

## **Calidris bairdii -- (Coues, 1861)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- SCOLOPACIDAE

**Common names:** Baird's Sandpiper; Bécasseau de Baird

### 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., Van den Bossche, W., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L. |

#### Assessment Rationale

**European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC<sup>o</sup>)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)**

This species has a large breeding range across Arctic North America, extending into Europe only in western-most Greenland. The population size within the region is small and the population trend is unknown, but there is no evidence of a decline. The species therefore meets the thresholds for classification as Near Threatened but given the large, apparently stable neighbouring population there is significant potential for rescue from outside the region and the final category is downlisted by one category to Least Concern (LC<sup>o</sup>).

The species does not occur within the EU27 and it is Not Applicable for the region.

### Occurrence

#### Countries/Territories of Occurrence

##### **Native:**

Greenland (to DK)

##### **Vagrant:**

Austria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom

### Population

The European population is estimated at 500-1,000 pairs, which equates to 1,000-2,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### Trend

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

### Habitats and Ecology

This species is fully migratory. Many migrate inland, across North American prairies, to the Rockies and northern Andes, often staging at high altitude lakes. Adults depart on autumn migration early July, females slightly preceding males. Juveniles migrate later from the breeding grounds, from late July, in more leisurely fashion, and over a broader front. Northwards migration occurs largely along the same route. It is a vagrant to several European countries, especially Britain and Ireland, and also to Turkey, the Azores, Madeira, Canary and Cape Verde Islands. The species breeds on low mountain tops, river terraces and coastal barren areas and bluffs in high Arctic tundra; dry, high-lying lichen tundra and stony ridges. On migration and in winter the species occurs at inland wetlands to coastal habitats, including grassland, ditches, irrigated or rain-soaked fields, pools in desert, sand dunes; occasionally in upper littoral zone of estuaries, mudflats and beaches; usually on higher parts of the shore or dry fringes of wetland sites, often among vegetation. During the breeding season the diet consists mainly of insects, such as chironomid and crane fly larvae and adults, and beetles; also spiders. On migration, the species feeds on adult and larval beetles, larval Diptera. It is less gregarious than most other calidrids; in winter it can be found in flocks of 20–30 birds; some individuals

defend feeding territory. Eggs are laid in June. Monogamous. Nest is relatively exposed; simple, shallow depression in bare ground, or amongst short vegetation, filled with bits of lichens or other vegetation (Van Gils et al. 2015).

| <b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>   |             |                               |              |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2)  |             | Importance                    | Occurrence   |
| Artificial/Aquatic - Irrigated Land (includes irrigation channels)       |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded                  |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Grassland - Tundra   |             | suitable                      | breeding     |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes                     |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats                             |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Marine Intertidal - Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)                      |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)                          |             | suitable                      | breeding     |
| Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands               |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under ha)        |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes         |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Altitude   | 2500-4700 m | Occasional altitudinal limits |              |

### Threats

The species may be vulnerable to climate change, driving a mismatch between breeding and peak crane fly abundance (Green and Pearce-Higgins 2014).

| <b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>                      |                               |                     |              |          |         |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Threat (level 1)                                  | Threat (level 2)              | Impact and Stresses |              |          |         |
| Climate change & severe weather                   | Habitat shifting & alteration | Timing              | Scope        | Severity | Impact  |
|   |                               | Future              | Whole (>90%) | Unknown  | Unknown |
|   |                               | Stresses            |              |          |         |
| Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects |                               |                     |              |          |         |

### Conservation

#### Conservation Actions Underway

The species is not listed on priority lists of the Conventions.

#### Conservation Actions Proposed

No conservation measures are thought to be currently needed for this species.

