Calandrella brachydactyla -- (Leisler, 1814)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- ALAUDIDAE

Common names: Greater Short-toed Lark; Alouette calandrelle; Short-toed Lark

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 is not known, but the population is not believed to be decreasing sufficiently rapidly to approach the thresholds 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; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; France; Georgia; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Belgium; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Slovenia; Sweden; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 4,730,000-9,050,000 pairs, which equates to 9,460,000-18,100,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,180,000-1,850,000 pairs, which equates to 2,360,000-3,700,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

This species prefers dry areas with low and sparse vegetation cover, on level or undulating terrain, with sandy or stony soils. In the Mediterranean basin it breeds mostly in fallow lands but also on dry pastures, tobacco fields, dirt tracks and olive groves. In Russia it also uses more densely covered pastures but is absent in true steppe and it is sometimes present in semi-arid areas but avoids true desert. It breeds in Europe, leaving its wintering grounds in late January, although arrival on its breeding grounds in the north of its range is often

not until April or May. In south-west Europe it lays in May–July and in south-east Europe from mid-April. The nest is built by the female, of grasses, rootlets and similar vegetation, lined with softer material and placed in a shallow scrape on the ground, usually beside a shrub or grass tuft. It often has a small rampart of sticks or stones. Clutch size ranges from two to five eggs. It feeds mainly on invertebrates in the spring, supplementing them with seeds and the green parts of plants in the other seasons and nestlings are fed solely on invertebrates. The species is migratory and departs on a broad front from mid-August through to September and October (de Juana et al. 2012). European populations winter in Africa between 10° and 20°N (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland		suitable	breeding
Grassland - Temperate		major	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 1500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Main threats are from agricultural intensification (leading to loss of fallows, increased number of irrigation schemes, increase in surface area covered by crops, etc.) and afforestation of wastelands (de Juana et al. 2012). In Iberia the construction of residential areas may also be a threat (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix I. EU Birds Directive Annex I. A small proportion of the population occurs in Important Bird Areas (IBAs), although much of the population in Russia and the Iberian Peninsula is not covered by any conservation measures (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Conservation Actions Proposed

More research on the behaviour and habitat of this species should be undertaken in order to inform future conservation measures (Tucker and Heath 1994, Serrano and Astrain 2005). The maintenance and expansion of dry areas of grasslands and low intensity croplands as well as the reintroduction of temporary areas of fallow land, through agri-environment regulation should be developed. (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

de Juana, E., Suárez, F. and Christie, D.A. 2012. Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2012. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from http://www.hbw.com/node/57656 on 26 January 2015).

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997. *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T and A D Poyser, London.

Bibliography

Serrano, D. and Astrain, C. 2005. Microhabitat use and segregation of two sibling species of Calandrella larks during the breeding season: conservation and management strategies. *Biological Conservation* 125(3): 391-397.

Map (see overleaf)

Calandrella brachydactyla

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015

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