Part E: HYPOTHETICAL TAXA, Version 8.1: August 2022

(Map of OSME Region at https://osme.org/about-osme/osme-region-map/)

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); see Brochet et al 2019 for Arabia, Iran & Iraq (879,000-31,000,000 passersines); Raine et al 2021 for Lebanon.

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, pale grey-green shading of a row (e.g. Syriaca Ostrich) indicates either taxon extinction worldwide or former presence of a taxon in the OSME Region. Light gold shading in column A indicates sequence change from the previous ORL edition. The term ‘unconfirmed’ is used when there are unconfirmed records or where the taxon status is not clear-cut; e.g. the occurrence may be from connecting ground. The term ‘reported’ indicates the occurrence is unconfirmed.

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 yellow text contain additional explanatory information on problem taxon groups as and when necessary.

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

### NON-PASSERINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Family, Species or Taxon</th>
<th>Working Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spatula holtentota</td>
<td>Spatula holtentota (IOC7.3, H&amp;M4, BirdLife2016) (formerly Anas holtentota)</td>
<td>Monotypic. Breeds Khatroum &amp; Omdurman Sewage Ponds Jenner &amp; Taha 2016; with little observer coverage N along the Nile Valley, this and many other spp suited to riparian habitats probably occur closer to Egypt - 725km in a straight line, twice that via the Nile. Recorded Djibouti 2014 Hering et al 2015; BLDZ map Sep 2021 extends into SW Djibouti, but does not yet include Omdurman or Khartoum.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mareca brewsterii</td>
<td>Mareca brewsterii (H&amp;M4, IOC7.3)</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 Geese A. albebronn Pavel Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, 0195km from European Turkey. However, its Netherlands wintering grounds are the nearest to the Region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mareca falcata</td>
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<td>Monotypic. Probable vagrant in SW Europe Brouwer et al 2000; has reached Bulgaria in 2009 in a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese A. albebronn Pavel Simeonov in litt at Durankulak, 0195km from European Turkey. However, its Netherlands wintering grounds are the nearest to the Region.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indian Spot-billed Duck
Anas poecilorhyncha

Split to Eastern A.
[...]
zonorhyncha (Non-Passerine List) and Indian Spot-billed Duck A.
[...]
zonorhyncha (below). IOC2.0 accepts split; also R&A 2005, AOU. NB Koblik & Arkhipov 2014 revised all old former USSR records to update to modern taxonomy.

Indian Spot-billed Duck
Anas poecilorhyncha


Green-winged Teal
Anas carolinensis

One photographed lake Tuza Bulgaria Apr 2008, only c.15 km N of European Turkey, Ivanov et al 2021.

Baer's Pochard
Aythya baeri


Western Tragopan
Tragopan melanocephalus

Shah et al 2022: estimated reliable distribution data from surveying suitable Pakistan habitat, strongly diverging from IUCN maps: nearest available region from Pakistan is only 135km distant at Palas valley, Kohistan.

Phasianidae

Changes to previous taxonomies from revised relationships in eg Crowe et al 2006. H&M resequences genera. NB1 Many phasianid 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. NB2 IOC11.1 resequenced Phasianidae to follow Atiades & IOC11.2 internally resequenced the Phasianidae genus.

Black-billed Capercaille
Tetrao urogallus

2 spp; nominate much nearer than kashmirensis. Unlikely any modern records in Region due to severe range contraction, but at least 68°E 67°30’N in Krasnoyarsk Republic, Russia 1992. Nearest Mongolian population is in Nogornuur, W Mongolia at 49.8°N, 89.6°E lies c220km from easternmost Kazakhstan mapped by Gomombaer & Leathy 2019, much nearer than the 800km mapped in BLDZ Sep 2021. Name urogallus has priority over parvirostris H&M.

Tibetan Partridge
Perdix hodgsoni

Occurs easternmost Ladakh BLDZ map Sep 2021, population overall is large, not to be declining. Possibly occurs westernmost Tibet close to Afghan Wakhhan, 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. However, it is an internationally-traded species (IUCN) and is common in captive breeding worldwide, but it is in steady decline in the wild BLDZ Sep 2021. It is also cross-bred or domesticated (Wikipedia) 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 knowingly or otherwise, veterinarians had certified the releases as Common Quail C. coturnix. This may also have happened in the OSME Region. NB Introduced and established in most of Italy (including Sicily), though not yet reported in adjacent France, Switzerland, Austria or Slovenia. IUCN map Feb 2022.

Rain Quail (Black-breasted Quail)
Coturnix sinus
coturnix
dominicanels


Yellow-necked Swift
Pternistis leucoseopus

Monotypic. Northernmost known range E South Sudan, but its distribution reaches coasts of southern Eritrea through Djibouti (ssp infuscatus) along to Bosassel in Somalia BLDZ Sep 2021; transit of Bab el-Mandab Strait to Yemen via island-hopping within capon desert (W Blackb A. 1984). IOC2.0. Introduced or intensively-traded species IUCN. Escapes of introduced birds of this species encountered in UAE, but no proven breeding Aspinail & Porter 2011.

Caprimulidae

A number of African nightjar species occur just across the Red Sea in Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti & Somalia. This is not any kind of barrier to Plain Nightjar Caprimulgus inornatus (see Non-Passerine List) and it is not unlikely that small numbers of Long-tailed Nightjar C. climacurus, Slender-tailed Nightjar C. clara, Standard-winged Nightjar C. longipennis and perhaps Sombre Nightjar C. freunedi and Freckled Nightjar C. tristigma from this crepuscular & nocturnal genus may occasionally visit the western highlands of Arabia, which contain many of the choice habitats that occur on the African side of the Red Sea.

Jungle Nightjar
Caprimulgus indicus

Recently split from C. jotaka Grey Nightjar IOC4.1 see Non-Passerine List. May wander, sp ssp indicus, from just W of Amritsar, NW India BLDZ map Sep 2021; also resident C & S India H&M, IOC where common resident, in conditions of strong E/NE winds? NB Very likely candidate for vagrancy to W.P. Leisy & Gitoy 2021.

Large-tailed Nightjar
Caprimulgus macrurus

BLDZ Feb 2021 gives western limit of summer breeding distribution as about W Pakistan, 150km from Afghanistan; spring migration overshoot not unlikely & typical habitats occur over border BLDZ Feb 2021.

Savanna Nightjar PT
Caprimulgus affinis (sensu lato)

Sangster et al 2021, from voice, call & song differences, recommend split of Savanna Nightjar into 3 spp: polytypic Franklin’s Nightjar C. maculicollis (with sps acuticauda, leucoscepus), polytypic C. affinis (sylvestris) (with spp kasaulialis, limonensis, propinquus) & monotypic (pomro term) Kumayangmi Nightjar C. griseatus. Taxon xeneration is poorly known, possibly extinct & is best regarded as conspecific with mindensalis. It may belong to C. affinis or be a species, but unless it is rediscovered no further action is possible.

Franklin’s Nightjar
Caprimulgus affinis (sensu lato)

Polytypic. As an abundant BM, it occurs NE Pakistan almost to Afghanistan border near Thal Roberts 1991, Cleeore 2010, & R&A 2012, overshooots into Afghanistan are likely: BLDZ Sep 2021 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 only 4-20km from Pakistan-Afghanistan border over a length of some 120km; likely occurs in Afghanistan, but is a traded species. Introduced Oman, Lever 2005 App 1995 shows westernmost distribution, an isolate, just NNE of Dera Ismail Khan. Pakistan some 120km from Afghan border. Partially migratory northern populations are migratory; known medium-distance irruptions include Sri Lanka & montane Nepal & Sri Lanka Leisy & Gitoy 2022. Increase in irrigation ponds may assist during irruptions. Internationally-traded species IUCN. On Avibase website Afghanistan Aug 08 without source cited; similarly Ladakh 2003 list.

Agonidiae

H&M resequences ORL Apodidae genera species; we remain with IOC. Tietze et al 2015 show ancestral Rudipapus as originating before all other swift genera that occur in the OSME Region: ancestral Aerodramus preceded ancestral Caprimulgus which in turn preceded Tachycineta and Apus.

Nyanza Swift
Apus nipansae

Nominate resident on 50km stretch of N Eritrean coast above Massawa to past Nakfa, opposite Dahlak archipelago only 150 km from Saudi Farasan Islands BLDZ Sep 2021; IOC 6.3; ssp zomaculami BM in N Somalia coast; prone to wandering Redman et al 2005.

Pacific Swift (Fork-tailed Swift) PT
Apus pacificus (sensu lato) (below)

IOC2.0 reverts to English name Pacific Swift for only 2 taxa, pacificus (breeding in Kazakhstan in Asia) & extralimital (kudaice) (which now amended to kanaoi because the type collected for pacificus sensu lato may have been within kudaice H&M); split off are Salim Ali’s Swift A. salimalii, Blyth’s Swift A. leucopyrrea, & Cook’s Swift A. cookii (see “NB2” below). Leader 2011 (on morphological grounds). Taxon leucopyrrea (breeds Pakistan) occurs in ITZC cycles) in Iran, UAE & Oman (H&M: report of such taxa have definitely occurred is unclear; taxa would have to be examined in the hand. NB1 ID character aid: pacificus broad white (15-25mm) rump Lulien 2017; salimalii narrow white throat patch (Wikipedia); leucopyrrea narrow (10mm) white rump (Wikipedia); wide pale (not white) throat patch; cooki/ indescent green sheen & shallow falset (Wikipedia); at desolate Locality: LF at Lulien 2017. Blyth’s Swifts are known to have occurred in India. NB2 H&M suggests taxon cooki relates more to Dark-rumped Swift A. acuticauda (both extralimital: A. acuticauda breeds at the easternmost end of the Indian subcontinent BLDZ map Jul 2021); indeed Päckert et al 2012 emphasise that cooki & acuticauda are closer than to the other pacificus taxa, but also note that more distinctive molecular markers for separation may be needed.
**N19** 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 in Pakistan (IOCS.4) eastwards; conversely, any recorded Arabia or Iran near start of breeding season in Pakistan likely to be *A. pacificus*. Can extend to S26 as far as NW India. Interpretation of BL2D map Jul 2019 A. pacificus s/ suggests leuconyx is a summer breeder just into NE Pakistan above Islamabad. Blyth’s Swift has reached the Makdizes, only 300-350km E of OSME Region deep-ocean area Anderson & Shimao 2020.

**N20**

**N21** Lesser Florican  
*Syrphites indicus*

**Endangered**

Monotypic. Cited (entry 158) in Zarudny 1911 (as *Syrphites aurita*) as irregular (*irreg= irregular; Gast= Gast) in SE (Baluchistan) and S-C (easternmost Mesopotamian plain) into Iraq. No known specimen, but typical greyish habitat patches then existed in both locations. Present westernmost range c70E, but R&A 2012 map (former?) summer breeding range to Mehron Coast at c46E, near Kappar, as does BL2D Sep 2021, 95km from Iranian border; Collar et al 2018 note most recent record in Pakistani Baluchistan was 1867 and confirm overall decline. Occurrence Afghanistan possible.

**N22** Greater Coucal  
*Centropus sinensis*

Monotypic. Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects in Pakistan ssp sinensis close to Afghan border, especially near Khyber Roberts 1991, just 10km away as mapped by BL2D Sep 2021, from just NW of Spin Wam, which is 30km NW of Bannu; ± lie on or close to the Kaliar River, where ample sizeable patches of suitable habitat exist on both sides of the Pakistan/Afghanistan border. Global population of this sp is decreasing.

**N23** Black Cuckoo  
*Cuculus clamosus*

Easternmost breeding distribution BL2D map Sep 2021 Sudan & N Eritrea coast near Dahlah Archipelago, & outlier population N Somalia just inland from Berbera.

**N24** Red-chested Cuckoo  
*Cuculus solitarius*

Easternmost Ethiopian of three resident population distributions BL2D Sep 2021 closely resembles that of African Cuckoo *C. gularis*, not too distant from Yemen.

**N25** Indian Cuckoo  
*Cuculus microtopus*

Westernmost resident distribution BL2D Sep 2021 is essentially identical to that of Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus*, almost reaching New Murip City Pakistan, only 270km from Afghan border at Torkham.

**N26** African Cuckoo  
*Cuculus gularis*

Monotypic. Given the likely lack of differentiation in records in Ethiopia between this taxon (rains-follower, intra-tropical and powerful flier) and Common Cuckoo *C. canorus* (Ash & Atkins 2009), overshoot into Yemen is possible; see also Redman et al 2009. BL2D Sep 2021 map breeding distribution to 2 isolates close to coast: Eritrea-N Ethiopia and E Ethiopia-N Somalia.

**Pteroclidae**

**Cape C**

**N27** Painted Sandgrouse  
*Nyctiphraxis indicus* (Pteroclidae indicius)

Several sources without citation place in Afghanistan; H&M4 disagrees. Monotypic. Source of confusion likely Ali & Ripley 1963, citing nominate ssp as indicus east of Pakistan’s western mountains & very similar ssp arabica (then named Close-barred Sandgrouse) occurring from mountainous western Pakistan west to Afghanistan, Iran & Iraq. The latter taxon is assigned correctly to Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse. *P. lichtensteini* (Weils 1998, H&M4) whose distribution is given ORL Non-passerine list. Ali & Ripley 1968-73 apparently intended to comply with this change (Steve Madge in lit to Mike Evans). Occurrence of Painted Sandgrouse in Afghanistan not impossible, but not proven.

**N28** Speckled Wood Pigeon  
*Columbia hodgsonii*

Monotypic. Possibly E Afghanistan, HBW4 map; likely very rare there R&A 2005, uncommon in west of range. A&M ranges well into Gilgit, very close to Afghanistan, but IUCN map Mar 2022 places westernmost distribution of this resident species to N of Anpuri, Pakistan, 100km from Afghan border, 0W of Gilgit. Range is dense temperate or tropical deciduous forest, which is now largely absent in E Afghanistan. Perhaps historical Bates & Lowther 1952.

**N29** Ring-necked Dove  
*Streptopelia capicola*

African sp. RNBW report Farasan Islands Feb 62 (16:05:04+3:1:0:08) unconfirmed; report of breeding Sheikh Othman 1982 (16:15:0.0N+41:3:0.0E) unconfirmed; report of breeding Sheikh Othman 1982 (16:15:0.0N+41:3:0.0E) unconfirmed; Breeds Eritrea near coast (Anderson & Shimal 2020).

