

# Taxonomic updates to the checklist of birds of India and the South Asian region—2018

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The first definitive checklist of the birds of India (Praveen *et al.* 2016)—now in its fourth version (Praveen *et al.* 2017a)—and later that of the Indian Subcontinent (Praveen *et al.* 2017c), were drawn from a master database built upon a putative list of birds of the South Asian region (Praveen *et al.* 2017b). All these checklists and their subsequent online updates, incorporating additions to the region's avifauna (available at [www.indianbirds.in](http://www.indianbirds.in)), followed the taxonomy from Howard & Moore World Checklist 4<sup>th</sup> edition (*henceforth*, H&M4) (Dickinson & Remsen 2013; Dickinson & Christidis 2014); the plan being to update taxonomy in line with the promised online updates of H&M4. However, no such update has been forthcoming since January 2015 (<http://www.avespress.com>); in the mean time, numerous taxonomic changes have been proposed, in various ornithological publications, based on multiple evidences, including molecular data, in the last two years. As some of these taxonomic proposals radically affect Indian avifauna as well (e.g. Robin *et al.* 2017), a comprehensive taxonomic update to our regional checklists is highly desirable to keep pace with developments in global ornithology.

In the absence of regular updates to H&M4, which we had adopted as our base, we were constrained to refer to taxonomies being followed by other major global authorities, namely, BirdLife International (2017; *henceforth*, BLI), eBird/Clements (Clements *et al.* 2017), and the International Ornithological Congress (Gill & Donsker 2017; *henceforth*, IOC). All these three lists have a widespread patronage around the world and have regular periodical taxonomic updates, available online; they essentially differ in species and generic limits, but converge, to a large extent, on matters of higher order taxonomy. Though we have the option of moving from H&M4 to another authority of taxonomy (*"Any change in our choice of taxonomic system in the future, would be duly mediated through our own updates to the India Checklist"* – Praveen *et al.* 2016, p.116), we believe that it is too early to migrate completely to a new system and species sequence. We are also not in favour of instituting an Indian taxonomic committee that would independently assess each taxonomic publication in relation to Indian avifauna. This is in line with global trends in which formal taxonomic committees (e.g., Britain) are being disbanded in favour of any of the world checklist authorities mentioned above.

Given this background, we deem it prudent to take 'a middle course', which seeks to incorporate, into the India Checklist, recent taxonomic changes that are consistently accepted by all the three global authorities (BLI, eBird/Clements, and IOC), even as we continue to keep the original H&M4 list as our base

taxonomic sequence. We also include the taxonomic treatment in Rasmussen & Anderton (2012; *henceforth*, BSA2), in our annotations, wherever applicable. The guiding principles of our taxonomic update to the South Asia Checklist and the India Checklist are summarised below:

1. We shall continue to follow the H&M4 higher-order taxonomy (above species rank) and adopt changes at any of the taxonomic ranks (Genus, Family, or Order) provided that there is consensus among all the three taxonomies (BLI, eBird/Clements, and IOC) in their treatment of higher-order taxa.
2. We shall adopt changes in species limits (either splits or lumps) if all the three taxonomies (BLI, eBird/Clements, and IOC) have accepted the splits/lumps consistently for all the subspecies of the parent taxon present in South Asia. Any additional extralimital split/lump within the clade by any taxonomy does not invalidate the decision, so long as the consistency of species groups is maintained within the regional taxa.
3. We shall retain the H&M4 taxonomic sequence (sort order), unless changes are warranted by shifts in taxonomic positions that may arise out of adopting changes in higher-order taxonomy (see 1 above) or new species limits (see 2 above). In such cases, we shall also refer to peer-reviewed, and published, phylogenies to support our placement of taxa in the taxonomic sequence.
4. Recognition of subspecies within a species, along with their sequence and authorship, shall follow H&M4.
5. We shall continue to follow the same framework of rules and guidelines governing English names as elucidated in Table 2 of the 'India Checklist' (Praveen *et al.* 2016).

We are aware that our 'consensus model' of taxonomic update is driven primarily by pragmatism and utility value, and may seem anarchic to puritans. However, we do not wish to subscribe to any single authority at this juncture, and we prefer to wait and watch out for further developments in global efforts towards forging a consensus in taxonomy among all the world lists. We are closely watching all global alignments and regional adoptions in this space and contemplating the best long-term strategy for South Asian ornithology.

