Saxicola dacotiae -- (Meade-Waldo, 1889)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- MUSCICAPIDAE

Common names: Fuerteventura Stonechat; Canary Chat; Canary Islands Bush Chat; Canary Islands Chat; Canary Islands Stonechat

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
NT -- Near Threatened, (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: Near Threatened (NT)
EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

This species, endemic to Europe and the EU27, has a moderately small population which approaches the threshold for classification as Vulnerable. It also has a very small range, which is in decline owing to ongoing habitat loss and degradation; however, its population is not severely fragmented, nor is it restricted to ten locations or fewer. For these reasons it is listed 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 13,400-15,500 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

Although the estimated population exceeds the estimate provided by Bibby and Hill (1987), this is not necessarily indicative of an increase as differences in methodology mean that such estimates are difficult to compare, and the earlier study may not have properly considered detection probability (Seoane et al. 2010). Development for tourism remains a threat but its rate has probably decreased in recent years; however, overgrazing by livestock appears to be increasing and is thought to be impacting the species through habitat degradation (A. I�igo in litt. 2011), thus the species is suspected to be declining as a consequence of on-going habitat loss and degradation. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

This species is found on rocky hillsides and "barranco" (= ravine) habitats with shrubby vegetation cover (Illera 2001), typically of aulaga (Launaea arborescens), saltwort (Salsola vermiculata) and box-thorn (Lycium intricatum). These habitats support a high abundance of invertebrates, and provide suitable nesting sites and perches from which the species can forage for arthropods (Illera 2001). It also occurs on the edge of vegetated "malpaíses" (= lava flows), dry and flowing watercourses, cultivated areas and gardens (Martín and Lorenzo 2001). Individuals appear to show strong site fidelity, potentially as a consequence of low spatial variance in the habitat characteristics determining reproductive success (Illera and Díaz 2008).

The breeding season is typically from mid- February to late March but is linked to the timing and extent of winter rains so can be as early as January. The nest is a firm cup of plant stems and roots, incorporating much Salsola and lined with goat hair. Generally placed on the (usually sloping) ground among stones and rocks, in cactus thickets, under shrubs (L. intricatum) or bushy grass clumps, or low down (below 0·5 m) in a wall or side of barranco and often sheltered by an overhanging stone or bush. Clutch size can be two to five but

usually four eggs. It feeds on invertebrates, including caterpillars, ants, ichneumon flies, flies, centipedes, beetles and spiders. The species is sedentary although there have been reports of birds possibly dispersing to other islands in the past (Collar 2005).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land		suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland		suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	resident
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		suitable	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		major	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks		suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 800 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Recent rapid increases in infrastructural development, such as tourist and residential centres, road building, industrial plants, mineral operations and golf courses are destroying the habitat of this species (particularly on the Jandía peninsula in the south of Fuerteventura) (Illera 2004). Additional threats include excessive and increasing livestock grazing (A. Iñigo in litt. 2011), including cattle and extensively-ranched, semi-feral "coastal" goats (which accelerates desertification and reduces vegetation cover and food availability (Illera and Díaz 2006)), and nest predation by feral cats (Felis catus) (Medina and Nogales 2009) and other introduced mammals such as rats Rattus spp. (Illera 2004, Illera and Díaz 2006). High fidelity to particular sites may exacerbate the problem of the destruction and degradation of optimal habitats (Illera and Díaz 2008).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Energy production & mining	Mining & quarrying	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Black Rat (Rattus rattus)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Domestic Cat (Felis catus)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Reduced reproductive success			
Residential & commercial development	Commercial & industrial areas	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Residential & commercial development	Tourism & recreation areas	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. An action plan was produced in 1999 (Illera 1999) and partially updated in 2002 (Illera 2002). Various studies of the species's habitat usage (Illera 2001, Illera et al. 2006), breeding biology (Illera and Díaz 2006) and dispersal (Illera and Díaz 2008) have been undertaken since 1998.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Develop, approve and implement a national Conservation Plan for the species (Illera 2004). Conduct a complete population census and remap the species's distribution (Illera 1999, 2004). Develop a monitoring programme (Illera 1999, 2004). Identify and protect key areas of optimal habitat for the species, and reduce the number of "coastal goats" in these areas (Illera 1999, 2001, 2004). Raise awareness of the species among the resident and tourist populations, particularly the threat from off-road driving and introduced mammals (Illera 1999, 2004). Attempt to control predators at key sites where their impact on breeding success is particularly severe (Illera 2004).