**N30** Vainescove Dove  
*Streptopelia vinacea*

African species present across the Sahel and Sudan zones to Eritrea Red sea coast for 225km between Gulgub S to the S, then NE to below Islamabad. Blyth’s Swift has reached the Maldives, only 300-350km E of OSME Region deep-ocean area Anderson & Shimao 2020.

**N31** 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. Although IUCN Red List considers the species not internationally traded, captive breeding occurs in many countries & the species can be purchased on line.

**N32** Yellow-footed Green Pigeon  
*Teron phoenicopterus*

Regular winterer E-C Pakistan ssp chlorigaster. has increased wintering range to new irigration projects (Roberts 1991), which now occur in the adjacent OSME Region. Population increasing BL2D Sep 2021 + resident across Indus valley to the S, then NE to below Islamabad.

**Rallidae**

**H&M4 map in January 42; all genera, IUCN 10.2 revise taxonomy of Rallidae and relationships consequently.

**PT** Water Rail PT  
*Rallus aquaticus* (sensus lato)


**N33** Eastern Water Rail  
*Rallus indicus*

Formerly part of Water Rail R. aquaticus. Uncommon PM in NW Mongolia some 490km from easternmost Kazakhstan Gombobaatar & Leathy 2019, occurring further E in northern Mongolia for 1900km: confirmed breeding only in 2 locations, the nearer being 1400km from Kazakhstan. BL2D & IUCN maps Sep 2021 are far cruder.

**N34** Brown Rail  
*Zapornia aukol*

Mapped & recorded as scarce along Gilgit River in Gilgit-Baltistan Checklist Jan 2021, some 80km from Afghanistan, whereas BL2D map Sep 2021 indicates occurrence NE of Afghanistan, 375km from Afghanistan.
Gruidae
The findings of Krajewski et al. 2010 are acknowledged by IOC7.2, reversing the conclusions of two previous co-authored earlier by Krajewski, thus restoring Leucogeranus, Antigone & Anthrapodes. Some gruid spp continue to be introduced, particularly because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of developing prosperity funding the trade in exotics Blackburn et al. 2015. NB Crane conservation and research, as refined or informed by subsequent fieldwork and genetic research, but many populations remain little-studied and poorly sampled.

N23
Black Crowned Crane
Balaeniceps rex
Polytypic. On WBDG 2008 Egypt checklist as vagrant, but not on 2013 EOCR list. E-most distribution spp ceciliae reaches Eritrean coast just S of Massawa 75km SSE inland of Mesa Fatma BLDZ Sep 2021. NB Locally abundant Sudan below Khartoum, Ethiopia, albeit W of 40°E Ash & Atkins 2009.

N36
Sanus Crane
Antigone antigone (IOC7.2, H&M4) (Grus antigone )
Polytypic. Largely resident. Pre-20th-century records in their various lists by Nordmann & Pallas, Radde & by Dementiev & Glagov as occasionally vagrant to record. Caspian hinting that our record. nominate breeds India at Gujrat, & also N & S of Amritsar up to Pakistan border & just in Pakistan beyond Nagarparkar BLDZ map Sep 2021.

N37
Black-necked Crane
Grus nigricollis
Monotypic. Resident E Ladakh NW India, S Tibet R&A 2012. BLDZ Sep 2021; may wander.

Turnicidae
NB Considerable ressequencing of genera within a revised Lar (which would include this family) proposed by Sangster et al. 2012. We shall await IOC consideration.

N38
Yellow-legged Buttonquail
Turnix similis
Polytypic. Irregular after rains; nominate likely overshoot to Afghan Kurram valley from Pakistan: see map Grimmett et al. 2006, R&A 2012, citing 'movements unclear'. BLDZ 2021 maps summer breeding to within 15km of Afghan border Peshawar & within 5km Kabul River, ample scattered riverside areas of cultivation all the way to Kabul. NB Only the female calls; polyandrous.

Burhinidae
Cerny & Natale 2021 preprint proposes revaluation of relationships within many wader genera. The genus Burhinus would then apply only to extralimital Bush-stone-curlew B. grallarius. NB Liverton & Atkins 2010, separated as sub-families the Burhinus taxon below to Lesser B. lusitanicus-and inclues Esacus in Greater Thick-knees

PT
Eurasian stone-curlew PT
(Eurasian Thick-knee)
Burhinus oedicnemus (sensu 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 remains unperturbed, noting lack of genetic data Martens & Bahr 2007, but Inskipp & Collar 2015 note del Hoyo & Collar 2014b agree split on Tobias et al. 2010 criteria. See ORL Non-passener List

N39
Indian stone-curlew
Burhinus indicus May move to genus Oedicnemus Černý & Natale 2021.

Monotypic. C Pakistan and eastwards, but may wander to ample suitable habitat Afghanistan or Iran; given ID difficulties, possibly missed already; UAE Checklist 2008 urges vigilance. BLDZ maps (Sep 2021) indicate a narrow unoccupied residency zone between this taxon & B [o.] oedicnemus running along the plain of the Indus & Chenab Rivers: is this an allopatric configuration? B. oedicnemus in places occurs on both sides of the Indus, according to the mapped distribution, and so there is no continuous habitat barrier between B & B. indicus. Many [o.] indicus specimens collected in S&A Iran accorded with Salvador's 'intermediate' form of B [o.] indicus Salvador 1865. Possibly recorded Jan 2009 Winkler et al. 2010, but not accepted on Iranian CheckList Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017.

Charadriidae
Cerny & Natale 2021 preprint proposes revaluation of relationships within many wader genera. The genus Vanellus would then apply only to extralimital Northern Lapwing. NB Sangster et al. 2012 recommend Pluvialis precede Vanellus.

N40
Wattled Lapwing
Vanellus senegalensis (Černy & Natale 2021 propose Hoplopterus)

N41
Long-billed Plover
Charadrius placidus
Some evidence of vagrancy & extension of breeding distribution. Has re-established population in Russian Amur Oblast in 2002 after former area became permanently flooded by industrial construction Arkhipov 2022a. Its non-breeding preference for freshwater wetlands but not mudflats & a breeding preference for gravelly islands may allow expansion now that rapidly retreating glaciers are increasing such habitats at altitude Lethaby 2006.

N42
White-fronted Plover
Charadrius marginatus
African sp. 4 spp, mostch bird population by far. Riverine, Uper Rift Valley & coastal breeder, suspected by Ash & Atkins 2009 of breeding in low numbers along the Eritrean coast: not unlikely therefore along Yemen Red Sea coast. However, BLDZ map Sep 2021 more pessimistic, placing nearest breeding population C to SW Ethiopia & nearest Indian Ocean coast breeders S Somalia at Wadi.

Scolopacidae
BOU (Sangster et al. 2012) & CSNA both resequenced Tringids (including Actitis, Xenusia ; Gibson & Baker 2012 in a wide-ranging molecular study) & Banks 2012 proposed subsuing 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 namely IOC7.2 who limit 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 subsuing Tryngites, Limicolae & Phalacrocorax in Calidris & Heterocercus & Actitis in Tringa, then Huang & Tu 2016 convincingly establish both Tringa (Heterocercus) & Calidris in monophyly; although Huang & Tu also establish clades within both. Now we align with these clades and subsume Tryngites, Limicolae & Phalacrocorax accordingly. Huang & Tu 2016 also demolish the case for Ernestides as a full genus for those taxa within Calidris (Laurent Ray JIB). However, Černý & Natale 2021 (in a pre-print) establish support for deconstructing Ernestides; pro tem, we list their proposed genera for each of the clades above. There also find a deep division in Gallinago, which in the Region would leave only Common Snipe in that genus, transferring the remainder to Tringanes in pro tem; we comment where appropriate, but will await IOC decisions.

N43
Nordmann’s Greenshank
(Shotenn Greenbank BLI)
Tringa guttifer
Endangered (Černy & Natale 2021 propose Totanus)

Glareolidae
Cerny & Natale 2021 propose placing Small Pratincole in Galactocephalus: ressequencing may follow; we await IOC decision. NB1 Livezey 2010 placed it in Suffedraga. NB2 Considerable ressequencing of genera within a revised Lar (which would include this family) proposed by Sangster et al. 2012.

N44
Terek’s Curlew
Curlews tarbouiae
Polytypic. Nominate occurs to Eritrean coast near Massawa BLDZ 2021 ; reported from Dahlak Islands de Monti et al. 2009.

N45
Indian Curlew
Curlews indicus
Monotypic. Scarce resident eastern half of Pakistan, strongly nomadic after monsoon, well-adapted to follow fells & desiccated wetland margins Grimmett et al. 2009; increase in irrigation ponds in general region would allow spread, perhaps vagrancy to Iran & Afghanistan. Resident Pakistan close to Afghan border R&A 2012, winters W & N of Peshawar; BLDZ Sep 2021, only 30km from Torkham border post. Locally common winter N Gujrat, India, NB pers obs.

Laridae
The use of Sternae below aligns with BOU TSCB Černý & Natale 2021. Since Pons et al. 2005, there have been no similar-scale papers that challenge the bulk of their conclusions. The IOC have proposed for the extralimatal & Vulnerable Saunders’s Gull Saundersius saundersii; we now align with that view, noting that the main exceptions are the BOU & Dutch Birds; H&M4 sequencerences families, genera & within genera, but we remain with IOC sequencing. Some explanation of the non-alignment of biometric and morphological data (eg as consistently documented by Pierre Yésou) appears in Sonsthagen : resequencing may follow; we await IOC decision.

NB1 It appears somewhat unusual that just a few genes are driving the speciation process within this complex (although 9.2% of all species are known to hybridise, the incidence of hybridization reaching 41.6% of species within some orders Grant & Grant 1992). NB2 Harrison et al 2021 offer new insights on Larine taxonomic clarity of gull taxa, see Newton 2003 & also Kerr et al 2007 for results of genetic ‘barcode’ large-scale Neotropical species study.

N46
Ross’s Gull
Rhodostethia rosea
The single-record vagrant at Sarykamysh Lake Turkmenistan 31 April 1988 (Antipov et al. 1994, Rustamov 2015) is deemed questionable by Koblik & Arkhipov 2014. Occurrence in Region highly unlikely, the nearest breeding area being NW of Chatanga, Krasnosyarsk Krai, E Siberian Russia, 2500km from NE Kazakhstan, although 1 record a vagrant of an adult bird to Lake Uva, Mongolia, 400km from easternmost Baikal shores (eg Pons et al. 2005) place this species in Hydrocoloeus ; Harrison et al. 2021 confirm this as most appropriate grouping, yet place it in Rhodostethia in their species account.
The relationships between the large white-headed gull taxa are complex. Some taxa may be undefinable in terms of species or subspecies, but nevertheless include diagnosable populations, making a broader view necessary, as outlined in Sonsthagen et al 2017. Our approach allows complexities to be highlighted & so aligns with published analyses only where these are not in disagreement for taxa that occur in the OSME region. Although our approach may be seen as an eclectic mix of the radical and the traditional, we note that complex relationships occur in other groups (e.g. the large grey shrikes and the flavo/citrina wags), which also merit taking the broader view.

PT American Herring Gull PT

Larus smithsonianus vegae/mongolicus

PT follows BOU here; see Sangster et al 2007, Collinson et al 2008 (who note that the case for vegae as a subspecies awaits further research). Pierre Yésou (pers comm) is certain that the strong diagnostic phenotypical differences between these Asian and N American taxa recorded in Alaska demand a different conclusion, namely L. vegae vegae and L. v. mongolicus. We note that this view still aligns coth subsequent desc. of these taxa, but independently of the radiation of L. smithsonianus: de Knijff et al 2005 conclude that vegae (High-Arctic easternmost Siberia), mongolicus (mid-latitude central-eastern Asia) and Slaty-backed Gull L. schistisagus (N Pacific; Bering Straits coastal to S Japan & Ussuriland) derived from the same ancestral stock as L. smithsonianus. Full diagnosability criteria many of these gull taxa is relatively unknown. So either to be proved Parkin & Knox 2010. See also Liebers-Helbig et al 2010. We expect much remains to be discovered. H&M4 include vegae & mongolicus in smithsonianus.

PT East Siberian Gull PT

Larus (smithsonianus) vegae/mongolicus

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); we consider that de Knijff et al 2005 have proven the relationship to the extent we show here. Harris et al 2021 treat as Vegae Gull L. vegae, with ssp mongolicus & also attributing a much larger high-Arctic breeding distribution for vegae than Knijff et al 2005 by including 'taimyrensis' (qv entry in Non-Passerine List) as synonymous with the 'birula' claimed clinal form of L. vegae. NB Although Rogacheva 1992 suggested PT breeds as far W as Anabar River mouth in Arctic, 'clear hybrids not being uncommon', ID knowledge at this time was less clear-cut - Pierre Yésou pers comm.

NB1 separation from L. argentatus on mtDNA grounds alone is far from clear-cut (Sangster et al 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (de Knijff et al 2005, 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 Vegae Gull L. (smithsonianus) vegae (see Hymenochaetus) and vegae of L. mongolicus. NB3 L. (smithsonianus) vegae is prone to wandering: one recorded Wexford, Ireland 10 Jan 2016 by Killian Mulaney.

N48 Vega Gull

Vega Gull (Laridae, Stercorariidae)

Revisited understanding of this taxon assesses its breeding distribution as confined to NE & E Asia. No confirmed Range records. Variable leg colour; suggested nominate ssp of East Siberian Gull, Yésou 2002; now (Collinson et al 2008) regarded as a western ssp of American Herring Gull L. smithsonianus: BLDZ Sep 2021 map tacitly agrees, for the Jul 2015 smithsonianus map includes the vegae breeding distribution up to the large Uvs Lake, only 250km from Kazakhstan, but Mongolian L. (smithsonianus) vegae/mongolicus is the likely taxon.

N50 Subtropical Skua (Brown Skua)

Stercorarius [antarcticus] hamiltonii (formerly Catharacta [antarcticus] hamiltonii)

Polytypic as per IOC10.2, nominate (Argentina & Falklands), hamiltonii (Tristan da Cunha & Gough Island of S Atlantic) and lonnbergi of S Antarctic Island & Antarctica). However, Howell & Zufelt 2019 extend the breeding distribution of hamiltonii 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 Falkland Skua ( nominate), Subtropical Skua (hamiltonii), Subantarctic Skua (lonnbergi) and Chatham Skua. Taxonomy follows Cohen et al (1997) and Andersson (1999) as amended by Howell & Zufelt 2019. Subtropical hamiltonii 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.

