

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent: Species not recorded from India

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137. Abbott's Booby. Photo: Charles Anderson

Praveen J., Jayapal, R., Inskipp, T., Warakagoda, D., Thompson, P.M., Anderson, R.C. & Pittie, A., 2017. Birds of the Indian subcontinent: Species not recorded from India. *Indian BIRDS* 13 (4): 93–101.

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Manuscript received on 25 June 2017.

The Indian Subcontinent, comprising seven countries, namely, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, is often recognised as a distinct biogeographic unit (e.g., Karanth 2003). A definitive checklist for India was recently published (Praveen *et al.* 2016a), with subsequent periodic online updates (www.indianbirds.in/india/). Since a majority of the past and current reference works on the region's avifauna invariably covered the entire subcontinent (Ripley 1961; Ali & Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998, 2011; Kazmierczak 2000, Manakadan & Pittie 2001, 2002), a strong need was felt to extend the checklist to the Indian Subcontinent, using the same methodological rigour and principles applied for the India Checklist. Naturally, this extended Indian Subcontinent Checklist includes *all* the 1271 species from the India Checklist (Praveen *et al.* 2016b), and species that have been reliably, and conclusively, recorded from within the boundaries of the Indian Subcontinent, but from outside India. The latter comprises 69 species that include those with geographically restricted ranges as well as rarities for the region (see Appendix). For matters of taxonomy, species inclusion, and English name conventions, we follow Praveen *et al.* (2016a); notably we follow 'Howard and Moore 4th edition' Dickinson & Remsen (2013), and Dickinson & Christidis (2014) for taxonomic matters. The maritime limit of the Indian Subcontinent is set by the cumulative limit of the maritime boundaries of member countries as defined in Praveen *et al.* (2016a). Species resident in the region are marked with a dagger (†) sign. Species endemic to the respective countries are marked with a double dagger (††) sign. While there are no birds endemic to Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, or the Maldives, 25 species are endemic to Sri Lanka, and one to Nepal. However, nine species that are resident in Pakistan, and two in Bangladesh do not figure in the India Checklist. Both Nepal and Sri Lanka have a bird records committee and hence we use the decisions made by them for species inclusion for those countries.

Unlike the India Checklist, we do not intend to publish the full Indian Subcontinent Checklist in print. However, the consolidated list of 1340 species, in the standard taxonomic order, with notes and alternative names will be available for download from the *Indian BIRDS* website. This note also

provides one (or two) recent reference/s that review/s the species status in the respective country. We also provide detailed annotations for some select rarities for the Indian Subcontinent. Inclusion of endemic, and other geographically limited taxa on the Indian Subcontinent checklist is clear, and does not need further discussion.

Selected species accounts

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

Included in Hbk based on a record from Balochistan. BSA2 included it only for south-western Afghanistan and considered its presence in Chagai, Pakistan, as possible since it has been collected nearby, on the Iran–Afghanistan border. It is suspected that this record in BSA2 refers to an untraced specimen, and another seen on 12 April 1926 (or 1927) by Major General A. P. F. Christison at a location known as Robat on the Afghan–Iran–Balochistan frontier (Christison & Ticehurst 1942). It should be remarked that Christison clearly stated in the note that his records were from the district of Chagai and five other districts of British

Table 1. Abbreviations used in the text

Acronym	Reference
BLI	BirdLife International (2017)
BNHS	Bombay Natural History Society
BSA	Rasmussen & Anderton (2005)
BSA2	Rasmussen & Anderton (2012)
eBird	Clements <i>et al.</i> (2016)
Hbk	Ali & Ripley (2001)
IOC	International Ornithological Committee (Gill & Donsker 2017)
NHM/NHMUK	Natural History Museum, London (www.nhm.ac.uk/)
ROM	Royal Ontario Museum
UMMZ	University of Michigan–Museum of Zoology (http://www.lsa.umich.edu/ummz/)

