

# **Oenanthe leucura -- (Gmelin, 1789)**

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

**Common names:** Black Wheatear; Traquet rieur

## **European Red List Assessment**

<b>European Red List Status</b>
VU -- Vulnerable, (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: Vulnerable (VU)**

**EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)**

This wheatear is undergoing rapid population declines in Spain, which holds the vast majority of the population within Europe and the EU27. It is therefore classified as Vulnerable in both Europe and the EU27.

## **Occurrence**

### **Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

#### **Native:**

France; Portugal; Spain; Gibraltar (to UK)

#### **Vagrant:**

Bulgaria; Greece; Italy; Liechtenstein; Malta; Montenegro; Norway; Serbia

## **Population**

The European population is estimated at 6,500-6,900 pairs, which equates to 13,100-13,900 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Trend**

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by 30-49% in 12.3 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Habitats and Ecology**

This species inhabits steep rocky arid landscapes with rock walls, scattered boulders, bare ground and sparse scrub, avoiding flat terrain. It inhabits gorges, ravines, steep-sided wadis, hillsides, screes, scarps, outcrops, sea cliffs, ancient hilltop settlements, ruins and old deserted houses, in wooded, semi-wooded, semi-desert and bare areas. In southern Spain, nest-building begins mid-February and in the Pyrenees from mid-April. The nest is a bulky cup of grass and rootlets, lined with hair and feathers and sited under a rock or tussock, or up in hole in rock, wadi bank or wall. Clutches are three to five eggs. It feeds on invertebrates, small lizards and plant matter. The species is largely or strictly sedentary, but movements are variable and may be complex (Collar 2005).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Temperate	suitable	resident
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	suitable	resident
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	major	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	suitable	resident
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

## **Threats**

Declines in Iberia have been attributed to severe winters and afforestation as well as the disappearance of derelict buildings and man-made caves (Collar 2005). Nests in man-made structures are safer from predators, which may also be a threat (Tucker and Heath 1994)

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
<b>Threat (level 1)</b>	<b>Threat (level 2)</b>	<b>Impact and Stresses</b>			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Past Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Species mortality					
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified species	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Species mortality					
Other options	Other threat	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		<b>Stresses</b>			
Ecosystem conversion					

## **Conservation**

### **Conservation Actions Underway**

CMS Appendix II. Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

### **Conservation Actions Proposed**

Suitable habitat such as arid stony plateaus, canyons and gullies should be protected from afforestation. In addition abandoned buildings and man-made caves should be preserved (Tucker and Heath 1994).

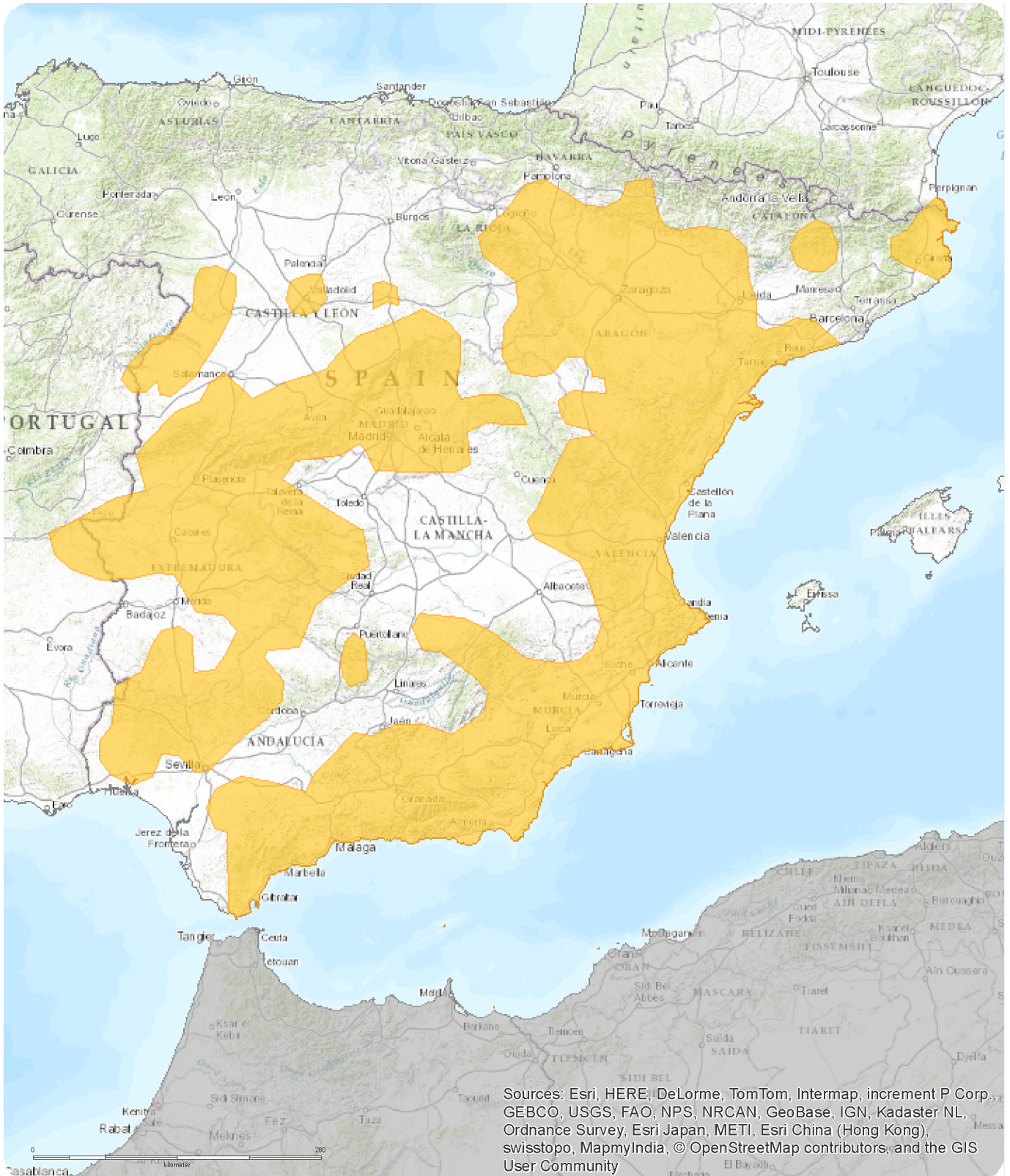
## **Bibliography**

Collar, N. 2005. Black Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/58536> on 30 March 2015).

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

## **Map (see overleaf)**

# European Regional Assessment



## *Oenanthe leucura*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.