Pterocles orientalis -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PTEROCLIFORMES -- PTEROCLIDAE

Common names: Black-bellied Sandgrouse;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status	
EN Endangered, (IUCN version 3.1)	

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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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: Endangered (EN) EU27 regional assessment: Endangered (EN)

In Europe this sandgrouse is undergoing very rapid population declines in the two main range states, Turkey and Spain, and it is therefore classified as Endangered (A2abcd+3bcd+4abcd).

Within the EU27 declines are also very rapid and the regional classification is also Endangered (A2abcd+3bcd+4abcd).

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Azerbaijan; Cyprus; Portugal; Russian Federation; Spain; Turkey

Vagrant:

Belgium; Germany; Greece; Malta

Population

The European population is estimated at 10,400-19,100 pairs, which equates to 20,800-38,200 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 5,000-8,300 pairs, which equates to 12,800-20,800 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by 50-79% in 16.8 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

The species inhabits dry grassland steppe (Tucker & Heath 1994). It favours open, treeless steppes or pseudo-steppes which incorporate uncultivated areas, fallow land and arable stubbles (Cramp 1985). It tolerates occasional shrubs or trees and occupies foothills and upland plateaux (de Juana and Boesman 2013). It lays between March and August with timing dependent on latitude, generally laying in April in the Canary Islands and mostly June in Spain and the former USSR with replacement clutches until September (de Juana and Boesman 2013). It normally lays three eggs (de Juana and Boesman 2013). The nest is an uncovered, bare scrape in bare, stony areas such as those found on the edges of ploughed fields (Tucker and Heath 1994). It often feeds on small or very small seeds apparently preferring Leguminosae, as well as cereal grain and cultivated legumes (de Juana and Boesman 2013). It is sedentary in Iberia and nomadic or partially migratory in Turkey (de Juana and Boesman 2013).

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

Habitats & Altitude					
Habitat (level	1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence		
Grassland - Temperate		suitable	breeding		
Grassland - Temperate		suitable	non-breeding		
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby V	/egetation	suitable	breeding		
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby \	/egetation	suitable	non-breeding		
Altitude		Occasional altitudinal limits			

Threats

The main threat to this species is the intensification of agriculture. Ploughing of pasture and irrigation have reduced available habitat while the removal of marginal areas of semi-natural vegetation and the increased application of agro-chemicals has reduced food availability and these practices have probably been responsible for the extinctions in some areas. On the remaining grasslands, overgrazing affects the vegetation composition and structure, reducing both food availability and cover for nesting. Conversely, land abandonment is also a major threat, as the open, treeless steppe habitat is quickly lost when grazing is removed. Hunting, which is legal in Turkey during the breeding season, may be a problem; the species's habit of concentrating in large numbers at traditional drinking sites throughout the year means that it forms an attractive and relatively easy target (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Threats & Impa	<u>icts</u>				
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Livestock farming &	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
	ranching (scale unknown/ unrecorded)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
	terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradati	on; Species mortality		

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. Several EU LIFE programmes have focused on its steppe habitat and the species occurs in some SPAs in Spain. It is listed in the Spanish Red Book as 'vulnerable' (Madroño et al. 2004).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Suitable habitats should be maintained through the continuation of long-established, low-intensity farming systems. These can be maintained through agri-environment schemes. In addition restrictions on grazing rates and the use of herbicides should be implemented and the maintenance of fallow land should be encouraged (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

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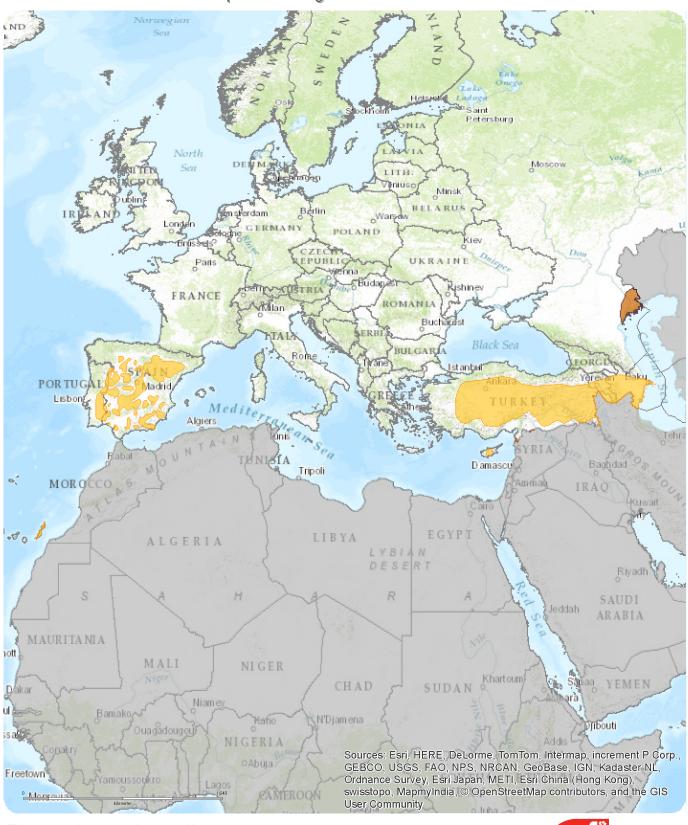
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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Pterocles orientalis

Range

Extant (breeding)

Extant (non breeding)

Extant (resident)

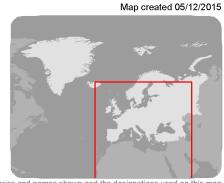












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