Luscinia megarhynchos -- (Brehm, 1831)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- MUSCICAPIDAE

Common names: Common Nightingale; Nightingale; Rossignol philomèle

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)

At both European and EU27 scales 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 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 within both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Faroe Islands (to DK); Estonia; Finland; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Lithuania; Norway; Sweden

Population

The European population is estimated at 10,700,000-20,300,000 pairs, which equates to 21,500,000-40,500,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 8,860,000-16,100,000 pairs, which equates to 17,700,000-32,300,000 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 occupies two main habitat types in Europe: lowland open woodland with thickets and dense patches of vegetation of coppice stands, nettles and brambles, bordering waterbodies; and the edges and glades of broadleaf woodland, undergrowth-rich pinewoods and dry maquis, garrigue and shrubbery on sand and chalk (i.e. with no surface water). It is also found in various mixtures of the two, such as cultivated land with mature hedgerows and untended bush-rich suburban gardens and parks with leaf litter. It breeds from late April to mid July. The nest is an occasionally domed bulky cup of dead leaves and grass, lined with fine grasses, feathers and hair. It is sited on or very close to the ground (most are below 0.5 m) in the base of a thicket or in low herbage. Clutches are four to five eggs. It feeds principally on invertebrates but takes berries

and seeds in the late summer and autumn (Collar and Christie 2013). The species is migratory, wintering in the Afrotropics (Snow and Perrins 1998).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		major	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Temperate		major	breeding
Altitude	max. 1400 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Declines in the west of its range have been driven since the 1950s by modern agricultural development and an increasing tendency for 'tidying' of gardens and woodland. Nesting habitat along streams and rivers is being lost in Spain (Collar and Christie 2013). The species is also sensitive to climatic variations (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). In the U.K., it is thought that habitat modification as a result of grazing by deer may be a threat to this species (Newson et al. 2011).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Past, Likely to Return	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified deer (CERVIDAE)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

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

Conservation Actions Proposed

In the UK, deer management plans, including the integrated exclusion and culling of deer, should be coordinated on a large scale and target areas of importance for the species. Further research on the relationship between deer abundance and habitat quality should also be undertaken (Newson et al. 2011). The species would also likely benefit from the maintenance of low-intensity farming practices and areas of woodland and thickets.

Bibliography

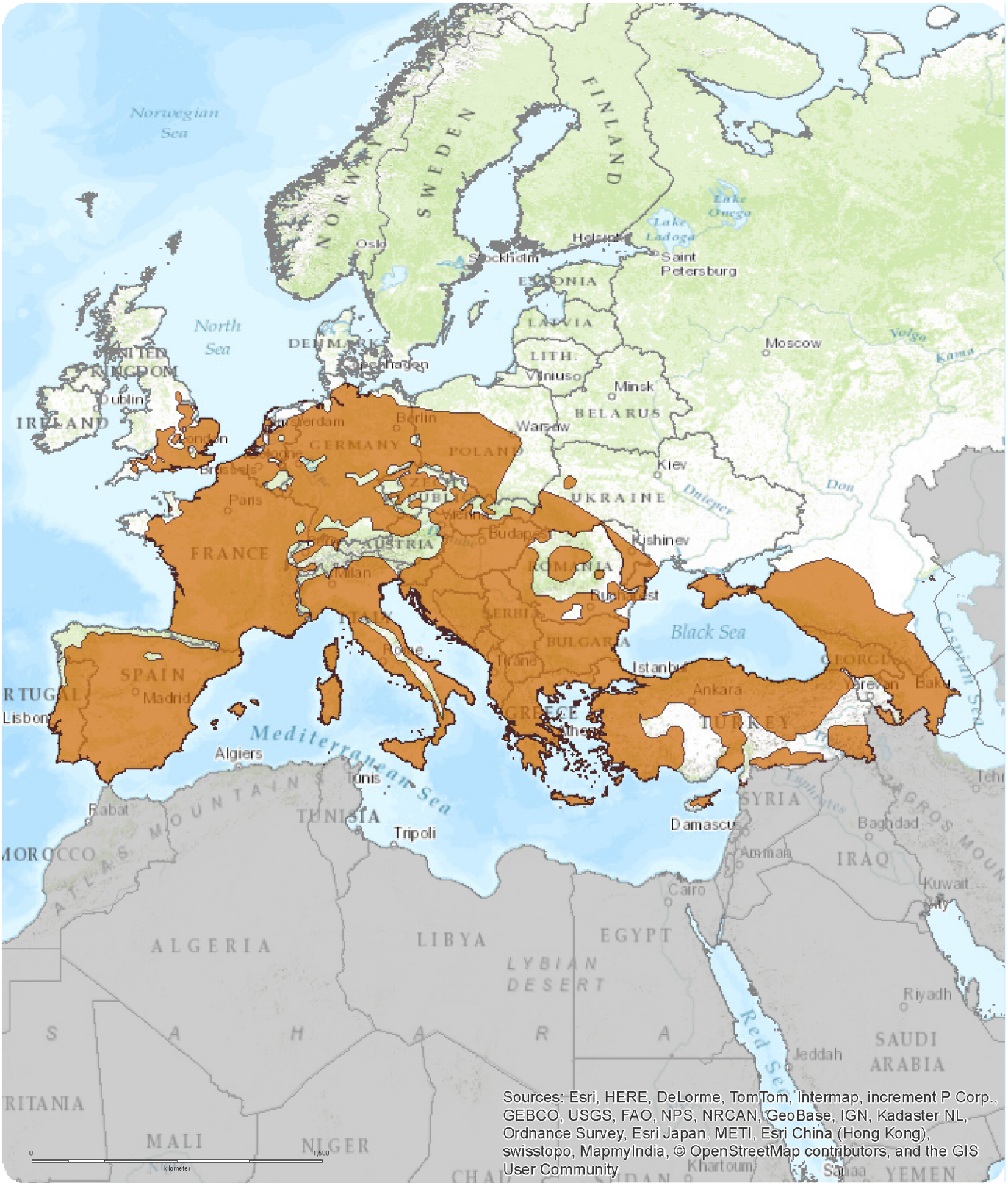
Collar, N. and Christie, D.A. 2013. Common Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2013. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from http://www.hbw.com/node/58455 on 29 March 2015).

Bibliography

Newson, S.E., Johnston, A., Renwick, A.R., Baillie, S.R. and Fuller, R.J. 2012. Modelling large‐scale relationships between changes in woodland deer and bird populations. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 49(1): 278-286.

Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 2: Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Map (see overleaf)



Luscinia megarhynchos

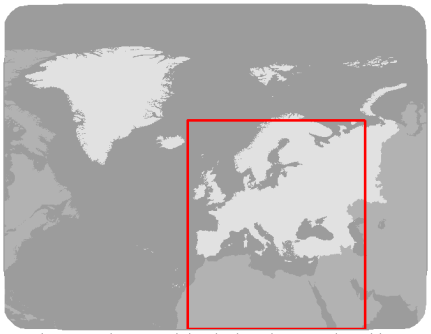
NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015



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