### The OSME Region List of Bird Taxa, Part E: HYPOTHETICAL TAXA, Version 6.2: January 2021

The scale of illegal bird killing annually in the OSME Region is significant in conservation terms: Brochet et al 2016 (also cited as 2017) provide estimates for Mediterranean countries (11-36 million birds) & Brochet et al 2019 for Arabia, Iran & Iraq (879,000-31,000,000 passerines).

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 Please do not cite them in any formal correspondence or papers.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.

#### Notes
- & Status abbreviations — BM=Breeding Migrant, SB/SV=Summer Breeder/Visitor, PM=Passage Migrant, W=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 English names: unused IOC names appear in curly brackets {…}, alternative names in round brackets (…), superseded (re-allocated) names in square brackets […].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 of 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.**

#### 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.

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

#### Light gold shading in rows indicates recent or data-driven major conservation concerns.

#### Rows shaded thus and with white text contain additional explanatory information on problem taxon groups as and when necessary.

#### Notes
- GT=Group Taxon
- PT=Parent Taxon
- BM=Breeding Migrant
- SB/SV=Summer Breeder/Visitor
- PM=Passage Migrant
- W=Winter Visitor
- RB=Resident Breeder
- *\[= monotypic species (not split).

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

#### Non-Passerines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species or Taxon</th>
<th>Working Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatidae</td>
<td>Anas brachyrhyncha</td>
<td>Monotypic. Considered vagrant Turkey Kirwan et al 1999, but removed from Turkish List Kirwan et al 2008; has reached Bulgaria in 2009 in a flock of Greater White-fronted Goose A. albifrons Pavet Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, only 195km from European Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N1 Pink-footed Goose</td>
<td>Anser brachyrhyncha</td>
<td>Parent Taxon: possible potential split, but separation distance 1%, strongly supporting ssp status Rucoken et al 2000; treated here as separate groups within A. anser. NB Collar 2013 counsels caution on conflicting morphological/reproductive isolation and molecular data as to assigning rank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT Greylag Goose PT</td>
<td>Anser anser</td>
<td>Monotypic. Considered vagrant Turkey Kirwan et al 1999, but removed from Turkish List Kirwan et al 2008; has reached Bulgaria in 2009 in a flock of Greater White-fronted Goose A. albifrons Pavet Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, only 195km from European Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N2 Western Greylag Goose (Greylag Goose)</td>
<td>Anser anser</td>
<td>Monotypic. Considered vagrant Turkey Kirwan et al 1999, but removed from Turkish List Kirwan et al 2008; has reached Bulgaria in 2009 in a flock of Greater White-fronted Goose A. albifrons Pavet Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, only 195km from European Turkey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N3 Mandarin Duck</td>
<td>Aix galericulata</td>
<td>Monotypic. Considered vagrant Turkey Kirwan et al 1999, but removed from Turkish List Kirwan et al 2008; has reached Bulgaria in 2009 in a flock of Greater White-fronted Goose A. albifrons Pavet Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, only 195km from European Turkey.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### PT Deconstruction of Anas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Species or Taxon</th>
<th>Working Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>This change makes Anas monotypic</td>
<td>IOC7.3 accepts the H&amp;M4 re-sequencing of Anas: by the erection of 3 new genera. Baikal Teal now forms the monotypic genus Sibiroinetta; Garganey, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler are transferred to Spatula as the OSME Region representatives; Gadwall, Falcated Duck and Eurasian Wigeon likewise become the OSME Region representatives of Mareca.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N4 Hotentoc Teal</td>
<td>Spatula hotentota (IOC7.3, H&amp;M4, BirdLife 2016) (formerly Anas hotentota)</td>
<td>Monotypic. Breeds Kharloum &amp; Omdurman Sewage Ponds Jenner &amp; Taha 2016: with little observer coverage N alike the Nile, 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 et al 2015, BLDZ map Sep 2018 extends into SW Djibouti, but does not approach Khorount as yet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Spot-billed Duck PT</td>
<td>IOC7.3 accepts split; also R&amp;A 2005, AOU. NB Koblik &amp; Arkhipov 2014 revised all older former USSR records to update to modern taxonomy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Indian Spot-billed Duck**

*Anas poecilorhyncha*


---

**Baker’s Pochard**

*Aythya bakeri*

**Phasinidae**

Changes to previous taxonomies from revised relationships in eg Crowe et al 2006. H&M4 ressequencing genera NB Many phasinid spp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2015.

**Blank-billed Cапacander**

*Phalaropus ochratus*

2 ssp: nominate much nearer to region (likely any modern records due to severe range contraction, but has reached 89º36’E, 67º30’N in Krassny Republican Republic Ogughev 1992. Near-Mongolian population in Amur region, N Mongolia at 55º48’, 117ºE see 223km from easternmost Kazakh region mapped by Schweizer et al 2009. Much no more than the 86º30m mapped in BLDZ Jul 2019. Name capacity has already over paratype H&M4.

**Yellow-necked Spurfowl**

*Melanopptila leucogaster*

Monotypic. Northermost known range E South Sudan, but its distribution reaches coasts of southern Eritrea through Djibouti (ssp infuscatus) also to Bosaso in Somalia BLDZ Jul 2019; transit of Bab al-Mandab Strait to Yemen via island-hopping well within capabilities (longest flight 18km). Nominate breeds on Dahlak Archipelago Aziz 2004. Escapes of introduced birds of this species encountered in UAE, but no proven breeding Aspinall & Porter 2011.

**Tibetan Partridge**

*Perdix hodgsoniae*

Occurs easternmost Ladakh BLDZ map Jul 2019, population overall is large, not known to be declining. Possibly occurs westernmost Tibet close to Afghan Wakhân, but no certain records closer than 500km from Region.

**Japanese Quail**

*Coturnix japonica*

Monotypic. Limited possibility of irruption from N-C Mongolian population into Kazakhstan, particularly since in steady decline in wild BLDZ Jul 2019, but commonly bred, cross-bred and domesticated (Wikipedia summary) for introductions, legal or otherwise. NB Sanchez-Donoso et al 2012 identified genetically the domestic form as releases into the wild in Spain; the assumption is that knowing or otherwise, veterinarians had certified the releases as Common Quail *C. coturnix*. This may also have happened in the OSME Region.

**Rain Quail (Black-breasted Quail)**

*Coturnix coronandecula*

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 Apr 2019 gives summer distribution, an isolate, just NNE of Dera Ismail Khan, some 120km from Afghan border. Increase in irrigation ponds may assist during irruptions. On Avibase website Afghanistan list Aug 08 without source cited; similarly Ladakh 2003 list.

**New Junglefowl**

*Rallina eurystica*

Data Deficient. Known from a single female specimen from Xi’anjiang, at c300km, not too distant from Afghan Wakhân & easternmost Tajikistan; Ayé et al 2012, R&A 2012 suggest worth including. Leader 2009 summarises most of what was known about this taxon; its putative wintering area is the Thar desert and the Rann of Kutch area of the NW Indian subcontinent. BLDZ Sep 2018 maps possible breeding area as the whole of the Tibetan Plateau (Xi’anjiang). 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. However, the genetic analysis of Schweizer et al 2020 concludes that specimen is most probably synonymous with European Nightjar *C. europaeus plumes*, although its small size is not yet fully explained. We retain pro tem in the Hypothetical List in the event of any differing slant from deeper analysis.

**Jungle Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus indicus*

May wander, ssp indicus, from NW India BLDZ map Jul 2019; also resident C & S India H&M4 (IOC give only C & S India) where common resident, in conditions of strong ENE winds? Recently split from C. jotaka Grey Nightjar IOC4.1: see Non-passerine List.

**Vaurie’s Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus centralasicus* (synonym)

Monotypic. Mostly resident in Xinjiang, wintering locally in China, but possibly extralimital (?). Unlikely any modern records due to severe range contraction, but has reached 86º30’E, 67º30’N in Krassny Republican Republic Ogughev 1992. Near-Mongolian population in Amur region, N Mongolia at 55º48’, 117ºE see 223km from easternmost Kazakh region mapped by Schweizer et al 2009. Much no more than the 86º30m mapped in BLDZ Jul 2019. Name capacity has already over paratype H&M4.

**Savanna Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus affinis*

As an abundant BM, ssp monticulus occurs NE Pakistan almost to border near Thal (Roberts 1991, Ceere 2010, R&A 2012), overshoots are likely at times: BLDZ Jul 2019 maps as summer breeder practically to Afghan border from Mingora to W of Peshawar to SSW of Dera Ismail Khan almost to Khob: at several points, this area is 2-20km from Afghan border; many taxa have definitely occurred is unclear; taxa would have to be examined in the hand. We retain pro tem in the Hypothetical List in the event of any differing slant from deeper analysis.

**H&M4 ressequencing ORL Apodidae genera species**

We remain with IOC. Tietze et al 2015 show ancestral Hirundapus as originating before all other swift genera that occur in the OSME Region: ancestral Aerodramus preceded ancestral Cypsiurus, which in turn preceded Tachymytes and Apus.

**Fork-tailed Swift**

*Apus pacificus* (sensu latu)

IOC2:10 reverts to English name Pacific Swift for only 2 taxa, pacificus (breeding in Kazakhstan in Alai) & extraalimital (?) kurodae (which now amended to kuroa, because the type collected for pacificus sensu lato may have been within kurodae H&M4); split off are Salim Ali’s Swift *salimalii*, Bl rift’s Swift *A. cooki* (see ‘NB’ below): Leader 2011 (on morphological grounds). Taxon leuconyx (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; taxon NB1 would have to be split: pacificus broad white (15-25mm) rump Liten 2017; salimalii narrow white throat patch (Wikipedia); leuconyx narrow (10mm) white rump (Wikipedia), broad pale (not white) throat patch; cooki iridescent green sheen & shallow tail fork (Wikipedia). NB2 H&M4 suggests taxon cooki relates more to Dark-rumped Swift *A. acucaudata* (both extraalimital): indeed Päckert et al 2012 emphasise that cooki and acucaudata are closer to than to the other taxon, but also that more distinctive marker molecules for separation may be needed.

**Blyth’s Swift**

*Apus leuconyx*

Following split of Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus sensu stricto*, taxon leuconyx probably occurs in Iran, Oman & UAE as a vagrant or winterer, from its mid- to high altitude breeding grounds. Conversely, any recorded Arabia or Iran near start of breeding season to be likely to be *A. leuconyx*. R&A 2012 map as summer breeder W as far as NW India. Interpretation of BLDZ map Jul 2019: A pacificus s l suggests leuconyx is a summer breeder just into NE Pakistan above Islamabad.

**Nubian Bustard**

*Neotis nuba* (Ardeotis nuba H&M4)

Near-Threatened. Monotypic. May just wander 150km to southern Egypt from its distribution in northern Sudan, where now scarce. BLDZ map Mar 2019 shows westernmost distribution reached W Red Sea coast S of Port Sudan, from Suakin 70km southwards...
| Page 19 | Lesser Florican | Sypheotides indicus | Eirengerina moniloptera | Cates (only 19a) in Zutal 1911 (as Sphyæta aurita) as irregular (migray = irregular) at Jand in SE (Baluchistan) and B-C (leastestim Mollespam plan) into Iraq. No known specimens, but typical greyish habitat patchy in both habitat. Present evidence suggests 172, but R&A 2012 map Clouds (C). a similar breeding range as suggested by Daldorph, K. H. & Sdp. as DsLBZ Jul 2010, then border; Collar et al. 2018 note most recent record in Pakistani Baluchistan was 1967 and confirm overall decline. Former occurrence Afghanistan possible. NB: 1967 & Boxwell 1967-1969, under 'Little Bustard', states: "...上海市 may here be made of a few birds 2 miles from Abu Tall at Mosul in January 42; by giraffe & Giraffe. This was assayed by Daldorph (1988) at 197. They were then reported so that in 1977-1978 (as Sphyæta aurita) it describes it as a huge and very long necked quail, not bigger than a Houdabra. It would be very interesting if this bird's presence could be confirmed..." It may be a chance bird? Richard Porter pers comm. NB: Cunning 1961 states: "1961 a single Stubbard, in Bushire, Iran, the presence, it was seen during a stopover: the first was made a specimen, sent to England, but was lost in transit; the second was eaten. "This much is certain that both birds were a very small, but not infrequent" - it might have been Lesser Florican is strengthened by Cunning's familiarity with the Little Bustard. This text below is wrong: NB3 Sphyæta aurita & Sphyæta indicus or indus are agnostic.

| Page 20 | Greater Coucal | Centropus sinensis | Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following immigration projects in Pakistani.ssp. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following immigration projects in Pakistani.ssp. D... | Endangered AFG sp. RNBWS report Farasan Islands Feb 82 (16:15:0.0N+41:3:0.0E) unconfirmed; report of breeding Sheikh Monotypic. Possibly E Afghanistan, HBW4 map; likely very rare there R&A 2005, uncommon in west of range. A&M Columbidae


| Page 22 | Red-chested Cuckoo | Cuculus soloitis | Easternmost resident distribution BLDZ Aug 2020 closely resembles that of African Cuculco C. gularis, not too distant from Yemen. | Westernmost resident distribution BLDZ Aug 2020 is essentially identical to that of Himalayan Cuculco C. saturatus, near New Mirpur City, Pakistan, only 270 km from Afghan border at Torkham.

| Page 23 | Indian Cuckoo | Cuculus gularis | Westernmost resident distribution BLDZ Aug 2020 is essentially identical to that of Himalayan Cuculco C. saturatus, near New Mirpur City, Pakistan, only 270 km from Afghan border at Torkham. | Westernmost resident distribution BLDZ Aug 2020 is essentially identical to that of Himalayan Cuculco C. saturatus, near New Mirpur City, Pakistan, only 270 km from Afghan border at Torkham.

| Page 24 | African Cuckoo | Cuculus gularis | Westernmost resident distribution BLDZ Aug 2020 is essentially identical to that of Himalayan Cuculco C. saturatus, near New Mirpur City, Pakistan, only 270 km from Afghan border at Torkham. | Monotypic. Given the likely lack of differentiation in records in Ethiopia between this taxon (rains-follower, intra-tropical migrant and powerful flier) and Common Cuculco C. canorus (Ash & Atkins 2009), overshoot into Yemen is possible; see also Redman et al. 2009. BLDZ Aug 2020 map breeding distribution to 2 isolates close to coast: Eritrea-N Ethiopia and Ethiopia-EW Somalia.

