Loxia curvirostra -- Linnaeus, 1758

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- FRINGILLIDAE

Common names: Red Crossbill; Common Crossbill; Crossbill

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., Jeronimou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. &amp; Wright, L.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Rationale

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

At both European and EU27 scales 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 fluctuating, 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; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Vagrant:
Greenland (to DK); Iceland; Malta; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO)

Population

The European population is estimated at 9,100,000-17,300,000 pairs, which equates to 18,200,000-34,600,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 922,000-2,610,000 pairs, which equates to 1,840,000-5,220,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

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

Habits and Ecology

This is a species of lowland to submontane conifer forests and woodlands. Northern Palearctic populations are mostly found in taiga forests of spruce (Picea) and southern breeders (southern Britain south to the Mediterranean region) in pines (Pinus), including Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris). Race *guillemardi* occupies black pine (Pinus nigra) and race *corsicana* occurs in cultivated Corsican pine (P. n. larico). It also uses larch (Larix), cedar (Cedrus), alder (Alnus) and birch (Betula). On passage and in the non-breeding season it occurs in pine and deciduous trees in coastal woodlands, parks and gardens, including in suburban areas and city centres, also exceptionally along tideline.
The breeding season is generally determined by food abundance but is typically from August to April/May in northern and central Europe, mid-January to mid-May in Scandinavia, February to mid-May in northern Russia and March to early November in Cyprus. The nest is a deep cup of conifer twigs, bark or rotting wood strips, plant fibres, grass, moss, lichens, animal hair and feathers. It is sited 3–35 m above the ground, usually beneath the outermost foliage, close to the crown of a tall conifer and often close to the trunk in a spruce or along the branch of a pine. Clutches are three to four eggs. The species is resident and a partial migrant and is commonly irruptive and nomadic in the non-breeding season (Clement and Christie 2014).

### Habits & Altitude

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>non-breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Boreal</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>major</td>
<td>resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>800-4100 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

In Finland, the species has declined due to forest fragmentation. This is principally as a result of overall shortening of rotation times leading to a reduction in the average age of forests (Clement and Christie 2014).

### Threats & Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; aquaculture</td>
<td>Agro-industry plantations</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Minority (&lt;50%)</td>
<td>Slow, Significant Declines</td>
<td>Low Impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stresses**

Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects

### Conservation

**Conservation Actions Underway**

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

**Conservation Actions Proposed**

Large areas of mature forest should be protected for this species. Management should include increasing rotation times and setting aside core tracts of old-growth forest and be applied over as much as of the species's range as possible, owing to its habit of travelling over extremely large areas (Clement and Christie 2014).

### Bibliography


### Map (see overleaf)
Loxia curvirostra

Range

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

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

Map created 05/12/2015