

Dear friends, photographers and collaborators,

We have recently completed the final selection of the images for the first half of the passerines volume of HWPB, and have written most of the captions. We now have more than 90% of the images for this section, covering larks to warblers. However, there remain a handful of taxa for which we still require good photographs. Can you help?

Both the image selection and the writing of detailed technical captions for each of the *c.* 3500 images in the passerines volume require a great deal of time and a very careful approach. Despite this we are up to the challenge. We would like once again to thank the many excellent photographers that form a key part of the HWPB team. As a result of their input we are about to achieve the most complete photographic coverage of any bird book ever published. Indeed, we are well on the way to enjoying complete coverage of the whole spectrum of variation, subspecies, and age/sex-related plumages for all the recognised characteristic taxa within the Western Palearctic (the boundaries of which we have decided to extend for this project to include, for example, the Arabian Peninsula and entire Iran).

We would like to invite you to read through our list below, and to check whether your collection (or that of your friends?) have images of the plumages in question.

Our hope is to fill most of these gaps by the end of November 2010, but submission is still possible until the end of March 2011, when we will start to lay out the book. We will resume soon the selection for the remaining half of the passerines volume, for crests to buntings, and we will post further 'missing image' lists then.

Your images are very welcome in the HWPB!

For submission of low-res images before the end of November 2010, please contact Jose Luis Copete, the HWPB's chief photographic researcher, at: jlcopete@telefonica.net

We will be happy to receive images on our upload site, and especially for the groups Crests to Buntings. For a reminder on how to upload, or for any other enquiry concerning submission via the site please contact Jim Martin at jmartin@acblack.com

At this stage we still require submission of new images in low-res format. For further inquiries please contact René Pop, the HWPB's photographic editor, at: pop.texel@texel.com

From the team of the long-awaited *Handbook of Western Palearctic Birds*, A & C Black
Hadoram Shirihi & Lars Svensson

The list

For larks–warblers, we are now limiting uploads to taxa on the list below.

When submitting images please add the following info as part of the image file name: species name, if possible subspecies name and age/sex (optional), the locality, date, and photographer surname, so we can keep record of these in the collection, thanks.

Project 01: Larks:

DESERT LARK – Images requested: race *azizi* (from the chalky sandstone in Jabal Ghanima, Hasa Province in EC Saudi Arabia).

DUPONT'S LARK – Image requested: race *margaritae* (NC Algeria, S Tunisia, Libya, NW Egypt).

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK – Image requested: race *leucophaea* (pale and little streaked race, allegedly in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan).

Project 02: Hirundines:

CLIFF SWALLOW – Image requested: nominate race in flight, adults and independent juv+1stW in autumn. Do not send breeding adults or the latter with chicks/juvenile birds, please only submit birds on migration from the east coast of N America in autumn; European vagrants also will be most welcome.

Project 03: Pipits and wagtails:

GRASSLAND PIPIT *Anthus cinnamomeus*: ONLY birds photographed in extreme SW Saudi Arabian and Yemen highlands – we don't need images of African birds.

YELLOW WAGTAIL: breeding female of the race *M. f. thunbergi* (N Fenno-Scandia, N Russia, NW Siberia), variety showing darker/uniform head (no whitish supercilium) – from the breeding ground only.

YELLOW WAGTAIL: breeding female of the race *M. f. flavissima* (Britain, Ireland, sparsely and locally on coasts of S Norway, low countries, N France), i.e. with more yellowish tinge to supercilium/face and perhaps underparts.

YELLOW WAGTAIL: breeding female of the race *M. f. iberiae* (Iberia, Balearics, NW Africa), showing pure white throat (with distinct border to yellow-tinged breast) – from the breeding grounds only.

CITRINE WAGTAIL: breeding female of the SE race *Motacilla c. calcarata* (Kopet Dag, Afghanistan, Tien Shan, Tibet, Himalaya; mainly in mountains) – nothing more needed for this species.

Project 04: Bulbuls, accentors, wrens, waxwings, hypocolius:

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* Caucasian form, i.e. the race *P. m. obscura* (Caucasus, Crimea, perhaps E Turkey and N Iran): ONLY from the breeding ground and breeding season.

BLACK-THROATED ACCENTOR *Prunella atrogularis*: 1st-winter female.

Project 05: Robins and redstarts:

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*: autumn birds only.

EVERSMANN'S REDSTART *Phoenicurus erythronotus*: 1st-winter female only.

