

Falco peregrinus -- Tunstall, 1771

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- FALCONIFORMES -- FALCONIDAE

Common names: Peregrine Falcon;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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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 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 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; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; 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); Iceland

Population

The European population is estimated at 14,900-28,800 pairs, which equates to 29,700-57,600 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 9,700-11,900 pairs, which equates to 19,300-23,800 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

Birds are highly migratory in the temperate and Arctic parts of its range, moving from Europe to Africa. Those breeding at lower latitudes tend to be resident (White *et al.* 2013). Migrating birds leave their breeding sites between August and November, and return between March and May (Snow and Perrins 1998). Migrants readily fly over expanses of sea and ocean. Most birds travel singly or in pairs, even on migration (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). It inhabits a wide variety of habitats, tolerating wet and dry, hot and cool climates.

Birds make up most of its diet, principally pigeons and doves. Egg-laying occurs from February to March in northern temperate zones and eggs are usually laid in a scrape or depression in a rock face, with no nest being built (White *et al.* 2013). Clutches are usually three to four eggs (Snow and Perrins 1998).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas		suitable	non-breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	non-breeding
Grassland - Temperate		suitable	resident
Grassland - Tundra		suitable	breeding
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Salt Marshes (Emergent Grasses)		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Sandy Shoreline and/or Beaches, Sand Bars, Spits, Etc		suitable	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches		suitable	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches		suitable	non-breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		major	breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		major	breeding
Shrubland - Temperate		suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 3300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Historically, the species was affected by shooting in the U.K., notably during the Second World War (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). Persecution throughout its range was the major threat in the 19th and early 20th centuries (Snow and Perrins 1998). Severe population declines in the 1960s–1970s were driven by eggshell breakage and mortality of adults and embryos from the hydrocarbon contamination associated with pesticides of that time (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001, White *et al.* 2013). The species is used extensively in falconry, although the population-level impacts of this are uncertain (White *et al.* 2013). It is highly vulnerable to the effects of potential wind energy development (Strix 2012).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/ control)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Rapid Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Indirect ecosystem effects; Reduced reproductive success			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. CMS Appendix II. CITES Appendix I. EU Birds Directive Annex I. The tree-nesting population in central and eastern Europe declined from c. 4,000 pairs to extirpation, before restoration efforts in Germany and Poland returned it to c. 20 pairs. Populations recovered following the ban of harmful hydrocarbons in most countries, which appears important to the birds' survival (White et al. 2013). Surveillance of nests and other direct protection measures have been successful in permitting population increases (Tucker and Heath 1994).

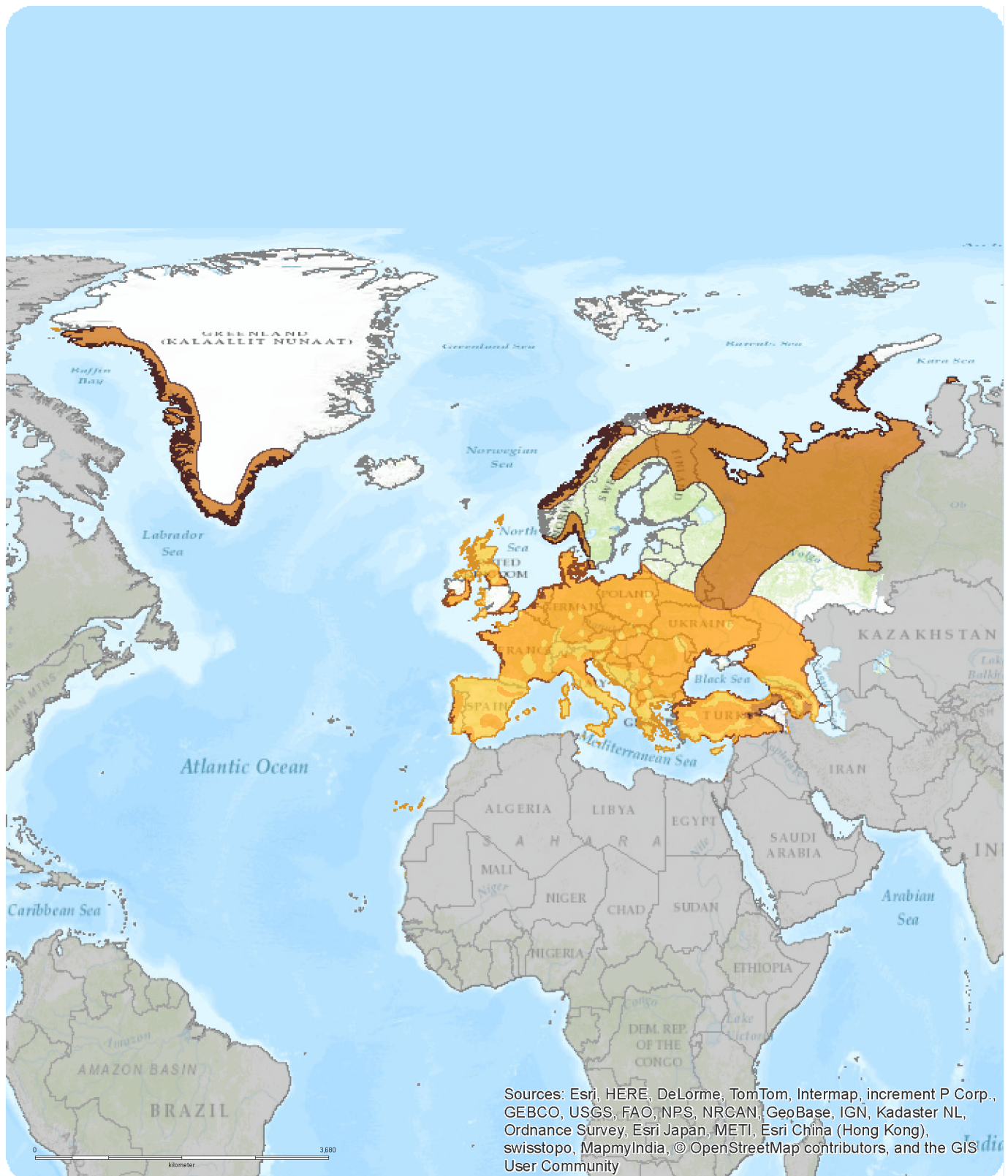
Conservation Actions Proposed

Significant further efforts are needed to fully restore it across its former range, which included Germany, Poland, Russia, Belarus and the Baltic States (European Peregrine Falcon Working Group in litt. 2007). Most importantly, harmful food-chain pollutants should be eliminated and the release of new potentially damaging chemicals prevented; the ban on organochlorine and other highly toxic pesticides should be enforced. Nest surveillance and other direct protection measures should be continued. Monitoring of breeding populations and exposure to toxic pollutants should also continue (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)



Falco peregrinus

Range

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

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



Map created 05/12/2015

