**[HBW and BirdLife Taxonomic Checklist v2 (current version)](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v2%20Dec17.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_v3_Nov18.zip)**.**

**Download a PDF version of the current list**[**here**](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_Version_3.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) – current version](http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v3_Nov18.zip)

**Updates and taxonomic revisions**

The Checklist is a work in progress and updates are released annually.

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 relevant species or family page on the**[**HBW Alive website**](http://www.hbw.com/) and add your comment in the ‘Comment’ section, leaving your full name and a contact email address (subscription to HBW Alive is not necessary to access this)

  All comments will be taken into consideration, but please note that it will not be possible for BirdLife or Lynx to give online feedback to comments received or to provide individual responses to all contributors. Taxonomic revisions are incorporated on an annual basis, following review and acceptance by the HBW & BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group. Consequently, where taxonomic changes are to be adopted, there will necessarily be some lag time before revised taxa can be assessed against the Red List Criteria (including forming a proposal on BirdLife’s Globally Threatened Bird Forums, where necessary) and subsequently be published on the BirdLife and IUCN Red List websites and included in updates to HBW Alive.