Surnia ulula -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- STRIGIFORMES -- STRIGIDAE

Common names: Northern Hawk-owl; Hawk Owl

### European Red List Assessment

**European Red List Status**

| LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1) |

### Assessment Information

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

### Assessment Rationale

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

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

In Europe the range size has not been quantified, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population size may be moderately small to large, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (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 in Europe.

Within the EU27 the range size has not been quantified, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population size may be small, but it is not believed to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be increasing, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

### Occurrence

**Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**

Estonia; Finland; Latvia; Norway; Russian Federation; Sweden

**Vagrant:**

Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); France; Germany; Hungary; Luxembourg; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

### Population

The European population is estimated at 10,400-53,900 pairs, which equates to 20,800-108,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,400-18,900 pairs, which equates to 2,800-37,800 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

### Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

### Habitats and Ecology
This species occupies forest tundra and boreal taiga as far as tree-line and ranging south to edge of forest steppe and cultivated land. It needs access to clearings, burnt areas, open peatland or muskeg, dry eminences or ridges, and sparse woodland, including birch, aspen and mixed woods. It breeds from March to September and nests in cavities, holes in trees, tops of stumps, nestboxes and occasionally in the old nests of raptors or crows. Clutches are six to ten eggs (Holt et al. 2013). It feeds on small mammals, especially voles and small birds, hunting from an open perch, dropping or gliding on them (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is dispersive and irruptive (Holt et al. 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 - Arable Land</td>
<td>marginal</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Boreal</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>non-breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Tundra</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubland - Boreal</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>max. 1000 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

The species is dependent on rodent populations and numbers fluctuate with the abundance of small rodents. In Finland, the population has declined since 19th century, as a result of disappearance of hollow trees and through human persecution (Holt et al. 2013).

### 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>Agriculture &amp; aquaculture</td>
<td>Agro-industry plantations</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing Scope: Minority (&lt;50%) Severity: Slow, Significant Declines Impact: Low Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological resource use</td>
<td>Gathering terrestrial plants (persecution/control)</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing Scope: Minority (&lt;50%) Severity: Slow, Significant Declines Impact: Low Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive and other problematic species, genes &amp; diseases</td>
<td>Unspecified rodents (RODENTIA)</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing Scope: Majority (50-90%) Severity: Causing/Could cause fluctuations Impact: Medium Impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. There are no known conservation measures currently in place for this species.

### Conservation Actions Proposed
The conservation of dead trees which can be used as nesting sites is important to ensure the stability of this species locally.

Bibliography


Map (see overleaf)