N01 Common Guillemot (Common Murre)

Uria aalge

Two extralimital records Bulgaria, at Slanchev Bryag, Burgas Jun 1996 on Black Sea coast & 1 near Titrakan Jan 1997 on the Danube c430km from Delta mouth, 80 & 250km respectively from OSME Region, Ivanov et al 2021.
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 IUCN & BLDZ maps Sep 2021 do not reflect this. The BLI seabird database loads the map tiles, but the display no longer works Jun 2020 (Still defunct Aug 2022).

**Procellariidae**

Parent Taxon:BLDZ regard each taxon as valid species.

Southern Giant Petrel

*Macronectes giganteus*

Monotypic: Possible vagrant, given one found dead at Lac Assal Djibouti in 1991 Rekim et al 2009. NB some evidence (Penthaluck & Wink 2004) for the two Giant Petrels to be just ssp of M. giganteus, achieved consensus. Occurs mostly well below Tropic of Capricorn, but has reached Réunion & Seychelles IUCN.

Northern Giant Petrel

*Macronectes halli*

Monotypic: BLI Seabird Tracking Database Mar 2021 no longer has a few indications of individuals reaching OSME deep-ocean latitudes, datalogging limitations at times of approximately equal day/night periods presumably now taken into account. However, many supposed locations now shown as deep into continental Antarctica. Occurs mostly below Tropic of Capricorn, reaching 72°0S (Nov 2004).

Broad-billed Prion

*Pachyptila vittata*

Monotypic: Harrison et al 2021, but not Howell & Zufuet 2019, map occurrence as just reaching the southern part of the OSME Region deep-ocean area. It has reached Réunion IUCN.

Antarctic Prion (Dove Prion)

*Pachyptila desolata*

Monotypic, although considered polytypic in 1983. In 1979, a wreck of this species was discovered near Mogadishu, Somalia. In 2018.

Kerguelen Prion

*Aphrodias brevirostris (formerly Pterodroma brevirostris)*

Monotypic: In Sep 1978, one was found dead on a beach in Mallabà, Somalia by John Ash. Stors Olsen confirmed the ID, Ash 1983. The latitude was c.120km S of Socootta. Mostly confined to below 29 deg S.

White-headed Petrel

*Pterodroma lessonii*

Monotypic: R&A 2005 note unconfirmed occurrence Sri Lanka. Unlikely in OSME Region, since it mostly occurs below Tropic of Capricorn, but Howell & Zufuet 2019 tentatively map occurrence just into the SE corner of the OSME Region deep-ocean boundary, wandering to 5°S in eastern Indian Ocean. NB Mostly confirmed to below 36 deg S, but one vagrant reported Shetland, UK 2020.

Black-winged Petrel

*Pterodroma nigripennis*

Monotypic: Harrison et al 2021 note that this Pacific species has recently bred on Round Island N of Mauritius: it has also been seen off Mauritius and off St Paul Island in S Indian Ocean.

**PT**

Boyd's Shearwater (formerly within Macaronesian Shearwater (PT))

*Puffinus boydi* (sensu lato; formerly considered P. [thermieni] baroli)

PT. Originally lumped with many other taxa under Audubon’s Shearwater *P. thermieni*, firstly Macaronesian Shearwater was split into the thermieni/boydi/baroli complex, then Boyd’s Shearwater *P.(b.) boydi* was split with ssp baroli, thus leaving *thermieni* as the monotypic Audubon’s Shearwater (English name restored). Howell & Zufuet 2019 suggest this complex best treated as 3 full ssp. H&M4 noted case for splits, listing 3 groups under *P. thermieni*. BLDZ Sep 2019 remain with 3-taxa lumped *P. thermieni*. NB1 See ORL Hypothetical List for place of occurrence of Barolo Shearwater *P. boydi* in this complex. NB2 Obiol et al 2021 suggest re-evaluation of species status for *P. boydi* & *P. baroli*.

Boyd’s Shearwater

*Puffinus boydi* (sensu stricto) (*P. [thermieni] boydi*)

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 is Cape Verde Islands. Hypothetical report Turkey Western Anatolia Kirwan et al possibly this taxon or *P. baroli*, Barolo Shearwater (see Non-passerine List). Vagrancy to Region likely through Mediterranean than via Cape of Good Hope. NB1 Flood & van der Vliet 2019 provide an excellent ID paper on separation of *baroli* & *boydi*, & detail the separation difficulties. NB2 Obiol et al 2021, using advanced mathematical techniques analysing genetic data summarised in a time-calibrated species tree, suggest that the species status of Barolo Shearwater *P. baroli* & extralimital Boyd’s Shearwater *P. boydi* should be re-examined.

**Ciconiidae**

Painted Stork

*Mystura leucocephala*

Monotypic: R&A 2012 map wintering distribution to close to Kybyer (rare), BLDZ map Sep 2021 W past Dera Ismail Khan & almost N to Rawalpindi, as scarce non-breeder about 65km from border, but over 1100km N of its westernmost breeding area; vagrancy to Afghanistan likely and to SE Iran possible. Escape record 2 birds Oman 1986 OBLT.

African Woolly-necked Stork

*Ciconia microscelis*

Distribution S of Saharan & reaches Khartoum on the Nile. Given recent vagrancy of large soaring birds to Egypt and Israel, might wander to Region from its easternmost distribution in N Ethiopia.

Black-necked Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*


Saddle-billed Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Recorded E of Chelba Islands by Edgar Moltoni prior to 1941, Moltoni & Ruscone 1940-1944. Current distribution no nearer to Red Sea than NE Ethiopia, some 230km inland.

**Sulidae**

Abbot's Booby

*Papuaia abboti*

Vagrant to the Maldives only 300-350km from the easternmost boundary of the OSME deep-ocean area Praveen et al 2019 Anderson & Shimai 2020; from its foraging area around Christmas Island, the centre of its normal foraging area some 360km S of southernmost Java.

**Ardeidae**

H&M4 ressequences families, genera & within genera, but we remain with IOC sequencing...

von Schrenck's Bittern

*Ixobrychus eurhythmus*

Monotypic: Errorneously listed (no citation) several ’Egypt’ lists, but this strongly migratory species may well wander to easternmost OSME Region; BM to E Asia from Sundas & Philippines. Current distribution nearest to Region just E of Mongolia & SE Mynamar. Has reached Italy (2015 AERCTAC WP List).

**PT**

Western Reef Heron PT

*Egretta gularis*

Worthwhile separate list on allopatry pro tem; extralimital ’Western Reef Egret’*E.g.* gulare occurs western Africa, *Dimorphic Egret* *E.(g.) dimorpha* Madagascar islands, del Hoyo et al 2014c separate *E. gularis* from Pacific (Eastern) Heron *E. garzetta e. garzetta*, but retain as ssp schistacea & dimorpha. Further to this, E. garzetta 2010 who noted phylogeny of Little Egret *E. garzetta* & *E. gularis* would benefit from molecular analysis (as would placement of extralimital Pacific Reef Egret *E. garza*) . Collinson et al 2016 from shed feather of *E.(g.) schistacea* in Israel found closer affinities with two Little Egret *E. garzetta* from their western distribution, but a greater separation from extralimital Eastern Reef Heron *E.(g.)* schistacea. Their *E. gularis* & *E. 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 garruloid populations. It would be premature and unhelpful to amend ORL entries based on either Huang et al 2016 or Collinson et al 2016.

Dimorphic Egret

*Mascarene Reef-egret*

(Egretta gularis)*? dimorpha*

Monotypic: Breeding distribution limits are unclear: IIOC6.2 suggests E Africa coast & Madagascar, from which P. conspillatus BL 2008, OAS Sep 2007, IOC v2.3 separate caufts from merlina (Chatham Albatross) and salvinii (Salvin’s). Some (eg BLDZ) regard each taxon as valid species.

**Pelecanidae**

Kennedy et al 2013 established that pelicans fall into 3 Clades: an Old World Clade of the Dalmatian (Pelecanus crispus), Spot-billed (P. philippensis), Pink-backed (P. rufescens) & American (P. conspicillatus) Pelicans, a New World Clade of the American White (P. erythrorhynchos), Brown (P. occidentalis) and a monospecific Clade consisting solely of the Great White Pelican (P. onocrotalus), weakly grouped with the Old World Clade.

Spot-billed Pelican

*Pelecanus philippensis*


**Accipitridae**

IIOC4.4 sequences Falcobene to follow Piddick: Falcobene are not closely related to Accipitrines IIOC3.3 ressequenced Accipitrine genera and species. H&M recommend further, but we await IOC analysis. For a comprehensive overview of raptor migration, wintering and persecution in the Arabian Peninsula, see McGrady 2018.
Indian Vulture (Formerly Indian Long-billed Vulture)  

**Gyps indicus**  
Critically Endangered  


Slender-billed Vulture  

**Gyps tenourostis**  
Critically Endangered  

Monotypic. Possibly once irregular WV to Iranian S Baluchestan (Baluchistan) Zarudny 1911, but westernmost breeding distribution limit has retreated to easternmost Shahjanpurlar Uttar Pradesh BLDZ Sep 2021, a retreat of 750 km since 1995 from NE Pakistan.

Red-headed Vulture (King of Vultures)  

Sarcoramys calvus (formerly Torgos calvus) (R&A 2012 place in Aegypius ) Critically Endangered  

Monotypic. Formerly recorded in Pakistani Baluchestan, adjoining Iranian Baluchestan, pre-1950s. Robertos 1991. This region’s pre-1950s characteristic areas of open woodland has now largely disappeared due to human population increases & mass refugee exodus from Afghanistan causing deforestation. Zarudny 1911 sight records S Baluchistan Iran, status unknown. Breeding occurred Tharparkar Desert Pakistan 2002 (Nadeem et al 2007). Diclofenac poisoning renders current occurrence in OSME Region unlikely Chris Bowden Nov 2007 pers comm. BLDZ map Sep 2021 still indicates small isolated population around Zhob, Pakistan, only some 25km from Afghan border: the River Gumar flows out of Afghanistan at around 200m asl, a likely scavenging area: another remnant population may straddle the Pakistan/Indian border N of Bhuj, Gujarat.

White-headed Vulture  

**Aegypius monachus**  

Eastern Chanting Goshawk  

**Melierax polioterus**  
Monotypic. Given that 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 et al 2009), it may have been overlooked in Yemen. Apr 2011 report reassigned to Dark Chanting Goshawk M. metabolitates, although an anomalously marked individual. BLDZ Sep 2021 maps western breeding distribution limit as from S Djibouti, only 75km from Perim Island, Yemen. E to Cape Guardafui, then to Somalia. One photographed near Ethiopian border in Djibouti Sep 2018.

Japanese Sparrowhawk  

**Accipiter gularis**  
Polytypic; 3ssp, all extralimit. A gubius breeds montane pine forests N of easternmost Kazakhstan in Altai just 170km outside Region to NE, BLDZ. BUC Sep 2021: HBW Alive, H&M W to c80ºE (F-L&C 2005), but Gomboabatta & Leathy 2017 paint a gloomier picture in assessing nearest PM as 1100km away. However, rare winter records Pakistan not too far from Kyber whilst R&A 2012: BLDZ map Sep 2021 as WV in arc N and past Lahore almost to Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan as far W as Mannlaw, less than 150km from Afghanistan. Breeds not too far away from easternmost Kazakhstan in Mongolia Brinkworth 2012, but BLDZ Sep 2021 puts regular summer breeding range at least 1100km away. However, rare PM Erdegon, Mongolia (Great Gobi A Reserve) Bumboabatta & Leathy 2017, 900km from Altai. Winters extralimitally as far S to Sri Lanka & Singapore, one extreme vagrant reported Chagos Archipelago Carr 2015.

Black Kite PT  

**Milvus migrans**  
Old & quite recent records both may refer only to Parent Taxon and include lineatus under migrants. IOC2.7 split of Yellow-billed M. aegyptius. Hereberg et al 2016. sampling 311 birds from C Europe (mtDNA & nuclear DNA of 184 M. milvus, 124 M. migr. migrans & 3 F1 hybrid individuals) found populations of both examined species were characterized by a high gene flow within populations, with all of the major haplotypes widely distributed. They did not find mtDNA of one species in individuals with the plumage of the other species, genetic F1 hybrids which agrees with Haldane's Rule. Andreyenkova et al 2019 detail the essentially intermediate status of several populations/subspecies. That has always been the assumption in the OPL rules, but now it may be mapped by Andreyenkova et al 2021.

NB1 IOC has deferred any appraisal (milvus & migrans ssp lato) given recent studies requiring broader molecular data before publication. For pro tem, we remain with ORL arrangements. Likely some migrants/lineatus populations indeterminant, but diagnosable. Scheider et al 2009 suggest from small sample that: A. (n.) lilith may be genetically distinct from A. (n.) plumipes. Even with hundreds of birdwatchers present in Dec 2010 in Gujarat, I alone showed interest in trying to ID the next 3 taxa (M pers obs) NB2 Andreyenkova et al 2018, in a preliminary examination of data-deficient populations from the eastern Palearctic and India, found ancestral genetic connection between migrants, lineatus & govinda populations, & several specimens that may have two lines of ancestry (heteroplasmy): Asian geographic extent of this admixture... Andreyenkova et al 2019 consider the taxa aegyptius & parasitus perhaps are separate species, but together they are separate from migrants.

African Black Kite  

**Milvus [aegyptius] parasitus** (formerly Milvus (migrans) (sensu lato) parasitus)  
Relationship 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? Nikolaus 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 Scheider 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 recognition as separate species. Andreyenkova et al 2019 map aegyptius in a narrow band separating parasitus from the southern Red Sea African coast, but that remains unproven, as yet does full species status. Andreyenkova et al 2021 repeat this conclusion, emphasising that sample numbers are very low: they also found that the 2 main haplogroups (genetic patterns that show common ancestry) in Africa showed little relationship to current ssp boundaries, especially over the vast region attributed to parasitus. NB3 Thely widespread in Khartoum Region Jennér & Katha 2016, with suitable breeding and foraging areas along the Nile to Egypt's border.

White-bellied Sea Eagle  

**Haliaeetus leucogaster**  

Strigidae  

H&H heavily reassessed ORL Strigidae genera, morphological data and within species; we remained with IOC, whose v11.1 extensively revises the sequence, following Sallter et al 2019.