| Page 25 | Pteroclididae | | | Pteroclididae

| Page 26 | Painted Sandgrouse | Nyctiphrax indicus (Pterocles indicus) | Several sources without citation place in Afghanistan, H&M4 disagrees. Monotypic. Source of confusion likely Al & Ripley 1983, citing nominate ssp as indicus east of Pakistan's western mountains & very similar ssp arabicus (then named Close-barred Sandgrouse) occurring from mountainous western Pakistan west to Afghanistan, Iran & Iraq. The latter taxon later assiated correctly to Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse. A Sandgrouse distribution is given ORL Non-passerine list. Al & Ripley 1968-68 is apparently intended to comply with this change (Steve Madge in litt to Mike Evans). Occurrence of Painted Sandgrouse in Afghanistan not impossible, but not proven. NB: Correction now apparent in Sep 2018 BLDZ maps for indicus & lichtensteini. However, the map for indicus places the westernmost distribution in Pakistan to within 5km of the Afghan border in the Lower Kurram for some 10km of the River Kura and descends from Afghanistan, suitable habitat being present along its length; overshoot into Afghanistan is likely here.

| Page 27 | Speckled Wood Pigeon | Columbidae | H&M4 mildly resesquence ORL Columbidae genera, placing Turtur & Oena lasta. | H&M4 mildly resequences ORL Columbidae genera, placing Turtur & Oena lasta.


| Page 29 | Diamond Dove | Geopelia cuneata | Escape at Sohar farm. Oman Dec 2012 OBRC. Well-adapted to aridity in its native Australia, but no evidence of breeding in Emirates. | Regular wintering E-C Pakistan ssp. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp. D... | Regular wintering E-C Pakistan ssp chlorigaster, has increased wintering range to new irrigation projects (Roberts 1991), which is now common in the adjacent OSME Region. Population increasing BLDZ Jul 2019 and resident to Indus valley in S, then NE to below Islamabad.

| Page 30 | Yellow-footed Green Pigeon | Treron phoenicopterus | Regular wintering E-C Pakistan ssp. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp. D... | Regular wintering E-C Pakistan ssp chlorigaster, has increased wintering range to new irrigation projects (Roberts 1991), which is now common in the adjacent OSME Region. Population increasing BLDZ Jul 2019 and resident to Indus valley in S, then NE to below Islamabad.


Irregular after rains; ssp tanki possible overshoot to Afghan Kurram valley from Pakistan: see map Grimmett et al 2009, R&A 2012, citing 'movements unclear',...BLDZ Jul 2019 maps summer breeding to within 15km of Afghan border past Peshawar & within 5km along Kabul River; ample scattered riverside areas of cultivation all the way to Kabul. NB Only the female calls: polyanous.

**Burhinidae**

NB Livezey 2010 separate as sub-families the Burhinus taxa into Lesser Thick-knees and includes Eulasus in Greater Thick-knees

PT **Eurasian Stone-curlew**

PT (Eurasian Thick-knee) Burhinus oedicnemus (senus lato) Re Parent Taxon, IOC v2.0 accepts split of Indian Stone-curlew Burhinus [oedicnemus] indicus R&A 2005, as do BLI; however the two taxa are separated in Pakistan by a corridor 20-70km wide that lacks correlation with any dividing topography or habitat. H&M remain unsplit; noting lack of genetic data Martens & Bahn 2007, but Inskipp & Collar 2015 note del Hoyo & Collar 2014 agree split on Tobias et al 2010 criteria. See non-Passerine List.

**Charadriidae**

NB Sangster et al 2012 recommend Pluvialis precede Vanellus.

**Scopoliidae**

BOU (Sangster et al 2012) & CSNA both resequenced Tringids (including Actitis, Xenus et al). Gibson & Baker 2012 (in a wide-ranging molecular study) & Banks 2012 proposed subservient several monotypic calidrids in Calidris; 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&M resequenced families, genera & within genera; IOC7.2 has limited changes to the sequence within Calidris; 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 subservient Tringyltes, Limicola & Philomachus in Calidris, Heterocephalus & Actitis in Tringa, then Huang & Tu 2016 accordingly both Tringa (+ Heteroscelus) & Calidris in monophyly; although Huang & Tu also establish clades within both tribes. Now we align with these clades and subsume Tringytles, Limicola, Philomachus & Actitis accordingly. Huang & Tu 2016 also demolish the case for *Ereunetes* as a full genus for those taxa within Calidris (Laurent Ratly in litt).

**Glaeolidae**

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

**Laridae**

The use of Sternaeidae below aligns with BOU TSC8. Since Pons et al 2005, there have been no larger-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 & Dutch Binding. H&M resequences families ICI less & within genera but we retain the non- alignment of biometric & morphological data (eg as consistently documented by Pierre Yésoù) 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 associated with geographical locations in distinct clades).

**PT American Herring Gull**

PT Larus smithsonianus PT acknowledges Sangster et al 2007, Collinson et al 2008 (who note that the case for vegae as a species awaits further research). Pierre Yésoù (pers comm) is certain that the strong diagnostic phenotypic differences between these Asian and N American taxa recorded in Alaska demand a different conclusion, namely L. vegae vegae and L. vegae monticola. 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&M include vegae & monticola in smithsonianus.
| **PT East Siberian Gull** | Larus (smithsonianus) vegae | Here we agree with Yésou 2002 (pers comm) who advises taxonomic uncertainties in white-headed gulls will be long- standing; taxa are prime candidates for combined genetics/field/museum studies (including breeding biology & statistical analysis of phenotypical variations). Although Rogacheva 1992 suggested PT breeds as far W as Anabar River mouth in Arctic, 'clear hybrids not being uncommon' (cf. Blažek & Vagner 1990); knowledge at this time was less clear-cut - Pierre Yésou pers comm. NB1 separation from L. argentatus on mtDNA grounds alone, far from clear-cut (Sangster et al. 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (Collinson et al. 2008, Liebers-Helbig & et al. 2010) make strong case. NB2 Sangster et al. 2007 (BOU) and Collinson et al. 2008, Liebers-Helbig & et al. 2010 also make the case for the PT for L. (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae (see Hypothetical List) and L. (s./m.) mongolicus to be American Herring Gull L. smithsonianus. NB3 L. (smithsonianus) vegae is prone to wandering; one recorded Wexford, Ireland 10 Jan 2016 by Killian Mullane. |
| **N44 Vega Gull** | Larus (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae | Revised understanding of this taxon assessments its breeding distribution as confined to NE & E Asia. No confirmed Region records. Variable leg colour; suggested nominated sp of East Siberian Gull, Yésou 2002, now (Collinson et al. 2008) regarded as a western sp of American Herring Gull L. smithsonianus. BLDZ Sep 2018 mat tacitly agree, for the Jul 2015 smithsonianus map includes the vegae breeding distribution up to the large Uvs Lake, but only 250km from Kazakhstan, but Mongolian Gull L. (smithsonianus/vegae) mongolicus is the likely taxon there. |
| **N45 Black-bellied Tern** | Sterna acuticauda | Endangered. Given that River Tern S. aurantia, largely sharing the same distribution in Pakistan (R&A 2012 map resident close to Afghan Nurestan), has been recorded in Iran, occurrence in Region possible. Common in Punjab c.20km from Afghan border 2003: Ali & Akhtar 2005. Pakistan breeding distribution comprises 9 disparate areas, mostly along the length of the Indus River system, that around Dera Ismail Khan being the nearest to Afghanistan BLDZ Sep 2018, at some 80km. |
| **N46 Subtropical Skua (Brown Skua)** | Stercorarius (antarcticus) hamiltoni (formerly Catharacta (antarcticus) hamiltoni) | Polytypic as per IOC10.2, nominate (Argentina & Falklands), hamiltoni (Tristan da Cunha & Gough Island of S Atlantic) and lonnbergi of S Antarctic island & Antarctica. However, Howell & Zufelt 2019 extend the breeding distribution of hamiltoni to include Amsterdam and St Paul in S Indian Ocean; they also recognise an undescribed taxon from Chatham Island (NZ), but assign all four as a superspecies. Furthermore, they name the 4 provisional ssp as Franklin Skua (nominate), Subantarctic Skua and Chatham Skua. The name Brown Skua would disappear. Taxonomy follows Cohen et al. (1997) and Andersson (1999) as amended by Howell & Zufelt 2019. Subtropical hamiltoni may be more inclined from its possible preference for warmer waters, but is hugely outnumbered by Subantarctic lonnbergi, whose juveniles & immatures probably wander for 2 to 3 years. Probably already recorded in the OSME Region but wrongly attributed to another ‘large skua’ sp. |
| **N47 Black-footed Albatross** | Phoebastria nigripes | Monotypic. BLI Seabird Database has tracked this trans-Pacific species to the eastern Indian Ocean, Andaman Sea at c.6°S, but BLDZ map Jun 2019 does not reflect this. The BLI database loads the map tiles, but the display no longer works Jun 2020. |
| **N48 Southern Giant Petrel** | Macronectes giganteus | Monotypic. Possible vagrant, given one found dead at Lac Assal Djibouti in 1991 Redman et al. 2009. NB some evidence (Penhallurick & Wink 2004) for the two Giant Petrels to be just ssp of giganteus, but this wide-ranging paper has not achieved consensus. Occurs mostly well below Tropic of Capricorn. |
| **N49 Northern Giant Petrel** | Macronectes halli | Monotypic. BLI Seabird Tracking Database Jul 2019 has a few indications of individuals reaching OSME deep- ocean latitudes, but the positions shown are uncertain due to datalogging limitations at times of approximately equal day/night periods. Occurs mostly below Tropic of Capricorn. |
| **N50 AntarcticPrion (Dove Prion)** | Pachyptila desolata | Monotypic, although considered polytypic in 1983. In 1979, a wreck of this species was discovered near Mogadishu, Somalia (Ash 1983), a latitude some 1170km S of Socotra. Ash also saw other prions of this species flying offshore. May comprise cryptic species Howell & Zufelt 2019. |
| **N51 Kerguelen Petrel** | Aethodroma brevirostris (formerly Pterodroma brevirostris) | Monotypic. In Sep 1978, one was found dead on a beach in Mallable, Somalia by John Ash. Storrs Olsen confirmed the ID, Ash 1983. The latitude was 1200km S of Socotra. |
| **N52 White-headed Petrel** | Pterodroma lessonii | Monotypic. R&A 2005 note unconfirmed occurrence Sri Lanka. Highly unlikely in OSME Region, since it mostly occurs below Tropic of Capricorn, but Howell & Zufelt 2019 tentatively map occurrence justtio the SE corner of the OSME Region deep-ocean boundary; wandering to 25°N in Indian Ocean. NB One vagrant recorded Shetland, UK in 2020. |
| **N53 Kermadec Petrel** | Pterodroma neglecta | Polytypic: 2 ssp Pacific breeding grounds; nominate & juv., the latter possibly taxon that once bred Cousin, Seychelles, otherwise vagrant there Sinclair & Legagneur 2013. BLDZ Jul 2018 maps some occurrence centred on Round Island, N of Mauritius, 10° below the OSME Region southernmost latitude. Known to hybridise in small numbers with Trindade Petrel P. aminjoniana and possibly Herald Petrel P. heraldica on Round Island, Seychelles Howell & Zufelt 2019: occurs in light- and dark-morph forms. |
Puffinus boydi (sensu stricto)  

Critically Endangered. Monotypic. Réunion breeding endemic, exceptionally rare. RNBS reports (different observers) Sep 12:50:0.0N+45:0.0E & Dec 57 (15:0.0N+65:0.0E) attributed to this species, originally identified in previous taxonomy as Réunion Petrel Pterodroma aterrima, but Sea Swallow Sightings reports sceptical, as ID character and status of Jouanin’s Petrel Bulweria falkax became known; Jouanin 1957 revisited old records from Region & reattributed them to Jouanin’s Petrel B. falkax & Persian Shearwater Puffinus persicus. R&A 2005, 2012 treat as hypothetical in Indian Ocean, but aterrima: breeding locations and habitat known in one part (burrows Shirihia et al 2014), possibly also on sea-cliffs (not extensive on Réunion) or on more of the many steep cliffs on Réunion. Extent of at-sea roaming, especially during non-breeding season or by immatures, uncertain; Howell & Zufelt 2019 vaguely suggest ‘subtropical or tropical Indian Ocean’ NB1. Gangloff et al 2012 show that the Puffinus/Bulweria group split from the Puffinus/Bulweria group c 13Mya, and within Puffinus/Bulweria, Macronesian/Fiji (aterrima/macgillivrayi) split from Tahiti/Beck’s (orostrata/becki) c 6 Mya.  

BLDZ Jul 2019 maps occurrence around Réunion, 10-12" below the OSME Region southernmost latitude. NB2 in 1950s, Réunion Petrel known only from four 19th-century specimens – WRP Bourne pers comm.

Boyd’s Shearwater  

Formerly within Macaronian Shearwater  

PT

Puffinus boydi (sensu lato) (formerly considered P. [thermirmi] baroli)  

PT Originally lumped with many other taxa under Audubon’s Shearwater P. thermirmi, firstly Macaronian Shearwater was split into the thermirmi/baroli complex, then Boyd’s Shearwater P.[t.] boydi was split wth ssp baroli, thus leaving thermirmi as the monotypic Audubon’s Shearwater (English name restored). Howell & Zufelt 2019 suggest this complex best treated as 3 full ssp. H&M4 noted case for splits, listing 3 groups under P. thermirmi.  

BLDZ Sep 2019 remain with 3-taxon lumped P. thermirmi.

Painted Stork  

Mycteria leucocephala  

Monotypic. R&A 2012 map wintering distribution close to Khyber (rare), Critically Endangered. 

