Phoenicopterus roseus -- Pallas, 1811

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PHOENICOPTERIFORMES -- PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Common names: Greater Flamingo;

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)
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 increasing, 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 increasing, 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:

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Cyprus; France; Greece; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Portugal; Russian Federation; Slovenia; Spain; Turkey; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Austria; Belarus; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Hungary; Latvia; Malta; Montenegro; Norway; Poland; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Canary Is. (to ES); Sweden; Switzerland

Population

The European population is estimated at 45,000-62,400 pairs, which equates to 89,900-125,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 31,900-36,900 pairs, which equates to 63,900-73,900 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

The species inhabits shallow (Snow and Perrins 1998) eutrophic waterbodies (Hockey *et al.* 2005) such as saline lagoons, saltpans and large saline or alkaline lakes (Brown *et al.* 1982, del Hoyo *et al.* 2014). It will also frequent sewage treatment pans, inland dams (Hockey *et al.* 2005), estuaries (Brown *et al.* 1982) and coastal waters (Diawara *et al.* 2007), seldom alighting on freshwater but commonly bathing and drinking from freshwater inlets entering alkaline or saline lakes (Brown *et al.* 1982). It nests and roosts on sandbanks,

mudflats, islands (Brown *et al.* 1982, del Hoyo *et al.* 2014) or boggy, open shores (Flint *et al.* 1984). It breeds regularly from March to June in large dense single-species colonies of up to 20,000 pairs (occasionally up to 200,000 pairs).

The species nests in large dense colonies on mudflats or islands of large waterbodies, occasionally also on bare rocky islands (del Hoyo *et al.* 2014). The nest is usually an inverted cone of hardened mud (Flint *et al.* 1984) with a shallow depression on the top (alternatively it may be a small pile of stones and debris when mud is not available). Its diet consists of crustaceans, molluscs, annelid worms, larval aquatic insects, small fish, adult terrestrial insects, the seeds or stolons of marsh grasses, algae, diatoms and decaying leaves. It may also ingest mud in order to extract organic matter (e.g., bacteria) (del Hoyo *et al.* 2014). Juveniles, and to a lesser extent adults (Mateo *et al.* 1998), are prone to irregular nomadic or partially migratory movements throughout the species's range in response to water-level changes (Snow and Perrins 1998, Hockey *et al.* 2005).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Aquatic - Salt Exploitation Sites	major	non-breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats	suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc	suitable	breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries	major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries	major	non-breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes	major	non-breeding
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species suffers from low reproductive success if exposed to disturbance at breeding colonies (Ogilvie and Ogilvie 1986, Yosef 2000) (e.g., from tourists, low-flying aircraft (Ogilvie and Ogilvie 1986) and especially all-terrain vehicles (Yosef 2000)), or if water-levels surrounding nest-sites lower (resulting in increased access to and therefore predation from ground predators such as foxes and feral dogs) (Miltiadou 2005). The species also suffers mortality from lead poisoning (lead shot ingestion) (Mateo *et al.* 1998, Miltiadou 2005), collisions with fences and powerlines (Hockey *et al.* 2005), and from diseases such as tuberculosis, septicemia (Nasirwa 2000) and avian botulism (van Heerden 1974).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance; Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Clostridium botulinum	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Future	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Mycobacterium avium	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Future	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified BACTERIA	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Future	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Pollution	Industrial & military effluents (type unknown/ unrecorded)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Transportation & service corridors	Utility & service lines	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. CITES Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. The removal of sand polluted with lead shot from a salt-lake in Cyprus was successful in significantly reducing the numbers of deaths due to lead poisoning (Miltiadou 2005). At two colonies (one in France and one in Spain) management techniques to counteract erosion and the lack of suitable nesting islands were successfully applied in order to encourage breeding by the species (Martos and Johnson 1996). The species is also kept and does well in captivity (del Hoyo *et al.* 2014). The Flamingo Specialist Group was established in 1978 to actively promote flamingo research, conservation and education worldwide.

Conservation Actions Proposed

The conservation of all wetlands used by this species for feeding and breeding is important and breeding sites should be monitored to ensure the continuation of appropriate habitat management techniques (Tucker and Heath 1994). Measures suggested and implemented at the Ebre Delta in Spain include regular surveys and monitoring, raising public awareness, mitigation of damage to rice fields, control of salt pan levels and wardening against disturbance (Curcó *et al.* 2009).

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Map (see overleaf)

Phoenicopterus roseus

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

Range

- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015