

Birding in the Western Palearctic

Big Year WP – 2017

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ROADRUNNER

DELI



PICNICS

Texas 2012



steve martin
jack black owen wilson

the Big Year

from the director of *The Devil Wears Prada*

in theaters **october 14**

everyone is searching
for something



What is WP?

- A geographical area defined 1977

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The Birds of the Western Palearctic

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Birds of the Western Palearctic (full title ***Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic***; often referred to by the initials **BWP**) is a nine-volume [ornithological handbook](#) covering the birds of the western portion of the Palearctic zoogeographical region.

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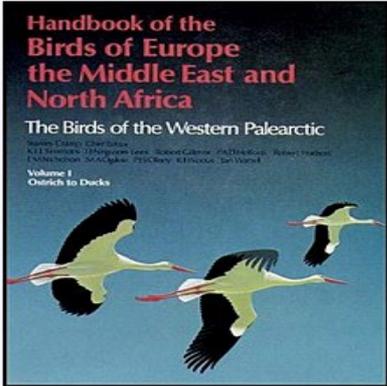
- Book
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 - BWP Concise*
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Book [edit]

The Birds of the Western Palearctic is a comprehensive regional avifauna for the [Western Palearctic](#). It consists of 9 volumes, the first published in 1977 and the ninth in 1994. *BWP*'s format and breadth influenced the development of regional avifaunas for other parts of the world, notably *The Birds of Africa*.

A two-volume *Concise Edition* was produced in 1998. Both the full and concise editions were published by [Oxford University Press](#) (OUP).

