List of *Sylvia* Warblers 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 2014 to: josephobbs@gmail.com. Grateful thanks to Tom Shevlin (www.wildlifesnaps.com) for the cover images. All images © the photographer.

Joe Hobbs

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Relevant Publications

General Notes


**Blackcap**

*Sylvia atricapilla* [Linnaeus 1758, Sweden].


[S.a. heineken] S Iberia, NW Africa and Madeira & Canary Islands.

[S.a. gularis] Cape Verde Islands & the Azores.


Carbonell, R. & Tellería, J.L. 1998. Selección y uso del hábitat por cinco poblaciones ibéricas de Curruca Capirotada (Sylvia atricapilla) [Habitat use and selection of five Iberian Blackcap populations (Sylvia atricapilla)]. Ardeola 45(1): 1-10.


Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin [Boddaert 1783, France].
[S.b. woodwardi] C Poland, Balkans & Bulgaria E to the region of the upper R Yenisey (C Siberia).
Winters E & S Africa.


**Barred Warbler**

*Sylvia nisoria* [Bechstein 1792, central and northern Germany], [S.n. nisoria] C Europe N to S Scandinavia & S Finland E to S Ural Mts & R Ural and S to E Italy, Balkans, N Turkey & N Iran. Winters E Africa.


**Lesser Whitethroat**

*Sylvia curruca* [Linnaeus 1758, S Sweden].


The proposed forms blythi, caucasica & zagrossiensis are included with S.c. curruca.

The proposed form telengitica is included with S.c. halimodendri.


Dubois, P. 2005. Observation hivernale d'une Fauvette babillarde (Sylvia curruca) à Melsbroek (Brabant flamand, Belgique) [A winter record of a Lesser Whitethroat at Melsbroek (Vlaams Brabant, Belgium)]. Aves 42(4): 340-341.


Margelianic Lesser Whitethroat
Sylvia margelanica [Stolzmann 1897].
Mountain ranges from Qaidam Pendi (Qinghai, China) N to SW Gobi and W to Lop-Nor Salt Marshes (China). Winters Pakistan, NW India & Iran.
The proposed form chuancheica is included with S. margelanica.
Treated by del Hoyo et al 2006 as a form of Desert Lesser Whitethroat.


Desert Lesser Whitethroat
Sylvia minula [Hume 1873, Bahawalpur, India]. SE Kazakhstan & Turkmenistan E to Xinjiang (W China) and possibly E Iran & W Afghanistan. Winters Arabia E to NW India.
The proposed form jaxartica is included with S. minula.
Other name: Small Whitethroat, Desert Whitethroat.
Treated by del Hoyo et al 2006 to be polytypic with races minula & margelanica.


Mountain Lesser Whitethroat
The proposed form monticola is included with S. althaea.
Other name: Hume's Whitethroat.
Allan Octavian Hume (1829-1912), English theosophist, poet and writer on Indian birds who became known as the 'Father of Indian Ornithology'. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress.


Western Orphean Warbler

*Sylvia hortensis* [J.F. Gmelin 1789, France].

[S.h. hortensis] SW & S Europe E to Switzerland & Italy and SW Morocco E to Libya. Winters Senegal E to Niger & Chad.

[S.h. cyrenaicae] NE Libya.

In Greek mythology, Orpheus was the son of Oeagrus and the Muse Calliope, who was renowned as a musician, poet and prophet. Temminck had previously assigned *Sylvia orphea* to this species and Gould derived the vernacular name from this.

Bächler, E. & Liechti, F. 2007. On the importance of g(0) for estimating bird population densities with standard distance-sampling: implications from a telemetry study and a literature review. Ibis 149(4): 693-700.


Debussche, M. & Isenmann, P. 1983. La consommation des fruits chez quelques fauvettes méditerranéennes (*Sylvia melanoccephala*, *S. cantillans*, *S. hortensis* et *S. undata*) dans la région de Montpellier (France) [Fruits consumed by some Mediterranean warblers (Sardinian, Subalpine, Western Orphean and Dartford) around Montpellier]. Alauda 51(4): 302-308.