This highly complex group has considerable individual plumage variation within & across populations; morphological data are of limited value Pellegrino et al 2020. Taxa breeding distributions are poorly known, as are extents of sympathy, allopatry & hybridisation. There are also indications of song variation that need to be validated in the field. Our tentative listing is not final, but keeps the uncertainties in view.

PT  

Little Owl PT NB  
Suspicion that many records will continue under PT; field experience suggests many populations cryptically similar in appearance and plumage variations within populations not well documented.

**Athene noctua**  
K&W 2008 make A.(n.) lilith *a species* (qv) as in Wink et al 2008. Wink in van Neuenhuysen et al 2009 different little in detail; genetic analysis of A. noctua & A. cucularia (Nearctic Burrowing Owl) taxic 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 OSME) are glaux, lilith & indigena: glaux & lilith appear genetically close Wink et al 2009), thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately. Pro tem: Wink 2009 make lilith & A.(n.) cucularia (with c. papillosa) a species (qv). I&W 2009 make A.(n.) cucularia (qv) possibly in sympathy with lilith & A.(n.) cucularia, thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately. Pro tem: Wink 2009 make lilith & A.(n.) cucularia (with c. papillosa) a species (qv). I&W 2009 make A.(n.) cucularia (qv) possibly in sympathy with lilith & A.(n.) cucularia, thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately.

NB: **Thinly** Heavy reassessed ORL Strigidae genera, morphological data and within species; we remained with IOC, whose v11.1 extensively revises the sequence, following Sallter et al 2019.
NB1 In a study of 282 Little Owl skins from across the Extended Western Palearctic, 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 geographic area; no ssp could safely be identified on morphological data. Furthermore, the geographic distributions allotted to most subspecies are now suspect, as are ssp IDs. NB2 Other DNA research under way on Athene owls; more song data is being collected, possibly why IOC3.3 does not split noctua.

NB2 Ethiopian Little Owl Athene (noctua) spilogaster K&W 2008, Wink et al 2009 support elevation to ssp (with 2 ssp): spilogaster E Sudanesae Red Sea coastal hinterland S to Eritrea & somalica E to Nigeria; latter likely on African side (Djiboub) of Bab-el-Mandab Strait; Ash & Atkins 2008. Claim of specimen from Ha’lab triangle SW Egypt resembling spilogaster BiE 2009. Recorded Sudan only c180km S of Ha’lab Triangle Nikolaus 1987, according to map in Mikkola 2012. NB BirdLife still lump all taxa in the noctua complex, but interpretation of the Sep 2018 map in BLDZ, allows attribution of taxon spilogaster to coasts of Sudan & N Eritrea & somalica to coastal N Somalia.


NB4 African Scops Owl PT Otolia senegalaensis (sensu lato) K&W 2008, IOC 4 agree split Arabian Scops O.s.(a) paramele (qv), previously regarded as ssp. African Scops O.s. senegalensis sensu stricto novo now relegated to ORL Hypothetical List: no evidence found of this taxon in Region. Pons et al 2013 admit taxon paramele as full species & early offshoot of African clade, IOCT 1 agreed, del Hoyo et al 2014 also; long separation from rest of clade warrants omission from superspecies.

NB5 African Scops Owl Otolia senegalaensis (sensu stricto) Polyptic: nominate to Red Sea, nivousa elsewhere in Africa. Post-splits, absence of evidence of occurrence ssp senegalensis is Region; nearest population on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits, although Ash & Atkins 2009, not covering Djiboub, locate it more distantly. BLDZ 2021 maps breeding distribution to NE Eritrean coast, W Djiboub to NW Somali coast, areas & locations similar to Pearl-spotted Owl qv. The taxonomic identity of many mainland Africa populations is uncertain as are their affinities to each other, to African island populations and to Arabian Scops O.s. paramele (qv) Collar & Boesman 2020.

NC3 Indian Eagle Owl (Rock Eagle Owl, Dusky Eagle Owl) Bubo (bubo) bengalensis Monotypic: In the following split of the b. bengalensis from Eritrean Eagle Owl B.b. bubo, taxonomy follows König et al 1999, R&A 2005, IOC 1.6, K&W 2008. Although maps in König et al 1999 & K&W 2008 cover the SE quadrant of Afghanistan and Iranian Baluchistan, texts do not mention these countries: Mikkola 2012 reproduces this doubtful map; R&A 2005, 2012 map species quite close to the Khyber Pass, Pakistan, but not to Iran. Grimmett et al 2009 map Pakistan/Iran border along Golkrosh and Makran Coastal Ranges. BLDZ Jul 2019, Feb 2021, after refinement via contouring algorithm applied to Himalayan chain & not to Afghan border, maps residency consistently close to Afghan border in Pakistan from N of Charbagh (near Mingora) in a suspiciously fairly straight line SW through Peshawar W of Zhob & then on to Ormiana on the Indian Ocean. Closest line comes to Afghanistan is 25km near Zhob. However, found in Central Karakoram, Pakistan north of BLDZ Map of Nov 2020 Abbas et al 2014, survey to 4200m: the lowermost access into Wakhan, Afghanistan is the Broghol, at 4270m; see the account below for a summary of current lack of knowledge of separation of distributions in Pakistan of B. b. bubo and B. b. bengalensis. NB1 Early references to occurrence in Afghanistan rejected by Whistler (1944-5); ‘too pale’, assigned to B.b. turcomanus. However, we know of no subsequent analysis of extant specimens. K&W 2008 aver sympatric with B. bubo in Pakistan Roberts 1991.

NC4 Dusky Eagle Owl Bubo coromandus Map in König et al (1999) covers northeastmost Afghanistan, also HBWS, would be ssp coromandus. Range in R&A 2005 much further to S, & K&W 2008 seem to agree: BLDZ Jul 2019 maps this sp in lower altitudes irregularly from O Render Khan & Mannwal in the north of Pakistan (14 ann from Afghanistan to famed Indus catchment to Karachi; IUCN map Mar 2022, places westmost Pakistan distribution close to Tank, 100km from Afghanistan. Apparent ‘quarantine corridor’ shown in K&W 2008 (also R&A 2005, 2012) between this & Eritrean Eagle Owl B. b. bubo from coast mid-Pakistan N to Kashmire then SE to Nepal (but coromandus not included in molecular analyses cited in ORL) is also apparent in BLDZ Feb 2021 maps: the gap to N; however, IUCN maps Mar 2022 indicate the 2 species may overlap in a smallish area of Naushera/Theri Brahmani, Balochistan, Pakistan. Overlaid on these 2 distributions is that for Indian (Rock) Eagle Owl B. bengalensis whose straight-line separation from B. bubo is a worthless artefact because no fieldwork seems to have been done to define their detailed distributions nor identify any hybrid zone. Maps in König et al 1999, R&A 2005, Grimmett et al 2009, & IOC2.0 suggests confusion of species unlikely in OSME Region, for traditional well-watered woodland was then scarce in Afghanistan, but proliferation since then of small dams and in places new irrigation channels provides possible Afghan plantation habitat, to which species had adapted in Pakistan Roberts 1991.

NC5 Brown Fish Owl PT Bubo zeylonensis Recent work to establish distribution limits in southern Turkey (van den Berg et al 2010) complemented by molecular analysis (n1) suggests this population could be separable, but much data needed. Pro tem we consider semenowi to be monotypic, the 3 extralimital ssp semenowi, 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. NB Salter et al 2019 found Kutch to be embedded in Bubo, noting further research may split Bubo into 3 genera.

NC6 Eastern Brown Fish Owl Bubo (zeylonensis) leschenaulti Polyptic if split. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps only Brown Fish Owl semenowi, but also without any boundary between the 3 ssp that would comprise Eastern Brown Fish Owl. Given that at least 10 resident species are currently attributed to semenowi (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 revised by the contouring algorithm; the species is likely to occupy vegetation in valleys, perhaps nesting on adjacent cliffs. Although this Pakistan population is or reassignment would be useful to establish just how near Eastern Brown Fish Owl distribution comes to the OSME 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.

Colidae

NB5 Blue-naped Mousebird Urocissa macrorus Recorded, likely ssp greigii, along Sudan Nile Valley to within c150km S of Egypt Nikolaus 1987. BLDZ map Jul 2019 shows resident W Red Sea coast from Port Sudan S & E to N Somalia & N in Nile Valley to al Goled, Sudan, some 350km from Egypt. Has been recorded Dahlak Islands de Marchi et al 2009. Heavily traded species, particularly for the US pet market.

Coraciidae

NB7 Dollarbird Eurypterus orientalis Vagrant to Pakistan (ebird cited by Lees & Gilroy 2021). Given its Himalayan breeding population in Himachal Pradesh is only 250km from Pakistan, this strong-flying species with a tendency to wander huge distances may well reach the OSME Region.

Meropidae

NB7 Little Bee-eater Merops pusillus Widespread and common in Ethiopia, ssp cyanostictus, Ash & Atkins 2005, Redman et al 2009. Family are powerful fliers; nearest ssp cyanostictus of W Somalia or ocultum of E Ethiopia; Kwanten & Matsumura B.DJiboub & NW Somali coast in Hargeisa Province BLDZ Jul 2019. NB Confusible with extraordinary Blue-breasted Bee-eater M. variegatus (mostly of W’04’ Ethiopia) & Cinnamon Bee-eater M. oreobates, W & S of Ethiopia.
Ethiopian Bee-eater
Menops lafresnayi
Split from Blue-breasted Bee-eater M. vanegatus IOC11.2. Occurs Eritrean Red Sea coast opposite Dahlak Archipelago; nearest Saudi Farasan island only 105km from nearest Dahlak island, in line-of-sight at under 1000m altitude, above which bees-eaters often fly.

Olive Bee-eater
Menops superciliosus

Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Menops philippinus
Westernmost Pakistan range (ssp javanicus) close (25km) to Kyber; spring overshoot to Afghanistan possible; map Grimmett et al. 2009, R&A 2012, mapped close to Afghan border beyond Mingoara, below Aranud, Pakistan BLDZ Jul 2019. Vagrant SE Iran?

Megalaimidae

Coppersmith Barbet
Psilopogon haemacephalus

Viellot’s Barbet
Psilopogon philippica
African barbets in Megalaima (Psilopogon) transferred to Lybius Moye 2004. Nominates breeds Eritrean Dahlak Islands de Monti et al 2009, BLDZ map Sep 2020: shortest sea-crossing to nearest Farasan island 105km, visible from only 1000m altitude.

Indicatoridae

Yellow-rumped Honeyguide
Indicator xanthonotus
Monotypic IOC11.2. Reported on-line Afghanistan. Possible, but nearest documented population NE Pakistan thought extinct or fragmentary but shown as isolate 210km from Afghan border NE of Islamabad at Murree in BLDZ Jul 2021 map. R&A 2005, 2012 say no. In H&M contigenda E Dickinson pers comm

P1

Indian Pitta
Pitta brachyura
Monotypic. van Elis & Brady 2014 identified a specimen, a juvenile female collected along the Karkheh River, “17 km sw of Khuzestan, Iran”, 19 Nov 1968. The age and timing (collected in November) align with normal migration/diversal timings; Dutch Birding WP List Jan 2015. Origin uncertain (Unclear whether claimed feather abraction attributable to natural causes, captivity before being traded or captivity after capture somewhere in Iran). & so has been rejected by IUCN. It has not been researched, the genus is not close to Tephrodornithidae. The pitta has a phylogeny of Piteidae & a phylogeny of Piergeon Falcons; taxon radiation & evolution relatively recent.

P2

Common Woodshrike
Tephrodornis pondicerianus
Though ssp pallidus is sedentary in Pakistani wooded lowlands, it does penetrate ravines & occurs close to Afghan border near Thal & at Khyber Roberts 1992, within 25km at Torkham Pass, down to 10km N of Zhob & 30km NW of Bannu to up to 75km in numerous places BLDZ Sep 2021, the western line of occurrence is in an almost straight line from N of Peshawar toOrmara, Pakistan.

P3

Small Minivet
Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border (ssp pallidus ). BLDZ Sep 2021 map occurrence in Pakistan to within 20km of Afghan border at Peshawar & N of Kohat. This species may be split in future.
The identity of the population in China, once labelled 'arenarius', that merges into that of (now referred to as) speculigerus is uncertain. Both 'arenarius' (L. sphenocercus speculigerus Panov 2009) and tsaedensensis from WC China winter in N India and Pakistan; 2 reported & photographed in GJ (Golstein, 2008) may be from this group. S specimens from E Iran are mentioned in H&E 1970, but Vaurie was non-committal. Khaleghizadeh et al. 2017. The taxon tsaedensensis is the largest in the crassatus-collario-arenarius complex, but is the least studied, perhaps being associated with saual and salt cedar habitat (from Przekoputsky's 1886 expedition); however, size decreases to N of breeding range until it approaches that of speculigerus (Evgeny Panov in litt.). From limited specimen data, intermediates with arenarius (probably the population formerly attributed to 'arenarius') and speculigerus are likely (Evgeny Panov in litt.). BLDZ Sep 2021 remains with lumped L. arenarius, hence map is unhelpful. NB1 English name 'Isabella Shrike' here inappropriate, hence intern name informal/OSME. NB2 Should tsaedensensis be part of the undefined population of 'arenarius' in NW China is found to be closer to tsaedensensis than to speculigerus in Mongolia & just in the Russian Federation; seemingly, there is no gap in that arc Evgeny Panov pers comm.

In the 12 years since the draft of Olsson et al. 2010 was submitted in 2009 for publication, in the context of species interpretation of their results & the results of Panov 2011 & of Bannikova 2010 (in Panov 2011) is Southern Grey Shrike Lanius meridionalis a monotypic isolate confined to Iberia & southern France (now named Iberian Shrike), being related amongst most closely to Nearctic Northern Grey Shrike L. borealis & not to any Palearctic taxa; those formerly attributed as ssp of L. meridionalis are actually related to 2 other Lanius spp, Great Grey Shrike L. excubitor & Northern Grey Shrike L. borealis. The latter's eastern Palearctic ssp are sibirica, bianchii, mallis & hunea, only the nominate being in the New World. Within the WP & Africa, the 12 or 13 taxa related to L. excubitor comprise not only ssp, but probably also full species here considered as part of a large superspecies that includes all the above. This general position is accepted by BLDZ 2018, IOC&2, Shirihai & Svensson 2018, Poelstra 2010, Poelstra 2014, Tajkova & Red'kin 2014, Peer et al. 2011 & the AOU in 2017 as proposed by Rasmussen 2017 (almost the exact arrangement as Vaurie 1999). That the results of Olsson et al. 2010 were obtained solely from mtDNA alone, their conclusions not to attribute species status to some of the taxa in their derived Clades. However, Fuchs et al. 2019 not only sequenced mtDNA, but also two nuclear regions. Their view of the Olsson et al. 2010 findings was uncompromising. "We will not discuss these relationships again as the original results were corroborated here". We therefore list below our overall interpretation of the status and relationships of the large grey shrike taxa as much provisionally as before.

