

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

## The OSME Region List of Bird Taxa, Part E: Hypothetical Taxa, Version 4.1 August 2017

In **Part E**, Hypothetical Taxa, we list non-passerines (prefixed by 'N') first, then passerines (prefixed by 'P'). Such taxa may be from distributions adjacent to or have extended to the OSME Region, or be stray migrants or introduced birds. Documentation of such taxa is essential for proof of occurrence in the OSME Region. References cited below are in the Non-passerine Reference List, **Part B**, and the Passerine Reference List, **Part D**. We also append a small table of taxa that have been removed from this list after assessment of improved distributional evidence.

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. **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 Please do not cite them in any formal correspondence or papers.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 cardinals (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 contain additional explanatory information on problem taxon groups as and when necessary.**

**English names shaded thus are species on BirdLife Tracking Database, <http://seabirdtracking.org/mapper/index.php>. Only a few individuals from very few colonies are involved.**

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

The taxa in the Table below have not been documented sufficiently as occurring in the OSME Region. Some, especially the seabirds, probably have occurred in that part of the Indian Ocean above 10°N and west of 61°37'03"E (longitude of Pakistan-Iran coastline). Others have been suggested by knowledgeable observers as possible vagrants or wanderers. However, for quite a few species, the likelihood of such vagrancy is much reduced by shrinking distribution ranges. Furthermore, much habitat degradation has taken place in areas of specialist dry open forests, where human population movements across these areas have seen the trees and bushes disappear as firewood. Moreover, the paucity of observations over much of the OSME Region means former and present distributions often are poorly known, often patchily at best. It is therefore vital that any sightings are recorded comprehensively and forwarded for scrutiny. On-line reports are insufficient evidence by themselves; many such reports have been examined - some claimed species are not included here. To be accepted, records require authors to respond to genuine enquiry and to be prepared for often lengthy correspondence and discussion.

**Key:** In the first column of the Tables below, N = Non-passerine, P = Passerine.

**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 'reported' indicates the occurrence is unconfirmed.
3. English names: unused 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 allospecies – 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 not 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 (Our 'don't know category').
5. Green shading eg Black-billed Capercaillie indicates likely former presence in the OSME Region. **Red font** indicates material added since the previous ORL version
6. Distribution maps in many references are imprecise.
7. We also list separately those taxa that we have deleted from the Hypothetical List because the evidence does not support their candidacy.

Other conventions adopted are explained in the [Ornithological Basis](#) of the ORL.

**Please contact us if you have any information that supports the presence of these or any other unlisted species in the OSME Region.**

NON-PASSERINES, English Name			Family, Species or Taxon	Working Notes
			<b>Anatidae</b>	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 <i>et al</i> 2015.
N1	White-faced Whistling Duck		<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	Monotypic African/S American sp. Subject to irregular rain- or food-driven pressures into local movements of 400+km. Recorded Wadi Halfa Sudan (120km <sup>2</sup> grid 21°N, 31°30'E) adjacent (within 20km) to Egyptian border, pre-Lake Nasser Nikolaus 1987. <b>NB</b> Distributed W to C & S America & S to Madagascar
N2	Pink-footed Goose		<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Monotypic. Considered vagrant Turkey Kirwan <i>et al</i> 1999, but removed from Turkish List Kirwan <i>et al</i> 2008; has reached Bulgaria.
PT	Greylag Goose PT		<i>Anser anser</i>	<b>Parent Taxon:</b> possible potential split, but separation distance 1%, strongly supporting ssp status Ruokonen <i>et al</i> 2000; treated here as separate groups within <i>A. anser</i> . <b>NB</b> Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank
N3	Western Greylag Goose {Greylag Goose}		<i>Anser anser anser</i>	It now seems likely that most, perhaps all previous reports and records of this taxon occurring in the Region should refer to <i>rubrirostris</i> Raffael Ayé <i>in litt</i> Jun 2014. Even though Delaney <i>et al</i> 2014 listed taxon <i>anser</i> as breeding in SW Siberia & wintering in the Caspian, this is questionable, given they also attribute this taxon to Turkey, contra Kirwan <i>et al</i> 2008. However, it is not unlikely that the nominate occasionally or even regularly in small numbers wanders to Turkey, or even winters there (Guy Kirwan pers comm), but we think it highly unlikely that resident or visiting birders ever check the ssp identity; there is little impetus for keepers of national checklists to record geese ssp. Notwithstanding that H&M4 give distribution of <i>anser</i> as wintering in the Middle East, we have removed taxon <i>anser</i> to the Hypothetical List, but hope to clarify this matter further.
N4	Muscovy Duck		<i>Cairina moschata</i>	On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced. WCMC do not include feral/introduced/escaped domestic birds (usually mostly white with black markings, whereas wild birds are black with white) outside New World
N5	Hottentot Teal		<i>Spatula hottentota</i> (IOC7.3, H&M4, BirdLife 2016) (formerly <i>Anas hottentota</i> )	Monotypic. Breeds Khartoum & Omdurman Sewage Ponds Jenner & Taha 2016: with little observer coverage N along the Nile Valley, this and many other spp suited to riparian habitats probably occur closer to Egypt - 725km in a straight line, twice that via the Nile. Recorded Djibouti 2014 Hering <i>et al</i> 2015; <b>BLDZ</b> map Mar 2017 extends into SW Djibouti, but does not approach Khartoum as yet.
PT	Spot-billed Duck PT		<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Re <b>Parent Taxon</b> ; split from Eastern Spot-billed Duck <i>A. [p] zonorhyncha</i> (IOC v1.6, AOU,R&A 2005, H&M4), ( <i>qv</i> Non-passerine List)

N6	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas [poecilorhyncha] poecilorhyncha</i>	2 ssp, nominate nearer to region, <i>haringtoni</i> SE Asia, China. Reported Uzbekistan K-M&K 2005, but doubtful record Ayé <i>et al</i> 2012, Koblik & Arkhipov 2014; R&A 2012 map breeding Pakistan close to Khyber & Khojak (Chaman) Passes, <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 maps discrete NW Pakistan distribution as an ellipse centred on Quetta and Kuchak, even closer; likely occurs in Afghanistan, but is a traded species. Introduced Oman, Lever 2005 App B, Porter & Aspinall 2010 (1995 <b>OBL7</b> ). <b>NB</b> Westernmost northern breeding populations in westward range expansion up to 1990 at least Rogacheva 1992. Resident Indus delta Pakistan Roberts 1991, 31 recorded Punjab 2003 Ali & Akhtar 2005, has bred close to Afghan border Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; may occur Iran or Afghanistan early in monsoon season when seeking breeding habitat. Reeber 2015 maps just into Afghanistan, but on small map of a large distribution.
N7	Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	<b>Critically Endangered</b> , declining rapidly. Monotypic. Lone nearest acceptable record from not too distant Gujrat, Punjab, Pakistan, 1957 – skin in BMNH Roberts 1991. Occurs E Mongolia Bräunlich 2012. Has a history of post-breeding migration overshoots to W & S <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.
		<b>Phasianidae</b>	
N8	Black-billed Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao uragalloides</i>	2 ssp, nominate much nearer than <i>kamschatkaensis</i> ! Unlikely any modern records due to severe range contraction, but has reached 86°30' E, 67°30' N in Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Nearest Mongolian population at 99° E too remote? Name <i>uragalloides</i> has priority over <i>parvirostris</i> H&M4.
N9	Yellow-necked Spurrow	<i>Pternistis leucoscepus</i>	Monotypic. Northernmost known range E South Sudan, but its distribution reaches coasts of southern Eritrea through Djibouti along to Bosaso in Somalia; transit of Bab al-Mandab Strait to Yemen via island-hopping well within capabilities (longest flight 18km). Escapes encountered in UAE, but not proven breeding Aspinall & Porter 2011
N10	Tibetan Partridge	<i>Perdix hodgsoniae</i>	Occurs easternmost Ladakh <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016, population overall is large, not known to be declining. Possibly occurs westernmost Tibet close to Afghan Wakhan.
N11	Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>	Monotypic. Limited possibility of irruption from NW Mongolian population into Kazakhstan, particularly since in steady decline <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016, but commonly bred, cross-bred or domesticated (Wikipedia summary) for introductions, legal or otherwise. <b>NB</b> Sanchez-Donoso <i>et al</i> 2012 identified genetically the domestic form as releases into the wild in Spain; the assumption is that knowingly or otherwise, veterinarians had certified the releases as Common Quail <i>C. coturnix</i> . This may also have happened in the OSME Region.
N12	Rain Quail (Black-breasted Quail)	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>	Monotypic. Possibly irregular late Jun early Jul irruptive overshoot into Afghanistan and Iran from regular (after rains) BM in Pakistan in years of exceptional monsoons Roberts 1991, map in Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 westernmost distribution close to Dera Ismail Khan. Increase in irrigation ponds may assist during irruptions. On Avibase website Afghanistan list Aug 08 without source cited; similarly Ladakh 2003 list.
N13	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	On-line for Afghanistan, M&M 2002 & HBW2 reject. H&M4 doubtfully assume ssp <i>murghi</i> Kashmir unaffected by genetic mixing with domestic chickens. Long history of introductions to W Asia, to Americas via E Asia Lever 2005. Highly likely historical occurrence, but no certain record; nearest extant population mapped in NW India R&A 2012. Present extent of chicken farming makes introgression of domestic/feral chicken genes ubiquitous. <b>NB</b> some historical confusion from scientific ignorance of local names applying to more than one species? Roberts 1991
		<b>Procellariidae</b>	Change to <i>Ardenna</i> for some <i>Puffinus</i> originally argued in Christidis & Boles 2008 now generally accepted. H&M4 adopts some changes to <i>Ardenna</i> , & resequences families, genera & within genera, which IOC5.4 largely follows, <b>Procellariidae</b> to follow a reduced <b>Hydrobatidae</b> Hackett <i>et al</i> 2008. <b>NB</b> Indian Ocean seabird occurrence often correlates with phytoplankton concentrations (intensities vary seasonally), whose locations also affected by variation in annual pattern of ocean currents, hence birds sometimes absent, but may also occur unexpectedly.
N14	Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Monotypic. Possible vagrant, given one found dead at Lac Assal Djibouti in 1991 Redman <i>et al</i> 2009. <b>NB</b> some evidence (Penhallurick & Wink 2004) for the two Giant Petrels to be just ssp of <i>giganteus</i> , but this wide-ranging paper has not achieved consensus.
N15	White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>	Monotypic. R&A 2005 note unconfirmed occurrence Sri Lanka. Highly unlikely in OSME Region.
N16	Kermadec Petrel	<i>Pterodroma neglecta</i>	2 ssp Pacific breeding ground, nominate & <i>juana</i> , the latter possibly taxon that once bred Cousin, Seychelles, otherwise vagrant there Sinclair & Lagrand 2013. <b>BLDZ</b> Nov 2015 maps occurrence around Mauritius, 10° below the OSME Region southernmost latitude.
N17	Mascarene Petrel (Réunion Petrel)	<i>Pseudobulweria aterrima</i>	<b>Critically Endangered</b> . Monotypic. Réunion breeding endemic, exceptionally rare. RNBWS reports (different observers) Sep (12:50:0.0N+45:0:0.0E) & Dec 57 (15:0:0.0N+65:0:0.0E) attributed to this species, originally identified in previous taxonomy as Réunion Petrel <i>Pterodroma aterrima</i> , but <i>Sea Swallow</i> Sighting reports sceptical, as ID character and status of Jouanin's Petrel <i>Bulweria fallax</i> became known; Jouanin 1957 revisited old records from Region & reattributed them to Jouanin's Petrel <i>B. fallax</i> & Persian Shearwater <i>Puffinus persicus</i> . R&A 2005, 2012 treat as hypothetical in Indian Ocean. <b>NB1</b> Gangloff <i>et al</i> 2012 show that the <i>Puffinus/Bulweria</i> group split from the <i>Pseudobulweria</i> group c 13Mya, and within <i>Pseudobulweria</i> , Macaronesian/Fiji ( <i>aterrima/macgillivrayi</i> ) split from Tahiti/Beck's ( <i>rostrata/becki</i> ) c 6-7Mya; <i>aterrima</i> breeding locations and habitat known in one part (burrows Shirihai <i>et al</i> 2014), possibly also on sea-cliffs (not extensive on Réunion) or inland cliffs as well as on more of the many steep canyons on Réunion. <b>BLDZ</b> Nov 2015 maps occurrence around Réunion, 10-12° below the OSME Region southernmost latitude. <b>NB2</b> in 1950s, Réunion Petrel known only from four 19th-century specimens – WRP Bourne pers comm.
N18	Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i> (formerly <i>Pterodroma rostrata</i> )	Abundant species, ssp <i>rostrata</i> occurring off northern coasts of Western Australia, probably breeds in the Bismarck Sea & thus likely to occur in northern Indian Ocean (JA Bartle pers comm cited in van den Berg <i>et al</i> 1991); other ssp <i>trouessarti</i> wholly extralimital, breeds Vanuatu.
PT	Macaronesian Shearwater <b>PT</b>	<i>Puffinus [Iherminieri] baroli</i>	<b>PT</b> Extralimital Boyd's Shearwater <i>P.[I.] boydi</i> split from Macaronesian Shearwater IOC2.8, previously treated as ssp <i>P.[I.] baroli boydi</i> ; note that IOC4.3 sequences as more closely related to <i>P. assimilis</i> Little Shearwater than to <i>P. Iherminieri</i> .
N19	Boyd's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus [Iherminieri] boydi</i>	Monotypic Austin <i>et al</i> 2004. Vagrancy possible, especially since timescale of recent taxonomic separations short, and majority of records antedate splits, but sole known breeding location Cape Verde Islands. Hypothetical report Turkey Western Anatolia Kirwan <i>et al</i> possibly this taxon or <i>P. baroli</i> , Barolo Shearwater (see Non-passerine List).
		<b>Ciconiidae</b>	