Black-necked Stork  

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus  


Ciconiidae

Black-headed Heron

Egretta gularis  

Recorded Eritrean Dahlak Archipelago by Edgardo Moltoni prior to 1941, Moltoni & Ruscone 1940-1944

Monotypic Austin et al 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 Kiewan et al possibly this taxon or P.baroli, Barolo Shearwater (See Non-passerine List).

Ardeidae

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta  

PT

Western Reef Heron PT

Egretta garzetta  

Monotypic. Breeding distribution limits are unclear: IOC6.2 suggests E Africa coast & Madagascar, from which BLDZ & HBW Alive maps of lumped taxa presumably are taken, indicating a northern limit N of Mogadishu, Somalia, only c350km from where schistacea is believed to breed at 8°N on that same coast; vagrant interchange is likely.

RNBS report dark-morph May 95 Aden at 12:52:0.0N+45:1:0.0E, but database entry does not eliminate Indian Reef Heron E.(g.) garzetta from India than from Little Egrets from their western distribution, but a greater separation from extralimital Eastern Reef Heron E.(g.) garzetta samples were distant from all other Egretta spp, the closest of which was E. thula, Snowy Egret: these findings, and those of Huang et al 2016 (see NB comment in Little Egret ORL entry) indicate that much needs to be learnt about the evolutionary history of all genista & gularis populations. It would be premature and unhelpful to amend ORL entries based either Huang et al 2016 or Collinson et al 2016.

Dimorphic Egret

Egretta (gularis?) dimorpha  

Monotypic. Whipworth separate listing on allopatry pro tem; extralimital Western Reef Egret E.(g.) gularis occurs western Africa. Dimorphic Egret E.(g.) dimorpha Madagascan islands. del Hoyo et al 2014c separate E gularis from Pacific (Eastern) Reef Heron E. sacra , but retain as ssp schistacea & dimorpha . Further to Parkinson & Knox 2010 who noted phylogeny of Little Egret E. gazzetta & E. gularis would benefit from molecular analysis (as would placement of extralimital Pacific Reef Egret E. sacra ,) Collinson et al 2016 from shed feather of E.(g.) schistacea in Israel found closer affinities with two Little Egret E. gazzetta from China than from Little Egrets from their western distribution, but a greater separation from extralimital Eastern Reef Egret E. gularis samples were distant from all other Egretta spp, the closest of which was E. thula, Snowy Egret: these findings, and those of Huang et al 2016 (see NB comment in Little Egret ORL entry) indicate that much needs to be learnt about the evolutionary history of all gazzetta & gularis populations. It would be premature and unhelpful to amend ORL entries based either Huang et al 2016 or Collinson et al 2016.

N85

Painted Stork

Mycteria leucocephala

Monotypic. R&A 2012 map wintering distribution close to Khyber (rare), BLDZ map Jul 2019 past Dera Ismail Khan & almost N to Rawalpindi, as scarce non-breeder about 85km from border, but over 1100km of its westernmost breeding area; vagrancy to Afghanistan likely and to SE Iran possible. Escape record 2 birds Oman 1986 OBL7.

N86

Dimorphic Egret

Egretta (gularis?) dimorpha

Monotypic. Breeding distribution limits are unclear: IOC6.2 suggests E Africa coast & Madagascar, from which BLDZ & HBW Alive maps of lumped taxa presumably are taken, indicating a northern limit N of Mogadishu, Somalia, only c350km from where schistacea is believed to breed at 8°N on that same coast; vagrant interchange is likely. RNBS report dark-morph May 95 Aden at 12:52:0.0N+45:1:0.0E, but database entry does not eliminate Indian Reef Heron E.(g.) gazzetta. H&M4 retains as ssp of Little Egret E. gularis. NB A detailed study of all taxon in the Little Egret and the Eastern/ Western Reef Egret complex (sensu lato) is needed to establish the relationships of these taxa.

N87

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster


N88

Eastern Chanting Goshawk

Melierax poliopterus

Monotypic. Given its Horn of Africa distribution is wider than that of Dark Chanting Goshawk M. metabolites (qv Non-passerine list) and that the two species closely resemble each other (Redman 2016 comment in Little Egret ORL entry) indicate that much needs to be learnt about the evolutionary history of all gazzetta & gularis populations. It would be premature and unhelpful to amend ORL entries based either Huang et al 2016 or Collinson et al 2016.

N68

Asian Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Monotypic. Initially lumped with many other taxa under Audubon’s Shoveler A. clypeata, but Sea Swallow Sightings reports sceptical, as ID character and status of Jouanin’s Shoveler Bulweria falkax became known; Jouanin 1957 revisited old records from Region & reattributed them to Jouanin’s Petrel B. falkax & Persian Shearwater Puffinus persicus. R&A 2005, 2012 treat as hypothetical in Indian Ocean, but aterrima: breeding locations and habitat known in one part (burrows Shirihia et al 2014), possibly also on sea-cliffs (not extensive on Réunion) or on more of the many steep cliffs on Réunion. Extent of at-sea roaming, especially during non-breeding season or by immatures, uncertain; Howell & Zufelt 2019 vaguely suggest ‘subtropical or tropical Indian Ocean’ NB1. Gangloff et al 2012 show that the Puffinus/Bulweria group split from the Puffinus/Bulweria group c 13Mya, and within Puffinus/Bulweria, Macronesian/Fiji (aterrima/macgillivrayi) split from Tahiti/Beck’s (orostrata/becki) c 6 Mya. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps occurrence around Réunion, 10-12” below the OSME Region southernmost latitude. NB2 in 1950s, Réunion Petrel known only from four 19th-century specimens – WRP Bourne pers comm.

Western Reef Heron

Egretta gularis  

Recorded Eritrean Dahlak Islands by Edgardo Moltoni prior to 1941, Moltoni & Ruscone 1940-1944

Monotypic Austin et al 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 Kiewan et al possibly this taxon or P.baroli, Barolo Shearwater (See Non-passerine List).
Japanese Sparrowhawk  Accipiter gularis  A g sibircus breeds montane pine forests N of easternmost Kazakhstan in Altai just 170km outside Region to NE, BLDZ Jul 2019; HBW Alive, H&M W to c80ºE (F-L&G 2005), but Gombarova & Leathy 2019 paint a gloomier picture in assessing nearest PM to 520km from Kazakhstan & isolated breeding location on NE Mongolia much further away., uncommon-rare, but regular breeder Krasnoyarsk Republic (c85ºE) Rogacheva 1992. Likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan from Russian & Mongolian population. Very secretive breeder in montane pine forests; Mark Brazi in litt. NB1 Forms superspecies with Besra A. virgatus. NB2 Has reached Australia

Besra (Besra Sparrowhawk) Accipiter [virgatus] virgatus Polytypic; ssp affinis mapped as summer breeder in R&A 2012 to N Pakistan close to Wakhan panhandle (Afghanistan), H&M give its westernmost breeding range as Kashmir. BLDZ Jul 2019 as resident along forest foothill zone almost to Islamabad & to further N; reported close to Islamabad Nov 2016 & Jan 2017 BirdingASIA 27:131. NB Forms superspecies with Japanese Sparrowhawk A [virgatus] gularis.

Pied Harrier Circus melanoleucus Monotypic. One sight record of straggler close to Region boundary in not too distant Salt Range in N-C Pakistan Dec 85, Mark Mallalieu in litt to TJ Roberts. Rare winter records Pakistan not too far from Khyber R&A 2012; BLDZ map Jun 2019 as WV in arc N and past Lahore almost to Dera Ismail Khan. Pakistan. Breeds not too far away from easternmost Kazakhstan in Mongolia Bräunlich 2012, but BLDZ Jun 2019 puts regular summer breeding range at least 1100km away. However, rare PM Erdene, Mongolia (Great Gobi A’ Reserve) Gombobaatar & Leahy 2019, 900km from Kazakhstan. Winters extralimitally as far S to Sri Lanka & Singapore, one extreme vagrant reported Chaco Archipelago Carr 2015.

N72 'African Black Kite' Milvus [aegyptius] parasitus (formerly Milvus (migrans) (sensu lato) parasitus) Relation with taxon aegyptius 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 M.(m.) aegyptius Yellow-billed Kite, actually have black bills Nikolaus 1987, an isolated population of uncertain affinities? Nikolous 1987 also notes the widespread presence not only of yellow-billed aegyptius in Sudan, but also of yellow-billed 'parasitus', seemingly in sympathy. The work of Scheder et al 2004 & Johnson et al 2005 does not accommodate Nikolaus 1987 nor adequately address these populations. Pro tem, we suggest the occurrence in Egypt of 'parasitus' as assigned by Nikolaus 1987 very possible, but clarification of taxon identities may require revision, perhaps even involving ancestral link to Red Kite M. milvus in a narrow band as parasitus from the southern Red Sea African coast, but that remains unproven, as yet does full species status. NB Thiely widespread in Khartoum Region Jener & Taha 2016, with suitable breeding and foraging areas north along the Nile to Egypt's border.

PT Eastern Buzzard PT (Common Buzzard) Buteo japonicus Jowers et al 2019 propose full species. PT previous history; IOC2.0, H&M4 accepted split of B. japonicus and also of Himalayan Buzzard B.(b.) refectus Lerner et al 2008; IOC2.7 revised as B. burmanicus; this name claimed as priority (Penhallic & Dickinson 2008) over refectus: the priority case therein was compiled & inserted by the lead author alone; this discord is superseded by Dickson & Svensson is treated for (extralimital) eastern Himalayan populations. However, exactly which populations comprise burmanicus, japonicus or even hemilasius is far from clear. BLDZ Sep 2018 maps Himalayan Buzzard (as B. refectus) along Himalayan southern flank from Issamabad Pakistan E to Arunachal Pradesh in NE India, but also maps Japanese Buzzard (as B. japonicas) as wintering exactly in the same area (and points E & S). Kruckenauer et al 2004 note that B. buteo can be regarded as a superspecies with rubiginosa taxa. Nevtherv, Lindholm & Forsten 2013 suggest a practical pro tem arrangement would confine B. japonicus to Japan & islands Korea & Manchuria, with burmanicus being a BM in N China & Siberia & refectus being the taxon in Himalayas & C China mountains, but as ssp of japonicus (Perhaps worth a small wager?). NB Dickinson & Walters 2006 originally had recommended priority for B. plumipes, now superseded by hodgsoni; H&M treat B. refectus as full sp.

PT African Scops Owl (Common Scops Owl) Otus senegalensis (sensu lato) IOC:1.7 elevates to full species as B. japonicas Kruckenauer et al 2004, Lerner et al 2008. Lindholm & Forsten 2014 suggest that burmanicus populations are BM in N China & Siberia, and so would occur in the Region only as vagrants. Although some authorities have made synonymous B.(b.) burmanicus Hume 1875 & B.(b.) refectus Portenko 1935, which would give burmanicus 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 but with an as-yet undefined Himalayan distribution some distance eastward. BLDZ Jul 2019 gives easternmost wintering range (As Japanese Buzzard B. japonica) as coincident with our 'Eastern Buzzard' B. refectus' resident range, to the Tarbela Dam in Haripur Pakistan. NB re validity of burmanicus and implications, see PT Notes above.

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


[Page 1]

**Indian Eagle Owl (Rock Eagle Owl, Dusky Eagle Owl)**

*Bubo* (bubo) *bengalensis*

Monotypic. Taxonomy follows König et al. 1999, *R&A* 2005, IOC 5. *K&W* 2008. Although maps in König et al. 1999 & *R&A* 2005 confirm the SE quadrants of Afghanistan and Iranian Baluchistan, texts do not detail inclusion of data needed. Pro tem we consider senemowii if split to be monotypic, the 3 extralimital *ssp* zeylonensis, leschenaulti, orientalis forming Eastern Brown Fish Owl. However, zeylonensis is a Sri Lanka endemic and may also warrant future elevation; leschenaulti occurs from the Indian subcontinent to Myanmar & orientalis from Myanmar to China, but the latter's separate identity is disputed.

**Dusky Eagle Owl**

*Bubo* *coromandus*

Map in König et al. (1999) shows species in Afghanistan, also HBW5, would be ssp coromandus. Range in *R&A* 2005 much further to S, & *K&W* 2008 seem to agree. *BLDZ* Jul 2019 map places this sp in lower altitudes irregularly from Dera Ismail Khan in the north of Pakistan S in the cultivated and vegetated Indus meadow to the Quetta plains. *K&W* 2008 (also *R&A* 2012) between this & *Eurasian Eagle Owl* B. bubo from coast mid-Pakistan N to Kashmir then SE to Nepal (but not included in molecular analyses cited in ORL) is apparent in *BLDZ* Jul 2019 map; this gap also shows *ssp* somaliensis of Himalayas. *BLDZ* to HBW5. *K&W* 2008, Grimmett et al. 1988 and Roberts 1991 suggest coromandus unlikely in *OSGE* Region, for traditional folk wisdom. Pro tem we consider the status of the species in Afghanistan, but proclamation since then of special and its places new irrigation channels provide possible habitat. This highly complex group has considerable individual plumage variation within and across populations; morphological data are of limited value. Pellegrino et al. 2008. Taxa breeding distributions are poorly known, as are extent of sympathy, allopatry and hybridisation. There are also indications of song variation that need to be validated in the field. Our tentative listing will not be final, but it keeps the uncertainties in view.

**Brown Fish Owl PT**

*Bubo* *zyeylonensis*

Recent work to establish distribution limits in southern Turkey (van den Berg et al. 2010) complemented by molecular analyses (NB n=1) suggests this population could be separable but the data needed. Pro tem we consider senemowii if split to be monotypic, the 3 extralimital *ssp* zeylonensis, leschenaulti, orientalis forming Eastern Brown Fish Owl. However, zeylonensis is a Sri Lanka endemic and may also warrant future elevation; leschenaulti occurs from the Indian subcontinent to Myanmar & orientalis from Myanmar to China, but the latter's separate identity is disputed.

