

taxon, sex and specimen no.	wing	outer-most primary (p10)	p9	p8	p7
<i>shanensis</i>					
m (type)BM	53.0	+ 6.0	broken	- 0.5	WP
m USNM 535427	52.8	+ 8.0	- 7.0	n.r.	n.r.
m DSM 525	51.0	+ 5.0	- 8.0 (p2)	WP	WP
m USNM 330868	51.5	broken/not grown	n.r.	n.r.	n.r.
m DSM 509	52.0	+ 4.0	- 7.0 (p3/4)	(=p7)	WP
f BM 1949.WH1.1.13132	50.0	+ 6.0	- 5.0 (p5)	WP	(-0.5)
u/s USNM 535426	50.8	+ 7.0	- 7.0	n.r.	n.r.
u/s ACW 35	50.0	+ 5.0	- 6.5 (p3/4)	- 0.5	WP
<i>davidi</i>					
m(type)					
MCZ 129130	53.0	+ 8.0	n.r.	n.r.	n.r.
m ZIAS unnumbered	56.7	+ 5.4	- 7.2 (p3/4)	- 0.5	WP
m ZIAS					
100513/717-928	51.3	+ 5.4	broken	(=p7)	WP
m ZIAS					
168142/225-984	51.2	+ 5.9	- 7.4 (p3/4)	- 0.6	WP
f ZIAS					
100514/717-928	55.1	+ 5.8	- 6.8 (p4)	(=p7)	WP
f(juv)ZIAS 100521	51.2	+ 5.6	- 6.6 (p4)	- 0.7	WP
f MCZ 129131	51.0	+ 6.0	n.r.	n.r.	n.r.
u/s ZIAS					
168143/225-984	53.8	+ 6.1	- 6.9 (p3/4)	- 0.2	WP
<i>suschkini</i>					
m (type) ZIAS					
119568/466-960	54.1	+ 3.8	- 7.1 (p3/4)	(=p7)	WP
m ZIAS 100519	54.9	+ 4.4	abnormal/under-grown		WP
m ZIAS 100517/20-929	53.4	+ 4.3	- 7.4 (p3/4)	- 0.3	WP
f ZIAS 100518	51.4	+ 5.8	- 6.4 (p3)	- 0.4	WP
f ZIAS 100516/20-929	50.3	+ 7.2	- 5.3 (p5/4)	(=p7)	WP
u/s (juv)					
ZIAS 100526/6-927	50.7	+ 6.1	- 6.2 (p3)	- 0.8	WP

m = male; f = female; u = unsexed. Primaries numbered descendantly; ss indicates tip of 9th primary falls opposite tips of secondaries; p3/4 indicates tip of 9th primary falls between 3rd and 4th primaries, etc. WP = wing-point; n.r. = not recorded. Specimens in ZIAS measured by VL; those in MCZ by R.A. Paynter, Jr. and those in USNM by B. Beehler. All others by PDR.

Sightings of two rare raptors, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina* and Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*, in Pakistan

WILLIAM S. CLARK and ALEEM AHMED KHAN

Roberts (1991) reported only a single sight record in Pakistan for Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*, and an unconfirmed sight record for Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*. Thus it was with great interest that we saw and identified an individual of each species during January 1993. Clark later sighted another Lesser Spotted Eagle at Rawal Lake, the location of the original sight record. In addition, three Lesser Spotted Eagle specimens that were taken in Pakistan during the last century were examined in the Museum of Natural History at Tring, U.K.

The sightings were made during field trips conducted as part of a raptor field identification course being taught by the senior author.

A Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen at the Chashma barrage on the Indus River on 22 January 1993. It was seen first in the morning perched atop a 6 m high tree on a long narrow man-made spit or spur that extends into the lake behind and just west of the barrage. The eagle flushed as we approached and flew around us and landed in another tree behind our vehicle. We turned around and approached it slowly until we could see it clearly in the telescope. It was the dark brown colour typical of *Aquila* eagles. In flight it showed whitish patches at the base of the primaries on the upperwings, whitish uppertail-coverts, and a small white spot in the middle of its back. Its upperwing-coverts were a paler brown and contrasted with the darker brown back and flight feathers. While gliding, its wings were held bowed, with the wrists held above the body and the wingtips pointed downward. All of these are characters of Steppe Eagles *Aquila nipalensis* in their third summer plumage. We were unable to see the underwing. It flushed as we approached it closer and flew away across the lake.