N20	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Monotypic. R&A 2012 map wintering distribution close to Khyber (rare), BLDZ map Aug 2016 past Dera Ismail Khan & almost N to Rawalpindi, as scarce summer breeder; vagrancy to Afghanistan possible. Escape record 2 birds Oman 1986 <b>OBL7</b> .
N21	Black-necked Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Single isolated record ssp <i>asiaticus</i> W Pakistan coast, very close to Iran R&A 2012, elsewhere in eastern Pakistan declining <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016..
		<b>Ardeidae</b>	
N22	von Schrenck's Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>	Monotypic. Erroneously listed (no citation) several 'Egypt' lists, but this strongly migratory species may well wander to easternmost OSME Region; BM to E Asia from Sundas & Philippines. Has reached Italy (2015 AERCTAC WP List)
PT	Intermediate Egret PT (Yellow-billed Egret)	<i>Ardea intermedia</i> { <i>Egretta intermedia</i> } (AOU prefers <i>Mesophoyx</i> )	del Hoyo <i>et al</i> 2014b split to Yellow-billed Egret of Africa <i>E. brachyrhynca</i> , Intermediate Egret <i>E. intermedia</i> of Indian subcontinent & Plumed Egret <i>E. plumifera</i> of New Guinea & Australia; <b>IOC transfer these taxa to Ardea</b> . <b>NB</b> Sangster <i>et al</i> 2015 note close phenotypic 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 <i>Camerodius</i> & <i>Ardea</i> remains poorly supported; Intermediate Egret is thus best placed in <i>Ardea</i> . H&M4 agrees.
N23	Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea (intermedia) brachyrhynca</i> (formerly <i>Egretta (intermedia) brachyrhynca</i> )	Widespread in Africa, likely has wandered across the southern Red Sea from African coastal habitat to between Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and al Hudaydah (Yemen): non-breeders frequent Eritrean coast & littoral & its NW breeding distribution reaches W Djibouti & the Red Sea coast N & S of Port Sudan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. <b>NB</b> Australian-New Guinea extralimital populations split as Plumed Egret <i>A. plumifera</i> by del Hoyo & Collar 2014b on <b>Tobias <i>et al</i> 2010 criteria</b> : noted also in Inskipp & Collar 2015
PT	Western Reef Heron PT	<i>Egretta gularis</i>	Worthwhile separate listing on allopatry pro tem; extralimital 'Western Reef Egret' <i>E.(g.) gularis</i> occurs western Africa, 'Dimorphic Egret' <i>E.(g.) dimorpha</i> Madagascar islands. del Hoyo <i>et al</i> 2014c separate <i>E. gularis</i> from Pacific (Eastern) Reef Heron <i>E. sacra</i> , but retain as ssp <i>schistacea</i> & <i>dimorpha</i> . Further to Parkin & Knox 2010 who noted phylogeny of Little Egret <i>E. garzetta</i> & <i>E. gularis</i> would benefit from molecular analysis (as would placement of extralimital Pacific Reef Egret <i>E. sacra</i> ), Collinson <i>et al</i> 2016 from shed feather of <i>E.(g.) schistacea</i> in Israel found closer affinities with two Little Egret <i>E. garzetta</i> from China than from Little Egrets from their western distribution, but a greater separation from extralimital Eastern Reef Heron <i>E.(g.) sacra</i> . Their <i>E. gularis</i> & <i>E. garzetta</i> samples were distant from all other <i>Egretta</i> spp, the closest of which was <i>E. thula</i> , Snowy Egret: these findings, and those of Huang <i>et al</i> 2016 (see <b>NB</b> comment in Little Egret ORL entry) indicate that much needs to be learnt about the evolutionary history of all <i>garzetta</i> & <i>gularis</i> populations. It would be premature and unhelpful to amend ORL entries based on either Huang <i>et al</i> 2016 or Collinson <i>et al</i> 2016.
N24	Dimorphic Egret (Mascarene Reef-egret)	<i>Egretta (gularis?) dimorpha</i>	Monotypic. Breeding distribution limits are unclear: IOC6.2 suggests E Africa coast & Madagascar, from which <b>BLDZ</b> map presumably is taken, indicating a northern limit N of Mogadishu, Somalia, only c350km from where <i>schistacea</i> is believed to breed at 8°N on that same coast; vagrant interchange is likely. RNBWS report dark-morph May 95 Aden at 12:52:0.0N+45:1:0.0E, but database entry does not eliminate Indian Reef Heron <i>E.(g.) schistacea</i> . H&M4 retains as ssp of Little Egret <i>E. garzetta</i> . <b>NB</b> A detailed study of all taxa in the Little Egret and the Eastern/Western Reef Egret complex ( <i>sensu lato</i> ) is needed to establish the relationships of these taxa.
		<b>Pelecanidae</b>	
N25	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Monotypic. Possibly historical Seistan/Sistan or Iraq marshes. Certainly scarce but regular N Gujarat, India R&A 2012. Declining, globally <b>Near-Threatened</b> , westernmost breeding W India <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.
		<b>Accipitridae</b>	
N26	Indian Vulture (Formerly Indian Long-billed Vulture)	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	<b>Critically Endangered</b> . Monotypic. Straggler Afghanistan Smith 1974 (this record inadequate R&A 2012), also to eastern CA (rare vagrant Nuristan Argandevai 1983 (doubtful Ayé <i>et al</i> 2012), rare resident Pakistan Naoraji 2006). However, drastic population crash through diclofenac poisoning disease makes recurrence in OSME Region unlikely F-L&C 2005, Chris Bowden 2007 pers comm, since core populations now E & S of Pakistan/India border Arshad <i>et al</i> 2009. Included H&M3 corrigenda E Dickinson pers comm
N27	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	<b>Critically Endangered</b> . Monotypic. Possibly once irregular WV to Iranian S Baluchestan (Baluchistan) Zarudny 1911, but westernmost breeding distribution limit has retreated to longitude of New Delhi <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016
N28	Red-headed Vulture (King Vulture)	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> (formerly <i>Torgos calvus</i> ) (R&A 2012 place in <i>Aegyptius</i> )	<b>Critically Endangered</b> . Monotypic. Formerly recorded in Pakistani Balochistan, adjoining Iranian Baluchestan, pre-1950s, Roberts 1991. This region's pre-1950s characteristic open woodland has now largely disappeared due to human population increases causing deforestation. Zarudny 1911 sight records S Baluchestan Iran, status unknown. Breeding occurred Tharparker Desert Pakistan 2002 (Nadeem <i>et al</i> 2007). Diclofenac poisoning renders current occurrence in OSME Region unlikely Chris Bowden Nov 2007 pers comm; <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 indicates functionally extinct in Pakistan.
N29	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>	Monotypic. Given that its Horn of Africa distribution is wider than that of Dark Chanting Goshawk <i>M. metabates</i> ( <i>qv</i> Non-passerine list) and that the two species closely resemble each other (Redman <i>et al</i> 2009), it may have been overlooked in Yemen. Apr 2014 Israel report assigned to Dark Chanting Goshawk <i>M. metabates</i> , although an anomalously marked individual. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps northern breeding distribution limit as from S Djibouti E to Cape Guardafui.
N30	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	<i>A.g sibiricus</i> breeds montane pine forests N of easternmost Kazakhstan in Altai just outside Region HBW Alive, H&M4 W to c80°E (F-L&C 2005), <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016., uncommon-rare, but regular breeder Krasnoyarsk Republic (c85°E) Rogacheva 1992. Likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan from Russian & Mongolian Altai population. Very secretive breeder in montane pine forests; Mark Brazil <i>in litt</i> . <b>NB1</b> Forms superspecies with Besra <i>A. virgatus</i> . <b>NB2</b> Has reached Australia
N31	Besra (Besra Sparrowhawk)	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	ssp <i>affinis</i> mapped as summer breeder in R&A 2012 to N Pakistan close to Wakhan panhandle (Afghanistan), H&M4 give its westernmost breeding range as Kashmir: <b>BLDZ</b> map as resident along forest foothill zone almost to Islamabad & to further N; <b>reported close to Islamabad Nov 2016 &amp; Jan 2017 BirdingASIA 27:131</b> . <b>NB</b> Forms superspecies with Besra <i>A. gularis</i> .

N32	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucos</i>	Monotypic. One sight record of straggler close to Region boundary in not too distant Salt Range in N-C Pakistan Dec 85, Mark Mallalieu <i>in litt</i> to TJ Roberts. Rare winter records Pakistan not too far from Khyber R&A 2012; <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 as WV in arc N and past Lahore almost to Dera Ismail Khan. Occurs not too far away in Mongolia Bräunlich 2012.
N33	'African Black Kite'	<i>Milvus (aegyptius) parasitus</i> (formerly <i>Milvus (migrans sensu lato) parasitus</i> )	Relationship with taxon <i>aegyptius</i> as per IOC7.2. Although conventionally this taxon thought to be remote in Africa from Region, the resident populations on Sudan's Red Sea coast, traditionally assigned as <i>M.[m.] aegyptius</i> Yellow-billed Kite, actually have black bills Nikolaus 1987; an isolated population of uncertain affinities? Nikolaus 1987 also notes the widespread presence not only of yellow-billed <i>aegyptius</i> in Sudan, but also of yellow-billed ' <i>parasitus</i> ', seemingly in sympatry. The work of Scheider <i>et al</i> 2004 & Johnson <i>et al</i> 2005 does not accommodate Nikolaus 1987 nor adequately address these populations. <i>Pro tem</i> , we suggest the occurrence in Egypt of ' <i>parasitus</i> ' as assigned by Nikolaus 1987 very possible, but clarification of taxon identities may require revision, perhaps even involving ancestral link to Red Kite <i>M. milvus</i> . See also entries in ORL Non-passerine section on <i>Milvus</i> taxa. <b>NB</b> Thinly widespread in Khartoum Region Jenner & Taha 2016, with suitable breeding and foraging areas north along the Nile to Egypt's border.
PT	Buzzard/Common Buzzard <b>PT</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	<b>PT</b> IOC2.0, H&M4 accepted split of <i>B. japonicus</i> and also of Himalayan Buzzard <i>B.(b.) refectus</i> Lerner <i>et al</i> 2008; IOC2.7 revised as <i>B. burmanicus</i> ; this name has priority (Penhallurick & Dickinson 2008) over <i>refectus</i> : the priority case therein was compiled & inserted by the lead author alone; this discord is superseded by Dickinson & Svensson 2012, in which the name <i>B. hodgsoni</i> is erected for (extralimital) eastern Himalayan populations. However, exactly which populations comprise <i>burmanicus</i> , <i>japonicus</i> or even <i>hemilasius</i> is far from clear. Kruckenhauser <i>et al</i> 2004 note that <i>B. buteo</i> can be regarded as a superspecies with <i>rufinus</i> taxa. Lindholm & Forsten 2013 suggest a practical <i>pro tem</i> arrangement would confine <i>B. japonicus</i> to Japan & islands Korea & Manchuria, with <i>burmanicus</i> being a BM in N China & Siberia & <i>refectus</i> being the taxon in Himalayas & C China mountains, but as ssp of <i>japonicus</i> (Perhaps worth a small wager?). <b>NB</b> Dickinson & Walters 2006 originally had recommended priority for <i>B. plumipes</i> , now superseded by <i>hodgsoni</i> .
N34	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo [b.] japonicus burmanicus</i>	IOC1.7 elevates to full species <i>B. japonicus</i> Kruckenhauser <i>et al</i> 2004, Lerner <i>et al</i> 2008. Lindholm & Forsten 2014 suggest that <i>burmanicus</i> populations are BM in N China & Siberia, and so would occur in the Region only as vagrants. Although some authorities have made synonymous <i>B.(b.) burmanicus</i> Hume 1875 & <i>B.(b.) refectus</i> Portenko 1935, which would give <i>burmanicus</i> priority, it is doubtful whether both names have been applied scrupulously and consistently to the same breeding distributions. We adopt the slightly speculative but nevertheless practical proposals of Lindholm & Forsten 2014. <b>NB</b> re validity of <i>burmanicus</i> and implications, see <b>PT</b> Notes above.
		<b>Otididae</b>	
N35	Nubian Bustard	<i>Neotis nuba</i> ( <i>Ardeotis nuba</i> H&M4)	Monotypic. May just wander to southern Egypt from its distribution in northern Sudan, where now scarce
N36	Lesser Florican	<i>Sypheotides indicus</i>	<b>Endangered</b> . Monotypic. Cited (entry 158) in Zarudny 1911 (as <i>Sypheotis aurita</i> ) as irregular Iran; in SE (Baluchestan) and S-C (easternmost Mesopotamian plain) into Iraq. No known specimen, but typical grassy habitat patches then existed in both locations. Present westernmost range c70°E, but R&A 2012 map (former?) summer breeding range to Mekran Coast at c64°E, as does <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. Former occurrence Afghanistan possible. <b>NB1</b> Moore & Boswell 1941-6, 1956, under "Little Bustard", state: "... Mention may here be made of a bird shot 2 miles from Abu Sef at Mosel in January 42 by Brigadier Corrie. This was examined by Williamson (for info that is W E Williamson) and thought to be a female Florican ( <i>Sypheotides indica</i> ). He describes it as a huge and very long necked quail, not bigger than a Houbara. It would be very interesting if this bird's presence could be confirmed. It may be an accidental wanderer" Richard Porter pers comm. <b>NB2</b> all above scientific names synonymous
		<b>Gruidae</b>	The findings of Krajewski <i>et al</i> 2010 are acknowledged by IOC7.2, reversing the conclusions of two papers co-authored earlier by Krajewski, thus restoring <i>Leucogeranus</i> , <i>Antigone</i> & <i>Anthrpopides</i> . 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 <i>et al</i> 2015.
N37	Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	<b>Vulnerable</b> . On WBDB 2008 Egypt checklist as vagrant. Various claims in Egypt, but authentication not possible to modern standards BinE 2009 <b>NB</b> Locally abundant Sudan below Khartoum (ssp <i>ceciliae</i> ) Ethiopia, albeit W of 40°E Ash & Atkins 2009.
N38	Sarus Crane	<i>Antigone antigone</i> (IOC7.2, H&M4) ( <i>Grus antigone</i> )	<b>Vulnerable</b> . Monotypic. Pre-20th-century reports in their various lists by Nordmann & Pallas, Radde & by Dementiev & Gladkov as occasional vagrant to Caucasus Caspian hinterland, but no confirmed record. <b>Does</b> occur winter Gujarat, NW India.
N39	Black-necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	<b>Vulnerable</b> . Monotypic. Resident Ladakh NW India, S Tibet R&A 2012, may wander.
		<b>Turnicidae</b>	
N40	Yellow-legged Buttonquail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>	Irregular after rains; ssp <i>tanki</i> possible overshoot to Afghan Kurram valley from Pakistan: see map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, R&A 2012, citing 'movements unclear'; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps almost to Afghan border past Peshawar. <b>NB</b> Only the female calls; polyandrous.
		<b>Burhinidae</b>	
PT	Eurasian Stone-curlew <b>PT</b> (Eurasian Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Re <b>Parent Taxon</b> , IOC v2.0 accepts split of Indian Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus [oedicnemus] indicus</i> - R&A 2005; H&M4 remains unsplit, noting lack of genetic data Martens & Bahr 2007, but Inskipp & Collar 2015 note del Hoyo & Collar 2014b agree split on Tobias <i>et al</i> 2010 criteria. See ORL Non-passerine List
N41	Indian Stone-curlew (Indian Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus [oedicnemus] indicus</i>	Monotypic. C Pakistan and eastwards, but may wander to ample suitable habitat Afghanistan or Iran; given ID difficulties, possibly missed already; UAE Checklist 2008 urges vigilance. <b>BLDZ</b> maps (Mar 2017) indicate a narrow unoccupied residency zone between this taxon & <i>B.[o.] oedicnemus</i> running along the plain of the Indus & Chenab Rivers: is this mere allopatric convenience?. <b>NB</b> Zarudny 1911 noted that his <i>B.[o.] oedicnemus</i> specimens collected in S&E Iran accorded with Salvadori's 'intermediate' form of " <i>B.[o.] indicus</i> Salvadori 1865". Possibly recorded Jan 2009 Winkel <i>et al</i> 2010.
		<b>Charadriidae</b>	

N42	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	African sp, 4 spp, <i>mechowi</i> nearest population by far. Coastal breeder, suspected by Ash & Atkins 2009 of breeding in low numbers along the Eritrean coast: not unlikely therefore along Yemen Red Sea coast. However, <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 more pessimistic, placing nearest breeding population C to SW Ethiopia!
		<b>Scolopacidae</b>	BOU (Sangster et al 2012) & CSNA both resequenced Tringids (including <i>Actitis</i> , <i>Xenus</i> ): Gibson & Baker 2012 (in a wide-ranging molecular study) & Banks 2012 proposed subsuming several monotypic calidrids in <i>Calidris</i> ; for some time IOC has been deliberating the merits, now adopted in IOC7.2. Sangster et al 2012 had also declined to rearrange the calidrine sandpipers, unlike several other authorities. H&M4 resequenced families, genera & within genera; IOC7.2 has limited changes to the sequence within <i>Calidris</i> , presumably because the proposed sequence devised by Banks 2012, based on Gibson & Baker 2012 findings, is rendered moot by the Clades constructed by Huang & Tu 2016. Gibson & Baker 2012 overall had proposed subsuming <i>Tryngites</i> , <i>Limicola</i> & <i>Philomachus</i> in <i>Calidris</i> , <i>Heteroscelus</i> & <i>Actitis</i> in <i>Tringa</i> , then Huang & Tu 2016 convincingly establish both <i>Tringa</i> (+ <i>Heteroscelus</i> ) & <i>Calidris</i> in monophyly; although Huang & Tu also establish clades within both. Now we align with these clades and subsume <i>Tryngites</i> , <i>Limicola</i> , <i>Philomachus</i> & <i>Actitis</i> accordingly. Huang & Tu 2016 also demolish the case for <i>Ereunetes</i> as a full genus for those taxa within <i>Calidris</i> (Laurent Raty <i>in litt</i> ).
N43	Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	<b>Endangered</b> . Not included by & hence unplaced in Huang & Tu 2016. Monotypic. Very unlikely, but like congeners, capable of wandering long distances – worth checking warm water coasts. <b>Documentation?</b>
N44	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i> (formerly <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i> )	Monotypic (Change of taxonomy Sangster et al 2007, H&M4, although Livezey 2010 reverted to <i>Heteroscelus</i> ) Notorious wanderer. Permanent breeding grounds known near 86°30'E, 67°30'N in Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992 & Alaska BLDZ Aug 2016. Migration through western Mongolia HBW 3.
		<b>Glareolidae</b>	
N45	Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	Monotypic. Scarce resident eastern half of Pakistan, strongly nomadic after monsoon, well-adapted to fallow fields & desiccated wetland margins Grimmett et al 2009; increase in irrigation ponds in general region would allow spread, perhaps vagrancy to Iran & Afghanistan. Resident Pakistan <b>close</b> to Afghan border R&A 2012, occurs W & N of Peshawar, <b>BLDZ May 2017, only 30km from Torkham border post</b> . Locally common winter N Gujrat, India, MB pers obs.
		<b>Laridae</b>	The use of <b>Sterniidae</b> below aligns with BOU TSC8. Since Pons et al 2005, there have been no similar-scale papers that challenge the bulk of their conclusions. The IOC have adopted all except the genus proposed for the extralimital Saunders's Gull; we now align with that view, noting that the main exceptions are the BOU & <i>Dutch Birding</i> . H&M4 resequences families, genera & within genera, but we remain with IOC sequencing. Some explanation of the non-alignment of biometric and morphological data (eg as consistently documented by Pierre Yésou) appears in Sonsthagen et al 2016, where hybridisation events as an evolutionary force do not lead to lack of reproductive fitness in white-headed gulls, resulting in much haplotype sharing, yet breeding populations remain strongly associated with geographical locations in distinct clades despite small genetic differences. It appears somewhat unusually that just a few genes are driving the speciation process within this complex (although 9.2% of all species are known to hybridise, the incidence of hybridization reaching 41.6% of species within some orders Grant & Grant 1992). <b>NB</b> For useful overview of lack of taxonomic clarity of gull taxa, see Newton 2003. Also see Kerr et al 2007 for results of genetic 'barcode' large-scale Nearctic species trial.
N46	Ross's Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	The single-record vagrant at Sarykamysh Lake Turkmenistan 31 April 1988 (Antipov et al 1994, Rustamov 2015) is deemed questionable by Koblík & Arkhipov 2014. Occurrence in Region highly unlikely.
N47	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	H&M4 treat as monotypic 'in absence of comprehensive revision': IOC4.4 treats as polytypic: <i>dominicanus</i> S Atlantic, S America then W to Australasia; <i>vetula</i> of southern Africa; <i>judithae</i> of S Indian Ocean Antarctic islands; <i>melisandae</i> of SW & S Madagascar, & <i>austrinus</i> of Antarctica & adjacent islands. Most likely vagrants to the OSME Region would be <i>vetula</i> (largest population), <i>melisandae</i> (nearest, but small, population) & <i>dominicanus</i> SW Western Australia. <b>OBRC</b> rejected Oman 2006 report, but surely sp will occur, although generally the species is sedentary once it breeds. Juveniles or immatures are most likely to wander, and some austral winter movement occurs into warmer waters. <b>NB DB 2009</b> call ssp <i>vetula</i> Cape Gull; this taxon has reached Portugal (4 records).
<b>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 Sonsthagen et al 2016. Our PT approach allows complexities to be highlighted &amp; so aligns 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 <i>flava/citreola</i> wagtails), which also merit taking the broader view.</b>			
PT	American Herring Gull PT	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>	<b>PT acknowledges</b> Sangster et al 2007, Collinson et al 2008 (who note that the case for <i>vegae</i> 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 <i>L. vegae</i> and <i>L. v. mongolicus</i> . 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. H&M4 include <i>vegae</i> & <i>mongolicus</i> in <i>smithsonianus</i> .
PT	East Siberian Gull PT	<i>Larus (smithsonianus) vegae</i>	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 genetics/field/museum studies (including breeding biology & statistical analysis of phenotypical variations). Although Rogacheva 1992 suggested <b>PT</b> 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. <b>NB1</b> separation from <i>L. argentatus</i> on mtDNA grounds alone, far from clear-cut (Sangster et al 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (Collinson et al 2008) make strong case. <b>NB2</b> Sangster et al 2007 (BOU) and Collinson et al 2008 make a case for the <b>PT</b> for Vega Gull <i>L. (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae</i> and Mongolian Gull <i>L. (s.m.) mongolicus</i> (see Non-passerine List) to be American Herring Gull <i>L. smithsonianus</i> .

