

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

The OSME Region List of Bird Taxa: Part C, Hypothetical Taxa, v2.3, Summer 2010, listing non-passerines (prefixed by 'N') and passerines (prefixed by 'P') whose occurrence is unproven until and unless adequate documentation is provided and accepted. We leave to others predictions of the likelihood of any of the taxa below occurring in the OSME Region. References cited below are in the Non-passerine and Passerine Reference Lists that follow Parts A and B respectively. We also append a small table of taxa that have been removed from this list after assessment of improved distributional evidence

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

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

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

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

Notes

1. **PT=Parent Taxon** (used because many records will antedate splits, especially from recent research) – we use the concept of **fPT** with a degree of latitude, roughly equivalent to the formal term *sensu lato*, 'in the broad sense'.
 2. The term 'reported' indicates the occurrence is unconfirmed.
 3. **English names:** unused IOC names appear in curly brackets {...}, alternative names in round brackets (...), superseded (re-allocated) names in square brackets [...]
 4. **Scientific names:** we use square brackets [...] to indicate superspecies that comprise two or more allospecies – we use the same convention for semispecies – and we use round brackets (...) where the status of a taxon is not entirely clear-cut; *eg* the evidence may not be wholly convincing and subject to debate, it may not yet be fully available, we may have overlooked it or not found it, or the evidence on one part of a taxon's range may differ from that in another (Our 'don't know category').
 5. Green shading *eg* Black-billed Capercaillie indicates likely former presence in the OSME Region. **Red font** indicates material added since the previous ORL version
 6. Distribution maps in many references are imprecise
 7. We also list separately those taxa that we have deleted from the Hypothetical List because the evidence does not support their candidacy
- Other conventions adopted are explained in the [Ornithological Basis](#) of the ORL

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

NON-PASSERINES, English Name			Family, Species or Taxon	Working Notes – includes 'recent' material. NB secondary references often unvalidated.
			Phasianidae	
N1	Black-billed Capercaillie	<i>Tetrao parvirostris</i>		Unlikely any modern records due to severe range contraction, but has reached 86°30'E, 67°30'N in Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Mongolian population too remote?
N2	Japanese Quail	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>		Possibility of irruption from Mongolian population into Kazakhstan?
N3	Rain Quail (Black-breasted Quail)	<i>Coturnix coromandelica</i>		Possibly irregular late Jun early Jul irruptive overshoot into Afghanistan and Iran from regular (after rains) migrant breeders in Pakistan in years of exceptional monsoons; Roberts 1991, map in Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009. On Avibase website Afghanistan list Aug 08 without source cited; similarly Ladakh 2003 list.
			Anatidae	
N4	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		Recorded Wadi Halfa Sudan (120km ² grid 21°N, 31°30'E) adjacent to Egyptian border, pre-Lake Nasser Nikolaus 1987.
N5	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta (bernicla) hrota</i>		Assessed as identified in Iran by HJ Speyer in 1960, Roselaar & Aliabandian 2010; <i>pro tem</i> , placed in this list.
N6	Muscovy Duck	<i>Cairina moschata</i>		On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced. WCMC do not include feral/introduced/escaped domestic birds outside New World
PT	Spot-billed Duck Parent Taxon	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		NB Split to Eastern <i>A.p. zonorhyncha</i> (below) and Indian Spot-billed Duck <i>A. (p.) poecilorhyncha</i> (see ORL Non-passerine List). IOC update v2.0 accepts split; also R&A 2005, AOU.
N7	Eastern Spot-billed Duck (Chinese Spot-billed Duck)	<i>Anas (poecilorhyncha) zonorhyncha</i>		Likely wanderer from western limit of eastern summer breeding range in W China and Mongolia (extrapolated from Brazil 2009). Often commensal. Possibly overlooked NE CA – similar to ♀ Mallard <i>A. platyrhynchos</i> . See Shimba 2007.
N8	Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		Status uncertain. North American vagrant, escape? Popular in wildfowl collections. One shot 1990 Egypt. On WBDB 2008 Egypt checklist as vagrant, but BinE 2009 vague.
N9	Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>		Lone nearest acceptable record from not too distant Gujrat, Punjab, Pakistan. 1957 – skin in BMNH Roberts 1991
N10	Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>		On Avibase website Kazakh list Aug 08. Suspect this is a resurrection of Zarusny's 1888 record of a shot specimen described as being near Orenburg; in Imperial Russia such records sometimes just refer to the nearest large city, even if distant from it. Orenburg lies over 50km north of modern westernmost Kazakhstan. G&G 2005 also rejected it as a Kazakh record.
			Procellariidae	
				Review of some Australasian <i>Puffinus</i>, placing in <i>Ardenna</i>, Christidis & Boles 2008 yet to be generally accepted. NB Indian Ocean (boundaries: southern 10°N, eastern 61°37' 03'E) seabird occurrence often correlates with phytoplankton concentrations (intensities vary seasonally), whose locations also affected by variation in annual pattern of ocean currents, hence birds sometimes absent, but may also occur unexpectedly.
N11	Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>		Possible vagrant, given one found dead at Lac Assal Djibouti in 1991 Redman <i>et al</i> 2009. NB some evidence (Penhallurick & Wink 2004) for the two Giant Petrels to be just ssp of <i>giganteus</i>, but this wide-ranging paper has not achieved consensus.
N12	White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>		R&A 2005 note unconfirmed occurrence Sri Lanka. Highly unlikely in OSME Region.
N13	Trinidad Petrel	<i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i>		Probable Indian Ocean record of 30 at 10°S, 69°E 11 Jul 1958, E of OSME Region – <i>Sea Swallow 12: 9</i> (1959): (Sighting Reports) – WRP Bourne pers comm. R&A 2005 treat as hypothetical in Indian Ocean & refer to 'recent unpublished report'.