After this taxonomic update, the total number of bird species, including the hypotheticals, recorded from the South Asian region [comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and the Chagos

**Table 1.** Annotated list of taxonomic changes to the checklist of birds of India and the South Asian region

S. No.	English name / Group name	Scientific name / Higher order taxonomic name	Notes on taxonomy
1	Andaman Teal	<i>Anas albogularis</i> (Hume, 1873)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>gibberifrons</i> EL ('Grey/Sunda Teal'). Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
2	Grebes	Order: Podicipediformes	Treated by H&M4 within the order Phoenicopteriformes (along with flamingos). Assigned a separate order (Podicipediformes) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
3	Ashy-headed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phayrei</i> (Blyth, 1862)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>pompadora</i> ('Pompador Green Pigeon'). Given species rank here (as including <i>conoveri</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
4	Grey-fronted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron affinis</i> (Jerdon, 1840)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>pompadora</i> ('Pompador Green Pigeon'). Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
5	Sri Lanka Green Pigeon	<i>Treron pompadora</i> (J.F. Gmelin, 1789)	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>phayrei</i> , <i>affinis</i> , and <i>chloropterus</i> ('Pompador Green Pigeon'). Split here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
6	Andaman Green Pigeon	<i>Treron chloropterus</i> Blyth, 1846	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>pompadora</i> ('Pompador Green Pigeon'). Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
7	Asian Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>longirostris</i> EL ('Pacific Emerald Dove'). Split here following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
8	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i> Temminck & Schlegel, 1844	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>indicus</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>hazarae</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
9	Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i> Latham, 1790	See above.
10	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Treated by H&M4 within the family Apodidae (along with typical swifts). Assigned a separate family (Hemiprocnidae) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
11	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> (Stephens, 1815)	See below.
12	Andaman Coucal	<i>Centropus andamanensis</i> Beavan, 1867	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>sinensis</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC. BSA2 tentatively suggests species status.
13	Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus dicruroides</i> (Hodgson, 1839)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>lugubris</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>stewarti</i> ), following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC. BSA2 tentatively suggests species status.
14	Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	See above.
15	Trindade Petrel	<i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i> (Giglioli & Salvadori, 1869)	See below.
16	Herald Petrel	<i>Pterodroma heraldica</i> (Salvin, 1888)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>arminjoniana</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
17	Tropical Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bailloni</i> Bonaparte, 1857	See below.
18	Persian Shearwater	<i>Puffinus persicus</i> Hume, 1872	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>bailloni</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
19	Storks	Order: Ciconiiformes	Treated by H&M4 within the order Pelecaniformes (along with pelicans, herons, and ibises). Assigned a separate order (Ciconiiformes) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
20	Frigatebirds	Order: Suliformes	Treated by H&M4 within the order Pelecaniformes (along with pelicans, herons, & ibises). Assigned a separate order (Suliformes) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
21	Boobies	Order: Suliformes	Do.
22	Cormorants	Order: Suliformes	Do.
23	Darters	Order: Suliformes	Do.
24	Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedincnemus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	See below.
25	Indian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus indicus</i> (Salvadori, 1865)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>oedincnemus</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
26	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i> Vigors, 1832	Treated by H&M4 within the family Haematopodidae (along with oystercatchers). Assigned a separate family (Ibidorhynchidae) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
27	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>hudsonius</i> EL ('Northern Harrier'). Split here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
28	Oriental Bay Owl	<i>Phodilus badius</i> (Horsfield, 1821)	See below.
29	Sri Lanka Bay Owl	<i>Phodilus assimilis</i> Hume, 1877	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>badius</i> ('Bay Owl'). Given species rank here (as including <i>ripleyi</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
30	Brown Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i> (Raffles, 1822)	See below.

