**Sturnus roseus** -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- STURNIDAE**

**Common names:** Rosy Starling; Etourneau roselin; Rose-coloured Starling

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**European Red List Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Red List Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)</td>
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</table>

**Assessment Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year published:</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date assessed:</td>
<td>2015-03-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessor(s):</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer(s):</td>
<td>Symes, A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compiler(s):</td>
<td>Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. &amp; Wright, L.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Rationale**

**European regional assessment:** Least Concern (LC)

**EU27 regional assessment:** Least Concern (LC)

In Europe 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 fluctuating, 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 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.

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**Occurrence**

**Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**
- Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Georgia; Greece; Italy;
- Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia;
- Slovakia; Slovenia; Turkey; Ukraine

**Vagrant:**
- Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Czech Republic; Faroe Islands (to DK); Finland; France;
- Germany; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Malta; Netherlands; Norway;
- Poland; Portugal; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom

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**Population**

The European population is estimated at 61,300-230,000 pairs, which equates to 123,000-459,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 260-32,300 pairs, which equates to 520-64,600 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

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**Trend**

In Europe the population size is estimated to be fluctuating. In the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

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**Habits and Ecology**

During the breeding season this species is found on open steppes where orthopterans (locusts and other grasshoppers) are abundant. Colonies are normally found near water, often in valleys but after breeding it moves to more wooded areas. The breeding season is short, running from May to July and is closely tied to the availability of food. It is monogamous and breeds in large colonies often from hundreds to several
thousand nests. Both sexes build the nest, which is made from grasses and twigs, lined with finer grasses and feathers and the cup may include aromatic plants such as wormwood (*Artemisia*), giant fennel (*Ferula*) and the poaceous grass (*Aeluropus*). It is sited in a hole, most frequently between stones on scree slope and sometimes in a crack in a rock or cliff, among stones on a railway embankment or quarry, in a hole or crevice in a building. Clutches are from three to six eggs. It feeds on insects during the breeding season, mostly locusts and other grasshoppers but more fruit is taken after breeding, and in winter it consumes insects, fruit, seeds and nectar. The species is migratory and also undertakes nomadic post-breeding dispersal (Craig *et al.* 2013).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats &amp; Altitude</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>non-breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The species may be threatened by habitat modification (Birdlife International 2015).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats &amp; Impacts</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural system modifications</td>
<td>Other ecosystem modifications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect ecosystem effects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**Conservation Actions Underway**
Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

**Conservation Actions Proposed**
As the population status is not currently known due to uncertainties over the impacts of habitat modification on population sizes (Birdlife International 2015), the species would benefit from increased monitoring efforts and research.

**Bibliography**
Sturnus roseus

Range

- Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

Sources: ESRI, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, et OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.