N14	Barau's Petrel	<i>Pterodroma barau</i>	2 RNBWS reports Jul 64, at 3°S near Seychelles, so misoriented wanderers possible in austral winter. No confirmed RNBWS records known by WRP Bourne (pers comm) in OSME Region. Two recorded 11°07'N, 63°44'E just beyond OSME Region van den Berg <i>et al</i> 1991 & E to 100°E, see also Stahl & Bartle 1991. R&A 2005 note 'ranges to N Indian Ocean'. Flock reported Feb 2003 40km W of Ladakhshweep islands.
N15	Mascarene Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria aterrima</i>	Exceptionally rare. RNBWS reports (different observers) Sep (12:50:0.0N+45:0:0.0E) & Dec 57 (15:0:0.0N+65:0:0.0E) attributed to this species, originally identified in previous taxonomy as Réunion Petrel <i>Pterodroma aterrima</i> , but <i>Sea Swallow</i> Sighting reports sceptical, as ID character and status of Jouanin's Petrel <i>Bulweria fallax</i> became known. R&A 2005 treat as hypothetical in Indian Ocean. NB in 1950s, Réunion Petrel known only from four 19 th -century specimens – WRP Bourne pers comm.
N16	Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i> (formerly <i>Pterodroma rostrata</i>)	Abundant species occurring of northern coasts of Western Australia, probably breeds in the Bismarck Sea & thus likely to occur in northern Indian Ocean (JA Bartle pers comm cited in van den Berg <i>et al</i> 1991).
PT	Cory's Shearwater Parent Taxon	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	As Parent Taxon vagrant Iranian waters Scott & Adhami 2006; RNBWS Gulf of Suez. IOC update v2.0 accepts split of <i>edwardsii</i> only. Robb & Mullarney 2008 (including CD) document voice differences and restrict name Cory's Shearwater to <i>C.(d.) borealis</i> only (elevated thus in Gómez-Díaz <i>et al</i> 2006 & DB 2009); supported in Parkin & Knox 2010. NB Killian Mullarney in Svensson <i>et al</i> 2009 unable to persuade adoption of conclusions of Robb & Mullarney 2008!
N17	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris (diomedea) borealis</i>	Essentially Atlantic form, but at least one breeding colony W Mediterranean (Robb & Mullarney 2008) & regular in numbers past Gibraltar, likely wanders to E Mediterranean, HBW1. Egypt Avib, BE. NB records of 'Cory's Shearwater' in Red Sea, Arabian Sea & Gulf perhaps truly so: both <i>diomedea</i> & <i>borealis</i> could well fail to re-enter Atlantic from southern oceans and attempt to migrate via Indian Ocean.
N18	Short-tailed Shearwater	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	Beached bird records: Ormara 64°30'E Pakistan w of Karachi (1889: Roberts 1991, Ali & Ripley 1968/1983 (originally assigned as <i>chlororhynchus</i> ssp of Wedge-tailed Shearwater <i>P. pacificus</i> [<i>Procellaria pacifica</i>], actually Short-tailed Shearwater) & also Sri Lanka (Ali & Ripley 1968/1983) Michael Gallagher pers comm, Bourne 1960, R&A 2005. NB Christidis & Boles 2008 place in <i>Ardenna</i> .
N19	Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>	RNBWS reports Sep 10:55:0.0N+56:20:0.0E Nov 83 13:56:0.0N+51:0:0.0E Feb 01 11:54:0.0N 51:42:0.0E & entries in <i>Sea Swallow</i> possible misidentifications of Jouanin's Petrel <i>B. fallax</i> (ID characters & status then unknown); wintering grounds shared? – full scrutiny of reports & records essential – WRP Bourne pers comm. Indian Ocean records all E of 100°E van den Berg <i>et al</i> 1985.
Hydrobatidae			
N20	Matsudaira's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma matsudairae</i>	Two RNBWS reports both just S of 10:00:00N (Mar 64) & E (Sep 87) of 61:24:00E (just outside OSME Region). O&S 2007 map to 10°N off Somalia. May share wintering grounds with Jouanin's Petrel <i>Bulweria fallax</i> – full scrutiny of reports and records essential, WRP Bourne pers comm. IOC v2.2 locates non-breeding western distribution as 'C Indian Ocean'.
Ardeidae			
N21	von Schrenk's Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus eurhythmus</i>	Erroneously listed (no citation) several 'Egypt' lists, but may well wander to easternmost OSME Region.
N22	Dimorphic Egret (Mascarene Reef-egret)	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	RNBWS report dark-morph May 95 Aden at 12:52:0.0N+45:1:0.0E, but database entry does not eliminate Indian Reef Heron <i>E.(g.) schistacea</i>.
Pelecanidae			
N23	Spot-billed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source
Accipitridae			
N24	'African Black Kite'	<i>Milvus (migrans) parasitus</i>	Although conventionally this taxon thought to be remote in Africa from Region, the resident populations on Sudan's Red Sea coast, traditionally assigned as <i>M.[m.] aegyptius</i> Yellow-billed Kite, actually have black bills Nikolaus 1987; an isolated population of uncertain affinities? Nikolaus 1987 also notes the widespread presence not only of yellow-billed <i>aegyptius</i> in Sudan, but also of yellow-billed ' <i>parasitus</i> ', seemingly in sympatry. The work of Scheider <i>et al</i> 2004 & Johnson <i>et al</i> 2005 does not accommodate Nikolaus 1987 nor properly address these populations. <i>Pro tem</i> , we suggest the occurrence in Egypt of ' <i>parasitus</i> ' as assigned by Nikolaus 1987 very possible, but clarification of taxon identities may require revision, perhaps even involving ancestral link to Red Kite <i>M. milvus</i> .
N25	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Possibly once irregular winter visitor to Iranian S Baluchestan (Baluchistan) Zarudny 1911.
N26	Red-headed Vulture (King Vulture)	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> (formerly <i>Torgos calvus</i>)	Formerly recorded in Pakistani Balochistan, adjoining Iranian Baluchestan, pre-1950s, Roberts 1991. This region's pre-1950s characteristic open woodland has now largely disappeared due to human population increases causing deforestation. Zarudny 1911 sight records S Baluchestan Iran, status unknown. Occurred Tharparker Desert Pakistan 2002 (Nadeem <i>et al</i> 2007). Diclofenac poisoning renders current occurrence in OSME Region unlikely Chris Bowden Nov 2007 pers comm.
N27	Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucus</i>	One sight record of straggler in not too distant Salt Range in N-C Pakistan Dec 85, Mark Mallalieu <i>in litt</i> to TJ Roberts
N28	Eastern Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>	Given that its Horn of Africa distribution is wider than that of Dark Chanting Goshawk <i>M. metabates</i> (qv Non-passerine list) and that the two species closely resemble each other (Redman <i>et al</i> 2009), it may have been overlooked in Yemen.
N29	Japanese Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter gularis</i>	<i>A.g sibiricus</i> breeds pine forests N of Kazakhstan W to c 80°E (F-L&C 2005), uncommon-rare, but regular breeder Krasnoyarsk Republic (c85°E) Rogacheva 1992. Likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan from Mongolian population.
PT	Buzzard/Common Buzzard Parent Taxon	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	IOC update v2.0 accepts Eastern Buzzard <i>Buteo japonicus</i> (see ORL Non-passerine List) and Himalayan Buzzard <i>B.refectus</i> as splits. Kruckenhauser <i>et al</i> 2004
N30	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo (buteo) refectus</i>	IOC update v1.7 elevates to full species Kruckenhauser <i>et al</i> 2004, Lerner <i>et al</i> 2008. Throughout Himalayan chain. NB some authorities have made synonymous <i>B.(b.) burmanicus</i> Hume 1875 & <i>B.(b.) refectus</i> Portenko 1935, which would give <i>burmanicus</i> priority, but unclear whether both names applied to identical breeding distributions; some have applied <i>burmanicus</i> to populations at present attributed to <i>B.(b.) japonicus</i> .
Falconidae			
N31	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	Recorded on Eritrean Dahlak Islands and in S Eritrea near Bab-el-Mandab Ash & Atkins 2009
N32	African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>	2 RNBWS reports: Jun 73 Red Sea off Eritrea at 17:46:0.0N+40:26:0.0E & Nov 77 of bird on board for 2 days off Salalah at 15:12:0.0N+56:48:0.0E – misidentification possible given the state of knowledge of identification criteria at the time. NB Common resident Eritrea & Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009.

PT	Peregrine Falcon PT	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Parent Taxon here includes <i>pelegrinoides pro tem</i> due to unclear status of this taxon
N33	Shaheen	<i>Falco (peregrinus) peregrinator</i>	Naoroji 2006 notes <i>F.p. peregrinator</i> (Shaheen) is sedentary resident India, NE Pakistan, but Zarudny 1911 assessed it as then wintering in Persia's Kerman-Kohistan; in modern Iran, this could be S Khorasan, N Sistan-va-Baluchestan or E Kerman. Perhaps unlikely nowadays, but immature falcons prone to wander.
		Otididae	
N34	Nubian Bustard	<i>Neotis nuba</i>	May just wander from its distribution in northern Sudan, where now scarce
N35	Lesser Florican	<i>Sypheotides indicus</i>	Cited (entry 158) in Zarudny 1911 (as <i>Sypheotides aurita</i>) as irregular Iran; in SE (Baluchestan) and S-C (easternmost Mesopotamian plain) into Iraq. No known specimen, but typical grassy habitat patches then existed in both locations. Present westernmost range c 60°E. Former occurrence Afghanistan possible. NB1 Moore & Boswell 1941:6. 1956, under 'Little Bustard', state: "...Mention may here be made of a bird shot 2 miles from Abu Sef at Mosel in January 42 by Brig. Corrie. This was examined by Williamson (for info that is W E Williamson) and thought to be a female Florican (<i>Sypheotides indica</i>). He describes it as a huge and very long necked quail, not bigger than a Houbara. It would be very interesting if this bird's presence could be confirmed. It may be an accidental wanderer" Richard Porter pers comm. NB2 all above scientific names synonymous
		Rallidae	
N36	Ruddy-breasted Crake	<i>Porzana fusca</i>	Bates & Lowther 1959 record as occurring "from the Afghan Frontier". Small breeding population in reed-choked waterbodies on Pakistani side, at Thal – worth checking similar habitats Afghan side, Taleban permitting? On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan country checklist as vagrant
		Gruidae	
N37	Black Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica pavonina</i>	On WBDB 2008 Egypt checklist as vagrant. Various claims in Egypt, but authentication not possible to modern standards BinE 2009 NB Locally abundant Ethiopia, albeit W of 40°E Ash & Atkins 2009.
N38	Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Pre-20th-century reports in their various lists by Nordmann & Pallas, Radde & by Dementiev & Gladkov as occasional vagrant to Caucasus Caspian hinterland, but no confirmed record.
		Turnicidae	
N39	Yellow-legged Buttonquail	<i>Turnix tanki</i>	Irregular after rains; possible overshoot to Afghan Kurram valley. See map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009. NB Only female calls; polyandrous.
		Burhinidae	
PT	Eurasian Stone-curlew PT (Eurasian Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Re Parent Taxon: IOC v2.0 accepts split of Indian Stone-curlew <i>Burhinus indicus</i> - R&A 2005
N40	Indian Stone-curlew (Indian Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus (oedicnemus) indicus</i>	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. NB Zarudny 1911 noted that his <i>B.(o.) oedicnemus</i> specimens collected in S&E Iran accorded with Salvadori's 'intermediate' form of " <i>B.(o.) indicus</i> Salvadori 1865". Possibly recorded Jan 2009 Winkel <i>et al</i> 2010.
		Charadriidae	
N41	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	Coastal breeder, suspected by Ash & Atkins 2009 of breeding in low numbers along the Eritrean coast; not unlikely therefore along Yemen Red Sea coast.
PT	Lesser Sand Plover Parent Taxon	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Still not IOC split in update v2.3. NB All claimed records Cyprus up to 1996 and Turkey up to 1989 have been reviewed and rejected as smallest ssp, <i>columbinus</i> , of Greater Sandplover <i>C. leschenaultii</i> Flint <i>et al</i> 1997.
N42	Mongolian Sand Plover (Lesser Sand Plover)	<i>Charadrius (mongolus) mongolus</i>	Any OSME record of <i>stegmanni</i> or <i>mongolus</i> ? Documentation? No certain Pakistan <i>mongolus</i> records – black line separating white throat & chestnut breast never recorded there Roberts 1991. Wanderers possible on E OSME Region coasts. <i>C. mongolus sensu stricto</i> has reached UK Parkin & Knox 2010.. NB For Lesser Sand Plover <i>C.[m.] atrifrons</i> , see Non-passerine List
		Scolopacidae	
N43	Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>	Very unlikely, but like congeners, capable of wandering long distances – worth checking warm water coasts. Documentation?
N44	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i> (formerly <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>)	(Change of taxonomy Sangster <i>et al</i> 2007) Notorious wanderer. Permanent breeding grounds known near 86°30'E, 67°30'N in Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Migration through western Mongolia HBW 3.
		Glareolidae	
N45	Indian Courser	<i>Cursorius coromandelicus</i>	Scarce resident eastern half of Pakistan, strongly nomadic after monsoon, well-adapted to fallow fields & dessicated wetland margins Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; increase in irrigation ponds in general region would allow spread, perhaps vagrancy to Iran & Afghanistan.
		Laridae	
N46	White Noddy (White Tern) (Angel Tern, Fairy Tern)	<i>Gygis alba</i>	RNBWS record Mar 64 at Menai Island Seychelles at 9:24:0.0S+46:15:0.0E, S of OSME Region. Unlikely - strong possibility of misidentification, WRP Bourne pers comm. IOC v1.6 accepted DNA evidence that this taxon is a noddy and not a tern (subsequent to Bridge <i>et al</i> 2006).
N47	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	OBRC rejected Oman 2006 report, but surely will occur. NB DB 2009 call ssp <i>vetula</i> Cape Gull.
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, suggesting a broader view is inevitable. Our arrangement of Parent Taxa allows the complexities to be highlighted and therefore aligns with published analyses only where these are not in disagreement for taxa that occur in the OSME region. Although our approach may be seen as an eclectic mix of the radical and the traditional, we note that complex relationships occur in other groups eg the large grey shrikes and the <i>flavol/citreola</i> wagtails, which also merit taking the broader view.			
PT	American Herring Gull Parent Taxon	<i>Larus smithsonianus</i>	PT follows BOU here; see Sangster <i>et al</i> 2007, Collinson <i>et al</i> 2008 (who note that the case for <i>vegae</i> as a species awaits further research). Pierre Yésou (pers comm) is certain that the strong diagnostic phenotypical differences between these Asian and N American taxa recorded in Alaska demand a different conclusion, namely <i>L. vegae vegae</i> and <i>L. v. mongolicus</i> . Full diagnosability criteria for these 3 taxa in relation to each other yet to be proved Parkin & Knox 2010. We expect much remains to be discovered.

