

Sitta krueperi -- Pelzeln, 1863

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- SITTIDAE

Common names: Krueper's Nuthatch; Krüper's Nuthatch

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

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 <20,000 km² combined with a declining or fluctuating range size, habitat extent/quality, or population size and a small number of locations or severe fragmentation). The population size is very large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<10,000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >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.

The small population size in the EU27 approaches the threshold for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<1,000 mature individuals), so it is classified as Near Threatened. There is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the region, so the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Georgia; Greece; Russian Federation; Turkey

Population

The European population is estimated at 121,000-451,000 pairs, which equates to 241,000-901,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 550-680 pairs, which equates to 1,100-1,400 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 is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species inhabits temperate coniferous forest, from sea-level up to c. 2,400 m. In Turkey, it occurs mostly between 1,000–1,600 m, mainly in forests of black pine (*Pinus nigra*), fir (*Abies cilicica*), cedar (*Cedrus libani*), red pine (*Pinus brutia*) and juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) (Albayrak et al. 2006, T. Albayrak in litt. 2007). In the Caucasus, it occurs mainly in the zone of spruce (*Picea*) forests between 1,000 and 2,000 m, mostly in old stands of Caucasian fir (*Abies nordmanniana*), but also in pine (*Pinus*) forest. The breeding season is from early April to mid-May (depending on altitude and locality) on Lesbos and in Turkey and April to May in Caucasus. The nest is built largely by the female and is a foundation of coarse bark chips, rotten wood and cone scales, lined with a pad of moss, bark fibres, hair, wool, fur and feathers. Nests are built up to 24 m above ground in tree holes although eggs are sometimes laid on top of a stump or even in pile of twigs in a

fork (perhaps only when holes not available). It feeds largely on insects and spiders in the breeding season and chicks are fed entirely on animal material. In autumn and winter it feeds on the seeds of coniferous trees and will cache food for times of poor weather (Harrap 2008). The species is primarily sedentary but some altitudinal movement occurs in the winter (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	max. 2400 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In Turkey, forestry is placing considerable pressure on the species's mature coniferous forest habitats (T. Albayrak in litt. 2007). Development for tourism is also a threat, particularly in coastal areas where the species was once numerous (S. Isfendiyaroglu in litt. 2005). A law for the promotion of tourism came into force in Turkey in 2003, further exacerbating the threat from habitat loss (S. Isfendiyaroglu in litt. 2005). Urbanisation and the construction of summer houses is also a growing problem in the Mediterranean part of its range (S. Isfendiyaroglu in litt. 2005).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Wood & pulp plantations (scale unknown/unrecorded)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Residential & commercial development	Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. Studies of various aspects of the species such as its breeding ecology, habitat requirements and population structure have taken place (Albayrak and Erdogan 2006, Thibault et al. 2006, Albayrak et al. 2011).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Develop a Species Action Plan. Develop a monitoring programme to assess population trends. Assess threats to the species and develop appropriate responses. Follow up on ongoing research work and adopt recommendations as appropriate.

Bibliography

- Albayrak, T. and Erdogan, A. 2006. Breeding ecology of Kruper's nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*) near Antalya, Turkey. *Israel Journal of Zoology* 51(4): 309-314.
- Albayrak, T., Besnard, A. and Erdogan, A. 2011. Morphometric Variation and Population Relationships of Krüper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*) in Turkey. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 123(4): 734-740.
- Harrap, S. 2008. Krueper's Nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*). 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/59926> on 20 January 2015).
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European Regional Assessment



Sitta krueperi

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