**Eastern Brown Fish Owl**

*Bubo* (zyeylonensis) *zyeylonensis leschenaulti*

Polytypic if split. *BLDZ* Jul 2019 maps only Brown Fish Owl *senus lato*, but also without any boundary between the 3 *ssp* that would comprise Eastern Brown Fish Owl. Given that at least 10 recently-found disjunct locations in Iran are currently attributed to *senemowii* (Western Brown Fish Owl), it would clarify matters if these populations can be confirmed as such (or otherwise). The nearest continuous *BLDZ* mapped distribution to the east is in remote NW Pakistan within 10km of the Afghan border, but it has not been reviewed if this population is likely to occupy vegetated in valleys, perhaps nesting on adjacent cliffs. Although this Pakistan population is currently assigned to *senemowii*, confirmation or reassignment would be useful to establish just how Eastern Brown Fish Owl distribution comes to the *OSMG* Region. Pro tem and somewhat provocatively, we make the working assumption that the NW Pakistan birds are leschenaulti whose distribution closely resembles that of numerous other species whose westernmost limits are close to the Afghan border with Pakistan, or just inside Afghanistan.

This highly complex group has considerable individual plumage variation within and across populations; morphological data are of limited value. Pellegrino et al. 2008. Taxa breeding distributions are poorly known, as are extent of sympathy, allopatry and hybridisation. There are also indications of song variation that need to be validated in the field. Our tentative listing will not be final, but it keeps the uncertainties in view.

**Little Owl PT NB**

*Surnia* *lilith* a species (qv) as in Wink et al. 2008. *Wink* in van Nieuwenhuyse et al. 2009 differs little in detail; genetic analyses of *A. noctua & A. cunicularia* (Neartic Burrowing Owl) taxa incomplete (Wink et al. 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 *OSGE*) are glauxa, ilithi & indigetes; *glauxa* & *ilithi* appear genetically close (Wink et al. 2009), thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately pro tem. In a study of 282 Little Owl skins from across the Extended Western Palaearctic, Pellegrino et al. 2020 found an absence of clear-cut differences between *ssp* and a huge variation of morphological and colour patterns between individuals collected within any geographical area; no *ssp* could safely be identified on morphological data. *Wink* 2011 lists *ilitha, ilithi & plumipes*. Four "forms" recorded 2000-2009. *Parma* et al. 2009 suggest *A.* (plumipes) (qv) too may be separable; occurs from Altai eastwards. Extratropical *Little Owl* *A. (n.) spilogastra* may also be species (qv Hypothetical List). HM& noted that limited taxon-sampling delays subspecies-group recognition. NB1 Other DNA research under way on *Athena* owls; more song data is being collected, possibly why IOC3.3 does not split noctua. NB2 On Cyprus, plumes of birds near sea level noticeably darker than those in the low hills away from the coast (NB pers obs).

**Ethiopian Little Owl**

*Athena* (noctua) *spilogastra*

*K&W* 2008, Wink et al. 2009 support elevation to sp (with 2 *ssp*); *spilogastra* E Sudanesi Red Sea coastal among hinterland S to Eritrea & somaliensis 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 *spilogastra* BinE. 2009. Recorded Sudan only c180km S of Ha'laib Triangle Nikolaus 1987, according to map in Mikkola 2012. *BLDZ* Jul 2019 map places this sp in lower altitudes irregularly from Dera Ismail Khan in the north of Pakistan S in the cultivated and vegetated Indus meadow to the Quetta plains. *K&W* 2008 (also *R&A* 2012) between this & *Eurasian Eagle Owl* B. bubo from coast mid-Pakistan N to Kashmir then SE to Nepal (but not included in molecular analyses cited in ORL) is apparent in *BLDZ* Jul 2019 map; this gap also shows *ssp* somaliensis of Himalayas. *BLDZ* to HBW5. *K&W* 2008, Grimmett et al. 1988 and Roberts 1991 suggest coromandus unlikely in *OSGE* Region, for traditional folk wisdom. Pro tem we consider the status of the species in Afghanistan, but proclamation since then of special and its places new irrigation channels provide possible habitat. This highly complex group has considerable individual plumage variation within and across populations; morphological data are of limited value. Pellegrino et al. 2008. Taxa breeding distributions are poorly known, as are extent of sympathy, allopatry and hybridisation. There are also indications of song variation that need to be validated in the field. Our tentative listing will not be final, but it keeps the uncertainties in view.

**Blue-naped Mousebird**

*Urococlus* *macrourus*

Recorded, likely sap griesingerianus, along Sudan Nile Valley to within c150km S of Egypt Nikolaus 1867. *BLDZ* map Jul 2019 shows resident W Red Sea coast from Port Sudan S & E to Golea Island in Nile Valley to Golfe d'Abidjan, Sudan, some 350km from Egypt. Has been recorded Eritrean Dahlak Islands from Monti et al. 2007. Heavily traded species, particularly for the US pet market.

**Little Bee-eater**

*Merops* *plusius*

Widespread and common in Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman et al. 2009: family are powerful fliers; nearest *ssp* cynoecisticus of W Somalia or ocularis of W Ethiopia; likely the latter resident on N Eritrean coast around Massawa, W Djibouti & NW Somali coast in Hargeisa Province *BLDZ* Jul 2019. *NB* Confusable with extratropical Blue-breasted Bee-eater *M. variegatus* (mostly of W of 40°N Ethiopia) & Cinnamon Bee-eater *M. ocellatus*, W & S of Ethiopia.

**Olive Bee-eater**

*Merosia* *cuperinica*


**Blue-tailed Bee-eater**

*Merosia* *philippinus*


**Coppercrank Barber**

*Palisapogon* *rhodopyga*


**Vietlotion Barbet**

*Palisapogon* *vietlotion*


**Indicidae**
N87: Yellow-rumped Honeyguide
Indicator xanthomelas
Reported on-line Afghanistan. Possible, but nearest documented population (ssp xanthomelas) is in Pakistan; thought extinct or fragmentary but shown as isolated 210km from Afghan border NW of Islamabad in BLDZ Jul 2019. MaR 2000, 2002 says no. in H&M4 & Dickinson c9908 para comm.

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

N88: Black-rumped Flameback
Lesser Goldenback, Black-rumped Woodpecker
Lophogamus bengalensis
ICD 2014 new family & subfamily. Genus (ssp albicum) in main use of Peshawar Roberts 1991. BLDZ Jul 2016 maps to within 18km of Torkham border post, which distribution area similar to Sind Woodpecker (Sind Pied). Demography assolee (formerly?) in similar habitat on Afghan side of Khyber? NB Winkler et al 2014 note that the nominate and the afghanica subspecies have not been researched, the genus is not close to Chrysophlegmas, Flamebacks, whatever the plausible similarities.

N89: Yellow-rumped Woodpewcker
(Yellow-rumped Pied Woodpecker)
Leptocirs mahrattensis
Genus change follows Winkler et al 2013: Fuchs & Pons 2015 convert to monospecific genus. Pakistan populations (ssp peregrinator) German 2014 probably once occurred in Afghan Khyber. See map Griesemer et al 2009, where now uncommon Pakistan, although BLDZ Jul 2019 maps 10km S of Peshawar in NW of Islamabad where only 50km from Afghan border. NB Mitre-Spotted L. mahrattensis & Brown-fronted L. auriceps distribution near 125-180km from the coast.

Falconidae
H&M4, IOC4.2 place Falconidae remote from Accipitriformes, preceding Cacatuidae. Recent studies show that falcons and several parrots share the same moust mousis, suggesting descent from a common ancestor Leo Joseph 2017. For a comprehensive overview of raptor migration, wintering and persecution in the Arabian Peninsula, see McGathy 2018.

N90: Greater Kestrel
Falco rupicoloides
Recorded (ssp fieldi) on Eritrean Dahlak Islands, whose easternmost island is only 60km from Yemen's Jabal al-Tair Island NW of Al-Hudaydah, & in S Ethiopia near Bab-el-Mandab Ash & Atkins 2009; also resident in S Djbouti & Somaliland at post BLDZ Jul 2019; note Dahlak Archipelago lies 160km in a straight line from nearest Ethiopian distribution, including a 50km sea-crossing; if that bird had wandered as far as the Ghalaio Peninsula, then the longest sea-crossing to the archipelago, island-hopping, is 10km.

N91: Fox Kestrel
Falco alpestris
Recorded once in the Dahlak Islands de Marchi et al 2009.

N92: Grey Kestrel
Falco ardosiaicus
Recorded once in the Dahlak Islands de Marchi et al 2009.

N93: African Hobby
Falco cuvieri
Monotypic. 2 RNWBS reports: Jun 73 Red Sea off Eritrea at 17:46.0.0N+40:26.0E; & Nov 77 of bird on board for 2 days off Salalait at 15:12.0.0N+56:48.0E – misidentification possible given the state of knowledge of identification criteria at the time. NB Common resident Eritrea & Ethiopia & Atkins 2009, although BLDZ map 2019 omits from Eritrea, the Ethiopian populations being 125-180km from the coast.

PT: Peregrine Falcon PT
Falco peregrinus (sensu lato)
Parent Taxon here included peregrinoids due to highly uncertain status of this taxon, but IOC4.4 treats as nominate of Barbary Falcon. F. peregrinoids, which the balance of evidence now indicates, although it is unlikely to be the final word. H&M4 list 18 ssp, including babylonicus & peregrinoides, but many taxa are poorly known. Wink 2018 presents a phylogeny of Falconidae & a phyleogeography of Peregrine Falcons; taxa radiation & evolution relatively recent.

N94: Shikra
Falco peregrinus peregrinator
Wink 2018 omits this taxon (not a Pakehawi?) but given his comment that babylonicus seems very distinct genetically & that alternative English name is Red or Red-naped Shikra, we consider peregrinor likely also to be quite distinct. Note in 2009 Wink 2009 notes F. peregrinator & not F. peregrinator babylonicus is the correct name for those then named speculigerus, the basis of which argument Fuchs et al 2009 sees invalid; Panov synonymises areariar with isabellinus, noting type specimen of isabellinus does not differ greatly from several long series of speculigerus, & that the type location is not within isabellinus breeding distribution. L. isabellinus likely winterer Iran & L. pheonicuroides breeds & winters. The extralimital breeding populations of WC China comprise 'areariar' (undefined) & tsaidemensis, & form separate group, raised to species status by some Russians, probelem, we treat tsaidemensis as potentially separable, but see account below.

Psittacidae
Many parrot ssp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al 2013.

N95: Blossom-headed Parakeet (Rosy-headed Parakeet)
Psittacula roseata (May move to Himalayapsita BLI/HBW)

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

Pittidae
Family, Species or Taxon
Working Notes; includes 'recent' material. NB Secondary references often unvalidated

P1: Indian Pitta
Pitta brachyura
Monotypic. van Eis & Brady 2014 identified a specimen, a juvenile female collected along the Karkhe River, "17 km sw of Shush", Khuzestan, SW Iran, 19 Nov 1968. The age and timing (collected in November) align with normal migration/dispersal timings; Dutch Birding WP List Jan 2015. Origin uncertain (Unclear whether claimed feather abrasion attributable to natural causes, captivity before being traded or captivity after capture somewhere in Iran), & so has been rejected by RBC DB40(3): 198-199, Khaleghizadeh et al 2009, H&M4, IOC4.2. BBC DB40(3) map 2019 omits. Pitta List, but, since rather awkwardly, has been accepted as vagrant by Shirihai & Svensson 2011! Nearest known populations 1000km+ away near Islamabad Pakistan and Gujurat India. However, BLDZ Jul 2017 notes it is a long-distance migrant, some populations moving c250km, which indicates misoriented birds could reach Khyberistan, Iran. Although occupies montane forest in much of its range, it occurs in low-altitude deciduous or scrub forests, much of which no longer exists in Iran nowadays, due to human agrarian population movement out of Afghanistan into marginally fertile areas.

Tephrornithidae
Though ssp polyius is sedentary in Pakistani wooded lowlands, does penetrate ravines & occurs close to Afghan border near Thal & Khyber Roberts 1992, within 25km at Torkham Pass, down to 10km N of Zob & 30km NW of Banru to up to 75km in numerous places BLDZ Jul 2019, the western line of occurrence in an almost straight line from N of Peshawar tp Omara, Pakistan.

Campephagidae

P3: Small Minivet
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to ENE Afghan border (ssp pale tailus). BLDZ Jul 2019 maps occurrence in Pakistan to within 35km of Afghan border N of Kohat. This species may be split in future.

Laniidae
Zhang et al 2007 formally concluded that Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus & Red-backed Shrike L. collurio are independent species & that Long-tailed Shrike L. schach & extravertinal Grey-backed Shrike L. tephronotus are distinct species. Fuchs at el 2019 validates these conclusions, adding that L. phoenicuroides & L. isabellinus are just as distant as L. collurio is from L. cristatus; all are separate lineages

Fuchs et al 2019, in demonstrating as separate lineages, render previous concepts of isabellinus & phoenicuroides as 2 subspecies, or as split separate species from recent ancestry, or as superspecies redundant. Therefore there has been no Parent Taxon since the ancient common ancestor. IOC2.0 & Svensson et al 2009 had accepted split into 2 species. Note that the name isabellinus previously only applied to N China birds (since usually referred to as areariar, isabellinus then name applying to Central Asian birds). Pearson 2000 suggested that isabellinus is the correct name for those then named speculigerus, the basis of which argument Fuchs et al 2009 sees invalid; Panov synonymises areariar with isabellinus, noting type specimen of isabellinus does not differ greatly from several long series of speculigerus, & that the type location is not within isabellinus breeding distribution. L. isabellinus likely winterer Iran & L. pheonicuroides breeds & winters. The extralimital breeding populations of WC China comprise 'areariar' (undefined) & tsaidemensis, & form separate group, raised to species status by some Russians, problem, we treat tsaidemensis as potentially separable, but see account below.
Lanius tsaidamensis

The identity of the population in China, once labelled 'Vireonidae Olsson IOC v2.3 moves this & several other species from aligns better with the arrangements of large grey shrike taxa in Olsson before. NB1 This kind of taxonomic complexity is far from uncommon; eg the flava/citreola wagtails, the large white-headed gulls, Pacific island hawk owls & accepted by BLDZ 2018, IOC8.2, Shirihai & Svensson 2018, Poelstra 2010, Poelstra 2014, Tajkova & Red'kin 2014, Peer only sspp, but probably also full species that might best be considered as part of a large superspecies that includes all the above. This general position is sibiricus, bianchii, mollis are now considered related to 2 other ancestrally most closely to Nearctic Northern Grey Shrike & of Bannikova 2010 (in Panov 2011) is: Southern Grey Shrike. In the 10 years since the draft of Olsson P9 P8 P7 P6 P5 P4

Lanius sphenocercus

Olsson et al 2010 support split on molecular data into Chinese Grey Shrike L.(s) sphenocercus (Cabanis 1873) & 'Giant Grey Shrike' L.(s) giganteus (Przewalski 1887) (both monotypic); another English name used in 1920s for this taxon. IOC4.4 treats sphenocercus & giganteus as the 2 sspp of Chinese Grey Shrike, noting resolution of their status awaited. Yang et al 2016 sequence complete mt genome of L.s. sphenocercus.

