

Columba junoniae -- Hartert, 1916

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

Common names: White-tailed Laurel-pigeon; Laurel Pigeon; Paloma Rabiche

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

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

EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

This species, endemic to Europe and the EU27, has a very small range, within which it is restricted to just four islands on which threats remain that could negatively impact the species in the future. It therefore qualifies as Near Threatened in both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Spain; Canary Is. (to ES)

Population

The European population is estimated at 1,000-2,500 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. However the species' Area of Occupancy is larger than previously thought and may have increased over the last 20 years (Barov and Derh 2011), thus its population is suspected to have increased over the last 16.8 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species prefers thermophilous forest, with a potential altitudinal range of 200–500 m Asl on the north slopes of the islands, and 600–1,000 m in the south (Nogales et al. 2009) and occurs in areas with steep slopes, escarpments and gullies, as well as in laurel forest and Canary pine forest, and cultivated areas (Martín et al. 2000). The breeding season varies between islands, but extends from January to September, with a peak between April-June. At least on Tenerife, breeding success appears to be low, as a consequence of intense nest predation (Hernández et al. 1999, Martín et al. 2000). Nests are on the ground (in fissures, holes or small ledges, at the bases of trees, and under rocks or fallen tree trunks) in steep, rocky, shady areas with abundant shrubby vegetation (Martín et al. 2000). Clutch is one, occasionally two eggs. It feeds mostly on fruit, buds, some grain and flowers. A large part of its diet is made up of fruits of *Ocotea foetens* and *Persea indica*. It forages both in trees and on the ground and locally also feeds in orchards. The species is sedentary but sometimes moves from upland forests to lowland agricultural areas to feed (Baptista et al. 1997).

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	non-breeding
Caves and Subterranean Habitats (non-aquatic) - Caves	suitable	resident
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	major	resident
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	major	resident

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry		suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 1000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Habitat loss has been extensive. Dry and laurel forests have been intensively exploited since the 15th century, and some areas of remaining forest continue to be felled and fragmented owing to the demand for wooden stakes and poles for agriculture, particularly vine-growing (Martín et al. 2000, Hernández 2004). Grazing by livestock, notably sheep, is degrading habitat on El Hierro and La Gomera. Predation of eggs and chicks by rats, and of nesting adults by feral cats (*Felis catus*), are important threats (Hernández 2004), particularly on Tenerife where five of seven nests monitored were predated, primarily by black rats (*Rattus rattus*) (Hernández et al. 1999, Martín et al. 2000). Illegal hunting remains a threat, especially when birds concentrate at drinking and feeding sites (Hernández 2004). Recreational activities such as climbing, abseiling, quad-biking, mountain-biking and motocross may disturb nesting birds (Hernández 2004, Barov and Derhé 2011). The species is potentially threatened by outbreaks of Newcastle Disease and Tuberculosis (Barov and Derhé 2011).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Rapid Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Black Rat (<i>Rattus rattus</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Domestic Cat (<i>Felis catus</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Mycobacterium avium	Future	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV)	Future	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Bird Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. It is fully protected under Spanish law. Many protected areas have been established, including Garajonay National Park (La Gomera), and El Canal and Los Tiles (La Palma). The majority of areas inhabited by the species now have protected status under regional or national law (Barov and Derhé 2011). There have been several projects focused on the conservation of this species since the 1980s. An action plan was published in 1996 and reviewed in 2010 (Barov and Derhé 2011). The restoration of pine forest and thermophile forest is still pending full implementation (Barov and Derhé 2011). As part of a LIFE project (2005-2008), work has been carried out to eradicate exotic plant species, plant native species, raise public awareness and increase knowledge of the survival of different native species found in thermophilous forest. Rat control programmes are in place on some islands. There are on-going efforts to reintroduce the species to Gran Canaria using birds from La Palma (Barov and Derhé 2011).