N48	Vega Gull	<i>Larus (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae</i>	Revised understanding of this taxon assesses its breeding distribution as confined to NE & E Asia. No confirmed Region records. Variable leg colour; suggested nominate ssp of East Siberian Gull, Yésou 2002; now (Collinson <i>et al</i> 2008) regarded as a western ssp of American Herring Gull <i>L. smithsonianus</i> : <b>BLDZ</b> tacitly agree, for the Jul 2015 <i>smithsonianus</i> map includes the <i>vegae</i> breeding distribution up to the large Uvs Lake, only 250km from Kazakhstan.
		'Sternidae'	Use of <b>Sternidae</b> follows BOU TSC8. IOC v2.0 & AOU accepted all changes suggested in Gochfeld & Burger 1996 & Bridge <i>et al</i> 2005. Dutch CSNA Sangster <i>et al</i> 2009 follow suit. We follow Parkin & Knox 2010 re 'crested terns' being better placed in <i>Thalasseus</i> . IOC v2.2 accepts split of New World Cabot's Tern <i>T. acutiflavus</i> from Sandwich Tern <i>T. sandvicensis</i> Efe <i>et al</i> 2009, as do Sangster <i>et al</i> 2011. Collinson <i>et al</i> 2017 emphasise that the molecular phylogeny of 'orange-billed terns' does not reflect morphology, West African Royal Tern <i>T. maximus abidorsalis</i> being much more closely related to Lesser Crested Tern <i>T. bengalensis</i> & Great Crested Tern <i>T. bergii</i> than to American Royal Terns <i>T.m. maximus</i> , noting that this accuracy not achievable by the Tobias <i>et al</i> 2010 method that specifically excludes genetic criteria. <b>NB</b> Many tern spp disperse widely in N hemisphere winter WRP Bourne pers comm.
N49	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	<b>Endangered</b> . Given that River Tern <i>S. aurantia</i> , largely sharing the same distribution in Pakistan (R&A 2012map resident close to Afghan Nurestan), has been recorded in Iran, occurrence in Region possible. Common in Punjab c 200km from Afghan border 2003 Ali & Akhtar 2005. Pakistan breeding distribution comprises 9 disparate areas, that around Dera Ismail Khan being the nearest to Afghanistan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016, at some 80km.
		<b>Stercorariidae</b>	Single genus Cohen <i>et al</i> 1997 derived from multiple evidence strands: mt & nuclear DNA, enzyme variations, feather lice, behavioural studies & calls (Parkin & Knox 2010). <b>NB</b> South Polar ( <i>maccormicki</i> ) and particularly Brown ( <i>antarcticus</i> ), Chilean ( <i>chilensis</i> ), Tristan ( <i>hamiltoni</i> ) and Subantarctic ( <i>lonnbergi</i> ) Skuas have a relative lack of genetic differentiation, due to their relatively recent divergence as a group from Great ( <i>skua</i> ) and Pomarine ( <i>pomarinus</i> ) Skuas. Any treatment as separate species must recognise that their mobility and the extent of hybridisation will prevent many individuals from being identified by morphology, plumage characters, or at all.
N50	Subantarctic Skua (Brown Skua)	<i>Stercorarius (antarcticus) lonnbergi</i> (formerly <i>Catharacta (antarcticus) lonnbergi</i> )	Taxonomy follows Cohen <i>et al</i> (1997) and Andersson (1999), whom IOC updates do not acknowledge. Probably already recorded in the OSME Region but wrongly attributed to another 'large skua' sp. <b>NB</b> despite long-standing claims, all Sri Lankan specimens this taxon De Silva 1989, 1991.
		<b>Pteroclididae</b>	Cohen 2011 comprehensively analyses <b>Pteroclididae</b> . However, the taxonomic placement of <i>P. alchata</i> & extralimital Burchell's Sandgrouse <i>P. burchelli</i> prevents phylogenetic certainty. Placing all sandgrouse in <i>Syrphaptus</i> on name priority grounds is narrowly valid, but says nothing about relative relationships within clades, 3 of which are evident (2 in Region) from Cohen 2011, but omit the 2 unplaced taxa. Should deeper investigation of the unplaced taxa fit them into the 3 clades, well & good, but if not, then all OSME Region taxa except <i>lichtensteinii</i> would be placed in <i>Syrphaptus</i> . <i>Pro tem</i> , we follow the Clade option, assuming <i>alchata</i> will eventually fit. For ORL convenience, we retitle the Clades as A ( <i>Syrphaptus</i> ), B ( <i>Pterocles</i> ) & C ( <i>Nyctiperdix</i> ).
<b>Clade C</b>			
N51	Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Nyctiperdix indicus (Pterocles indicus)</i>	Several sources without citation place in Afghanistan; H&M4 disagrees. Monotypic. Source of confusion likely Ali & Ripley 1983, citing nominate ssp as <i>indicus</i> east of Pakistan's western mountains & very similar ssp <i>arabicus</i> (then named Close-barred Sandgrouse) occurring from mountainous western Pakistan west to Afghanistan, Iran & Iraq. The latter taxon later assigned correctly to Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse. <i>P. lichtensteinii</i> (Wells 1998, H&M4) whose distribution is given ORL Non-passerine list. Ali & Ripley 1968-73 apparently intended to comply with this change (Steve Madge in litt to Mike Evans). Occurrence of Painted Sandgrouse in Afghanistan not impossible, but increasingly unlikely. <b>NB</b> This error seems to be perpetuated in <b>BLDZ</b> maps for <i>indicus</i> & <i>lichtensteinii</i> , for although the BL species accounts do not mention ssp, the map of <i>indicus</i> includes the breeding distribution of taxon <i>arabicus</i> , whereas that for <i>lichtensteinii</i> omits it.
		<b>Columbidae</b>	
N52	Speckled Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>	Monotypic. Possibly E Afghanistan, HBW4 map; likely very rare there R&A 2005, uncommon in west of range. A&M map ranges well into Gilgit, very close to Afghanistan, but <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 stops short well E of Gilgit. However, main habitat is dense temperate or tropical deciduous forest, which is now largely absent in E Afghanistan. Perhaps historical Bates & Lowther 1952. <b>Evidence? Documentation?</b> Subject to irregular movements, Grimmer <i>et al</i> 1998. <b>NB</b> Scarce & irregular W Kashmir following fruit crop up to 3000m Roberts 1991.
N53	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	African sp. RNBWS report Farasan Islands Feb 82 (16:15:0.0N+41:3:0.0E) unconfirmed; report of breeding Sheikh Othman & Hussein (Aden) 1945 treated with caution in Warr 1992; possible misidentification in both cases. <b>NB</b> Breeds Eritrea, Somalia & E Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009 H&M4; all along Somali N coast Redman <i>et al</i> 2009, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016, but not Sudan <b>BLDZ</b> contra HBW4
N54	Diamond Dove	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Escape at Sohar farm, Oman Dec 2012 <b>OBRC</b> . Well-adapted to aridity in its native Australia.
N55	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	Regular winterer E-C Pakistan ssp <i>chorigaster</i> , has increased wintering range to new irrigation projects (Roberts 1991), which now are common in the adjacent OSME Region. Population increasing <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.
		<b>Cuculidae</b>	
N56	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp <i>sinensis</i> close to Afghan border, especially near Khyber Roberts 1991, <b>just 3km away</b> as mapped by <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 & so may reach Afghanistan. Global population of this sp is decreasing.
N57	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	Monotypic. Given the likely lack of differentiation in records in Ethiopia between this taxon (rains-follower, intra-tropical migrant and powerful flier) and Common Cuckoo <i>C. canorus</i> (Ash & Atkins 2009), overshoot into Yemen is possible; see also Redman <i>et al</i> 2009. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map breeding distribution to Eritrea and NW Somalia.
		<b>Strigidae</b>	H&M4 heavily resequences ORL <b>Strigidae</b> genera, species and within species; we remain with IOC.

PT	African Scops Owl PT	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	K&W 2008, IOC4.4 agree split Arabian Scops Owl <i>O.(s.) pamelae (qv)</i> , previously regarded as ssp. African Scops Owl <i>O.(s.) senegalensis sensu stricto novo</i> now relegated to ORL Hypothetical List: no evidence found of this taxon in Region. <b>NB</b> Pons <i>et al</i> 2013 show taxon <i>pamelae</i> as full species & early offshoot from Afro-Palaearctic clade.
N58	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	Post-splits, absence of evidence of occurrence ssp <i>senegalensis</i> in Region; nearest population on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits, although Ash & Atkins 2009, not covering Djibouti, locate it more distantly. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps breeding distribution to N Eritrean coast, W Djibouti & to NW Somalian coast.
PT	Scops Owl PT Indian Ocean/Indo-Malayan clade	<i>Otus sunia</i>	IOC2.7 split. K&W 2008 recognised <i>O.[sp] socotranus</i> as separate (morphology & isolated distribution) but reinforce König <i>et al</i> 1999 queries: song relates to that of Oriental Scops Owl <i>O. sunia</i> ; previous treatments placed socotranus as ssp of Pallid Scops Owl <i>O. brucei</i> or African Scops Owl <i>O. senegalensis</i> : strangely H&M4 continue to do so. Song of Arabian Scops Owl <i>O. pamelae (qv)</i> relates to African Scops Owl. Redman <i>et al</i> 2009 treated <i>pro tem</i> as <i>O.(sunia) socotranus</i> . Pons <i>et al</i> 2013 established taxon <i>socotranus</i> as meriting species status; its closest relatives are extralimital Seychelles Scops Owl <i>O. insularis</i> & <i>O.sunia</i> ; the island endemics evolved rapidly
N59	Oriental Scops Owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>	Older maps speculative eg König <i>et al</i> 1999, ssp <i>sunia</i> covering E Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Shimba (2007) map suggesting S Kyrgyzstan, possibly because of mis-allocation of ssp to other <i>Otus</i> spp. R&A 2005 excludes from Region by some distance, as does Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998. K&W 2008, H&M4 westernmost range NE Pakistan, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 specifically to an area just N of Lahore as far as Islamabad. However, given westward & northward drift of several small passerines occupying niches in growth around proliferation of small dams, may follow prey species into remaining semi-open woodland Afghanistan or Iran. Avibase website Israel & Kazakhstan without citing status or source
PT	Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> PT	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	PT – <i>ascalaphus</i> & <i>interpositus</i> reported often as <i>B. bubo</i> . IOC2.0 accepts split of Indian Eagle Owl <i>B.[b.] bengalensis</i> from Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> . Taxonomy follows König <i>et al</i> (1999), R&A 2005, K&W 2008, Wink <i>et al</i> 2009. K&W 2008 note that <i>ascalaphus</i> differs from <i>bubo</i> by 3.5% nucleotide substitutions and <i>interpositus</i> by 2.8%; the degree of genetic distance normally considered indicative of species level being 2% or greater (Wink <i>et al</i> 2008, 2009). Sangster <i>et al</i> 2013 agree. H&M4 very conservative. Egypt BE. <b>NB1</b> Mikkola 2012 mentions <i>interpositus</i> interbreeding freely with <i>ascalaphus</i> , & turcomanus with Rock Eagle Owl <i>B. bengalensis</i> , but fails to cite references.
N60	Indian Eagle Owl (Rock Eagle Owl, Dusky Eagle Owl)	<i>Bubo [bubo] bengalensis</i>	Monotypic. Taxonomy follows König <i>et al</i> 1999, R&A 2005, IOC1.6, K&W 2008. Although maps in König <i>et al</i> 1999 & K&W 2008 cover the SE quadrant of Afghanistan and Iranian Baluchistan, texts do not mention these countries: Mikkola 2012 reproduces this doubtful map; R&A 2005, 2012 map species quite close to the Khyber Pass, Pakistan, but not to Iran. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to Pakistan/Iran border along Gokprosh and Makran Coastal Ranges. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps residency consistently close to Afghan border in Pakistan from N of Charbagh (near Mingora) in a fairly straight line SW through W of Zhob & then on to Ormara on the Indian Ocean. <b>Documentation?</b> <b>NB1</b> Early references to occurrence in Afghanistan rejected by Whistler (1944-5): 'too pale'; assigned to <i>B.b. turcomanus</i> (Paludan 1959) but we know of no subsequent analysis of extant specimens. K&W 2008 aver sympatric with <i>turcomanus</i> in Kashmir; possibly also in SE quadrant of Afghanistan. <b>NB2</b> Occurs close to habitation and human activity in Gujarat, India, often perching on cliffs or rock faces at water sources where prey comes to drink MB pers obs.
N61	Dusky Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>	Map in König <i>et al</i> (1999) covers northeasternmost Afghanistan, also HBW5; would be ssp <i>coromandus</i> . Range in R&A 2005 much further to S, & K&W 2008 seem to agree. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map places this sp in lower altitudes irregularly from Dera Ismail Khan in the north of Pakistan S to Karachi. Apparent 'quarantine corridor' still shown in K&W 2008 (also R&A 2005, 2012) between this and Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>B. bubo</i> from coast mid-Pakistan N to Kashmir then SE to Nepal (but not included in molecular analyses cited in ORL). Maps in K&W 2008, R&A 2005, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998 and Roberts 1991 suggest <i>coromandus</i> unlikely in OSME Region, for traditional well watered woodland then scarce in Afghanistan, but proliferation since then of small dams and in places new irrigation channels provides possible Afghan plantation habitat, to which species had adapted in Pakistan Roberts 1991.
PT	Little Owl PT NB Suspicion that many records will continue under PT; field experience suggests many populations cryptically similar in appearance and plumage variations within populations not well documented.	<i>Athene noctua</i>	K&W 2008 make <i>A.(n.) lilith</i> a species ( <i>qv</i> ) as in Wink <i>et al</i> 2008. Wink in van Nieuwenhuysen <i>et al</i> 2009 differs little in detail; genetic analyses of <i>A. noctua</i> & <i>A. cunicularia</i> (Nearctic Burrowing Owl) taxa incomplete (Wink <i>et al</i> 2009, Michael Wink pers comm June 2009). Because of detected phylogeographic variation in both complexes, more detailed study across whole distribution range will reveal more complex pattern of several distinct species & subspecies; of particular interest (to OSME) are <i>glauca</i> , <i>lilith</i> & <i>indigena</i> ; <i>glauca</i> & <i>lilith</i> appear genetically close Wink <i>et al</i> 2009), thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately <i>pro tem</i> . Wink 2011 lists <i>noctua</i> , <i>lilith</i> & <i>plumipes</i> . Four 'forms' recorded Israel Yoav Perlman <i>in litt</i> Nov 09. K&W 2008, Wink <i>et al</i> 2009 suggest <i>A.(n.) plumipes (qv)</i> too may be separable; occurs from Altai eastwards. Extralimital Ethiopian Little Owl <i>A.(n.) spilogastra</i> may also be species. H&M4 note that limited taxon-sampling delays subspecies-group recognition. <b>NB1</b> Other DNA research under way on <i>Athene</i> owls; more song data is being collected, possibly why IOC7.2 still does not split <i>noctua</i> . <b>NB2</b> On Cyprus, plumages of birds near sea level noticeably darker than of those in the low hills away from the coast (MB pers obs).
N62	Ethiopian Little Owl	<i>Athene (noctua) spilogastra</i>	K&W 2008, Wink <i>et al</i> 2009 support elevation to sp (with 2 ssp); <i>spilogastra</i> E Sudanese Red Sea along coastal hinterland S to Eritrea & <i>somaliensis</i> E Ethiopia to N Somalia; latter likely on African side (Djibouti) of Bab-el-Mandab Strait; Ash & Atkins 2009. Claim of specimen from Ha'laib triangle SW Egypt resembling <i>spilogastra</i> BinE 2009. Recorded Sudan only c180km S of Ha'laib Triangle Nikolaus 1987, according to map in Mikkola 2012. <b>NB</b> BirdLife still lump all taxa in the <i>noctua</i> complex, but interpretation of the Aug 2016 map in BLDZ, allows attribution of taxon <i>spilogastra</i> to coasts of Sudan & N Eritrea & taxon <i>somaliensis</i> to coastal N Somalia.
N63	Brown Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Map in Shimba 2007 suggests close to E Tajikistan and S Kyrgyzstan borders; that in Mikkola 2012 maps remotely from OSME Region, as does BLDZ Aug 2016, deep into India. Relict population? If relict population exists in or close to Region, likely related to <i>lugubris</i> ssp; extrapolated from K&W 2008
		Caprimulgidae	

