

Lanius nubicus -- Lichtenstein, 1823

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- LANIIDAE

Common names: Masked Shrike; Pie-grièche masqué

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
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has a very 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). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to 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 Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has a very 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

Native:

Bulgaria; Cyprus; Greece; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Serbia; Turkey

Vagrant:

Finland; Spain; Sweden

Population

The European population is estimated at 36,300-105,000 pairs, which equates to 72,600-209,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 6,000-14,200 pairs, which equates to 12,000-28,400 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 12 years (three generations). In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species breeds in areas with a warm Mediterranean climate (Lefranc and Worfolk 1997) and favours natural open woodland with bushes and glades or big isolated trees. It nests in a variety of light deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests or in maquis and maquis-like vegetation. It is normally absent from open areas or those near human habitation, but occurs locally in cultivated land dotted with old trees, citrus and olive (*Olea*) groves, orchards, small fields with tall hedges and many trees, vineyards, gardens, and poplar (*Populus*) plantations. It is monogamous and both sexes build the nest. Egg-laying occurs from April to mid-June. The nest is relatively small, open, very carefully constructed from rootlets, twigs, plant down, plant

stems and moss, lined with wool, hair or man-made materials, decorated externally with lichen (more or less camouflaged), in a fork or on a lateral branch of a tree, or sometimes in dense (often thorny) bush. Clutches are typically four to six eggs (Yosef et al. 2008). Grasshoppers and beetles make up the majority of the diet but it also feeds on other insects and small vertebrates such as lizards and small passerines (Lefranc and Worfolk 1997). The species is migratory and most birds winter in sub-Saharan Africa (Yosef et al. 2008).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	breeding
Altitude	max. 2400 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In Europe the main likely cause of population decline is degradation of favoured diverse habitats (Yosef et al. 2008), through drainage, afforestation, burning, mature woodland clearance and use of pesticides (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). During migration it suffers from shooting in Turkey and is locally persecuted in Greece as it is considered a bird of ill omen (Yosef et al. 2008).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (persecution/control)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Natural system modifications	Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. In most countries in its range the species is protected and is listed as "rare" in some national species Red Lists (Yosef et al. 2008).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Recently the species has started to occupy plantations, which have replaced natural woodland, and this adaptation may be of long-term conservation benefit to this species (Yosef et al. 2008). Traditional farmland, managed at low intensity should be maintained within diverse landscapes and old trees and small groves should be preserved. Legal protection from shooting is required and such legislation should be enforced. Population assessments for the species should be conducted throughout its range to help ascertain its conservation needs (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997. *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T & A D Poyser, London.

Lefranc, N. and Worfolk, T. 1997. *Shrikes: a guide to the shrikes of the world*. A&C Black.

Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. 1994. *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. BirdLife Conservation Series no. 3, BirdLife International, Cambridge.

Yosef, R. and International Shrike Working Group. 2008. Masked Shrike (*Lanius nubicus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.). 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/60494> on 8 March 2015).

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Lanius nubicus

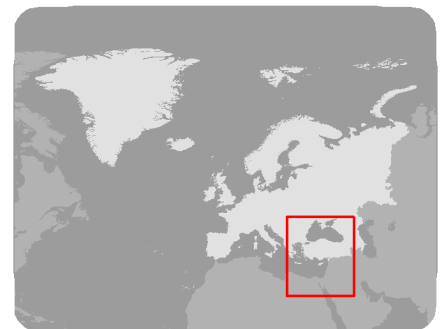
Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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

NE DD LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX
LEAST CONCERN

Map created 05/12/2015



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