**[HBW and BirdLife Taxonomic Checklist v4 (current version)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v4_Dec19.zip)**

BirdLife International uses the taxonomy published in the two volumes of the *HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World* and subsequent updates.

BirdLife uses this list as the basis for much of its global, regional and national priority-setting work, including, for example, the assessment of all birds for the IUCN Red List, and the identification of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). However, some national BirdLife Partners may use other checklists and taxonomic sources that are particularly relevant in their context.

**Download an Excel version of the current list**[**here**](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v4_Dec19.zip)**.**

**Download a PDF version of the current list**[**here**](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_Version_4.pdf)**.**

The Excel version of the Checklist includes the scientific and common names used, the authority (for the original description of the taxon), the latest global [IUCN Red List category](http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/spcredcat)(e.g. Extinct, Vulnerable, Least Concern, etc.), taxonomic notes where relevant, and a record ID number unique to the taxonomic entity. Previously recognised taxa are also included and distinguished as ‘Not recognised’. In addition the zipped file contains an Excel file listing taxonomic and status changes in the current version, plus tabs listing those species that have updated range maps and factsheets. There is also a separate Word copy of the taxonomic references and this taxonomic approach document. The pdf version is the static version of the current Checklist.

The HBW/BirdLife International Taxonomic Working Group makes decisions on modifications to the Checklist, making extensive use of systematic criteria by which species rank can be consistently assessed where this is necessary (e.g. for newly described species or proposed splits). These criteria ([Tobias *et al*. 2010](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1474-919X.2010.01051.x)) involve weighting morphological and acoustic differences as compared with the nearest believed relative, and are particularly intended to help make decisions involving allopatric taxa (as opposed to those in sympatric, parapatric or hybrid zone situations, where the situation is generally clearer).

Further details on the basis of the Checklist, the application of these criteria and the incorporation of molecular data are given in the Introductions to the two published volumes;

[Introduction to Volume 1: Non-passerines](http://www.hbw.com/sites/default/files/news/2017/Illustrated_Checklist_Vol1-Introduction.pdf)  
[Introduction to Volume 2: Passerines](http://www.hbw.com/sites/default/files/news/2017/Illustrated_Checklist_Vol2-Introduction.pdf)

**Archive of earlier versions of the Checklist**

Prior to the publication of the first volume of the HBW/BirdLife Checklist (for Non-passerines) in 2014 and the second volume (for Passerines) in 2016, BirdLife published an annually updated taxonomic checklist based on the taxonomies followed in a number of regional lists.

* [Version 0.0 (2007)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_0.zip)
* [Version 1.0 (2008)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_1.zip)
* [Version 2.0 (2009)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_2.zip)
* [Version 3.0 (2010)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_3.zip)
* [Version 4.0 (2011)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_4.zip)
* [Version 5.0 (June 2012)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_50.zip)
* [Version 5.1 (October 2012)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_51.zip)
* [Version 6 (November 2013)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_6.zip)
* [Version 6.1 (February 2014)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_61.zip)
* [Version 7 (July 2014)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_70.zip)
* [Version 8 (October 2015)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_80.zip)
* [Version 9 (December 2016)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_90.zip)
* [Version 9.1 (June 2017)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/BirdLife_Checklist_Version_91.zip)
* [HBW-BirdLife Version 2.0 (December 2017)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_Version_2.zip)
* [HBW-BirdLife Version 3.0 (November 2018)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v3_Nov18.zip)
* [HBW-BirdLife Version 4.0 (December 2019) – current version](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v4_Dec19.zip)

**Updates and taxonomic revisions**

The Checklist is a work in progress and updates are released annually. The BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group (BTWG) aims to keep the Checklist up to date based on the latest published research. To enable this, we welcome suggestions of potential revisions for us to consider, based on published evidence. In particular:

• proposals to split or lump taxa that were not explicitly considered in the two volumes of the Illustrated Checklist, along with the published evidence for these

• New information not considered in the documentation of splits and lumps in the Checklist, including video/audio recordings, records of presence in key areas, descriptions of key features, behaviour and ecology, or information included in newly published papers

If you wish to supply supporting files, such as pdf’s of published papers, note this in your comment and we will contact you. As the intent is to gather cases for further review, rather than to review the cases here, the need to attach files will be minimal.

Each proposal will be considered by the BTWG in due course. If revisions to the current treatment are adopted, there is a necessary time-lag before revised taxa are assessed against the IUCN Red List Criteria and subsequently published on the BirdLife Data Zone and IUCN Red List websites, and included in new versions of the Checklist, which are typically released at the end of each year.

Feedback and new information on potential splits and lumps would be welcome.

We envisage two main types of comment: proposals to consider splitting or lumping of taxa which were not scored against the Tobias criteria in the published volumes of the Checklist (2014, 2016); and, for those species that were scored in the Checklist (whether this resulted in a split, a lump, or no change), proposals involving new information which may lead to revisions of these scores. Video and audio recordings, records of presence in key areas, and descriptions of key features, behaviour and ecology, are among the variety of ways in which fieldworkers, ornithologists and birdwatchers can supply new evidence to help resolve ongoing taxonomic challenges and uncertainties.

To contribute information to aid in future taxonomic revisions, please go to [**the taxonomy section on the BirdLife Globally Threatened Bird Forum**](https://globally-threatened-bird-forums.birdlife.org/category/taxonomy/) **website** and add your comment in the ‘Comment’ section.

Each proposal will be considered by the BTWG in due course. If revisions to the current treatment are adopted, there is a necessary time-lag before revised taxa are assessed against the IUCN Red List Criteria and subsequently published on the BirdLife Data Zone and IUCN Red List websites, and included in new versions of the Checklist, which are typically released at the end of each year.