Project 06. Chats:

ARMENIAN STONECHAT, *S. t. armenicus* (extreme E Turkey, W & N Iran, Transcaucasia, N Iraq): any images of birds with proved ID of this form, preferably from the breeding ground, and especially females are needed; will be great to receive images of a pair, i.e. of male and female (so ID could be safer for the female).

CAUCASIAN STONECHAT, *S. t. variegatus* (N Caucasus to lower Volga): any images of birds with proved ID of this form, preferably from the breeding ground, and especially females, are needed; will be great to receive images of a pair, i.e. of male and female (so ID could be safer for the female).

Project 07. Wheatears:

SEEBOHM'S WHEATEAR *Oenanthe (oenanthe) seebohmi*: autumn plumages ONLY (ad & 1stW, both sexes).

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*: race *Oe. d. oreophila* ONLY (Central Asia east through Tibet to Inner Mongolia) – male & female.

SPANISH (WESTERN) BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica*: autumn 1stWs ONLY, both sexes.

EASTERN BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca*: autumn 1stWs ONLY, both sexes.

CYPRUS WHEATEAR *Oenanthe cypriaca*: autumn plumages (ad & 1stW, both sexes).

VARIABLE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe picata*: race *Oe. p. picata* (the white-bellied form; S Turkmenistan & SW Iran to Kashmir) – all plumages, preferably from autumn (ad & 1stW, both sexes).

KURDISH WHEATEAR *Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna*: fresh autumn plumages, Sep-Dec (ad & 1stW, both sexes) only.

(EASTERN) MOURNING WHEATEAR *Oenanthe lugens*: only race *Oe. l. persica* (NE Iraq & Iran) – fresh & worn plumages.

Project 08. Thrushes:

- (RUFIOUS-TAILED) ROCK THRUSH** *Monticola saxatilis*: fresh autumn plumages only, Aug-Nov (ad & 1stW, both sexes).
- RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*: females (ad & 1stY) of race *T. t. alpestris* (C, S and E Europe); also all plumages of race *T. t. amicum* (E Turkey, Caucasus, Transcaucasia, N Iran, SW Turkmenistan), but of the latter most badly needed is fresh autumn to winter plumages, Sep-Jan (ad & 1stW, both sexes).
- (COMMON) BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*: race *T. m. mauretanicus* (NW Africa, possibly also S Iberia and E Canaries) – male & female.
- EYEBROWED THRUSH** *Turdus obscurus*: adult male & female plumages, preferably when still rather fresh; also good images of WP records.
- AMERICAN ROBIN** *Turdus migratorius*: fresh autumn adult male & female plumages; also 1stW male; preferably images of WP records.
- NAUMANN'S THRUSH** *Turdus naumanni*: All plumages are needed (for improvements and gap-filling), but most needed are summer (worn) and autumn (fresh) adults of both sexes; also 1st-summer birds; any very good images of WP records will be welcome.
- DUSKY THRUSH** *Turdus eunomus*: 1stW female ONLY.
- RED-THROATED THRUSH** *Turdus ruficollis*: 1stW male & female ONLY.
- SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*: race *T. ph. hebridensis* (Outer Hebrides, Skye) ONLY.

Project 09. Prinias, locustellas, cisticolas:

- CRICKET WARBLER** *Spiloptila clamans*: typical male and a female, preferably from the recently located WP population in Western Sahara.

Project 10. Acrocephalus warblers:

- AQUATIC WARBLER** *Acrocephalus paludicola*: variation of autumn plumages, and especially worn ad in autumn is needed.
- COMMON REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*:
- *A. s. fuscus*, SE Russia, Caucasus, Transcaucasia & W Kazakhstan: variation of autumn plumages, and spring birds, especially from the breeding ground, and migratory birds from E Arabia.
 - *A. s. avicenniae*, Yemen, SW Arabia, N Somalia, Red Sea coasts: any images will be most welcome!
 - *A. s. baeticatus* from sub-Saharan Africa and also possibly in Libya and W Egypt: any images will be most welcome!
- CAPE VERDE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus brevipennis*: a perfect adult in profile is still missing.
- GREAT REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: race *A. a. zarudnyi* (S Russia & Central Asia) which is colder and greyer, less rufous, being essentially greyish-olive above, and with whiter pale parts, including supercilium, and paler underparts (on migration in E Arabia).
- BASRA REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus griseldis*: worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages.
- ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus orientalis*: worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages; spring birds.