PT	East Siberian Gull Parent Taxon	<i>Larus (smithsonianus) vegae</i>	Here we agree with Yésou 2002 (pers comm) who advises taxonomic uncertainties in white-headed gulls will be long-standing; taxa are prime candidates for combined genetics/field/museum studies (including breeding biology & statistical analysis of phenotypical variations). Although Rogacheva 1992 suggested PT breeds as far W as Anabar River mouth in Arctic, 'clear hybrids not being uncommon', ID knowledge at this time was less clearcut - Pierre Yésou pers comm. NB1 separation from <i>L. argentatus</i> on mtDNA grounds alone, far from clear-cut (Sangster <i>et al</i> 2007), but other DNA criteria and morphology (Collinson <i>et al</i> 2008) make strong case. NB2 Sangster <i>et al</i> 2007 (BOU) and Collinson <i>et al</i> 2008 make a case for the PT for Vega Gull <i>L. (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae</i> and Mongolian Gull <i>L.(s./m.) mongolicus</i> (see Non-passerine List) to be American Herring Gull <i>L. smithsonianus</i> .
N48	Vega Gull	<i>Larus (smithsonianus/vegae) vegae</i>	No confirmed Region records. Variable leg colour; suggested nominate ssp of East Siberian Gull, Yésou 2002; now (Collinson <i>et al</i> 2008) regarded as a western ssp of American Herring Gull <i>L. smithsonianus</i> .
		'Sternidae'	We retain 'Sternidae' as a convenience
N49	Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Off Socotra? Arabian Sea coast? Masirah? Documentation? Several RNBWS reports S&E of 10:00:00N 61:24:00E (SE corner of OSME Region). One 1960 RNBWS report in OSME Region, Daimaniyat Islands at 23:55:00N+57:59:00E, but old description inadequate; likely misidentified, WRP Bourne pers comm. May have occurred off Somali E coast Redman <i>et al</i> 2009. Likely vagrant off SW India R&A 2005. Mapped HBW3 as likely occurring in SE corner of Region.
N50	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Given that River Tern <i>S. aurantia</i> , largely sharing the same distribution in Pakistan, has been recorded in Iran, occurrence in Region possible. Common in Punjab c200km from Afghan border 2003 Ali & Akhtar 2005.
		Stercorariidae	Single genus Cohen <i>et al</i> 1997 derived from multiple evidence strands: mt & nuclear DNA, enzyme variations, feather lice, behavioural studies & calls (Parkin & Knox 2010). NB South Polar (<i>maccormicki</i>) and particularly Brown (<i>antarcticus</i>), Chilean (<i>chilensis</i>), Tristan (<i>hamiltoni</i>) and Subantarctic (<i>lonnbergi</i>) Skuas have a relative lack of genetic differentiation, due to their relatively recent divergence as a group from Great (<i>skua</i>) and Pomarine (<i>pomarinus</i>) Skuas. Any treatment as separate species must recognise that their mobility and the extent of hybridisation will prevent many individuals from being identified by morphology, plumage characters, or at all.
N51	Subantarctic Skua (Brown Skua)	<i>Stercorarius lonnbergi</i> (formerly <i>Catharacta (antarcticus) lonnbergi</i>)	Taxonomy follows Cohen <i>et al</i> (1997) and Andersson (1999), whom IOC updates do not acknowledge. Probably already recorded in the OSME Region but wrongly attributed to another 'large skua' sp. NB despite long-standing claims, all Sri Lankan specimens this taxon De Silva 1989, 1991.
		Pteroclididae	
N52	Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles indicus</i>	On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. However, in Ali & Ripley 1983, nominate ssp given as <i>indicus</i> occurs east of Pakistan's western mountains and very similar ssp <i>arabicus</i> (Close-barred Sandgrouse) from mountainous western Pakistan west to Afghanistan, Iran & Iraq, which taxon later assigned to Liechtenstein's Sandgrouse. <i>P. liechtensteinii</i> (Wells 1998, H&M4); this distribution covered by entry in ORL Non-passerine list. Ali & Ripley 1968-73 apparently intended to support this change (Steve Madge <i>in litt</i> to Mike Evans). Occurrence of Painted Sandgrouse in Afghanistan not impossible, but increasingly unlikely.
		Columbidae	
N53	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	Resident Eritrea to Somalia; spreading rapidly; breeds both in open country & towns Redman <i>et al</i> 2009.
N54	Speckled Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>	Possibly E Afghanistan, HBW4 map; likely very rare there R&A 2005, uncommon in west of range. A&M map range well into Gilgit, very close to Afghanistan. However, main habitat is dense temperate or tropical deciduous forest, which is now largely absent in E Afghanistan. Perhaps historical Bates & Lowther 1952. Evidence? Documentation? Subject to irregular movements, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998. NB Scarce & irregular W Kashmir following fruit crop up to 3000m Roberts 1991.
N55	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	Recorded as common just S of Egyptian border in N Sudan in 120km ² grid 21°N, 30°E Nikolaus 1987 and S upstream along Nile.
N56	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	RNBWS report Farasan Islands Feb 82 (16:15:00N+41:3:00E) unconfirmed; report of breeding Sheikh Othman & Hussein (Aden) 1945 treated with caution in Warr 1992; possible misidentification in both cases. NB Breeds Eritrea & Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009 all along Somali N coast Redman <i>et al</i> 2009, also Sudan HBW4
N57	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	Regular winterer E-C Pakistan, has increased wintering range to new irrigation projects (Roberts 1991), which now are common in OSME Region.
		Psittacidae	
N58	Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>	On Avibase website Israel list Aug 08 as Introduced.
		Cuculidae	
N59	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Distribution of this common and adaptable species has increased, following irrigation projects, in Pakistan close to Afghan border, especially near Khyber Roberts 1991. May occur for that reason in OSME Region.
N60	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	Given the likely lack of differentiation in records in Ethiopia between this taxon (an intra-tropical migrant and powerful flier) and Common Cuckoo <i>C. canorus</i> (Ash & Atkins 2009), overshoot into Yemen is possible; see also Redman <i>et al</i> 2009.
		Strigidae	
PT	African Scops Owl Parent Taxon	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	K&W 2008 split Arabian Scops Owl <i>O.(s.) pamela</i> (qv), previously regarded as ssp. African Scops Owl <i>O.(s.) senegalensis sensu stricto novo</i> now relegated to ORL Hypothetical List: no evidence found of this taxon in Region.
N61	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus (senegalensis) senegalensis</i>	Post-split, absence of evidence of occurrence in Region; nearest population on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits, although Ash & Atkins 2009, not covering Djibouti, locate it more distantly.
N62	Oriental Scops Owl	<i>Otus sunia</i>	Older maps speculative eg König <i>et al</i> 1999 covering E Afghanistan and Tadjhikistan, Shimba (2007) map suggesting S Kyrgyzstan, possibly because of mis-allocation of ssp to other <i>Otus</i> sp. R&A 2005 excludes from Region by some distance, as does Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998. K&W 2008 westernmost range NE Pakistan. However, may wander into remaining semi-open woodland Afghanistan or Iran. Avibase website Israel & Kazakhstan without citing status or source
PT	Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> Parent Taxon	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	IOC update v2.0 accepts split from Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i> . Taxonomy follows König <i>et al</i> (1999), K&W 2008 & R&A 2005.