N64	Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	May wander, ssp <i>indicus</i> , from NW India; also resident C & S India H&M4 (IOC give only C & S India) where common resident, in conditions of strong E/NE winds? Recently split from <i>C. jotaka</i> Grey Nightjar IOC4.1: see Non-passerine List.
N65	Vaurie's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus centralasicus</i>	<b>Data Deficient.</b> Known from a single female specimen from Xinjiang, at c300km, not too distant from Afghan Wakhan & easternmost Tajikistan; Ayé <i>et al</i> 2012, R&A 2012 suggest worth including. Leader 2009 summarises most of what is known about this taxon; its putative wintering area is the Thar desert and the Rann of Kutch area of the NW Indian subcontinent. A guess at its breeding habitat would be the long old alluvial plain north of the Western Himalayas, essentially a desert plateau cut by meltwater ravines, but whose steep, high northern edge is visibly evident from Google satellite imagery.
N66	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	As an abundant BM, ssp <i>monticolus</i> occurs NE Pakistan almost to border near Thal (Roberts 1991, Cleere 2010, R&A 2012), overshoots are likely at times: <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps practically to Afghan border N of Peshawar to SSW of Dera Ismail Khan; all the 7-9 other ssp are largely sedentary. IUCN Redlist maps into Afghanistan as far as Kabul, likely an error, given that the country is not included as part of its native range..
		<b>Apodidae</b>	
N67	Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>	Nominate resident on N Eritrean coast <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016, IOC 6.3, ssp <i>somalicus</i> BM along N Somalia coast; prone to wandering Redman <i>et al</i> 2009.
PT	Fork-tailed Swift PT	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	IOC2.10 reverts to English name Pacific Swift for only 2 taxa, <i>pacificus</i> (breeding in Kazakhstan in Altai) & extralimital (?) <i>kurodae</i> (which now amended to <i>kanoi</i> , because the type collected for <i>pacificus sensu lato</i> may have been within <i>kurodae</i> H&M4); split off are Salim Ali's Swift A. <i>salimalii</i> , Blyth's Swift A. <i>leuconyx</i> , & Cook's Swift A. <i>cooki</i> (see 'NB' below); Leader 2011 (on morphological grounds). Taxon <i>leuconyx</i> (breeds Pakistan) probably wanders to OSME Region & possibly occurs (via ITCZ cycles) in Iran, UAE & Oman (see Hypothetical List): how many taxa have definitely occurred is unclear; taxa would have to be examined in the hand. NB H&M4 suggests taxon <i>cooki</i> relates more to Dark-rumped Swift A. <i>acuticauda</i> (both extralimital): indeed Päckert <i>et al</i> 2012 emphasise that <i>cooki</i> and <i>acuticauda</i> are closer than to the other <i>pacificus</i> taxa, but also note that more distinctive molecular markers for separation may be needed.
N68	Blyth's Swift	<i>Apus [p.] leuconyx</i>	Following split of Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus sensu stricto</i> , taxon <i>leuconyx</i> probably occurs in Iran, Oman & UAE as a vagrant or winterer, from its mid- to high altitude breeding grounds in Pakistan (IOC5.4) eastwards. R&A 2012 map as summer breeder W as far as NW India.
		<b>Colidae</b>	
N69	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	Recorded, likely ssp <i>griseogularis</i> , along Sudan Nile Valley to within c 150km S of Egypt Nikolaus 1987.
		<b>Meropidae</b>	
N70	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	Widespread and common in Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman <i>et al</i> 2009: family are powerful fliers; nearest ssp <i>cyanostrictus</i> of W Somalia or <i>ocularis</i> of W Ethiopia; likely the latter resident on N Eritrean coast, W Djibouti & NW Somali coast <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.. <b>NB</b> Confusable with extralimital Blue-breasted Bee-eater <i>M. variegatus</i> (mostly W of 40°N Ethiopia) & Cinnamon Bee-eater <i>M. oreobates</i> , W & S of Ethiopia.
N71	Olive Bee-eater [Madagascar Bee-eater]	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	ssp <i>superciliaris</i> occurs as intra-tropical breeder in NW Somalia, SE Djibouti & parts of Ethiopia and coastal Eritrea Redman <i>et al</i> 2009, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.
N72	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	Westernmost Pakistan range (ssp <i>javanicus</i> ) close to Safed Koh & Khyber; spring overshoot to Afghanistan possible; map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, R&A 2012, mapped to border beyond Mingora, Pakistan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. Vagrant SE Iran?
		<b>Megalaimidae</b>	
N73	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Ptilopogon haemacephalus</i> (formerly <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> )	Formerly in Afghan Khyber? See maps Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, R&A 2012; resident Pakistan from near Islamabad SW to Mutan, about 120-150 km from Afghan border <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. H&M4 place in new genus, ssp <i>indicus</i> western distribution 'S Asia'. Unmistakeable loud call.
		<b>Indicatoridae</b>	
N74	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>	Reported on-line Afghanistan. Possible, but nearest documented population (ssp <i>xanthonotus</i> ) NE Pakistan) thought extinct or fragmentary <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. R&A 2005, 2012 say no. In H&M3 corrigenda E Dickinson pers comm
		<b>Picidae</b>	
N75	Black-rumped Flameback (Lesser Goldenback, Black-rumped Woodpecker)	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	IOC2.10 new English name (applicable to several flamebacks). Resident (ssp <i>dilutum</i> ) in main vale of Peshawar Roberts 1991, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps to within 10km of Torkham border post, which distribution area similar to Sind Woodpecker (Sind Pied) <i>Dendrocopos assimilis</i> – (formerly?) in similar habitat on Afghan side of Khyber? <b>NB</b> Winkler <i>et al</i> 2014 note that the relationships within <i>Dinopium</i> have not been researched, the genus is not close to <i>Chrysocolaptes</i> Flamebacks, whatever the plumage similarities.
N76	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker (Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker)	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i> (formerly <i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i> )	Genus change follows Winkler <i>et al</i> 2013; Fuchs & Pons 2015 convert to monospecific genus. Pakistan populations ssp <i>pallascens</i> Gorman 2014: probably once occurred in Afghan Khyber. See map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, where now uncommon Pakistan, although <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps it 10km E of Peshawar N almost to Mingora. <b>NB</b> Middle-Spotted <i>L. medius</i> & Brown-fronted <i>L. auriceps</i> Woodpeckers complete this new genus (see Non-Passerine List)
		<b>Falconidae</b>	
N77	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	Recorded (ssp <i>fieldi</i> ) on Eritrean Dahlak Islands, whose easternmost island is only 60km from Yemen's Jabal al-Tair Island NW of Al-Hudaydah, & in S Eritrea near Bab-el-Mandab Ash & Atkins 2009; also resident in S Djibouti & NW Somalia at coast <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.
N78	African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	Monotypic. 2 RNBWS reports: Jun 73 Red Sea off Eritrea at 17:46:0.0N+40:26:0.0E & Nov 77 of bird on board for 2 days off Salalah at 15:12:0.0N+56:48:0.0E – misidentification possible given the state of knowledge of identification criteria at the time. <b>NB</b> Common resident Eritrea & Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009, although <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 omits from Eritrea.
PT	Peregrine Falcon PT	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<b>Parent Taxon</b> here includes <i>pelegrinoides pro tem</i> due to unclear status of this taxon



N79	Shaheen	<i>Falco (peregrinus) peregrinator</i>	Nauroji 2006 notes <i>F.p. peregrinator</i> (Shaheen) is sedentary resident India, NE Pakistan, but Zarudny 1911 assessed that population as then wintering in Persia's Kerman-Kohistan; in modern Iran, this could be S Khorasan, N Sistan-va-Baluchestan or E Kerman. Perhaps unlikely nowadays, but immature falcons prone to wander. Birds that migrate to winter continental SE Asia, including N Thai-Malay Peninsula have unknown breeding grounds, possibly S or E China H&M4. <b>NB</b> BirdLife lump all forms of <i>Falco peregrinus</i> complex BLDZ Aug 2016.
		<b>Psittacidae</b>	Many parrot 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 <i>et al</i> 2015.
N80	Blossom-headed Parakeet (Rosy-headed Parakeet)	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>	Escapes encountered in UAE, but not proven breeding Aspinall & Porter 2011. Natural distribution no nearer OSME Region than E Indian subcontinent R&A 2012, ssp <i>roseata</i> & <i>juneae</i> ..
N81	Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>	Monotypic Tanzanian sp. On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced.

**PASSERINES, English Name**      **Family, Species or Taxon**      **Working Notes; includes 'recent' material. NB Secondary references often unvalidated**

		<b>Tephrodornithidae</b>	
P1	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Though ssp <i>pallidus</i> sedentary in Pakistani wooded lowlands, does penetrate ravines & occurs close to Afghan border near Thal & at Khyber Roberts 1992, in numerous places BLDZ Aug 2016
		<b>Campephagidae</b>	
P2	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border (ssp <i>pallidus</i> ). BLDZ Aug 2016 map gives distribution in NW Pakistan crossing into Afghanistan in 2 places: NW of Peshawar & NW of Bannu. This species may be split in future.
		<b>Laniidae</b>	
PT	Isabelline Shrike PT	<i>Lanius [cristatus] isabellinus</i>	IOC2.0 accepts split into 2 species (see below). NB1 the name isabellinus previously applied to N China birds (usually referred to as arenarius in the literature, isabellinus applying to Central Asian birds). Pearson 2000 had suggested that the male type specimen of isabellinus was actually speculigerus, which name should apply to those at present named isabellinus, but Panov 2009 refutes, synonymising arenarius with isabellinus and noting type specimen of isabellinus actually differs from several long series of speculigerus, but the type location is not within the isabellinus breeding distribution. NB2 Scott & Adhami 2006 use PT for Iran, but L. isabellinus likely winterer Iran & L. phoenicuroides breeds & winters. NB3 HBW13 suggests that extralimital (breeding WC China) arenarius and tsaidamensis form separate group, raised to species status by some Russians; pro tem, we treat tsaidamensis as potentially separable, but taxon is unstudied (qv 'Eastern Red-backed Shrike' L. (i.) tsaidamensis below.
P3	'Eastern Red-backed Shrike' ('Chinese Shrike')	<i>Lanius (isabellinus) tsaidamensis</i>	Both arenarius (≡ isabellinus Panov 2009) and tsaidamensis from WC China winter in N India and Pakistan: 2 reported & photographed in Golestan, Iran Jan 2009 may be from this group (DB 31 pp193 & 198); specimens from E Iran are mentioned in H&E 1970, but Vaurie was non-committal Khaleghizadeh <i>et al</i> 2016. The taxon tsaidamensis is the largest in the cristatus-collurio-isabellinus complex, but is the least studied, perhaps being associated with saxaul and salt cedar habitat (from Przhevalsky's 1886 expedition); however, size decreases to N of breeding range until it approaches that of speculigerus (Evgeniy Panov in litt). From limited specimen data, intermediates with isabellinus (probably the population formerly attributed to 'arenarius') and speculigerus are likely (Evgeniy Panov in litt). NB1 English name 'Isabelline Shrike' here inappropriate, hence interim name informal @OSME. NB2 Should tsaidamensis be elevated to full sp. it would be monotypic.
P4	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	R&A 2012 map summer breeder ssp <i>lahulensis</i> W to E Ladakh & in Tibet slightly further E, BLDZ Aug 2016 map also indicates BM in much of C China, wintering in lowlands S of Himalayas & Yunnan Plateau. On 2015 Ladakh Checklist without comment.

Relationships between large grey shrike taxa are complex; some taxa may be undefinable in terms of species or subspecies, yet include diagnosable populations: a broader view is inevitable. The arrangements as published up to 2009 place many taxa as subspecies of *meridionalis* across North Africa, Arabia and Central Asia. Although Panov 2011 (and Bannikova 2010 in Panov 2011) agreed that fundamental changes in our understanding of taxa relationships are needed, they thought it premature to suggest any new taxonomy until a suite of DNA techniques allows formal publication of a revised taxonomy for all taxa in this complex. This traditional approach is the norm, but it is clear that revisions from Bannikova and of Olsson *et al* 2010 will be radical. Accordingly, we have opted to present the most likely changes for the taxa in the OSME Region, while recognising that several taxa outside the Region have not yet been sampled, and that some taxa within the Region need sampling across their breeding ranges, which may be imperfectly known. The groupings (Clades) suggested in Olsson *et al* 2010 as a likely interpretation of their research go beyond those acceptable at this stage by Bannikova 2010 & Panov 2011, although both praise that work highly. The 'radical' view of Olsson *et al* 2010 is that *meridionalis* is an isolate of Iberia & southern France and not closely related to African or Central Asian taxa, a position actually also derivable from Vaurie 1959! The Olsson *et al* 2010 clades largely descend from the original ancestral *excubitor* expansions out of Africa. Panov wants formal refutation of the *meridionalis*-based lineage; we suggest the scale of likely change is best kept in view. The Olsson *et al* 2010 & the Panov 2011 taxonomies, as presented, are incompatible, yet relate logically to Vaurie 1959, which we use as the basic Parent Taxon of the changes. We also recognise that some may prefer to retain 'traditional' nomenclature, which probably will align more closely with our view (as given here) as the formal taxonomy develops. Note our approach aligns with the Poelstra 2010 (many taxa) & Tajkova & Red'kin 2014 (*sibiricus*) analyses. Rasmussen 2017 submitted that the AOU adopt the grouping of E Siberian taxa under Northern Shrike *L. borealis* as per Olsson *et al* 2010, Peer *et al* 2011, Poelstra 2014 and the ORL below: **the AOU passed this resolution in June 2017**.

NB1 Panov 2011 and Olsson *et al* 2010 do not cover exactly the same taxa. NB2 This kind of complexity is far from uncommon; eg the *flava/citreola* wagtails, the large white-headed gulls, Pacific island hawk owls & Paradise Kingfishers, all meriting a broader view. NB3 Isenmann & Bouchet 1991 as amended by Isenmann & Lefranc 1994 had placed taxon *elegans* within the *L. meridionalis* complex (also as proposed by Panov 1983) on priority grounds within the context of perceived morphological and feathering trends across 'southern' taxa, a hypothesis that depended upon radiations of post-glacial populations conforming with a plausible sequence pattern of successive pre- and post-glacial refugia. The more nuanced understanding today of the complexities and geographical variability of successive glaciation advances and retreats aligns better, in our opinion, with the conjectured arrangements of large grey shrike taxa in Olsson *et al* 2010.