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31	Hume's Hawk Owl	<i>Ninox obscura</i> Hume, 1872	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>scutulata</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
32	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i> Pennant, 1769	See below.
33	Collared Scops Owl	<i>Otus lettia</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>bakkamoena</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>plumipes</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
34	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i> Linnaeus, 1758	See below.
35	Himalayan Owl	<i>Strix nivicolom</i> (Blyth, 1845)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>aluco</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
36	Austen's Brown Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus austeni</i> Jerdon, 1872	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Ptilolaemus</i> . Placed in <i>Anorrhinus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
37	Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>lucidus</i> EL. Given species rank here (as including all the forms in the region, barring <i>stricklandi</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
38	Crimson-backed Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes stricklandi</i> (E.L. Layard, 1854)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>lucidus</i> EL. Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
39	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i> (Vigors, 1832)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>moluccensis</i> EL. Given species rank here (as including all the forms in the region), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
40	Fulvous-breasted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos macei</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	See below.
41	Spot-breasted Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos analis</i> (Bonaparte, 1850)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>macei</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>andamanensis</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
42	Barbets	Family: Megalaimidae	Treated by H&M4 within the family Ramphastidae (along with toucans and New World barbets). Assigned a separate family (Megalaimidae) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
43	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i> (Lesson, 1830)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>australis</i> EL ('Yellow-eared Barbet'). Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
44	Blue-naped Pitta	<i>Hydromis nipalensis</i> (Hodgson, 1837)	Treated by H&M4 within the genus Pitta. Assigned a separate genus ( <i>Hydromis</i> ) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
45	Blue Pitta	<i>Hydromis cyaneus</i> (Blyth, 1843)	Do.
46	Malabar Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis sylvicola</i> Jerdon, 1839	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>virgatus</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
47	Large Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis virgatus</i> (Temminck, 1824)	See above.
48	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> (J. F. Gmelin, 1789)	See below.
49	Sri Lanka Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i> Blyth, 1847	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>pondicerianus</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
50	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	See below.
51	Sri Lanka Drongo	<i>Dicrurus lophorinus</i> Vieillot, 1817	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>paradiseus</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
52	White-spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</i> (Lesson, 1832)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>albicollis</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>vernayi</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
53	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> (Vieillot, 1818)	See above.
54	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	See below.
55	Large-spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga multipunctata</i> Gould, 1849	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>caryocatactes</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
56	Nilgiri Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum concolor</i> Jerdon, 1840	See below.
57	Plain Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum minullum</i> Swinhoe, 1870	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>concolor</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>olivaceum</i> and <i>virescens</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
58	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliana</i> (J. F. Gmelin, 1788)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>sperata</i> EL. Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
59	Leafbirds	Family: Chloropseidae	Treated by H&M4 within the family Irenidae (along with Fairy-bluebirds). Assigned a separate family (Chloropseidae) here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
60	Tricoloured Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	See below.
61	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i> (Vieillot, 1807)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>malacca</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>rubronigra</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.

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62	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> (Pallas, 1770)	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Erythrina</i> . Placed in <i>Carpodacus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
63	Scarlet Finch	<i>Carpodacus sipahi</i> (Hodgson, 1836)	Assigned by H&M4 to the monotypic genus <i>Haematospiza</i> . Placed in <i>Carpodacus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
64	Sillem's Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus sillemi</i> (Roselaar, 1992)	Originally described as a mountain finch ( <i>Leucosticte</i> sp.), but recently found to be a rosefinch (BLI, eBird, and IOC).
65	Mongolian Finch	<i>Bucanetes mongolicus</i> (Swinhoe, 1870)	Assigned by H&M4 to the monotypic genus <i>Eremopsaltria</i> . Placed in <i>Bucanetes</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
66	Lapland Longspur	Family: Calcariidae	H&M4 uses the name Plectrophenacidae for longspur family. Replaced here by Calcariidae, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
67	Crested Bunting	<i>Emberiza lathami</i> J. E. Gray, 1831	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Melophus</i> . Placed in <i>Emberiza</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
68	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> Scopoli, 1769	See below.
69	Red-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i> von Brandt, 1841	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Granativora</i> . Placed in <i>Emberiza</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
70	Striolated Bunting	<i>Emberiza striolata</i> (M.H.C. Lichtenstein, 1823)	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Fringillaria</i> . Placed in <i>Emberiza</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
71	Eurasian Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Schoeniclus</i> . Placed in <i>Emberiza</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
72	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i> Pallas, 1773	Do.
73	Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i> Pallas, 1776	Do.
74	Black-faced Bunting	<i>Emberiza spodocephala</i> Pallas, 1776	Do.
75	Chestnut Bunting	<i>Emberiza rutilla</i> Pallas, 1776	Do.
76	Tristram's Bunting	<i>Emberiza tristrami</i> Swinhoe, 1870	Do.
77	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i> Pallas, 1776	Do.
78	White-crowned Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz coronatus</i> (Severtsov, 1873)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>consobrinus</i> EL. Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
79	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> (Leisler, 1814)	See below.
80	Sykes's Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella dukhunensis</i> (Sykes, 1832)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>brachydactyla</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
81	Black-throated Prinia	<i>Prinia atrogularis</i> (F. Moore, 1854)	See below.
82	Hill Prinia	<i>Prinia superciliaris</i> (Anderson, 1871)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>atrogularis</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>erythropleura</i> —not always recognised), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
83	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i> (Laxmann, 1769)	See below.
84	Sri Lanka Swallow	<i>Cecropis hyperythra</i> (Blyth, 1849)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>daurica</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
85	Grey-throated Martin	<i>Riparia chinensis</i> (J.E. Gray, 1830)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>paludicola</i> EL ('Plain Martin'). Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
86	Square-tailed Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes ganeesa</i> Sykes, 1832	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>leucocephalus</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>humii</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
87	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i> (J.F. Gmelin, 1789)	See above.
88	Black-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i> (J.F. Gmelin, 1789)	See below.
89	Flame-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus gularis</i> (Gould, 1836)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>melanicterus</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
90	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus flaviventris</i> (Tickell, 1833)	Do.
91	Asian Desert Warbler	<i>Sylvia nana</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)	Assigned by H&M4 to the genus <i>Curruca</i> . Placed in <i>Sylvia</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
92	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i> (Bechstein, 1792)	Do.
93	Eastern Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia crassirostris</i> Cretzschmar, 1830	Do.
94	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Do.
95	Ménétries's Warbler	<i>Sylvia mystacea</i> Ménétries, 1832	Do.



