

Palearctic – boundary definition used by AviList

In the Atlantic Ocean includes all seas and all island groups north of the Tropic of Cancer [23.4°] and east of longitude 30°; Iceland, the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands and the Banc d'Arguin off Mauritania. In the Arctic Ocean, all islands, from Jan Mayen in the west, Bear Island, Svalbard, all Siberian islands, to Wrangel Island in the east.

The western boundary runs in the middle of the Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland up to the 90th parallel. The eastern boundary, towards the Nearctic, runs in the Bering Strait. The Commander Islands are included. Big Diomed Island is included (Russia) while Little Diomed Island is not included (USA). Saint Lawrence Island, the Pribilof Islands and the Aleutian Islands are also not included, they belong to the USA.

The Pacific Ocean includes all Japanese islands except the Ryukyu Islands (or Nansei Islands). The Daito Islands, the Volcanic Islands (Kazan-rettō) and the Ogasawara Islands (formerly the Bonin Islands) are included. They are all north of the Tropic of Cancer. Taiwan is not included. Two remote Japanese Pacific islands are also not included; Okinotorishima and Minamitorishima.

The southern boundary runs across Africa approximately along the 21st parallel, from Cap Blanc (Ras Nouadhibou) in Western Sahara to the Red Sea, including all of Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. So it does not follow the old Western Palearctic boundary according to e.g. Cramp, which included the Aïr, Tibesti and Ennedi mountain ranges. Instead, the land borders are now followed entirely. So no part of Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad or Sudan is included. The entire Arabian Peninsula is included, including the islands along the coasts of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman. But the tropical island of Socotra is not included.

Then the following countries to the east are included in the Palearctic: Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, North Korea and South Korea. In the case of China, all of China north of the province of Yunnan is included, that is, all of Tibet and Sichuan and in the three provinces of Hubei, Anhui and Jiangsu the parts that lie north of the Yangtze River.

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