

## **Apus unicolor -- (Jardine, 1830)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CAPRIMULGIFORMES -- APODIDAE

**Common names:** Plain Swift; Martinet unicolore; Plain-coloured Swift

### European Red List Assessment

#### European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

#### Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

#### Assessment Rationale

**European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

At both European and EU27 scales, although this species may have a small range it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend is not known, but the population is not believed to be decreasing sufficiently rapidly to approach the thresholds under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations).

For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern within both Europe and the EU27.

### Occurrence

#### Countries/Territories of Occurrence

**Native:**

Portugal; Spain

### Population

The European population is estimated at 7,500-20,000 pairs, which equates to 15,000-40,000 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### Habitats and Ecology

The species uses sea cliffs and is never found very far from the sea. It occurs over all habitats in Canaries from sea-level to 2,500 m; especially common in deep coastal gulleys. On Madeira it occurs from sea-level to the highest summit, Pico Ruivo, breeding on rocky islets. It breeds between March and August and lays two eggs. It nests in a variety of natural sites, such as caves and cliffs, where suitable rock niches occur, or under tiles or in holes in man-made structures. The saucer-shaped nest is constructed largely from downy seed cases with other plant matter or man-made items less frequently incorporated, agglutinated with saliva with occasional feathers adhered to surface. It feeds on insects. Numbers are reduced in winter on the Canary Islands; migrants probably winter mainly in north-west Africa, as there are winter records from Mauritania and northern Morocco for the species there (Chantler and Boesman 2014).

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Caves and Subterranean Habitats (non-aquatic) - Caves	suitable	breeding
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	suitable	breeding
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	suitable	breeding

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry		suitable	breeding
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands		major	breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands		major	non-breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 2500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

### **Threats**

There are currently no known threats to this species.

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>		
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses

### **Conservation**

#### **Conservation Actions Underway**

Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

#### **Conservation Actions Proposed**

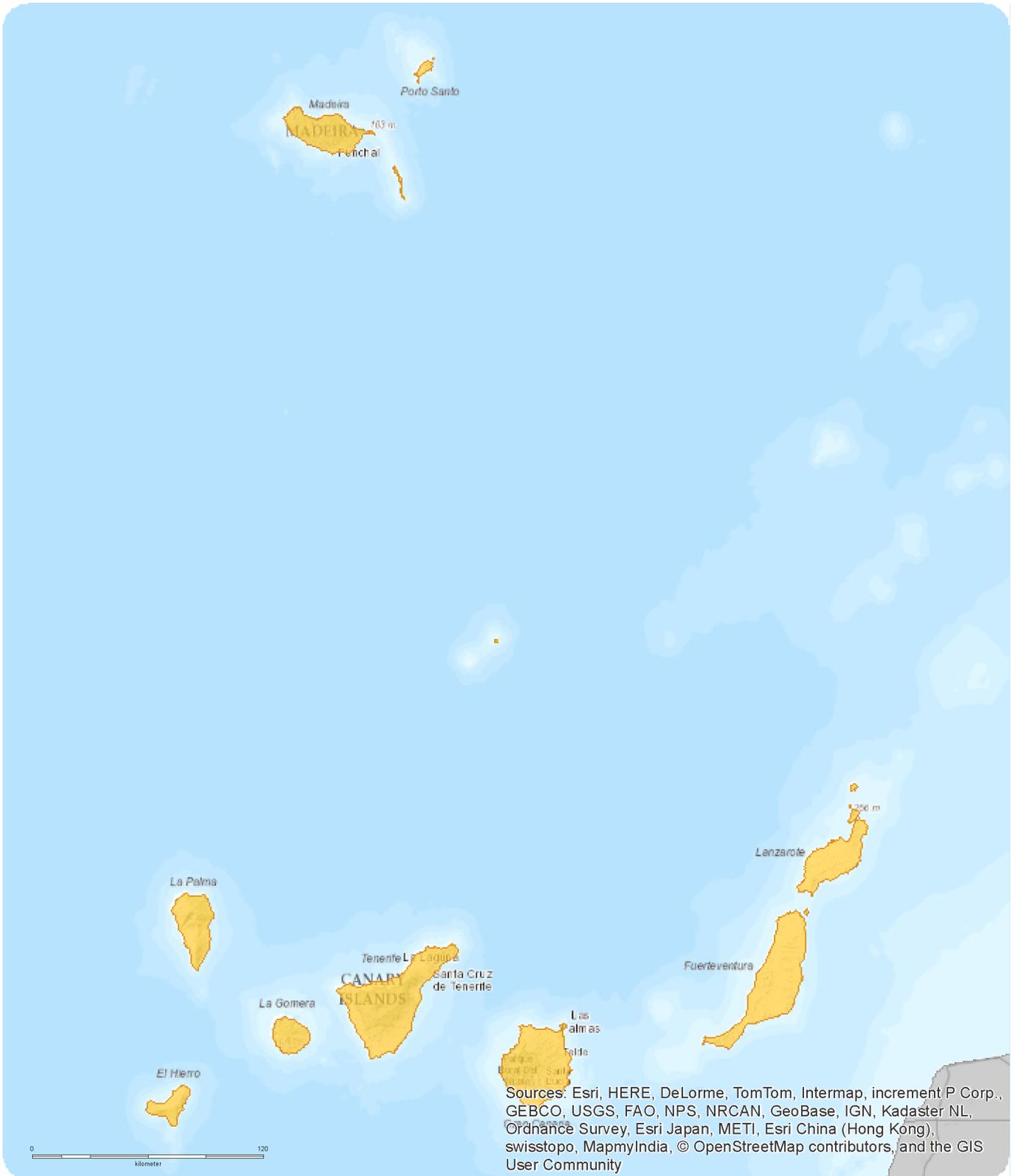
No conservation measures are currently required for this species.

### **Bibliography**

Chantler, P. and Boesman, P. 2014. Plain Swift (*Apus unicolor*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/55329> on 23 December 2014).

### **Map (see overleaf)**

# European Regional Assessment

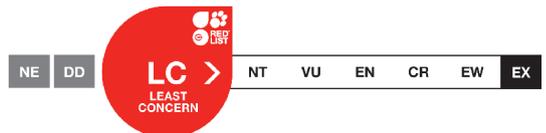


## *Apus unicolor*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

Citation:  
BirdLife International (2015)  
European Red List of Birds



Map created 05/12/2015