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96	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i> Latham, 1787	Do.
97	Manipur Fulvetta	<i>Fulvetta manipurensis</i> (Ogilvie-Grant, 1906)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>cinereiceps</i> EL. Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
98	White-breasted Parrotbill	<i>Psittiparus ruficeps</i> (Blyth, 1842)	See below.
99	Rufous-headed Parrotbill	<i>Psittiparus bakeri</i> (E. Hartert, 1900)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>ruficeps</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
100	Indian Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i> Sykes, 1832	See below.
101	Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus melanurus</i> Blyth, 1847	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>horsfieldii</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>holdsworthi</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
102	Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler	<i>Erythrognys maclellandi</i> (Godwin-Austen, 1870)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>erythrocnemis</i> EL. Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
103	Sikkim Wedge-billed Babbler	<i>Stachyris humei</i> (Mandelli, 1873)	See below.
104	Cachar Wedge-billed Babbler	<i>Stachyris roberti</i> (Godwin-Austen & Walden, 1875)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>humei</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
105	Pin-striped Tit Babbler	<i>Mixornis gularis</i> (Horsfield, 1822)	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>bornensis</i> EL ('Bold-striped Tit Babbler'). Split here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
106	Rufous-vented Grass Babbler	<i>Laticilla burnesii</i> (Blyth, 1844)	Taxon no longer considered a prinia (BLI, eBird, and IOC. Also see below.
107	Swamp Grass Babbler	<i>Laticilla cinerascens</i> (Walden, 1874)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>burnesii</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>nepalicola</i> tentatively), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
108	Indian Grass Babbler	<i>Graminicola bengalensis</i> Jerdon, 1863	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>striatus</i> EL ('Chinese Grass Babbler'). Split here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
109	Himalayan Cutia	<i>Cutia nipalensis</i> Hodgson, 1837	Treated by H&M4 as including <i>legalleni</i> EL ('Vietnamese Cutia'). Split here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
110	Streaked Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron lineatum</i> (Vigors, 1831)	See below.
111	Bhutan Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron imbricatum</i> (Blyth, 1843)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>lineatum</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
112	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i> (Vigors, 1832)	See below.
113	Assam Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron chrysopteron</i> (Gould, 1835)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>erythrocephalum</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>godwini</i> and <i>erythrolaemum</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
114	Banasura Laughingthrush	<i>Montecincla jerdoni</i> (Blyth, 1851)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>cachinnans</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC. Moved to a new genus <i>Montecincla</i> following Robin <i>et al.</i> , 2017 (Adopted by eBird, and IOC, and under review in BLI – an exception to our rule 1).
115	Nilgiri Laughingthrush	<i>Montecincla cachinnans</i> (Jerdon, 1839)	See above.
116	Palani Laughingthrush	<i>Montecincla fairbanki</i> (Blanford, 1869)	See below.
117	Ashambu Laughingthrush	<i>Montecincla meridionale</i> (Blanford, 1880)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>fairbanki</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC. Moved to a new genus <i>Montecincla</i> following Robin <i>et al.</i> , 2017 (Adopted by eBird, and IOC, and under review in BLI – an exception to our rule 1).
118	Spotted Elachura	Family: Elachuridae	Found to be unrelated to (wren) babblers and moved to its own monotypic family Elachuridae (BLI, eBird, and IOC).
119	Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i> Lesson, 1830	See below.
120	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i> Blyth, 1842	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>castanea</i> . Given species rank here (as including <i>almorae</i> and <i>koelzi</i> ), following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
121	White-cheeked Nuthatch	<i>Sitta leucopsis</i> Gould, 1850	See below.
122	Przewalski's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta przewalskii</i> Berezowski & Bianchi, 1891	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>leucopsis</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
123	Southern Hill Myna	<i>Gracula indica</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>religiosa</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.
124	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i> Linnaeus, 1758	See above.
125	White-rumped Shama	<i>Kittacincla malabarica</i> (Scopoli, 1786)	See below.
126	Andaman Shama	<i>Kittacincla albiventris</i> Blyth, 1858	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>malabarica</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC.

