**European Red List Assessment**

**European Red List Status**

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

**Assessment Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year published:</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date assessed:</td>
<td>2015-03-31</td>
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<td>Assessor(s):</td>
<td>BirdLife International</td>
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<td>Reviewer(s):</td>
<td>Symes, A.</td>
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<td>Compiler(s):</td>
<td>Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. &amp; Wright, L.</td>
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**Assessment Rationale**

**European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**
**EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)**

At both European and EU27 scales 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 increasing, 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; 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); Switzerland; Turkey; Gibraltar (to UK)

**Origin Uncertain:**
Azerbaijan

**Vagrant:**
Austria; Belgium; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Sweden; Ukraine; United Kingdom

**Population**
The European population is estimated at 3,390,000-5,360,000 pairs, which equates to 6,780,000-10,700,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 2,860,000-4,270,000 pairs, which equates to 5,730,000-8,530,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

**Trend**

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

**Habitats and Ecology**

This species prefers tall and dense heterogeneous maquis with sparse tree cover in dry Mediterranean areas, particularly maquis of holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and those dominated by strawberry tree (*Arbutus*) and tree-heath (*Erica*). It is also frequently found in young cork oak (*Quercus suber*) forest and in dense but treeless bushy areas. It uses bushy formations dominated by brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) along sunny ravines and valley bottoms and prefers the intermediate stages of post-wildfire succession. Breeding occurs from late March to late June and the species is monogamous. The male constructs several ‘cock nests’ but the both sexes build the breeding nest which is a deep, robust cup of grasses, thin roots and leaves and lined with finer
grasses, rootlets and hair. It is placed in low scrub, bush or a small tree, c. 30–130 cm above the ground. Clutches are three to five eggs. The diet is mostly small insects and their larvae but outside of the breeding season berries and fruits are also taken. The species is a long distance migrant, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa (Aymí et al. 2013).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats &amp; Altitude</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>200-1800 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
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**Threats**

There are not thought to be any current significant threats to this species.

**Conservation**

**Conservation Actions Underway**

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

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

No conservation measures are currently needed for this species.

**Bibliography**

**Sylvia cantillans**

**Range**
- Extant (breeding)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptence or opinion by IUCN.