

Apus caffer -- (Lichtenstein, 1823)

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

Common names: White-rumped Swift; African White-rumped Swift; Martinet cafre

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

NT -- Near Threatened, (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: Near Threatened (NT^o)

EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT^o)

This species is widespread across sub-Saharan Africa but extends into Europe and the EU27 only in very small numbers in Spain and Portugal. The population size within the region meets the threshold for classification as Vulnerable under the small population criterion, with an unknown population trend but no evidence of a decline. The species could therefore be listed as Vulnerable, but given the historic colonisation and spread within the region there is clearly significant potential for rescue from outside the region and the final category is downlisted by one category to Near Threatened (NT^o D1) in both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Portugal; Spain

Vagrant:

Finland; Malta; Norway; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 110-200 pairs, which equates to 220-400 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is found over a wide range of habitats including Mediterranean scrub (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It is found in rural areas, close to woodland adjacent to meadows and fields and generally uses similar habitats to Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*) (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). The species is loosely colonial or solitary. In Spain it breeds from late May. It typically uses disused Little Swift (*Apus affinis*) or certain swallow (*Hirundo*) nests, though niches in rock-faces or buildings are sometimes used. In disused nests, it uses feathers and down adhered with saliva as lining; in rock sites it makes a shallow cup of feathers and vegetable matter agglutinated with saliva. Typically lays one to three eggs (Chantler and Boesman 2013). It feeds on small flying insects (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is migratory; the Spanish population is present from early May to August–October and some birds are recorded into early December, with autumn migration through the Straits of Gibraltar occurring mid-August to mid-October (Chantler and Boesman 2013).

Habitats & Altitude	Importance	Occurrence
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	breeding

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 2500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The size of the European population renders it susceptible to the risks affecting small populations; however it is adjacent to a much larger non-European population (Birdlife International 2004).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Other options	Other threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
	Other				

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

No conservation measures are currently required for this species.

Bibliography

BirdLife International 2004. *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

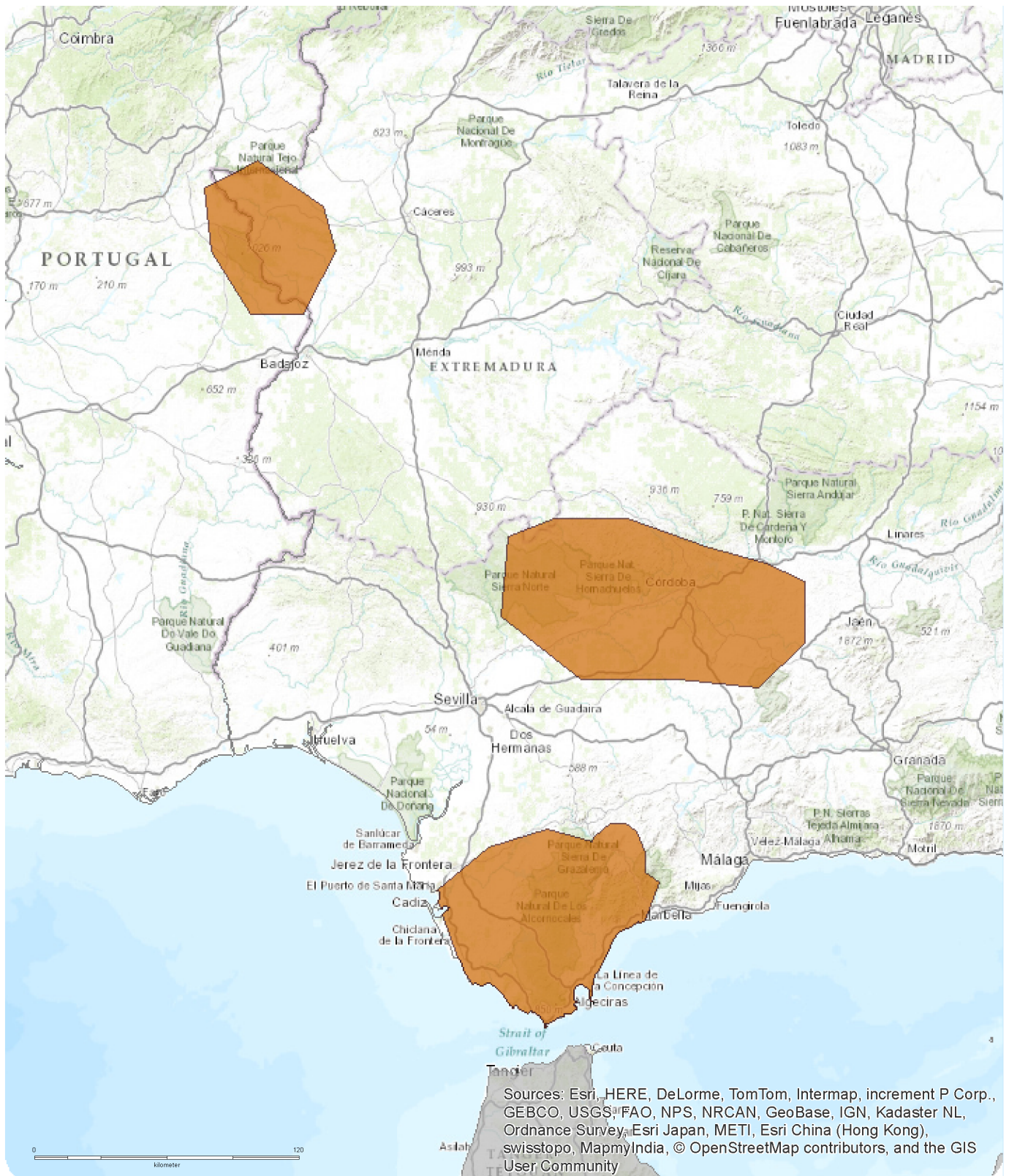
Chantler, P. and Boesman, P. 2013. White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) 2013. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/55339> on 23 December 2014).

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997. *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T & A D Poyser, London.

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 caffer

Range

Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