NB1 This kind of taxonomic complexity is far from uncommon eg the flavicollis wags, the large white-headed gulls, Pacific island owls & Paradise kingfishers, all mentioning a broader view. NB2 Isenmann & Bouchet 1991 as amended by Isenmann & Lefranc 1994 had placed taxon elegans within the Monotypic H&M4, but IOC5.4 lists as polytypic Chinese Grey Shrike nominate and PT 2016 splits these taxa; much clearly to be researched. Map in Shimba 2007 suggests that merges into that of (now referred to as) speculigerus that Panov 2009 suggests is invalid; Panov et al. 2009 & Jønsson 2009 & Jønsson 2009 had accepted split into 4 spp (this taxon would be P. occidentalis, as Old World members of Vireonidae, placing

Vireonidae

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

Rhipiduridae

Rhipidura sinesis uses generally adaptable and inquisitive genus. Nyán et al 2009 & Jansson et al 2016 rearange Rhipidura for monotypy, the 2 spp below now part of true Leucocura

Corvidae

Leucocura auriculata (Rhipidura auriculata) Polytypic. Contra Arlott 2007 map, Grimmett et al. 2009, R&A 2012 map extensively along riverine (including artificial valleys), up to E of Salted Koh, close to Afghan Khyber. BLDZ Sep 2021 maps this sedentary taxon (as Rhipidura auriculata) W of Peshawar & Kohat only 30km from Torkham Pass on Afghan border & only 20km from border slightly further S: ssp auriculata; other 2 ssp extralimital to E. NB Nominate along Himalayas breeds at lower altitudes than L. albícollis above.

Leucocura albicollis (Rhipidura albicollis) Polytypic. Arlott 2007 suggests: that in R&A 2012 just reaches Pakistan from E. Grimmett et al. 2009 map in Pakistan, 3 small disjunct areas, Murree Hills, Gilgit & Kunar valley in NW; H&M place ssp canescens in NE Pakistan, BLDZ Sep 2021 indicates presence as far W as Islamabad, but only in winter; isolate breeding populations possible in Afghan Darvaz, near Khost. This taxon along Himalayas breeds at higher altitudes than L. aureola & so may wander more easily into Afghanistan.
**P10** Plain-crowned Jay

_**Garrulas biapiciata**_

Split from Eurasian Jay _G. glandarius_ by BLDZ & IUCN: nominate in W Himalayas as far as Narmal, eastern Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan, some 215km from Afghanistan: 5 other extralimital spp E to easternmost China & Taiwan.

**P11** Azure-winged Magpie (Asian Azure-winged Magpie)

_Cyanopica cyanus_

Westward range expansion ssp cyanus increases vagrancy chance; probable vagrants noted E of Region at c110ºE at 56ºN Rogacheva 1992, over 500km from BLZD Sep 2018 mapped occurrence, Felevov pers comm cited in Haring et al 2007. M&P 2000 map western limit 200km E of Kazakhstani, not in Afghanistan. BLZD 2020 maps suggest likely wanderers, easternmost not Kazakhstani. Now although HWB14 maps only to c110ºE, BLDZ Sep 2021 maps 200km E to c120ºE; some 700km from Kazakhstan. However, Gomboaob & Leahy map to 92ºE at Ulaanbaatar, only some 340km from Kazakhstan, suggesting westward spread is being maintained. But birds have introduced these species near Urumqi, Xinjiang, NW China, perhaps at Siketu, only 170km from the Kazakh border Ma & et al 2013; it is thrive in country hoax. NB Svensson et al 2009, H&M4 strangely make no mention of split of extralimital Azure C. cyanus as per Fok et al 2002, Kuykovo et al 2004, Kuykovo 2019. 3rd ssp is japonensis, only on Honshu Island.

**P12** Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Gold-billed Magpie)

_Urocissa flavirostris_

ssp cucullata of interest. Occurs up to 3500m & R&A 2005. Map in Arott 2007 suggests R&A 2005 map almost reaches E to Pakistan Khyber. Indication of some support in M&P 2000. However, likely map in Roberts 1992 (p420) has been misread – 2 species on 1 map, but shading densities not greatly different – Eurasian Magpie _Pica pica_ is mapped to border, but U. flavirostris in only 3 small patches of moist temperate forest 150-300m below isolates population NE & NW of Islamabad, the nearer to Afghanistan being some 75km from the border. Although citations probably based on Bates & Lowther 1952, their 'Kashmir' comprised only c20% of 21st-century disputed area: species on 2017 Ladyak Checklist without comment.

**P13** 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 Kurram, as do R&A 2012. BLZD 2020 maps it at Sinn Wam, within 20km of Afghan border, settlements along the border crossing Kullu River having ample trees (NW of Banu, Pakistan). H&M4 ssp bistoii resident Pakistan. All 8 other ssp extralimital further E.

**P14** Biddulph’s Ground Jay (Xingjiang Ground-jay)

_Podoces biddulphi_

Probably in dry valley areas on Kazakhstan-China border, E of Zharkent area, where M&B 1994 map neatly stops, as does HWB14 map. Perhaps coincidentally, M&P 2000 also map it to E end of Wahka, but on a survey estimate >10 000 birds, but fragile habitats degraded by 20-fold human population increase HWB14. Known to occur within 140km of China-Kyrgyz border Ma-Ming & HK Kwok 2004, Londi 2011. BLZD 2021 map to within 50km of Kyrgyzstani N of Aksu, Xinjiang (a relatively low-altitude pass through mountains) & within 65km of Kyrgyzstani N of Kashgar; also occurring 300km E of Wakhin.

**P15** Cape Crow (Cape Rook)

_Corvus capensis_

ssp kordofanensis of interest. Two reported Egypt 29 Nov 07 at Shalateen (noted to Sandgrouse ATR) were not accepted on EORC list. Occurs N Somali coast BLDZ map Sep 2021, but not near Bab al Mandab Strait & maps Eritrean population occurring away from coast, contra Ash & Atkins 2009 (who suggested it breeds Eritrean Red sea coast); breeds Somali N coast Redman et al 2009. NB HWB14 notes largely sedentary, but has wandered occasionally, but if amongst numerous other corvid ssp would be difficult to confirm.

**P16** ‘Eastern Rook’

_Corvus (frugilegus) pastinator_

Reports from Kazakhstan of occasional nesting or vagrancy are plausible, but lack specimens or other definitive proof. Arend et al 2019. Hils of SE Iran, E Afghanistan? M&B say Pakistani Hazara is western limit. Roberts 1992 maps to Afghan border at S Kurram, as do R&A 2012. BLZD 2020 maps it at Sinn Wam, within 20km of Afghan border, settlements along the border crossing Kullu River having ample trees (NW of Banu, Pakistan). H&M4 ssp bistoii resident Pakistan. All 8 other ssp extralimital further E.

**P17** Dwarf Raven (Somali Crow)

_Corvus edithae_

Narrow endemic to the Ethiopian highlands E of N Pakistan. However, probably based on Bates & Lowther 1952, their 'Kashmir' comprised only c20% of 21st-century disputed area: species on 2017 Ladyak Checklist without comment.

**P18** Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher (Gray-headed Flycatcher)

_Culicicapa ceylonensis_

ssp calochrysea of interest. Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Arott 2007 suggests breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit SE Kashmir, Roberts & Alström 2002b. However, all related Canarian & North African ssp was grouped, the split arising from Salzburger 2002b.

**P19** Fire-capped Tit

_Cephalopyrus flaviceps_

Claimed summer visitor NE Afghanistan, of which no mention in HBW13 H&M4 (ssp flaviceps). Occurs up to 3000m on open mountain slopes with bushes and scattered deciduous trees & may well occur in such patches in Nurestan & Wakhan; however, Roberts 1992 sceptical of single previous 1924 claim for Afghanistan & R&A 2005 cite 1 record NE Afghanistan, Kandahar; best-known Kandahar is in S Afghanistan; Bates & Lowther record range is only 140km of China-Kyrgyz border Ma-Ming & HK Kwok 2004, Londei 2011. 2019 on Corvid Phylogeography mentions peripherally that some degree of separation is indicated, but other molecular techniques are required for certainty. Even Kuykovo cannot advise on the distribution limits, Alexey Kuykovo pers comm Jul 2019. Currently BLZD Sep 2021 maps East Asian SB populations of flycatchers & passerines as separated by only 280km in N Mongolia, between Ulaanom & Tse. Gomboaob & Leahy 2019 make the point that nowhere is either taxon common, although their allopatric separation distance accords with BLZD.

**P20** Yellow-browed Tit

_Sylviparus modestus_

2015 Ladyak Checklist; simlaensis Kashmir westernmost range H&M4. BLZD Sep 2021 notes declining population & distribution, but maps within 25km of Pakistan in Kashmir at westernmost distribution between Gulmarg & Rajouri.

**P21** Cyanaecus Blue Tit (Cyniacus Blue Tit)

_Cyanaecus [tenuifera] cyanacea_

Alaudidae

Since the 1990s, large-scale revisions worldwide of lark taxonomy have occurred, here mainly of Calandra and incorporating recent Russian research. Classification of their disparate tribe of Alaudidae. We follow Alström et al. 2013b, 2015 in their comprehensive reviewed phylogeny as per IOC4.2, but modified for inter alia, Calandra sensu stricto by the inferred Clades in Stiervander et al. 2016: the same team have produced a consequent taxonomic revision, Stiervander et al. 2020 who applied molecular species delimitation, employing coalescence-based multi-rate Poisson Tree Processes (mPTP) on cytochrome b sequences to the lark species. They found new and supporting evidence for divergences between taxa so deep that likely splits, as Clades, probably will mostly be reinforced by the application of other genetic techniques. Many lark spp occur over open remote habitats, including deserts, that have been little studied. We have in most of these cases (where the number of spp was small) listed potential species that will require further research. Where there were multiple spp, most of which were not sampled, there as yet is no means of allocating the unsampled spp to any Clade Per Alström pers comm Sep 2021. Furthermore, some of these multiple spp may later be deemed invalid, but in any case spp breeding distribution limits & boundaries are often poorly known or guessed at.

P23 Rufous-tailed Lark

Ammomanes phoenicuroides

On Avibase website Afghan list without coting source, but R&A 2012 conclusive mapping westernmost population spp phoenicuroides in NE Pakistan, BLDZ Sep 2021 conf of Pakistani lark populations. That all from Multan as far as Dullabhala, some 20km from Afghan, only other spp tentative extralimital in S India.

P24 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

Normally spp melanocephalus reaches in Nile Valley Sudan 200m S of Egyptian border (BLDZ Sep 2021 map just S of Wawa), but movements N occur during rains Nikaulas 1987: possible overshoot in years of exceptional rains; spp leucotis in S Sudan & Eritrea near coast. C & NE Pakistan.

P25 Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix griseus

Monotypic. IOC & R&A in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border, BLDZ Sep 2021 map as far as Minora & halfway to Afghan border from Peshawar, only about 20km from the border for about 30km.

P26 Tibetan Lark

Melanocorypha maximaria

Monotypic. IOC 2007 map shows extensive area just SE of Wakhan, but Melanocorypha spp prone to wander widely. R&A 2005 map just N of Afghanistan, but R&A 2012 reduce nearest distribution to NE Pakistan, least 460km from the OSME Region. Maps now agree: there is no Red Sea breeding distribution: the nearest (allopatric) breeding are is in C & SW Ethiopia, at least some 3000m R&A 2005. Very similar appearance to European populations of Great Tit P. major. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests occurrence; R&A 2005, 2012 map eastemmost limit exactly at HBW 12. Grimmett et al. 2009 map to border at Kunar river; Afghan occurrence spp monticulus in Daryâ & Konar valley’s.

P31 Red-throated Rock Martin

(Rock Martin, African Rock Martin)

Ptyonoprogne fuligula, Andersson & Prater 1867 (or post-subsequent BLI split P. alandrella sensu stricto by the inferred Clades et al 2013a, 2013b in their comprehensively reviewed phylogeny as per IOC4.2, but modified et al 2013b, 2015). However, Gombobaater & Leahy 2019 state species is fully resident, their map apparently showing its presence in all Mongolia: their map may possibly be an accidental copy of the preceding species in their book, listed as Horned Lark Eremophila alpestris; this taxon now is Steppe Horned Lark/Mongolian Horned Lark E.(a.) brandtii.

P30 Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne rufigula

IOC2.0 accepts initial split to P. rufigula, bansoensis, pusilla on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Strait. But weather-system driven vagrants likely Egypt, Yemen or SW Saudi Arabia (see Hypothetical List). However, note further

P27 Savi’s Lark

Ptyonoprogne melanocephala

Monotypic. IOC & R&A in Pakistan close to E&NE Afghan border, BLDZ Sep 2021 map as far as Minora & halfway to Afghan border from Peshawar, only about 20km from the border for about 30km.

BLDZ Sep 2021 maps close to (3km) Afghan border W of Dir & near Maskidh & Pashtah on tributaries of Panjika & Babukara Rivers respectively, 80km N of Mardan, where Afghanistan’s Nutistan Reserve reaches its easternmost point. Sediament, little altitudinal migration, avoids drier Himalayan forests Roberts 1992. 3 extralimatical spp further E Eck & Martins 2006.

P32 Dusky Crag Martin

Ptyonoprogne concordata

Though a resident species in its distribution, it occurs in southeasternmost Pakistan (BLDZ Sep 2021), 685km from Sindh and 986km from Oman, not such a remarkable distance for such an aerial species, especially in strong easterly winds.