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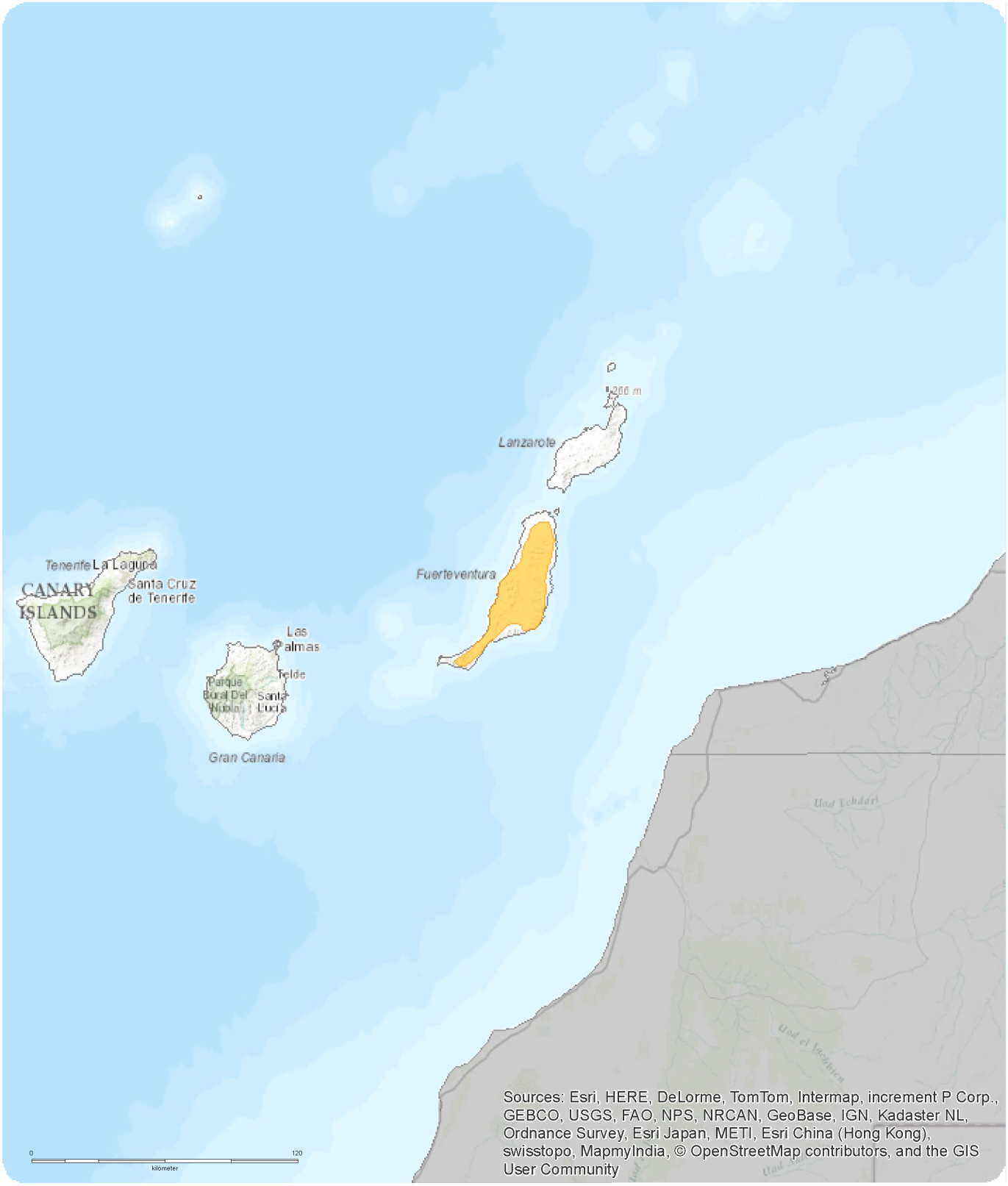
Map (see overleaf)



Saxicola dacotiae

NE | DD | LC | **NT** NEAR THREATENED | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015