Project 11. Hippolais / Iduna warblers:

- ISABELLINE WARBLER** *Iduna opaca*: worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages; spring birds.
- EASTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER** *Iduna pallida*:
- *I. p. elaeica* (SE Europe, N Middle East, Central Asia): we need some more 'perfect images' to improve the presentation, and especially of autumn (worn ad & fresh 1stW) plumages.
 - *I. p. pallida* (Egypt; presumably N Sudan): any images will be most welcome!
 - *I. p. reiseri* (desert habitats of EC & SE Morocco, Algeria, W Tunisia S of the coastal mountains, Libya): any images will be most welcome!
 - *I. p. alulensis* (coastal N Somalia, apparently also SW Arabia and SE Egypt): any images will be most welcome!
- Note: we are going to give a special and extensive image presentation for the *pallida*-complex and for this we are eager to see more images, so thanks for any new images in advance.
- UPCHER'S WARBLER** *Hippolais languida*: especially needed are worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages; spring birds also will be welcome.
- OLIVE-TREE WARBLER** *Hippolais olivetorum*: especially needed are worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages; spring birds also will be welcome.
- ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina*: especially needed are worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages.
- MELODIOUS WARBLER** *Hippolais polyglotta*: especially needed are worn (ad) and fresh (1stW) autumn plumages.

Project 12. Sylvia warblers:

- MARMORA'S WARBLER** *Sylvia sarda*: especially needed are fresh autumn ad male & female, and 1stW male and female; also breeding female.
- BALEARIC WARBLER** *Sylvia (sarda) balearica*: especially needed are fresh autumn ad male & female, and 1stW male and female; also breeding female (improvement only), and 1stS male.
- DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*: especially needed are breeding birds (both sexes) of the race *S. u. toni* (NW Africa); also good images of dullest females (to show ID pitfalls) will be most welcome.
- TRISTRAM'S WARBLER** *Sylvia deserticola*: especially needed are *adult* breeding of both sexes; also good images of 1stW males and especially the dullest females (to show ID pitfalls) will be most welcome.
- SPECTACLED WARBLER** *Sylvia conspicillata*: especially needed are female plumages; also good images of 1stW males and especially the dullest females (to show ID pitfalls) will be most welcome.
- SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*:
- *S. c. cantillans* (Iberia to Italy [except Toscana] & NW Africa): breeding ad (spring/summer) and fresh autumn ad females; fresh autumn ad male, and 1stW females.
 - *S. c. albistriata* (SE Europe to W Turkey): breeding adult male and female; and all (ages/sexes) fresh autumn plumages.
 - *S. c. moltonii* (Balearics, Corsica & Sardinia, Toscana): 1stW males and fresh ad female.
- MÉNÉTRIES'S WARBLER** *Sylvia mystacea*:
- *S. m. rubescens* (N Levant to SW Iran): breeding ad (spring/summer) and fresh autumn ad females; 1stS male; fresh autumn ad male, 1stW male, and 1stW females – i.e. female and fresh plumages all badly needed.
 - *S. m. mystacea* (Caspian): ALL (ages/sexes) of breeding (worn) in spring/summer, fresh autumn plumages!
 - *S. m. turcomenica* (E Iran and Central Asia): ALL (ages/sexes) of breeding (worn) in spring/summer, fresh autumn plumages!
- SARDINIAN WARBLER** *Sylvia melanocephala*:
- *S. m. melanocephala* (across the range except Levant): only ad and young females in spring/summer (worn) and autumn (fresh) plumages; also juv.
 - *S. m. momus* (NW Sinai to Lebanon): especially autumn plumages (all ages/sexes) and in spring/summer also females.
 - Atlantic Islands (the Canaries) & NW African populations: ALL (ages/sexes) of breeding (worn) in spring/summer, fresh autumn plumages!
- CYPRUS WARBLER** *Sylvia melanothorax*: we need improvements for 1stW and 1stS males, and especially the 1stW female (with limited spots or no spots on the breast), which we still missing altogether; also needed is juv.
- RÜPPELL'S WARBLER** *Sylvia rueppelli*: from spring we need improvements for ad and 1stS females; ALL autumn plumages are still missing altogether: we will appreciate any images of fresh ad male and female, and 1stW male and females; also needed is juv.
- ARABIAN WARBLER** *Sylvia leucomelaena*: a young/female with browner head and upperparts; also juv.
- WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER** *Sylvia hortensis*: ad breeding male (improvement) and female; also 1stS male and female; in autumn especially needed are fresh ad male and female; also juv.
- EASTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER** *Sylvia crassirostris*: breeding ad male female; in autumn especially needed are fresh ad male and female.
- BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*: fresh ad male and female in autumn.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*, any good images from the proved breeding grounds of the following taxa:
- *S. c. blythi* (Siberia, N Kirghiz Steppe)
 - *S. c. minula* (desert plains in W China and of S Central Asia)
 - *S. c. margelanica* (NC China [NE Tibet] and S Mongolia, migrating westwards in autumn through Central Asia to unknown winter quarters)
 - *S. c. althaea* (mountains of Central Asia, usually at 1600–3000 m, in the west from Iran east through Afghanistan, NW Pakistan, Kashmir, Tien Shan and W China, north to Tarbagatai)
 - *S. c. caucasica* (easternmost Turkey, Caucasus, Transcaucasia, W Iran)
- COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*, the following taxa:
- *S. c. communis* (Europe, W Siberia, NW Kazakhstan, NW Turkey): still need ad/breeding females and ad/fresh autumn male & female; also juv.
 - *S. c. icterops* (C and E Turkey, Caucasus, Levant, Transcaucasia, W and N Iran): good images showing characteristic plumages/features and moult patterns of this race.
 - *S. c. rubicola* (E Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, SE Kazakhstan, NW China): typical birds from the breeding grounds – all plumages badly needed!
- BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*, the following taxa:
- *S. a. atricapilla* (Europe): still need proved/confirmed (by moult) ad/breeding and ad/fresh autumn male & female; please only send if you are sure of the age of adult by moult and if the image is very good in quality (if you are unsure of the age than please don't send!)