Balochistan, and does not mention any Iranian sites. Abdulali & Hussain (1972) commented on the location that this site, referred to as "Rabat Thana" (meaning Rabat Inn) by them, is in Pakistani Balochistan as per the 1931 Imperial Gazetteer of India. We reconfirmed that Killa Robat] (not Rabat Thana) is indeed mapped in this reference under Pakistani Balochistan (http://dsal.uchicago.edu/reference/gaz_atlas_1931/pager.php?object=44) and as do several historical texts (http://www.gutenberg.org/files/22117/22117-h/v2.html#Pg_2-277), and must be the present day town of Ribāt Qila (29.816838°N, 60.920917°E) in Pakistani Balochistan. The specimen was apparently examined by C. B. Ticehurst (Abdulali & Hussain 1972), and hence, considered a valid record for the Indian Subcontinent.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Both Hbk and BSA2 included it based on records from Pakistan; BSA2 additionally mentioned records from the Maldives and a possible photograph from south-eastern Sri Lanka. The records from Pakistan are the two specimens in Hume's Collection in NHM (NHMUK 1887.8.1.117–118) from Karachi [=Kurrachee] (25.01°N, 67.06°E) while Hume apparently had specimens from Makran [=Mekran Coast] as well (Hume 1879). Baker (1927) commented that the swifts that Butler saw over Hyderabad (25.36°N, 68.36°E), Pakistan, could have been this species. Interestingly, none of Butler's writings referred to this species though he reported several Alpine Swifts *Tachymarptis melba* from Hyderabad, Pakistan (Butler 1878). In the Maldives, Strickland & Jenner (1978) recorded it at Addu Atoll (0.64°S, 73.12°E) on 03 October 1970, and another one, well examined in the hand, on 20 September 1975. Anderson (2007) reported one seen at close range from North Malé Atoll, the Maldives, on 07 January 1999; however, the observer indicated that he did not eliminate the *pekinensis* race of Common Swift *A. apus* (Justin Jansen, *in litt.*, e-mail to RCA dated 24 July 2017). Though the 1975 specimen from Addu Atoll was confidently identified at that time as this species, the details of identification are not accessible now. The photograph referred to by BSA2 from Sri Lanka could not be traced now but this has not been a formal submission to the Ceylon Bird Club Rarities & Records Committee. When it was discussed, where DW was a part of the discussion, it related to a blurred photograph of a large swift, which the observer thought, could have been a Common Swift or this species. We include this species for the Indian Subcontinent based on the validated specimens from Pakistan.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel *Hydrobates castro*

BSA2 includes it based on a sight record off the Maldives (Anderson 2007; see box). We include this species based on this well-described sight record. However, it must be mentioned that the taxonomy of Band-rumped Storm-petrel is in flux with multiple potential species involved, of which at least one split (Monteiro's Storm-Petrel *H. monteiroi*) has been recognised by Dickinson & Remsen (2013). At sea (in its pelagic environment), i.e., when not on its breeding grounds, or in hand, its identification is not worked out properly (Howell *et al.* 2010); however it is believed that Monteiro's Storm-petrel may remain near its breeding grounds in the Azores throughout the year (Bolton *et al.* 2008). Vagrant sight records like this, of Band-rumped Storm-petrel, would be difficult to assess in the future if more populations gain full species status.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel, *Hydrobates castro*, east of North Malé Atoll (04.30°N, 73.62°E), the Maldives on 09 November 2004

From notes made on 09 November 2004:

Location: At sea off North Malé Atoll. The bird crossed our bows, and gave very good views to about 10–15 m. The sea was calm with little or no wind.

General: Estimated to be a medium- to large-sized Storm-petrel (c. 20 cm), with a white rump patch and pale upperwing band. Otherwise, plumage all blackish-brown.

Shape and plumage: Legs definitely did not project beyond slightly forked tail. Wings rather long, but tips seemed rounded, and held with slight bend, appearing to be about 2/3 open most of the time. The bird was in moult (one primary still growing, probably the fourth or fifth feather, counting from the outside). Plumage appeared generally sooty or dark brown, except for slightly pale upperwing primary coverts, rather striking broad pale buff diagonal carpal/secondary covert band, and conspicuous white rump patch (round and extensive, extending laterally, and without any dark marks on rear edge). Underwing not seen. Flight with slow wing beats and short glides (in almost windless conditions).

Identification: Compared with Leach's Storm-petrel, *H. leucorhous*, this bird had proportionately shorter, broader wings and a relatively short and evenly wide tail (not tapering when folded), which showed inconspicuous forking. Also, its white rump patch was typical for *H. castro*, being large and round- or oval-shaped, extending well onto the sides, and not showing any hint of a central stripe. Compared with Wilson's Storm-petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus*, this bird appeared larger than that distinctly smaller species, and the feet did not project beyond the tail. In addition, this bird seemed browner and its rump patch was both broader and more extensive on the sides. — **Hadoram Shirihai & R. Charles Anderson**

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Considered hypothetical in BSA2, which Praveen *et al.* (2013) affirmed, based on sight records that lacked sufficient details. However, there are three well-described April records from the Maldives (Anderson *et al.* 2016), and we include this species based on these records.

Abbott's Booby *Papasula abbotti*

Though considered hypothetical in BSA2, a single bird was photographed by RCA on 06 October 2014 in the Veimandhoo Channel, between Thaa and Laamu Atolls (02.17°N, 73.32°E), the Maldives (Anderson *et al.* 2016). We include this species based on this photographic record [137].

Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*

Not included in Hbk, but included in BSA2 based on a report from Pakistan. This refers to a single bird, in winter plumage, photographed in January 1991 by Rolf Passburg in Hub [=Hab] Valley (25.34°N, 67.13°E) along the border between Sindh and Balochistan, in an arid mountainous region with savannah vegetation and a large dam-reservoir (Roberts 2002). The photograph, though not published, was widely exhibited in November 1991, and was examined by T.I. Roberts intended to archive it in the 'Picture Library of the BNHS' (Roberts 2002:

323), but unfortunately it is not in the BNHS image repository now (Nirmala Barure, in litt., e-mail to PJ, dated 11 September 2014). We include this species based on this photographic record.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

Not included in Hbk; BSA2 included it based on well-documented spring migration sight records in Bangladesh by multiple observers. All Bangladesh records are from Patenga, near Chittagong, in late April and early May (Thompson *et al.* 1994; Thompson & Johnson 2003). Details of the first sighting are as follows: '18 May 89, Patenga. Two with yellowish legs, plain grey back, white belly, scaled neck and chest and sides, white eye line, long straight dark bill, no white in wings, plain med [=medium] grey tail, flushed 3 times to check wing and tail but all grey with pailer (sic) tail and rump. Plover size, call is a double noted thing with the end of each uprising,' (David Johnson in an unpublished note on "New bird records for Bangladesh", which was incorporated into Thompson *et al.* 1994).

