost Lebanon). Geographically, the distributions are separated by continuous water throughout the Dardanelles, Sea of Marmara, Black Sea and Sea of Azov. The overwater distances between Krasnodar & Crimea (bridged for the first time in 2018) & between European & Asian Turkey are trivial: anatolica clearly managed a much longer sea-crossing to colonise Lesbos. The 2 clades have little morphological or plumage differences & they are not genetically distant. However, their ancestral divergence & continuous allopatry are sufficient for us to list the 2 clades separately pro terr as possible species: European names are informal/O=ME. NB Genus change: Fuchs & Pons 2015 refine Winkler et al 2013, while noting further work may confirm or revert; Sangster et al 2015a prefer placement in Dendrocolaptinae at this stage; we await further work.

EU Middle Spotted Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos (medius) medius**

Monotypic if split. Taxon medius limited in OSME Region to European Turkey.

Asian Middle Spotted Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos (medius) sanctijohannis**


Lesser Spotted Woodpecker  

**Dryobates minor** (formerly *Dendrocopos minor*)

Genus change to Dryobates follows Brazil 2009. Winkler et al 2013 & Fuchs & Pons 2015: all other ssp in genus are New World spp. Resident (donford) much of Turkey (Not C) Kirwan et al 2008; quadrifasciatus SE Azerbaijan, colichicus Caucasus, very local N Iraq Ararat et al 2011, N (hyncaucus) & SW (morgani) Iran HBW7; NW & NE Kazakhstan ssp kamtschatokensis rare resident, WW Wassinck 2015b.

Himalayan Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos himalayensis**


Sind Woodpecker (Pied Woodpecker)  

**Dendrocopos assimilis**


Syrian Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos syriacus**

ssp syriacus Turkey-Levant & W&S Iran, Caucasus, NE Iran, SW Iran, HBW7, W Iran (R&A 2005, transcaucasicus Transcaucasia & NW Iran, milleri Kuh-e-Tafan Mts SE Iran, Egypt Avb, BE. May be decreasing S Turkey (Kirwan et al 2008), despite NW range expansion in Europe & further E; now perhaps breeding Kazakhstan Jul 2010 Wassinck et al 2011 (single-record vagrant so far Wassinck 2015b).

White-winged Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos leucopterus**


Great Spotted Woodpecker PT  

**Dendrocopos major**

Perktas & Quintero 2012; in a wide-ranging study, find initial indications that D. major comprises 4 clades headed by: (Eurasia & N Africa, petoermal (Azerbaijan & Iran), japonicus (Japan & nearby China & Taiwan)). Supports: studies probably needed, added in 2014 & in Winkler et al 2014, the latter additionally citing caution until relationships of some major/leucopeters taxa are clarified. NB Populations bear divergent cytchromes c oxidative 1 (C01) lineages, potentially including cryptic taxa Kirn et al 2018.

Perktas & Quintero 2012 propose 4 provisional clades comprising Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: the 2 clades in the OSME Region are major & poelzami.

**major clade: may comprise major, brevirostri, kampschaticus, anglicus, pintoarum, parrotii, bartetti, italicus, hispanicus, canariensis, thanneri, mauritianus, numidus & candidus**

Great Spotted Woodpecker  

**Dendrocopos (major) major**

Sole taxon from major clade in Region is brevirostri, common resident N Kazakhstan Wassinck 2015b; Kyrgyz (brevirostri), HBW7, Iran Scott & Adhami 2006. NB1 Wassinck 2015b has "isaniacus" scarce resident SE-most Kazakhstan but this taxon may be a hybrid of brevirostri with White-winged Woodpecker *D. leucopterus* Ayé et al 2012.

Perktas & Quintero 2012 propose 4 provisional clades comprising Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: the 2 clades in the OSME Region are major & poelzami.
Hyrkanian Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos (major) poelzami

All 3 taxa of poelzami clade occur in Region: poelzami SE Azerbaijan, N Iran (Scott & Adhami 2006), SW Turkmenistan H&M4, Tajikistan HBW7; tenuirostris Caucasus & Trascaucasia, & paphlogionae in N Asia Minor. English name informal@OSME suggested by Abolhasan Kelahaghizadeh et al. 2014 (who, in a more contemporary than the previous informal epithet ‘Sasanian’. NB DBWP List (Jan 2018) use English name ‘Caspian Great Spotted Woodpecker’.

