Miliaria calandra -- Linnaeus, 1758
ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- EMBERIZIDAE
Common names: Corn Bunting; Bruant proyer

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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</tbody>
</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>
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<tr>
<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., van Kleunen A., 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 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 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; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

**Vagrant:**
Faroe Islands (to DK); Finland; Norway

Population

The European population is estimated at 18,300,000-31,300,000 pairs, which equates to 36,700,000-62,600,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 14,600,000-20,300,000 pairs, which equates to 29,100,000-40,500,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

In the northern part of its range this species is confined mainly to cereal fields and hay meadows. In southern Europe it has a broader habitat array occupying several types of open country, including grasslands and steppes. It avoids extensive bush cover. The species is mainly sedentary. During winter it gathers in flocks and may show rather short distance displacements to favourable feeding grounds, often fallow or stubble fields (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Bos & van Noorden 2010, Madge 2011). The breeding season starts relatively late, from late May onward in north-western populations, but probably earlier in southern European
populations. The nest is placed on the ground, hidden among vegetation. It is entirely built by the female. The clutch, usually four to six eggs, is incubated by the female alone. The incubation period is 12–14 days. The chicks are fed by the female (with the male in attendance) and leave the nest after 9–13 often before being able to fly (Madge 2011). The species's diet consists mainly of plant seeds, but during the breeding season it includes a high percentage of invertebrates, primarily small insects (Madge 2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitats &amp; Altitude</th>
<th>Habitat (level 1 - level 2)</th>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>suitable</td>
<td>resident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>max. 500 m</td>
<td>Occasional altitudinal limits</td>
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</table>

The strong decline of the species in north-western Europe is mainly a consequence of agricultural intensification. Cropped areas of spring-sown cereals have decreased, mowing of hay has been advanced and the use of pesticides has increased. Winter food supplies have decreased as a consequence of the loss of spring tillage, increased pesticide usage and improved harvesting and storage techniques. The increase of winter-sown cereal cropland has affected the species adversely through increased nest losses, as a consequence of early harvesting and the early ploughing of winter cereal stubble fields (Donald and Forrest 1995, Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Madge 2011). The abolition of the European set-aside scheme is of great concern, not only for birds. Set-aside has provided valuable food and nesting sites for many farmland birds whose populations were declining due to agricultural intensification (BirdLife International 2008). The species may be vulnerable to climatic extremes along its northern range limits (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997, Madge 2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threats &amp; Impacts</th>
<th>Threat (level 1)</th>
<th>Threat (level 2)</th>
<th>Impact and Stresses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Threat (level 1)</td>
<td>Threat (level 2)</td>
<td>Impact and Stresses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; aquaculture</td>
<td>Agro-industry farming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change &amp; severe weather</td>
<td>Habitat shifting &amp; alteration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>Herbicides and pesticides</td>
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Conservation Actions Underway
The species is classified as Critically Endangered on the Dutch Red List (Hustings et al. 2004) and Vulnerable on the Swiss Red List (Keller 2010). The species is on the British list of Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton et al. 2009).

Conservation Actions Proposed
Measures related to the restoration of the species's habitat in farmland should be taken and effectively carried out in agri-environment schemes/targeted management interventions. Specific measures include: increasing invertebrate availability by providing grassy margins or beetle banks and by selective spraying of headlands (Brickle et al. 2000); providing early summer and late summer nesting habitat close to each other to give the species the opportunity to rear two broods in a season; winter barley or late mown hay grown alongside weed-rich or undersown spring cereals would be a good combination; set-aside or similar agri-environment crop types should remain uncut and unsprayed during the breeding season and should preferably be offered close to song-posts, such as overhead wires (Perkins et al. 2012); the provision of unharvested, extensively managed cereal crops as an agri-environment option where intensively managed cereal crops are the main nesting habitat (Setchfield et al. 2012); delayed mowing (as part of agri-environment schemes) in areas where the species still breeds in meadows could significantly improve its breeding performance (Perkins et al.
measures aimed at providing winter food habitat, including stubble fields with cereal seeds (Perkins et al. 2007, Perkins 2008, Bos & van Noorden 2010).

Bibliography


Map (see overleaf)
Miliaria calandra

Range

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

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, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.