Sylvia curruca -- (Linnaeus, 1758)
ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- SYLVIIDAE

Common names: Lesser Whitethroat; Fauvette babillarde

European Red List Assessment

<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.

**Occurrence**

**Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**
- Albania; 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; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

**Vagrant:**
- Iceland; Portugal

**Population**

The European population is estimated at 4,800,000-7,990,000 pairs, which equates to 9,600,000-16,000,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 2,350,000-4,280,000 pairs, which equates to 4,690,000-8,570,000 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 breeds in open country or near forests in a wide range of habitats rich in dense cover and lower-level foliage, such as shrubland, hedgerows and plantations with small trees. It is also found in gardens, parks, cemeteries, orchards, young conifer plantations and forest edges. Breeding occurs from late April to early August and normally three to seven eggs are laid. The nest is a deep cup of grass made of rootlets and small twigs, moss and spider webs and cocoons and usually lined with hair. It is placed in a thorny bush or shrub, or in small tree and occasionally in herbal vegetation. The diet is made up of mostly insects in the breeding season and fruits at other times of the year, although it is generally considered less frugivorous than many congeners. The species is a long-distance migrant (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 - 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>Forest - 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. 2650 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Threats

The intensification of modern agricultural techniques has driven habitat loss and declines in this species in western Europe (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 farming</td>
<td>Agro-industry farming</td>
<td>Timing: Ongoing, Scope: Majority (50-90%), Severity: Slow, Significant Declines, Impact: Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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

This species would benefit from the maintenance and promotion of low-intensity, traditional farming techniques.

## Bibliography

**Sylvia curruca**

**Range**
- Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

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