PT	Chinese Grey Shrike PT	<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	Olsson <i>et al</i> 2009 support split on molecular data into Chinese Grey Shrike <i>L.(s.) sphenocercus</i> (Cabanis 1873) & 'Giant Grey Shrike' <i>L.(s.) giganteus</i> (Przevalski 1887) (both monotypic); latter English name used in 1920s for this taxon. IOC4.4 treats <i>sphenocercus</i> & <i>giganteus</i> as the 2 ssp of Chinese Grey Shrike, noting resolution of their status awaited. Yang <i>et al</i> 2016 sequence complete mt genome of <i>L.s. sphenocercus</i>
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P5	Chinese Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	Monotypic H&M4, but IOC5.4 lists as polytypic Chinese Grey Shrike nominate and <i>giganteus</i> : Yang <i>et al</i> 2016 note shared ancestry of Corvidae & Laniidae & <i>L.s. sphenocercus</i> being distant from Laniidae other than the large grey shrikes: the previous English names 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' or 'Giant Grey Shrike' now referable to taxon <i>giganteus</i> as ssp of <i>sphenocercus</i> : H&M4 splits these taxa; much clearly to be researched. Map in Shimba 2007 suggests <i>sphenocercus sensu novo</i> likely wanderer to E Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan. However, <b>BLDZ</b> map of unsplit taxa shows breeding from Sichuan NE to Russian Amur, but c90% are BM, which increases likelihood of long-distance vagrancy. <b>NB</b> The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both <i>giganteus</i> (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike <i>L. tephronotus</i> of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon name ' <i>tibetanus</i> ' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' <i>L.s. 'tibetanus</i> ' (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly $\equiv$ <i>giganteus</i> ) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.
		<b>Vireonidae</b>	<b>IOC v2.3 moves this &amp; several other species from Timaliidae, placing as Old World members of Vireonidae,</b>
P6	Green Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>	Occurs up to 3350m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit ssp <i>occidentalis</i> S Kashmir as does HBW 12 map. Roberts 1992 tends to support, but notes declining population of already rare sp, supported by map & text <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.. <b>NB</b> Reddy 2008 suggests split into 4 spp (this taxon would be <i>P. occidentalis</i> , 'Western Green Shrike-Babbler'); findings subject to evaluation under Biological Species Concept Rheindt & Eaton 2009.
		<b>Rhipiduridae</b>	<b><i>Rhipidura sensu lato</i> generally adaptable and inquisitive genus. Nyári <i>et al</i> 2009 &amp; Jønsson <i>et al</i> 2016 rearrange <i>Rhipidura</i> for monophyly, the 2 spp below now part of true <i>Leucocirca</i>.</b>
P7	White-throated Fantail	<i>Leucocirca albicollis</i> { <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> }	Occurs up to 2300m R&A 2005. Map (very small scale) in Arlott 2007 suggests: that in R&A 2012 just reaches Pakistan from E. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map in Pakistan, 3 small disjunct areas, Murree Hills, Gilgit & Kunar valley in NW; H&M4 place ssp <i>canescens</i> in NE Pakistan, <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 indicates agreement; likely in Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys (prefers damp shady ravines).
P8	White-browed Fantail	<i>Leucocirca aureola</i> { <i>Rhipidura aureola</i> }	Contra Arlott 2007 map, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, R&A 2012 map extensively along riverine (including artificial) valleys, up to E end Safed Koh, close to Afghan Khyber, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 specifically maps this sedentary taxon W of Peshawar & Kohat - ssp <i>aureola</i> ; other 2 spp extralimital to E.
		<b>Corvidae</b>	
P9	Azure-winged Magpie (Asian Azure-winged Magpie)	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	Westward range expansion ssp <i>cyanus</i> increases vagrancy chance; probable vagrants noted E of Region at c100°E at 56°N Rogocheva 1992, Fefelov pers comm cited in Haring <i>et al</i> 2007. M&P 2000 map westernmost limit 200km E of Kazakhstan, Shimba 2007 map suggests likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan. Now although HBW14 maps only to c110°E, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps in Mongolia to c98°E, suggesting a westward spread. Buddhists have introduced this species into Urumqi, NW China, only 350km from the Kazakh border Ma <i>et al</i> 2013; it is thriving. On-line claim of occurrence in Iran (2013) was in-country hoax. <b>NB</b> Svensson <i>et al</i> 2009, H&M4 strangely make no mention of split of extralimital Iberian Magpie <i>C. cooki</i> . as per Fok <i>et al</i> 2002, Kryukov <i>et al</i> 2004. 3rd ssp is <i>japonensis</i> , only on Honshu Island.
P10	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Gold-billed Magpie)	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	ssp <i>cucullata</i> of interest. Occurs up to 3500m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests; R&A 2005 map almost reaches E to Pakistani Khyber. Indication of some support in M&P 2000. However, likely map in Roberts 1992 (p420) has been misread – 2 species on 1 map, but shading densities not greatly different – Eurasian Magpie <i>Pica pica</i> is mapped to border, but <i>U. flavirostris</i> in only 3 small patches of moist temperate forest 150-300km from border. However, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2015 map gives two isolate populations N & E of Peshawar. Although citations probably based on Bates & Lowther 1952, their 'Kashmir' comprised only c20% of 21st-century disputed area, although on 2015 Ladakh Checklist without comment.
P11	Rufous Treepie (Indian Tree-pie)	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Hills of SE Iran, E Afghanistan? M&B say Pakistani Hazara is western limit. Roberts 1992 maps to Afghan border at S Kurram, as do R&A 2012, similarly <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map; H&M4 ssp <i>bristoli</i> resident Pakistan. All 8 other spp extralimital further E. <b>Documentation?</b>
P12	Biddulph's Ground Jay (Xingjiang Ground-jay)	<i>Podoces biddulphi</i>	Probably in dry valley areas on Kazakhstan-China border, E of Zharkerit area, where M&B 1994 map neatly stops, as does HBW14 map. Perhaps coincidentally, M&P 2000 also map it to E end of Wakhan, but also ESE Kazakh border. 2003 survey estimate >10 000 birds, but fragile habitats degraded by 20-fold human population increase HBW14. Known to occur within 140km of China-Kyrgyzstan border Ma-Ming & HK Kwok 2004, Londei 2011. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps just into Kazakhstan at Reymbek District adjoining E-most Kyrgyzstan, into which it is mapped half way to Lake Issyk Kul.
P13	Cape Crow (Cape Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	ssp <i>kordofanensis</i> far more likely in Region than nominate. Two reported Egypt 29 Nov 07 at Shalateen (notified to <i>Sandgrouse ATR</i> , but not on <b>EORC</b> list). Although on Avibase website Israel list Mar 09 as Introduced, not mentioned on Israel Birding Portal Checklist. No evidence of becoming established. <b>NB1</b> Breeds Eritrean Red Sea coast Ash & Atkins 2009 & Somali N coast Redman <i>et al</i> 2009. <b>NB2</b> HBW14 notes largely sedentary, but has wandered occasionally.
P14	Dwarf Raven (Somali Crow)	<i>Corvus edithae</i>	Monotypic. Occurs in half-degree square containing Perim Island Ash & Atkins 2009. Common, widespread & commensal on African side of Bab-el Mandab Strait HBW14 & also on Eritrean islands Londei 2005. Likely has reached Yemen on occasions, but has been overlooked among the abundant Brown-necked Raven <i>C. ruficollis</i> . <b>NB</b> Closely related to Pied Crow <i>C. albus</i> Jønsson <i>et al</i> 2012.
		<b>Stenostiridae</b>	<b>IOC2.0 places this species in new family Stenostiridae, Fairy Flycatchers.</b>
P15	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (Grey-headed Flycatcher)	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	ssp <i>calochrysea</i> of interest. Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit SE Kashmir, Roberts 1992 less optimistic, but H&M4 refers to Himalayan foothills E of N Pakistan. However, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W past Islamabad as BM. Steve Madge suggests error perpetuated from Baker 1922-29. <b>NB</b> English name amendment reflects separation from true flycatchers IOC2.7
		<b>Paridae</b>	<b>NB Johansson <i>et al</i> 2013 draw up a new phylogeny of Paridae.</b>

P16	Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>	Claimed summer visitor NE Afghanistan, R&A 2005, 2012 (map), maps M&P 2000, Arlott 2007 also suggest reaches Afghanistan, of which no mention in HBW13 H&M4 (ssp <i>flammiceps</i> N Pakistan). Occurs up to 3000m on open mountain slopes with bushes and scattered deciduous trees & may well occur in such patches in Nurestan & Wakhan; however, Roberts 1992 sceptical of single previous 1924 claim for Afghanistan & R&A 2005 cite 1 record NE Afghanistan, Kandahar; best-known Kandahar is in S Afghanistan; Bates & Lowther record range from Afghan border of Pakistan eastwards. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to Chinese, not Afghan border; spring overshoot to Wakhan? Ayé <i>et al</i> 2012 make no mention. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps as reaching Islamabad N to Sazin River to within 60km of Kamdesh E Afghanistan & of Wakhan.
P17	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	2015 Ladakh Checklist; <i>simlaensis</i> Kashmir westernmost range H&M4. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 notes declining population & distribution, but maps to within 25km of Pakistan within Kashmir.
PT	Eurasian Blue Tit PT	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> (formerly <i>Parus caeruleus</i> )	IOC2.0 accepted split of African Blue Tit <i>C.[c.] teneriffae</i> . <b>NB</b> Dai <i>et al</i> 2010 find <i>C. caeruleus</i> diverged before any <i>Parus</i> listed in ORL.
PT	Teneriffe Blue Tit PT	<i>Cyanistes [caeruleus] teneriffae</i>	All related Canarian & North African ssp were grouped, the split arising from Salzburger <i>et al</i> 2002b. Sangster 2006 was the first to argue that the evidence supported 4 or 5 separate Blue Tit spp in the Canary Islands. Stervander <i>et al</i> 2015 noted incomplete lineage sorting of nuclear markers across the Canary Islands and N Africa, mitigating somewhat against full speciation as noted Illera <i>et al</i> 2011. However Illera <i>et al</i> 2016, synthesising more recent molecular data, reverses the conclusions of Illera <i>et al</i> 2011 and vindicates Sangster 2006, while emphasising that taxon <i>cyrenaicae</i> is a relict population from ancestral stock that colonised the Canary Islands on 3 separate occasions.
P18	Cyrenaic Blue Tit (Cyrenaican Blue Tit)	<i>Cyanistes [teneriffae] cyrenaicae</i>	Monotypic if split from <i>teneriffae</i> ; taxon <i>cyrenaicae</i> occurs NE Libya IOC6.3, in Cyrenaica from al-Militaniya 150km ENE to al Qubah, some 300km from NW Egypt Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016. Storm-driven vagrancy Egypt likely? BirdLife Aug 2016 resolutely remain with <i>Parus sensu lato</i> and so no mapping of splits as per Dai <i>et al</i> 2010, Olsson <i>et al</i> 2013 & Alström <i>et al</i> 2013b. <b>NB</b> Very different in plumage colours from North African Great Tit <i>C. (teneriffae) ultramarinus</i> Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016.
P19	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Johansson <i>et al</i> 2013 assess as sister to <i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i> and to the <i>Parus major</i> complex. Occurs locally above 3300m R&A 2005. Very similar appearance to European populations of Great Tit <i>P. major</i> . Map in Arlott 2007 suggests occurrence; R&A 2005, 2012 map easternmost limit exactly at Afghan border S of western end of Wakhan, as does map in HBW 12. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to border at Kunar river; Afghan occurrence ssp <i>monticolus</i> in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys? <b>BLDZ</b> May 2017 maps up to Afghan border near Maskeni & Pashat on tributaries of Panjikora & Babukara Rivers respectively, 80km N of Mardan. Sedentary, little altitudinal migration, avoids drier Himalayan forests Roberts 1992. 3 extralimital ssp further E Eck & Martens 2006.
		<b>Alaudidae</b>	
P20	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i>	On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source, but R&A 2012 conclusive mapping westernmost population ssp <i>phoenicura</i> in NE Pakistan, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 confining Pakistan isolate population to C Pakistan N of Multan; only other ssp <i>testacea</i> extralimital in S India.
P21	Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	Normally ssp <i>melanocephalus</i> reaches in Nile Valley Sudan c150km of Egyptian border ( <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map just S of Wawa), but movements N occur during rains Nikolaus 1987: possible overshoot in years of exceptional rains; ssp <i>leucotis</i> in s and e Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and nw Somalia
P22	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>	Monotypic. R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border, <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map W & N of Peshawar.
P23	Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>	Monotypic. On-line report for Kyrgyzstan, but more likely to be vagrant easternmost Kazakhstan, which is 750km nearer species' western range limit which lies another 200km further E in Mongolia, W of Lake Uvs - <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016. <b>Documentation?</b>
P24	Tibetan Lark	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>	Monotypic. Arlott 2007 map shows extensive area just SE of Wakhan, but <i>Melanocorypha</i> spp prone to wander widely. R&A 2005 map just N of Afghanistan, but R&A 2012 reduce nearest distribution to India-China border. M&P 2000 maps distribution as being S of Wakhan but probably on Pakistan-China border? 2003 Web list Ladakh; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map includes easternmost Kashmir, 300km from OSME Region. <b>NB</b> Afghan citation in John Gould's Birds of Asia (vol 4 1867) in error - type locality was Sikkim (Hartert).
		<b>Hirundinidae</b>	
PT	Rock Martin PT	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i> (formerly <i>Hirundo fuligula</i> )	IOC2.0 accepts split, as do www.zoonomen.net, H&M4; no proven records of <i>P.[f.] fuligula sensu novo</i> in Region, but weather-system-driven vagrants likely Egypt, Yemen or SW Saudi Arabia (see Hypothetical List). Surprisingly, Svensson <i>et al</i> 2009 remain with <i>P. fuligula sensu lato</i> , the related map still (May 2017) leading to misinterpretation of distribution of <i>fuligula sensu novo</i> . <b>NB</b> Sibley & Monroe 1990 note that Somalian populations of <i>obsoleta</i> occur without any sign of intermediacy toward <i>fuligula</i> in neighbouring Ethiopia; not all agree & a genetic analysis is sorely needed
P25	Rock Martin (African Rock Martin)	<i>Ptyonoprogne (fuligula) fuligula</i> (formerly <i>Hirundo (fuligula) fuligula</i> )	6 extralimital ssp. African species T&R 1989. Unconfirmed post-split as occurring in Region (Richard Klim in litt), but ssp <i>pusilla</i> (Ethiopia & Eritrea) & <i>fusciventris</i> (now <i>ruffula</i> , which is no longer pre-occupied in genus) (W&S Sudan, W-C Ethiopia) may occur; all hirundines liable to displacement by weather systems; other 4 ssp remote from Region. <b>NB1</b> Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman <i>et al</i> 2009 map <i>pusilla</i> on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Strait. <b>NB2</b> IUCN Redlist maps the sole Red Sea breeding distribution as north of Asmara in Eritrea, & (as <i>Hirundo fuligula</i> ). <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps N coasts of Eritrea & W Ethiopia.
		<b>Cettiidae</b>	IOC v2.0 placed <b>Cettiidae</b> ahead of <b>Aegithalidae</b> . <b>NB</b> family name may be invalid on priority grounds Ed Dickinson <i>in litt</i> . Alström <i>et al</i> 2011c found <b>Tesia</b> , <b>Tickellia</b> & Mountain Tailorbird <b>Orthotomus cucullatus</b> to be nested within <b>Cettia</b> , but many taxa formerly included in <b>Cettia</b> removed to new genera, including <b>Horornis</b> .
P26	Brown-flanked Bush Warbler (Brownish-flanked or Strong-footed Bush Warbler)	<i>Horornis fortipes</i> ( <i>Cettia fortipes</i> ) (Alström <i>et al</i> 2011c & IOC 2.11)	Taxon <i>pallidus</i> occurs up to 3300m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit W corner Kashmir. Roberts 1992, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 maps suggests Afghan breeders most likely in Nurestan (Daryā-ye & Konar valleys), WSW of Chitral in Pakistan, as does map in Kennerley & Pearson 2010; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map sole Pakistan population as an isolate N of Mingora close to Afghan border. As <i>Homochlamys pallidus pallidus</i> , Bates & Lowther 1959 assess it as patchily widespread, making no allusion to its 'Kashmir' distribution beyond their specified area. <b>NB1</b> IOC2.0 places in <b>Cettiidae</b> , ahead of <b>Aegithalidae</b> . <b>NB2</b> Taxon <i>pallidus</i> very different from taxon <i>fortipes</i> of West Bengal & even more so from taxon <i>fortipes</i> of Myanmar, Alström <i>et al</i> 2011c: further splits likely.