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer*



Sayam U. Chowdhury

138. Nordmann's Greenshank.

Hbk included it based on reports from Assam and Bangladesh, while BSA2 included it based on a single Bangladesh sight record by J. R. Howes. Since then, multiple records have been documented (Thompson *et al.* 1994, Thompson & Johnson 2003), and photographed (Bird *et al.* 2010, Rahmani 2012, Thompson *et al.* 2014) [138] from

Bangladesh. These indicate that it is a regular winter migrant, in small numbers, to that country. A photographic claim from Sri Lanka was later identified as a Common Greenshank *T. nebularia* (DW), and another, sight record (Robson 1991, De Silva 1992), was also not accepted by CBRC (Editor 1993; Hoffmann 1996), which concluded, after protracted discussions, that it was a Common Greenshank (DW). There was an unconfirmed report from Nepal (del-Nevo 1984), which is not considered definite here. In summary, the species is included in the Indian Subcontinent list based on the well-documented reports from Bangladesh.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*

Hbk and BSA2 included this species based on a single nineteenth century specimen from Pakistan: Hume received a specimen (NHMUK # 1886.2.1.452), from Mardan [=Murdan] (34.23°N, 72.08°E), Pakistan, as collected on 03 March 1871 (not 1876 as reported in Ali & Ripley 1987: 250). Other individuals of the Snowy Owl—a species noted for its sudden eruptions in population—were also reported by shikaris during that period (Blanford 1895: 290). The original label on the Snowy Owl specimen in NHM carries an illegible name, probably a shikari, but the collector's name is given as J. U. Johnson ('Dr. Johnson' in Blanford 1895: 290), who might have given it to Hume (Robert

Prÿs-Jones, in litt., e-mail to PJ dated 21 February 2017).

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

Though stated as occurring on the western Makran Coast of south-western Pakistan by Hbk and BSA, the latter work considered it hypothetical for South Asia as definite evidence could not be traced. Ticehurst (1927) included it in the avifauna of Balochistan, based on a specimen collected by W. D. Cumming on 31 August 1912 at Chabahar [=Charbar] (25.28°N, 60.63°E), Sistan & Baluchestan, Iran [*not Pakistan*]. At NHM, N.B. Kinnear compared it with Madagascar specimens, and found that it was a very pale bird. Cumming mentioned two other records, one was seen along with the former, while another two were recovered alive after a cyclone on 04 May 1901—all four birds were presumed to be Amur Falcons *F. amurensis* until the identity of the only specimen collected was corrected by Ticehurst to Sooty. The other three birds were, perhaps, also Sooty, but this could not be confirmed. Apparently, that skin, which finally landed in Quetta Museum, was lost in the Quetta earthquake of 1935 (Hbk) and so, is no longer available for examination (BSA2). As per Roberts (1991), three specimens had been collected at the end August, and in early May, at the mouth of the Hingol River. Some of these specimens were probably the same ones that BSA2 stated as not being located in BNHS or NHM (Robert Prÿs-Jones, in litt., e-mail to PJ dated 15 July 2015). Roberts (1991), Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001), Grimmett *et al.* (2008), and Naoroji (2006) considered this species as a breeding visitor to this region, particularly Ormara (25.27°N, 64.58°E) westwards and in Hingol National Park (25.51°N, 65.52°E). Naoroji (2006: 580–581) cites T. J. Roberts (*in litt.*), who stated that, 'Birds carrying prey, presumably males, were observed along oriented flight paths into the hills...considerably east of Ormara.' The Eastern Sham Valley/Machi Nulla area (25.45°N, 65.53°E) is a hilly area and is the only habitat considered suitable for Sooty Falcon in the Hingol National Park with 16 birds recorded there in 2004 (Ghalib *et al.* 2008). BSA2 resurrected it to the list citing recent records (Khan *et al.* 2010) from Hingol River (Rasmussen 2013), and hence we include it in the Indian Subcontinent checklist.

Afghan Sparrow *Passer yatii*

Hbk and BSA2 included it as a winter visitor to the Chagai Desert in Pakistan, based on sight records by Christison, who considered it to be a common winter visitor in central Chagai (Christison 1941). Though no specimen has been traced till date, others (e.g., Roberts 1991) have accepted this record, and the species is regularly reported from adjoining Afghanistan (BSA2). Hence, we include the species in the Indian Subcontinent list based on Christison's sight records.