N63	Indian Eagle Owl (Rock Eagle Owl, Dusky Eagle Owl)	<i>Bubo [bubo] bengalensis</i>	Taxonomy follows König <i>et al</i> 1999, R&A 2005, IOC update v1.6, K&W 2008. Although maps in König <i>et al</i> 1999 & K&W 2008 cover the SE quadrant of Afghanistan and Iranian Baluchistan, texts do not mention these countries; R&A 2005 map it quite close to the Khyber Pass, Pakistan. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to Pakistan/Iran border along Gokprosh and Makran Coastal Ranges. Documentation? NB Early references to occurrence in Afghanistan rejected by Whistler (1944-5): 'too pale'; assigned to <i>B. b. turcomanus</i> (Paludan 1959) but we know of no subsequent analysis of extant specimens. K&W 2008 aver sympatric with <i>turcomanus</i> in Kashmir; possibly also in SE quadrant of Afghanistan.
PT	Spotted Eagle Owl Parent Taxon	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	K&W 2008 suggest allopatric Arabian populations (<i>milesi</i> ; see Non-passerine List) be elevated to species level on colour, size & vocalisation grounds, but more research needed. NB Although other <i>B. (b.) africanus sensu stricto novo</i> taxa highly unlikely in Region, K&W 2008, Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman <i>et al</i> 2009, IOC v2.3 have separated sub-Saharan Vermiculated Eagle Owl (Greyish Eagle Owl) <i>B. [a.] cinerascens</i> , monotypic, which occurs on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits, and may occur in Region.
N64	Vermiculated Eagle Owl (Greyish Eagle Owl)	<i>Bubo [africanus] cinerascens</i>	K&W 2008 elevate to species level; occurs on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Straits (Ash & Atkins 2009) & also c250km S of Egypt's Ha'laib Triangle in Sudan Nikolaus 1987: may occur in Region. NB Ash & Atkins place nearest African Eagle Owl <i>B. [a.] africanus</i> just into Kenya.
N65	Dusky Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo coromandus</i>	Map in König <i>et al</i> (1999) covers northeasternmost Afghanistan, also HBW5. Range in R&A 2005 much further to S, & K&W 2008 seem to agree. Apparent 'quarantine corridor' still shown in K&W 2008 (also R&A 2005) between this and Eurasian Eagle Owl <i>B. bubo</i> from coast mid-Pakistan N to Kashmir then SE to Nepal (but not included in molecular analyses cited in ORL). Maps in K&W 2008, R&A 2005, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998 and Roberts 1991 suggest <i>coromandus</i> unlikely in OSME Region – well watered woodland now scarce in Afghanistan. However, species has adapted to plantations Roberts 1991. Historical?
PT	Little Owl Parent Taxon	<i>Athene noctua</i>	K&W 2008 make <i>A. (n.) lilith</i> a species (<i>qv</i>) as in Wink <i>et al</i> 2008. Wink in van Nieuwenhuysse <i>et al</i> 2009 differs in detail in places, but the genetic analyses of <i>A. noctua</i> and <i>A. cunicularia</i> (Nearctic Burrowing Owl) taxa are incomplete (Wink <i>et al</i> 2009, Michael Wink pers comm June 2009). Because of the phylogeographic variation detected in both taxon complexes, a more detailed study across the whole distribution range will certainly reveal a more complex pattern with several distinct species and subspecies; of particular interest (to OSME) are <i>glauca</i> , <i>lilith</i> & <i>indigena</i> ; <i>glauca</i> & <i>lilith</i> appear genetically close Wink <i>et al</i> 2009), thus we list the taxa occurring in the Region separately <i>pro tem</i> . Four 'forms' recorded Israel Yoav Perlman in litt Nov 09. K&W 2008, Wink <i>et al</i> 2009 suggest <i>A. (n.) plumipes</i> (<i>qv</i> Non-passerine List) too may be separable; it occurs from the Altai eastwards. NB Other DNA research under way on <i>Athene</i> owls; more song data is being collected, possibly why IOC v2.3 does not split <i>noctua</i> .
N66	Ethiopian Little Owl	<i>Athene (noctua) spilogastra</i>	K&W 2008, Wink <i>et al</i> 2009 support elevation to sp (with 2 ssp); <i>spilogastra</i> E Sudanese Red Sea along coastal hinterland S to Eritrea & <i>somaliensis</i> E Ethiopia to N Somalia; latter likely on African side (Djibouti) of Bab-el-Mandab Strait; Ash & Atkins 2009. Claim of specimen from Ha'laib triangle SW Egypt resembling <i>spilogastra</i> BinE 2009. Recorded Sudan only c 180km S of Ha'laib Triangle Nikolaus 1987.
N67	Brown Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Map in Shimba 2007 suggests close to E Tadjhikistan and S Kyrgyzstan borders. Relict population? On Avibase website Kazakh Aug 08 list without citing source. If relict population exists in or close to Region, likely related to <i>lugubris</i> ssp; extrapolated from K&W 2008
		Caprimulgidae	
N68	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	As an abundant breeding migrant to Pakistan almost to border near Thal (Roberts 1991, Cleere 2010), overshoots are likely at times.
		Apodidae	
N69	Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>	Occurs along N Somalia coast; prone to wandering Redman <i>et al</i> 2009.
		Colidae	
N70	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>	Recorded along Sudan Nile Valley to within c 150km S of Egypt Nikolaus 1987.
		Meropidae	
N71	White-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops albicollis</i>	Overshoots from spring migrants to N Sudan possible Nikolaus 1987.
N72	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	Widespread and common in Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman <i>et al</i> 2009; family are powerful fliers. NB Confusable with extralimital Blue-breasted Bee-eater <i>M. variegatus</i> (mostly W of 40°N Ethiopia) & Cinnamon Bee-eater <i>M. oreobates</i> , W & S of Ethiopia.
N73	Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar Bee-eater)	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	Occurs as intra-tropical breeder in NW Somalia & parts of Ethiopia and coastal Eritrea Redman <i>et al</i> 2009.
N74	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	Westernmost Pakistan range close to Safed Koh & Khyber; spring overshoot to Afghanistan possible. See map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009. Vagrant SE Iran?
		Megalaimidae	
N75	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Formerly in Afghan Khyber? See map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; resident Pakistan. Unmistakeable loud call.
		Indicatoridae	
N76	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>	Reported on-line Afghanistan. Possible, but nearest documented population (NE Pakistan) thought extinct. Documentation! R&A 2005 say no. In H&M3 corrigenda E Dickinson pers comm
		Picidae	
N77	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahattensis</i>	Probably once occurred in Afghan Khyber. See map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, where now uncommon Pakistan.
N78	Lesser Goldenback (formerly Black-rumped Woodpecker)	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Resident in main vale of Peshawar Roberts 1991, which distribution area similar to Sind Woodpecker (Sind Pied) <i>Dendrocopos affinis</i> – (formerly?) in similar habitat on Afghan side of Khyber?
PASSERINES, English Name			
		Family, Species or Taxon	Working Notes; includes 'recent' material. NB Secondary references often unvalidated
		Tephrodornithidae	
P1	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Though sedentary in Pakistani wooded lowlands, does penetrate ravines & occurs close to Afghan border near Thal & at Khyber Roberts 1992
		Campephagidae	

P2	Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>	Afghanistan - Asian Area Checklist (AAC), probably based on the UN Food & Agriculture (FAO) 1981 Afghanistan Checklist, which is a doubtful source. HBW10 maps only in India, but unusually for HBW, text differs – N Pakistan; R&A 2005 support text. Map in Grimmett et al 1998 for 'rare & local' in NE Pakistan, very close to W end of Afghanistan's Wakhan panhandle. Documentation? In H&M3 Afghan corrigenda E Dickinson pers comm. On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source
		Laniidae	
PT	Isabelline Shrike Parent Taxon	<i>Lanius [cristatus] isabellinus</i>	IOC update v2.0 accepts split into 2 species (see below). NB1 the name <i>isabellinus</i> previously applied to N China birds (usually referred to as <i>arenarius</i> in the literature, <i>isabellinus</i> applying to Central Asian birds). Pearson 2000 had suggested that the male type specimen of <i>isabellinus</i> was actually <i>speculigerus</i> , which name should apply to those at present named <i>isabellinus</i> , but Panov 2009 refutes, synonymising <i>arenarius</i> with <i>isabellinus</i> and noting type specimen of <i>isabellinus</i> actually differs from several long series of <i>speculigerus</i> , but the type location is not within the <i>isabellinus</i> breeding distribution. NB2 Scott & Adhami 2006 use PT for Iran, but <i>L. isabellinus</i> likely winterer Iran & <i>L. phoenicuroides</i> breeds & winters. NB3 HBW13 suggests that extralimital (breeding WC China) <i>arenarius</i> and <i>tsaidamensis</i> form separate group, raised to species status by some Russians; pro tem, we treat <i>tsaidamensis</i> as potentially separable, but taxon is unstudied (qv 'Eastern Red-backed Shrike' L. (i.) <i>tsaidamensis</i> below.
P3	'Eastern Red-backed Shrike' ('Chinese Shrike')	<i>Lanius (isabellinus) tsaidamensis</i>	Both <i>arenarius</i> (= <i>isabellinus</i> Panov 2009) and <i>tsaidamensis</i> from WC China winter in N India and Pakistan: two reported & photographed in Golestan, Iran Jan 2009 may be from this group (DB 31 pp193 & 198). The taxon <i>tsaidamensis</i> is the largest in the <i>cristatus-collurio-isabellinus</i> complex, but is the least studied, perhaps being associated with saxaul and salt cedar habitat (from Przewalsky's 1886 expedition); however, size decreases to N of breeding range until it approaches that of <i>speculigerus</i> (Evgeniy Panov <i>in litt</i>). From limited specimen data, intermediates with <i>isabellinus</i> (probably the population formerly attributed to 'arenarius') and <i>speculigerus</i> are likely (Evgeniy Panov <i>in litt</i>). NB English name 'Isabelline Shrike' here inappropriate, hence interim name informal @OSME.
P4	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>	2003 Web list for Ladakh - likely easternmost Ladakh if valid.
The relationships between the large grey shrike taxa are complex. Some taxa may be undefinable in terms of species or subspecies, but nevertheless include diagnosable populations, suggesting a broader view is inevitable. We therefore have retreated in our arrangement of Parent Taxa to conform with the groupings in Olsson et al 2009 (called clades therein) that occur in the OSME region. We recognise that many will wish to retain traditional nomenclature or a more adventurous taxonomy - we acknowledge this below. We suggest that this kind of complexity is shared by other groups eg the <i>flava/citreola</i> wagtails and the white-headed gulls, which also merit taking the broader view			
PT	Chinese Grey Shrike Parent Taxon	<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	Olsson et al 2009 support split on molecular data into Chinese Grey Shrike L.(s.) <i>sphenocercus</i> (Cabanis 1873) & 'Giant Grey Shrike' L.(s.) <i>giganteus</i> (Przewalski 1887) (both monotypic). NB latter English name used in 1920s for this taxon.
P5	Chinese Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	Map in Shimba 2007 suggests likely wanderer to E Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Tadzhikistan. NB The English name 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' previously has been applied rather haphazardly to both <i>giganteus</i> (eg Brazil 2009) & to Grey-backed Shrike <i>L. tephronotus</i> of Himalayas (qv). The shrike taxon name 'tibetanus' (as in 'Tibetan Grey Shrike' L.s. 'tibetanus' (dark grey; possibly separable) is of uncertain derivation & appears to have been used in multiple fashion to describe taxa of both Chinese Grey (possibly = <i>giganteus</i>) & Grey-backed Shrikes. It is not listed in major references.
		Vireonidae	IOC v2.3 moves this & several other species from Timaliidae , placing as Old World members of Vireonidae .
P6	Green Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius xanthochlorus</i>	Occurs up to 3350m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit S Kashmir as does HBW 12 map. Roberts 1992 tends to support, but notes declining population of already rare sp. NB Reddy 2008 suggests split into 4 spp (this taxon would be <i>P. occidentalis</i> , 'Western Green Shrike-Babbler'); findings subject to evaluation under Biological Species Concept Rheindt & Eaton 2009.
		Dicruridae	
P7	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	Uncertain Yemen WBDB 2008 Checklist; Mike Evans pers comm. Seemingly occurs down to S Red Sea W coast Ash & Atkins 2009 ssp <i>divaricatus</i> HBW14.
		Rhipiduridae	NB Rhipidura generally adaptable and inquisitive genus
P8	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Occurs up to 2300m R&A 2005. Map (very small scale) in Arlott 2007 suggests; that in R&A just reaches Pakistan from E. Grimmett et al 2009 map in Pakistan, 3 small disjunct areas, Murree Hills, Gilgit & Kunar valley in NW; likely in Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys (prefers damp shady ravines).
P9	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	Contra Arlott 2007 map, Grimmett et al 2009 map extensively along riverine (including artificial) valleys, up to E end Safed Koh, close to Afghan Khyber.
		Corvidae	
P10	Azure-winged Magpie (Asian Azure-winged Magpie)	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	Westward range expansion increases vagrancy chance; probable vagrants noted E of Region at c100°E at 56°N Rогоcheva 1992. Fefelov pers comm cited in Haring et al 2007 . M&P 2000 map westernmost limit 200km E of Kazakhstan, Shimba 2007 map suggests likely wanderer to easternmost Kazakhstan, but HBW14 maps only to c 110°E. NB Svensson et al 2009 strangely make no mention of split of extralimital Iberian Magpie <i>C. cooki</i> .
P11	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Gold-billed Magpie)	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>	Occurs up to 3500m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests; R&A 2005 map almost reaches E to Pakistani Khyber. Indication of some support in M&P 2000. However, likely map in Roberts 1992 (p420) has been misread – 2 species on 1 map, but shading densities not greatly different – Eurasian Magpie <i>Pica pica</i> is mapped to border, but <i>U. flavirostris</i> in only 3 small patches of moist temperate forest 150-300km from border. Although citations probably based on Bates & Lowther 1952, their 'Kashmir' comprised only c 20% of 21st-century disputed area.
P12	Rufous Treepie (Indian Tree-pie)	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Hills of SE Iran, E Afghanistan? M&B say Pakistani Hazara is western limit. Roberts 1992 maps to Afghan border at S Kurram, but HBW14 fails to enlighten. Documentation?
P13	Biddulph's Ground Jay (Xingjiang Ground-jay)	<i>Podoces biddulphi</i>	Probably in dry valley areas on Kazakhstan-China border, E of Zharkerit area, where M&B 1994 map neatly stops, as does HBW14 map. Perhaps coincidentally, M&P 2000 also map it to E end of Wakhan, but also ESE Kazakh border. 2003 survey estimate >10 000 birds, but fragile habitats degraded by 20-fold human population increase HBW14. Known to occur within 140km of China-Kyrgyzstan border Ma-Ming & HK Kwok 2004. Documentation!
P14	Cape Crow (Cape Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	Two reported Egypt 29 Nov 07 at Shalateen (notified to <i>Sandgrouse Around the Region</i>). Documentation? On Avibase website Israel list Mar 09 as Introduced. NB1 Breeds Eritrean Red Sea coast Ash & Atkins 2009 & Somali N coast Redman et al 2009. NB2 HBW14 notes largely sedentary, but has wandered occasionally.