		<b>Aegithalidae</b>	
P27	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. H&E 1970 suggest the possibility; likely ssp <i>iredalei</i> of NE Pakistan; 5 extralimital ssp. BLDZ Aug 2016 map westernmost distribution as just reaching Islamabad Pakistan.
P28	White-throated Bushtit (White-throated Tit)	<i>Aegithalos niveogularis</i>	Monotypic. Occurs up to 4000m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests occurs Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit of mid-Kashmir, largely according with Bates & Lowther 1952, whose area ended there, but <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016 to within 100km of Khyber & in an arc including & N of Islamabad to Mingora, but just short of Gilgit.
		<b>Phylloscopidae</b>	IOC2.0 removes <i>Phylloscopus</i> from <b>Sylviidae</b> and places with <i>Seicercus</i> in new family <b>Phylloscopidae</b> , ahead of <b>Acrocephalidae sensu novo</b> , but the use of that family name considered invalid on priority grounds (Ed Dickinson <i>in litt</i> 2012), which decision is asserted in H&M4, where <i>Phylloscopus</i> & <i>Seicercus</i> are retained as families within a much expanded <i>Phylloscopidae</i> : H&M4 uses as rationale the findings of Olsson <i>et al</i> 2005 to : transfer some species from <i>Phylloscopus</i> to <i>Seicercus</i> , producing an expanded <i>Seicercus</i> : <i>Phylloscopus</i> is further reduced by H&M4 erecting the genera <i>Rhadina</i> & <i>Abrornis</i> , again citing Olsson <i>et al</i> 2005. We note these changes in passing, but will await IOC decision on the strength of that arrangement.
P29	Tickell's Leaf Warbler ('Alpine Leaf Warbler')	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	ssp <i>perflavus</i> occurs up to 4800m R&A 2005: nominate extralimital; W limit of breeding range depicted exactly on N Pakistan-Afghanistan border; Nurestan-Badakhshan & E Wakhan Roberts 1992; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map suggests that Afghan occurrence likeliest Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. Strong likelihood of wandering, but habitat declining; occurs up to 5000m, Baker 1997, to treeline Bates & Lowther 1952. R&A 2005, Arlott 2007 & <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps depict similarly. Documentation? <b>NB</b> Extralimital populations from E Tibetan plateau & points E&S split as West Chinese Leaf Warbler <i>P. occisinesis</i> Martens <i>et al</i> 2008 ('Alpine Leaf Warbler' H&M4)
P30	Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i> ( <i>Seicercus coronatus</i> H&M4)	Monotypic. Previously plausibly but erroneously <i>occipitalis</i> was considered a ssp of, then a split from <i>P. coronatus sensu stricto</i> on morphology, but now known to be but distantly related Olsson <i>et al</i> 2005: note Vaurie in 1950s treated <i>occipitalis</i> as full species, but subsequently considered it conspecific with <i>coronatus</i> Olsson <i>et al</i> 2005. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, 1st for UK Oct 2009; must cross the OSME Region. <b>NB</b> Sikkim Meinertzhagen record fraudulent (see history in Garfield 2007), also in Assam Meinertzhagen records misidentified Blyth's Leaf-Warbler <i>P. reguloides</i> – R&A 2005 (see also Garfield 2007).
P31	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i> (formerly <i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i> , to which H&M4 revert)	Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests wintering area ssp <i>xanthoschistos</i> NE Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit W corner of Kashmir, similarly M&P 2000, but <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 places westernmost limit N of Islamabad. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 status resident or altitudinal migrant; any Afghan population therefore isolated. 3 extralimital ssp to E.
		<b>Acrocephalidae</b>	IOC v2.0 removes <i>Acrocephalus</i> & <i>Hippolais</i> from <b>Sylviidae</b> & places with some African genera in new <b>Acrocephalidae</b> , after <b>Phylloscopidae sensu novo</b> . Restructuring of <i>Acrocephalus</i> genus inevitable from Fregin <i>et al</i> 2009; details per taxon, but 2 alternative taxonomic approaches outlined, the broader ( <i>sensu lato</i> , or <i>sl</i> below) providing less phylogenetic information than the other ( <i>sensu stricto</i> : <i>ss</i> ), the 2nd option has some conclusions inevitably based on reduced range of DNA samples. Further work may clarify. H&M4 does not mention any adoption of <i>Calamodus</i> or <i>Notiocichla</i> genera as discussed in Fregin <i>et al</i> 2009. <b>NB</b> Kennerley & Pearson 2010 adopt a nominally conservative taxonomic approach, but emphasise strongly that much change is likely to follow

The status of a number of African and Arabian populations within the *Acrocephalus scirpaceus/A. baeticatus* complex do not align comfortably as spp or ssp. We apply the ORL approach of emphasising that where we 'don't know', we use round brackets. Hering *et al* 2011 found *aviceminae* breeding in date palm & olive trees in Siwa, Egypt in high numbers; the genetic distance from *scirpaceus* & *fuscus* is small, but its ecological niche is very different. They also found 'baeticatus'-type (*ambiguus*) birds in nearby oases just into Libya; *aviceminae* is also strongly bound to mangroves along the Red Sea, and so we consider separate recognition is warranted *pro tem*. Winkler *et al* 2012 further discovered that birds in SW Iberia appeared to belong more to the *baeticatus (ambiguus)* grouping, & that *fuscus* characteristics predominate in SE Europe: they suggest that many populations throughout the *A. [scirpaceus]* superspecies need thorough re-examination to determine their inter-relationships so that clear taxonomic decisions can be made. Olsson *et al* 2016, a wide-ranging in-depth study, found 8 lineages in total, but not all aligned with previous taxonomies. The main difference is that populations in the southern half of Iberia, Morocco & the whole of North Africa probably are best reassigned to a new species, *A. ambiguus* (named 'Brehm's Reed Warbler' informal@OSME) whose ancestry separated from Sahelian *minor (sensu Olsson et al 2016)* 0.53MYa & from the 'southern group' (including *A. baeticatus*, now limited to southern Africa *sensu novo*) 0.64MYa.

PT	Reed Warbler PT	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016, in a wide-ranging study, found 8 lineages ( <i>scirpaceus</i> , <i>fuscus</i> , <i>avicenniae</i> , <i>ambiguus</i> , <i>minor</i> , <i>cinnamomeus</i> , <i>halla</i> , <i>baeticatus</i> : <i>halla</i> & <i>baeticatus sensu novo</i> are (so far) wholly extralimital; <i>ambiguus sp novo</i> may occur in westernmost Egypt). Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016 call for reed warbler complex to be comprehensively re-analysed (Iain Parkin & Knox 2010, Winkler <i>et al</i> 2012; reinforcing the need for redefining ssp boundaries as flagged by Kennerley & Pearson 2010 who had also suggested SW Asian and C Asian populations may be separable since origin of some wintering birds unknown). Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016 via a suite of molecular techniques, found all lineages ( <b>Clades</b> ) diverged before the last glacial maximum; in places, <b>Clades</b> misalign with current understanding: in particular, populations in Iberia & probably all of North Africa E to E Libya belong to a new species <i>A. ambiguus</i> 'Brehm's Reed Warbler', incorporating the ' <i>baeticatus</i> ' individuals of Hering <i>et al</i> 2011; <i>ambiguus</i> may yet be found in western Egypt oases. Hering <i>et al</i> 2016 propose a new ssp of <i>A. scirpaceus</i> , <i>ammon</i> ('Siwa Reed Warbler' Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016: breeds in trees & palms & reeds) for largely sedentary & tree-breeding population at oases in C & W Egypt & W Libya: <i>pro tem</i> , we concur with this arrangement while recognising it may later be placed in <i>baeticatus</i> , <i>avicenniae</i> or <i>ambiguus</i> ! Given that Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016 represents a single line of study, that there is a lack of proof of reproductive isolation between taxa, and that corroborative studies are needed, they conclude that the most conservative taxonomy to adopt would be to consider all lineages as ssp of <i>A. scirpaceus</i> . However, in the ORL, we will accept <i>pro tem</i> the null hypothesis of a lack of free interbreeding to suggest possible full species. Hering <i>et al</i> 2009, 2010a, 2010b, 2011 documented puzzlingly 'odd' breeding populations scattered across N Africa. Kirwan <i>et al</i> 2008 warned individual variations risked blurring morphological & ID conclusions, since documented by significant rate of mislabelled specimens found by Arbabi <i>et al</i> 2014a who also proved <i>avicenniae</i> basal to <i>scirpaceus</i> & <i>fuscus</i> (0.7MYA v 0.48mya). Identity & relationships of isolated small breeding populations at oases in SE Egypt & SW Libya have yet to be finally settled: unfortunately Goodman <i>et al</i> 1986, 1989 had no reason to question ' <i>scirpaceus</i> ' taxa at western Egypt oases.
P32	'Brehm's Reed Warbler' ('Ambiguous Reed Warbler' - Dutch Birding)	<i>Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] ambiguus</i> (formerly <i>A.[s.] baeticatus</i> )	<b>Clade 4</b> in Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016. Monotypic. IOC v2.3 accepted split of <i>baeticatus</i> , which removed this taxon from the OSME Passerine List, making it wholly an African species (see also BoA Vol V) Mangrove Reed Warbler <i>A.(b.) avicenniae</i> thus being separated from this complex (Dickinson 2003 placed this taxon under <i>A. scirpaceus</i> ). However, Olsson <i>et al</i> 2016 further reduce <i>A.(s.) baeticatus</i> to southern Africa ( <b>Clade 6</b> ), & recast Iberian & North African populations into <i>A. ambiguus sp novo</i> , raising possibility of this taxon (part of ' <i>baeticatus</i> ' in Hering <i>et al</i> 2011 in E Libya) in W Egypt. <b>Note that the 'ambiguous-type' taxon at al Jaghbub Oasis Libya is less than 50km from taxon A.s. ammon at Siwa, Egypt; occasional occurrence of the 'ambiguous-type' taxon in the OSME Region is highly probable. Much depends of the final ID of the al-Jaghbub birds.</b> See also Hering <i>et al</i> 2009, 2010. English name informal@OSME, derived from lectotype <i>Calamoherpe ambigua</i> (Brehm 1857). <b>NB1</b> Ash & Atkins 2009 omit any mention. <b>NB2</b> May move to new genus <i>Notiocichla</i> . <b>NB3</b> DNA & vocalisation separation of <i>baeticatus taxa</i> & <i>scirpaceus taxa</i> low, but see Hering <i>et al</i> 2010b for first finding of molecular separation and sympatric breeding with Eurasian Reed Warbler <i>A. scirpaceus</i> in Libya. NE African populations to be better sampled; other factors perhaps involved Kennerley & Pearson 2010
		<b>Locustellidae</b>	IOC v2.0 removed <i>Bradypterus</i> & <i>Locustella</i> from <b>Sylviidae</b> and placed in existing <b>Megaluridae</b> , which followed new families of <i>Phylloscopidae</i> and <i>Acrocephalidae</i> . IOC 2.6 reverted to <b>Locustellidae</b> on priority grounds; H&M4 follows. Kennerley & Pearson 2010 remained with <b>Locustellidae</b> as family name, although they were unable to take into account the most recent molecular phylogenetic conclusions. Alström <i>et al</i> 2011b subsume all Asian <i>Bradypterus</i> in <i>Locustella</i> , noting Common Grasshopper Warbler <i>L. naevia</i> seems closer to former <i>B. major</i> than to other <i>Locustella</i> warblers.
PT	Spotted Bush Warbler PT	<i>Locustella thoracica</i> (Formerly <i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i> )	Alström <i>et al</i> 2008a, H&M4 split into <i>B. (t.) thoracicus</i> (extralimital, E of central Himalayas), West Himalayan Bush Warbler <i>B.kashmirensis</i> and Baikal Bush Warbler <i>B. davidi</i> , which is Siberian Bush Warbler of HBW11. Kennerley & Pearson 2010 treat <i>davidi</i> as separate as do Alström <i>et al</i> 2011b, who also subsume all Asian <i>Bradypterus</i> in <i>Locustella</i> .
P33	West Himalayan Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella kashmirensis</i> (Formerly <i>Bradypterus (thoracicus) kashmirensis</i> )	Monotypic. This W Himalayan taxon might well be a vagrant to suitable habitat in Wakhan valleys, but Kennerley & Pearson 2010 map much more distantly than earlier authors. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 account unsplit from <i>davidi</i> & remains in <i>Bradypterus</i> , but by extrapolation from map, <i>kashmirensis</i> has retreated from Kashmir to the E.
P34	Baikal Bush Warbler (Siberian Bush Warbler) (Père David's Bush Warbler)	<i>Locustella davidi</i> (Formerly <i>Bradypterus [thoracicus] davidi</i> )	Alström <i>et al</i> 2008a map northeasternmost breeding range of ssp <i>suschkini</i> near source of Ob, Altai S-C Russia, within reasonable distance of easternmost Kazakhstan, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 placing just to N. Flint <i>et al</i> 1984, also Sayan Mts Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Shimba 2007 map suggests in easternmost Kazakhstan (as Spotted Bush Warbler <i>B. thoracicus</i> ), <b>BLDZ</b> map as long-distance BM breeding N & E of Mongolia to disparate wintering areas in SE Asia; nominate breeds further E. <b>Documentation?</b>
P35	Chinese Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella tacsanowskia</i> (Formerly <i>Bradypterus tacsanowskii</i> )	Monotypic. Vagrant in Sayan Mts Krasnoyarsk Republic, not far from easternmost Kazakhstan Rogacheva 1992, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 suggesting nearest breeding grounds c600km to NE. <b>NB</b> A wintering population crosses Himalayas to winter S Nepal, N India R&A 2005. Shimba 2007 map suggests westernmost range limit roughly at 90°E.
P36	Gray's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella fasciolata</i>	Monotypic. Easternmost breeding range fairly close to NE Kazakhstan, Flint <i>et al</i> 1984, Shimba 2007, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 & N of NE Kazakhstan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016; BM (wintering Micronesia) only 200km from E-most Kazakhstan <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016. <b>Documentation?</b> Occurs Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. <b>NB</b> Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007. Arlott 2007 map tentatively suggests easternmost Kazakhstan.
		<b>Cisticolidae</b>	Alström <i>et al</i> 2011a, IOC2.7 find that Scrub Warbler <i>Scotocerca inquieta</i> belongs to <b>Cettidae</b> ( <i>qv</i> ) & not <b>Cisticolidae</b> ; H&M4 place in <b>Scotocercidae</b> , as does IOC4.4.
P37	Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>	Monotypic. On-line claim Afghanistan not supported Baker 1997, but mapped Pakistan along border at Khyber; R&A 2005, the same; map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998 on NE Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Roberts 1992 maps into Afghanistan at Khyber and nearly so at Thal to S; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map likewise. Resident from N of Peshawar to W of Multan, Pakistan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. <b>Documentation?</b>
P38	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map <i>rufula</i> in N Pakistan up to N Swat, dense scrub or dry forest, could well occur similar habitat Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W-most distribution N & W of Islamabad.. 5 other, extralimital ssp to SE & E.

P39	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	ssp <i>sindiana</i> locally common along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Kurram (Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009), where may extend irregularly into Afghanistan; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map from Islamabad & Peshawar in N down the Indus valley to Karachi. 6 other extralimital sssp to SE & E to Borneo.
P40	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>	R&A map ssp <i>stewarti</i> in Pakistan close to E Afghan border; W-most distribution just reaches Islamabad in N & Jand in E Pakistan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. 3 other extralimital sssp to E & S.
P41	Cricket Longtail (Cricket Warbler H&M4)	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	Monotypic genus. Recorded Sudan in 120km <sup>2</sup> square 21°N, 31°E just below Egyptian border Nikolaus 1987, possibly an isolate population; <b>BLDZ</b> Nov 2015 maps to Eritrean coast. Also recorded Morocco, N of Sahara Amezian <i>et al</i> 2011
P42	Common Tailorbird (Formerly Indian Tailorbird)	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Roberts 1992 maps ssp <i>guzuratus</i> almost to Afghan border at Thal & Khyber, also Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, <b>BLDZ</b> Nov 2015. Species adaptable to most deciduous habitats. IOC v2.0, H&M4 place in <b>Cisticolidae</b> . 8 other extralimital sssp to S & E. Alström <i>et al</i> 2011c find that <b>Tesia</b> , <b>Tickellia</b> & Mountain Tailorbird <i>Orthotomus cucullatus</i> are nested within <b>Cettia</b> .
		<b>Pellorneidae</b>	<b>Ground-babblers. Transfer from <i>Prinia</i> Olsson <i>et al</i> 2013b, IOC 3.4 draft</b>
P43	Rufous-vented Prinia (Long-tailed Grass Babbler H&M4)	<i>Laticilla burnesii</i> (formerly in <i>Prinia</i> ); Olsson <i>et al</i> 2013b	ssp <i>burnesii</i> widespread along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Khyber (Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009), where possibly extends irregularly into Afghanistan; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W of Dera Ismail Khan & close to Sibi, SE of Quetta. This sp may yet be split H&M4. 2 other extralimital sssp to E & S.
		<b>Leiothrichidae</b>	<b>New family as per IOC 2.6 for certain taxa formerly in <i>Timaliidae</i>. H&amp;M4 extract several spp from <i>Turdoides</i> into new genus <i>Argya</i> on molecular trends indicating monophyly. We await IOC view.</b>
P44	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i> ( <i>Argya earlei</i> )	ssp <i>sonivia</i> mapped to Afghan border NE of Jalalabad Roberts 1992, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, but <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W of Peshawar, halfway to Afghan border; breeds up to 1800m & becomes dominant in irrigated forest plantations. Nominat only other ssp extralimital to E & SE.
P45	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>	IOC2.6 revises R&A 2005 proposal to transfer swathe of spp from <i>Garrulax</i> to <i>Trochalapteron</i> , reducing it slightly, leaving this sp unchanged. However, Moyle <i>et al</i> 2012 revise <b>Timaliidae</b> , proposing inclusion of this taxon in <b>Ianthocincla</b> ; many genera subsumed under subfamily <b>Leiothrichinae</b> . Map in Arlott 2007 suggests ssp <i>whistleri</i> (NE Pakistan) in Region, but possible error of map swap in Arlott 2007 with Variegated Laughingthrush <i>T. [g.] variegatus</i> ( <i>qv</i> in ORL Passerines)? Arlott 2007 may have used maps or same source data as M&P 2000, whose texts agree with R&A texts but not with maps. R&A 2005 maps & species accepted here as correct – westernmost limit isolated (& declining?) population NE Pakistan: <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps distribution as almost reaching Islamabad, but just covering Abbottabad, N to Naran; 3 other extralimital sssp to E as far as China. <b>NB</b> Remaining population Pakistan only in Poonch Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; noisy & conspicuous species. H&E 1970 speculate Vaurie accepted 1 record in Safed Koh but this range is also in Pakistan under the same name (Roberts 1991); no confirmed record from Afghan territory (Steve Madge pers comm to Mike Evans). On WBDB Afghanistan checklist as uncertain - same error as above? We consider OSME Region occurrence now highly unlikely.
		<b>Sylviidae</b>	<b>Considerable body of convincing evidence requires rearrangement of <i>Sylviidae sensu lato</i>, separating new <i>Phylloscopidae</i> &amp; <i>Acrocephalidae</i> and placing <i>Locustella</i> &amp; <i>Bradypterus</i> in existing <i>Megaluridae</i>; see eg Alström <i>et al</i> 2006; IOC v2.0 adopted this major revision, but Alström <i>et al</i> 2011b notes <i>Megaluridae</i> junior to <i>Locustellidae</i>, which is reinstated; also IOC2.7. Voelcker &amp; Light 2011, <i>inter alia</i>, revealed within <i>Sylviidae</i> a genus-level divergence (<b>Clade 1</b> versus <b>Clade 2 + Clade 3</b>); H&amp;M4 retain <i>Sylvia</i> for <b>Clade 1</b> (4 spp) and resurrect <i>Curruca</i> for <b>Clades 2 &amp; 3</b> (25 spp including lumped Lesser Whitethroat sssp), involving considerable resequencing. We note these changes, but await IOC adoption.</b>
PT	Desert Warbler PT	<i>Sylvia nana</i> ( <i>Curruca nana</i> )	Basal to <b>Clades 2 &amp; 3</b> Voelcker & Light 2011. Re Parent Taxon, HBW does not split, nor does BLI (Aug 2016), IOC2.0 & H&M4 split to African Desert Warbler <i>S. deserti</i> . Parkin & Knox 2010 note the lack of published DNA evidence (believed to show wide separation).
P46	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia [n.] deserti</i> (formerly <i>S.n. deserti</i> ) ( <i>Curruca [n.] deserti</i> H&M4)	Resident W Libya; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 confines occurrence W Libya, resident & wintering to c 15% of W-most Libya: Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016 cite 2 records from E Libya; 2 birds S of Tobruk al Adam Dec 1958 105km from Egypt, 4 birds Mar 1970 al Sasir 200km from Egypt near latitude of Dhakia Oasis. Claimed Egypt Avib. Highly likely vagrant. Documentation!
PT	Marmora's Warbler PT	<i>Sylvia sarda</i> ( <i>Curruca sarda</i> H&M4)	<b>PT</b> : Bairlein <i>et al</i> 2006 split to extralimital Balearic Warbler <i>S.[s.] balearica</i> (on morphology, vocalisation & genetics, Anderson <i>et al</i> 2009) BLI disagreed (see ORL Hypothetical List), but IOC2.0, Sangster <i>et al</i> 2012, H&M4 support.
P47	Balearic Warbler (Marmora's Warbler)	<i>Sylvia (sarda) balearica</i> ( <i>Curruca [s.] balearica</i> H&M4)	<b>Clade 2</b> Voelcker & Light 2011. Monotypic. Presumably mostly resident, hence unlikely to reach OSME Region from W Mediterranean, but some small populations (eg Pantelleria, Kuriate Islands) east of all <i>sarda</i> populations; vagrancy possible when very strong spring westerlies occur (not uncommon when depressions over northern Mediterranean countries, eg 35 days out of 42 Cyprus Apr-May 2008). Note that <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map wintering area as including littoral of W Libya, although only as <i>S. sarda sensu lato</i> . <b>Documentation!</b>
PT	Subalpine Warbler PT (Taxa morphologically very similar, esp. ♀♀; syntopic populations consequential of pre-mating isolation (Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008) in winter quarters? cf <i>Ficedula</i> females Sætre & Sæther 2010	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i> ( <i>Curruca cantillans</i> H&M4)	<b>PT</b> history: eg 1 sp (4 sssp) <i>inornata</i> (NW Africa) <i>albistriata</i> (W form: Trieste area down Dalmatian coast. E form: continuously to Greece, Crete, Tyrrhenian islands & W Turkey) <i>cantillans</i> (W form: Iberia & S France. E form Italy) & (the then doubtful) <i>moltonii</i> (=subalpina; often subsumed in <i>cantillans</i> ) of W Mediterranean islands. Later, split into E & W groups (as in ORL to v2.2) arbitrary, less evidence-based. Breeding dynamics (Italian mainland, mostly), DNA & song research supports 3 main mt lineages (but across previous concepts): <i>moltonii</i> (Balearics, Sardinia, Corsica & NW Italy [formerly partly within <i>cantillans</i> continuity]); western <i>cantillans</i> Iberia/S France; Italian (southern) <i>cantillans</i> & <i>albistriata</i> (data lacking <i>inornata</i> assessment Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008). Although <i>moltonii</i> partly cryptic (Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2009), thus occupies different distribution to any ever described under ' <i>subalpina</i> '; warrants species status? IOC v2.3 agreed as Moltoni's Warbler (see Hypothetical List), but Svensson 2013 seemingly finalises relationships into 3 lineages as forecast by Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008, but name <i>subalpina</i> has priority over <i>moltonii</i> . We align with Svensson 2013 & H&M4. Voelcker & Light acknowledge Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008 & Svensson 2013, but their samples did not include all these taxa.

