

Columba livia -- Gmelin, 1789

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- COLUMBIFORMES -- COLUMBIDAE

Common names: Rock Dove; Common Pigeon; Pigeon biset; Rock DoveI

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 an extremely 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.

Within the EU27 this species has an extremely 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 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

Introduced:

Denmark; Liechtenstein; Netherlands; Gibraltar (to UK)

Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Faroe Islands (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malta; Moldova; Montenegro; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 11,000,000-22,600,000 pairs, which equates to 22,100,000-45,200,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 5,220,000-11,300,000 pairs, which equates to 10,400,000-22,700,000 mature individuals. The population size of the truly wild population of this species is obscured by confusion with feral birds. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be stable. The population size trend of the truly wild population of this species is obscured by confusion with feral birds. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species's natural habitat consists usually of rock faces, ledges in caves and sea cliffs where birds nest. The feral form is commensal with man and is particularly abundant in cities. It avoids areas of tall and dense

vegetation. Breeding season varies between regions. It breeds year round in the U.K. and Ireland with peak breeding in April. In the Mediterranean it breeds between March and July and in Cyprus from March to May. The nest is a cup loosely fashioned from stems, leaves, roots, driftwood, seaweed and feathers. It lays two eggs and may produce up to five broods each year. It typically feeds on grains but may also take some invertebrates. Natural populations are resident and sedentary (Baptista et al. 1997).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	suitable	resident
Caves and Subterranean Habitats (non-aquatic) - Caves	suitable	resident
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	suitable	resident
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 4500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

It is difficult to evaluate the conservation status and security of "natural" populations due to the confusion concerning the degree of mixing with feral birds. Natural populations are threatened by interbreeding with feral pigeons in many areas and pure populations are already confined to the remoter cliffs and islands, e.g. off north and west Scotland, but even here feral birds join the flocks (Baptista et al. 1997).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Feral rock pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Hybridisation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex II. There are no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Management is needed to keep feral birds geographically isolated from natural populations and monitoring is needed to determine the extent of natural populations (Johnson et al. 1988).

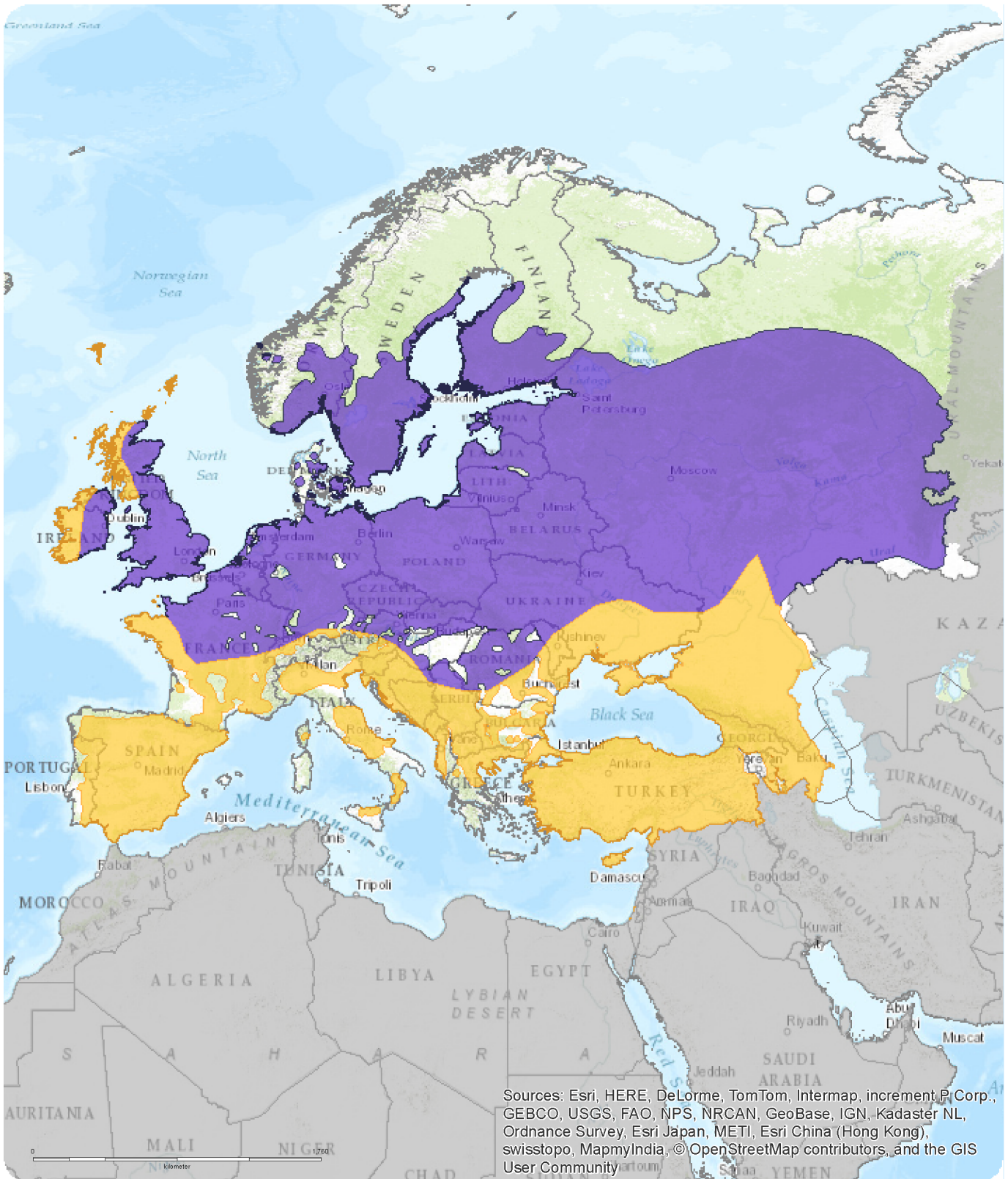
Bibliography

Baptista, L.F., Trail, P.W. and Horblit, H.M. 1997. Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). 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/54097> on 6 October 2014).

Johnston, R. F., Siegel-Causey, D., and Johnson, S. G. 1988. European populations of the rock dove *Columba livia* and genotypic extinction. *American Midland Naturalist*, 1-10.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Columba livia

Range

- Extant (resident)
- Introduced

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

NE
DD

LC
LEAST CONCERN
NT
VU
EN
CR
EW
EX

Map created 05/12/2015



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