

## **Accipiter brevipes -- (Severtsov, 1850)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- ACCIPITRIFORMES -- ACCIPITRIDAE

**Common names:** Levant Sparrowhawk; Epervier à pieds courts

### **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., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

### **Assessment Rationale**

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

**EU 27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

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 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 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 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 the EU27.

### **Occurrence**

#### **Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

##### **Native:**

Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Georgia; Greece; Hungary; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Spain; Turkey; Ukraine

##### **Vagrant:**

Austria; Czech Republic; Italy; Poland; Slovenia

### **Population**

The European population is estimated at 3,500-6,900 pairs, which equates to 7,000-13,800 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,700-3,400 pairs, which equates to 3,500-6,700 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Trend**

In Europe and the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Habitats and Ecology**

This species breeds mainly in fragmented deciduous forests along river basins but may also use broad-leaved forests on foothills and mountain slopes, usually below 1,000 m but up to 2,000 m (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). It arrives at its breeding grounds in April or early May and eggs are laid in May or early June. It nests in tree branches, preferring deciduous trees such as alder, poplar or aspen. The nest is a smallish platform of sticks (30 cm wide, 15 cm deep), lined with twigs and sometimes leaves. Occasionally it will use the old nests of other birds. Clutch size is three to five eggs (Orta and Marks 2014). It feeds mainly on lizards, fledgling birds and large insects such as dragonflies, grasshoppers and cicadas (Tucker and Heath 1994). The species is

a migrant, likely wintering in sub-Saharan Africa (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001, Orta and Marks 2014). Birds leave their breeding grounds in September, returning in April and May. On migration it frequently flies at night using flapping flight and travels in flocks which become especially large at certain bottlenecks (Orta and Marks 2014).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Grassland - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

## Threats

It is highly vulnerable to the impacts of potential wind energy development (Strix 2012). This species is considered undesirable for falconry in Georgia, and many are killed after being captured by falconers who are attempting to catch other, more desirable species (Orta and Marks 2014).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (unintentional effects - species is not the target)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			

## Conservation

### Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. CITES Appendix II. The species is listed as threatened in Croatia and Bulgaria.

### Conservation Actions Proposed

Key areas should be identified and protection put in place, particularly from construction of windfarms. Awareness campaign directed at falconers aimed at reducing unnecessary deaths should be launched. Studies on species's ecology and monitoring of populations should be developed to inform conservation measures.

## Bibliography

- Ferguson-Lees, J. and Christie, D.A. 2001. *Raptors of the world*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997. *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T and A D Poyser, London.
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- Strix. 2012. *Developing and testing the methodology for assessing and mapping the sensitivity of migratory birds to wind energy development*. BirdLife International, Cambridge.
- Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. 1994. *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. BirdLife Conservation Series no. 3, BirdLife International, Cambridge.

## Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Accipiter brevipes*

### Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

