

## **Sylvia melanothorax -- Tristram, 1872**

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

**Common names:** Cyprus Warbler; Fauvette du Chypre

### **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)**

At both European and EU27 scales, although this species may have a small range it is not believed to 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). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to 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:**

Cyprus; Spain

##### **Vagrant:**

Turkey

### **Population**

The European population is estimated at 70,000-140,000 pairs, which equates to 140,000-280,000 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Trend**

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 12 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Habitats and Ecology**

This species breeds in rather wide range of scrub and maquis, favouring medium-height maquis, such as that formed by *Cistus*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, juniper (*Juniperus*) and cypress (*Cupressus*); It is also found in more sparse and lower scrubby vegetation, as well as openings in woodland, bushy areas with sparse tree cover, and open pine (*Pinus*) woodland with considerable amount of undergrowth. It will use rocky hillsides and agricultural areas, so long as there is enough bush cover present. Breeding occurs from late March to June. The nest is a strong cup of grass and stems bound with cobwebs, lined with finer grass, cobwebs and hair and often with juniper bark in the outer wall. Normally it is placed c. 30–120 cm above the ground, inside a low bush. Clutches are typically four to five eggs. It is thought to feed mainly on invertebrates but the diet is poorly known and it may take berries outside the breeding season. The species is a partial migrant, with most birds migrating to north-east Africa (Aymí *et al.* 2014).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		major	breeding
Altitude		Occasional altitudinal limits	

### Threats

The species is threatened by the abandonment of traditional grazing practices, the intensification of agriculture, homogenization of farmland and coastal and urban development (Ieronymidou *et al.* 2012). In addition the over use of pesticides could also be a potential threat. It is also subject to pressure from liming, netting and shooting (Tucker and Heath 1994).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Species mortality					
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Indirect ecosystem effects					
Residential & commercial development	Commercial & industrial areas	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion					
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion					

### Conservation

#### Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

#### Conservation Actions Proposed

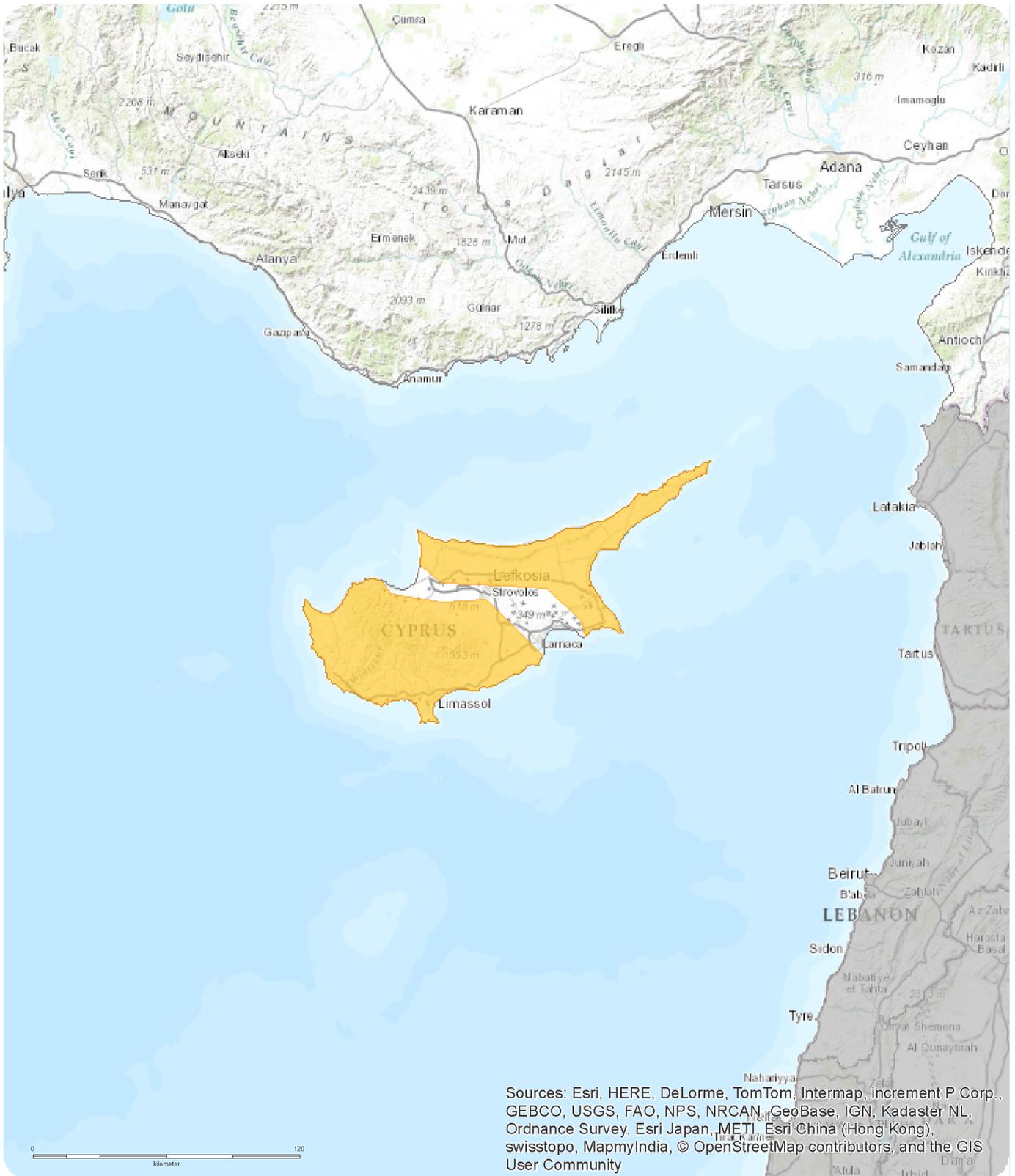
Monitoring of this species should be carried out along with more detailed ecological studies (Pomeroy and Walsh 2002). Farmland management needs careful targeting and the development of appropriate prescriptions, including incentives to preserve scrub vegetation and boundary features and to support extensive grazing (Ieronymidou *et al.* 2012). Legislation on hunting of the species should be enforced properly. The development of tourism should be strictly monitored and environmental impact assessments carried out for any new tourist or industrial project (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Aymí, R., Gargallo, G. and de Juana, E. 2014. Cyprus Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*). 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/58971> on 27 March 2015).

Ieronymidou, C., Collar, N.J., and Dolman, P.M. 2012. Endemic Cyprus Warbler *Sylvia melanothorax* and colonizing Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* show different habitat associations. *Ibis*, 154(2): 248-259.

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.

# European Regional Assessment



## *Sylvia melanothorax*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

