

Apus affinis -- (Gray, 1830)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CAPRIMULGIFORMES -- APODIDAE

Common names: Little Swift; House Swift; Martinet des maisons

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

VU -- Vulnerable, (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: Vulnerable (VU)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU^{oo})

In Europe this species has a small, declining population and is therefore classified as Vulnerable. Within the EU27 it is a recent colonist; the population is currently extremely small (meeting the threshold for classification as Critically Endangered) but the final category is adjusted to Vulnerable given the potential to spread and increase further.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Spain; Turkey

Origin Uncertain:

Azerbaijan

Vagrant:

Bulgaria; Greece; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Malta; Portugal; Sweden; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 900-2,500 pairs, which equates to 1,800-5,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at at least one pair, which equates to two mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by at least 10% in 37.5 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species occurs over a wide range of habitats and latitudes, though less frequently in truly arid regions, and usually close to human habitation (Chantler and Boesman 2013). In Europe it breeds in Turkey (Snow and Perrins 1998). In Turkey nesting occurs from April to September (Kirwan et al. 2013). It typically nests on man-made structures in the angle between the roof and wall; eviction by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) has been recorded (Chantler and Boesman 2013). Cliff sites and abandoned swallow (*Hirundo*) nests can be employed and forcible eviction noted (Chantler and Boesman 2013). The nest is a sturdy, untidy, yet internally neat and smooth, hemispherical 'bag' of vegetable matter, mainly grass, down and small twigs, with feathers, agglutinated with saliva; built in dense, often overlapping clusters with up to three entrances, sometimes communal (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It needs a perch to cling to while building (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It feeds on invertebrates, foraging as far as 15–20 km from the nest site on occasions (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It is migratory and only present in Turkey from March to September (Chantler and Boesman 2013).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	suitable	breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 3000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

Dam construction leading to habitat loss may lead to the decrease of populations in Turkey (Kiziroglu 2008) and large declines (50%) (BirdLife International 2004).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Natural system modifications	Dams (size unknown)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Rapid Declines	High Impact
		Stresses		Species mortality	

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

There are currently no conservation measures known to be in place for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Protection of important sites including legislation to protect them from development. Research into the species's ecology and habitat needs. Assess potential threats and develop appropriate responses.

Bibliography

BirdLife International 2004. *Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International

Chantler, P. and Boesman, P. 2013. Little Swift (*Apus affinis*). 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/55337> on 23 December 2014).

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Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic – Concise Edition – Volume 1 – Non-Passerines*. Oxford University Press.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Apus affinis

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE
DD
LC
NT

< VU >
VULNERABLE
EN
CR
EW
EX

Map created 05/13/2015



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