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus*

Hbk included this species as possible in Arunachal Pradesh as it's a winter visitor to south-eastern Tibet. BSA2 treated the only sight record from the region as hypothetical. This refers to a record of two females, and one male, from Jakar (27.55°N, 90.73°E), eastern Bhutan, on 13 March 1986 (Clements 1992). A detailed description of birds, observed for five minutes, from a distance of just 30 m, eliminates all potential confusion species and we accept this species in the subcontinent list based on this sight record.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

Not included in Hbk or BSA2 but on 21 February 2014, a single bird, possibly a male, was photographed in Bhutan (Chophel & Sherub 2016). We include this species in the Indian Subcontinent list based on this photographic record.

Rustic Bunting *Schoeniclus rusticus*

Not included in Hbk but included as hypothetical in BSA2. The only published report from the Indian Subcontinent was of a single bird reported from Nepal (del-Nevo & Ewins 1984); this was subsequently challenged by Gauntlett (1986) as the authors had not considered Tristram's Bunting *S. tristrami*, which was more likely to occur there, and which has been subsequently documented from north-eastern India (Naniwadekar *et al.* 2013; Thangaraj & Mani 2016). On 31 January 1981, del-Nevo & Ewins (1984) observed a male along with a flock of Little Buntings *S. pusillus* for a period of 40 min and from distances as close as 20 m, at Sauraha (27.58°N, 84.49°E), Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal. The field description provided is considered to eliminate Tristram's Bunting; 'the tufted crest' noted by the observers when the bird was alarmed, being a reliable distinguishing feature from both, Little (which observers eliminated), and Tristram's Buntings. Additionally, the chestnut-tinged nape patch described by the observers is absent in Tristram's. The Nepal Rare Birds Committee (*henceforth*, NRBC) has also accepted this record. The notes from the second record, which were not published, but were accepted by NRBC, are given below. Though the observer did not consider Tristram's Bunting then, the crested appearance, as noted, is sufficient to eliminate that species. We accept this species into the Indian Subcontinental list based on these two Nepal sight records.

Rustic Bunting *Schoeniclus rusticus*, Kagbeni (28.97°N, 82.76°E), Mustang District, Nepal on 25 February 1981

I was walking up through the terraced fields at the back of Kagbeni when I flushed a flock of around 50 Pine Buntings *Emberiza leucocephalos* from the terrace above me. I stopped at a point where my chest was on a level with the terrace and looked around for any buntings still present. On the line of the terrace some 50 yards away a bunting was crouching on the ground. It walked forward into the open and gave brief views before flying up and away to join Pine Buntings already perched in some distant bushes. Despite subsequent searching the bird was not re-found.

Size and shape: A compact bunting with a rather large head and a crested appearance due to partially erect rear crown feathers. Shorter than Pine Bunting, largely due to its shorter tail.

Upperparts: Head very bright chestnut, recalling Little Bunting *S. pusillus*, with obscure whitish supercilium and moustache. Crown darker. Rest of upperparts brown, heavily streaked darker. Tail dark with white outer tail feathers.

Underparts: Very clean whitish with 'messy' maroon patches and odd spots (rather than streaks) on the breast.

The bird did not call. My immediate impression was of Rustic Bunting from pictures I had seen of the species and this identification was confirmed upon examination of the literature on my return to Britain. There are no similar species with which it could be confused other than those with which I am familiar.

— Tony Baker, E-mail: tony.baker@rspb.org.uk

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Not included in Hbk and treated as hypothetical by BSA2 as there were only sight records. There are three sight records from Bangladesh: three individuals seen in December 1986 at Gulshan, Dhaka, by Bill Harvey; two on 20 December 1988 in the National Botanical Gardens, Dhaka, by Bill Harvey; and one in a mangrove forest in the Sundarbans on 24 February 1992 by David Johnson (Thompson *et al.* 1994). It has been added as a winter vagrant to the Bangladesh list (Thompson & Johnson 1996: 11, 49), based on these records. According to Bill Harvey, the birds at Gulshan were feeding in a large clump of bougainvillea in his garden during 15–20 December 1986 and he was able to observe the birds at close quarters from the sitting room. The main confusion species in Bangladesh is the Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus*, from which it was eliminated primarily by its stubby bill (Bill Harvey, *in litt.*, e-mail to PJ dated 26 February 2017). The details of the botanical garden record are not available, though Bill is confident of the ID (Bill Harvey, *in litt.*, e-mail to PJ dated 26 February 2017). The original outline, by David Johnson, for a paper on "new bird records for Bangladesh", which ultimately was authored by Thompson *et al.* (1994), stated for this species, '24 Feb 92 one in forest near Tiger Point [in Sundarbans], warm brown under, very distinctive, call similar to Dusky. Just like the picture in Inskips (sic)'. David lived in Bangladesh for over 20 years and was very familiar with the Dusky Warbler, which is a common winter visitor. But the similarity of its call, to that of a Dusky, is problematic, and David could not recall that sighting recently (David Johnson, *in litt.*, e-mail to PMT dated 29 March 2017). Meanwhile, there are three unpublished records from Nepal, accepted by the NRBC (Inskipp & Inskipp 1991) and full descriptions of two of these are furnished here below; the details of the third record appear to have been lost. The species is accepted into the Indian Subcontinental list based on the two detailed notes of the sight records from Nepal, and multiple individuals recorded in Bangladesh in 1986 for which the context is available.

