

Francolinus francolinus -- (Linnaeus, 1766)

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

Common names: Black Francolin;

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: 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 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 in Europe.

Within the EU27, although this species may have a small range, it is not believed to 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 the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Cyprus; Georgia; Italy; Spain; Turkey

Reintroduced:

Portugal

Population

The European population is estimated at 8,000-21,000 pairs, which equates to 16,000-42,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 3,000-7,000 pairs, which equates to 6,000-14,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

The species is found mainly in low-lying coastal areas but also in wide shallow valleys at altitudes of up to 400 m, up to 20 km inland in Cyprus and 60 km inland in southern Turkey. The species uses agricultural land as well as dense scrub mainly alongside rivers with reeds (Tucker and Heath 1994). In southern Turkey, it breeds from March to May (McGowan and Kirwan 2013). It lays seven to twelve eggs (Harrison and Castell 2002). The nest is a shallow hollow or depression, sometimes lined with a few scraps of plant material and concealed amongst vegetation. It feeds on seeds of grasses, weeds and cereal crops, shoots, leaves, tubers, berries and figs as well as insects. The species is sedentary (Madge and McGowan 2002).

| Habitats & Altitude | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2) | | Importance | Occurrence |
| Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land | | suitable | resident |
| Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations | | suitable | resident |
| Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation | | suitable | resident |
| Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls) | | suitable | resident |
| Altitude | max. 400 m | Occasional altitudinal limits | |

Threats

This species is threatened by hunting in Turkey and Cyprus (Johnsgaard 1988, Tucker and Heath 1994). It has also suffered from loss of habitat through intensification of agriculture (McGowan and Kirwan 2013). In Cyprus habitat destruction as a result of the removal of citrus and tobacco plantations and other suitable vegetation cover, primarily for tourist industry developments (Tucker and Heath 1994).

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| Agriculture & aquaculture | Agro-industry farming | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Ecosystem degradation | | | | | |
| Biological resource use | Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target) | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Ecosystem conversion; Species mortality | | | | | |
| Residential & commercial development | Tourism & recreation areas | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Minority (<50%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | | | |

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex II. In Turkey, the species is fully protected and in Cyprus a ban on hunting was implemented 1984-1985 but this was lifted again after lobbying by the Hunting Association (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Hunting of the species needs to be controlled and it should be added to Appendix II of the Bern Convention (Tucker and Heath 1994). Key areas of suitable habitat should be identified and protected from development and the restoration of low-intensity farming encouraged.

Bibliography

- Harrison, C.J.O. and Castell, P. 2002. *Bird Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of Britain and Europe with North Africa and the Middle East*. Second revised edn. HarperCollins, London.
- Madge, S. and McGowan, P. 2002. *Pheasants, Partridges and Grouse, including Buttonquails, Sandgrouse and Allies*. Christopher Helm, London.
- McGowan, P.J.K. and Kirwan, G.M. 2013. Black Francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2013. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/53386> on 1 October 2014).
- Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. 1994. *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. BirdLife Conservation Series no. 3, BirdLife International, Cambridge.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Francolinus francolinus

Range

- Extant (resident)
- Introduced

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

NE DD LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX

LEAST CONCERN

Map created 05/13/2015



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.