Cettidae

IOC v2.0 placed Cettidae ahead of Aegithalidae. NB family name may be invalid on priority grounds Ed Dickinson in litt.; Alström et al. 2011 confirmed Tasa, Tickelia & Mountain Tailorbird Orthotomus cuniculatus to be nested within Cettia, many taxa formerly included in Cettia removed to new genera, including Honornia, English name below informal at OSME.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

(formerly Hirundo fuligula)

IOC2.0 accepts initial split to obsolata & fuligula sensu stricto , as do www.zoonenames.net, H&M, Goodman et al. 1986 treated as full sp; no proven records of P. f. fuligula an in Region (nearest residents coastal N Ethiopia BLDZ map Jul 2016), but weather-system-driven vagrants likely Egypt, Yemen or SW Saudi Arabia (see Hypothetical List). However, note further complication of understanding of taxonomic identities below. Unfortunately, Svenonius et al. 2009, Shirihai & Svenonius 2018 remain with P. fuligula sensu lato, the related maps liable to misinterpretation of distribution of fuligula sensu lato & sensu stricto species. HBW Alive/BlL have undertaken a deeper split, somewhat differently from previous proposals, erecting Large Rock Martin as P. fuligula sensu stricto and for the sp P. obsolata (formerly Rock Martin P. rufigula) for the species occupying the region south of the Saharan 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. fuligula sensu superstipicta) in the OSME Region; all earlier records refer to pre-split Rock Martin P. fuligula sensu lato. Should a 1st record for the OSME Region occur, the split of P. alandrella sensu stricto by the inferred Clades et al 2013b, 2015 looks unlikely. Savi’s Lark is still an invalid spp, NB2 IUCN Red List now suggests P. alandrella sensu stricto likely splits (or post-subsequent BLI split P. fuligula sensu superstipicta) in the OSME Region; all earlier records refer to pre-split Rock Martin P. fuligula sensu lato. Should a 1st record for the OSME Region occur, the split of P. alandrella sensu stricto by the inferred Clades et al 2013b, 2015 looks unlikely. Savi’s Lark is still an invalid spp, NB2 IUCN Red List now suggests P. alandrella sensu stricto likely splits
Phylloscopidae

IO2.0 removes Phylloscopus from Sylviae and places with Seicercus in new family Phylloscopidae, ahead of Acrocephalidae sensu stricto, but the use of that family name continued invalid on priority grounds (Ed Dickinson in litt 2012), which decision is asserted in H&M4, where Phylloscopus & Seicercus are retained as families with 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 which is further reduced by H&M4 erecting the genera Rhabdina & another, again citing Olsson et al 2005. However, Alström et al 2011b, 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 IO2Cluster resequencing. NB Kolesnikova et al 2013 shoe that song did not function as a signal of direct aggression in 2 leaf warbler spp, Large-billed P. magnirostris & extratropical Sulphur-breasted P. nittici, and if typical of the genus, thus song aggression may be a labile trait prone to rapid evolution.

Phylloscopus coronatus
(Seicercus coronatus H&M4)

Monotypic. BLDZ Jul 2019 maps breeding B of Baikal & Mongolia in Far East mostly below 55°N, Sakhalin, S into China, Korean Peninsula & Japan. Previously plausibly but erroneously occupiable was considered a ssp of, then a split from P. coronatus sensu stricto on morphology, but now known to belong to Bluhm & Olsson et al 2005: note Vaurie in 1950s treated occupiable as full species, but subsequently considered it conspecific with coronatus Olsson et al 2005. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, 1st for UK Oct 2009; such vagrants must cross the OSME Region. NB Sikkin Meierzhernz record finger (see history in Garfield 2007), also in Assam Meierzhernz records misidentified Bluhm’s Leaf-Warbler P. reguloides – R&A 2005 (see also Garfield 2007).

Phylloscopus eximianus

First for Western Palearctic trapped Kipisićvarni Finland Jul 2021 by Petteri Lethikoinen (Image Esko Pasanen) possibly crossed OSME Region on journey from its breeding grounds in Kamchatka & Yukkla: see BLDZ map Jul 2021.

P36 Eastern Crowned Warbler
Phylloscopus xanthochistos
(formerly Seicercus xanthochistos, to which H&M4 revert)

Monotypic. BLDZ 2005 map easternmost limit W corner of Kashmir, similarly M&P 2000, but BLDZ Sep 2021 places westernmost limit N & E of Islamabad, close to the Tarbela Dam, above Harpur. Grimsell et al 2009 status resident or altitudinal migrant; any Afghan population therefore isolated. 3 extralimital ssp to E. Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Ariot 2007 suggests wintering area ssp xanthochistos NE Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westermmost limit W corner of Kashmir, similarly M&P 2000, but BLDZ Sep 2021 places westernmost limit N & E of Islamabad, close to the Tarbela Dam, above Harpur. Grimsell et al 2009 status resident or altitudinal migrant; any Afghan population therefore isolated. 3 extralimital ssp to E.

P37 Kamchatka Leaf Warbler
Phylloscopus eximianus

Monotypic. The status of a number of African and Arabian populations within the Acrocephalus scirpaceus/A. baeticatus complex do not align comfortably as ssp or ssp. We align the ORL approach of emphasizing that whereas we don’t know, we use round brackets. Hering et al 2011 found avicenniae breeding in date palm & olive trees in Siwa, Egypt in high numbers; the genetic distance from scirpaceus is very deep. The form is now known to belong to Bluhm & Olsson et al 2005: note Vaurie in 1950s treated occupiable as full species, but subsequently considered it conspecific with scirpaceus Olsson et al 2005. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, 1st for UK Oct 2009; such vagrants must cross the OSME Region. NB Sikkin Meierzhernz record fraudulent (see history in Garfield 2007), also in Assam Meierzhernz records misidentified Bluhm’s Leaf-Warbler P. reguloides – R&A 2005 (see also Garfield 2007).

Acrocephalidae

IOC v2.0 removes Acrocephalus & Hippolais from Sylviae & places with some African genera in new Acrocephalidae, after Phylloscopus sensu stricto. Restructuring of Acrocephalus genus invalid from Flegren 2009: details per Acrocephalus/A. baeticatus/A. reguloides ahead of Acrocephalus sensu stricto, 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 Calamodoc or Notiochla genera as discussed in Flegren 2009. NB Kennerly & Pearson 2010 adopt a nominally conservative taxonomic approach, but emphasise strongly that much change is likely to follow.

The status of a number of African and Arabian populations within the Acrocephalus scirpaceus/A. baeticatus complex do not align comfortably as ssp or ssp. We align the ORL approach of emphasizing that whereas we don’t know, we use round brackets. Hering et al 2011 found avicenniae breeding in date palm & olive trees in Siwa, Egypt in high numbers; the genetic distance from scirpaceus is very deep. The form is now known to belong to Bluhm & Olsson et al 2005: note Vaurie in 1950s treated occupiable as full species, but subsequently considered it conspecific with scirpaceus Olsson et al 2005. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, 1st for UK Oct 2009; such vagrants must cross the OSME Region. NB Sikkin Meierzhernz record fraudulent (see history in Garfield 2007), also in Assam Meierzhernz records misidentified Bluhm’s Leaf-Warbler P. reguloides – R&A 2005 (see also Garfield 2007).

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 Malmgren 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 Warblers A. scirpaceus sensu lato.
Brehm's Reed Warbler (Ambiguous Reed Warbler - Dutch Binding) Acrocephalus [sic] ambiguus (formerly part of A.) batactiatus Clade 4 in Olsson et al 2016. Monotypic. IOC v2.3 accepts split of batactiatus, which removed this taxon from the OSME Patterline List, making it wholly an African species (see also BoA Vol Mt), Angroak Reed Warbler A. (b.) avicenniae thus being separated from this complex (Dickinson 2003 placed this under A. scirpaceus). However, Olsson et al 2016 further reduce A. (b.) batactiatus to southern Africa (Clade 8). A. (b.) ambiguus sp novo (accepted in IOC 11.2), raising possibility of this taxon (part of ‘batactiatus’ in 2013) in E Libya & W Egypt as a nom. com. we concur with this arrangement while recognising it may later be placed in batactiatus, avicenniae or ambiguous! NB3 Given that Olsson et al 2016 represents a single line of study, that there is a lack of proof of refugia, and that further corroborative studies are needed, they conclude that the most conservative taxonomy to adopt would be to consider all lineages as ssp. of A. scirpaceus. However, in the OXL, we will accept pro tem the null hypothesis of a lack of free interbreeding to suggest possible full species, but within the constraint of an overall superspecies. NB4 Hering et al 2009, 2010a, 2010b, 2011 documented puzzlingly ‘odd’ breeding populations scattered across North Africa. NB5 Hattie et al 2008, analysing genetic history of Iberian & other southern European populations, show genetic cohesion & population structure likely linked at glaciation refugia in Libya for A. batactiatus, Caucasus for A. a. fusci & Italy & Balkans for A. scirpaceus. NB6 BLDZ Jul 2019 remains with a lumped A. scirpaceus, but the map has changed to show fully resident populations as defined in much of the recent literature: IOC 12.2 proposes lumping African A. batactiatus & EurAsia A. scirpaceus as Common Reed Warbler A. scirpaceus sensu lato.

Ash & Aikins 2009 omit any mention. NB2 May move to new genus Notocicla. NB3 DNA & vocalisation separation of batactiatus taxa low, but see Hering et al 2010b for first finding of molecular separation and sympatric breeding with EurAsia Reed Warbler A. scirpaceus in Libya. NE African populations to be better sampled; other factors perhaps involved Kennerley & Pearson 2010. New family Alström et al 2018b, but IOC10.2, having agreed in draft stage, reverted simply to new genus within Helopistes, since both have accepted new genus Helopistes. BLDZ remain with Locustellidae.


Chinese Bush Warbler Locustella taczanowskii (Formerly Bradypterus taczanowskii) Monotypic. Vagrant in Sman Mts Krasnoyarsk Republic, not far from easternmost Kazakhstan Rogacheva 1992, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 suggesting nearest breeding centre 600km to NE but, BLDZ map Sep 2019 indicates 800km distance more likely. However, Gombobaatar & Leahy 2019 map it as occurring no nearer in N Mongolia than 1500km, which suggests that earlier estimates were confused. B. taczanowskii thal (pous sensu lato) NB a wintering population crosses Himalayas to winter S Nepal, N India R&A 2005. Shimba 2007 maps Suggest westernmost range limit roughly at 90° E.

Spotted Bush Warbler PT Locustella thraumatora (formerly Bradypterus thraumatorus) Alström et al 2008a, H&M4 split into B. (t.) thraumatora (extra field, E of central Himalayas), West Himalayan Bush Warbler B. (kashmiriensis and Baikal Bush Warbler B. davidii), which is Siberian Bush Warbler of HBW11. Kennerley & Pearson 2010 treat it as separate as do Alström et al 2010b, who also subsume all Asian Bush Warbler in Locustella.

Baikal Bush Warbler (Siberian Bush Warbler) (Pere David’s Bush Warbler) Locustella davidi (formerly Bradypterus [thraumatorus] davidii) Alström et al 2008a map neeartheasternmost breeding range of ssp suschini’ near source of Ob, Alta S-C Russia, within reasonable distance of easternmost Kazakhstan, Kennerley & Pearson 2010 placing just to N of Flint et al 1984, also Sany Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Shimba 2007 map suggests that easternmost Kazakhstan, as Spotted Bush Warbler B. thraumatora & so is discarded. Although BLDZ Sep 2021 indicates 1250km from Kazakhstan, to disparate wintering areas in SE Asia, nominate breeding further E, Gombobaatar & Leahy 2019 attribute 4 small possible breeding locations in Mongolia, the nearest 2 being 1000km from easternmost Kazakhstan, although they map likely migration occurrence within 700km.

West Himalayan Bush Warbler (Himalayan Grasshopper Warbler) Locustella kashmiriensis (Formerly Bradypterus kashmiriensis) Monotypic. This W Himalayan taxon, an altitudinal migrant whose distribution covers only 450km along Himalayas, might possibly be a vagrant to suitable habitat in Wakhlan valleys, but Kennerley & Pearson 2010 map much more distantly than earlier authors. BLDZ Sep 2021 gives W limit as also Sylviidae, Khet Aga & Karol 2011. A. kashmiriensis in HBW11 (some 600km from Afghan Wakhlan & Torkham Pass), its wintering areas beginning just to NE of Simla, Chaudharg, India.

 Rufous-fronted Prinia Prinia bucharani Monotypic. On-line claim Afghanistan not supported Baker 1997, but mapped Pakistan along border at Khyber; R&A 2005, the same; map Grimmett et al 1998 on NE Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Roberts 1992 maps into Afghanistan & nearby to Thal S; Grimmett et al 2008a map likewise. Resident from NE Pakistan to W of Multan, Pakistan; BLDZ Jul 2019, occupying the plains W of the Indus all the way to Karachi.

 Grey-breasted Prinia Prinia Hodgsoni Grimmett et al 2009 map rufula in N Pakistan up to N Swat, dense scrub or dry forest, could well occur similar habitat Afghan Darya-ye & Konar valleys; BLDZ Sep 2021 maps N&W past Mingora 64km from Afghanistan, almost reaching Mardan to the N. S other, extralimtal ssp to E & S.

 Yellow-billed Prinia Prinia flaviventris ssp sindiana locally common along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Kurram (Grimmett et al 2009), may extend irregularly into Afghan & Iran; BLDZ Sep 2021 map to Peshawar border near Spin W, 10km W of Bannu down the Indus Valley to Karachi. 6 other extralimtal ssp to SE & E to Borneo.

 Ashy Prinia Prinia socialis R&A map ssp stewarti in Pakistan close to E Afghan border; BLDZ Sep 2021 maps W-Most Pakistan distribution just reaching the Indus River near Jhang, halfway between Islamabad-Peshawar. 3 other extralimtal ssp to E & S.


 Cricket Longtail (Cricket Warbler & H&M) Spiloptila clamosus Monotypic genus. Recorded Sudan in 120km² square 21°N, 31°E, 90km S of Wadi Halfa, just below Egyptian border Nikolaus 1987, possibly an isolate population; BLDZ Sep 2021 maps near circular area from 45km SWE Wadi Halfa to 125km; also maps separate trans-Africa latitudinal band to Ethiopian coast. Also recorded Monoco, N of Sahara Amezan et al 2011.
Clade DL: Cibois et al., 2018.

Leiothrichidae

Northern Yellow White-eye

IOC 9.1 revised Z. senegala explicitly lists these ssp in east Africa, formerly Z. senegalensis. They are now monotypic, and together may encompass up to 20 lineages of species rank.