Radde's Warbler near Charali (26.65°N, 83.04°E), Eastern Nepal on 25 December 1979

Details in my notebook are distressingly brief. With minimal padding:

"The bird was clearly a larger phyllosc being similar to a Dusky Warbler but with a thicker paler bill and stronger fleshy legs. Its most obvious feature was a very prominent creamy supercilium, bordered above and below by a black line, most obvious through and behind the eye. The supercilium had two kinks in it, as if there wasn't room on the head for it if it was straight, and it flared behind eye and was upturned at its end. The underparts were a more or less uniform warm buff and the upperparts brownish, tinged green, especially on the wings. It called, but not continually, a not particularly loud, somewhat nasal 'stup'."

This bird was seen while walking out from Ilam to the main road as the result of a bus strike. I obtained good views of what was obviously a non-wing-barred phyllosc feeding in low vegetation on/near the ground (my notes indicate I had already seen single Dusky- *P. fuscatus* and Tickell's Leaf Warblers *P. affinis* that morning). It was quickly (and confidently!) identified as a Radde's Warbler based on its call (which I find quite different from Dusky), strong bill and legs, very prominent creamy supercilium, buffy underparts and

contrasting brownish-green upperparts. I cannot now recall how long I watched it for but suspect it was 5-10 minutes.

I was aware that this was likely to be a good record, as the species was not included in Fleming, although I recalled a conversation I'd had with Dick Byrne on Shetland in 1976, which greatly impressed me when he mentioned that he'd seen a Radde's Warbler at the Taj Mahal (amongst other things) in a previous winter.

At the time of the sighting I had previously seen seven Radde's (six in Thailand in January 1979, and one on St Agnes that October), and 60 Dusky (St Agnes in Oct 76, Sandwich Bay in Nov 78, 27 in Thailand in Dec 78/Jan 79, and 31 in Nepal in Nov/Dec 79).

On returning to the UK a couple of weeks later I wrote to Bob Fleming by air letter sending details of the sighting (including if I recall a crude sketch). Unfortunately I did not keep a copy of this, which would have added more flesh to the account than I am now able to recall and probably filled in some of the gaps in my notes. I remember receiving a nice reply along the lines that it was an interesting record but that he felt unable to accept as a first a sight record of such a difficult species. While this was a bit disappointing it was understandable and it didn't reduce my confidence in the record, which remains to this day. Equally if it's not found to be acceptable now for a first I can quite easily understand. My main disappointment is that my notes and memory may not do the bird the justice it perhaps deserves.

— Richard Fairbank, West Sussex. E-mail: R.J.Fairbank@sussex.ac.uk

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*, Pokhara (28.21°N, 83.93°E), Nepal on 4-5 March 1983

The bird was first seen in a hotel garden at Phewa Tal, Pokhara, foraging amongst low ('4 feet' high) fruit bushes, normally on the ground amongst dry grass and bare ground. It was seen again the following day some 50 m outside the garden in scrubby vegetation. The bird bore a close resemblance both in appearance and calls to those seen three weeks previously in Khao Yai National Park, Thailand. I was aware at the time of the rare status of the species in Nepal and so made a conscious effort to eliminate other similar species. Its characteristics did not suggest any of the bush warblers (*Cettia*, *Horornis*) although the available field guide (Fleming *et al.* 1976) was of little assistance. Dusky Warblers *P. fuscatus* were seen daily in the area at the time, and had been seen commonly in Thailand. Thus I was able to dismiss that species with confidence. The following description is based on notes made at the time.

Jizz typical of *Phylloscopus* but tail broad-tipped and slightly rounded. Head rather small and rounded. It was confiding and habitually flicked its tail and wings – features typical of the Radde's Warblers seen in Thailand. Upperparts cold grey-brown. Tail browner. Fawn ear-coverts and moustachial stripe, bordered darker. Dark malar mark. Supercilium quite long and curled up slightly at the rear; prominent and buffy; narrow and bordered below by a black eyestripe and above by a dark line. Throat whitish, contrasting with ashy-grey flanks and breast. Undertail-coverts, vent and sides to vent apricot-buff. Buffish flanks lightly streaked. Bill rather fine (i.e. not as deep as typically described for Radde's Warbler) with yellowish base. Call a hard, quite rapid *stuck stuck* etc.

