Montifringilla nivalis -- (Linnaeus, 1766)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- PASSERIDAE

Common names: White-winged Snowfinch; Snow Finch

### European Red List Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Red List Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)</td>
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</table>

#### Assessment Information

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

#### Assessment Rationale

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

In Europe 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 Europe.

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

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 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 the EU27.

#### Occurrence

**Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Czech Republic; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Italy; Liechtenstein; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey

**Vagrant:**

Hungary; Portugal; Canary Is. (to ES)

#### Population

The European population is estimated at 129,000-568,000 pairs, which equates to 258,000-1,140,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 16,900-29,900 pairs, which equates to 33,900-59,700 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

#### Trend

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

#### Habits and Ecology

This species occupies barren rocky ground with cliffs, as well as meadows above the tree-line and up to the snow-line. It is frequently found near buildings where these are present at high altitudes (Summers-Smith and Bonan 2013). Breeding occurs from May to June. The nest is placed in a crevice or cavity in a rock face, boulder scree, earth bank or similar and is a bulky but neat construction of dry grass with roots, plant stalks, moss and lichen, lined with fine plant material, feathers wool and hair. Clutches are four or five eggs (Snow and Perrins 1998). It feeds mainly on seeds in the winter and insects at other times of the year. It also takes scraps at ski resorts. The species is mainly resident but descends to lower altitudes in winter (Summers-Smith...
and Bonan 2013).

### Habitats & Altitude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>1000-3160 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

This species is threatened by the future effects of climate change (Smith et al. 2009, Maggini et al. 2014).

### 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>Climate change &amp; severe weather</td>
<td>Habitat shifting &amp; alteration</td>
<td>Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Timing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td>Whole (&gt;90%)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stresses**

Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects

### Conservation

**Conservation Actions Underway**

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

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

The habitat of this species should be preserved and protected from human disturbance. The current network of protected sites should be reviewed to ensure suitable habitat is contained within these areas now and in the future (Maggini et al. 2014). Little research has been done on this species (Strinella et al. 2009) and more studies would help inform future conservation measures.

### Bibliography


### Map (see overleaf)
Montifringilla nivalis

Range

- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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