White-backed Woodpecker PT

Dendrocopos leucotos

IOCC2.1 draft suggested split of D. lilfordi as Lilford’s Woodpecker from D. leucotos, but IOCC3.5 avoids split.

White-backed Woodpecker

Dendrocopos [leucotos] leucotos

Gorman 2014 notes sp leucotos occurs to NW, N & NE of Region; sp uralesius disparates NW & NE Kazakhstan rare resident Wassink 2015b, HBW7 (to & points E).

Lilford’s Woodpecker

Dendrocopos [leucotos] lilfordi


Black Woodpecker

Dryocopus markus


European Green Woodpecker PT

Picus viridis

Perktas et al 2011 reinforce separation of extralimital Iberian Green Woodpecker P.[v.] sharpei (IOCC3.5) & Levaillant’s Green Woodpecker P.[v.] levaillantii, but note that viridis & innominatus are not reciprocally monophyletic, don’t clearly meet BSC criteria and appear to be poorly differentiated morphologically (ie would likely fail the test of Tobias et al 2010). Comment welcomed. Here, we place innominatus as ssp, Zagros Green Woodpecker: IOCC3.4 supports foregoing. NB Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank

European Green Woodpecker (Eurasian Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis

W Kazakhstan (viridis) N&E Turkey, Caucasus, NE Iran (karelini), (S Caspian karelini not viridis Khaleghizadeh et al 2017), HBW7, SE&SC Turkey Kirwan et al 2008, ssp karelini SW Turkmenistan Ayé et al 2012, H&M4 give karelini for N Iran (but see ssp innominatus below).

Zagros Green Woodpecker (Iranian Green Woodpecker)

Picus viridis innominatus

N Iran (Zagros Mountains taxon innominatus), HBW7. Because innominatus is geographically separated in Iran’s Zagros Mountains, it is convenient to refer to that taxon as ‘Iranian’ or ‘Zagros Green Woodpecker’. NB DBWP List (Jan 2018) assigns English name ‘Mesopotamian Green Woodpecker’.

Grey-headed Woodpecker

Picus canus

ssp canus N Turkey (isolates S-SC Turkey) Kirwan et al 2008, canus very rare non breeding SY, WV jessoeasia (or canus/jessoeasia intermediates) scarce resident montane NE-most Kazakhstan Wassink 2015b. Ayé et al 2012. NB IOC reverts to English name Grey-headed Woodpecker (earlier reassignment to Dendrocopos apodocophalaeus [E Sudan-Tanzania] invalid when its elevation to species rank was not accepted); NB2 Possible split of extralimital taxa: P. dedeni Sumatran and P. guerini Grey-faced (laid ssp) Woodpeckers Gorman 2014.

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker

Picus squamatus


Falconidae

H&M4. IOCC2.4 place Falconidae remote from Accipitriformes, preceding Cuculiformes. Recent studies show that falcons and several parrots share the same moult sequence, suggesting descent from a common ancestor Leo Joseph 2017. For a comprehensive overview of raptor migration, wintering and persecution in the Arabian Peninsula, see McGrady 2018.

Lesser Kestrel

Falco naumanni

Monotypic. Colonial, declining, summer breeder widespread N OSME Region: scarce BM Kazakhsatan (5000-10,000bp Zollinger & Hagemeijer 1994) & PM (1997 survey SE Kazakhstan Parr et al 2000) Wassink 2015b; rare Afghan Pamirs Argandeval 1983), Wakhan 2006 Ayé 2007, SB N Afghanistan, PM S&W, are not reciprocally monophyletic, don’t clearly meet BSC criteria and appear to be poorly differentiated morphologically (ie would likely fail the test of Tobias et al 2010). Comment welcomed. Here, we place innominatus as ssp, Zagros Green Woodpecker: IOCC3.4 supports foregoing. NB Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank

Common Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus


Red-necked Falcon PT

Falco chicquera


Red-headed Falcon (Red-necked Falcon) (Red-headed Merlin)