Conservation Actions Proposed

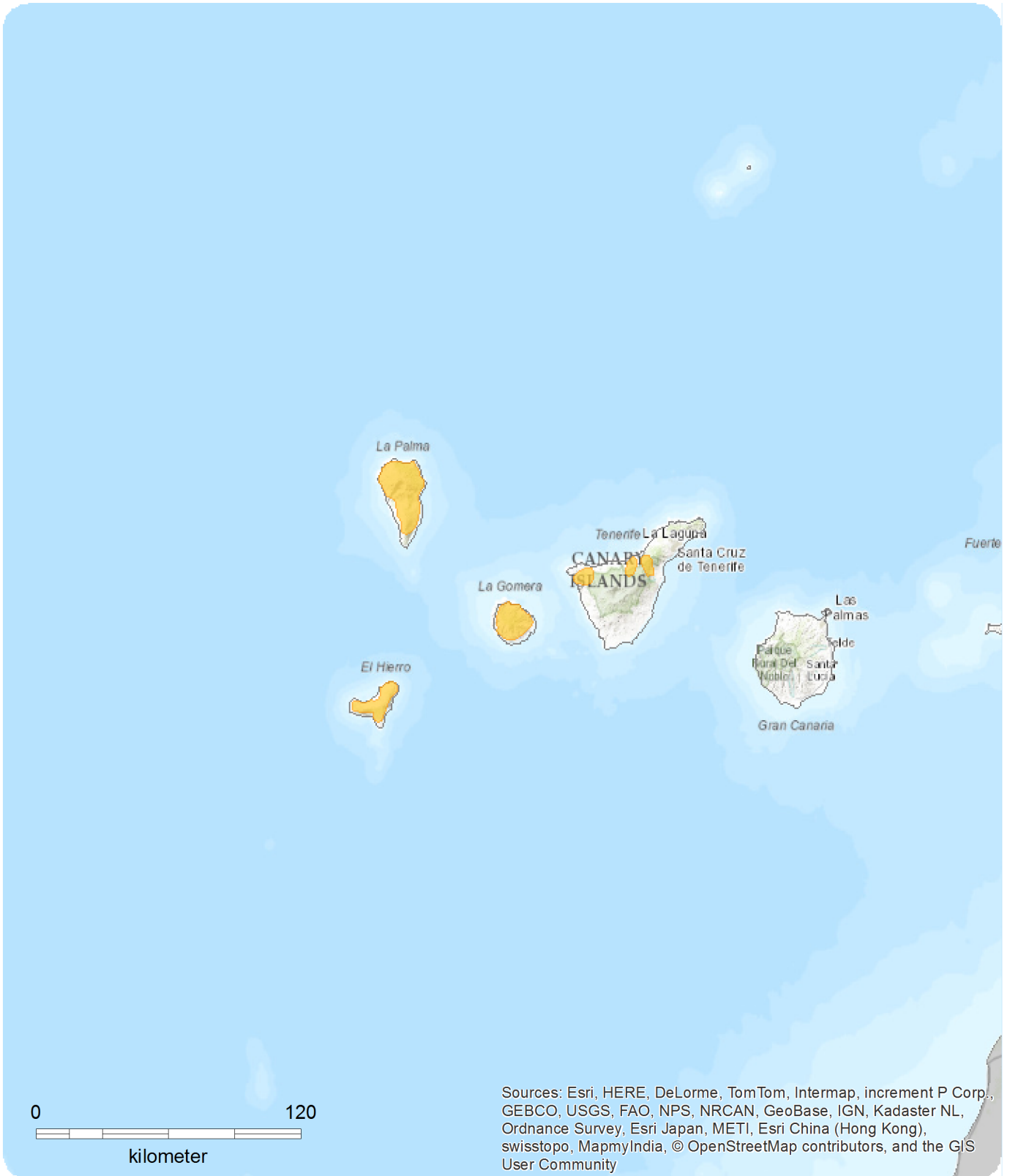
Conduct a population census and initiate monitoring. Ensure the adequate protection of key sites, particularly as yet unprotected ones on La Gomera and La Palma. Continue to promote the restoration of dry and laurel forests. Avoid further damage to laurel forest from commercial forestry. Control introduced predators at breeding sites, particularly on Tenerife. Control illegal hunting, especially at drinking sites. Continue on-going education and awareness campaigns.

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Columba junoniae

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/13/2015



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