

# **Pelecanus crispus -- Bruch, 1832**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PELECANIFORMES -- PELECANIDAE

**Common names:** Dalmatian Pelican; Pelicano Ceñudo; Pelicano Rizado

## **European Red List Assessment**

### **European Red List Status**

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

### **Assessment Information**

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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
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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 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 small 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:**

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

#### **Origin Uncertain:**

Serbia

#### **Vagrant:**

Cyprus; Czech Republic; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Norway; Poland; Slovakia; Spain

## **Population**

The European population is estimated at 3,000-3,600 pairs, which equates to 5,900-7,200 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,600-2,000 pairs, which equates to 3,300-3,900 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**

This species occurs mainly on inland, freshwater wetlands but also at coastal lagoons, river deltas and estuaries (Peja et al. 1996, Crivelli et al. 1997, Mix and Bräunlich 2000, Elliot et al. 2014). Typically winters on ice-free lakes in Europe (Elliot et al. 2014). It starts to breed in late March and April (Elliot et al. 2014), sometimes solitarily but usually in dense colonies of up to 250 pairs (Cramp et al. 1977, Elliot et al. 2014).

Adults form monogamous pair bonds (Mix and Bräunlich 2000). It leaves the colonies between the end of July and September, although a few remain until November (Nelson 2005). It is gregarious during the winter, often occurring in large flocks and foraging communally and cooperatively in small groups (Cramp et al. 1977). Immature birds and non-breeders may remain in the wintering grounds year round (Nelson 2005), or may stay with the breeding colonies (Cramp et al. 1977).

Birds return to the breeding sites in late-January to April, depending on the region (Nelson 2005). It breeds on small islands in freshwater lakes or in dense aquatic vegetation such as reedbeds (Crivelli 1994, Peja et al. 1996, Pyrovetsi 1997, Elliot et al. 2014), often in hilly terrain (Nelson 2005). A few breed in Mediterranean coastal lagoons (Peja et al. 1996, Nelson 2005). Nests typically consist of a pile of reeds, grass and sticks approximately 1 m high and 0.5–1.5 m in diameter (Nelson 2005, Elliot et al. 2014). They are usually situated amongst aquatic vegetation on floating or stationary islands isolated from the mainland to avoid mammalian predators (Crivelli 1994, Peja et al. 1996, Pyrovetsi 1997) but occasionally may be built on open ground (Hatzilacou 1993, Hatzilacou 1999, Nelson 2005). Artificial islands may also be used for nesting (Pyrovetsi 1997, S. Bugariu in litt. 2012). It feeds almost entirely on fish (Tucker and Heath 1994). The species is dispersive in Europe, moving only short distances typically within the eastern Mediterranean (Elliott et al. 2014).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	major	breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	major	non-breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes	suitable	breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes	suitable	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries	suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	major	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Inland Deltas	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Inland Deltas	major	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 850 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

## Threats

Former declines were primarily caused by wetland drainage, shooting and persecution by fishers (Crivelli 1994, Crivelli et al. 1997, Mix and Bräunlich 2000). Cases of illegal shooting are still reported (e.g. four shootings in 2009 in the Danube Delta, B. Barov in litt. 2009). Other continuing threats include disturbance from tourists and fishers, wetland alteration and destruction, water pollution, collision with overhead power-lines and over-exploitation of fish stocks (Crivelli et al. 1999, Hatzilacou 1993, Mix and Bräunlich 2000). Organochloride residues including DDT have been recorded in high levels in the eggs of this species and those of its prey (Albanis et al. 1995). Nest predation by wild boar at times of low water levels is the most important threat to the Bulgarian breeding colony (N. Petkov in litt. 2007). The breeding colonies in Mediterranean lagoons in Albania and Turkey are threatened by coastal developments and the alteration of the functioning of the lagoons (Peja et al. 1996).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects			

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
<b>Threat (level 1)</b>	<b>Threat (level 2)</b>	<b>Impact and Stresses</b>			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/ control)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Future	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Wild Boar (Sus scrofa)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Wild Boar (Sus scrofa)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Natural system modifications	Dams (size unknown)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents (type unknown/ unrecorded)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Transportation & service corridors	Roads & railroads	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Transportation & service corridors	Utility & service lines	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
		Species mortality			

## Conservation

### Conservation Actions Underway

CITES Appendix I. CMS Appendix I and II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. Conservation efforts have reduced the impact of the major threats in Europe (Crivelli et al. 1997). Marking and dismantling of power-lines (Crivelli et al. 1997), the provision of breeding platforms in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria and Romania and rafts in Greece and Bulgaria, together with wardening (Hatzilacou 1999), water level management and education programmes at key sites, have reduced mortality and increased breeding success. A European action plan was published in 1996 (S. Bugariu in litt. 2007) and reviewed in 2010 (Barov and Derhé 2011). A national species action plan for Romania was officially approved in 2009 (S. Bugariu in litt. 2012).

## Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitor breeding, wintering numbers and ecological changes at key sites. Sustainably manage wetlands. Establish wardened non-intrusion zones around breeding colonies. Bury power-lines or replace with more visible cable. Legally protect the species and its habitat in range states. Conduct public awareness campaigns and mediate potential conflicts with fishermen. Prevent poaching and overexploitation of fish.

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Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Pelecanus crispus*

### 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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