P15	Dwarf Raven	<i>Corvus edithae</i>	Occurs in half-degree square containing Perim Island Ash & Atkins 2009. Common, widespread & commensal on African side of Bab-el Mandab Strait HBW14.
		Stenostiridae	IOC update v2.0 places this species in new family Stenostiridae , Fairy Flycatchers.
P16	Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher (Grey-headed Flycatcher)	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit SE Kashmir, Roberts 1992 less optimistic. On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain; Steve Madge suggests error perpetuated from Baker 1922-29.
		Paridae	NB <i>Sensu stricto</i> , the dismemberment of the genus <i>Parus</i> is premature, for confirmatory work has yet to be done in places.
P17	Green-backed Tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>	Occurs locally above 3300m R&A 2005. Very similar appearance to European populations of Great Tit <i>P. major</i> . Map in Arlott 2007 suggests occurrence; R&A 2005 map easternmost limit exactly at Afghan border S of western end of Wakhan, as does map in HBW 12. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to border at Kunar river; Afghan occurrence in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys? Sedentary, little altitudinal migration, avoids drier Himalayan forests Roberts 1992.
P18	Yellow-browed Tit	<i>Sylviparus modestus</i>	2003 Web List for Ladakh - likely easternmost Ladakh if valid.
		Remizidae	
P19	Fire-capped Tit	<i>Cephalopyrus flammiceps</i>	Summer visitor NE Afghanistan, R&A 2005, maps M&P 2000, Arlott 2007 suggest reaches Afghanistan, of which no mention in HBW13. 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 <i>S Afghanistan</i> ; Bates & Lowther record range from Afghan border of Pakistan eastwards. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map to Chinese, not Afghan border; spring overshoot to Wakhan?. Documentation! On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain
		Pseudopodociidae	From James <i>et al</i> 2003, perhaps best placed in own family <i>pro tem</i> , following Paridae (where still placed IOC v2.3), to which it is more closely related (Richard Klim <i>in litt</i>). However, degree of divergence shown (8-11% from other <i>Parus</i> tits, but about 14% from such as Sittidae and Sturnidae) is calculated solely from mtDNA, and so results from other DNA methods are needed to establish its relationships with other taxa.
P20	Groundpecker [Hume's Ground-Jay] (alternatively Ground-tit or Ground Tit – HBW 12)	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i> (Formerly (<i>Parus humilis</i>))	Previously classed as a small corvid, subsequently as a parid, but James <i>et al</i> 2003 show its genetic divergence from <i>Parus</i> tits is 8-11%, distant enough to merit a separate genus; some Families are separated by slightly greater divergence, but only in the context of other molecular and morphological factors. HBW 12 retain <i>Pseudopodoces</i> genus in Corvidae , but IOC update v2.1 includes in Paridae , locating it only in Tibet; however, it appears resident also in Ladakh (India: 2003 Web list) and Nepal. Possibly occurs just in E Kyrgyzstan near Kara-Say on China border (up to 5300m M&B 1994, up to 5500m R&A 2005, who map species to about 200km E of Wakhan). M&P 2000 map species in E end of Wakhan. Small-scale map Arlott 2007 supportive, as is HBW 12 map, but are errors compounding? Documentation! NB1 Confusion possible between multiple Kara-says. NB2 any record must address possibility of species being polytypic . K Roselaar pers comm.
		Alaudidae	
P21	Mongolian Lark	<i>Melanocorypha mongolica</i>	On-line report for Kyrgyzstan, but more likely to be vagrant easternmost Kazakhstan, which is 750km nearer species' western range limit which lies another 400km further E in Mongolia). Documentation?
P22	Tibetan Lark	<i>Melanocorypha maxima</i>	Arlott 2007 map shows extensive area just SE of Wakhan, but <i>Melanocorypha</i> spp prone to wander widely. R&A map just N of Afghanistan. M&P 2000 maps distribution as being S of Wakhan but probably on Pakistan-China border? 2003 Web list Ladakh. NB Afghan citation in John Gould's <i>Birds of Asia</i> (vol 4 1867) in error - type locality was Sikkim (Hartert).
P23	Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i>	On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source
P24	Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	Normally no further N in Sudan than c 150km of Egyptian border, but movements N usually during rains Nikolous 1987; possible overshoot in years of exceptional rains.
		Hirundinidae	
P25	Rock Martin (African Rock Martin)	<i>Ptyonoprogne (fuligula) fuligula</i> (formerly <i>Hirundo (fuligula) fuligula</i>)	<i>Ibis</i> (2005), 147: 821–826. African species T&R 1989. Unconfirmed post-split as occurring in Region (Richard Klim <i>in litt</i>), but ssp <i>pusilla</i> (Ethiopia & Eritrea) & <i>fusciventris</i> (W&S Sudan, W-C Ethiopia) may occur; all hirundines liable to displacement by weather systems; other 4 ssp remote from Region. NB Ash & Atkins 2009, Redman <i>et al</i> 2009 map <i>pusilla</i> on African side of Bab-el-Mandab Strait.
P26	Red Sea Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon perdita</i>	IOC v2.2 recognises. E Sudan, likely to drift to Egypt, possibly to Saudi Arabia?
		Cettidae	IOC v2.0 places in Cettidae , ahead of Aegithalidae . NB family name may be invalid on priority grounds Ed Dickinson <i>in litt</i> .
P27	Brown-flanked Bush Warbler (Brownish-flanked or Strong-footed Bush Warbler)	<i>Cettia fortipes</i>	Occurs up to 3300m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area Afghanistan; R&A map westernmost limit W corner Kashmir. Roberts 1992, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 maps suggests Afghan breeders most likely in Nurestan (Daryā-ye & Konar valleys), WSW of Chitral in Pakistan. As <i>Homochlamys pallidus pallidus</i> . Bates & Lowther 1959 asses it as patchily widespread, making no allusion to its 'Kashmir' distribution beyond their specified area. NB IOC update v2.0 places in Cettidae , ahead of Aegithalidae
		Aegithalidae	
P28	Black-throated Tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>	On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. H&E 1970 suggest the possibility.
P29	White-throated Bush-tit (White-throated Tit)	<i>Aegithalos niveogularis</i>	Occurs up to 4000m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests occurs Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit of mid-Kashmir, largely according with Bates & Lowther 1952, whose area ended there.
		Phylloscopidae	IOC update v2.0 removes <i>Phylloscopus</i> from Sylviidae and places with <i>Seicercus</i> in new family Phylloscopidae , ahead of Acrocephalidae sensu novo . NB family name may be invalid on priority grounds Ed Dickinson <i>in litt</i> .
P30	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus affinis</i>	Occurs up to 4800m R&A 2005. Western limit of breeding range depicted as exactly on N Pakistan-Afghanistan border; Nurestan-Badakhshan & E Wakhan Roberts 1992; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map suggests that Afghan occurrence likeliest Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. Strong likelihood of wandering, but habitat declining; occurs up to 5000m, Baker 1997, to treeline Bates & Lowther 1952. R&A 2005 & Arlott 2007 maps depict similarly. Documentation? NB Extralimital populations from E Tibetan plateau & points E&S split as West Chinese Leaf Warbler <i>P. occisinesis</i> Martens <i>et al</i> 2008

