**Sylvia communis -- Latham, 1787**

**Common names:** Common Whitethroat; Fauvette grisette; Whitethroat

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

### 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 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.

### 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; 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; Canary Is. (to ES); Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

**Vagrant:** Iceland

### Population

The European population is estimated at 17,300,000-27,800,000 pairs, which equates to 34,600,000-55,600,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 8,700,000-14,200,000 pairs, which equates to 17,400,000-28,400,000 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

This species occupies open country in wide variety of landscapes, mostly sunlit areas with scattered bushes and shrubs close to grassy patches. It breeds in plantation clearings, orchards, hedgerows along roads or railway lines, shrubs near watercourses, pastures with junipers (*Juniperus*) and in steppes. It is also found in hedges around field crops, especially those of appropriate height such as cereals or lucerne (*Medicago*). It breeds mostly from April to July and generally lays four to five eggs. The nest is a fairly deep cup constructed from grass, leaves, rootlets, spider cocoons and hair and is concealed low down in a bush or tall grass (Aymi and Gargallo 2006). During the breeding season it feeds mainly on insects but in the late summer the...
proportion of fruit taken increases and in autumn and winter it feeds primarily on berries (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is migratory and winters in sub-Saharan Africa (Aymí and Gargallo 2006).

### Habitats & Altitude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>max. 2000 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

In the past, central and western populations have declined due to drought in the Sahel zone of west Africa from 1968–1975. In Europe, suitable breeding habitat has been lost to changes in land use through the intensification of agriculture, combined with the destruction of hedgerows and bushes (Aymí and Gargallo 2006). The species is also sensitive to severe winters, such as that of 1968-1969 (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

### Threats & Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; aquaculture</td>
<td>Agro-industry farming</td>
<td><strong>Impact</strong> &amp; <strong>Stresses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change &amp; severe weather</td>
<td>Droughts</td>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change &amp; severe weather</td>
<td>Temperature extremes</td>
<td><strong>Stresses</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conservation

**Conservation Actions Underway**

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

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

The maintenance or increase of structural heterogeneity of linear habitats may be beneficial for this species (Szymański and Antczak 2013).

### Bibliography


Sylvia communis

Range
- Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015