Vireonidae

IOC v2.3 moves this & several other species from Timaliidae, placing as Old World members of Vireonidae. Cibos 2003 showed that Pheucticus spp are not babblers.

P9 'Eastern Red-backed Shrike' ('Chinese Shrike')

Lanius teiphronotus

R&A 2012 map summer breeder ssp lahalerensis W to E Ladakh, Manali in Uttar Pradesh & in Tibet much further E, BLDZ Jul 2019 places nearest breeding are a 150km S of Ladakh near Talo & also indicates BM in adjacent China then E along (mostly) Indian Himalayas to vast area of C China N to include Gansu; wintering in lowlands S of Himalayas & Yunnan Plateau. On 2017 Ladakh Checklist as fairly common SV without comment. Sharma et al 2018 report it much further NW in Kashmir Marusudar catchment.

P7 Grey-backed Shrike

Lanius meridianalis

Monotypic M&H, but IOCS-4 lists as polytypic Chinese Grey Shrike nominate and giganteus: Yang et al 2016 note shared ancestry of Corvidae & Laniidae & L.s. sphenocercus 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 giganteus as sspp of sphenocercus: M&H & Eaton al 2016 splits these taxa; much clearly to be researched. Map in Shima 2007 suggests sphenocercus sensu stricto likely wanderer to E Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan. However, BLDZ Jul 2019 map of unsplitted taxa shows breeding from Sichuan NE to Russian Amur, but c 90% are BM, which increases likelihood of long-distance vagrancy, but taxon not known for certain to breed nearer than 2000 km from Region, although as a rare PM & vagrant breeder Mongolia, it may occur & be Leiha 2019. NB The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both giganteus (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike L. teiphronotus of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon 'tibetanus' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' L.s. tibetanus (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly giganteus) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.

Leucocirca cyanus

Westward range expansion sspp cyanus increases vagrancy chance; probable vagrants noted E of Region at c100ºE & at 56ºN Rogacheva 1992, over 500km from BLDZ Sep 2018 mapped occurrence, Fefelov pers comm cited in Haring et al 2007. M&P 2000 map westernmost limit 200km E of Kazakhsthan, Shima 2007 map suggests likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan. Now although HBW 14 maps only to c110ºE, BLDZ Jul 2019 maps in Mongolia to c86ºE, suggesting a westward spread. However, Gombobaatar & Lehty map to 92ºE at Ulaanomp, some 340km from Kazakhstan. Buddhists have introduced this species into Urumqi,Xinjiang, NW China, only 170km from the Kazakh border Ma et al 2013, it is thriving. On-line claim of occurrence in Iran (2013) was in-country hoax.


Lanius japonensis

'Cyanopicus cyanus' is the largest in the Crissidae-collurio/sphenocercus complex, but is the least studied, perhaps being associated with saxaul and salt cedar habitat (from Przhevsky's 1886 expedition); however, size decreases to N of breeding range until it approaches that of speculigerus (Evgeniy Panov in lit). From limited specimen data, intermediates with sphenocercus (probably the population formerly attributed to 'arenarius') and speculigerus are likely (Evgeniy Panov in lit). BLDZ Jul 2019 maps in lowlands S of Himalayas, hence map is unhelpful. NB1 English name 'Isabelline Shrike' here inappropriate, hence interinem name informal@OSME. NB2 Should tsaidamensis be elevated to full sp, it would be monotypic, unless part of the undefined population of 'arenarius' in NW China is found to be closer to tsaidamensis than to speculigerus in Mongolia & just in the Russian Federation; seemingly, there is no gap in that arc Evgeniy Panov pers comm.

Lanius sphenocercus

Monotypic & H&M, but IOCS-4 lists as polytypic Chinese Grey Shrike nominate and giganteus: Yang et al 2016 note shared ancestry of Corvidae & Laniidae & L.s. sphenocercus 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 giganteus as sspp of sphenocercus: M&H & Eaton al 2016 splits these taxa; much clearly to be researched. Map in Shima 2007 suggests sphenocercus sensu stricto likely wanderer to E Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan. However, BLDZ Jul 2019 map of unsplitted taxa shows breeding from Sichuan NE to Russian Amur, but c 90% are BM, which increases likelihood of long-distance vagrancy, but taxon not known for certain to breed nearer than 2000 km from Region, although as a rare PM & vagrant breeder Mongolia, it may occur & be Leiha 2019. NB The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both giganteus (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike L. teiphronotus of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon 'tibetanus' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' L.s. tibetanus (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly giganteus) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.

Distances from Region, although as a rare PM & vagrant breeder Mongolia, it may occur & be Leiha 2019. NB The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both giganteus (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike L. teiphronotus of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon 'tibetanus' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' L.s. tibetanus (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly giganteus) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.

Distances from Region, although as a rare PM & vagrant breeder Mongolia, it may occur & be Leiha 2019. NB The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both giganteus (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike L. teiphronotus of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon 'tibetanus' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' L.s. tibetanus (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly giganteus) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.
**P11** Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Gold-billed Magpie)  
ssp cucculata of interest. Occurs up to 350m 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, likes to Roberts 1992 (p420) has been misread — 2 species on 1 map, but shading densities not greatly different — Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* is mapped to border, but *U. flavirostris* in only 3 small patches of moist temperate forest 150-300km from border. However, **BDLZ** Jul 2019 maps 2 isolate populations N & E of Peshawar, the nearer to Afghan border being some 75km from the border. Although citations probably based on Bates & Lowther 1952, their “Kashmir” comprised only ≥20% of 21st-century disputed area, although on 2017 Ladakh Checklist without comment...

**P12** Rufous Treepie (Indian Tree-pie)  
*Dendrocitta vagabunda*  
Hills of SE Iran, E Afghanistan? M&B say Pakistani Hazara is western limit, Roberts 1992 maps to Afghan border at S Kurrum, as do R&A 2012. **BDLZ** Aug 2019 maps highs not beyond 25km, NW of Bannu. H&M4 ssp bistriol resident Pakistan. All 8 other ssp extralimital further E.

**P13** Biddulph’s Ground Jay (Xingjiang Ground-jay)  
*Podoces biddulphi*  
Probaby in dry valley areas on Kazakhstan-China border, E of Zharkerit area, where M&B 1994 map neatly stops, *Corvus (frugilegus) pastinator*  
Paridae  
IOC2.0 places this species in new family Stenostiridae

**P14** Cape Crow (Cape Rock)  
*Corvus capensis*  
spp kordofanensis far more likely in Region than nominate. Two reported Egypt 29 Nov 07 at Shalateen (notified to Strandgoude ATR), but not accepted on EORC list; No evidence of becoming established. Occurs N Somali coast  
HBV14 notes largely sedentary, but has wandered occasionally.

**P15** "Eastern Rock"  
Reports from Kazakhstan of occasional nesting or vagrancy are plausible, but lack specimens or other definitive proof Amend Wassink pers comm Jul 2019. Various authorities conflict on extent of distribution. Some indicate a boundary with C. (f.) frugilegus in forests N of easternmost Kazakhstan, other indicate 900km gap from Kazakhstan to central Mongolia. Kryukov 2019 on Corvid Phylogeography mention is indicated, but other molecular techniques are required for certainty. Even Kryukov cannot advise on the distribution limits, Alexey Kryukov pers comm Jul 2019.

**P16** Dwarf Raven (Somali Crow)  
*Corvus edithae*  
Monotypic. Occurs in half-degree square containing Perim Island Ash & Atkins 2009. Common, widespread & commensal on African side of Bab-el Mandab Straits HBV14 & also 5 large islands of the Dahlak Archipelago Africa 2004, more widespread de Monte et al. 2009. **BDLZ** maps breeding to coast from Ghehaalo Peninsula Eritrea continuously for over 1220km S almost to Somali Laasgoray and so likely has reached Yemen on occasions, but has been overlooked among the abundant Brown-necked Raven *C. ruficollis*; the longest sea-crossing leg if island-hopping is only 18km: Google Maps.  
**NB** Close related to Pied Crow C. albus Jensson et al. 2012.

**P17** Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (Grey-headed Flycatcher)  
*Calocitta ceylonensis*  
**NB** English same amendment reconfirms separation from true flycatchers IOC2.7

**Paridae**  
Largely we follow Johansson et al 2013, IOC3.5, & Alström et al 2013b. **NB** Note that until now the disembursement of genus primae was premature. IOC3.5 reflects the new standard, though earlier authorities such as Scott & Ashmali 2005 retain Parus diverted earlier than Parus. **NB3** although some regard Poecile as feminine, JJ Kaup, the originator of the genus name did not specify it as such, and by default under ICZN rules, it is masculine: case endings of species names follow suit. **NB4** Current taxonomic listings may change further when more is known about contact zones, acoustics and molecular genetics Erc & Martins 2006.

**P18** Fire-capped Tit  
*Cephalopyrus flammiceps*  
Claimed summer visitor NE Afghanistan, R&A 2005, (2012, maps), M&P 2000, Arlott 2007 also suggest reaches Afghanistan, of which no mention in HBV13 H&M4 (ssp flaviceps; N Pakistan). Occurs up to 3000m on open mountain slopes with bushes and scattered deciduous trees & may well occur in such patches in Nurestan & reaches Afghanistan, of which no mention in HBW13 H&M4 (ssp

**P19** Yellow-browed Tit  
*Sylvius modestus*  
2015 Ladakh Checklist; similar to Himalayan westmost range H&M4. **BDLZ** Aug 2016 notes declining population & distribution, but maps to within 25km of Pakistan within Kashmir at Merh.

**P20** Green-backed Tit  
*Parus monticolus*  

**Alaudidae**  
Since the 1990s, large-scale revisions worldwide of lark taxonomy have occurred, here mainly of Calandrella and incorporating recent rationalisations of their disparate earlier treatments. Furthermore, we adopt Alström et al 2013a, 2013b in their comprehensively reviewed phylogeny as per IOC4.2, but modified pro tem for Calandrella serulatus by the inferred Clades in Stenwarde et al 2016, the same team are conducting a consequent taxonomic revision. Stenwarde et al 2020 is an intermediate assessment of many lark species. IOC8.1 provided a resequencing of Alaudidae.
**P22** Rufous-tailed Lark  
*Ammonanès phoenicura*  
On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source, but R&A 2012 conclusive mapping westernmost population ssp *phoenicura* in NE Pakistan, **BLDZ** Jul 2019 refining Pakistan isolate population to C Pakistan N of Multan as far as Dullawala & Sawathal; only other ssp listed extralimital in S India.

**P23** Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark  
*Eremopteriæ leucotis*  
Normally ssp melanocorypha reaches in Nili Valley Sudan c150km S of Egyptian border (**BLDZ** Jul 2019 map just S of Wawa), but movements N occur during rains Nikolaus 1987: possible overshoot in years of exceptional rains; ssp *leucotis* in SAE Sudan, Eritrea near coast, Ethiopia and NW Somalia near coast.

**P24** Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark  
*Eremopteriæ griseus*  
Monotypic. **R&A 2012** map in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border, **BLDZ** Jul 2019 map as far N as Mangala & halfway to Afghan border from Peshawar, only about 20km from the border for about 30km.

**P25** Mongolian Lark  
*Melanocorypha mongolica*  
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 330km further E in Mongolia, W of Lake Uvus - **BLDZ** map Jul 2019.

**P26** Tibetan Lark  
*Melanocorypha maxima*  
Monotypic. Arkott 2007 map shows extensive area just S.E of Wakan, but Melanocorypha spp prone to wander widely. **R&A 2005** map just N of Afghanistan, but **R&A 2012** reduce smallest distribution to India-China border. M&P 2000 maps distribution as being S of Wakan but probably on Pakistan-China border? 2003 Web list Latakhe, **BLDZ** Jul 2019 map includes easternmost Kashmir, 300km from OSME Region. NB Afghan citation in John Gould’s Birds of Asia (vol 4 1867) in error - type locality was Sikkim (Hartert).

**P27** Somalian Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus somaliensis*  
Monotypic. **Fishpool & Tobias 2017** split off monotypic Somalian Bulbul *P. somaliensis* (Djibouti, NW Somalia, NE Ethiopia), monotypic Dodson’s Bulbul’s *P. dodsoni* (N Somalia, SE Ethiopia, E-C Kenya) & polytypic Dark-capped Bulbul *P. tricolor* (S Ethiopia, then to E C S Africa). Likely only the first might wander or be traded to mainland Arabia. Prior to the split, Common Bulbul *P. barbarus* ssp *aravine* already existed in the OSME Region in Egypt, down the Nile Valley, then the ssp *somaliensis* being acknowledged as abundant in Djibouti on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman et al 2009. Common Bulbul and Somalian Bulbul are both traded species (IUCN Red List), and so now any occurrence in southern Arabia may well be the latter. NB **Common Bulbul ssp soaous** occurs within reasonable distance of S African Red sea coast.

**P28** Dodson’s Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus dodsoni*  
Monotypic. From its northernmost distribution (N Somalia, SE Ethiopia, E-C Kenya), this species might reach S of Wawa), but movements N occur during rains Nikolaus 1987: possible overshoot in years of exceptional rains; not all agree & a genetic analysis is sorely needed.

