

Acrocephalus palustris -- (Bechstein, 1798)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- SYLVIIDAE

Common names: Marsh Warbler; Rousserolle verderolle

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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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 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 Europe.

Within the EU27 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 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 the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; 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; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Faroe Islands (to DK); Malta; Portugal

Population

The European population is estimated at 4,170,000-7,560,000 pairs, which equates to 8,330,000-15,200,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 2,210,000-3,430,000 pairs, which equates to 4,420,000-6,850,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

This species favours rank, tufty and fairly tall herbage, especially nettles (*Urtica*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula*), brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) and others, often in the vicinity of taller bushes or trees. It also occurs in corn fields and other agricultural land surrounded with a belt of low bushes or hedgerows as well as in wasteland with tall grass, herbs and small bushes, in tall herbaceous vegetation along ditches, in marsh vegetation at edges of swamps, in reeds on dry ground and even in gardens. In western and central Europe, breeding occurs

from the second half of May to July. It lays three to six eggs in a nest which is a deep, cylindrical cup of leaves and stems of nettles, grass and other plants, lined with finer plant fibres, plant down and hair. The structure is supported on two to five plant stems, usually 30–70 cm high (Dyrz 2006). It feeds mainly on insects and arachnids, with some snails and occasionally berries in late summer and autumn (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is migratory, wintering in south-east Africa (Dyrz 2006).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Temperate		major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 3000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In the U.K., declines during the 1950s and 1960s may have been due to climate change and habitat loss as a result of activities such as bank tidying (Batten *et al.* 1989). The species is likely still affected by climate change (Both *et al.* 2010).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Past 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

Sites should be protected and managed and in Britain the control of birdwatchers to reduce disturbance may be necessary (Batten *et al.* 1989).

Bibliography

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- Dyrz, A. 2006. Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/58803> on 25 March 2015).
- Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 2: Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Both, C., Van Turnhout, C.A., Bijlsma, R.G., Siepel, H., Van Strien, A.J., and Foppen, R.P. 2010. Avian population consequences of climate change are most severe for long-distance migrants in seasonal habitats. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 277(1685): 1259-1266.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Acrocephalus palustris

Range

Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