— Tony Baker, Email: tony.baker@rspb.org.uk

Ménétries's Warbler *Curruca mystacea*

Included in Hbk and BSA2 based on recent records from Balochistan, with additional status information from Afghanistan, documented in BSA2. The first subcontinental record was reported from the Surkhhab Valley (30.55°N, 67.20°E), Pakistan, by T. J. Roberts in March 1974 (Roberts 1975), and subsequently he found several pairs breeding there (Roberts 1980). We include this species based on these well-substantiated records from Pakistan.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Hbk did not include this species while BSA2 mentioned recent records from Pakistan. Included here on the strength of a photograph taken on 13 February 2000, by Major Erkki Kallio, at the foot of the Margalla Hills (33.74°N, 73.03°E), Islamabad, Pakistan; this was examined by T. J. Roberts (Roberts 2002). There is another sight record on 28 December, in the same year, by Juha Kylänpää in the Kao forest (34.05°N, 73.41°E), below Dunga Gali, Hazara District, Pakistan (Roberts 2002). We include it in the Indian Subcontinent list based on the validated photograph from Pakistan.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Based on records of the race *golzii* (= *hafizi* in Hbk) from south-western Balochistan and Quetta, the Hbk includes it as an occasional winter visitor while BSA2 treats it as a passage migrant. A. F. P. Christison obtained specimens in Kacha (29.49°N, 61.25°E), and Ribat Qila [=Robat], on the Iranian frontier, in April 1939 (Christison & Ticehurst 1942). Two specimens were obtained from Quetta on 30 April 1909, and in October 1913 (Ticehurst 1926), but they were suspected to be escapees as the species was a popular cage bird. All these specimens remain untraced. A third, Meinertzhagen specimen (NHMUK #1965.M.10871), collected on 02 February 1914 in Quetta, also exists (Ticehurst 1926), but this '*almost certainly a Severtzoff specimen that has been heavily remade*' as per the analysis done by Pamela Rasmussen and Robert Prÿs-Jones (Robert Prÿs-Jones, *in litt.*, e-mail to PJ dated 21 February 2017). It possibly originated in the Turkestan region of central Asia. We include the species here based on the Pakistan specimens. It occurs as a summer visitor to northern Afghanistan and it is very likely that the April birds were on passage.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Hbk included it based on records from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Jerdon (1862) stated that it occurred in north-west Himalayas, citing a communication from Edward Blyth that a certain Lieutenant Trotter observed it as a winter visitor to Kohat (33.57°N, 71.35°E) in large numbers. However, subsequent observers including McGrath and Whitehead did not come across this species there despite active searches (Whitehead 1911) and the report was later rejected as a misidentification by Ticehurst (1939). Captain Perreau mentioned that he almost certainly saw one at Drosh (35.57°N, 71.77°E) in February 1903 (Perreau 1910), where F. Wall shot one on 23 March 1912 (or 1911) amongst many he saw there during February-March (Wall 1912) but this specimen remains untraceable. However, on 13 February 1989, the remnants of a specimen were collected by Juha Kylänpää from a garden at Tank [=Tonk] (32.21°N, 70.36°E), Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (Kylänpää 2000) - the same province as the previous reports. A wing was sent to Helsinki University Zoological Museum, Finland where it was reportedly

confirmed as this species (Roberts 2002). Another wing was sent to T.J. Roberts who deposited the same in the BNHS (Kylänpää 2000, Roberts 2002, BNHS #26782, Rahul Khot, in email dated 8 May 2016). We include this species in the checklist based on this specimen examined in hand.

Naumann's Thrush *Turdus naumanni*

Not included in Hbk or BSA2 but several recent sight, and photographic, records from eastern Himalayas, of hybrids with Dusky Thrush *T. eunomus*, with one pure form reported from Thrumssingla National Park, Bhutan, on 25 and 27 February 2017 by Peter Clement and others (Dalvi *et al.* 2017). We include this species in the Indian Subcontinent list based on this well-described sight record.

Notes on alternate taxonomic treatment

Praveen *et al.* (2016a) covered alternate taxonomic treatment for all species found in India, which remains valid in the context of the Indian Subcontinent, apart from the following additions.

Bubulcus ibis: Includes here *ibis sensu stricto* ('Western Cattle Egret') recorded from Pakistan (UMMZ #76210-13), which is sometimes treated as an independent species (BSA2, IOC).

Treron pompadora: Includes here *pompadora sensu stricto* ('Sri Lanka/Ceylon Green Pigeon') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as an independent species (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Burhinus oedincnemus: Includes here *harterti*, recorded from Pakistan (Abdulali 1970), which is sometimes treated as an independent species under *oedincnemus sensu stricto* ('Eurasian Thick-knee/Eurasian Stone-curler') (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Chrysocolaptes lucidus: Includes here *stricklandi* ('Sri Lanka Greater Flameback/Crimson-backed Flameback') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from extralimital *lucidus* ('Buff-spotted Flameback') (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Dinopium benghalense: Includes here *psarodes* ('Lesser Sri Lanka/Red-backed Flameback') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *benghalense* (BLI, IOC).

Tephrodornis pondicerianus: Includes here *affinis* ('Sri Lanka/Ceylon Woodshrike') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *pondicerianus* (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Dicrurus paradiseus: Includes here *lophorinus* ('Sri Lanka/Sri Lanka Crested/Ceylon Crested Drongo') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *paradiseus* (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Cecropis daurica: Includes here *hyperythra* ('Sri Lanka/Ceylon Swallow') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *daurica* (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Pycnonotus melanicterus: Includes here *melanicterus sensu stricto* ('Black-capped Bulbul') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as an independent species (BSA2, BLI, eBird, IOC).