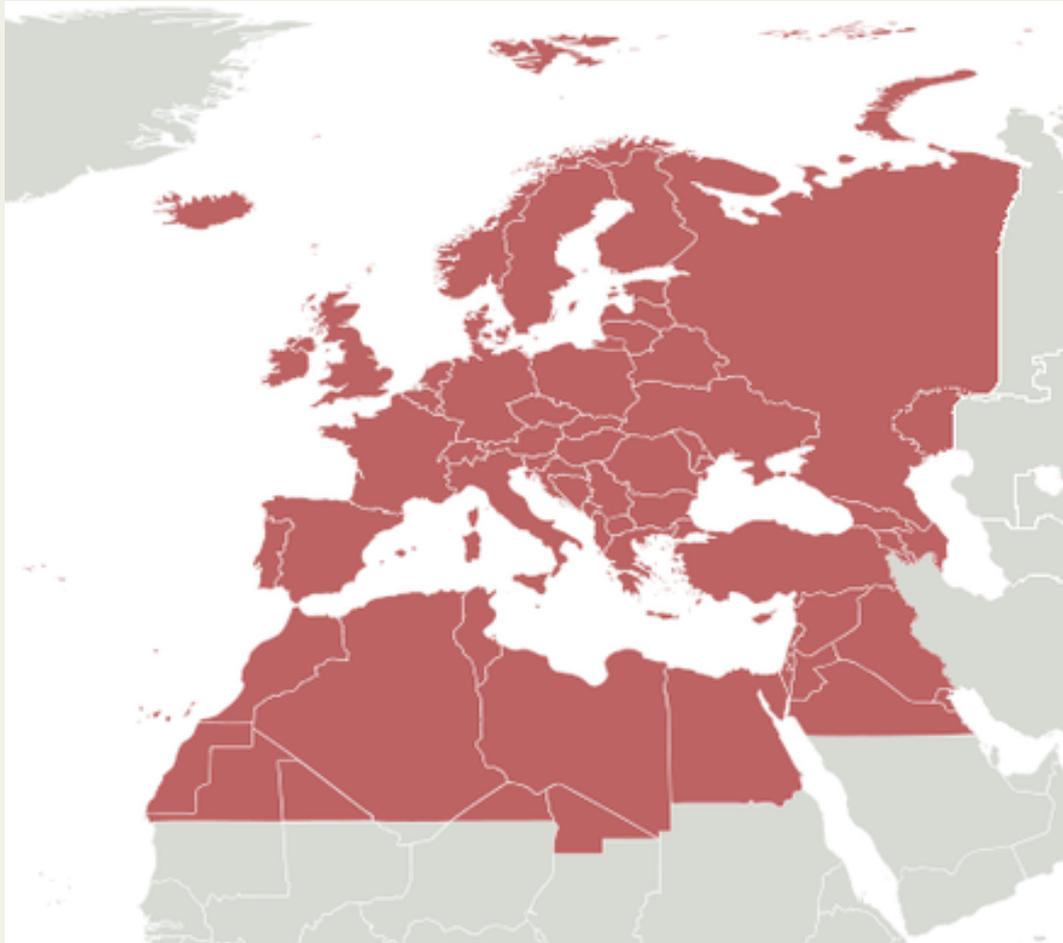
The Birds of the Western Palearctic



The cover of volume 1 of the full edition

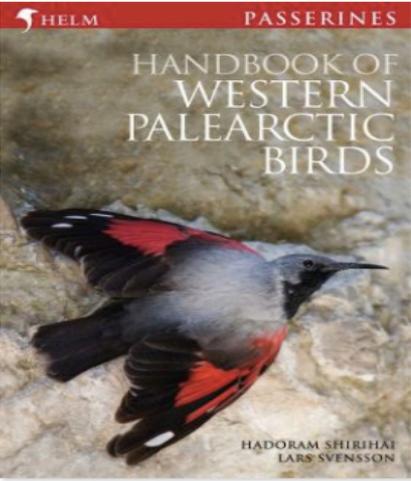
Country	United Kingdom
Language	English
Published	1977–96 (Oxford University Press)
Media type	Print (Hardback)

The Map



Boundaries

- WP borders are questioned, should all of Arabia be included, Iran?



HELM PASSERINES
HANDBOOK OF WESTERN PALEARCTIC BIRDS
HADORAM SHIRIHAI
LARS SVENSSON

Birds of the Western Palearctic
by Hadoram Shirihai, Lars Svensson
★★★★★ (0 ratings)
Hardcover Book, 1200 pages

Description
A photographic guide to the avifauna of the Western Palearctic. This book contains information on bird identification covering several aspects of plumage, moult, ageing, sexing, voice, habitat, seasonal and altitudinal movements, distribution and behaviour. It contains almost 3,000 photographs, illustrating different species.

[See Preview](#)

About the Book Find at your local library

Format	Hardcover Book, 1200 pages	Language	English
Publisher	Bloomsbury Publishing PLC (Jul. 31st, 2014)	Edition	Unknown

Buy Out

Changing WP borders doesn't matter

- We birders, we keep our list in the BWP borders and will continue to do so.
- It's a game, we need rules. Rules are fun!
- Hey – we're listers, and we keep our lists on netfugl.dk, according to the BWP borders.
- Yes – this mean that if you're a WP lister a trip to Kuwait is hotter than the slightly better birding destination, Oman.

Netfugl, 1001 species



The Birds of the Western Palearctic

Species marked with an asterisk * are considered general rare in the Western Palearctic. Ticks of one or more of these species on the WP ranking must be provided with country, location and date.

Language
[Dansk version](#)