Falco (chicquera) chicoquera

Red-footed Falcon
(Briefly Western Red-footed Falcon)

Falco vespertinus


Amur Falcon (Briefly Eastern Red-footed Falcon)

Falco [vespertinus] amurensis

Monotypic. Migrates 11000km from E China to southern Africa, occurs OSME Region; most (many?) cross Indian Ocean F-L&C 2001 in autumn; trans-oceanic migrants in boreal autumn, India-E Africa preying on dragonflies exploiting ITZC WSW movement through OSME sea area Anderson 2009; now satellite-tracked by WWGBP & also via UAE funding support Dixon et al 2011. When ITZC more westerly, possible explanation of irregular occurrence large numbers Socotra Redman et al 2009 & scarcity S Yemen Nov 84 Warr 1992 & Socotra 03 Dec 99 Aspinall et al 2004. (Paludan 1959 – Afghan passage 'scarce BM, PM) & rare resident & African Hobby was found to be related 2012, 3 records Kuwait, one juv Malekshahi City, Ilam Province Nov 2016 IBRC, 1st for UAE Sah Al Sah Al Amir Apr (?) 2018 DB40(3): 188. Possibly Afghanistan R&A 2005 (accidental or on passage Dasht-e-Navar Ms Afghanistan Argandevel 1983, but are these records F. [v.] amurensis ?), 1st reported UAE Oct 06, vagrant Iran Scott & Adhami 2006. Egypt Avib, BE. NB Katzner et al 2016 reveal a clockwise loop migration of C Asian populations, funneling outward migration through Krasnoyarsk, Caucasus, Iraq & Arabia, but return migration crosses the Sahara to Libya to southern Europe (Italy-Greece) before heading WNW to breeding grounds.

Eleonora's Falcon

Falco eleonorae

Monotypic. Dark-phase comprises 2% (homozygous dark) of juveniles, but after 1 year, a further 28% (heterozygous dark) Ristow et al 1998, Ristow et al 2000. Small, but probably largely undiscovered population Turkey Kirwan et al 2008; may breed Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008, which birds possibly rare, image 2015 apply multiple molecular techniques to show a

Stoody Falcon

Falco concolor

Vulnerable (BLI review 2018). Monotypic. Vagrant W Mediterranean Kirwan et al 2008. Only distantly related to F. eleonorae (closer to Eurasian Hobby F. subbuteo & African Hobby F. cuvieri Fuchs et al 2015), breeds Suez, Red Sea, Oman, Gulf, scarce breeders Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, rare & local 2 sites Qeshm Island & Tabas S Khorrassan Khaleghizadeh et al 2017, declining Bahrain Kavanagh & King 2006, UAE Aspinall 1996, uncommon summer visitor Israel Perlman & Meyrow 2009 (thiendy widespread breeder Judean & Negev mountains; vagrant C&N Israel Yoav Perlman in litt Nov 09), W Pakistan coast Naoroji 2006, 450+ pairs Arabia Jennings 2007a, (based on Kavanagh & King 2008 revisionist case for reducing world population estimate by 40 times) & restated in Jennings 2010, McGrady et al 2017 conclude that adult mortality is the main driver of population decline, hence our Threat Status rating in advance of BirdLife review. McGrady et al 2018 conclude that reduced numbers of pairs occupy much the same Oman range as before, but are vulnerable to disturbance and construction activities, though some recovery is possible if constant monitoring is achieved, though mortality rates are likely to thin the population further. Habib 2019 estimates from 6 years of survey, including Rad Sea islands, that Egyptian population is no
greater than 190 bp, a drop of 27% in less than two decades. 3rd Qatar record Jun 2014 GBRC. Fairly common localised & decreasing SB Oman OBL7. Seemingly bred at El Moghra Oasis (Marka?) Western Desert Egypt Goodman et al 1986, certainly breeds Sep al Jaghbub Oasis E Libya only 60km from Siwa Oasis Egypt Isenmann et al 2016. Migrates Oct, wintering Madagascar, Angola, F-L&C 2001. Egypt Avib, BE
Lanner Falcon

