

***Stercorarius longicaudus* -- Vieillot, 1819**

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

Common names: Long-tailed Jaeger; Labbe à longue queue; Long-tailed Skua

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.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has a very large range, and hence does not 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 appears to be fluctuating, 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 Europe.

Within the EU27, although this species may have a restricted 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 appears to be stable, 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:

Austria; Belgium; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Finland; France; Hungary; Iceland; Italy; Latvia; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Germany; Greece; Ireland, Rep. of; Malta; Montenegro; Portugal; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Turkey

Population

The European population is estimated at 19,800-53,000 pairs, which equates to 39,700-106,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 8,700-22,000 pairs, which equates to 17,400-44,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be fluctuating. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is marine and highly pelagic, rarely occurring within sight of land except when breeding. It feeds mainly on lemmings during the summer but will also take shrews, many insects, berries and small birds when microtines are scarce. Its winter diet is largely unknown, but probably includes marine insects and fish with some scavenging and kleptoparasitism. Breeding begins in June with birds widely scattered over the Arctic and subarctic or montane tundra, up to 1,300 m in Scandinavia. It is highly territorial. The nest is an unlined, inconspicuous scrape into which two eggs are typically laid. It is a transequatorial migrant but due to its

pelagic nature its migration routes and winter distribution are poorly known (Furness *et al.* 2013).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Tundra	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Pelagic	major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Oceanic - Epipelagic (m)	suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 1300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

This species suffers heavy predation of eggs and young from Arctic fox (*Alopex lagopus*). Its breeding success is closely linked with lemming abundance (Furness *et al.* 2013) and thus is threatened by possible disruption to lemming cycles caused by climate change. This may already be a threat as recent anomalies in lemming cycle dynamics in eastern Greenland have already been observed (Gilg *et al.* 2009).

Threats & Impacts					
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					
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Arctic Fox (<i>Vulpes lagopus</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
Species mortality					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species has been the subject of a recent satellite tagging study, aimed at finding out more about its movements outside the breeding season (Gilg *et al.* 2013).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitoring to more accurately determine the population of this species is needed. Further research in the requirements and movements of this species would help inform future conservation measures.

Bibliography

- Furness, R.W., Bonan, A. and de Juana, E. 2013. Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2013. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/53960> on 19 March 2015).
- Gilg, O., Sittler, B. and Hanski, I. 2009. Climate change and cyclic predator-prey population dynamics in the high Arctic. *Global Change Biology*, 15: 2634-2652.
- Gilg, O., Moe, B., Hanssen, S.A., Schmidt, N.M., Sittler, B., Hansen, J., Reneerkens, J., Sabard, B., Chastel, O., Moreau, J., Phillips, R.A., Oudman, T., Biersma, E.M., Fenstad, A.A., Lang, J. and Bollache, L. 2013. Trans-equatorial migration routes, staging sites and wintering areas of a high-Arctic avian predator: the long-tailed skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*). *PloS one*, 8(5), e64614.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Stercorarius longicaudus

NE DD **LC** > NT VU EN CR EW EX
LEAST CONCERN

Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

