

# **Tetraogallus caspius -- (Gmelin, 1784)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- GALLIFORMES -- PHASIANIDAE

**Common names:** Caspian Snowcock;

## **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: Not Applicable (NA)**

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 Europe.

The bird is not recorded from the EU27 region.

## **Occurrence**

### **Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

#### **Native:**

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Turkey

## **Population**

The European population is estimated at 4,500-10,800 pairs, which equates to 9,100-21,700 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Trend**

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

## **Habitats and Ecology**

The species uses meadows in the sub-alpine and alpine zones between altitudes of 2,400 and 4,000 m (Tucker and Heath 1994) and occasionally down to 1,800 m. Birds are found on steep slopes lacking snow cover and gorges and crags with patches of snow and some herb and grass cover (McGowan 1994). Birds prefer south-facing slopes in summer and north-facing ones in winter. During winter they avoid areas with a covering of snow and use open ground with steppe-like vegetation instead (Tucker and Heath 1994). Courtship usually begins in April, with laying in late April and May. Typically five to nine eggs are laid (McGowan 1994). Nests are found on steep slopes in the open, beneath overhanging rocks, amongst stones or in tufts of grass (Tucker and Heath 1994). Birds feed exclusively on plant material, particularly legumes, feeding on bulbs, flowers, fruit and seeds (Baziev 1978). The species is mainly sedentary and in some areas does not even descend to lower altitudes during heavy snowfall. However some altitudinal movement has been observed in Turkey (McGowan 1994).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Temperate	suitable	resident

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		major	resident
Altitude	1800-4000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

### Threats

Its alpine habitat is threatened by overgrazing, which is easily reached by shepherds with guns, and with their sheep and dogs. In 1993 most of the species's range in Azerbaijan was suffering with intensive military activity, and it was feared that poaching and the spread of long range firearms could have drastic effects (McGowan and Boesman 2013).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Human intrusions & disturbance	War, civil unrest & military exercises	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Work & other activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Species disturbance			

### Conservation

#### Conservation Actions Underway

Least Concern (Fuller et al. 2000). Mace-Lande: Vulnerable. CITES I although it is proposed for downgrading to Appendix II (Anon 2012). Included on USSR Red List in 1978. Considered Vulnerable in Turkey (Kirwan et al. 2010), as well as Georgia, where the population, at the edge of the species's range is believed to be very small. The species is found in five Important Bird Areas in Armenia, five in Azerbaijan, four in Georgia and six in Turkey (Anon 2012).

#### Conservation Actions Proposed

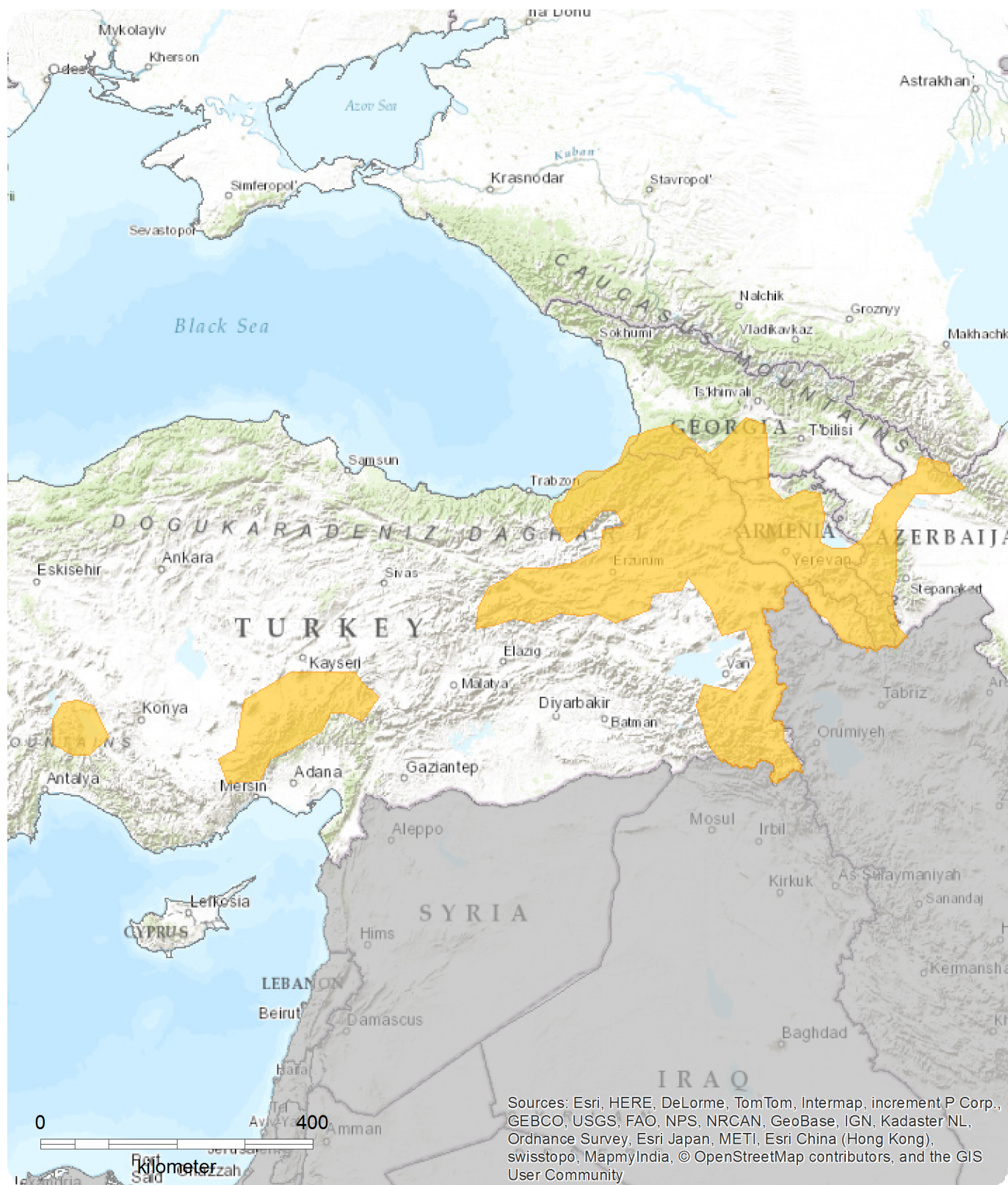
Habitat protection is needed and an extensive survey should aim to locate healthy populations in Turkey. Species does not adapt well to captivity (McGowan et al. 1995).

### Bibliography

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# European Regional Assessment



## *Tetraogallus caspius*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/13/2015