**Hirundinidae**

**P29** Rock Martin  
*PT Rock Martin PT*  
*Pyronoprogne fuligula* (formerly Hirundo fuligula)  
**IOC**2.0 accepts split to obsolete & *fuligula sensu novo*, as do www.zoonomen.net, H&M4, Goodman et al 1986 treated as full ssp; no proven records of *P.f.* *fuligula* sp in Region: (nearest residents coastal N Eritrea **BLDZ** map Jul 2016), but weather-system-driven vagrants likely Egypt, Yemen or Oman (Alström et al Hypothetical List). However, note further complication of understanding of taxon identities below. Unfortunately, Svensson et al 2009, Shirihai & Svensson 2018 remain with *P. fuligula sensu lato*, the related maps liable to misinterpretation of distribution of *fuligula sensu novo & sensu stricto* (qv). **HBW Alive**/**BHL** have undertaken a deeper split, somewhat different from previous proposals, erecting Large Rock Martin as *P. fuligula sensu stricto* for the species only in southern Africa, and Red-throated Rock Martin *P. rufigula* for the species occupying the region south of the Sahara as far as the northern edge of southern Africa. **NB1** There are no records of post-split *P. fuligula sensu stricto* (or post-subsequent BLI split *P. rufigula sensu superstricto*) in the OSME Region; all earlier records refer to pre-split Rock Martin *P. fuligula sensu lato*. **NB2** Sitey & Monroe 1990 noted that Somalian populations of *fuligula* occur without any sign of intermediary toward *fuligula* in neighbouring Ethiopia; not all agree & a genetic analysis is sorely needed.

**Cettidæ**

**P30** Pale Bush Warbler  
*Clades*  
*Hirundo fuligula* (formerly *H. fuligula*)  
3 extralimital ssp. African species T&R 1989. Unconfirmed reports post-split as occurring in Region (Richard Klm in litt.), but ssp *pusilla* (Ethiopia & Eritrea) & *rufigula*, which is no longer pre-occupied in genus, (W&S Sudan, W-C Ethiopia) may occur; all hilirrudines liable to displacement by weather systems; *bansoensis* remote from Region. **NB1** Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman et al 2009 map *puisilla* on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Strait. **NB2** **IUCN Redlist** maps the sole Red Sea breeding distribution as north of Asmara in Eritrea, & (as *Hirundo fuligula*). However, **BLDZ** Jul 2019 now map breeding at least 150km inland from N coasts of W Ethiopia & W Somalia.

**Aegithalidæ**

**P31** Red-throated Tit  
*Clades*  
*Hirundo fuligula* (formerly *H. fuligula*)  
3 extralimital ssp. African species T&R 1989. Unconfirmed reports post-split as occurring in Region (Richard Klm in litt.), but ssp *pusilla* (Ethiopia & Eritrea) & *rufigula*, which is no longer pre-occupied in genus, (W&S Sudan, W-C Ethiopia) may occur; all hilirrudines liable to displacement by weather systems; *bansoensis* remote from Region. **NB1** Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman et al 2009 map *puisilla* on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Strait. **NB2** **IUCN Redlist** maps the sole Red Sea breeding distribution as north of Asmara in Eritrea, & (as *Hirundo fuligula*). However, **BLDZ** Jul 2019 now map breeding at least 150km inland from N coasts of W Ethiopia & W Somalia.

**Aegithalidæ**

**P32** White-throated Bushlark  
*Eulabia nigrovirgula*  

**BLI have further split P. fuligula sensu stricto thus: populations (all extralimital) from 5 of the Sahel southwards, then in eastern half of Africa to from Ethiopia to S Mozambique are Red-throated Rock Martin *P. rufigula* with ssp *rufigula, bansoensis, pusilla*. Large Rock Martin *P. fuligula sensu stricto reductio comprises ssp *fuligula, anderssoni, pretoriana* occurring largely S of diagonal from C Angola to S Mozambique **BLDZ** maps 2018.**

**P33** Red-throated Tit (formerly part of Black-throated Tit)  
*Aegithala* iredalei (formerly part of *A. concinna*)  
As Black-throated Tit, on WBOB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. H&E 1970 suggest the possibility; likely ssp *iredalei* of NE Pakistan. Polytypic, nominate & rubricapillus C Himalayas. *Aegithala concinna*, *A. iredalei* and *A. annamensis* split by del Hoyo and Collar 2016 into Black-throated Tit s.s., Red-throated Tit & Grey-crowned Tit respectively. **BLDZ** Jul 2019 map westernmost continuous distribution of *A. iredalei* as just reaching Islamabad, Pakistan, but with an isolated NNE of Mingora only 22km from the Afghan border near Barawal Bandi. This valley climbs west and then southwest into Afghanistan, merging into the Kunar Valley.

**White-throated Bushlark (White-throated Tit)  
*Aegithala* nigrovirgula*  
Phylloscopidae

IOC 2.0 removes Phylloscopus from Sylviidae and places with Seicercus in new family Phylloscopidae, ahead of Acrocephalidae sensu stricto, but the use of that family name considered invalid on priority grounds (Ed Dickinson in litt 2012), which decision is asserted in H&M4, where Phylloscopus & Seicercus are retained as families within a much expanded Phylloscopidae: H&M4 uses as rationale the findings of Olsson et al 2005 to: transfer some species from Phylloscopus to Seicercus, producing an expanded Seicercus: Phylloscopus is further reduced by H&M4 directing the genera Rhodinia & Abronica - again citing Olsson et al 2005. However, Alström et al 2018b, in a wide-ranging review of the phylogeny of Phylloscopidae, persuasively argue that the relationships between taxa are better presented within a single genus. Accordingly, we align with that decision but we follow IOC 2.0 resequencing.

NB Kolesnikova et al 2019 shoe that song did not function as a signal of direct aggression in 2 leaf warbler spp, Large-billed P. magnirostris & extralimital Sulphur-breasted P. ricketti, and if typical of the genus, thus song aggression may be a labile trait prone to rapid evolution.

Acrocephalidae

IOC v2.0 removes Acrocephalus & Hippolais from Sylviidae & places with some African genera in new Acrocephalidae, after Phylloscopidae sensu stricto. Restructuring of Acrocephalus genus inevitable from Fregin et al 2009; details per taxon, but 2 alternative taxonomic approaches outlined, the broader (sensu lato, or s.l below) providing less phylogenetic information than the other (sensu stricto: ss), 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 Galaverna gen. of M 2009. NB Kole et al 2014a who also proved Hering et al 2016 call for reed warbler complex to be comprehensively re-analysed (iaw Parkin & Knox 2010, Winkler et al 2016 via a suite of molecular techniques, found all lineages (subspecies) diverged before the last glacial maximum; in places, Clades misalign with current understanding: in particular, populations in Iberia & probably all of North Africa probably are best reassigned to a new species, A. ambiguus, (named 'Brehm's Reed Warbler' informalOSME) whose ancyance separated from Sahelian minor (sensu Olsson et al 2016) 0.53Ma & from the 'southern group' (including A. baeticatus, now limited to southern Africa sensu stricto ) 0.64MaY.

Pavia et al 2018 applied to a SW Burkina Faso taxonomically undescribed population of A. baeticatus a combination of DNA barcode analysis and the methodology of Malmhagen et al 2013 in wing morphology analysis to establish subtle ID distinctions by new criteria, and suggest that this approach would assist if applied over the whole range of Reed Warbler A. scirpaceus sensu lato.
Helopsaltes

New family Alström et al 2018a.

P36  Gray’s Grasshopper Warbler
Helopsaltes fasciolatus (formerly Locustella fasciolata)  
Monotypic. Easternmost breeding range fairly close to NE Kazakhstan, Flint et al 1984, Simba 2007, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 & N of NE Kazakhstan BLDZ Jul 2019, only 250km from E-most Kazakhstan, but Gombobaatar & Leathi 2019 put nearest occurrence in Mongolia 800km away. Alström 2009 map tentatively suggests easternmost Kazakhstan, Occurs Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. BM (wintering Micronesia). NB Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007; westernmost breeders due N of easternmost 460km of Kazakhstan, which they should cross if initial migration direction is predominately southwards.

Locustellidae

ICG v2.0 removed Bradypterus & Locustella from Sylviae and placed in existing Megaluridae, which followed new families of Phylloscopidae and Acrocephalidae. ICG 2.6 reverted to Locustellidae on priority grounds; H&M4 follows. Kennerley & Pearson 2010 remained with Locustellidae as family name, although they were unable to take into account the most recent molecular phylogenetic conclusions. Alström et al 2011b subsume all Asian Bradypterus in Locustella, noting Common Grasshopper Warbler L. raevii seems closer to former B. major. Long-tailed Bush Warbler than to other Locustella warblers, but there is yet no widely-sampled molecular phylogeny which the L. raevii complex, although song and morphology divide into ‘eastern’ and ‘western’ groups Miles et al 2015. Alström et al 2018 examined all 3 Locustellidae: extensive revision required at genus level, but little effect on Revision taxon.

Monotypic. Recorded Sudan in 120km² square 21°N, 31°E, 90km SSE of Wadi Halfa, just below Egyptian Sahara Amezian 2011, BLDZ Jul 2019 maps near-circular area from 45km SSE Wadi Halfa to 125km; also maps separate trans-Africa latitudinal band to Eritrean coast. Also recorded Morocco, N of NE of Baeticus & ornatus. LSSE 2019 map suggests westernmost range limit roughly at 90°E.

P40 Rufous-fronted Prinia
Prinia buchanani  
Monotypic. On-line claim Asian Bush Warbler not supported B.Khalaf 1997, but mapped Pakistan along border at Khyber; R&A 2005, the same; map Grimmer et al 1998 on NE Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Roberts 1992 maps into Afghanistan at Khyber and nearly so at Thal to S; Grimmert et al 2009 map likewise. Resident from N of Peshawar to W of Multan, Pakistan BLDZ Jul 2019, occupying the plains W of the Indus all the way to Karachi.

P41 Grey-breasted Prinia
Prinia hodgsonii  
Grimmer et al 2009 map rufula in N Pakistan up to N of Swat, dense scrub or dry forest, could well occur similar habitat Afghan Darya-i-ke Konar valleys; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps N&W past Mingora, almost reaching Mardan to the S. S other, extralimital ssp to SE & E.

P42 Yellow-bellied Prinia
Prinia flaviventris  
spp sindiana locally common along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Kurram (Grimmert et al 2009), may extend irregularly into Afghanistan; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps in Peshawar to 10km W of Bannu down the Indo Valley to Karachi. 6 other extralimital ssp to S & E to Borneo.

P43 Ashy Prinia
Prinia socialis  
R&A map ssp stewarti in Pakistan close to E Afghan border; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps W of Multan Pakistan just distribution westing the Indus River near Jabbat, half-way between Isabeliab & Peshawar. 3 other extralimital ssp to E & S.

P44 Red-fronted Prinia
Prinia rufifrons  

P45 Cricket Longtail (Craga Warbler H&M4)
Spilopelia clarkii  
Monotypic. Genetic. Recorded Sudan in 120km² square 21°N, 31°E, 90km SSE of Wadi Halfa, just below Egyptian border Nikolaus 1987, possibly an isolate population; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps near-circular area from 43km SSE Wadi Halfa to 125km; also maps separate trans-Africa latitudinal band to Eritrean Coast. Also recorded Morocco, N of Sahara Amezian et al 2011.

P46 Common Tailorbird (Formerly Indian Tailorbird)
Orthotomus sutorius  
Roberts 1992 maps ssp guazuratus almost to Afghan border at Thal & Khyber, also Grimmert et al 2009. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps to Peshawar then SSW to Karachi. Species adaptable to most deciduous habitats. IOC v2.0, H&M4 place in Cisticolidae, 8 other extralimital ssp to S & E. Alström et al 2011c find that Tesia , Tickella & Mountain Tailorbird Orthotomus caccudus are nested within Cettidea.

P47 Rufous-vented Grass Babbler
Sylviidae

Ground-babblers. Transfer from Prinia Olsson et al 2013b, IOC 3.4 draft

Sylvia

As of 2011, considerable body of convincing evidence required rearrangement of Sylviae sensu lat., separating new Phylloscopidae & Acrocephalidae and placing Locustella & Bradypterus in existing Megaluridae. Cettidea as genus. IOC v2.0 adopted this major revision, but Alström et al 2011b notes Megaluridae junior to Locustellidae, which is reinstated IOC2.7. Voelcker & Light 2011, inter allia, revealed within Sylviae a genus-level divergence (Clade 1 versus Clade 2 + Clade 3); H&M retain Sylvia for Clade 1 (4 spp) and resurrected Curruca for Clades 2 & 3 (52 spp including lumped Lesser Whitethroat ssp), involving considerable resequencing. Although IOC 3.4 draft omits reference to these changes (as re-establishing Sylviae from an arbitrary genus), we adjudge the comprehensive examination of babblers phylogeny (402 of 452 spp including Sylviae) by Cail et al 2019 as fully establishing Curruca as a full genus. The genera Sylvia & Curruca form Clade A in Cail et al 2019.

PT Desert Warbler PT
Curruca nana (sensu lato)(formerly Sylvia nana)  
Basal to Clades 2 & 3 & Voelcker & Light 2011. HBW Alive & BLDZ now accept split. IOC2.0 & H&M split to African Desert Warbler S. deserti. Parkin & Knox 2010 note the lack of published DNA evidence (believed to show wide separation). Although there are wide differences on vocalisation between the two spp, there is also wide variation within each sp Boeseman 2010.
African Desert Warbler


Resident W Libya; BLDZ Jul 2019 confines occurrence W Libya, resident & wintering to c15% of W-most Libya. Isenmann et al 2016 cite 2 records from E Libya, 2 birds S of Tobruk at Adam Dec 1958 105km from Egypt, 4 birds Mar 1970 at Sasal 200km from Egypt near latitude of Dakhla Oasis. Claimed Egypt Avib. Highly likely vagrant.

Tristram's Warbler

Curruca deserticola (formerly Sylvia deserticola)

BLDZ Jul 2019 maps wintering area halfway towards Egypt in Libya. Likely vagrant.