The WP List
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#		*	English name	Alternative	Latin name	Danish name	Alternative
1		*	Common Ostrich	Ostrich	Struthio camelus	Masaistruds	Struds
2			Red-throated Loon	Red-throated Diver	Gavia stellata	Rødstrubet Lom	
3			Black-throated Loon	Black-throated Diver	Gavia arctica	Sortstrubet Lom	
4		*	Pacific Loon	Pacific Diver	Gavia pacifica	Stillehavslom	
5			Great Northern Loon	Great Northern Diver	Gavia immer	Islom	
6			Yellow-billed Loon	White-billed Diver	Gavia adamsii	Hvidnæbbet Lom	
7		*	Pied-billed Grebe		Podilymbus podiceps	Tyknæbbet Lappedykker	
8			Little Grebe		Tachybaptus ruficollis	Lille Lappedykker	
9			Great Crested Grebe		Podiceps cristatus	Toppet Lappedykker	
10			Red-necked Grebe		Podiceps grisegena	Gråstrubet Lappedykker	
11			Horned Grebe	Slavonian Grebe	Podiceps auritus	Nordisk Lappedykker	
12			Black-necked Grebe		Podiceps nigricollis	Sorthalset Lappedykker	
13		*	Yellow-nosed Albatross		Thalassarche chlororhynchus	Gulnæbbet Albatros	Lille Albatros
14		*	Black-browed Albatross		Thalassarche melanophris	Sortbrynet Albatros	
15		*	Shy Albatross		Thalassarche cauta	Hvidkronet Albatros	Mellemalbatros
16		*	Wandering Albatross		Diomedea exulans	Vandrealbatros	
17		*	Southern Giant Petrel	Antarctic Giant Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	Sydlig Kæmpestormfugl	
18			Northern Fulmar	Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	Mallebuk	
19		*	Cape Petrel		Daption capense	Kappetrel	Kapdue
20			Fea's Petrel		Pterodroma feae	Kap Verde-petrel	Cap Verde Petrel
21		*	Zino's Petrel		Pterodroma madeira	Madeirapetrel	
22		*	Soft-plumaged Petrel		Pterodroma mollis	Fløjlspetrel	
23		*	Bermuda Petrel	Cahow	Pterodroma cahow	Bermudapetrel	
24		*	Black-capped Petrel	Capped Petrel	Pterodroma hasitata	Cariberpetrel	Hættepetrel
25		*	Atlantic Petrel		Pterodroma incerta	Hvidbuget Petrel	
26		*	Trindade Petrel	Herald Petrel	Pterodroma	Trindadenetrel	Heraldnetrel

The Rules for WP lists

- Adhere strictly to the borders as defined by the BWP book.
- Count Cat C birds. Most countries has a committee that decides which birds are Cat C in that country.
- Count birds that are heard only
- We as a team, decided that all in the team had to see/hear the bird.



How to plan a BIG YEAR



Our trips 2017



• Kuwait	Jan 1 st - 12 th	156/156
• England	Jan 14 th - 19 th	77/233
• Sweden	Jan 19 th - 31 st	21/254
• Morocco/W. Sahara	Feb 2 nd - 21 st	103/357
• Netherlands	Feb 22 nd & 28 th	3/360
• Portugal/Spain	March 1 st - 3 rd	15/375
• Sweden	March 4 th - 13 th	24/399
• Netherland	March 21 st - 22 nd	13/412
• Israel	March 23 rd 5 th	75/487
• Hungary	April 6 th -7 th	7/493

• Kuwait	April 9 th - 13 th	20/513
• Mauretania	April 17 th - 21 st	12/525
• Morocco	April 23 rd - 29 th	7/532
• Egypt	May 2 nd - 12 th	25/557
• Georgia	May 16 th - 19 th	15/572
• Turkey	May 21 st - 29 th	22/594
• Romania	May 30 th - 31 st	2/596
• Italy/France	June 1 st - 5 th	10/606
• Cyprus	June 6 th - 8 th	2/608
• Kazakhstan	June 10 th - 14 th	7/615
• Russia	June 16 th - 29 th	26/641
• Svalbard	July 8 th -10 th	9/650

- **June 17th 27th Clean-up mainland Europe 18/668**
Poland/Germany/France/Spain/Mallorca/Corsica/England
Germany
- **Norway August 9th - 11th 2/670**
- **Azores/Madeira/Portugal August 18th - 27th 27/697**
- **UK/Ireland/Netherlands - September 13th - 22nd 15/712**
- **Azores October 4th - 20th 14/726**
- **England/Denmark/Sweden October 24th - 27th 1/727**
- **Norway/Iceland November 3th - 7th 4/731**
- **Cap Verde November 16th 21st 16/747**
- **Nov. 23rd to Dec. 5th Here, there and everywhere 13/760**
Portugal/Canary Islands/Sweden/Norway/Canary Islands/
Switzerland/Portugal
- **Dec 23rd Greater Yellowlegs Sweden – 761 Species**