Argya caudata: Includes here *huttoni* ('Afghan Babbler') a breeding taxon of Balochistan, Pakistan (Roberts 1986), which is sometimes treated as separate from *caudata* (BSA2, eBird, IOC).

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii: Includes here *melanurus* (along with *holdsworthi*) ('Sri Lanka/Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *horsfieldii* (BLI, eBird, IOC).

Zoothera dauma: Includes here *imbricata* ('Ceylon Scaly/Sri Lanka Thrush') a Sri Lanka endemic taxon, which is sometimes treated as separate from *dauma* (BSA2, eBird, IOC) or as subspecies of *Z. aurea* ('White's Thrush') (BLI).

Acknowledgements

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the help rendered by the following people in tracking specimens at the various museums: Robert Prýs-Jones (Natural History Museum, London), Bob McGowan (National Museum Scotland, Edinburgh), and Rahul Khot and Nirmala Barure (Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai). Our thanks to observers Tony Baker, Richard Fairbank, Bill Harvey, Justin Jansen, David Johnson, and Hadoram Shirihai for sharing their field notes, some of which are published here in full. Many thanks to Sudhir Vyas for the discussion on certain Pakistan records. We would like to thank Mike Prince for critically reviewing the text and suggesting several improvements. Bill Harvey and Harkirat Sangha provided helpful comments on the paper and our thanks to them too.

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Appendix. Summary of bird species added to the Indian Subcontinental list over the species in India checklist († Resident, †† Country endemic)

No	Family	Bird species	PAK	NEP	BHU	BAN	SLK	MAL	Remarks
1	Phasianidae	See-see Partridge <i>Ammoperdix griseogularis</i> †	✓						Abdulali (1969); Khaliq <i>et al.</i> (2010)
2	Phasianidae	Sri Lanka Junglefowl <i>Gallus lafayetii</i> ††					✓		
3	Phasianidae	Sri Lanka Spurfowl <i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i> ††					✓		
4	Columbidae	Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon <i>Columba torringtoniae</i> ††					✓		
5	Pteroclididae	Crowned Sandgrouse <i>Pterodes coronatus</i> †	✓						Ticehurst (1927)
6	Pteroclididae	Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse <i>Pterodes lichtensteini</i> †	✓						Abdulali (1971)
7	Caprimulgidae	Egyptian Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus aegyptius</i>	✓						Christison & Ticehurst (1942). See notes.
8	Apodidae	Pallid Swift <i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓						NHMUK 1887.8.1.117-118. See notes.
9	Cuculidae	Green-billed Coucal <i>Centropus chlororhynchus</i> ††					✓		
10	Cuculidae	Red-faced Malkoha <i>Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus</i> ††					✓		
11	Otididae	Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	✓						Roberts (1991); BirdLife International (2001)
12	Hydrobatidae	Band-rumped Storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates castro</i>						✓	Anderson (2007); Praveen <i>et al.</i> (2013). See notes.
13	Procellariidae	Sooty Shearwater <i>Ardenna grisea</i>						✓	Anderson <i>et al.</i> (2016). See notes.
14	Procellariidae	Bulwer's Petrel <i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>						✓	Phillips (1959); Praveen <i>et al.</i> (2013)
15	Sulidae	Abbott's Booby <i>Papasula abbotti</i>						✓	Anderson <i>et al.</i> (2016). See notes.
16	Phalacrocoracidae	Pygmy Cormorant <i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>	✓						Abdulali & Pereira (1966); Praveen <i>et al.</i> (2014)
17	Charadriidae	Eurasian Dotterel <i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	✓						Roberts (2002). See notes.
18	Scolopacidae	Grey-tailed Tattler <i>Tringa brevipes</i>				✓			Thompson & Johnson (2003). See notes.
19	Scolopacidae	Nordmann's Greenshank <i>Tringa guttifer</i>				✓			Thompson <i>et al.</i> (1994); Bird <i>et al.</i> (2010). See notes.
20	Strigidae	Chestnut-backed Owlet <i>Glaucidium castanotum</i> ††					✓		
21	Strigidae	Serendib Scops Owl <i>Otus thilohoffmanni</i> ††					✓		
22	Strigidae	Snowy Owl <i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	✓						Hume (1871). See notes.
23	Bucerotidae	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill <i>Ocyeros gingalensis</i> ††					✓		
24	Picidae	Streak-breasted Woodpecker <i>Picus viridanus</i> †				✓			Rasmussen (2000); Khan (2005); Thompson <i>et al.</i> (2014)

Appendix. Summary of bird species added to the Indian Subcontinental list over the species in India checklist ([†]Resident, ^{††}Country endemic)