We studied various guides, as we were not completely satisfied with the tentative identification as Steppe Eagle. We noted from Porter *et al.* (1981) that Lesser Spotted Eagle can also show the white mid-back patch but, since Tawny Eagle *A. rapax* was not covered in this guide, we did not know whether that species could show such a feature. We decided to return and look at the eagle again, concentrating on leg feathering, underwing pattern, and nostril shape.

Luckily, when we returned, it was perched again on the peninsula atop another tree. Over the next half-hour we observed it from a distance through a telescope. The stovepipe legs and rather narrow beak were observed, but

the nostril shape could not be determined. After we approached near enough to flush it, the underwing pattern was seen clearly as it flew around us. The pale brown underwing coverts and darker flight feathers it showed were typical of the Lesser Spotted Eagle. Both Tawny and Steppe Eagles were eliminated from consideration by observed characters; both would show longer leg feathers and different underwing patterns. Tawny would show darker secondaries that contrast with paler inner primaries, and Steppe would show paler secondaries with a dark subterminal band, as well as whitish streaks on the greater underwing coverts (shown in figs. 31 and 32 in Porter *et al.* 1981). Greater Spotted Eagle *A. clanga* was considered and rejected because it is almost always overall a darker brown and has a noticeably larger head with shaggy nape feathers; features lacking on the eagle in question. Khan has several colour photographs showing this bird in flight at a distance.

The senior author is extremely familiar with Lesser Spotted Eagles of the race *hastata* from many sightings in India; and also of the nominate race from more than five years of field work in Israel, including handling live eagles.

The only previous sight record of the Lesser Spotted Eagle in Pakistan was one seen on 3 March 1988 at Rawal Lake near Islamabad by Hirschfeld *et al.* (1988). Clark visited this lake on 27 January 1993 and observed a bird of this species soaring around over the lake. It was identified by its wing shape and underwing pattern; identity was later confirmed by distant colour photographs. At the same time there were several Steppe Eagles and many Black Kites *Milvus migrans* soaring also. The Lesser Spotted was not seen close to the Steppe Eagles but was seen with Black Kites. It appeared somewhat bigger than them, but not as much larger as did the soaring Steppes, when compared later to nearby Black Kites.

Clark found three specimens of Lesser Spotted Eagle in the Museum of Natural History, Tring (Nos. 85.8.19.1192; 85.8.19.1193; 85.8.19.1194) that had been collected in Pakistan. All had been taken by W. H. Unwin in May 1870 in the Agro valley of North West Frontier Province; two were labelled as adult male and adult female, presumably a mated pair.

An adult female **Pied Harrier** was observed in flight for approximately 5 min on 24 January 1993, approximately 50 km west of Dera Ismail Khan. It was first seen harassing a Western Marsh-Harrier *C. aeruginosus*, compared to which it was somewhat smaller. We noted that its uppersides were brownish-grey with a noticeable white patch on the uppertail-coverts and that its underwings were very whitish with faint dark markings, lacking wide black markings on the wingtips. Its underbody was whitish with dark markings on the breast, but its belly was rather unmarked. The wingtips were rounded, quite unlike the pointed appearance of those of Pallid Harriers *Circus macrourus* and Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus*. The above characters eliminate all age and sex classes of the other five species of harriers that occur in the Indian subcontinent and fit exactly the adult

female of this species. We have several colour photographs showing this bird in flight at a distance.

The senior author is familiar with Pied Harriers from repeated sightings during autumn migration at Beidaihe, China and a small number of sightings in India and Nepal.

There are two previous records for the Pied Harrier in Pakistan: a male at Lahore on 27 December 1973 (Vittery 1993), and an adult male seen in December 1985 and January 1986 at Uchchali lake in the Salt Range (Roberts 1991).

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Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*: a new species for India

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On 28 December 1993 I noticed a small grebe swimming on the Kosi River near Ramnagar in Uttar Pradesh, northern India.

The bird was easily identified as a winter-plumaged Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus* by its small size, flat crown, black cap sharply demarcated from the white cheeks, pale lores, and its stubby, pale-tipped bill.

Subsequently it was also observed by D. van den Schoor and photographed by G. Bellens and R. van der Elst (*O.B.C. Bull.* 19: 66).

This constitutes the first record of Horned Grebe for India and only the fourth or fifth for the Indian subcontinent. The other records were all in Pakistan: one (unconfirmed) on Zangi Nawar lake, Baluchistan on 17