**Table 1.** Annotated list of taxonomic changes to the checklist of birds of India and the South Asian region

S. No.	English name / Group name	Scientific name / Higher order taxonomic name	Notes on taxonomy
127	Nilgiri Sholakili	<i>Sholicola major</i> (Jerdon, 1841)	Moved to a new genus <i>Sholicola</i> following Robin <i>et al.</i> , 2017 (Adopted by eBird, and IOC, and under review in BLI – an exception to our rule 1).
128	White-bellied Sholakili	<i>Sholicola albiventris</i> (Blanford, 1868)	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>major</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, BSA2, eBird, and IOC. Note that Robin <i>et al.</i> (2017) have described a new taxon <i>ashambuensis</i> ('Ashambu Sholakili'), and we await its formal adoption as a species by world authorities.
129	Himalayan Rubythroat	<i>Calliope pectoralis</i> Gould, 1837	See below.
130	Chinese Rubythroat	<i>Calliope tschebaiewi</i> Przevalski, 1876	Treated by H&M4 as conspecific with <i>pectoralis</i> . Given species rank here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
131	Rusty-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula ruficauda</i> (Swainson, 1838)	Treated by H&M4 within the genus <i>Muscicapa</i> . Moved to <i>Ficedula</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
132	Eversmann's Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythronotus</i> (Eversmann, 1841)	Treated by H&M4 in the genus <i>Adelura</i> . Placed in <i>Phoenicurus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
133	Blue-fronted Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i> Vigors, 1831	Do.
134	Blue-capped Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus coeruleocephala</i> Vigors, 1831	Do.
135	White-throated Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus schisticeps</i> (J.E. & G.R. Gray, 1847)	Do.
136	White-capped Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i> (Vigors, 1831)	Treated by H&M4 in the monotypic genus <i>Chaimarromis</i> . Placed in <i>Phoenicurus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.
137	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i> (Vigors, 1831)	Treated by H&M4 in the genus <i>Rhyacornis</i> . Placed in <i>Phoenicurus</i> here, following consensus among BLI, eBird, and IOC.

Archipelago] now stands at 1563. [See Table 1 for an annotated list of taxonomic updates to the South Asian birds. The updated checklists of South Asia (v. 3.0), the Indian Subcontinent (v. 2.0), and India (v. 2.0), are available for download at <http://www.indianbirds.in>.]

While the total bird species from the Indian Subcontinent (as limited by the political boundaries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives) is 1383, that from within the geographical boundaries of India (as recognised by the Government of India) is 1306. Taxonomically, the Indian avifauna covers 26 orders, 111 families, and 492 genera. Of these, 72 species of birds are endemic to India, constituting about 5.5% of the country's bird diversity.

We intend to review and update taxonomy of the India Checklist once a year, after the annual taxonomic updates of all the three authorities (BLI, eBird/Clements, and IOC) are made available. In case we plan to move completely to a new taxonomy or a new model, we shall do so through an explanatory note in *Indian BIRDS*.

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