

## Turnix sylvaticus -- (Desfontaines, 1787)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- TURNICIDAE

**Common names:** Common Buttonquail; Andalusian Hemipode; Kurrichane Buttonquail; Turnix d'Andalousie

### European Red List Assessment

#### European Red List Status

CR -- Critically Endangered, (IUCN version 3.1)

#### Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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#### Assessment Rationale

**European regional assessment: Critically Endangered, Possibly Extinct (CR(PE))**

**EU27 regional assessment: Critically Endangered, Possibly Extinct (CR(PE))**

There are no recent confirmed sightings of this species within the European region. The bird formerly bred on the Iberian peninsula, and it was last recorded in 1981. The bird is therefore classified as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) within the Europe and the EU27 regions, although the bird is considered Least Concern globally (BirdLife International 2012).

### Occurrence

#### Countries/Territories of Occurrence

##### Native:

Italy; Portugal; Spain

##### Vagrant:

France

### Population

The European and EU27 population is estimated to be possibly extinct, as there have been no confirmed sightings in more than 30 years. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### Trend

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### Habitats and Ecology

The species was formerly found in coastal scrub of bushes and dwarf palms (palmetto) *Chaeromrops humilis* (Arecaceae), but now probably confined to suboptimal Mediterranean coastal sand scrub community including *Halimium halimifolium* (Cistaceae), *Pistacia lentiscus* (Anacardiaceae) and *Quercus suber* (Fagaceae) (Madge and McGowan 2002), as well as broom *Calicotome villosa* (Fabaceae) scrub and adjacent cultivated areas (Gutiérrez Exposito et al. 2011, Debus and Kirwan 2013). It breeds April to August (Debus and Kirwan 2013). The nest is a shallow, well-concealed scrape lined with grass, under grass tussock or low vegetation; standing grass stems often pulled over to form a loose canopy (Debus and Kirwan 2013). It usually lays four eggs (Madge and McGowan 2002). It feeds on seeds and invertebrates in about equal proportions (Madge and McGowan 2002). It is apparently sedentary in the western Palearctic (Debus and Kirwan 2013).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 2400 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Over the past half century much of the habitat in the sandy areas of its range has been lost to irrigated agriculture or forestry. An unknown number are mistakenly shot each year by quail hunters. In some areas it may have been affected by overabundance of opportunistic predators such as foxes and wild boar (Madroño et al. 2004).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (unintentional effects - species is not the target)	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Red Fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Wild Boar ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

## Conservation

### Conservation Actions Underway

In 2002 the hunting of *Coturnix coturnix* in much of the theoretical range of this species within in the province of Huelva, Spain was prohibited. This measure immediately aroused concern with the hunters who had hitherto been working on surveys for the species (Madroño et al. 2004).

### Conservation Actions Proposed

The strengthening of surveys in Andalucía and the creation of a specialized, dedicated and detailed map of the species's distribution would help inform conservation decisions, as well as the continuation of research into the ecology and ethology of the species. Training forest ranger and volunteers in methods of detecting and tracking the species. Awareness-raising campaigns within the quail hunting community in the provinces of Huelva and Cadiz. Adapting forestry work in the species's range. The goal should be to reduce forests of pine or eucalyptus and create and qualitatively enhance large areas of scrubland where forest cover is uniform. Draft Recovery Plan for the species in Andalucía (Madroño et al. 2004).

## Bibliography

- Debus, S. and Kirwan, G.M. 2013. Common Buttonquail (*Turnix sylvaticus*). 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/53534> on 14 October 2014).
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- Madge, S. and McGowan, P. 2002. *Pheasants, Partridges and Grouse, including Buttonquails, Sandgrouse and Allies*. Christopher Helm, London.
- Madroño, A., González, C. and Atienza, J.C., eds. 2004. *Libro Rojo de las aves de España [Red Book of the birds of Spain]*. Madrid, Spain: Dirección General para la Biodiversidad and SEO/BirdLife

# European Regional Assessment



## *Turnix sylvaticus*

### Range

■ Possibly Extinct

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



Map created 05/13/2015



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