Pyrrhocorax graculus -- (Linnaeus, 1766)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- CORVIDAE

Common names: Yellow-billed Chough; Alpine Chough

European Red List Status

| 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 stable, 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 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; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Italy; Liechtenstein; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey

Vagrant:
Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Hungary; Poland; Portugal; Slovakia; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 108,000-253,000 pairs, which equates to 215,000-507,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 32,800-67,900 pairs, which equates to 65,500-136,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

The species inhabits high-altitude mountain pastures with rocky ravines and cliff faces; above the tree-line in summer and descending into upper valleys in winter. Often found around alpine villages and ski resorts in Europe and breeds chiefly between 1,260 m and 2,880 (Madge and Burn 1993). Egg-laying occurs mainly in early May to mid-June. It often forms a lifelong monogamous pair-bond and partners will remain together throughout year.

The nest is built by both sexes and is a bulky structure of sticks, roots and similar, lined with grasses, feathers
and moss, typically on a ledge or shelf near the roof of a cave or rock chimney, rock crevice or cliff face. Larger caves with small entrances are favoured. Occasionally uses roof spaces of old buildings, mine-shafts and similar structures. Its diet consists primarily of invertebrates in spring and summer, with a more varied diet in autumn and winter. It will also take small amphibians and reptiles, nestling small birds, eggs and small rodents. In autumn and winter extensive range of seeds, berries and fruits are added to the diet. Also consumes a wide range of discarded human food (Madge 2009). The species is sedentary (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

### Habits & Altitude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>1260-3400 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits 600 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

There are currently no known significant threats to this species.

### Threats & Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
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<tbody>
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### Conservation

**Conservation Actions Underway**

Bern Convention Appendix II. There are no known current conservation measures for this species.

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

No conservation measures are currently required for this species.

### Bibliography


### Map (see overleaf)
Pyrrhocorax graculus

Range

Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.