

# Phylloscopus collybita -- (Vieillot, 1817)

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

**Common names:** Common Chiffchaff;

## 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.
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 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 within both Europe and the EU27.

## Occurrence

### Countries/Territories of Occurrence

#### Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

## Population

The European population is estimated at 41,000,000-59,500,000 pairs, which equates to 81,900,000-119,000,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 19,200,000-32,000,000 pairs, which equates to 38,400,000-64,100,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## Trend

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

## Habitats and Ecology

The species occupies lowland deciduous forest and woodland with low undergrowth, as well as parks, hedgerows, shelterbelts, overgrown cemeteries, large gardens and reedbeds. In the east of its range it is found in a range in spruce (*Picea*) and pine (*Pinus*) forests of Siberian taiga. Frequently, it inhabits damp alder (*Alnus*) and willow (*Salix*) woodland and river valleys and in the south of its range it prefers habitats with at least some tall trees but, exceptionally, breeds in coastal scrub lacking tall trees. It breeds from April to early August and lays five to six eggs. The nest is a ball of dry grasses, leaves, moss, plant fibres and feathers, normally placed on the ground and well concealed in a bramble bush (*Rubus fruticosus*), a patch of nettles (*Urtica*), grass or other thick vegetation. The diet is mostly insects and their eggs and larvae but also includes other arthropods, small molluscs (Gastropoda), seeds and berries (Clement 2006). Most populations of the

species are migratory (Snow and Perrins 1998).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	non-breeding
Forest - Boreal		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	non-breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under ha)		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Shrub Dominated Wetlands		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

## Threats

Fluctuations in the British population are believed to be likely due to droughts in the non-breeding quarters in the west African Sahel (Clement 2006). In Finland, the species suffers from habitat fragmentation, interspecific competition from Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) and climate change (Lampila *et al.* 2009).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Droughts	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Goldcrest ( <i>Regulus regulus</i> )	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Competition			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Willow Warbler ( <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> )	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Competition			

## Conservation

### Conservation Actions Underway

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

### Conservation Actions Proposed

Although this species is not threatened locally it may benefit from protection and restoration of its habitat. Monitoring should be implemented to detect population changes.

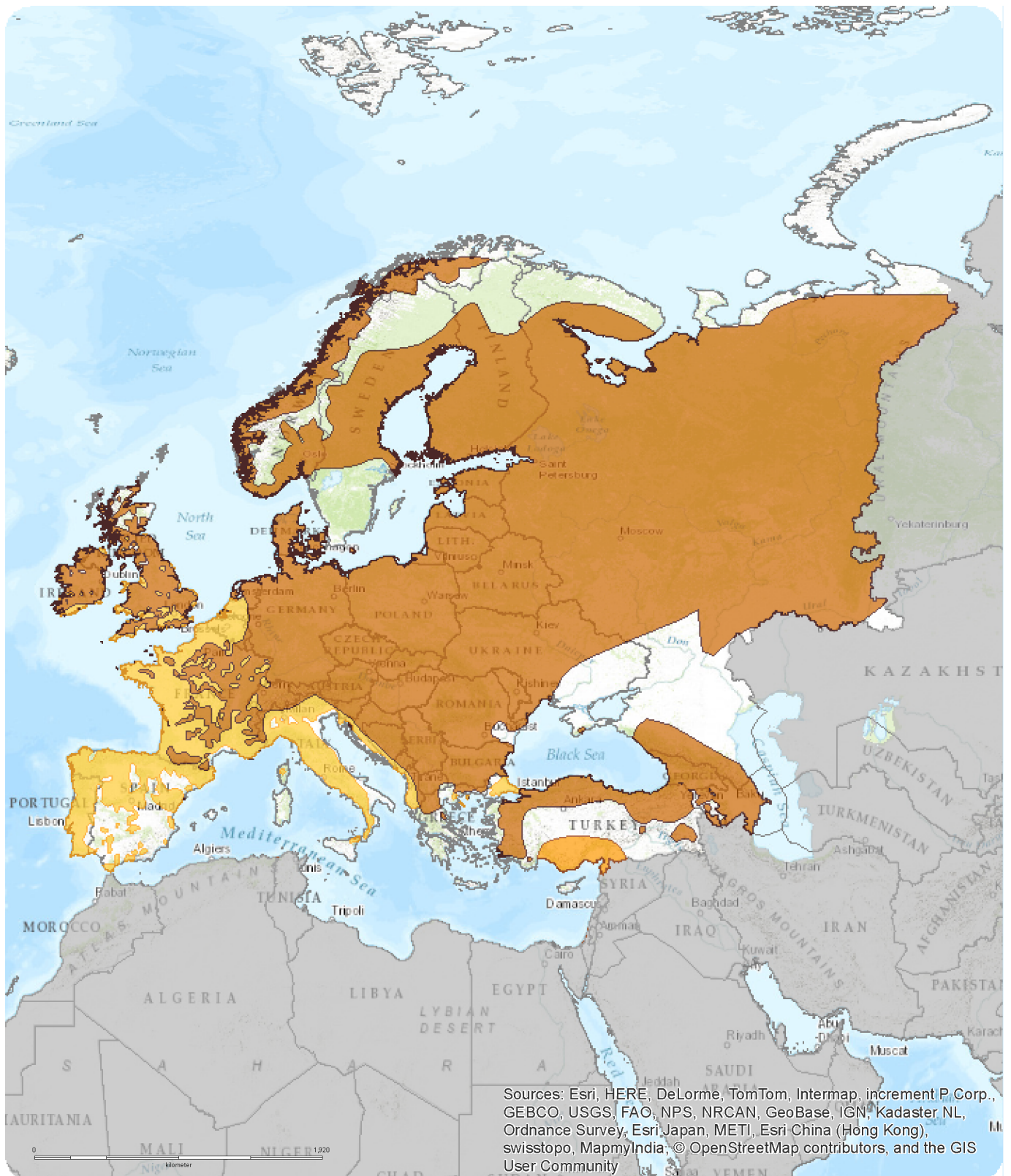
## Bibliography

Clement, P. 2006. Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). 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/58861> on 26 March 2015).

Lampila, P., Mönkkönen, M. and Rajasärkkä, A. 2009. The ability of forest reserves to maintain original fauna—why has the Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita abietinus*) disappeared from eastern central Finland? *Ornis Fennica*, 86(2): 71-80.

## Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Phylloscopus collybita*

### Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



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