

Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi -- (Taczanowski, 1875)

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

Common names: Caucasian Grouse; Caucasian Black Grouse

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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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 and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for this region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Russian Federation; Turkey

Population

The European population is estimated at 11,500-25,500 calling or lekking males, which equates to 22,900-50,900 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

This species is found in subalpine and alpine meadows, on north-facing slopes with Rhododendron and juniper (*Juniperus*), and on the edge of birch forest in spring and winter, at elevations of 1,300–3,000 m (Gavashelishvili and Javakhishvili 2010). Meadows used for hay production are important for breeding birds (Klaus et al. 2003). Lek sites are found above the timber line not far from winter food resources such as birch (*Betula litwinowii*), oak (*Quercus macranthera*), beech (*Fagus orientalis*), juniper and rose *Rosa* spp. (Klaus and Vitovich 2006). There is strong site fidelity to lek sites and they can be used for up to 10 years. Older males are dominant, occupying clear territories and displaying the longest and most intensely. Displays occur both morning and evening, and females attend leks at both periods, but mating is only observed during mornings. The nest is a shallow scrape lined with grass, leaves and feathers, concealed in bushes (e.g. rhododendron and juniper) or sometimes under a rock. Clutches are normally five to six eggs (de Juana and Kirwan 2014). It feeds on buds and twigs of birch, willow, juniper and other trees and bushes (Tucker and Heath 1994). Insects are rarely taken by adults but are eaten almost exclusively by chicks during the first 10–15 days. The species is sedentary; only limited altitudinal movements of up to 2 km have been recorded although it is suspected to move up to 15 km in Turkey (de Juana and Kirwan 2014).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Temperate		major	resident
Grassland - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	1800-3000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	300 m

Threats

Ongoing road building for the construction of holiday homes in the mountains is currently the major threat and is likely to significantly increase the rate of decline by fragmenting habitat, causing disturbance and allowing increased access for hunters and herdsman (Baskaya 2003, G. Welch in litt. 2005, Isfendiyaroglu et al. 2007). Construction of summer homes and wood-cutting for fuel reduces the availability of winter foraging habitat. Habitat loss and deterioration are also likely to be major threats with 40% of subalpine meadows within its range suffering from intensive grazing (WWF/IUCN 1994). The density of birds in grazed areas is low. Grazing livestock disturb and trample nests and birds are killed by herders' dogs (S. Klaus in litt. 2007). Illegal hunting is an increasing threat, particularly in the Lesser Caucasus and in Turkey, both by local residents and occasionally by tourists (E. Ménoni in litt. 2007). Dam building and subsequent re-settlement of displaced people is likely to cause significant declines in Turkey (Baskaya 2003).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Annual & perennial non-timber crops (scale unknown/unrecorded)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Livestock farming & ranching (scale unknown/unrecorded)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Energy production & mining	Renewable energy	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Residential & commercial development	Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Rapid Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality; Species disturbance; Reduced reproductive success			
Transportation & service corridors	Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Rapid Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Species mortality; Species disturbance			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Large-scale research and conservation projects are underway in Georgia and Turkey to improve understanding of the species' biology, develop monitoring and management activities and promote public

awareness, and a project to survey the species in Azerbaijan has been carried out (IUCN/SSC/BirdLife/WPA Grouse Specialist Group 2002, Azniashvili 2004, R. Gokhelashvili in litt. 2005, E. Sultanov in litt. 2005, Sultanov 2006). Future work to develop a conservation strategy and create a potential distribution map for all range countries is planned. A captive breeding program is being developed in Armenia.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Continue research into its population status, ecological requirements and interactions with different farming and forestry methods. Encourage the development and implementation of national Species Action Plans. Develop a framework for grouse-friendly farming practice, including control of dogs and regulation of hunting. Develop public awareness campaigns. Prevent road construction and inappropriate development in key areas for the species. Review the adequacy of the existing protected area network. Monitor populations at a number of sites throughout its range, especially close to sites which are being developed.

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Lyrurus mlokosiewiczi

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/13/2015

