

Calidris maritima -- (Brünnich, 1764)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- SCOLOPACIDAE

Common names: Purple Sandpiper; Bécasseau violet

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

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 <20,000 km² combined with a declining or fluctuating range size, habitat extent/quality, or population size and a small number of locations or severe fragmentation). The population size is very large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<10,000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >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.

In the EU27 the species has undergone moderately rapid declines in winter and is therefore classified as Near Threatened (A2abc+3bc+4abc; C1).

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Belgium; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Greenland (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Portugal; Russian Federation; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Austria; Belarus; Croatia; Czech Republic; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Latvia; Malta; Montenegro; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Switzerland; Ukraine

Population

The European population is estimated at 56,700-83,000 pairs, which equates to 113,000-166,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 710-2,900 pairs, which equates to 1,400-5,900 mature individuals. The minimum EU27 population in winter is estimated at 16,700-18,200 individuals, which equates to 11,100-12,100 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the breeding population size trend is unknown. In winter, the European population size trend is unknown, but in the EU27 it is estimated to be decreasing at a rate approaching 30% in 22.8 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is fully migratory (Snow and Perrins 1998, Van Gils et al. 2013). It arrives on the breeding grounds from mid-May to mid-June where it nests in solitary pairs (Van Gils et al. 2013) and forages in small

loose groups (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species breeds on Arctic coasts (Hayman et al. 1986) and in upland areas (Johnsgard 1981, Flint et al. 1984, Hayman et al. 1986), nesting close to the fringes of snow and ice, on wet moss or barren rocky tundra with patches of lichen and *Dryas* spp., on rocky islands and islets or on shingle beaches (Van Gils et al. 2013). It forages on dry tundra or along the moist margins of ponds, at the edges of melting snow-drifts and in areas of thick moss (Hayman et al. 1986). During the winter and on passage the species shows a preference for tidal rocky shores with strong wave action (Hayman et al. 1986) and suitable high-tide roosting areas (Van Gils et al. 2013), often utilising artificial structures such as concrete sea defences and breakwaters (Hayman et al. 1986). In some northern areas (e.g. Svalbard) the species frequents mudflats, shingle beaches and coastal lagoons before and after breeding but before migrating south (Van Gils et al. 2013). During the breeding season its diet consists largely of insects (e.g., adult, larval and pupal Diptera, Ichneumon wasps and aphids) and Collembola (springtails), as well as spiders, gastropods, annelid worms and some plant material (e.g. leaves, buds, berries and seeds) (Van Gils et al. 2013). On the coast the species feeds predominantly upon molluscs (especially gastropods *Littorina* spp. and mussels *Mytilus* spp.) as well as insects (e.g. beetles and Diptera), small crustaceans (e.g. amphipods), annelid worms (Van Gils et al. 2013), small fish (Johnsgard 1981) and algae (*Enteromorpha* spp.). The nest is a small scrape positioned in the open on tundra moss (Van Gils et al. 2013), in hummocky tundra (Flint et al. 1984) close to tufts of *Dryas* spp. or *Arctostaphylos* spp. (Johnsgard 1981), or in rocky or pebbly areas between cliffs (Flint et al. 1984).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Tundra		major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Mud Flats and Salt Flats		major	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline		major	non-breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches		major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Shingle and/or Pebble Shoreline and/or Beaches		major	non-breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Tundra Wetlands (incl. pools and temporary waters from snowmelt)		major	breeding
Altitude	max. 300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species is likely to be affected by climate change (Rehfishch et al. 2004). It is also vulnerable to disturbance (Burton et al. 1996).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects					
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
Species disturbance					
Residential & commercial development	Commercial & industrial areas	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

The species is listed on Annex II of the Bern Convention.

Conservation Actions Proposed

The species must be protected from disturbance by humans.

- Burton, N.H., Evans, P.R. and Robinson, M.A. 1996. Effects on shorebird numbers of disturbance, the loss of a roost site and its replacement by an artificial island at Hartlepool, Cleveland. *Biological Conservation*: 77(2), 193-201.
- Flint, V.E., Boehme, R.L., Kostin, Y.V. and Kuznetsov, A.A. 1984. *A field guide to birds of the USSR*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. and Prater, A.J. 1986. *Shorebirds*. Croom Helm, London.
- Johnsgard, P.A. 1981. *The plovers, sandpipers and snipes of the world*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, U.S.A. and London.
- Rehfish, M.M., Austin, G.E., Freeman, S.N., Armitage, M.J. and Burton, N.H. 2004. The possible impact of climate change on the future distributions and numbers of waders on Britain's non estuarine coast. *Ibis* 146(S1): 70-81.
- Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 1: Non-Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Van Gils, J., Wiersma, P. and Garcia, E.F.J. 2013. Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*). 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/53936> on 15 April 2015).



Calidris maritima

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE
DD

LC
LEAST CONCERN
NT
VU
EN
CR
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