**Eastern Orphean Warbler**

*Sylvia crassirostris* [Cretzschmar 1830].

[SC.c. crassirostris] Slovenia E to Turkey, the Levant, NW Iran & W Azerbaijan. Winters mainly Sudan E to W Yemen.

[SC.c. balchanica] Iran & Transcaspia. Winters Oman, S Iran & Pakistan.

[SC.c. jerdoni] SC Asia. Winters India.


Other name: Jerdon’s Orphean Warbler (*jerdoni*).

Thomas Claverhill Jerdon (1811-1872), British physician, amateur botanist and wildlife author who published the Birds of India between 1862 and 1864. In Greek mythology, Orpheus was the son of Oeagrus and the Muse Calliope, who was renowned as a musician, poet and prophet. Temminck had previously assigned *Sylvia orphea* to this species and Gould derived the vernacular name from this.


Arabian Warbler
Sylvia leucomelaena [Hemprich and Ehrenberg 1833, C Midyan, Saudi Arabia].
[S.l. leucomelaena] Tabuk & Khaybar (NW Saudi Arabia) S to S Yemen and E to Dhofar (Oman).
[S.l. blanfordi] Gebel Elba (SE Egypt) S along the coast to SE Eritrea.
Other names: Red Sea Warbler, Blanford’s Warbler (somaliensis & blanfordi).
William Thomas Blanford (1832-1905), British geologist and ornithologist who was president of the Royal Geographical Society between 1888 and 1890.


Asian Desert Warbler
Sylvia nana [Hemprich and Ehrenberg 1833, El Tor, Sinai Peninsula, NE Egypt].
N & E Caspian Sea coasts, C & NE Iran E thru C Asian steppe to Mongolia. Winters Red Sea coast thru Sinai, S Israel, Arabia, Iran & Pakistan E to Rajasthan & Kutch (NW India).
The proposed form theresa is included with S. nana.
Treated by del Hoyo et al 2006 to be polytypic with races nana & deserti.


**African Desert Warbler**

*Sylvia deserti* [Loche 1858, Algerian Sahara].

Western Sahara E to W Libya.

Treated by del Hoyo et al 2006 as a race of *Sylvia nana*.


**Whitethroat**

*Sylvia communis* [Latham 1787, Kent, England].


[S.c. volgensis] SE European Russia E to SW Siberia & N Kazakhstan. Winter range not fully established.

[S.c. icterops] Turkey, the Levant, Caucasus, Transcaucasia & N Iran E to Turkmenistan. Winters E & S Africa.

[S.c. rubicola] Russian Altai S to SE Uzbekistan and E to N Mongolia & S Transbaikalia (all C Asian mountain regions). Winters E & S Africa.


**Dartford Warbler**

*Sylvia undata* [Boddaert 1783, Provence, France].

[S. u. undata] S France, Iberian peninsula, Menorca and locally in N Mallorca (Balearic Islands), Corsica, Sardinia, Scilly & Italy.

[S. u. ton] NE Morocco E to N Tunisia and possibly S Iberia. Winters S to the N edge of the Sahara.


Debussche, M. & Isenmann, P. 1983. La consommation des fruits chez quelques fauvettes méditerranéennes (*Sylvia melanocephala*, *S. cantillans*, *S. hortensis* et *S. undata*) dans la région de Montpellier (France) [Fruits consumed by some Mediterranean warblers (Sardinian, Subalpine, Western Orphean and Dartford) around Montpellier]. *Alauda* 51(4): 302-308.


Marmora's Warbler

Sylvia sarda [Temminck 1820, Sardinia, Italy].

Corsica & Sardinia and some islands in the Tuscan archipelago including Capraia, Elba, Pianosa (off W coast Italy) and probably islands off SW Sicily. Winters NE Algeria E to NW Libya. Alberto Ferrero Della Marmora (1789-1863), Italian naturalist who was also a general in the Napoleonic Wars and was personally decorated by Napoleon I.