PT	Crowned Warbler Parent Taxon	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>	Split is from Western Crowned Warbler <i>P.(c.) occipitalis</i> ; see ORL Passerine List; IOC v2.0 accepts split
P31	Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus (coronatus) coronatus</i>	Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007, 1st for UK Oct 2009; must cross the OSME Region. NB Sikkim Meinertzhagen record fraudulent (see history in Garfield 2007), also in Assam Meinertzhagen records misidentified Blyth's Leaf-Warbler <i>P. reguloides</i> – R&A 2005 (see also Garfield 2007).
P32	Grey-hooded Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus xanthoschistos</i> (formerly <i>Seicercus xanthoschistos</i>)	Occurs up to 2700m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests wintering area NE Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit W corner of Kashmir, similarly M&P 2000. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 status resident or altitudinal migrant; any Afghan population therefore isolated.
		Acrocephalidae	IOC v2.0 removes <i>Acrocephalus</i> & <i>Hippolais</i> from Sylviidae and place in new family Acrocephalidae following Phylloscopidae sensu novo . Some restructuring of genera within <i>Acrocephalus</i> likely from Fregin <i>et al</i> 2009.
PT	Reed Warbler Parent Taxon	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Whole complex in need of comprehensive re-analysis Parkin & Knox 2010. NB1 Putative split of Caspian Reed Warbler <i>A.(s.) fuscus</i> and also for Mangrove Reed Warbler <i>A.(s.) avicenniae</i> from within the revised African Reed Warbler <i>A.(s.) baeticatus</i> . For the latter two, see Ash <i>et al</i> 1989 & Hering <i>et al</i> 2009, 2010. IOC update v2.3 omits mention of both splits; if accepted, taxonomy would accord with Leisler <i>et al</i> 1997, but Helbig & Siebold 1999 drew opposite conclusions from other DNA techniques; Kirwan <i>et al</i> 2008 note individual variations may blur morphological and ID conclusions. NB2 African Reed Warbler now removed to ORL Hypothetical List (qv) until evidence of occurrence in OSME Region emerges. NB3 Fregin <i>et al</i> 2009 prefer not to adopt any change of genus vet.
P33	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus (scirpaceus) baeticatus</i>	IOC v2.3 accepts split of <i>baeticatus</i> . This would appear to remove this taxon from the OSME Passerine List: now wholly (?) African species (see also BoA Vol V) if Mangrove Reed Warbler <i>A.(b.) avicenniae</i> is separated from this complex (Dickinson 2003 placed this taxon under <i>A. scirpaceus</i>). <i>A.(s.) baeticatus sensu novo</i> may have reached the Region from newly discovered small populations in E Libya Hering <i>et al</i> 2009, 2010. NB1 Ash & Atkins 2009 omit any mention. NB2 may move to new genus <i>Notiocichla</i> as <i>N. baeticata</i> .
P34	'Mangrove' Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida alulensis</i>	Reportedly occurs in Egypt DB 2010.
		Megaluridae	IOC v2.0 adds <i>Bradypterus</i> & <i>Locustella</i> to Megaluridae leaving Sylviidae sensu novo containing only <i>Sylvia</i> .
PT	Spotted Bush Warbler Parent Taxon	<i>Bradypterus thoracicus</i>	Alström <i>et al</i> 2008a split into <i>B. (t.) thoracicus</i> (extralimital, E of central Himalayas), West Himalayan Bush Warbler <i>B.kashmirensis</i> and Baikal Bush Warbler <i>B. (t.) davidi</i> , which is Siberian Bush Warbler of HBW11 & IOC update v1.6.
P35	West Himalayan Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus (thoracicus) kashmirensis</i>	This W Himalayan taxon might well be a vagrant to suitable habitat in Wakhan valleys.
P36	Baikal Bush Warbler (Siberian Bush Warbler) (Père David's Bush Warbler)	<i>Bradypterus (thoracicus) davidi</i>	Northeasternmost breeding range near source of Ob, Altai S-C Russia, within reasonable distance of easternmost Kazakhstan, Flint <i>et al</i> 1984, also Sayan Mts Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. Shimba 2007 map suggests in easternmost Kazakhstan (as Spotted Bush Warbler <i>B. thoracicus</i>). Documentation?
P37	Chinese Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus tacsanowskii</i>	Vagrant in Sayan Mts Krasnoyarsk Republic, not far from easternmost Kazakhstan Rogacheva 1992. NB A wintering population crosses Himalayas to winter S Nepal, N India R&A 2005. Shimba 2007 map suggests westernmost range limit roughly at 90°E.
P38	Gray's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella fasciolata</i>	Easternmost breeding range fairly close to NE Kazakhstan, Flint <i>et al</i> 1984, Shimba 2007. Documentation? Occurs Krasnoyarsk Republic Rogacheva 1992. NB Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007. Arlott 2007 map tentatively suggests easternmost Kazakhstan.
		Cisticolidae	
P39	Rufous-vented Prinia	<i>Prinia burnesii</i>	Widespread along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Khyber (Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009), where possibly extends irregularly into Afghanistan.
P40	Rufous-fronted Prinia	<i>Prinia buchanani</i>	On-line claim Afghanistan not supported Baker 1997, but mapped Pakistan along border at Khyber; R&A 2005, the same; map Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998 on NE Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Roberts 1992 maps into Afghanistan at Khyber and nearly so at Thal to S; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map likewise. Documentation?
P41	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>	Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map in N Pakistan up to N Swat, dense scrub or dry forest, could well occur similar habitat Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys
P42	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Locally common along water margins in Pakistan almost to the Kurram (Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009), where possibly extends irregularly into Afghanistan.
P43	Crickent Longtail	<i>Spiloptila clamans</i>	Recorded (probably as vagrant) Sudan in 120km ² square 21°N, 31°E just below Egyptian border Nikolaus 1987.
P44	Common Tailorbird (Formerly Indian Tailorbird)	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	Roberts 1992 maps almost to Afghan border at Thal & Khyber, also Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009. Species adaptable to most deciduous habitats. IOC v2.0 places in Cisticolidae .
		Timaliidae	
P45	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>	Main habitat preference Pakistan cane grass, but adaptable to artificial habitats Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; extensive range mapped close to Khyber, perhaps irregular on Afghan side.
P46	Striated Babbler	<i>Turdoides earlei</i>	Mapped to Afghan border NE of Jalalabad Roberts 1992, Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; breeds up to 1800m & becomes dominant in irrigated forest plantations.
P47	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron albogularis</i> (formerly <i>Garrulax albogularis</i>)	Taxonomy follows R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests in ORL. Possible error of map swap in Arlott 2007 with Variegated Laughingthrush <i>T. [g.] variegatus</i> (qv in ORL Passerines)? Arlott 2007 may have used maps or same source data as M&P 2000, whose texts agree with R&A texts but not with maps. R&A 2005 maps & species accepted here as correct – westernmost limit isolated (& declining?) population NE Pakistan. NB Remaining population Pakistan only in Poonch Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009; noisy & conspicuous species. H&E 1970 speculate Vaurie accepted 1 record in Safed Koh but this range is also in Pakistan under the same name (Roberts 1991); no confirmed record from Afghan territory (Steve Madge pers comm to Mike Evans). On WBDB Afghanistan checklist as uncertain - same error as above? We consider OSME Region occurrence now highly unlikely.