*Falco biarmicus*

See PT notes above. Corso 2018 through circumstantial analysis indicates rapid decline of *feldeggii* & *tanypterus* populations in OSME Region & of *erlangeri* populations in N Africa towards impending extinction. A proximate cause is illegal poaching for falconry mostly in Arabia, the problem made worse by lack of studies in the remote breeding areas in the Region and by confusion of observers with *Saker* *F. cherrug* and with the calidus ssp of Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus*. Distribution: *feldeggii* Transcaucasia & NW Levant, *tanypterus* Egypt, Israel, Arabian Peninsula & Iraq; 3 extralimital ssp H&M4. The analysis of Fuchs et al 2015 indicates that *F. biarmicus* is not monophyletic. Scattered populations Turkey (<20bp Corso 2018), Middle East, Caucasus, N Iraq F-L&C 2005, rare Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, scarce resident Iran Scott & Adhami 2006, but few recent records Khalgizhadeh et al 2017. Now rare but still widespread Arabia, but modern confirmed breeding records only SW Yemen & SW Saudi Arabia, best estimate <100bp Jennings 2010; rare PM & WV Oman, escapes also occur OBL7. Prime habitat (less steep open slopes than preferred by Peregrine *F. peregrinus*) & secondary habitat characteristics unquantified, thus affecting conservation strategy Amati et al 2014. Egyp eg Sándor & Moldovan 2010.

Laggar Falcon

*Falco jugger*


Saker Falcon PT NB

Pfeiffer 2009 notes uncritical acceptance of earlier incomplete assumptions of taxa distribution; he revives coasts & erects anatolicus, inter alia. Support from Igor Karyakin & Evgeny Potapov.

Falco cherrug

Parent taxon rare in winter Oman eg Dec 06 in pers comm. Nittinger et al 2007 strongly suggest not only is PT not definable from ratio of mt haplotypes in both *cherrug* & *milvipes* populations, but that the two ssp are not upheld by microsatellite analyses. However, they also suggest that besides genetic drift, morphological and phenotypic traits characteristic of the ssp evolved quickly (but with long gradual W-E cline) as adaptations to changing environmental conditions and hunting behaviour (as for some other raptors). However, Zhan et al 2015 examined exonic & intronic single nucleotide polymorphism in many Saker populations concluding that the species essentially is monotypic and that any differences between these populations do not match any hypothesised subspecies' distribution: plume differences are clinal between populations previously identified as *cherrug* and *milvipes*; furthermore datasets are available in supplementary info and in GenBank. Pro tem, the ORL will refer to 'cherrug-type' and 'milvipes-type' populations, while accepting the clines described in Zhan et al 2015. On those grounds PT is applied as an informal label for these groups. That said, the analysis of Fuchs et al 2015 indicates that *F. cherrug* is not monophyletic. Note also that Karyakin 2011 does provide convincing phenotropical & molecular rationales to regard ‘alticicus’ as but two colour morphs that appear in a variety of appropriately-marked broods in several Saker taxa both inside and beyond breeding areas previously hypothesised as being core ‘alticicus’ range: pro tem, we discount all earlier hypotheses on this form, eg Nittinger et al 2007. Saker sensu lato shares ancestry with *F. biarmicus*, jugger, separation recent Nittinger et al 2007 NB1. One drawback of Karyakin 2011 is that the main thrust of the paper, that all ssp are valid, is weakened by the lack of a published dataset for the molecular conclusions reached therein. NB2 Given the maps in Karyakin 2011, the modifiers ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ are hideously inappropriate & are superseded by the informal@OSME modifiers ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ respectively. NB3 Sielecki et al 2009 demonstrate extensive mobility & movements of radiotracked individuals over hundreds of km, Hungarian birds reaching Spain & Ukraine.

