

***Sylvia melanocephala* -- (Gmelin, 1789)**

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

Common names: Sardinian Warbler; Fauvette mélanocéphale

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

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)

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 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 Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has a very 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; Andorra; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; France; Greece; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Montenegro; Portugal; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Turkey; Gibraltar (to UK)

Origin Uncertain:

Azerbaijan

Vagrant:

Austria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Hungary; Iceland; Moldova; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 7,650,000-16,100,000 pairs, which equates to 15,300,000-32,100,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 6,730,000-13,400,000 pairs, which equates to 13,500,000-26,900,000 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

As probably one of the most generalist of the Mediterranean warblers, this species is present in all types of warm habitat at low altitudes, and up to c. 1200–1300 m. It is found in maquis, garrigue, dry coastal habitats,

urban and suburban environments, abandoned farmland and dry coast sites. It will also inhabit Mediterranean cultures such as olives, almonds, orchards, citrus groves, vineyards, but favours mosaic landscapes with hedgerows, bushes and stands of pine. It is also frequently found in holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) forests. Breeding occurs mainly from March to June. The nest is a grass cup placed usually 30–60 cm above ground in scrub or bush or, less frequently, among dense herbs or in a small tree. Most nests in Spain are in kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*) at low height. Clutches are three to five eggs. It feeds mostly on arthropods but also takes a significant amount of fruit in the autumn and winter. Island and coastal populations appear to be mostly sedentary but the proportion of migrants increases inland and to the north, especially in the east (Aymí and Gargallo 2006).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	non-breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	non-breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	non-breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		major	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		major	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 1300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Particularly in the north of its range, extremely harsh winters can affect the survival of this species, in some cases with declines in breeding numbers of up to 50%. While it is thought global climatic warming could benefit this species in Europe, there is evidence it has caused decline in body mass and body conditions outside of Europe (Aymí and Gargallo 2006).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

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

Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitoring of this species should be carried out along with more detailed ecological studies (Pomeroy and Walsh 2002).

Bibliography

Aymí, R. and Gargallo, G. 2006. Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*). 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/58968> on 27 March 2015).

Pomeroy, D., and Walsh, F. 2002. A European endemic warbler under threat? Population changes in *Sylvia* warblers on the island of Cyprus. *Oryx*, 36(04): 342-348.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Sylvia melanocephala

Range

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

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



Map created 05/12/2015