P48	Moltoni's Warbler	<i>Sylvia [cantillans] subalpina</i> (syn. <i>S. moltonii</i> ) ( <i>Curruca [c.] subalpina</i> H&M4)	<b>Clade 2</b> Voelcker & Light 2011. Monotypic. Unlikely spring vagrant; partly-cryptic species; Tyrrhenian islands & parts of NW Italy Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008, 2009; Svensson <i>et al</i> 2009. Most [ <i>cantillans</i> ] taxa winter N of the Sahel or deep in the Sahara ( <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map), but BLI remains with <i>S. cantillans sensu lato</i> , & so the wintering grounds of taxon <i>subalpina</i> are uncertain/unknown: <i>albistriata</i> & <i>cantillans sensu novo</i> probably winter in E Sahara, & thus might reasonably be encountered in SE Egypt. However <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map indicates 2 isolate wintering areas in Libya, either of which may be where <i>subalpina</i> occupies. <b>NB</b> <i>sensu stricto</i> , <i>subalpina</i> has priority over <i>moltonii</i> , but case put by Baccetti <i>et al</i> 2007 to use <i>moltonii</i> on grounds that <i>subalpina</i> 's previous usage covered a much larger population distribution, as emphasised in Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008, 2009: however, IOC4.1 opted to retain <i>subalpina</i> for the amended distribution.
P49	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Main habitat preference ssp <i>hypoleucum</i> Pakistan cane grass, but adaptable to artificial habitats Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; extensive range mapped close to Khyber; perhaps irregular on Afghan side; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps distribution to the broad Kabul River 2.5km after it enters Pakistan; identical riverside agricultural habitats exist upstream on the Afghan side of the border. <b>NB</b> Change to <b>Sylviidae</b> follows Gelang <i>et al</i> 2009; IOC 2.6. 5 other extralimital ssp to E & SE.
PT	Chinese Hill Warbler PT	<i>Rhodopophilus pekinensis</i>	Leader <i>et al</i> 2013 split into Tarim Babbler <i>R. [p.] albosuperciliaris</i> and distantly extralimital Beijing babbler <i>R. [p.] pekinensis</i> . IOC5.3 agrees; H&M4, <b>BLI 2017</b> do not split.
P50	Tarim Babbler (Chinese Hill Warbler; Chinese Bush-dweller, HBW 12)	<i>Rhopopophilus [pekinensis] albosuperciliaris</i> ( <i>Rhopophilus pekinensis</i> )	Now separated from extralimital <i>R. pekinensis sensu novo</i> , both monotypic Leader <i>et al</i> 2013, IOC5.3; breeds westernmost China, may occur where Toxkan He river enters Kyrgyzstan, or on E slopes above river Dar' yoi Oqsu in Tajikistan; extrapolated from Baker 1997: <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps only 30km from S Kyrgyzstan, NE of Kashgar Xinjiang (W Tibet) & Perhaps 200km NNE of E Wakhan, Afghanistan. Earlier estimates were map in Arlott 2007, suggesting likewise; M&P 2000 map westernmost limit at E end Wakhan; Shimba 2007 map suggests resident along these borders but also in easternmost Kazakhstan. HBW 12 suggests just reaches Region as above, but removes from <b>Cisticolidae</b> , as does IOC v2.0. Nominate only other ssp much further E, <b>Documentation!</b> <b>NB</b> Change to <b>Sylviidae</b> follows Johanson <i>et al</i> 2008, Gelang <i>et al</i> 2009; IOC 2.6.
		<b>Zosteropidae</b>	
P51	African Yellow White-eye (Senegal White-eye)	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	African species, at one time reported on-line in Arabia. <b>Documentation?</b> No records Oman, Jens Eriksen pers comm. <b>NB</b> ssp <i>senegalensis</i> fairly common resident in W Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009, N Eritrea away from coast <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map; all other 13 ssp extralimital in Africa by some distance. <b>NB1</b> Husemann <i>et al</i> 2016 found that East African <i>Zosterops</i> were non-monophyletic and that African Yellow White-eye <i>Z. senegalensis</i> was polyphyletic, one population of which being basal to all the <i>Zosterops</i> taxa examined, and the other population being sister to Abyssinian White-eye <i>Z. abyssinicus</i> ; this contradicts findings from earlier microsatellite and sequence data, implying the existence of cryptic taxa within the overall distribution. <b>NB2</b> Pearson & Turner 2016 review the taxonomy of <i>Zosterops</i> in East Africa; we note that <i>Z. senegalensis</i> African White-eye (extralimital) & <i>Z. abyssinicus</i> Abyssinian White-eye appear very over-lumped, perhaps an indicator of the latter's status in the OSME Region, particularly for mangrove-breeding taxa.
		<b>Sturnidae</b>	<b>Many sturnid 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 <i>et al</i> 2015.</b>
P52	Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i> (formerly <i>Sturnus nigricollis</i> )	Monotypic SE Asia exotic. On Avibase website Israel list Aug 2016 as Introduced
P53	Daurian Starling (formerly Purple-backed Starling)	<i>Agropsar sturninus</i> (formerly <i>Sturnus sturninus</i> )	Monotypic. Change of genus follows Lovette & Rubenstein 2007, Lovette <i>et al</i> 2008, Knox <i>et al</i> 2008. Rare vagrant WP Harrop 2007 – must cross OSME Region. Vagrant N Pakistan near Wakhan R&A 2005. Commonly traded cagebird. <b>NB</b> BM from C&N China, E Mongolia to Amur, WV Thailand, Malaysia, Greater Sundas.
P54	Purple Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	Breeds sub-Sahel band E to W Kenya HBW14, no nearer to Region than South Sudan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map; on Avibase website Israel list Aug 2016 as Introduced, but evidence lacking.
		<b>Turdidae</b>	
PT	Plain-backed Thrush PT	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i> (s.l.)	Alström <i>et al</i> 2016 split Plain-backed Thrush <i>Z. mollissima sensu lato</i> into 3 spp: <i>Z. mollissima sensu stricto</i> , Alpine Thrush, absorbing <i>whiteheadi</i> (as not worthy of recognition, synonymous with <i>simlaensis</i> ); <i>Z. griseiceps</i> , Sichuan Thrush: <i>Z. salimalii sp novo</i> Himalayan Forest Thrush. <i>Z. mollissima</i> s.s. occurs from northernmost Pakistan (hence its inclusion here) to India and also in Yunnan, China; the discontinuity may be more apparent than real, but 'Yunnan Thrush' may be a new species. Taxa <i>griseiceps</i> and <i>salimalii</i> are wholly extralimital.
P55	Alpine Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i> (s.s.)	Westernmost distribution of this open-space thrush is C-E Pakistan in a small isolate just E & N of Islamabad.
P56	Grandala	<i>Grandala coelicolor</i>	Occurs Karakoram Pakistan to within 80km of Kamdesh E Afghanistan and 100km from Wakhan, E & N of Islamabad, the W-most contiguous distribution BLDZ map Aug 2016.
P57	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>	Monotypic. NE Afghanistan – map Clement & Hathway 2002, likely habitat, ban oak <i>Quercus incana</i> , HBW10, but not supported R&A 2005. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998, 'common, but very local' in Pakistan. Roberts 1992 text suggests unlikely, as it prefers Himalayan-type moist forest community. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map shows W-most contiguous distribution covering Islamabad and Abbottabad.
PT	Eurasian Blackbird PT {Common Blackbird}	<i>Turdus merula</i>	<b>Re Parent Taxon</b> ; IOC2.0 accepts splits of Tibetan Blackbird <i>T.[m.] maximus</i> and extralimital Indian Blackbird <i>T.[m.] simillimus</i> (R&A 2005).
P58	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus [merula] maximus</i>	Monotypic. Breeds N Pakistan. Bates & Lowther 1952, accustomed to the UK <i>T.[m.] merula</i> , noted this taxon as commonplace 'not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding', but otherwise overlooked it. Given its occurrence both sides of the Himalayas & apparently up to the Pakistan border with Afghanistan as mapped R&A 2012, likely occurs in the Wakhan Pamirs. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 remains with <i>T. merula sensu lato</i> , but shows contiguous distribution across N Afghanistan and N Pakistan: IOC6.3 gives <i>T.m. intermedius</i> as occurring in Afghanistan & <i>T. maximus</i> as occurring in Pakistan - boundary between <i>merula</i> & <i>maximus</i> not indicated (or known?) in any reference found so far.
		<b>Muscicapidae</b>	

P59	White-bellied Redstart (Hodgson's Shortwing)	<i>Luscinia phoenicuroides</i> (IOC) ( <i>Hodgsonius phoenicuroides</i> ) ( <u>not</u> <i>phaenicuroides</i> ) (H&M3 corrigenda 8, IOC 2.6) H&M4 <i>phaenicuroides</i>	H&M4 listed distributions remote from Region for both ssp. Not recorded Afghanistan. However, Bates & Lowther were unusually emphatic "known breeding range extends from NW Frontier"; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map disjunct population in Hindu Kush, c60km NW of Chitral polo ground. Furthermore, Clement & Rose 2015 cite Raja <i>et al</i> 1999 recording breeding at Palas, NW Frontier, just 70km from Afghanistan at same latitude. Moreover, a known Pakistan breeding site at 3350m tree limit is very close to S side of Wakhan where much little-known land is at this altitude Roberts 1992, but R&A 2012 map only in India. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map opts for W-most BM distribution just short of Islamabad: if relict populations exist in high valleys to N & W, none are acknowledged by BLI. <b>NB1</b> spelling correction scientific name H&M4. <b>NB2</b> Sangster <i>et al</i> 2010, Zuccon & Ericsson 2010b find this taxon nested in the <i>Luscinia</i> clade.
PT	White-tailed Rubythroat PT	<i>Calliope pectoralis</i> ( <i>Luscinia pectoralis</i> )	Liu <i>et al</i> 2016 demonstrate through integrative taxonomy that White-tailed Rubythroat <i>C. pectoralis sensu lato</i> merits separation into two species, polytypic Himalayan Rubythroat <i>C. pectoralis sensu strictu</i> (ssp <i>pectoralis</i> & <i>bailloni</i> ) & extralimital polytypic Chinese Rubythroat <i>C. tschebawei</i> (ssp <i>tschebawei</i> & <i>confusa</i> ). Himalayan Rubythroat is listed in Passerine Section.
P60	Chinese Rubythroat	<i>Calliope [pectoralis] tschebawei</i>	2 ssp, extralimital <i>confusa</i> Nepal to Bhutan & nominate N Kashmir through Tibet C China to Myanmar; Kashmir birds may stray into OSME Region, but <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map of unsplit taxa appears unfinished (straight lines across mountains), giving rise to the remote possibility that nominate <i>tschebawei</i> occurs Wakhan, NE Afghanistan.
P61	Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaesus</i>	Very diverse habitat preferences; up to 4600m Himalayas HBW11. Rare Pakistan Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, where ssp <i>whistleri</i> recorded for the first time at up to 3350m: <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps sizeable isolate distribution between Islamabad N to Naran, which mostly is at a lower altitude; ssp <i>chrysaesus</i> remote to E. On higher slopes of Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys?
P62	Mugimaki Flycatcher (Black-and-Orange Flycatcher)	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Monotypic. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, must cross the OSME Region, nearest breeding population from Russian Altai just beyond Kazakh Altai: <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps as BM to within 110km of E-most Kazakhstan; note accepted record Italy Oct 2011 Barezzani & Ebels 2012. Breeds abundantly in southern taiga & Sayan Mts just to NE of Region Rogacheva 1992. Map in Shimba 2007 covers easternmost Kazakhstan – error?
P63	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subrubra</i>	<b>Vulnerable</b> . Monotypic. Rare and local Pakistan Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, Neelum watershed, but only one record in S Chitral; Kashmir population and range declining <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. Any Afghan occurrence might be spring overshoot from Sri Lanka winterers in deciduous temperate forest, in eg Daryā-ye & Konar valleys.
P64	Moussier's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i>	Nearest occurrence to Egypt was 460km at Benghazi Libya Nov 1967 Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016.
P65	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	Monotypic. Common in scattered populations up to 3000m Pakistan Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; any Afghan population in rocky terrain would be in moist temperate forest, possibly in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W-most distribution 40km E of Abbottabad.
P66	White-tailed Stonechat	<i>Saxicola leucurus</i>	Monotypic. R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border, but <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map at lower levels in mid-Pakistan S to Hyderabad.
P67	Grey Bush Chat (Grey Bushchat)	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i> (formerly <i>Saxicola ferrea</i> )	2 ssp, nominate Pakistan & to E&SE; <i>haringtoni</i> S Tibet & China. R&A 2012 place in <i>Rodophila</i> . Occurs up to 3000m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit in Pakistan W of Kashmir; Clement & Rose 2015 map to close to Wakhan corridor in N Pakistan. Roberts 1992 map away from Afghan border, E of Chitral, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 agrees; perhaps in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. Vaurie vaguely cites "from the Afghan border" - Steve Madge <i>in litt</i> to Mike Evans. <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map as BM W-most limit just W of Rawalpindi-Abbottabad axis.
Aliabadian <i>et al</i> 2012 found that open-habitat chats belong to several clades; clades 3 and 4 apply to the OSME Region. Future taxonomic separation of these clades might occur.			
Clade 3			
P68	Heuglin's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe heuglini</i>	Monotypic. Previously regarded as ssp of Red-breasted Wheatear <i>O. bottae</i> , but split since IOC v1.7 at least. May occur (may have occurred when treated as <i>O. bottae</i> ?) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map.
PT	Black-eared Wheatear PT	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	IOC6.3 does not split: molecular analysis of Randler <i>et al</i> 2011 suggests separation merited. Almost certainly individuals of Western Black-eared Wheatear <i>O.(h.) hispanica</i> from N Croatian population pass through W Turkey regularly (especially Aegean islands), Cyprus or Egypt. Aliabadian <i>et al</i> 2012 suggest that Cyprus Wheatear <i>O.cypriaca</i> separated from Western Black-eared Wheatear <i>O.(hispanica) hispanica</i> before Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>O.(h.) melanoleuca</i> did, at which time Pied Wheatear <i>O.pleschanka</i> split from <i>O.(h.) melanoleuca</i> , thus accounting for close DNA relatedness of all these taxa. <b>NB1</b> both <i>hispanica</i> taxa include pale- and dark-throated morphs. <b>NB2</b> Wink 2011 accepts split. <b>NB3</b> Outlaw <i>et al</i> 2010 found in passing that <i>hispanica</i> and <i>pleschanka</i> genetically are very close. Although Randler <i>et al</i> 2011 agree, they provide rationale, which we follow, for separation on song and reaction to dummies. <b>NB4</b> Randler <i>et al</i> 2011 also found mtDNA differences between North African populations of Western Black-eared Wheatear <i>O.(h.) hispanica</i> .
P69	Western Black-eared Wheatear {Black-eared Wheatear}	<i>Oenanthe (hispanica) hispanica</i>	Almost certainly migrant individuals from N Croatian population reach (H&M4) Turkey regularly (especially Aegean islands), Cyprus or Egypt. <b>Documentation?</b> Nearest record taxon <i>hispanica</i> in Libya to Egypt remote in W Libya Isenmann <i>et al</i> 2016.
Aliabadian <i>et al</i> 2012 found that open-habitat chats belong to several clades; clades 3 and 4 apply to the OSME Region. Future taxonomic separation of these clades might occur.			
Clade 4			
P70	Familiar Chat (Red-tailed Chat)	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i> { <i>Cercomela familiaris</i> }	Extralimital African species (7 ssp), either <i>falkensteini</i> (NW Ethiopia) or <i>omoensis</i> (SE Sudan, SW Ethiopia) <b>thought likely to be</b> rare visitor to SW Arabia, likely following rains, HBW10, <b>report of</b> vagrant S Yemen Warr 1992, <b>but by current ID standards not separable from Red-tailed Wheatear</b> <i>O. chrysopygia</i> Mitchell 2017, <b>hence relegation to Hypothetical status</b> . IOC3.5 accepts subsuming all <i>Cercomela</i> in <i>Oenanthe</i> , following Outlaw <i>et al</i> 2010, Sangster <i>et al</i> 2010, Zuccon & Ericsson 2010b. See previous row.