No	Family	Bird species	PAK	NEP	BHU	BAN	SLK	MAL	Remarks
25	Ramphastidae	Yellow-fronted Barbet <i>Psilopogon flavifrons</i> ^{††}					✓		
26	Ramphastidae	Sri Lanka Small Barbet <i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i> ^{††}					✓		
27	Falconidae	Sooty Falcon <i>Falco concolor</i> [†]	✓						Ghalib <i>et al.</i> (2008). See notes.
28	Psittaculidae	Layard's Parakeet <i>Psittacula calthrapae</i> ^{††}					✓		
29	Psittaculidae	Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot <i>Loriculus beryllinus</i> ^{††}					✓		
30	Corvidae	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie <i>Urocissa ornata</i> ^{††}					✓		
31	Corvidae	Brown-necked Raven <i>Corvus ruficollis</i> [†]	✓						Abdulali (1980)
32	Dicaeidae	Legge's Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum vincens</i> ^{††}					✓		
33	Dicaeidae	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i> [†]				✓			Paynter (1970)
34	Prunellidae	Radde's Accentor <i>Prunella ocularis</i>	✓						Roberts (1992)
35	Motacillidae	Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓						Rasmussen <i>et al.</i> (2017)
36	Passeridae	Afghan Sparrow <i>Passer yatii</i>	✓						Christison (1941). See notes.
37	Fringillidae	Three-banded Rosefinch <i>Carpodacus trifasciatus</i>			✓				Clements (1992). See notes.
38	Fringillidae	Crimson-winged Finch <i>Rhodopechys sanguineus</i>	✓						Fulton (1904); Unnithan (2005)
39	Fringillidae	Desert Finch <i>Rhodospiza obsoleta</i>	✓						Unnithan (2005); Roberts (2007)
40	Plectrophenacidae	Lapland Longspur <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>			✓				Chophel & Sherub (2016). See notes.
41	Emberizidae	Corn Bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓						Whistler (1918)
42	Emberizidae	Rustic Bunting <i>Schoeniclus rusticus</i>		✓					del-Nevo & Ewins (1984). See notes.
43	Alaudidae	Bar-tailed Lark <i>Ammomanes cinctura</i> [†]	✓						Christison (1941)
44	Panuridae	Bearded Reedling <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	✓						Whistler (1927)
45	Locustellidae	Sri Lanka Bush Warbler <i>Elaphromis palliseri</i> ^{††}					✓		
46	Acrocephalidae	Upcher's Warbler <i>Hippolais languida</i>	✓						Williams (1929); Whistler (1945); Abdulali (1986)
47	Hirundinidae	Pale Crag Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i> [†]	✓						Abdulali (1977)
48	Pycnonotidae	Yellow-eared Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i> ^{††}					✓		
49	Phylloscopidae	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>		✓		✓			Inskipp & Inskipp (1985). See notes.
50	Scotocercidae	Streaked Scrub Warbler <i>Scotocerca inquieta</i> [†]	✓						Abdulali (1986)
51	Sylviidae	Ménétries's Warbler <i>Curruca mystacea</i> [†]	✓						Roberts (1980). See notes.
52	Zosteropidae	Sri Lanka White-eye <i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i> ^{††}					✓		
53	Pellorneidae	Brown-capped Babbler <i>Pellorneum fuscicapillus</i> ^{††}					✓		
54	Leiothrichidae	Spiny Babbler <i>Acanthoptila nipalensis</i> ^{††}		✓					
55	Leiothrichidae	Orange-billed Babbler <i>Turdoides rufescens</i> ^{††}					✓		
56	Leiothrichidae	Ashy-headed Laughingthrush <i>Garrulax cinereifrons</i> ^{††}					✓		
57	Sittidae	Eastern Rock Nuthatch <i>Sitta tephronota</i> [†]	✓						Abdulali & Unnithan (1992)
58	Sturnidae	Sri Lanka Myna <i>Gracula ptilogenys</i> ^{††}					✓		
59	Sturnidae	White-faced Starling <i>Sturnornis albofrontatus</i> ^{††}					✓		
60	Muscicapidae	Dull-blue Flycatcher <i>Eumyias sordidus</i> ^{††}					✓		
61	Muscicapidae	European Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓						Roberts (2002). See notes.
62	Muscicapidae	Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓						Christison & Ticehurst (1942). See notes.
63	Muscicapidae	Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush <i>Myophonus blighi</i> ^{††}					✓		
64	Muscicapidae	Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					✓		Stoeff <i>et al.</i> (2017). See pp. 108-111 in this issue.
65	Muscicapidae	Hooded Wheatear <i>Oenanthe monacha</i> [†]	✓						NHMUK #1874.11.23.102, NHMUK #1886.78.4333 -34, NHMUK #1898.12.12.1127, ROM Birds #52875
66	Muscicapidae	Finsch's Wheatear <i>Oenanthe finschii</i> [†]	✓						Williams (1929), Christison & Ticehurst (1942), Abdulali (1988)
67	Turdidae	Spot-winged Thrush <i>Geokichla spiloptera</i> ^{††}					✓		
68	Turdidae	Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓						Roberts (2002). See notes.
69	Turdidae	Naumann's Thrush <i>Turdus naumanni</i>			✓				Dalvi <i>et al.</i> (2017). See notes.