Subalpine Warbler PT

Curruca cantillans (sensu lato) (formerly Sylvia cantillans)

PT history is complex: initially, 1 sp (4 sspp) inornata (NW Africa) abietistis (W form: Trieste area down Dalmatian coast. E form: continuously to Greece, Crete, Tyrrhenian islands & W Turkey) cantillans (W form: Iberia & S France. E form Italy) & (then the doubtful) moltonii (subalpina; often subsumed in cantillans) of W Mediterranean islands. 1st taxonomic revision: the split into E & W groups (as in ORL to v2.2) was arbitrary, less evidence-based. 2nd taxonomic revision based on breeding dynamics (Italian mainland, mostly); DNA & song research supports 3 main mt lineages (but across previous concept); moltonii (subalpina; Sardinia, Corsica & NW Italy (formerly partly within cantillans continuously); western cantillans Iberia/S France; Italian (southern) cantillans & abietistis (data then lacking for inornata assessment Brambilla et al 2008), although moltonii partly cryptic (Brambilla et al 2009), thus occupies different distribution to any ever described under 'subalpina'; warrants species status. IOC v2.3 as noted Molton's Warbler (see Hypothetical List), but in 3rd revision, Svensson 2013 finalises relationships into 3 lineages as forecast by Brambilla et al 2008, but name subalpina has priority over moltonii. We aligned with Svensson 2013 & H&M. Voelcker & Light 2011 acknowledge Brambilla et al 2008 as did Svensson 2013, but the samples in all 3 papers did not include all the above taxa. IOC10.1 did not split to Eastern and Subalpine Warbler, but recognised Molton's Warbler S. subalpina. The 4th revision of Zuccon et al 2020 examined the history and DNA of all available type, syntopic and cryptic/parasitic specimens, finding a matrix errors of attribution of type location (such as a migrant bird assumed by later authors to have been breeding). Essentially, this moved a population from one taxonomic relationship to another; they also concluded that taxon inornata differed too little from taxon inornata to be considered separate, making Western Subalpine Warbler monotypic; that Balearic and mainland Italy populations of Molton's Warbler are likewise inseparable, leaving it monotypic; and that Eastern Subalpine Warbler comprises two subspecies, cantillans and abietistis. IOC10.2 draft adopts Zuccon et al 2020.

Moltoni's Warbler

Curruca subalpina (formerly Sylvia cantillans) subalpina syn. S. moltonii

Monotypic Zuccon et al 2020. Clade 2 Voelcker & Light 2011. Unlikely spring vagrant: partly-cryptic species; Tyrrhenian islands & parts of NW Italy Brambilla et al 2008, 2009; Svensson et al 2009, & Bealareics Zuccon et al 2020. Most related taxa winter N of the Sahel or deep in the western Sahara, see BLDZ Sep 2019 map: abietistis & cantillans sensu stricto probably winter in E Sahara, & thus might reasonably be encountered in SW Egypt. However, BLDZ Sep 2018 map indicates 2 isolate wintering areas in Libya, possibly subalpina, but cantillans ss is more likely.

Baleaeric Warbler (Moltoni's Warbler)

Curca balearensis (formerly Sylvia sarda) balearensis or S.s. balearensis

Clade 2 Voelcker & Light 2011. Monotypic. Baleareics Archipelagic exultans (Baleaericis) is assumed by later authors to have been breeding). Essentially, this moved a population from one taxonomic relationship to another; they also concluded that taxon inornata differed too little from taxon inornata to be considered separate, making Western Subalpine Warbler monotypic; that Balearic and mainland Italy populations of Molton's Warbler are likewise inseparable, leaving it monotypic; and that Eastern Subalpine Warbler comprises two subspecies, cantillans and abietistis. IOC10.2 draft adopts Zuccon et al 2020.

Yellow-eyed Babbler

Chrysomma sinense

Clade B in Cai et al 2019 babbler phylogeny. Main habitat preference ssp hypoleucum Pakistan cane grass, but adaptable to artificial habitats Grimmett et al 2000; extensive range mapped close to Khyber; perhaps irregular on Afghan side; BLDZ Jun 2019 maps distribution to the broad Kabul River 2.9km after it enters Pakistan; identical riverside agricultural habitats exist upstream on the Afghan side of the border, though at slightly higher altitude. NB Change to Sylviae follows Gelang et al 2019, IOC 2.6. 5 other extralimital ssp to E & SE.

Chinese Hill Warbler PT

Rhophus pekinensis (sensu lato)


Tarim Babbler (Chinese Hill Warbler, Chinese Bush-tit, HBW 12)

Rhophus albospiculatorius (Rhophus pekinensis)

Clade 2 as noted Molton's Warbler phylogeny; it is monotypic. Geographically separated from extralimital R. p. pekinensis sensu stricto; both monotypic Leader et al 2013, IOC5.3; breeds westernmost China, may occur where Toxkan He river enters Kyrgyzstan, or on E slopes above river Dar' yoi Orsu in Tajikistan; extrapolated from Baker 1997: BLDZ Jun 2019 maps only 30km from S Kyrgyzstan, NE of Kashgar Xinjiang (W Tibet) & Perhaps 200km NNE of E Wakhan. Earlier estimates were made in Arlot 2007, suggesting likewise M&P 2000 map westernmost limit at E end Wakhan; Shomba 2007 map suggests resident status these borders. Has reached the SW Mongolian border Gombackaatar & Leahy 2019. HBW 12 suggests just reaches Region as above, but removes from Cisticolidae, as does IOC v2.0. Nominate only otherssp much further E. Documentation NB Change to Sylviae follows Johanson et al 2008, Gelang et al 2019; IOC 2.6.

Zosteropidae

This family is being subjected to considerable revision across its vast distribution. The diversification of Zosteropidae highlights contrasting evolutionary dynamics and traits carried across continental and versus island species. It is suggested the different trajectory of evolution in insular lineages arises from reduced species competition leading to an increase in ecological opportunity, thereby providing a release to phenotypic constraints experienced by continental taxa, where altitudinal niches play a part Day et al 2020.

Northern Yellow-white-eye (African Yellow White-eye, Senegal White-eye)

Zosterops senegalensis

IOC 9.1 revised Z. senegalensis complex after Cox et al 2014, Pearson & Turner 2017. African species, at one time reported on-line in Arabia. Documentation? No records Oman, Jens Erikens pers comm. NB ssp senegalensis fairly common resident in W Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009. N Ethiopia isolate population 60km from coast BLDZ Jun 2019 map; all other 13 ssp extralimital in Africa by some distance. NB Jordan et al 2016 found that East African Zosteropids were non-monophyletic and that African Yellow White-eye Z. senegalensis was polyphyletic, one population of which being basal to all the Zosterops taxa examined, and the other population being sister to Abyssinian White-eye Z. abyssinicus; this contradicts findings from earlier microsatellite and sequence data, implying the existence of cryptic taxa within the clade's distribution. NB Pearson & Turner 2017 review the taxonomy of Zosterops in East Africa; Z. senegalensis African White-eye (extralimital); Z. abyssinicus Abyssinian White-eye were much over-lumped, perhaps an indicator of the latter's status in the OSMR Region, particularly for mangrove-breeding taxa.

Leiothrichidae

New family as per IOC 2.6 for certain taxa formerly in Timaliidae. H&M & del Hoyo & Collar 2016 extract several ssp from Turdoidus into new genus Argya on molecular trends indicating monophyly. Cibos et al 2018 construct a dense phylogeny of Leiothrichidae from which a revised taxonomy at genus level is erected, and a species taxonomy suggested: most Clades and Subclades are extralimital to the Region; they also strongly argue Argya, hence our adoption here. The genera Trochalapteron & Argya are included in Clade C of the comprehensive babbler phylogeny of Cai et al 2018.

Clade D: Cibos et al 2018.

Striated Babbler

Argya earlei (Turdoides earlei)

ssp soroivia mapped to Afghan border NE of Jalalabad Roberts 1992, Grimmert et al 2009, but BLDZ Jul 2019 maps W of Ulmanzai near Peshawar, only 24km from Afghan border; just before that, the Kabul river doglegs E after a 40km southerly descent from the Afghan border. Breeds up to 1800m & becomes dominant in irrigated forest plantations. Nominate only other ssp extralimital to E & SE.

Clade D: Cibos et al 2018 (and Clade D in Cai et al 2019)
**White-throated Laughingthrush**

Pterorhinus albogularis (formerly Garrulax albogularis)

Clade G in Cai et al 2019 babblers phylogeny. IOC2.6 revises R&A 2005 proposal to transfer swathe of spp from Garrulax to Trochalaipteron, reducing it slightly, leaving this sp unchanged. However, Mykles et al 2012 revise Timallidae, proposing inclusion of this taxon in larinoidae; many genera considered under subfamily Leiothrichinae. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests ssps whitist (NE Pakistan in Region), but possible error of map swap in Arlott 2007 with Variegated Laughingthrush T. [g.] variegatus (qv 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 – westemmost limit isolated (& declining?) population NE Pakistan; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps distribution as almost reaching Islamam; T. babboni just covering Abbabodat, N to Naran; 3 other extralimital sssp to E as far as China. NB Remaining whitist population Pakistan only in Poonch Grimmett et al 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 Afghanistan (Steve Maidens pers comm to Mike Evans). On WBDDB Afghanistan checklist as uncertain - same error as above? We consider OSME Region occurrence now unlikely.

**Purple Starling**

*Agropsar sturninus* (formerly *Sturnus sturninus*)


**P60 Alpine Thrush**

*Zoothera mollissima* (sensu strict) Westernmost distribution of this open-space thrush is C-E Pakistan in a small breeding season, but only E of Ishkashim Bakula BLDZ map Sep 2018.

**P61 Grandada**

*Grandala coelicolor* Occurs Kahunor Paristan to within 80km of Khezme E Afghanistan and 100km from Wakhan, N just E of Ismailabad, the W-most contiguous distribution begins in Himachal Pradesh BLDZ map Sep 2018.

**Grey-winged Blackbird**


**White-bellied Redstart (Hodgson's Shortwing)**

*Luscinia phoenicuroides* (IOC) *Hodgorius phoenicuroides* (BLI) (not phoenicuroides) (H&M3 corrigenda 8, IOC 2.6) BLH & Sturnus phoenicuroides H&M4 listed distributions remote from Region for both sspp. Not recorded Afghanistan. However, Bates & Lowther 2019 now maps distribution as almost reaching Islamabad, but just covering Abbabatoddab, N to Naran, which mostly is at a lower altitude, 100km from Afghan border. sps chryseaus remote to E. On higher slopes of Afghan Darya-ye & Konar valleys?

**Chinese Rubythroat**

*Cinclus tschekabiewi* 2 sssp, extralimital confus China to Bhutan & nominate N Kashmir through Tibet C China to Myanmar; Kashmir birds may stray into OSME Region, but BLDZ Jul 2019 now maps splits separately; nominate tschekabiewi summer breeding area under 400km from Wakhan, NE Afghanistan. However, the two BLDZ maps show extensive overlap of summer breeding areas from Jammu & Kashmir east over 2000km. It likely that the breeding grounds are altitudinally separated, but the accounts are confused.

**Golden Bush Robin**

*Tarsiger chrysaeus* Very diverse habitat preferences; up to 4600m Himalayas HBW11. Rare Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009, where sps whitist recorded for the first time at up to 3350m; BLDZ Jul 2019 maps sizeable isolate resident distribution between Ismailabad N to Naran, which mostly is at a lower altitude, 100km from Afghan border. sps chryseaus remote to E. On higher slopes of Afghan Darya-ye & Konar valleys?

**Mugimaki Flycatcher**


**Kashmir Flycatcher**

*Ficedula subrubra* Vulnerable. Monotypic. Rare and local Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009, Neelum watershed, but only one record in S Chitral; Kashmir population and range declining BLDZ Jul 2019; nearest breeders at Mendozir, Poonch in Jammu & Kashmir, 285km from Afghanistan. Any Afghan occurrence might be spring overshoot from Sri Lanka winterers in deciduous temperate forest, in eg Darya-ye & Konar valleys.

**Cheestnut-bellied Rock Thrush**

*Monticola rubrifrons* Monotypic. Common in scattered populations up to 3000m Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009; any Afghan population in rocky terrain would be in moist temperate forest, possibly in Dalry-ye & Konar valleys. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps W-most distribution 40km E of Abbabatoddab.
**PT**
Siberian Stonechat
Saxicola [torquatus] maurus

PT IOC v2.2 recognised separation of maurus via liera et al 2008. The extralimital Stejneger's Stonechat S.(m.) stejnegeri accepted as split from S. maurus Zink et al 2009, IOC 2011. Sangster et al 2011 cautious, because if przerwalskii is placed in stejnegeri, the former is the priority name! Svensson et al 2012 reduce variegatus distribution, subspace amurensis & name result hemprichii for N Caspian population, limiting variegatus to populations below the Caspian, on priority grounds. van Doren et al 2017, in work on relationships between Stonechat species groups, confirm that the maurus group is basal to the to variegatus & rubicolor groups, but did not place the stejnegeri group in the research. NB1 Populations bear divergent cytochrome c oxidase 1 (CO1) lineages, potentially including cryptic taxa Kerr et al 2009. NB2 see PT for S. rubicola in the ORL Pассерини Section.

**P70**
Przewalski's Stonechat
(Pleske's Stonechat)
Saxicola (maurus) przewalskii

Opave et al 2018 tentatively map an isolate population that just crosses the eastern Tajikistan border from Tibet. Rangkul, Tajikistan appears to have suitable habitat in a flatless area amid mountains, only 5km from the disputed border with China. More important, their map indicates several populations as putative isolates, whereas BLDZ Jul 2019 maps a continuous occurrence of breeding Stonechats (suffl unspiss as S. torquatus) along both sides of the western Himalayas fall the way N to Kazakhstan. Opave et al 2018 show no other breeding Stonechat taxon in this area. They also call for a suite of DNA techniques to be applied to all taxa formerly lumped under S. rubicola. English names informal atOSME.

