

Anhinga rufa -- (Daudin, 1802)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- SULIFORMES -- ANHINGIDAE

Common names: African Darter; Anhinga d'Afrique; Darter

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

RE -- Regionally Extinct, (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: Regionally Extinct (RE)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

This species was once abundant in southern Turkey, but disappeared during the 20th century due to the drying out of its breeding grounds. It is therefore classified as Regionally Extinct in Europe.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Turkey

Population

The European population is considered to be extinct. The species does not occur in the EU27.

Trend

The species became regionally extinct in Europe during the 20th century.

Habitats and Ecology

This species prefers still, shallow inland waters, such as freshwater or alkaline lakes, slow flowing rivers, swamps and reservoirs and requires scattered emergent trees, forested margins or islets with dense vegetation. It is less commonly found in estuaries or tidal inlets and coastal zones. It feeds principally on fish, including Cichlidae and Cyprinidae but also takes amphibians, water snakes and aquatic invertebrates, including insects, crustaceans and molluscs. The species is generally sedentary, with sporadic movements usually related to drought conditions (del Hoyo *et al.* 2014).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over ha)	suitable	resident
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	suitable	resident
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes	suitable	resident
Marine Neritic - Estuaries	suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes	suitable	resident
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species was formerly abundant in southern Turkey but became extinct there when its breeding grounds at Lake Amik were lost (Kirwan *et al.* 2010) due to drainage and land reclamation (Smith *et al.* 2014).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Whole (>90%)	Very Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion					
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Whole (>90%)	Very Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

There are no current conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

There are no proposed conservation measures for this species.

Bibliography

del Hoyo, J., Collar, N. and Garcia, E.F.J. 2014. African Darter (*Anhinga rufa*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/467295> on 19 March 2015).

Kirwan, G., Demirci, B., Welch, H., Boyla, K., Özen, M., Castell, P. and Marlow, T. 2010. *The birds of Turkey*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Smith, K.G., Barrios, V., Darwall, D.R.T. and Numa, C. (Editors). 2014. *The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in the Eastern Mediterranean*. Cambridge, UK, Malaga, Spain and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.