

Falco biarmicus -- Temminck, 1825

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- FALCONIFORMES -- FALCONIDAE

Common names: Lanner Falcon; Faucon lanier; Lanner

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

EN -- Endangered, (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: Endangered (EN)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

In Europe this falcon has a small, declining population and is therefore classified as Endangered (C1). Within the EU27, the population trend is unknown but the total population is small, and it is therefore classified as Vulnerable (D1).

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Georgia; Greece; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Russian Federation; Serbia; Spain; Turkey

Vagrant:

Cyprus; Czech Republic; France; Malta; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Canary Is. (to ES); Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 430-840 pairs, which equates to 850-1,700 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 190-250 pairs, which equates to 370-500 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by at least 20% in 12.8 years (two generations). In the EU27 the population trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species typically frequents open dry grassland and steppe and requires large areas of stony, bare or dry grassland for hunting and cliffs for nesting. In the northern Apennines where the mountainous habitat is largely forested, the species occurs in areas comprising at least 50% open landscapes. Coastal areas are generally avoided, with most pairs holding inland territories 200–600 m above sea-level, and in Sicily more frequently approaching 1,000 m (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Eggs are laid between February and May. It frequently nests on the old structures of corvids, other raptors or herons, usually in trees or on electricity pylons. Alternatively it uses scrapes on cliffs, the ground, quarries or buildings. Clutch size is usually three or four eggs (Kemp 1994). The diet is mostly small to medium-sized birds as well as some small mammals, reptiles and large insects (Tucker and Heath 1994). It will hunt by fast aerial pursuit from a stoop or horizontal chase, often around a water-hole and often with a pair combining in attack (Kemp 1994). Birds are usually recorded singly or in pairs, but are known to gather in groups of up to 20 at concentrated feeding sites (Kemp 1994, Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). Most birds are resident and migration is only recorded outside of Europe (Kemp 1994).

| Habitats & Altitude | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2) | | Importance | Occurrence |
| Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations | | suitable | resident |
| Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas | | suitable | resident |
| Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry | | suitable | resident |
| Grassland - Temperate | | suitable | resident |
| Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks) | | suitable | resident |
| Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation | | suitable | resident |
| Altitude | 200-1000 m | Occasional altitudinal limits | |

Threats

In the mid-20th century the species underwent severe declines in Europe, driven by poisoning, shooting and trapping for falconry (Kemp 1994). These threats have subsided, though persecution and the collection of eggs and chicks for falconry still probably constitute the most serious threats to the species. In Italy it is still threatened by illegal shooting (Snow and Perrins 1998, Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001) and in other countries where Skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) are hunted (Gustin et al. 2000). It is also vulnerable to the effects of potential wind energy development (Strix 2012). Habitat loss through urbanisation, modification of agricultural practices, construction of roads, open-cast mining, agricultural expansion into steppe and grasslands and afforestation has caused a reduction in hunting areas and prey species. It also suffers from human disturbance, such as rock-climbers, pesticides, electrical powerlines and interspecific competition with Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (Gustin et al. 2000).

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| | | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| Agriculture & aquaculture | Agro-industry farming | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | |
| Agriculture & aquaculture | Agro-industry plantations | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | |
| Biological resource use | Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/control) | Ongoing | Whole (>90%) | Rapid Declines | High Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species mortality | | | |
| Energy production & mining | Mining & quarrying | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | |
| Energy production & mining | Renewable energy | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality | | | |
| Human intrusions & disturbance | Recreational activities | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Species disturbance | | | |
| Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases | Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| | | Competition | | | |

| Threats & Impacts | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Threat (level 1) | Threat (level 2) | Impact and Stresses | | | |
| Pollution | Herbicides and pesticides | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality | | | | | |
| Transportation & service corridors | Roads & railroads | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Slow, Significant Declines | Medium Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation | | | | | |
| Transportation & service corridors | Utility & service lines | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact |
| | | Ongoing | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
| | | Stresses | | | |
| Species mortality | | | | | |

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. CITES Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. An international Species Action Plan was published in 2000. The species is protected by national legislation in Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Turkey and appears in the Red Books of Albania (DD), Italy (EN), Turkey and the Red Data book of the former Yugoslavia (Gustin et al. 2000).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Habitat protection should be ensured through the promotion of appropriate agricultural and forestry policies, including reduction of pesticides, protection of steppe and grassland habitat, and the promotion of zoned forestry management. Legal protection of key sites, especially breeding sites (e.g. designation of IBAs as SPAs in CEE countries) is also required. Wardening schemes to combat theft of eggs and chicks, and illegal shooting of adults should be promoted as should reductions in human disturbance at breeding sites (e.g. climbing, quarrying and building work). National action plans for the species should be developed as should research studies, especially in areas where data on breeding seasons and population sizes and trends are unknown (Gustin et al. 2000).

Bibliography

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Falco biarmicus

Range

- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE DD LC NT VU EN CR EW EX
ENDANGERED

Map created 05/12/2015



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