P48	Chinese Hill Warbler (Chinese Bush-dweller, HBW 12)	<i>Rhopophilus pekinensis</i>	Breeds westernmost China, may occur where Toxkan He river enters Kyrgyzstan, or on E slopes above river Dar' yoi Oqsu in Tadzhikistan; extrapolate from Baker 1997. Map, Ariotti 2007, suggests may breed close to E end of Wakhan; M&P 2000 map westernmost limit at E end Wakhan. Shimba 2007 map suggests resident along these borders but also in easternmost Kazakhstan. HBW 12 suggests just reaches Region as above, but removes from Cisticolidae , as does IOC v2.0. Documentation!
		Sylviidae	
PT	Desert Warbler PT	<i>Sylvia [nana]</i>	Re Parent Taxon , HBW does not split, IOC update v2.0 does. Parkin & Knox 2010 note the lack of published DNA evidence (believed to show wide separation).
P49	African Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia [nana] deserti</i> (formerly <i>S. nana deserti</i>)	Resident W Libya. Claimed Egypt Avib. Documentation!
PT	Marmora's Warbler Parent Taxon	<i>Sylvia sarda</i>	PT : Bairlein <i>et al</i> 2006 split to extralimital Balearic Warbler <i>S.(s.) balearica</i> (on morphology, vocalisation & genetics, Anderson <i>et al</i> 2009) BLI disagreed, but IOC update v2.0 supports
P50	Balearic Warbler (Marmora's Warbler)	<i>Sylvia (sarda) balearica</i>	Presumably mostly resident, hence unlikely to reach OSME Region from W Mediterranean, but some small populations (eg Pantelleria, Kuriate Islands) east of all <i>sarda</i> populations; vagrancy possible when very strong spring westerlies occur (not uncommon when depressions over northern Mediterranean countries, eg 35 days out of 42 Cyprus Apr-May 2008). Documentation!
PT	Subalpine Warbler Parent Taxon	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	PT history: first; one sp, 4 ssp., <i>inornata</i> (NW Africa), <i>albistriata</i> (W form: Trieste area down Dalmatian coast. E form: continuously to Greece, Crete, Tyrrhenian islands & W Turkey, <i>cantillans</i> (W form: Iberia & S France. E form Italy) & (then doubtful) <i>moltonii</i> (= <i>subalpina</i> ; often subsumed in <i>cantillans</i>) of W Mediterranean islands. Subsequent split into E & W groups (as in ORL to v2.2) more arbitrary than evidence-based. Breeding dynamics (Italian mainland, mostly), DNA & song research supports 3 main mt lineages (but across previous concepts): <i>moltonii</i> (Balearics, Sardinia, Corsica & NW Italy [formerly some placed in <i>cantillans</i> continuity]); western <i>cantillans</i> Iberia & S France; Italian (southern) <i>cantillans</i> & <i>albistriata</i> (data lacking <i>inornata</i> assessment Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008). Although <i>moltonii</i> partly cryptic (Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2009), warrants species status, which IOC v2.3 agrees as Moltoni's Warbler (<i>qv</i>). Further research of relationships between 3 lineages and <i>inornata</i> likely to warrant further splitting, with considerable revision of identity of taxa (Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008).
P51	Moltoni's Warbler	<i>Sylvia [cantillans] moltonii</i> (syn. <i>S. subalpina</i>)	Unlikely spring vagrant; partly-cryptic species; Tyrrhenian islands & parts of NW Italy Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008, 2009; Svensson <i>et al</i> 2009. NB sensu stricto, subalpina has priority over <i>moltonii</i> , but case put by Baccetti <i>et al</i> 2007 to do so may not address the population distribution described in Brambilla <i>et al</i> 2008, 2009.
		Zosteropidae	
P52	African Yellow White-eye (Senegal White-eye)	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	African species, at one time reported on-line in Arabia. Documentation? No records Oman, Jens Eriksen pers comm. NB Fairly common resident in W Ethiopia Ash & Atkins 2009.
PT	Abyssinian White-eye Parent Taxon	<i>Zosterops abyssinnicus</i>	PT Putative split of Socotran form (see ORL Hypothetical List), but Kirwan 2007 suggests not.
P53	'Socotran White-eye' (Abyssinian White-eye, White-breasted White-eye)	<i>Zosterops (abyssinnicus) ???</i>	Socotran form of African species (Hugh Buck pers comm). Case ending, David & Gosselin 2002. Does this form reach mainland Arabia?
		Certhidae	
PT	Eurasian Treecreeper Parent Taxon	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	IOC update v1.6 accepts split (Tietze <i>et al</i> 2006) of Hodgson's Treecreeper <i>C. [familiaris] hodgsoni</i> as does HBW13, distributed in Kashmir and N Pakistan (Dickinson 2003); see also ORL Passerine List
P54	Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia [familiaris] hodgsoni</i>	Kashmir and N Pakistan: may also occur in neighbouring Afghan Nurestan
		Sturnidae	
P55	Black-collared Starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i> (formerly <i>Sturnus nigricollis</i>)	On Avibase website Israel list as Introduced
P56	Daurian Starling (formerly Purple-backed Starling)	<i>Agropsar sturninus</i> (formerly <i>Sturnus sturninus</i>)	Change of genus follows Lovette & Rubensten 2007, Lovette <i>et al</i> 2008, Knox <i>et al</i> 2008. Rare vagrant WP Harrop 2007 – must cross OSME Region. Vagrant N Pakistan near Wakhan R&A 2005. Commonly traded cagebird.
P57	Purple Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	Breeds sub-Sahel band E to W Kenya HBW14. On Avibase website Israel list as Introduced
		Turdidae	
P58	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus bouboul</i>	NE Afghanistan – map Clement & Hathway 2002, likely habitat, ban oak <i>Quercus incana</i> , HBW10, but not supported R&A 2005. Grimmett <i>et al</i> 1998, 'common, but very local' in Pakistan. Roberts 1992 text suggests unlikely, as it prefers Himalayan-type moist forest community.
PT	Eurasian Blackbird PT (Common Blackbird)	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Re Parent Taxon ; IOC update v2.0 accepts splits of Tibetan Blackbird <i>T.(m.) maximus</i> and extralimital Indian Blackbird <i>T.(m.) similimus</i> (R&A 2005).
P59	Indian Blackbird	<i>Turdus (merula) maximus</i>	Breeds N Pakistan. Bates & Lowther 1952, accustomed to the UK <i>T.(m.) merula</i> , noted this taxon as commonplace 'not below 11 000 feet (3400m) while breeding', but otherwise overlooked it. Given its occurrence both sides of the Himalayas & apparently up to the Pakistan border with Afghanistan, likely occurs in the Wakhan Pamirs
		Muscicapidae	
P60	Golden Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger chrysaeus</i>	Very diverse habitat preferences; up to 4600m Himalayas HBW11. Rare Pakistan Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009, where recorded for the first time at up to 3350m. On higher slopes of Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys?
P61	Oriental Magpie-Robin (Indian Magpie-Robin)	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Recent expansion in Pakistan to Khyber Pass 2002 Anssi Kullberg <i>in litt</i> . Expected Afghanistan soon. Popular cagebird.
P62	White-bellied Redstart (Hodgson's Shortwing)	<i>Hodgsonius phoenicuroides</i> (not <i>H. phaenicuroides</i>)	Not recorded Afghanistan. However, Bates & Lowther were unusually emphatic "known breeding range extends from NW Frontier"; Grimmett <i>et al</i> 2009 map disjunct population in Hindu Kush, c60km NW of Chitral polo ground. Also, a known Pakistan breeding site at 3350m tree limit is very close to S side of Wakhan where much little-known land is at this altitude Roberts 1992. NB spelling correction scientific name H&M4.

