

Sturnus unicolor -- Temminck, 1820

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- STURNIDAE

Common names: Spotless Starling;

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
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: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

At both European and EU27 scales 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 increasing, 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 within both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

France; Italy; Portugal; Spain; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Denmark; Greece; Malta

Population

The European population is estimated at 23,900,000-30,600,000 pairs, which equates to 47,800,000-61,300,000 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is found in open woodland with expanses of short grass, often in association with grazing mammals as well as in farmland, parks, gardens and cities. Breeding occurs from April to mid-July and it is a colonial nester. Both sexes build the nest, mainly from dry grass and it is lined with grass, roots, leaves and feathers. Often yellow flowers are included in the structure, as well as fresh green leaves. It is placed in a natural hole or an old woodpecker hole, or in the disused burrow of European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) or Collared Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) and artificial structures and nestboxes are widely used. Clutches are four to five eggs in Spain. It is omnivorous; it takes mainly animal matter in the spring and summer and fruit and seeds in the autumn and winter. The species is mostly sedentary (Craig *et al.* 2014).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	suitable	resident

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	suitable	resident
Grassland - Temperate	suitable	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 2500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

Interbreeding between this species and *Sturnus vulgaris* has been observed in areas where it is sympatric (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997), although this is not known to be a serious threat.

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Timing	Scope		
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Severity	Impact
				Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Hybridisation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

No conservation measures are currently needed for this species.

Bibliography

Craig, A., Feare, C. and Bonan, A. 2014. Spotless Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*). 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/60852> on 29 March 2015).

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.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Sturnus unicolor

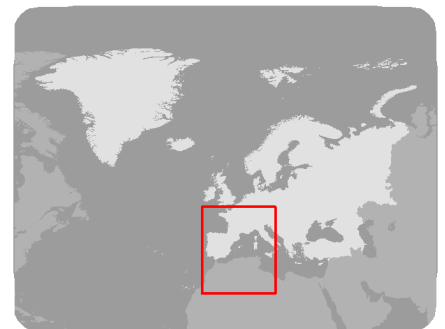
Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



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