Breeding Birds

700 breeding species in WP



- A number of occasional breeders like
 - Elegant Tern – Spain/France
 - African Grey Woodpecker (?) – Mauretania
 - Magnificent Frigatebird – Cap Verde

Breeding Birds

Some of the more tricky birds on a big year

- Basra Reed Warbler
- Black Throated Accentor
 - Bailon's Crake
 - Mongolian Finch
 - Pale Rock Sparrow
 - Yellow Bittern
 - Barolo Shearwater
- White-Faced Storm-Petrel
 - Ivory Gull
 - Dunn's Lark
 - Shikra
 - Small Buttonquail



Syrian Serin – Mount Hermon, Israel 28 March



The 8 breeding birds we skipped

But still dream about

- Algerian Nuthatch
- Red- Billed Fire Finch
- African Silverbill
- Pallas's Reed Bunting
- Pin-Tailed Snipe
- African Darter
- Caspian Tit
- The unknown bird(s) of Chad



Cat C Species



Rose Ringed Parakeet



Vinous-Breasted Starling



Muscovy Duck



Vinous-Throated Parrotbill

Cat C birds in WP – 35 species 4,6%

Black Swan – Netherlands
Bar-headed Goose – Netherlands
Swan Goose – Germany
Mandarin Duck - Netherlands, Germany
Ruddy Duck – England
Muscovy Duck – Italy
Egyptian Goose – Also Cat A
Cackling Goose – Also Cat A
Canada Goose – Also Cat A

Red-billed Leiothrix -Italy/France/Spain
Crested Myna, Portugal
Common Myna - Israel, Kuwait
Bank Myna – Kuwait
Black-headed Weaver, Portugal
Yellow-crowned Bishop, Portugal
Common Waxbill - Portugal, Spain, Cape verde
Rock Dove – All over

California Quail – Corsica
Northern Bobwhite – Italy
Reeve's Pheasant - France, Czech
Golden Pheasant – England
Helmeted Guineafowl – Cap Verde
Sacred Ibis – Italy/France (Cat A in Iraq)

Rose-ringed Parakeet – Europe
Monk Parakeet - Southern Europe
Alexandrine Parakeet – Netherlands
Yellow-headed Amazon – Germany

Red Avadavat - Southern Europe, Egypt
White-eared Bulbul – Kuwait
Red-vented Bulbul – Kuwait
Ruppell's Weaver –Kuwait
Streaked Weaver – Egypt
Vinous-breasted Starling – Israel
Vinous-throated Parrotbill – Italy/ Netherlands
Indian Silverbill - Israel



Red-Billed Leiothrix – Italy June 3 2017

Rarities

- We had 69 rarities in the year.
- A rarity is a bird that is not breeding in WP.
- Azores, UK
- To optimize autumn - stay put on Corvo from Sep 20 until Nov 5.
- First of Jan, and end of Dec rarity sweep



