Apus affinis -- (Gray, 1830)

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

Common names: Little Swift; House Swift; Martinet des maisons

European Red List Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Red List Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VU -- Vulnerable, (IUCN version 3.1)</td>
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</table>

Assessment Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year published:</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date assessed:</td>
<td>2015-03-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor(s):</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer(s):</td>
<td>Symes, A.</td>
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<td>Compiler(s):</td>
<td>Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. &amp; Wright, L.</td>
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)
EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU°°)

In Europe this species has a small, declining population and is therefore classified as Vulnerable. Within the EU27 it is a recent colonist; the population is currently extremely small (meeting the threshold for classification as Critically Endangered) but the final category is adjusted to Vulnerable given the potential to spread and increase further.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:
Spain; Turkey

Origin Uncertain:
Azerbaijan

Vagrant:
Bulgaria; Greece; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Malta; Portugal; Sweden; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 900-2,500 pairs, which equates to 1,800-5,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at at least one pair, which equates to two mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by at least 10% in 37.5 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habits and Ecology

This species occurs over a wide range of habitats and latitudes, though less frequently in truly arid regions, and usually close to human habitation (Chantler and Boesman 2013). In Europe it breeds in Turkey (Snow and Perrins 1998). In Turkey nesting occurs from April to September (Kirwan et al. 2013). It typically nests on man-made structures in the angle between the roof and wall; eviction by House Sparrows (Passer domesticus) has been recorded (Chantler and Boesman 2013). Cliff sites and abandoned swallow (Hirundo) nests can be employed and forcible eviction noted (Chantler and Boesman 2013). The nest is a sturdy, untidy, yet internally neat and smooth, hemispherical 'bag' of vegetable matter, mainly grass, down and small twigs, with feathers, agglutinated with saliva; built in dense, often overlapping clusters with up to three entrances, sometimes communal (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It needs a perch to cling to while building (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It feeds on invertebrates, foraging as far as 15–20 km from the nest site on occasions (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It is migratory and only present in Turkey from March to September (Chantler and Boesman 2013).
### Habitats & Altitude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shubby Vegetation</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>max. 3000 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

Dam construction leading to habitat loss may lead to the decrease of populations in Turkey (Kiziroglu 2008) and large declines (50%) (BirdLife International 2004).

### Threats & Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural system modifications</td>
<td>Dams (size unknown)</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing Scope: Whole (&gt;90%) Severity: Rapid Declines Impact: High Impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stresses**

Species mortality

### Conservation

**Conservation Actions Underway**

There are currently no conservation measures known to be in place for this species.

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

Protection of important sites including legislation to protect them from development. Research into the species's ecology and habitat needs. Assess potential threats and develop appropriate responses.

### Bibliography


Map (see overleaf)
Apus affinis

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/13/2015