Larus armenicus -- Buturlin, 1934

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- LARIDAE

Common names: Armenian Gull;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
NT -- Near Threatened, (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: Near Threatened (NT)
EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

This species has a restricted breeding range within Europe and has apparently undergone a recent decline. It is therefore classified as Near Threatened.

The bird is a scarce or irregular winter visitor and passage migrant in Cyprus, and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for the EU27 region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Armenia; Cyprus; Georgia; Turkey

Vagrant:

Greece

Population

The European population is estimated at 19,000-29,000 pairs, which equates to 38,000-58,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF
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Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be suffering a continuous decline. The magnitude of the decline is difficult to assess owing to movements of breeding colonies, which may partly explain the rapid decline in Turkey during 2008-2012. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

Most of this species undergoes short-distance migratory movements on a narrow front (along the rivers and deltas of Turkey) between separate breeding and wintering grounds. It winters across the south-eastern Mediterranean Sea (Burger and Gochfeld 1996). It inhabits both inland and coastal waters, but breeding is restricted to mountain lakes, using reedbeds, beaches, and agricultural fields. The diet of this species is little known, but may consist primarily of fish as well as terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and rodents (Burger and Gochfeld 1996, Adamian and Klem Jr. 1999).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Aquatic - Aquaculture Ponds	suitable	non-breeding
Artificial/Aquatic - Irrigated Land (includes irrigation channels)	suitable	breeding
Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below ha)	suitable	breeding
Artificial/Aquatic - Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Land	suitable	breeding
Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over ha)	suitable	breeding

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		suitable	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
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)		major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 1900 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The global population of this species decreased significantly in the past as a result of persecution (due to the damage it inflicted to fisheries) and egg harvesting (Burger and Gochfeld 1996, Olsen and Larsson 2004). The breeding success of the species was dramatically reduced after the water-level in Lake Sevan (Armenia) was lowered due to extraction for irrigation and hydropower production (Adamian and Klem Jr. 1999).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/ control)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

It is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species and is covered by the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. There are 20 Important Bird Areas for this species across the region.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Identification and designation of important sites for this species. Education programmes to fishers to reduce persecution.

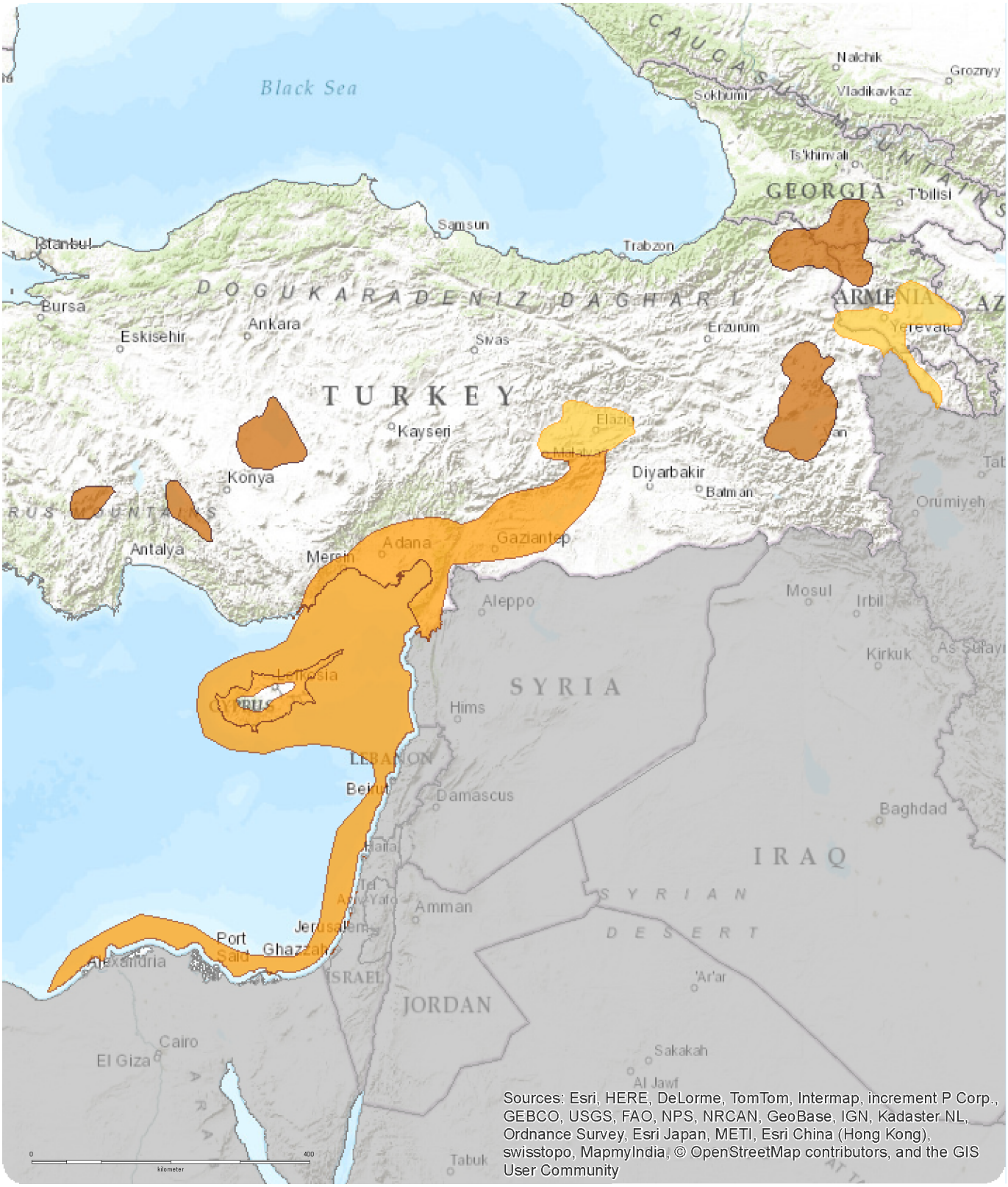
Bibliography

Adamian, M. S.; Klem, D. J. 1999. Handbook of the birds of Armenia. American University of Armenia, Oakland.

Burger, J. & Gochfeld, M. (1996). Armenian Gull (Larus armenicus). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) (2014). Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Olsen, K. M.; Larsson, H. 2004. Gulls of Europe, Asia and North America. Christopher Helm, London.

Map (see overleaf)



Larus armenicus

NE | DD | LC | **NT** NEAR THREATENED | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

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