© Markus Craig

Pale Martin – Kuwait Jan 5th



Dwarf Bittern – Fuerteventura Dec 2nd



Baikal Teal – Holland March 22nd



Brown Shrike – Holland Feb. 22nd

Our rare birds 2017

- 1. Lesser Flamingo
- 2. Pale Martin
- 3. Indian Roller
- 4. Oriental Honey Buzzard
- 5. Lesser Yellowlegs
- 6. Green Winged Teal
- 7. Am. Wigeon
- 8. Bonaparte's Gull
- 9. Pacific Loon
- 10. Lesser Scaup
- 11. Ring-Billed gull
- 12. Ring-necked duck
- 13. Dusky Thrush
- 14. Am. Black Scoter
- 15. Surf Scoter
- 16. Hooded Merganser
- 17. Sib. Accentor
- 18. Am. Black Duck
- 19. Brown Shrike
- 20. Bufflehead
- 21. Sora
- 22. Thayer's Gull
- 23. Am Herring Gull
- 24. Blyth's Pipit
- 25. Baikal Teal
- 26. Kelp Gull
- 27. Pied Crow
- 28. Bateleur
- 29. Greater Yellowlegs
- 30. Black Heron
- 31. Black Headed Pendulin Tit
- 31. Elegant Tern
- 32. Pectoral Sandpiper
- 33. Black Browed Albatross
- 34. White-winged Scoter (Stejnegeri)
- 35. Gray-tailed Tattler
- 36. Snowy Egret
- 37. Spotted Sandpiper
- 38. White-rumped Sandpiper
- 39. Semipalmated Sandpiper
- 40. Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- 41. Pied-billed Grebe
- 42. Baird's Sandpiper
- 43. Least Sandpiper
- 44. Stilt Sandpiper
- 45. Long-billed Dowitcher
- 46. Am. Redstart
- 47. Pallas's Grasshopper warbler
- 48. Forster's tern
- 49. Am. Golden Plover
- 50. Am. Redhead
- 51. Blue-winged Teal
- 52. Northern Waterthrush
- 53. Bobolink
- 54. Red-eyed Vireo
- 55. Philadelphia Vireo
- 56. Ovenbird
- 57. Blackpoll Warbler
- 58. Yellow-throated Vireo
- 59. Blackburnian Warbler
- 60. Common Yellowthroat
- 61. Dickcissel
- 62. Am. Coot
- 63. Two-barred Warbler
- 64. Red-footed Booby
- 64. Intermediate Egret
- 65. Wilson's snipe
- 66. Dusky Warbler
- 67. Dwarf Bittern
- 68. Pine Bunting
- 69. Pink-backed Pelican

Dipping

- Turkey was faster than expected, thus we went to Romania.
- Dipping in WP is worse than dipping at home. Time and Money.



Worst dippys 2017

- Denmark (Stejneger's Stonechat) and then
- England (Wilson's Phalarope – second attempt) and then
- Ireland (Grey-cheeked Thrush) and then
- Denmark (Dusky Warbler) and then



Two-Barred Warbler – Öland, Sweden Nov

Dipping on Corvo, Oct 14

- **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**
- **Black-throated Green Warbler**
- **Common Yellowthroat**
- **Upland Sandpiper**
- **Scarlet Tanager**

#depression



Mistakes

Always call out, don't hold back



More mistakes



And more



Even more mistakes



Future Couch-ticks

- Cat-E birds.
 - Javan Myna (Kuwait)
 - Pin-tailed Whydah, Scaly-breasted Munia, Blue-crowned Parakeet
- Gull split, Barabensis, Heuglini
- Mahgreb, Seebohms Wheatear
- Saharan/Streaked Scrub Warbler



“Seebohms Wheatear”



“Saharan Scrub Warbler”



“Mahgreb Wheatear” Female

Some fun stats

- **84 % of the species seen in the first 6 months**
- **Visited 32 countries**
- **11 000 observation entries**
- **850 species seen in total in WP 2017 (829/2016)**
- **We saw 90% of all species seen in WP 2017**
- **Best/worst road food - Turkey/Norway**
- **Best/worst 4G - Western Sahara/England**
- **Best/worst birding - Israel/Corvo**

Thanks

- <http://www.birdforum.net>
- We have been skulking there all year and learned a lot from the experienced WP birders there.

“A truly pioneering effort by three great guys with a fantastic happy go lucky and cheerful attitude. Maximum respect”

“I will remember it as only a half-hearted attempt at setting a record where there is currently no official record. Or is there? Because if there is, I'm not sure they'll break it...”

- To the birding community – we rock
- Sharing observations
- Finding birds
- IT structures – Netfugle, eBird, artportalen, observado, iGoTerra, country FB pages, Tarsiger