‘Northern Saker Falcon’ (‘Western Saker Falcon’) (Saker Falcon)

Falco cherrug (‘cherrug-type’)

Endangered. See hierofalcon PT notes above. Group comprises only the remarkably homogenous *cherrug-type*: saceroides is an invalid taxon, being in a narrow zone of hybridisation from the Altai along the Russia-Mongolia border with *milvipes*-type. Up to the 1970s, *cherrug*-type population had been assigned to *milvipes*-type group, records on habitat grounds suspect *cherrug-type* possible (interpretation of Yé et al 2012 text), although polymorphism more likely explanation Zhan et al 2015, almost extinct Syria Murdoch & Betton 1983. In Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Marivan County, Kurdistan Province, Iran Zarei 2012), Egypt Avib, BE. Formerly bred Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008. Extralimital, Indian subcontinent Naoroji 2006; possess vagrant Kyrgyzstan, Ven 2002. Iran once, Misirone 1976. Khalkhas-Zelenograd & others. PM, WV Turkmenistan Rustamov 2015. Winterer only Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009; uncommon PM & WV Oman, escapes also occur OBL7. NB chline *cherrug/milvipes* indet, OBL7 ecc C Kazakhb, WAG 2007, Egypt Avib, in litt. Given the maps in Karyakin 2011, the modifiers ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ are hideously inappropriate & are superseded by the informal@OSME modifiers ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ respectively. NB3 Sielecki et al 2009 demonstrate extensive mobility & movements of radio-tagged individuals over hundreds of km, Hungarian birds reaching Spain & Ukraine.

‘Southern Saker Falcon’ (‘Eastern Saker Falcon’) (Saker Falcon), (Shangar Falcon)

Falco cherrug (‘milvipes type’)


Gyrfalcon

*Falco rusticolus*

Peregrine Falcon 

Falc_ peregrinus

Parent Taxon here included peregrinoides due to highly unclear status of this taxon, but IOC 4.4 treats as nominate of Barbary Falcon F. peregrinoides, which the balance of evidence now indicates, although it is unlikely to be the final word. H&M list 18 ssp, including babylonicus & pelegrinoides, but many taxa are poorly known.

598 Peregrine Falcon ('European Peregrine')

Falc_ (peregrinus) peregrinus


599 Barbary/Falco peregrinus

Falco pelegrinoides


599 'Red-capped Falcon'

('Red-naped Shaheen', 'Red Shaheen') (The breeding distribution of birds considered babylonicus is unclear; some parts may be more closely related to peregrinus, if only ancestrally)

Falc_ (pelegrinoides) babylonicus

Although Fuchs et al 2015 do not address taxon babylonicus, they do present a new phylogeny of Falconidae within which it it would be prudent to consider pro tem babylonicus as being more strongly linked to peregrinoides, although much remains to be done on the molecular relationships of the population considered as babylonicus. F. p. pelegrinoides resident Turkmkenistan, Bukreev 1997 & 2005, Kazakhstan G&G 2005, W&O 2007. Probably this taxon in easternmost CA Koblik & Arkhipov 2014 (as Barbary), in Turkmenistan Rustamov 2015 (as Barbary), breeds Afghanistan (Paludan 1959), resident SE Afghanistan F-L&C (2005), both peregrinoides & babylonicus thought to breed Iraq Ararat et al 2011, NW Pakistan Naoroji 2006: breeders in Oman likely this taxon OBL7, but the fairly common PM & WV birds not identified to taxon. Ayé et al 2012, R&A 2012 treat babylonicus as ssp of F. pelegrinoides, as does IOC8.2. H&M acknowledges this taxon as breeding sympatrically among other peregrinoides taxa, perhaps involving differing ecological conditions. Mitchell 2017 suggests this taxon occurs in E Iran. NB Wintering babylonicus in Pakistan & NW India occupies desert & semi-desert; residents and summer breeders along Afghanistan-Pakistan border occupy montane terrain, but mixed habitats R&A 2005

Cacatuidae

Many cockatoos & parrot ssp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prospering fund the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015.

598 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Cacatua galerita

Introduced. Breeds freely in private location Arabia Jennings 2008d, likely Jeddah Aspinall 2010. Has bred iterally, probably ssp mix from captive breeding, but overall, conditions may be too harsh Jennings 2010; single escape record Oman OBL7.

Psittacidae

Many parrot ssp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prospering fund the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015.

600 monk parakeet

Myiopsitta monachus

Introduced; likely ssp mix from captive breeding. Common in Tel Aviv region Israel Perlman & Meyrav 2009, Escapes Dubai Aspinall & Porter 2011

Psittaculidae

Many parrot ssp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prospering fund the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015.