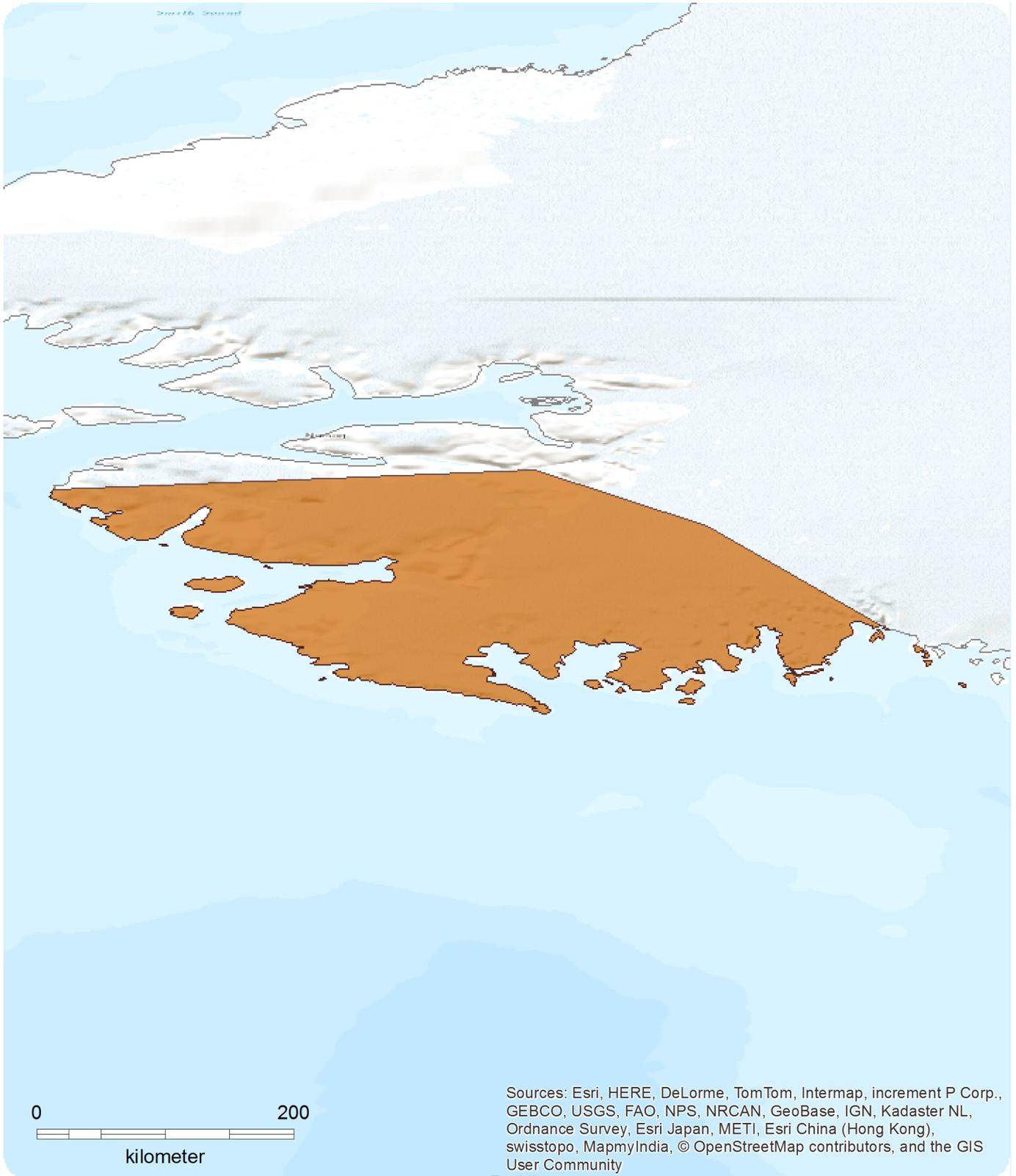
### Bibliography

Green, R.E. and Pearce-Higgins, J.W. 2014. *Birds and climate change: Impacts and conservation responses*. Cambridge University Press.

Van Gils, J., Wiersma, P. and Kirwan, G.M. 2015. Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2015. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/53932> on 15 April 2015).

### Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Calidris bairdii*

### Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/14/2015



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.