P71	Somali Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe phillipsi</i>	For the distribution map of this species, Clements & Rose 2015 map a line between Cape Gardafui and Socotra, but include Abd-al-Kuri, which lies in the OSME Region. If intentional, this suggests that this highly sedentary species has reached Abd-al-Kuri, but we know of no supporting documentation. If the line includes Abd-al-Kuri unintentionally, then the map in Clement & Rose 2015 is seriously inaccurate. In any case, Abd-al-Kuri is but 70km from Cape Gardafui: a bird at only 500m altitude can see 80km to the horizon, but Mount Šāliḥ at 700+m, the highest point on Abd al -Kuri, can be seen from Cape Guardafui, whose hinterland rises rapidly to 1000+m.
		<b>Passeridae</b>	
P72	Père David's Snowfinch (Small Snowfinch)	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i> (formerly <i>Montifringilla davidiana</i> )	2 ssp: <i>potanini</i> westernmost Russian breeding range SE Russian Altai, where scarce, very close to easternmost Kazakhstan, Flint <i>et al</i> 1984, Clement <i>et al</i> 1993. M&P 2000 map near NE Kazakhstan border; resident in W Mongolia Bräunlich 2012; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps no closer in Mongolia than c300km from Kazakhstan. Nominate remote S Mongolia, NC China. <b>NB1</b> HBW14 uses English name of 'Ground-sparrow' for <i>Pyrgilauda</i> taxa and maps remote from Region, but it has occurred in SW Tuva Republic, close to easternmost Kazakhstan Rams 1991. <b>NB2</b> In Tibet, breeds in abandoned black-lipped pika <i>Ochotona curzomia</i> burrows Li <i>et al</i> 2013.
P73	Blanford's Snowfinch (Plain-backed Snowfinch)	<i>Pyrgilauda blanfordi</i> (formerly <i>Montifringilla blanfordi</i> )	3 ssp, nominate Ladakh to China, other ssp further E: winters in a wide area N of Himalayas & related mountain chains <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. Occurs up to 5500m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests resident close to E end of Wakhan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit E of Kashmir. M&P 2000 map in China to Pakistan border just S of Wakhan. <b>NB</b> HBW14 uses English name of 'Ground-sparrow' for <i>Pyrgilauda</i> taxa & maps remote from Region.
		<b>Ploceidae</b>	Many ploceid 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 <i>et al</i> 2015.
P74	African Masked Weaver {Southern Masked Weaver}	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	Monotypic; from southern Africa. Still on Avibase website Israel list Aug 2016 as Introduced; confusion with another weaver species?
P75	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>	African species, 2 ssp; likely <i>craspedopterus</i> of South Sudan source of Region introduction. Nearest population N Ethiopia on Eitrea border. Likely breeds small numbers Dubai Aspinall 2010. Possibly established for some time due to confusion with Southern Red Bishop <i>E. orix</i> (qv ORL Passerine section).
		<b>Estrildidae</b>	Many estrildid 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 <i>et al</i> 2015.
P76	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	African species, 4ssp, 2 ssp close to Region: <i>alexanderi</i> N Eritrea & SE Sudan (to coast BLDZ Aug 2016), Ethiopia, Somalia to SE South Sudan; nominate Sudan, likely that recorded Sudan in 120km <sup>2</sup> square just below Egyptian border, 21°N, 31°E Nikolaus 1987, likely vagrant. Single escape record Oman 1998 <b>OBL7</b> .
P77	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	African species, 7 ssp, 3 close to Region: <i>rhodopsis</i> Sudan to Red Sea coast Port Sudan, Nile valley to N of Amara West <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 & N Eitrea coast, N& W South Sudan; <i>brunneiceps</i> SE South Sudan, SW, C&E Ethiopia; <i>somaliensis</i> S Djibouti, NW Somalia, SE Ethiopia to ports of E Kenya, E Tanzania <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016. Introduced Egypt WBDB 2008 checklist, on WCMC list as extirpated introduced breeder, but lacks reference & any indication of duration. HBW15 maps ( <i>rhodopsis</i> ?) very close to Egypt-Sudan border along Nile Valley
P78	Chestnut Munia (formerly ssp of Black-headed Munia as per H&M4)	<i>Lonchura atricapilla atricapilla</i>	Black-headed Munia may split, as long proposed, into 3 spp, H&M4. awaits better sampling density & further molecular techniques, but IOC has split; <i>L. atricapilla</i> has 7 ssp. Escapes encountered in UAE, but breeding status uncertain Aspinall & Porter 2011. Natural distribution E India eastwards <b>BLDZ</b> map Aug 2016.
P79	Java Sparrow	<i>Lonchura oryzivora</i> (formerly <i>Padda oryzivora</i> )	<b>Vulnerable</b> . Monotypic. Rapidly diminishing as a Java island endemic through over-trapping. Very popular cagebird worldwide. Escapes encountered in UAE, but breeding status uncertain Aspinall & Porter 2011, single 1999-2005 record Oman <b>OBL7</b> .
		<b>Viduidae</b>	
P80	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	Monotypic brood parasite, specialising in Estrildid finches: nearest population N Eritrea, to coast <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016.. Escapes encountered in UAE, but breeding status uncertain Aspinall & Porter 2011 due to seeming lack of host species: Indian Silverbill <i>Euodice malabarica</i> one possibility.
		<b>Prunellidae</b>	
P81	Kozlov's Accentor (Mongolian Accentor)	<i>Prunella koslowi</i>	Monotypic. H&M4 place from W Mongolia to points E, and so probably not far from region; occurs on plains in winter. Inclusion here suggested Axel Bräunlich <i>in litt</i> : <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W to within 300km of E-most Kazakhstan; suitable habitat exists between Mongolian mountain ranges in intervening distance.
		<b>Fringillidae</b>	
P82	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Procarduelis nipalensis</i> (Zuccon <i>et al</i> 2011; IOC3.3) (formerly <i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i> )	2 ssp, <i>kangrae</i> in Kashmir, apparently occurs up to 3300m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests breeding E Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit 200km E of easternmost Pakistan, as does M&P 2000 and also Roberts 1992, where scarce at c3000m. HBW15 maps remote from Pakistan to E; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 maps W-most population 2500km SE straddling the Nepal-India border. Nominate E of W Nepal & in China.
P83	Sillem's Rosefinch (Sillem's Mountain Finch)	<i>Carpodacus sillemi</i> ( <i>Leucosticte sillemi</i> )	<b>Data Deficient</b> . Sangster <i>et al</i> 2016 show by molecular analysis that this taxon is a full species belonging to <i>Carpodacus</i> , not <i>Leucosticte</i> . Its lack of red pigmentation is likely to represent a secondary loss related to differences in carotenoid metabolism, in dietary intake of carotenoids or in exposure to environmental factors affecting pigmentation Inouye <i>et al</i> 2001, Olson & Owens 2005. The large distance (1500 km) between the specimen collection site (Western Tibet, 1929) and the sightings in 2012 and 2013 (Western Xinghai) suggest that <i>C. sillemi</i> is a wide-ranging species that probably occurs only locally at low densities at 4500-5400m, possibly due to narrow habitat or dietary requirements. Much topography within that altitude band also exists west and north of the collection site within the easternmost part of the OSME Region.
<b>Tietze <i>et al</i> 2013 established rosefinch clades</b>			
Clade 3a - also includes extralimital Vinaceous Rosefinch <i>C. vinaceus</i> , Taiwan Rosefinch <i>C. formosanus</i> , Spot-winged Rosefinch <i>C. rodopeplus</i> , Sharpe's Rosefinch <i>C. verreauxii</i> (related closely to Pink-browed Rosefinch <i>C. rhodochroa</i> ), and Dark-rumped Rosefinch <i>C. edwardsii</i> .			

P84	Pink-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rodochroa</i>	Monotypic IOC3.3. Recorded Chokpak Kazakhstan before 2000 Dernjatin 2005. On-line reports for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, but no supporting data in Clement <i>et al</i> 1993. Erroneously mapped Arlott 2007 narrow NE-SW breeding area Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Afghanistan. To 3000m Pakistan Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998 also Bates & Lowther 1959 who found it only on south-facing slopes, main Himalayan range. Maps Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 HBW15 indicate isolated nature of any Afghan population. <b>Nearest mapped population to Region near Kangra, Ladakh, c.530km away BLDZ May 2017. Chokpak record considered questionable.</b>
P85	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	Arlott 2007 indicated occurrence in Region in NW Kazakhstan & likely occasional irruptive occurrence further S. This species' irruptive movements usually short -distance, but although long-distance irruptions have been documented, none are adequate for Kazakh records to meet modern ID standards. It is likely that the species has occurred in W Kazakhstan, but until an accepted record is published, this taxon is considered hypothetical. <b>NB</b> This taxon not genetically distinct from Common Crossbill <i>L. curvirostra</i> , but is distinct morphologically, & mates assortatively Summers <i>et al</i> 2007, Johnsen <i>et al</i> 2010.
		<b>Emberizidae</b>	
P86	Crested Bunting	<i>Emberiza lathamii</i> (Formerly <i>Melophus lathamii</i> )	Alström <i>et al</i> 2008b synonymise in <i>Emberiza</i> , H&M4 do not. Known to breed up to 150km from Afghan border in Swat district, Pakistan; <b>BLDZ</b> Aug 2016 map as BM from Charhoi (NE of New Mirpur City) N & NE to close to Mingora, c50km from Afghan border. Closely associated with 'Chir' pine <i>Pinus roxburghii</i> tracts at 1000-1800m asl. Satellite IR-response analysis could identify <i>P. roxburghii</i> tracts in nearby Afghanistan. Not site-faithful during migration Bates & Lowther 1959.
P87	Yellow-browed Bunting	<i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i> ( <i>Schoeniclus chrysophrys</i> H&M4)	H&M4 transfer to new genus <i>Schoeniclus</i> . Long-distance migrant from Russian breeding grounds N of Mongolia & China borders to S China. rare WP vagrant Harrop 2007 – probably crosses the N OSME Region. Common mid-taiga Krasnoyarsk Republic to N of Region Rogacheva 1992.

### Forecast Hypothetical Taxa – additional notes

- Conspicuous by their absence from the OSME Region are a whole range of migratory Nearctic breeding taxa that have occurred as vagrants in Europe. Also, many eastern Palearctic migrants have demonstrated 180° misorientation (Berthold 1999). A Great Circle course brings them through the Region, where there is a very low observer density. Other vagrant migrant types expected in the Region are western (especially Alaskan) Nearctic taxa, such as American Pipit (IOC = Buff-bellied Pipit) *Anthus (r.) rubescens*, which if amongst Palearctic *A. (r.) japonicus* in a flock would not only be easy to overlook, but also might not even be searched for by the very few birdwatchers and ornithologists in the vastnesses of the OSME Region. Doubtless readers can think of other candidates, but it would not be unreasonable to predict a *Vireo* sp or *Dendroica* sp occurring in the OSME Region in future. In the north of the Region, we might reasonably expect misoriented North American forest specialist species, because quite a number have occurred as vagrants in Europe, having crossed the Atlantic, probably often driven by strong westerly winds. Furthermore, the appearance of Nearctic taxa in the OSME Region is more likely than might be at first thought, taking as an example the annual migration cycle of the Alaskan population of Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* – these birds migrate across Asia to winter south of the Sahara (Bairlein 2008) and on their return. In any case, analysis of the stable-isotope ratios of feathers of vagrants might indicate accurately the breeding and wintering areas - see Fox & Bearhop 2008.
- Radio-tagging Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* from the eastern breeding grounds in E Kazakhstan has shown that this species uses the Wakhan and Khyber Passes to reach the Indian Subcontinent (Rob Sheldon RSPB 2008 presentation). Other species (some not yet in the ORL?) may migrate this way across Afghanistan.
- Improvements in seabird ID criteria will increase accuracy of Indian Ocean sightings (ORL boundaries: southern 10°S, eastern reaches 70°), but numbers of potential observers have greatly reduced (fewer RN ships, fewer RNBWS members, automation reducing merchant ship crews) and so annual totals of such pelagic records will be greatly reduced. BirdLife International's Seabird Tracking and Marine IBA databases represent a step function improvement in seabird knowledge.

### Species removed from Hypothetical List

		<b>Fregatidae</b>	
A	<del>Magnificent Frigatebird</del>	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	<b>08/08.</b> Monotypic. Vagrant Israel WBDB 2008 checklist; error, now deleted. Mike Evans pers comm
		<b>Strigidae</b>	
B	<del>Spot-bellied Eagle Owl (Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl) (Forest Eagle Owl)</del>	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	<b>11/08.</b> Map in König <i>et al</i> 1999 in error covering E Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, although text disagrees. Maps in R&A 2005 & K&W 2008 correct, showing species as remote even from Pakistan in C Himalayas. 650km from Region.
		<b>Campephagidae</b>	
D	<del>Short-billed Minivet</del>	<i>Pericrocotus brevirostris</i>	<b>05/08.</b> 4 ssp, 3 remote in China, nominate NE India nearest. Paludan 1959 lists as summer visitor E Afghanistan, ssp <i>brevirostris</i> , 6 being collected Nurestan 1948, but subsequently only Long-tailed Minivet <i>P. ethologus</i> shown to occupy western range; earlier ID confusion now apparent. Bates & Lowther 1952 also in error for Kashmir.
		<b>Muscicapidae</b>	
E	<del>Rufous-breasted Bush Robin</del>	<i>Tarsiger hyperythrus</i>	<b>08/08.</b> Monotypic. 'Uncertain', WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist. However, likely originated in misquoted 'Afghanistan' on Sayer's website; the Steve Madge record actually is from Nepal (the westernmost range) - Steve Madge <i>in litt</i> to Mike Evans. <b>NB</b> <i>Tarsiger</i> may yet be subsumed in <i>Luscinia</i> .
F	<del>Jerdon's Bushchat</del>	<i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	<b>11/15.</b> Monotypic. On Avibase website Afghan list, unsourced: most unlikely, breeds NE India, Nepal & points E.
		<b>Motacillidae</b>	
G	<del>Long-legged Pipit</del>	<i>Anthus pallidiventris</i>	<b>01/09.</b> Web entry, as having bred in Egypt. Assessed as error instead of Long-billed Pipit <i>A. similis</i> , whose 2 ssp inhabit western Africa.