601 Nanday Parakeet (Black-hooded Parakeet)

Aratinga nenday (Nandayus nenday)


602 Plum-headed Parakeet

Psittacula cyanocephala

Monotypic. Introduction: has bred Dubai UAE since at least 2007, Jennings 2008b. Likely to increase Jennings 2010, but perhaps more from escapes than natural expansion; not yet naturalised Aspinall & Porter 2005; 3 escape records Oman OBL7. Nearest natural population to OSME Region in NE Pakistan R&A 2012.
604 Alexandrine Parakeet  
Psittacula eupatria  

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605 Rose-ringed Parakeet  (Ring-necked Parakeet)  
Psittacula krameri  
Circumstantial evidence (Greek texts, Roman mosaics) that historical W limit of natural range ssp borealis reached mountains of NE Iran, probably Caucasus. Breeding birds Iraq 1935 summer visitors Moore & Boswell 1956, but likely (?) introduced. Introductions: Turkey since perhaps 1950s (Kirwan et al 2008), Iraq until 1960s, Iran cities, Kuwait Gregory 2002, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE (evidence of cross-Gulf movements Aspinall 1996); Arabian population (Red Sea ssp panvinirostris of EC Sudan, Gulf) perhaps 12 0000p Jennings 2010, common increasing resident Oman OBL7. Israel, Lever 2005, Syria Murdoch & Betton 2008. Probably natural Iran-S Afghanistan border, HBW4 (mapped thus Ayé et al 2012), Jalalabad & Kabul Niethammer & Niethammer 1987 possibly traded from Pakistan, NE Afghanistan R&A 2005. Egypt Avib. BE. Resident W Eritrea to coast at c17°N Redman et al 2009, possibly accounting for 3 RNIBWS reports Red Sea Feb 87, 20:0.0.0N+38:0.0.0E; also in Gulf Nov 89 & Oct 90, 25:0.0.0N+54:0.0.0E & 25:0.0.0N+55:0.0.0E.

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606 Budgerigar  
Melopsittacus undulatus  

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**NON-PASSERINE REFERENCES** See Part B for full Non-passerine Reference List  
The 'Notes' column of this Table cites abbreviated versions of References. Full citations are given in Part B.

NB IH = Ian Harrison, ST = Simon Tull, Oman former report collators and PH = Peter Hellyer, former UAE report collator.

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**FUNDAMENTAL REFERENCES FOR THE ORL TAXONOMIC APPROACH AND FOR ENGLISH NAMES**  
(As amended by subsequent developments, subject to interpretation by the ORL team)


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**FUNDAMENTAL & SPECIALIST DATA REFERENCES**  
**BLDZ/BLDZ = BirdLife International Data Zone.** [http://datazone.birdlife.org/home](http://datazone.birdlife.org/home)  
**BMLBird = BirdLife Marine Important Bird Areas.** [https://maps.birdlife.org/protectedareas/default.html](https://maps.birdlife.org/protectedareas/default.html)  
**BWPi = Cramp, S, KEL Simmons, DW Snow and CM Perrins. 2004.** *The Birds of the Western Palearctic; interactive*. BirdGuides. Sheffield. UK.  
**EBRC = Emirates Bird Records Committee**  
**EORC = Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (reconstituted 2010)**  
**IBRC = International Ornithological Rarities Committee**  
**IRDC = International Ornithological Records Committee**  
**JBRC = Jordan Bird Records Committee**  
**KCOR = Kuwait Ornithological Records Committee**  
**KORC = Kuwait Ornithological Records Committee**  
**QBARC = Oman Bird Records Committee**  
**QBRC = Qatar Bird Records Committee**

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**OTHER ACKNOWLEDGED CURRENT MAJOR BIRD LISTS & SOURCES**  
**CBB = Cyprus Bird Report (v13 2015)**  
**DB 2009/2019 = Dutch Birding .**  
**DBWP = Dutch Birding (CSNA) Western Palearctic List .**  
**van den Berg, 2009/2019.**  
**OLB = Oman Bird List (v7.7 2018)**  
**SG = Sandgrouse.**  
**ATR = Around The Region**  