P63	White-throated Bush Chat (White-throated Bushchat, Hodgson's Bushchat)	<i>Saxicola insignis</i>	Assessed as vagrant (E) Kazakhstan (K-M&K 2005) & breeding easternmost Kazakhstan, HBW10, but these conclusions appear based on Leningrad (1928) skin, whose original label has been replaced without documented reason, Vladimir Arkhipov pers comm, W&O 2007. Suggest its presence on Avibase website Kazakhstan Aug 08 list is resurrection of this discredited record. Bates & Lowther 1952 confidently assess occurrence as "from borders of Afghanistan and Chitral" eastwards. Species now requires documentation. R&A 2005 map wintering range as S slopes C & E Himalayas. NB ample suitable habitat (alpine meadows scattered with rocks at c2900m asl) in Region, but not known to breed nearer than Mongolian Altai Bräunlich & Steudtner 2008.
P64	Jerdon's Bushchat	<i>Saxicola jerdoni</i>	On Avibase website Afghan list without citing source
P65	Grey Bush Chat (Grey Bushchat)	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i> (formerly <i>Saxicola ferrea</i>)	Occurs up to 3000m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests narrow breeding area reaches Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit in Pakistan W of Kashmir. Roberts 1992 map not too near Afghan border, E of Chitral, Grimmett et al 2009 agrees; perhaps in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. Vaurie vaguely cites 'from the Afghan border' - Steve Madge <i>in litt</i> to Mike Evans.
P66	Heuglin's Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe heuglini</i>	Monotypic. Previously regarded as ssp of Red-breasted Wheatear <i>O. bottae</i> , but split since IOC v1.7 at least. May occur (may have occurred when treated as <i>O. bottae</i> ?) as vagrant in Arabia from SW Sudan.
PT	Black-eared Wheatear Parent Taxon	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	IOC v2.3 do not split: no published molecular analysis (as of Aug 2010). For Eastern Black-eared Wheatear <i>O.(h.) melanoleuca</i> , see Passerine List. NB both taxa include pale- and dark-throated morphs.
P67	Western Black-eared Wheatear (Black-eared Wheatear)	<i>Oenanthe (hispanica) hispanica</i>	Almost certainly migrant individuals from Croatian population reach Turkey regularly (especially Aegean islands), Cyprus or Egypt. Documentation?
P68	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>	Common in scattered populations up to 3000m Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009; any Afghan population in rocky terrain in moist temperate forest, possibly in Daryā-ye & Konar valleys.
P69	Mugimaki Flycatcher (Black-and-Orange Flycatcher)	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Rare vagrant to WP, Harrop 2007 – almost certainly crosses the OSME Region. Breeds abundantly in southern taiga & Sayan Mts to N of Region Rogacheva 1992. Map in Shimba 2007 covers easternmost Kazakhstan – error?
P70	Kashmir Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula subruba</i>	Rare and local Pakistan Grimmett et al 2009, Neelum watershed, but only one record in S Chitral. Any Afghan occurrence might be spring overshoot from Sri Lanka winterers in deciduous temperate forest, in eg Daryā-ye & Konar valleys.
P71	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula tricolor</i>	Extreme W of wintering area to NE Afghanistan? - map in R&A 2005, some support Grimmett et al 1998, none in Roberts 1992. Bates & Lowther 1952 note breeds Kashmir forests up to 3300m (3500m Grimmett et al 2009 [misprint 8500m]), but very secretive: altitudinal & short-distance migrant. Documentation?
		Passeridae	
P72	Père David's Snowfinch (Small Snowfinch)	<i>Pyrgilauda davidiana</i> (formerly <i>Montifringilla davidiana</i>)	Westernmost Russian breeding range, where scarce, very close to easternmost Kazakhstan, Flint et al 1984, Clement et al 1993. M&P 2000 map close to NE Kazakhstan border. Documentation? NB HBW14 uses English name of 'Ground-sparrow' for <i>Pyrgilauda</i> taxa and maps remote from Region.
P73	Blanford's Snowfinch (Plain-backed Snowfinch)	<i>Pyrgilauda blanfordi</i> (formerly <i>Montifringilla blanfordi</i>)	Occurs up to 5500m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests resident close to E end of Wakhan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit E of Kashmir. M&P 2000 map in China to Pakistan border just S of Wakhan. NB HBW14 uses English name of 'Ground-sparrow' for <i>Pyrgilauda</i> taxa & maps remote from Region.
		Ploceidae	
P74	African Masked Weaver (Southern Masked Weaver)	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	On Avibase website Israel list as Introduced.
P75	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>	Introduced. Likely breeds small numbers Dubai Aspinall 2010. Possibly established for some time due to confusion with Southern Red Bishop <i>E. orix</i> (qv ORL Passerine section).
		Estrildidae	
P76	Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	Recorded Sudan in 120km ² square just below Egyptian border, 21°N, 31°E Nikolaus 1987, likely vagrant.
P77	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	Introduced Egypt WBDB 2008 checklist, on WCMC list as extirpated introduced breeder, but lacks reference & any indication of duration.
		Prunellidae	
P78	Robin Accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>	Occurs up to 5300m R&A 2005. Arlott 2007 map suggests breeding Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map westernmost limit C Kashmir. M&P 2000 map N of Kashmir. Roberts 1992 map suggests possibility of occurrence Afghan E Wakhan/China border, S side; Grimmett et al 2009 map 80km E of Wakhan. 'Uncertain' WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist; H&E 1970 suggest the possibility.
P79	Kozlov's Accentor (Mongolian Accentor)	<i>Prunella koslowi</i>	Distribution limits in Mongolia uncertain, but probably scattered; occurs on plains in winter. Inclusion here suggested Axel Bräunlich <i>in litt</i> .
		Fringillidae	
P80	Himalayan Greenfinch (Yellow-breasted Greenfinch)	<i>Carduelis spinoides</i>	Clement et al 1993 E Afghanistan, R&A 2005 maps small wintering area on E Afghanistan-Pakistan border, no certain obs Afghanistan yet, K Roselaar pers comm. Breeds 1500-3300m, unpredictably nomadic Roberts 1992, who maps up to S Chitral border and wintering near Khyber. Grimmett et al 2009 note residency; may occur Afghan Daryā-ye & Konar valleys. H&E 1970 query suggestion on Afghan-Iran border in Baluchestan. NB1 Late breeder, Jul-Oct. Documentation? On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain. NB2 Some earlier literature (eg Russian) placed in <i>Chloris</i> ; AOU Checklist Supp 50 cites Arnaiz-Villena et al 2008 to raise <i>Chloris</i> subgenus to genus: BOU response awaited - this taxon not on AOU Checklist.
P81	Spectacled Finch (formerly Red-browed Finch, Red-spectacled Finch)	<i>Callacanthus burtoni</i>	From NE Afghanistan-Pakistan border eastwards, R&A 2005 also, Grimmett et al 1998. Unproven as yet for Afghanistan, K Roselaar pers comm. Has loud ringing whistle, breeds 2750-3350m, Roberts 1992, who mapped it up to Kurram and Khyber border with Afghanistan, agreeing with Bates & Lowther 1959. Grimmett et al 2009 map Pakistan Safed Koh & Kurram valley, where probably also occurs Afghanistan. Documentation! On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain
P82	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus nipalensis</i>	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.

PT	White-browed Rosefinch Parent Taxon	<i>Carpodacus thura</i>	IOC update v2.0 accepts split of extralimital Chinese White-browed Rosefinch <i>C.(t.) dubius</i> On Avibase website Afghan list as PT without citing source
P83	Himalayan White-browed Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus (thura) thura</i>	On NE Afghanistan-Pakistan border R&A 2005 (as <i>C.t. blythii</i> ; not linked to Blyth's Rosefinch, now <i>C. grandis</i> formerly <i>C. rhodochlamys grandis</i>), NE Afghanistan, Clements et al 1993; Mapped E Afghanistan Arlott 2007 in band Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan Afghanistan: also by Grimmett et al 1998, as <i>C.t blythii</i> after Roberts 1992; he & Grimmett et al 2009 map it in Pakistani N Kurram on Afghan border, likely on eastern Afghan Safed Koh range (western slopes) at 2400-3350m; H&E 1970 fairly emphatic about breeding 3000-5000m here; Bates & Lowther 1952 "reputed to occur in the N-W Frontier hills, Whitehead recording in the Safed Koh" (Pakistan?) as low as 2700m. However, distribution & allocation of populations variously treated as <i>blythii</i> not well documented. NB Despite above, no accepted documentation of occurrence in Afghanistan, K Roselaar pers comm, but on H&M3 corrigenda list E Dickinson pers comm. On WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist as uncertain
P84	Orange Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula aurantiaca</i>	Occurs up to 3500m R&A 2005. Map in Arlott 2007 suggests non-continuous band Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Afghanistan; R&A 2005 map almost reaches Afghani Wakhan, N Chitral Roberts 1992; Grimmett et al 2009 reinforce. Bates & Lowther 1952 record breeding above 4000m & residency at altitude above Chitral. Likely in nearby Afghanistan.
Emberizidae			
P85	Crested Bunting	<i>Emberiza lathamii</i> (Formerly <i>Melophus lathamii</i>)	Alström et al 2008b synonymise in <i>Emberiza</i> . Known to breed up to 150km from Afghan border in Swat district, Pakistan. Closely associated with 'Chir' pine <i>Pinus roxburghii</i> tracts at 1000-1800m asl. Satellite IR-response analysis could identify <i>P. roxburghii</i> tracts in nearby Afghanistan. Not site-faithful during migration Bates & Lowther 1959.
P86	Yellow-browed Bunting	<i>Emberiza chrysophrys</i>	Rare WP vagrant Harrop 2007 – must cross the OSME Region. Common mid-taiga Krasnoyarsk Republic to N of Region Rogacheva 1992.

Forecast Hypothetical Taxa – additional notes

- Conspicuous by their absence from the OSME Region are a whole range of migratory Nearctic breeding taxa that have occurred as vagrants in Europe. Also, many eastern Palearctic migrants have demonstrated 180° misorientation (Berthold 1999). A Great Circle course brings them through the Region, where there is a very low observer density. Other vagrant migrant types expected in the Region are western (especially Alaskan) Nearctic taxa, such as American Pipit (IOC = Buff-bellied Pipit, *Anthus (r.) rubescens*, which if amongst Palearctic *A. (r.) japonicus* in a flock would not only would be easy to overlook, but also might not even be searched for by the very few birdwatchers and ornithologists in the vastnesses of the OSME Region. Doubtless readers can think of other candidates, but it would not be unreasonable to predict a *Vireo* sp or *Dendroica* sp occurring in the OSME Region in future. In the north of the Region, we might reasonably expected misoriented North American forest specialist species, because quite a number have occurred as vagrants in Europe, having crossed the Atlantic, probably often driven by strong westerly winds. Furthermore, the appearance of Nearctic taxa in the OSME Region is more likely than might be at first thought, taking as an example the annual migration cycle of the Alaskan population of Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* – these birds migrate across Asia to winter south of the Sahara (Bairlein 2008) and on their return. In any case, analysis of the stable-isotope ratios of feathers of vagrants might indicate accurately the breeding and wintering areas - see Fox & Bearhop (2008)
- Radio-tagging Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* from the eastern breeding grounds in E Kazakhstan has shown that this species uses the Wakhan and Khyber Passes to reach the Indian Subcontinent (Rob Sheldon RSPB 2008 presentation). Other species (some not yet in the ORL?) may migrate this way across Afghanistan
- Improvements in seabird ID criteria will increase accuracy of Indian Ocean sightings (ORL boundaries: southern 10°S, eastern 61°24'E), but numbers of potential observers have greatly reduced (fewer RN ships, fewer RNBWS members, automation reducing merchant ship crews) and so annual totals of such pelagic records will be greatly reduced. **This worldwide problem requires addressing by a specialist group – BirdLife International to lead?**

Species removed from Hypothetical List

		Fregatidae	
A	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	08/08. Vagrant Israel WBDB 2008 checklist; error, now deleted. Mike Evans pers comm
		Strigidae	
B	Spot-bellied Eagle Owl {Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl} (Forest Eagle Owl)	<i>Bubo nipalensis</i>	11/08. Map in König et al 1999 in error covering E Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan, although text disagrees. Maps in R&A 2005 & K&W 2008 correct, showing species as remote even from Pakistan in C Himalayas.
		Campephagidae	
C	Short-billed Minivet	<i>Pericocotus brevirostris</i>	05/08. Paludan 1959 lists as summer visitor E Afghanistan, ssp <i>brevirostris</i> , 6 being collected Nurestan 1948, but subsequently only Long-tailed Minivet <i>P. ethologus</i> shown to occupy western range; earlier ID confusion now apparent. Bates & Lowther 1952 also in error for Kashmir.
		Muscicapidae	
D	Rufous-breasted Bush Robin	<i>Tarsiger hyperthurus</i>	08/08. 'Uncertain', WBDB 2008 Afghanistan checklist. However, likely originated in misquoted 'Afghanistan' on Sayer's website; the Steve Madge record actually is from Nepal - Steve Madge <i>in litt</i> to Mike Evans. NB <i>Tarsiger</i> may yet be subsumed in <i>Luscinia</i> .
		Motacillidae	
E	Long-legged Pipit	<i>Anthus pallidiventris</i>	01/09. Web entry, as having bred in Egypt. Assessed as error instead of Long-billed Pipit <i>A. similis</i> .