Balearic Warbler

Sylvia balearica [von Jordans 1913, Dragonera, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain].

Balearic Islands except Menorca. Previously considered conspecific with Marmora's Warbler.


Tristram's Warbler

*Sylvia deserticola* [Tristram 1859, Sahara of southern Algeria].


[S.d. maroccana] Haut & Moyen Atlas from Jebel Igdet (Morocco) E to Tlemcen (NW Algeria). Winters S as far as Nouakchott (W Mauritania) in W Saharan oases.

[S.d. ticehursti] This form is known from the type specimen only, which was collected at Ouarzazate (S Morocco). Possibly an extinct race of Tristram's Warbler or an aberrant instance of *S.d. maroccana* or a hybrid x with African Desert Warbler.

Other name: Meinertzhagen's Warbler (*ticehursti*).


Spectacled Warbler

*Sylvia conspicillata* [Temminck 1820, Sardinia, Italy].

[S.c. conspicillata] Iberia E to Italy including Sicily and NW Africa S to WC Mauritania and Cyprus & S Turkey and scattered populations in The Levant. Winters mainly NW Africa, N Egypt & E Mediterranean.

[S.c. orbitalis] Madeira, Canary Islands & Cape Verde Islands. Mainly resident but some dispersal from Canary Islands to NW Africa.


Subalpine Warblers

Western Subalpine Warbler


Eastern Subalpine Warbler


Clamens, A. 1993. L’habitat de la Fauvette passerinette *Sylvia cantillans* en Andorre (Pyrénées); influence du changement des activités humaines. [The habitat of Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* in Andorra (Pyrenees); changes influenced by human activities]. *Alauda* 61(2): 100-104.


Debussche, M. & Isenmann, P. 1983. La consommation des fruits chez quelques fauvettes méditerranéennes (*Sylvia melanocephala, S. cantillans, S. hortensis* et *S. undata*) dans la région de Montpellier (France) [Fruits consumed by some Mediterranean warblers (Sardinian, Subalpine, Western Orphee and Dartford) around Montpellier]. *Alauda* 51(4): 302-308.


Moltoni's Warbler

*Sylvia subalpina* [Temminck 1820].

Balearic Islands, Corsica, Sardinia, some islands in the Tuscan archipelago, N & C Italy and possibly SE France. Winters W Sahel.

Species initially designated as *Sylvia moltonii* Orlando 1937, only later emerging that *Sylvia subalpina* took precedence (Baccetti et al 2007).

Professor Dr. Edgardo Moltoni (1896-1980), eminent Italian ornithologist who was director of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Milano (Natural History Museum, Milan).


Sardinian Warbler

*Sylvia melanocephala* [J.F. Gmelin 1789, Sardinia, Italy].


[S.m. valverdei] Tiznit (S Morocco) S to C Western Sahara (Tropic of Cancer) and E to the edge of the Sahara.

[S.m. momus] The Levant. Winters S to N Sudan with some altitudinal movement also.

[S.m. norrisae] Formerly Fayyum (Egypt). Extinct since about 1940. The extinct form *orrisae* was possibly only a localised morph of *S.m. momus*.

The proposed form *leucogastra* is included with *S.m. melanocephala*.

Other name: Fayyum Warbler (*orrisae*).


Debussche, M. & Isenmann, P. 1983. La consommation des fruits chez quelques fauves méditerranéennes (Sylvia melanocephala, S. cantillans, S. hortensis et S. undata) dans la région de Montpellier (France) [Fruits consumed by some Mediterranean warblers (Sardinian, Subalpine, Western Orphee and Dartford) around Montpellier]. Alauda 51(4): 302-308.


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**Menetries's Warbler**

*Sylvia mystacea* [Ménétries 1832, Sal’yana, lower Kura River, Azerbaijan].