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Sylvidae

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**Trogodytidae**

**PT** Eurasian Wren PT

Trogodytidae troglodytidae (may move to Nannus Barker 2017)

PT; Kerr et al 2007 reinforced case for splitting Nearctic T. troglodytidae into 4 lineages: AOU & IUC 2.6 recognise 3, that below & 2 Nearctic spp, Winter Wren T. hiemalis & Pacific Wren T. pacificus. Rico et al 2017 proposed erecting Nannus for this subsp only from the other Trogodytidae, Clade Barker 2017 made a strong case for Nannus to include Paleartic Eurasion Trogodytidae, & Nearctic Pacific Wren T. pacificus & Winter Wren T. hiemalis. Albrecht et al 2020 (also using Nannus ) found evidence that taxa hyrcanus, junipieri, cypriotes, juniperinus & nipalensis, from some aspects of genetic analysis, fear not: all taxa in the species’ distribution were analysed, and not all techniques were applied; sample sizes also were small. However, two basal lineages of Eurasion Wren, kaboyleum of the Maghreb (NW AF) & junipieri of NE Libya (a short distance from Egypt) were distinctive and may merit full species status, but the first requires differentiating from populations described as kaboyleum in S. W. & the second requires nuance much more uncertain possible situation. We have pro tem, added T. (t.) junipieri Cyrenaic Wren to the ORL Hypothetical List as a likely vagrant. Hering et al 2012a, 2012b note the relict nature of the North African populations.

**P56** White-throated Laughingthrush

Pterorhinus albogularis (formerly Garrulax albogularis)

Clade G in Cai et al 2019 babbler phylogeny. IOC 2.6 revised R&A 2005 proposal to transfer swathe of sp from Garrulax to Trochalopteron, reducing it slightly, leaving this sp unchanged. Myole et al 2012 revised Timaliidae, proposing inclusion of this taxon in timaliinae; many genera subsumed under subfamily Leothrichinae, but we remain with IOC. BLDZ map Sep 2021 now indicates contiguous resident along Himalayan chain from SW China to NE Pakistan, 2 other extralimital spp to E as far as China. Map in Arlott 2007 may have been swapped for Variegated Laughingthrush (now Trochalopteron variegatum (qur in ORL Passerines). Arlott 2007 may have used maps or same source data as M&P 2000, whose texts agreed with R&A 2005 texts but not with maps. R&A 2005 maps & species accepted here as correct & probably subsequently by BLDZ. NB whistleri population Kashmir mostly in Poonch Grimmett et al 2009; noisy & conspicuous species. H&E 1970 speculated Vaurie accepted 1 record in Safed Khor but this range is also in Pakistan under the same name (Roberts 1991); no confirmed record from Afghan territory (Steve Madge pers com to Mike Evans).

**P60** Cyrenaic Wren

Trogodytidae troglodytidae junipieri

Potential vagrant to Egypt from the Cyrenaica mountains: Jens Hering in iFl agree the possibilities. There are few specimens, its distribution is poorly known and has not been surveyed, but is thought to be fairly common from Bghaiz District to Derma District. Hering et al 2012a, 2012b note that the first images were obtained in 2010, almost 100 years after Ernst Hartert assigned the subspecific identity from specimens he had collected.

**P61** Sturnidae

Acrocephalus fuscus

Zoronzon et al 2008 found relationships of Paleartic-Oriental starlings & mynas in need of revision. NB Many sturnid spp continue to be introduced, particularly, because many cultures have a long history of bird-keeping, but also because of development probability funding the trade in exotics Blackman et al 2013. Imaged near Besham, Khyber, Pakistan within 110km of Afghanistan border opposite lowest-altitude passes, by Imran Shah 2021 in iFl. Westward expansion forecast. Besham is c250W of IUON map Jan 2022.

**P62** Jungle Myna

Spodiospar cineraceus

Map in Gombobaatar & Leahy 2019 indicates much more extensive SV & PM occurrence in N-C & E Mongolia than BLDZ map Sep 2021. Nearest breeding sp area is Region is 790km, & nearest PM is 540km. No recent distribution expansion, given BLDZ estimates of 1350km. This colonial & adaptable species may well soon reach our Region.

**P63** Daurian Starling (formerly Purple-backed Starling: BLI still)

Agropornis starlingi (formerly Sturnus sturninus)


**P64** Turdidae

Vosser & Outlaw 2008 show genus Geokichla, comprising some dozen taxa, is much older than Zoothera and originates from an earlier era when present-day Arabia was forested. Batista et al 2020 show the phylogenetics & biogeography of Turdidae follow a linear evolutionary history from ancestral thurrs in the WP, accounting for the great variety of taxa in the New World. IOC 11.2 revises linear relationships of the New World Turdidae.

**P65** Gracidae

Gracidae coelocular

Reported as occurring Karakoram Pakistan to within 80km of Kandesh E Afghanistan and 100km from Wakhan, & just E of Islamabad. The westernmost continuous distribution begins in Jammu & Kashmir E of Srinagar BLDZ map Sep 2021.

**P66** Plain-backed Thrush PT

Zoothera mollissima (sensu lato)

Aldrom et al 2016 split Plain-backed Thrush Z. mollissima sensu lato into 3 spp; Z. mollissima sensu stricto, Alpine Thrush, absorbing whiteheadii (as not worthy of recognition, synonymous with sinaloma), Z. griseiceps, Sichuan Thrush: Z. sinaloma sp novo. Himalayan Forest Thrush. Z. mollissima s.s. occurs from northernmost Pakistan (hence its inclusion here) to India and also in Yunnan, China; the discontinuity may be more apparent than real, but ‘Yunnan Thrush’ may be a new species. Taxa griseiceps and sinaloma are widely across Himalaya. BLDZ map Sep 2021, from Kahuta N to Muzzafarabad, just including Abbottabad.

**P68** Tibetan Blackbird

Turdus maximus

Monotypic. Reported at Mayoon Brr, Hunza, Gigit-Baltistan, Pakistan, less than 75km S of Wakhan, Afghanistan Dec 2021, Imran Shah in iFl.

**P69** Muscicapidae

The sequence of genera below largely follows the recommendations of the revisions wholeheartedly.

**P70** White-bellied Redstart

Luscinia phaeocricoides (IOC) (Hodgsonius phaeocricoides

H&M4 listed distributions remote for Region for both spp. Not recorded Afghanistan. However, Bates & Lowther were recently revision that placed Luscinia troglodytes hyrcanus, juniperinus, cypriotes, juniperinus & nipalensis, from some aspects of genetic analysis, fear not: all taxa in the species’ distribution were analysed, and not all techniques were applied; sample sizes also were small. However, two basal线ages of Eurasion Wren, kaboyleum of the Maghreb (NW AF) & junipieri of NE Libya (a short distance from Egypt) were distinctive and may merit full species status, but the first requires differentiating from populations described as kaboyleum in S. W. & the second requires nuance much more uncertain possible situation. We have pro tem, added T. (t.) junipieri Cyrenaic Wren to the ORL Hypothetical List as a likely vagrant. Hering et al 2012a, 2012b note the relict nature of the North African populations.

**P71** Siberian Rubythroat

Calliope pectoralis (sensu lato) Luscinia pectoralis

Lu et al 2016 demonstrated congruent integrative taxonomy that White-tailed Rubythroat C. pectoralis sensu lato merits separation into two species, polytypic Himalayan Rubythroat C. pectoralis sensu stricto (ssp pectoralis & galloin) & extratimal polytypic Chinese Rubythroat C. tschecbawei (ssp tschecbawei & confusa); Collar 2017 accepts. Himalayan Rubythroat is listed in Passerines Section,

**P72** Chinese Rubythroat

Calliope tschecbawei

2 ssp, extratimal confusa Nepal to Bhitian & nominate N Kashmir through Tibet C China to Myanmar; Kashmir birds may overshoot into OSME Region. BLDZ Sep 2021 maps both ssp separately, nominate tschecbawei summer breeding range occurs c430km from Wakhan, NE Afghanistan. However, the two BLDZ summer breeding areas from Jammu & Kashmir east far over 100km. It is likely the breeding grounds are altitudinally separated, but the accounts are confused.

**P73** Golden Bush Robin

Tarsiger chrysaeus

Very diverse habitat preferences; up to 4600m Himalayas HBO11. Rare Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009, where ssp whistleri recorded for the first time at up to 3350m: BLDZ Sep 2021 maps small breeding band through Islamabad N to Naran, which mostly is at a lower altitude, W of Thatok 110km from Afghan border; ssp chryseae extend to E. On higher slopes of Afghan Darya-ye & Konar valleys?

**P74** Mugimaki Flycatcher (Black-and-Orange Flycatcher)

Ficedula mugimaki

Monotypic. Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, must cross OSME Region, note accepted record Italy Oct 2011 Barezani & Ebets 2012. Nearest breeding population to Region is in Russian Altai just beyond Kazakh Altai: BLDZ Sep 2021 maps BM across to within 75km of E-most Kazakhstan, but Gomboobaatar & Leahy 2019 map as migrant in 4 disparate areas, the nearest of which may hold a small breeding population some 390km from our Region. Breeds abundantly in southern Taiya & Sayan Mts just to NE of Region Rogachev 1992 may be, which is less than 150km from E-most Kazakhstan. Map in Shibma 2007 in error covers easternmost Kazakhstan.
Kashmir Flycatcher | Ficedula subrubra | Vulnerable
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Moussier's Redstart | Phoenicurus moussieri

Nearest occurrence to Europe was 460km at Benghazi Libya Nov 1967 Iszsehen et al. 2016; current easternmost distribution is in May 2021, some 1100km from Egypt, in Zulfi, Benghazi.

Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush | Monticola rifiventris

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 Darýa-ye & Konar valleys. BLDEP Sep 2021 maps W-most distribution 40km E of Abbottabad, 230km from Afghan border, but Gilgit-Baltistan List 2021 maps to Yasin Valley Pakistan, 55km from mid-Wakhan Afghanistan.

Siberian Stonechat | Saxicola [torquatus] maurus

PT IOC v2.2 recognised separation of maurus via Illera et al. 2008. The extralimital Stejniger's Stonechat S.(m.) stejnigeri accepted as split from S. maurus Zink et al. 2009, IOC v2.4, as summarised in Parkin & Knox 2010. Sangster et al. 2011 caution, because if przewalskii is placed in stejnigeri, the former is the priority name! Svensson et al. 2012 reduce variegatus distribution, subspecies armemicus & name result hirundicolli for N Pakistani population, limping 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 the most distinct & robust in this group in the research. NB1 Populations bear divergent cytochrome c oxidase 1 (COI) lineages, potentially including cryptic taxa Kerr et al. 2009. NB2 see PT for S. rubicula in the ORL Passerine Section.

Przewalski's Stonechat ('Pleske's Stonechat') | Saxicola (maurus) przewalskii

Opav et al 2018 tentatively map an isolat population that just crosses the eastern Tajikistan border from Tøbet; Rangkul, Tajikistan appears to have suitable habitat in a flatland area amid mountains, only 5km from the disputed border with China. More important, their map indicates several populations as putative isolates, whereas BLDEP Jul 2019 maps a continuous occurrence of breeding Stonechats (still unsplit as S. torquatus!) along both sides of the western Himalayas all the way to Kazakhstan! Opav et al 2018 show no other breeding Stonechat taxa, techniques to be applied to all taxa formerly lumped under S. rubicula. English names informal@OSME. NB If this taxon is genetically closer to Stejniger's Stonechat S. stejnigori (Parrot 1908) as has been suggested than to any other, then przewalskii (Pleske 1859) has priority.

White-tailed Stonechat | Saxicola leucurus

Monotypic. R&A 2012 map in Pakistan close to EANE along Afghan border, but BLDEP Sep 2021 map at lower elevations in mid-Pakistan S to Hyderabad along Indus Valley, an isolat population reaching Maniwal, about 135km from Afghanistan.

Grey Bush Chat (Grey Bushchat) | Saxicola ferrea (formerly Saxicola fereena)

2 ssp, nominate Pakistan & E &ESE: havantoni S Tibet & China. R&A 2012 place in Rodopha. Occurs up to 3000m R&A 2005. Map in Arold 2007 suggests narrow breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westmost limit in Pakistan W of Khashmar; Clement & Rose 2015 map to close to Wakhan corridor in N Pakistan. Roberts 1992 maps away from Afghan border; E of Chitral, Grimmett et al 2009 agrees; perhaps in Darýa-ye & Konar valleys. Vaguey vaguely cites 'from the Afghan border' - Steve Madge 2017. Madge 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 flatland area amid mountains, only 5km from the disputed border with China. More important, their map indicates several populations as putative isolates, whereas BLDEP Jul 2019 maps a continuous occurrence of breeding Stonechats (still unsplit as S. torquatus!) along both sides of the western Himalayas all the way to Kazakhstan! Opav et al 2018 show no other breeding Stonechat taxa, techniques to be applied to all taxa formerly lumped under S. rubicula. English names informal@OSME. NB If this taxon is genetically closer to Stejniger's Stonechat S. stejnigori (Parrot 1908) as has been suggested than to any other, then przewalskii (Pleske 1859) has priority.

Heuglin’s Wheatear | Oenanthe heuglini

Monotypic. Previously regarded as ssp of Red-breasted Wheatear O. bottae, but split since IOC v1.7 at least. May occur (may have occurred when treated as O. bottae ?) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan. BLDEP Sep 2021 maps no nearer Red Sea than 365km, W of Kassala, Sudan. Mapped distribution: curiously, the distribution lies 5 to 60km outside Ethiopia from just N of Kassala to Uganda, some 1475km along an obtuse angle of c125 deg. NB Splicing of species name corrected to heuglini IOC 2011. van den Elzen et al. 2017 Polytypic. Mentioned in passing by Shiri & Svensson 2018 as a split from Mouning Wheatear O. lugens of a taxon distributed beyond the 'Greater WP' region; nominate S Kenya & NE Tanzania, vauriei along N Somali coast from 50km W of Wadmadgally to 120km east, just 25km short of Gadani; eastmost recorded diocarcan Archipelago (Longest sea crossing to Sofiota 95km). Total distribution area roughly 210m x 100km, sharing a small part of the much more extensive distribution of Somali Wheatear O. phillipsi. BLDEP, IUCN not following this split (Sep 2021).

