Stercorarius parasiticus -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- STERCORARIIDAE

Common names: Arctic Jaeger; Arctic Skua; Labbe parasite

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., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU27 regional assessment: Endangered (EN)

In Europe this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence <20,000 km^2 combined with a declining or fluctuating range size, habitat extent/quality, or population size and a small number of locations or severe fragmentation). The population size is very large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<10,000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >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.

In the EU27 the species is undergoing very rapid declines, and it is therefore classified as Endangered, and there is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the EU27, so the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Georgia; Latvia; Luxembourg; Malta; Montenegro; Serbia; Slovenia

Population

The European population is estimated at 39,900-56,200 pairs, which equates to 79,800-112,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 3,000-3,300 pairs, which equates to 6,000-6,600 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 decreasing by 50-70% in 40.5 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

This species is marine and predominately coastal but will migrate over land. It breeds on tundra, moorland or grassland. Breeding begins in May or June, occurring later in the north than the south. It is either colonial at seabird sites or widely scattered across the tundra where it is territorial. The nest is an unlined scrape and is

inconspicuous. Clutches are normally two eggs, but inexperienced birds may only lay one. Most or all of its food will be obtained by kleptoparasitism when nesting near other seabird colonies, otherwise its diet can include microtine rodents, adult and fledgling passerines, wader chicks, birds' eggs, insects and berries. The species is mainly a transequatorial migrant, with very small numbers wintering in Northern Hemisphere (Furness 1996).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Tundra		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	non-breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 700 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Human persecution is a very local problem in Scotland, Faeroes, Iceland and Scandinavia. Increasing numbers of Catharacta skua have displaced some colonies in Scotland. Arctic fox (Alopex lagopus) is a major predator of eggs and chicks at higher latitudes, and Snowy Owls (Nyctea scandiaca) can also take many chicks (Furness 1996). In some areas the species is also threatened by wind energy production (Furness et al. 2013), fisheries (Furness 2002) and rising temperature extremes (Furness 2007).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Species disturbance			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Arctic Fox (Vulpes lagopus)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Great Skua (Catharacta skua)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes &	Snowy Owl (Bubo scandiacus)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	White-tailed Sea-eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

There are currently no known significant conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

As the populations in Russia are poorly monitored and population estimates are very approximate (Furness 1996) better monitoring is required.

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)

Stercorarius parasiticus

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015