- *S. a. heineken* (Atlantic Islands): a good ad female of the normal form; also a nice adult male and female of the melanistic form – badly needed!

Project 12. *Phylloscopus* warblers & *Regulus* crests:

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

TWO-BARRED GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

GREEN WARBLER *Phylloscopus nitidus*: only in autumn plumages, i.e. worn ad and fresh 1stW birds.

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*: ONLY fresh ad in autumn & 1stW with strikingly yellowish-brown underparts (please send only well photographed individuals).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*: we need improvements for fresh ad in autumn & 1stW (please send only well photographed individuals).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus orientalis*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: ONLY in autumn – i.e. worn ad and fresh 1stW; also the 'diluted' variant with pale/cream and almost no yellow/green in plumage.

PLAIN LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus neglectus*: all plumages/seasons need improvements (please submit only well photographed individuals).

BROWN WOODLAND WARBLER *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*, of the regional race *Ph. u. yemenensis* (SW Saudi Arabia, W Yemen): all plumages/seasons need improvements (please submit only well photographed individuals).

(COMMON) CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*, the following taxa:

- *P. c. abietinus* (Fenno-Scandia, except S Sweden; NE Poland, Belarus, Baltic states, Russia except extreme east; Ukraine, apparently also E Asia Minor, Syria, Caucasus, Transcaucasia): need improvements for ad spring (when still not so worn, Mar–Apr); good images of fresh 1stW and ad in autumn; also images of tricky birds approaching *tristis*.

- *P. c. menzbieri* (N Iran, SW Turkmenistan): any images, and especially of ad spring/summer from the breeding grounds. This race is generally like *tristis* but have some slight yellow on supercilium, eye-ring and throat (thus are like so-called '*fulvescens*'); wing is short and rounded.

- *P. (collybita) tristis* Siberian Chiffchaff (easternmost Russia, Siberia): ad spring/summer from the breeding grounds; also variation of fresh autumn birds, including the brownish variant (with some rusty tinge on supercilium and cheeks and buff throat–upper breast); we already have the very pale, 'grey-and-white' variety.

CAUCASIAN MOUNTAIN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus lorenzii*: ONLY worn ad in autumn.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*: ONLY race *P. t. yakutensis* (Russian Far East: Lena Basin, Yakutia, Anadyr), with images taken from the breeding ground; also birds photographed during migration through the Middle East.

(COMMON) GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*, the following taxa:

- *R. r. regulus* (Scandinavia to W Siberia, rest of the European range and apparently much of Turkey): ONLY the dullest 1stW in autumn–winter; also juv.

- *R. r. hyrcanus* (Elburz Mts, N Iran): any images will be welcome, but preferably ad male and/or female in spring–summer (i.e. from the breeding ground).

- *R. r. coatsi* (W Siberia SE to Altai): any images will be welcome, but preferably ad male and/or female in spring–summer (i.e. from the breeding ground).

- *R. (r.) teneriffae*, TENERIFE GOLDCREST: any images will be welcome, but preferably ad male and/or female in spring–summer.

MADEIRA FIRECREST *Regulus madeirensis*: we are rather OK with ad spring male but still missing ad female in spring–summer; also still missing ALL fresh autumn plumages, including 1stW and ad, both sexes.