Scalow’s Wheatear | Oenanthe scalowi

Polytypic. Involving Pied Wheatear O. bottae and Black-eared Wheatear O. hispanica (formerly O. phillipsi) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan or South Sudan. BLDEP Sep 2021 maps no nearer Red Sea than 365km, W of Kassala, Sudan. Mapped distribution: curiously, the distribution lies 5 to 60km outside Ethiopia from just N of Kassala to Uganda, some 1475km along an obtuse angle of c125 deg. NB Splicing of species name corrected to heuglini IOC 2011. van den Elzen et al. 2017 Polytypic. Mentioned in passing by Shiri & Svensson 2018 as a split from Mouning Wheatear O. lugens of a taxon distributed beyond the 'Greater WP' region; nominate S Kenya & NE Tanzania, vauriei along N Somali coast from 50km W of Wadmadgally to 120km east, just 25km short of Gadani; eastmost recorded diocarcan Archipelago (Longest sea crossing to Sofiota 95km). Total distribution area roughly 210m x 100km, sharing a small part of the much more extensive distribution of Somali Wheatear O. phillipsi. BLDEP, IUCN not following this split (Sep 2021).

Black-eared Wheatear | Oenanthe hispanica (sensu lato)

IOC10.1 supports split. Molecualr analysis of Randler et al 2011 suggested separation merited, likewise Alabadian et al. 2012. Randler et al. 2011 also found miDNA 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 & support the Alabadian et al. 2012 suggestion that Cyprus Wheatear O.cypriae separated from Western Black-eared Wheatear O. hispanica hispanica before Eastern Black-eared Wheatear O. (h.) melanoleuca did, at which time Pied Wheatear O.(h.) pleschanka split from O. (h.) melanoleuca, thus accounting for close DNA relatedness of all these taxa. Schweizer et al. 2019a agree: Schweizer et al. 2019b, in a genome-wide analysis of open-habitat chats (wheatears) reinforce not only this conclusion, but also strongly support parapatric phenotypic evolution. The corollary is that it rendered plumage characters inaccurate predictors of species’ relationships in this clade. BLDEP, IUCN still remain with O. hispanica sensu lato Sep 2021.

Western Black-eared Wheatear | Oenanthe hispanica (sensu stricto) (formerly Oenanthe (hispanica) hispanica )

Extralimital African species (7 spp), either faikesteini (NW Ethiopia) or oromoensis (SE Sudan, SW Ethiopia) thought likely to be rare visitor to SW Arabia, likely following rains, HBW10, report of vagrant S Yemen Warr 1992, but by current ID standards not separable from Red-tailed Wheatear O. chrysoptuga Mitchell 2017, hence relegation to Hypothetical status. BLDZ map Sep 2021 shows no closer to Region than 70km from sea on Eritrea/Ethiopia border. IOC3.5 accepts subsampling all Cercomela in Oenanthe, following Outlaw et al 2010, Sangster et al 2010, Zucco & Ericsson 2010b. See previous row.

P92 Familiar Chat (Red-tailed Chat) Oenanthe familiaris (Cercomela familiaris)

P93 Tibetan Snowfinch Montifringilla hectori

P94 Pin-tailed Whydah (Paradisaea tenuirostrata) Viuda macroura

P95 Black-winged Red Bishop L. atricapilla

P96 Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow Padda oryzivora

P97 Black-winged Bishop L. brunniceps

P98 Black-winged Red Bishop (Black-winged Bishop) P. brunneiceps

P99 Chestnut Munia (formerly ssp of Black-headed Munia as per H&M4) L. alexanderi

P100 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (formerly Prairie Cuckoo) Coccyzus novaehollandiae

P101 Pin-tailed Whydah (Paradisaea tenuirostrata) V. macroura

P102 Familiar Chat (Red-tailed Chat) Oenanthe familiaris (Cercomela familiaris)
Kozlov's Accentsor
(Mongolian Accentor)

Prunella koslowi

Monotypic. H&M4 place from W Mongolia to points E, and so probably not far from Region; occurs on plains in winter. Inclusion here suggested Axel Breitenich in litt.: BLDZ Sep 2021 maps W to within 300km of E-most Kazakhstan, but so little evidence for BLDZ 2021, sympatry in extreme N & in extreme S of distribution with Brown Accentor P. fulvescens. Drovetski et al 2013. Double-breeding feasible Campbell & Encor 2020b (juvenile photographed Sep 2019).

Fringillidae

Zuccon et al 2012 examined the phylogenetic relationships and generic limits of Fringillidae, with considerable changes of genera; IOC3.3 largely agreed, with reclassing of species. Recommend North African Chaffinch taxa spodiogenys, africana and harterti be split off as Fringilla spodiogenys (spodi spodiogenys & harterti not sampled); nominate & africana are distinctly extralimital, but harterti (Svensson 2015) less so, being given as resident in Cryenaica, Libya, but not east of Derna. However, there seemingly is another resident population, identity uncertain, in a small area just south of Tobruk (IUCN, BLDZ maps Aug 2021). Svensson & Shariffi 2016 map harterti as per Svensson 2018, but include a small population of wintering birds (taxon not given) in Libya near Nardjyash just on the Egyptian border: they also map F. coelebs schiebeli as being the sole population in Egypt, and only wintering there (BoA Vol VII & Goodman et al 1989 agree wintering aspect, but do not assign sp ID). However IUCN BirdLife confidently map four separate breeding populations (taxon/taxa unattributed) in northern Egypt, largely aligning with the distribution of wintering populations which also are unchecked, causing difficulties for BLDZ 2021, but note that Tunisian & Moroccan cal & song have consistent differences, indicating that further changes are possible...

P08 Dark-bred Rosefinch

Carpodacus ruficapillus

2 ssp, kagare in Kashmir, apparently occurs up to 3300m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests breeding E Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit 200km E of easternmost Pakistan, as does M&P 2000 and also Roberts 1992, where scarce at c3000m. HBW15 maps remote from Pakistan to E. BLDZ Sep 2021 maps W-most population 2500km SE straddling the Nepal-India border, yet species data table still states 'Extant' in Pakistan. Map error? HBW Alive gives kagare as 'perhaps Kashmir' as westernmost population. Sharma et al 2018 report as occurring Matsuur & Neeru catchments, Jammu & Kashmir & provide image. Nominate E of W Nepal & in China. Likely improved ID & molecular techniques have reduced former confusion with similar species.

P09 Silet's Rosefinch

Carpodacus siletii

Deficient

Sangster et al 2016 show by molecular analysis that this taxon is a full species belonging to Carpodacus, not Leucosticte. Its lack of red pigmentation is likely to represent a secondary loss related to differences in carotenoid metabolism, in dietary intake of carotenoids or in exposure to environmental factors affecting pigmentation Inouye et al 2001, Olson & Owens 2005. The large distance (1500 km) between the specimen collection site (Western Tibet, 1929, & current estimated westernmost occurrence BLDZ Sep 2021, less than 300km from the Wakhan Corridor, Afghanistan) and the sightings in 2012 and 2013 (Western Khingan) suggest that C. siletii is a wide-ranging species at 4500-5400m, possibly due to narrow habitat or drainages. Much topography within that altitude band also exists and north of the collection site in the easternmost part of the OSME Region.

P10 Beautiful Rosefinch

Carpodacus pulcherimus

Gombobaatar & Lealhy 2019 map as occupying Mongolian Altai, less then 50km from Kazakhstan, whereas BLDZ Sep 2021 indicates two isolate populations in W-C Mongolia both at c560km from Kazakhstan. Other subspecies reportedly removed from Hypothetical List.

P11 Pink-browed Rosefinch

Carpodacus ruficapillus

Monotypic; IOC3.3. Recorded Chokpak Kazakhstan before 2000 Dernjatin 2005, but supporting documentation not found. On-land reports from easternmost Pakistan, as does M&P 2000 and also Roberts 1992, where scarce at c3000m. HBW15 maps remote from Pakistan to E. BLDZ Sep 2021 maps W-most population 2500km SE straddling the Nepal-India border, yet species data table still states 'Extant' in Pakistan. Map error? HBW Alive gives kagare as 'perhaps Kashmir' as westernmost population. Sharma et al 2018 report as occurring Matsuur & Neeru catchments, Jammu & Kashmir & provide image. Nominate E of W Nepal & in China. Likely improved ID & molecular techniques have reduced former confusion with similar species.

P13 Parrot Crossbill

Loxia pyrrhopalastus

Ardit 2007 indicated occurrence in Region in NW Kazakhstan & likely occasional invlicable occurrence further S. This species' invincible movements usually short-distance, but although long-distance irruptions have been documented, none are adequate for Kazakh records to meet modern ID standards. It is likely that the species has occurred in W Kazakhstan, but until an accepted record is published, this taxon is considered hypothetical. Nearest regular breeding grounds to NW Kazakhstan were in European Russia at Magnitka, some 190km from Kazakhstan border, but 220km from first sizeable woodland BLDZ Sep 2021, but BLDZ, IUCN maps now place that limit at Mesyagutovo, 250km distant. NB This taxon not genetically distinct from Common Crossbill L. curvirostra, but is distinct morphologically, & mates assortatively Summers et al 2007, Johnsen et al 2010 & Hill & Powers 2021 disagree with morphological distinctness.

Emberizidae

Emberizidae may yet be subdivided into several genera or more deeply into subgenera: Sangster et al 2015 regard the suggested genera (Fringillaria, Granalisvora, Schoenicius ) as subgenera; we await IOC classification, still unaddressed IOC3.3. The phylogeny of Päckert et al 2020b divides Emberizidae into 4 sub-families, which John Boyd in Taxonomy in Flux (TIF) has adopted. TIF here is largely coincident in intent with H&M4 & Sangster et al 2015, but not necessarily in taxonomic genius. We await further evaluation, but for tem note proposed changes in Column . NB Should the phylogeny of Päckert et al 2020b be adopted in the utilisation of World Lists, then the sequence of genera within Emberizidae will change, as will the overall sequence of species.

P111 Crested Bunting

Emberiza tahitiana

(Formerly Melopomus tahitiana to which TIF reverses)

Alström et al 2009: synonymise in Emberiza, H&M4 do not. Known to breed up to 150km from Afghan border in Swat district, Pakistan; BLDZ Sep 2021 map as BM from Charoi (NE of New Miptrup City) & NE to close to Mingora at Bajot, c580km from Afghan border. Closely associated with ‘Ch’ pine Pinus roxburghii tetrads at 1000-1800m asl. Satellite IR response analysis could identify P. roxburghii tetrads in nearby Afghanistan. Not site-faithful during migration Bates & Lowther 1959.

Forecast Hypothetical Taxa – additional notes

1. Conspicuous by their absence from the OSME Region are a whole range of migratory Naucorid breeding taxa that have occurred as vagrants in Europe. Also, many eastern Palearctic migrants have been reported as migrants Naucorid breeding taxa that have occurred as vagrants in Europe. Also, many eastern Palearctic migrants have been reported as migrants of species. These species are, however, only occasionally seen in Europe, having crossed the Atlantic, probably following strong winds. Furthermore, the appearance of Naucorid 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 feather of vagrants might indicate accurately the breeding and wintering areas - see Fox & Beadvorp 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 Khlyber Passes to reach the Indus Subcontinent (Rob Sheldon RSFB 2008 presentation). Other species (some not yet in CRLU7) may migrate this way across Afghanistan.

3. Improvements in seabird ID criteria will increase accuracy of Indian Ocean sightings (CRL boundaries: southern 10°E, eastern reaches 7°W), but numbers of potential observers have greatly reduced (fewer RN ships, fewer RNWBS 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

Anatidae

A Mergusovy Duck

Cairina moschata

09/18. On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced. WCMC do not include feral/introduced/escaped domestic birds (usually mostly white with black markings outwith New World, whereas wild birds are black with white) in New World. Indian Spoonbill Platalea minor in litt 2018).
**Vaurie’s Nightjar**  Most probably *C. europeaus plumipes* Schweitzer et al. 2020. (Formerly *Caprimulgus centralasicus*)

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**  *Nyctanassa violacea* 09/21. This Neartic sp reported as photographed Jan 2021 Sharm el Sheikh Egypt by Janusz Munaranowicz. However, the image was taken in the Dominican Republic: Łukasz Ławicki. Had it been genuine it would have been a first record for the OSME Region.

**Magnificent Frigatebird**  *Fregata magnificens* 08/08. Monotypic. Vagrant Israel WBDB 2008 checklist; error, now deleted. Mike Evans † pers comm

**Spot-billed Eagle Owl**  *Bubo nipalensis* 11/08. Map in König et al. 1999 in error covering E Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, although text disagrees. Maps in R&A 2005 & K&W 2008 correct, showing species as remote even from Pakistan in C Himalayas, 650km from Region.

**Brown Hawk Owl**  *Ninox scutulata* 07/19. Map in Shimba 2007 in error suggesting close to E Tajikistan and S Kyrgyzstan borders. Mikkola 2012 maps remotely from OSME Region, as does BLDZ Jul 2019 at 800km distance from Region, deep into India in 2 areas of residency New Delhi & Ahmedabad. IOCS 2; HBW Alive agree.

**Yellow-collared Lovebird**  *Agapornis personatus* 09/18. Monotypic. Tanzanian sp. On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced; internationally traded species IUCN. Error: Yoav Perlman pers comm

**Short-billed Minivet**  *Pericrocotus brevirostris* 05/08. 4 sspp, 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, 6 being collected Nurestan 1948, but subsequently only Long-tailed Minivet *P. ethologus* shown to occupy western range; earlier ID confusion now apparent. Bates & Lowther 1952 also in error for Kashmir.


**Indian Blackbird**  *Turdus [merula] similimus* 07/18. Monotypic. Breeds below 23N in India and Sri Lanka BLDZ Jul 2019. Bates & Lowther 1952 had noted this taxon as commonplace ‘not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding’, but confined it with taxa now placed in Tibetan Blackbird *T. similimus*; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC8.2 gives *T. similimus*; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC8.2 gives *T. similimus* commonplace ‘not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding’, but confined it with taxa now placed in Tibetan Blackbird *T. similimus*; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC8.2 gives *T. similimus* commonplace ‘not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding’, but confined it with taxa now placed in Tibetan Blackbird *T. similimus*; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC8.2 gives *T. similimus* commonplace ‘not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding’, but confined it with taxa now placed in Tibetan Blackbird *T. similimus*; see ORL Passerine section. G: IOC8.2 gives

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