**Sitta europaea -- Linnaeus, 1758**

**Common names:** Wood Nuthatch; Eurasian Nuthatch; Nuthatch

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## European Red List Assessment

### 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessor(s):</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer(s):</td>
<td>Symes, A.</td>
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<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)

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.

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## Occurrence

### Countries/Territories of Occurrence

**Native:**

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

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## Population

The European population is estimated at 10,700,000-21,400,000 pairs, which equates to 21,400,000-42,800,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 6,010,000-11,300,000 pairs, which equates to 12,000,000-22,600,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

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## Trend

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

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## Habitats and Ecology

This species inhabits mature forest with large old trees and a well-developed canopy providing extensive foraging areas, as well as nesting cavities. In much of Europe it prefers deciduous and mixed forest, especially oak (*Quercus*), but is also found in riverine woodland, parkland, old orchards, cemeteries, and sometimes large gardens and locally occupies in old spruce (*Picea*) and pine (*Pinus*) forests, especially in the mountains. Egg-laying occurs mainly from late-April to May but varies with latitude and altitude. The nest is a foundation of wood chips surmounted by bark flakes and rarely incorporating dry leaves, lichen, conifer -needles and the like. It is sited in the hole in a tree, which is either natural or, more often an abandoned woodpecker hole. On occasion it will use a nestbox or a wall cavity, hole in a rock face or building or crevice between tree roots. Clutches are typically five to nine eggs. It feeds on insects but in the autumn and winter it takes seeds, nuts and sometimes flower buds and sap. It will readily visit birdbtables in the winter. The species
is generally sedentary, but juveniles may disperse over short distances in late summer and autumn; occasionally these movements become irruptive (Harrap 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats &amp; Altitude</th>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Boreal</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>max. 1800 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main threat to this species is forest destruction and fragmentation, which has lead to local declines and extinctions throughout its range. It is generally rare or absent from small forest fragments and the species does not inhabit areas without mature trees (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997, Harrap 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats &amp; Impacts</th>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological resource use</td>
<td>Logging &amp; wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Minority (&lt;50%)</td>
<td>Slow, Significant Declines</td>
<td>Low Impact</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conservation Actions Underway
Bern convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed
Locally, this species would benefit from protection of its forest habitat and management should ensure that large, mature trees remain.

Bibliography
Sitta europaea

Range

- Extant (resident)

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