[S.m. mystacea] Transcaucasia & W Caspian Sea and NE Turkey, N Iran E to SW Turkmenistan. Winters Sudan, Somalia, Arabia & S Iran.

[S.m. turcmenica] Turkmenistan & E Iran E to Baluchistan & Tajikistan and N to Aral Sea. Winters Sudan, Somalia, Arabia & S Iran.

[S.m. rubescens] SE Turkey E thru Iraq to SW Iran. Winters Sudan, Somalia, Arabia & S Iran.

Edouard P. Ménétries (1802-1861), French zoologist who was an authority on Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. He collected in Brazil and Russia and later became Conservator of Collections at the Russia Academy of Sciences.

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**Rüppell's Warbler**

*Sylvia rueppelli* [Temminck 1823, Iraklion, N Crete, Greece].

S Greece, Crete, islands in the Aegean Sea, W & S Turkey & NW Syria. Winters Sahel region of Chad & Sudan.

Wilhelm Peter Eduard Simon Rüppell (1794-1884), German collector who travelled extensively in northern and eastern Africa.


Cyprus Warbler  
*Sylvia melanothorax* [Tristram 1872, En Gedi, Dead Sea, Palestine].

Cyprus. Winters Dead Sea & NE Egypt S & E thru Arava depression & NW Saudi Arabia and S to NE Sudan.


Yemen Warbler  
*Sylvia buryi* [Ogilvie-Grant 1913, Manakhah (at 7000 ft.), Yemen].

Asir Mts (SW Saudi Arabia) & W Yemen.

Treated as *Parisoma buryi* by some.

Other names: Arabian Warbler, Arabian Tit-babbler, Arabian Tit-warbler, Yemen Parisoma, Yemen Tit-warbler.


**Brown Warbler**

*Sylvia lugens* [Rüppell 1840, Simien Province, Ethiopia].

[S.l. lugenis] Ethiopian plateaux (except the Bale Mts).


[S.l. jacksoni] Sudan, Dindinga & Imatong Mts (Uganda), Kenya, N Tanzania, Marungu Highlands (DR Congo) & Malawi.

[S.l. clara] Matengo Highlands (Malawi).

[S.l. prigoginei] Itombwe Highlands (DR Congo).

Treated as *Parisoma lugens* by some.


**Banded Warbler**

*Sylvia boehmi* [Reichenow 1882, Seke, Ugogo, Tanzania].


Treated as *Parisoma boehmi* by some.

Other names: Banded Parisoma, Banded Sylvia, Banded Tit-babbler, Banded Tit-flycatcher, Banded Tit-warbler.


**Chestnut-vented Warbler**

*Sylvia subcaeruleum* [Vieillot 1817, Gourits River, Western Cape, South Africa].

[S.s. subcaeruleum] W South Africa E to SW Free State & Eastern Cape.

[S.s. cinerascens] Namibia & Botswana.

[S.s. ansorgei] Angola.


Treated by del Hoyo *et al* 2006 as *Sylvia subcaerulea*.

Treated as *Parisoma subcaeruleum* by some.

Other names: Cape Warbler, Cape Tit-babbler, Cape Tit-warbler, Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler, Rufous-vented Warbler, Southern Warbler, Southern Tit-warbler, Tit Babbler.


**Layarad’s Warbler**

*Sylvia layardi* [Hartlaub 1862, Malmesbury, Western Cape, South Africa].

[S.L. layardi] SW Cape Province N to Port Nolloth (South Africa).

[S.L. aridicola] NW Cape N to Namibia and E to Orange Free State & W Transvaal (South Africa).

[S.L. barnesi] Lesotho.

[S.L. subsolanum] E Cape Province (South Africa).

Treated as *Parisoma layardi* by some.

Other names: Layard’s Tit-babbler, Layard’s Tit-flycatcher, Layard’s Tit-warbler.

**Edgar Leopold Layard** (1824-1900), Italian born British civil servant and ornithologist who served in South Africa. He was the author of the first complete book on South African birds.