**P71**
White-tailed Stonechat
Saxicola leucurus

Monotypic. R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to ENE Afghan border, but BLDZ Jul 2019 map at lower levels in mid-Pakistan S Indus Valley.

**P72**
Grey Bush Chat (Grey Bushchat)
Saxicola ferrea (formerly Saxicola ferrea )


**Aliabadian et al 2012** found that open-habitat chats belong to several clades; classes 3 and 4 apply to the OSME Region. Future taxonomic separation of these clades might occur.

**PT**

**Class 3**

**P73**
Heuglin's Wheatear
Oenanthe heuglinii

Monotypic. Previously regarded as ssp of Red-breasted Wheatear O. bottei, but split since IOC v1.7 at least. May occur (have may occurred when treated as O. bottei ?) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps no nearer Red Sea than 380km. NB Spelling of species name corrected to heuglinii IOC11.1, van den Eten et al 2011.

**P74**
Schalow's Wheatear
Oenanthe schalowi

Polytomic. Mentioned in passing by Shirihai & Svensson 2018 as a split from Mourning Wheatear Oenanthe lugens. Monotypic. Previously regarded as ssp of Red-breasted Wheatear O. chrysopygia. O. lugens later classified in the research. NB1 South African taxa occur (may have occurred when treated as O. lugens) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps no nearer Red Sea than 380km. NB Spelling of species name corrected to lugens IOC11.1, van den Eten et al 2011.

**P75**
Black-eared Wheatear
PT NB We follow Schweizer et al 2019, Schweizer & Burri 2019.

Oenanthe hispanica (sensu latu) IOC10.1 supports split Molecular analysis of Randler et al 2011 suggested separation merited, likewise Aliabadian et al 2012. Randler et al 2011 also found mtDNA differences between North African populations of Western Black-eared Wheatear O. (h.) hispanica. Schweizer et al 2018 in a genome-wide study of 4 wheatear taxa are emphatic that both forms are full species & also support the Aliabadian et al 2012 suggestion that Cyprus Wheatear O. (h.) cypriaca separated from Western Black-eared Wheatear O. (h.) melanoidea did, at which time Pied Wheatear O. (h.) pleschanka split from O. (h.) melanoidea, thus accounting for close DNA relatedness of all these taxa. Schweizer et al 2019a agrees: Schweizer et al 2019b, in a genome-wide analysis of open-habitat chats (wheatears) reinforce not only this conclusion, but also strongly support the concept of the conservative pairwise parapatric phylogeny of these taxa. A corollary is that it rendered plumage characters inadequate predictors of species relationships in this clade. NB1 both hispanica taxa include pale- and dark-throated morphs. NB2 Wink 2011 accepts split. NB3 Outlaw et al 2010 found in passing that hispanica and pleschanka genetically are very close. Although Randler et al 2011 agree, they provide rationale for separation on song and reaction to dummies. NB4 The presence of taxonomic histrionica in N Corsica long had support, but Krajil et al 2017 examined all specimens held in Corsican museums from throughout the country & found all were melanoidea. Shirihai & Svensson 2018 map hispanica no nearer than just W of Genoa on Italy's Tyrrhenian Sea coast. Any certain individuals of Western Black-eared Wheatear O. (h.) hispanica that may reach and pass through W Turkey (especially Aegean islands), Cyprus or Egypt are misoriented vagrants.

**P76**
Western Black-eared Wheatear
Schweizer et al 2018, Schweizer & Burri 2019. 2 ssp, nominate Pakistan & to E&SE; the former is the priority name! The extralimital Stejneger's Stonechat (suffl unspiss as S. torquatus) along both sides of the western Himalayas fall the way W to Kazakhstan. Clement & Rose 2015 map to close to Wakanah corridor in N Pakistan. Roberts 1996 maps away from Afghan border, E of Chitral, Grimmel et al 2009 agrees; perhaps in Darya-ye & Konar valleys. Vaurie vaguely cites 'from the Afghan border' - Steve Madge in Lit to Mike Evans. BLDZ Jul 2019 map as BM W-most limit just W of Rawalpindi-Abbottabad axis, & northernmost summer breeders only 75km S of Wakanah Corridor.

**Class 4**

**P77**
Somi Wheatear
Oenanthe philippai

Monotypic. Somalia almost from Djibouti in north, then south to Eyl on Indian Ocean coast, and west into Ethiopia to Dire Dawa & Mandler (N & S). Includes Cape Guardafui in range (95km from Socotran Archipelago). For the distribution map of this species, Clements & Rose 2015 map a larger area but in error included Abd-al-Kuri, which lies in the OSME Region. In any case, Abd-al-Kuri is but 95km from Cape Guardafui: a bird at only 500m altitude can see 80km to the horizon, but Mount Sallih at 700m, the highest point on Abd-al-Kuri, can be seen from Cape Guardafui, whose hinterland rises rapidly to 1000m+ and map Jul 2019 gives no closer than North Somali coast, but not quite reaching Djibouti. Cape Guardafui only a few short island-hops to Socotra. Overlaps the small distribution of Schalow's Wheatear O. schalowi.

**P77**
Familiar Chat (Red-tailed Chat)
Oenanthe familiaris (Cercomela familiaris)

Extralimital African species (7 ssp), either falkeiitenk (NW Ethiopia) or eumenes (SE Sudan, SW Ethiopia), thought likely to be rare visitor to SW Arabia S Yemen Nov 1992, but by current ID standards not separable from Red-tailed Wheatear O. chrysopygia Mitchell 2017, hence relegation to Hypothetical status. BLDZ map Jul 2019 shows no closer to Region than 70km from sea on Eritrea/Ethiopia border. IOC5.3 accepts subsumbing all Cercomela in Oenanthe, following Outlaw et al 2010, Sangster et al 2010, Zuconn & Ericsson 2010b. See previous row.

**Passeridae**

**P79**
Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow
Gymnoris pyrgula

Nominate resident from E Tanzania & Ugnada to S Sudan & NE to Ethiopia & much of Somalia, especially along its N coast; ssp palillicus occurs in isolated populations E from Senegal to coastal SE Eritrea BLDZ map Jul 2019. However, is seemingly sympatric in Africa with the much commoner and more widespread Sahel Bush Sparrow G. dentata, which has an outlier population in SW Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan. BLDZ map Jul 2019 shows no closer to Region than 70km from sea on Eritrea/Ethiopia border. IOC5.3 accepts subsumbing all Cercomela in Oenanthe, following Outlaw et al 2010, Sangster et al 2010, Zuconn & Ericsson 2010b. See previous row.

**P79**
Père David's Snowfinch
Pyrgilauda davidiana (formerly Montifringilla davidiana )

2 ssp: potanini westemmost Russian breeding range SE Russian Alta, where scarce, very close to easternmost Kazakhstan, Flint et al 1984, Clement et al 1993. M&P 2000 map near NE Kazakhstan border; resident in W Mongolia Brünichlich 2012. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps no closer in Mongolia than 440km from Kazakhstan, but Gombobaaatar & Leathy 2019 map to westernmost Mongolian Alta, less the 50km from Kazakhstan. Nominate remote S Mongolia, NC China. NB1 HWB14 uses English name of 'Ground-sparrow' for Pyrgilauda taxa and maps remote from Region, but it has occurred in SW Tuva Republic, close to easternmost Kazakhstan Rms 1991. NB2 In Tibet, breeds in abandoned black-lipped pika Ochotona curzonia burrows Li et al 2013.
Ploceidae

Black-winged Red Bishop (Black-winged Bishop)

Euplectes hordeaceus

African species, 2 spp, closely related to Other South African species. Introduction of regions from W Mongolia to points E, and so probably not far from Region; occurs on plains in may yet be subdivided into several genera or more deeply into subgenera: Sangster Monotypic brood parasite, specialising in Estrildid finches: nearest population N Eritrea, to coast

Emberizidae

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegalensis

African species, 7 spp, 3 close to Region: rhodopsis Sudan to Red Sea coast Port Sudan, Nile valley to N of Amara West BDLD Sep 2018 & around Port Sudan, Sudan, N Eritrean coast & NW Sudan around Djourbi city, & NW Somalia, bruneiceps SE South Sudan, SW, C& E Ethiopia; morea Finschii Djourbi, NW Sudan, SE Ethiopia to ports of E Kenya, E Tanzania BDLD, on WCML as extirpated introduced breeder, but lacks reference & any indication of duration. HBW15 maps (rhodopsis?) very close to Egypt-Sudan border along Nile Valley

Cut-throat Finch

Amadina fasciata

African species, 4ssp,2 spp close to Region: alexandren N Enteza & SE Sudan (to Eritrean coast BDLD Sep 2018), Ethiopia, Somalia to SE South Sudan; nominate Sudan, likely that recorded Sudan in 120km square just below Egyptian border, 21°N, 31°E Nikolaus 1987, mapped BDLD Sep 2018 only 50km from Egyptian border below Lake Nasser, likely vagrant. Internationally traded species IUCN. Single escape record Oman 1998 OBLT.

Viduidae

Red-tailed Whydah

Vidua macroura


Prunellidae

Koel’s Accentor (Mongolian Accentor)

Prunella koslowi


Fringillidae

Dark-breasted Rosefinch


Sillem’s Rosefinch (Sillem’s Mountain Finch)

Cardarocap siliemen (Leucosticte siliemen)

Data Deficient. Sangster et al 2016 show by molecular analysis that this taxon is a full species belonging to Cardaropacus, not Leucosticte. 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 et al 2001, Olson & Owens 2005. The large distance (1500 km) between the specimen collection site (Western Tibet, 1929, less than 3000m. HBW15 indicate isolated nature of any Afghan population. Nearest mapped specimen collection site (Western Tibet, 1929, less than 300km from the Wakhan Corridor, Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit E of Kashmir. M&P 2000 map in Pakistan border just S of Wakhan. NB HBW14 uses English name of ‘Ground-sparrow’ for Pyrgulauda taxa & maps remote from Region.

Tietz et al 2013 established rosefinch clades

Clade 3a - also includes extralimital Vinaceous Rosefinch C. vinaceus, Taiwan Rosefinch C. formosanus, Spot-winged Rosefinch C. rodochroa, Sharpe’s Rosefinch C. cerrezeii (related closely to Pink-browed Rosefinch C. rodochroa), and Dark-rumped Rosefinch C. eurysternus.

Beautifirl Rosefinch

Cardarocap pulcherinus

Gombobaatara & Leathy 2019 map as occurring Mongolian Altai, less than 50km from Kazakhstan, whereas BDLD map Jun 2020 indicates two isolate populations in W-C Mongolia both c 650km from Kazakhstan.

Pink-browed Rosefinch

Cardarocap rodochroa


Emberizidae

Emberizidae may yet be subdivided into several genera or more deeply into superfamiglia: Sangster et al 2015 regard the suggested genera (Fringillaria, Granatovia, Schoenicia) as subgenera; we await IOC consideration, still unaddressed IOC6.3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P93</th>
<th>Crested Bunting</th>
<th>Emberiza lathami (Formerly Melopus lathami)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Forecast Hypothetical Taxa – additional notes**

1. 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 180º 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 = Bul, belli-belli Pipit) Anthus (r.) rubecens , which if amongst Palearctic A. (r.) japonica 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 vastness of the OSME Region. Doubtless readers can think of other candidates, but it would not be unreasonable to predict a Vireo sp or Denrobius sp occurring in the OSME Region in future. In the north of the Region, we might reasonably expected 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.

2. 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 ISPB 2008 presentation). Other species (some not yet in the ORL7) may migrate this way across Afghanistan.

3. 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anatidae</th>
<th>Carina moschata</th>
<th>09/08. Moved to Cartmaelian A. (r.) rubescens.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strigidae</td>
<td>Bubo nipalensis</td>
<td>11/08. Map in König et al 1999 in error covering E Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, although text disagrees. Maps in R&amp;A 2005 &amp; K&amp;W 2008 correct, showing species as remote even from Pakistan in C Himalayas, 650km from Region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelecanidae</td>
<td>Agapornis personatus</td>
<td>09/18. Monotypic Tanzanian sp. On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced; internationally traded species IUCN. Error: Yoav Perlman pers comm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhingidae</td>
<td>Pericrocotus brevirostris</td>
<td>05/08. 4 ssp, 3 remote in China, nominate NE India nearest, at over 1000km distance BLDZ Jul 2019. Paludan 1959 lists as summer visitor E Afghanistan, ssp brevirostris, B being collected Nurestan 1948, but subsequently only Long-tailed Minivet P. e. e. shown to occupy western range; earlier ID confusion now apparent. Bates &amp; Lowther 1952 also in error for Kashmir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turdidae</td>
<td>Turdus [merula] maximus</td>
<td>07/18. Monotypic. Breeds below 2 000m in and Sri Lanka BLDZ Jul 2019. Bates &amp; Lowther 1952 had noted this as cosmopolite 'not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding', but conflated it with taxon now placed in Tibetan Blackbird T. [merula] maximus; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC9.2 gives T. maximus as occurring in C &amp; S India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscicapidae</td>
<td>Tarsiger hyperythrus</td>
<td>08/08. Monotypic. ‘Uncertainti’, WBDB 2008 Afghan checklist. However, likely originated in misquoted ‘Afghanistan’ on Sayer’s website; the Steve Madge record actually is from Nepal (the westernmost range) Steve Madge in litt to Mike Evans: BLDZ Jul 2019 distance from OSM Region 1250km. NB Tarsigar may yet be subsumed in Lunulina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ploceidae</td>
<td>Saxicola jerdonii</td>
<td>11/15. Monotypic. On Avibase website Afghan list, unsourced: most unlikely, may be extant NE India 1000km from Region BLDZ Jul 2019, but definite residency 2000km near Bangladesh border to points E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ploceidae</td>
<td>Ploceus velatus</td>
<td>09/18. Monotypic: from southern Africa. Internationally traded species. Not an introduced species as earlier checklists averred: Yoav Perlman pers comm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motacillidae</td>
<td>Anthus pallidiventris</td>
<td>01/09. Errorious web entry of this west African species (Guinea to Angola), as having bred in Egypt; correct species was Long-billed Pipit A. a. similes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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