List of Harriers
with References
Compiled by Joe Hobbs
Introduction
I have endeavoured to keep typos, errors, omissions etc in this list to a minimum, however when you find more I would be grateful if you could mail the details during 2016 & 2017 to: josephobbs@gmail.com. Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are not exhaustive and are best employed in conjunction with other sources. Grateful thanks to Wietze Janse (http://picasaweb.google.nl/wietze.janse) and Tom Shevlin (www.irishbirds.ie) for the cover images. All images © the photographers. Joe Hobbs

Index

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Cover

Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Marsh Harrier [Circus ranivorus]</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Harrier [Circus maurus]</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinereous Harrier [Circus cinereus]</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Marsh Harrier [Circus spilonotus]</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hen Harrier [Circus cyaneus]</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-winged Harrier [Circus buffoni]</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malagasy Harrier [Circus macrosceles]</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montagu's Harrier [Circus pygargus]</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier [Circus hudsonius]</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallid Harrier [Circus macrourus]</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papuan Harrier [Circus spilothorax]</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Harrier [Circus melanoleucos]</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Réunion Harrier [Circus maillardi]</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Harrier [Circus assimilis]</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Harrier [Circus approximans]</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Marsh Harrier [Circus aeruginosus]</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relevant Publications


General Notes


Western Marsh Harrier

*Circus aeruginosus* [Linnaeus 1758, Sweden].


Pain, D.J. et al. 1999. Levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, organochlorine pesticides, mercury and lead in relation to shell thickness in marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus) eggs from Charente-Maritime, France. Environmental Pollution 104(1): 61-68.


Verma, A. 2006. Preliminary observations on the ecology of Harriers (Circus sp.) roosting at Hessarghata, North Bangalore in Karnataka, South India with special reference to Eurasian Marsh Harriers (Circus aeruginosus). The Indian Forester March Issue, pp. 337-344.


**Eastern Marsh Harrier**

*Circus spilonotus* [Kaup 1847, Asia].


Other name: Spotted Marsh Harrier.


**Papuan Harrier**

*Circus spilonotus spilothorax* [Salvadori and D'Albertis 1875].

New Guinea apart from the Vogelkop peninsula.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1994 as a race of Eastern Marsh Harrier.

Other name: Spotted-backed Harrier.


**Swamp Harrier**

*Circus approximans* [Peale 1848, Vanua Levu, Fiji].

S New Guinea, Melanesia, Australia & New Zealand and Polynesia as far E as Tonga. Introduced to the Society Islands (French Polynesia, S Pacific).

The proposed form *gouldi* is included.

Other name: Pacific Marsh Harrier, Australian Harrier, Harrier Hawk, Gould's Harrier (*gouldi*). John Gould, aka 'The Bird Man' (1804-1881), British ornithologist, artist and taxidermist who spent two years in Australia studying the birdlife.


Ragg, J.R. et al. 2000. The scavenging behaviour of ferrets (Mustela furo), feral cats (Felis domesticus), possums (Trichosurus vulpecula), hedgehogs (Erinaceus europaeus) and harrier hawks (Circus approximans) on pastoral farmland in New Zealand: Implications for bovine tuberculosis transmission. New Zealand Veterinary Journal 48(6): 166-175.


**African Marsh Harrier**

*Circus ranivorus* [Daudin 1800, South Africa].

DR Congo, Uganda & Kenya S to South Africa. Seasonal NE movements in response to low water levels to SW Sudan, S Ethiopia & Somalia.


**Réunion Harrier**

*Circus maillardii* [J. Verreaux 1862, Réunion].

Réunion Island (SW Indian Ocean).

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1994 as a race of the polytypic Madagascar Harrier.

Other names: Papangue, Pied Jaun.

L. Maillard (19th c.), French botanist and engineer. Author of *Notes sur l’île de de Réunion.*


**Malagasy Harrier**

*Circus macrosceles* [Newton 1863]

Madagascar & the Comoro Islands (SW Indian Ocean).

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1994 as a race of the polytypic Madagascar Harrier.


**Long-winged Harrier**

*Circus buffoni* [Gmelin 1788, northeastern Brazil].

SW Colombia E to the Guianas, Trinidad and Tobago & NE Brazil and S to E Bolivia, N & C Argentina & C Chile.

George-Louis Leclerc Comte de Buffon (1707-1788), French naturalist and one time Director of the Jardin du Roi in Paris.


**Spotted Harrier**

*Circus assimilis* [Jardine and Selby 1828, Sydney, New South Wales].

Australia and Sulawesi & Sula Islands (C Moluccas, Indonesia).

Other names: Jardine’s Harrier, Allied Harrier, Smoke Hawk.

Sir William Jardine, 7th Baronet of Applegarth (1800-1874), Scottish ornithologist.


Black Harrier

*Circus maurus* [Temminck 1828, Cape of Good Hope].
S South Africa N to the Transvaal, Lesotho, S Namibia & S Botswana.


Hen Harrier

*Circus cyaneus* [Linnaeus 1766, Europe].

Europe & N Asia E to Kamchatka. Winters Europe & NW Africa E thru S Asia to SE China & Japan.


Avery, M. 2015. A fight we can win. *Birdwatch* 278: 35.


Wilson, M. et al. 2006. The distribution of Hen Harriers in Ireland in relation to land use cover, particularly forest cover. COFORD, Dublin.

Northern Harrier

*Circus hudsonius* [Linnaeus 1766].
North America S to NW Mexico & SE Virginia. Winters S to N South America.

Other name: Marsh Hawk.


Remained in the vicinity and visited several islands until the following 8th June 1983 (Martin 2008).


**Cinereous Harrier**

*Circus cinereus* [Vieillot 1816, Paraguay and near Río de la Plata].

Colombia & Ecuador above the treeline S thru Peru, Bolivia & Paraguay to extreme S Brazil & Tierra del Fuego and Falkland Islands.


Pallid Harrier

*Circus macrourus* [S.G. Gmelin 1770, Voronezh, Russia].

Ukraine & SW Russia E to L Balkash region, NW China and perhaps N Mongolia and occasionally Sweden & Germany. Winters Africa S of Sahara and Pakistan, India & Sri Lanka E to S China and irregularly to E China.


**Pied Harrier**

*Circus melanoleucos* [Pennant 1769, Sri Lanka].
S Siberia & Mongolia E to Amurland, Manchuria & N Korea and occasionally N Myanmar & Assam (NE India). Winters India & Sri Lanka E to S China, Borneo & Philippines.

Montagu's Harrier  
*Circus pygargus* [Linnaeus 1758, England].

NW Africa and S & C Europe E thru Caspian lowlands to Kazakhstan & upper R Yenisey. Winters sub-Saharan Africa and Indian subcontinent & Sri Lanka.  

Col. George Montagu (1753-1815), British Army, served in the war against the American Colonies and later retired to Devon where he devoted himself to the study of the local wildlife.

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Panuccio, M. & Agostini, N. 2006. Spring migration of Pallid (Circus macrourus) and Montagu’s Harriers (Circus pygargus) in relation to sex and age classes at two watchsites of the Central Mediterranean. Buteo 15: 3-10.