

## **Sitta tephronota -- Sharpe, 1872**

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

**Common names:** Eastern Rock-nuthatch; Eastern Rock Nuthatch

### **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: Not Applicable (NA)**

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 Europe.

The bird is considered vagrant in the EU27 and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for this region.

### **Occurrence**

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

##### **Native:**

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Turkey

### **Population**

The European population is estimated at 16,600-53,500 pairs, which equates to 33,200-107,000 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Trend**

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

### **Habitats and Ecology**

This is a species of rocky mountain slopes and valleys, cliffs, ravines and gorges. It may favour streams, and its distribution is closely correlated to a milk-vetch-wormwood-Rosaceae (*Astragalus-Artemesia-Rosaceae*) vegetation community, including almonds (*Prunus dulcis*) and pistachios (*Pistacia vera*). In the Transcaucasus area breeding begins from late March or April. Both sexes build the nest, which is a flask-shaped structure built usually over a crack, cavity or hole in rock face, tree, riverbank or building. The hole may be a natural one, excavated by birds themselves, or the abandoned hole another species. The entrance is walled up with a mixture of mud, saliva, excrement, resin, feathers, hair, cloth, insect fragments and even sweet papers, leaving a small hole or short conical entrance tunnel. The nest may be reused over several years. Clutches are typically five to seven eggs. In the summer it feeds mainly on insects and snails (Gastropoda) and from autumn to early spring it takes mostly seeds, such as those of apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), cherry (*Prunus*) and wild almond. The species is resident with some post-breeding dispersal (Harrap 2008).

| <b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>  |             |                               |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2)   | Importance  | Occurrence                    |
| Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)                           | major       | resident                      |
| Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation                         | suitable    | resident                      |
| Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks | suitable    | resident                      |
| Altitude  | max. 2100 m | Occasional altitudinal limits |

### **Threats**

The species may suffer the effects of future climate change (Menon *et al.* 2009).

| <b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>    |                               |   |              |          |         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|---------|
| Threat (level 1)                | Threat (level 2)              | Impact and Stresses                               |              |          |         |
|                                 |                               | Timing  | Scope        | Severity | Impact  |
| Climate change & severe weather | Habitat shifting & alteration | Ongoing   | Whole (>90%) | Unknown  | Unknown |
|                                 |                               | Stresses  |              |          |         |
|                                 |                               | Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects |              |          |         |

### **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.

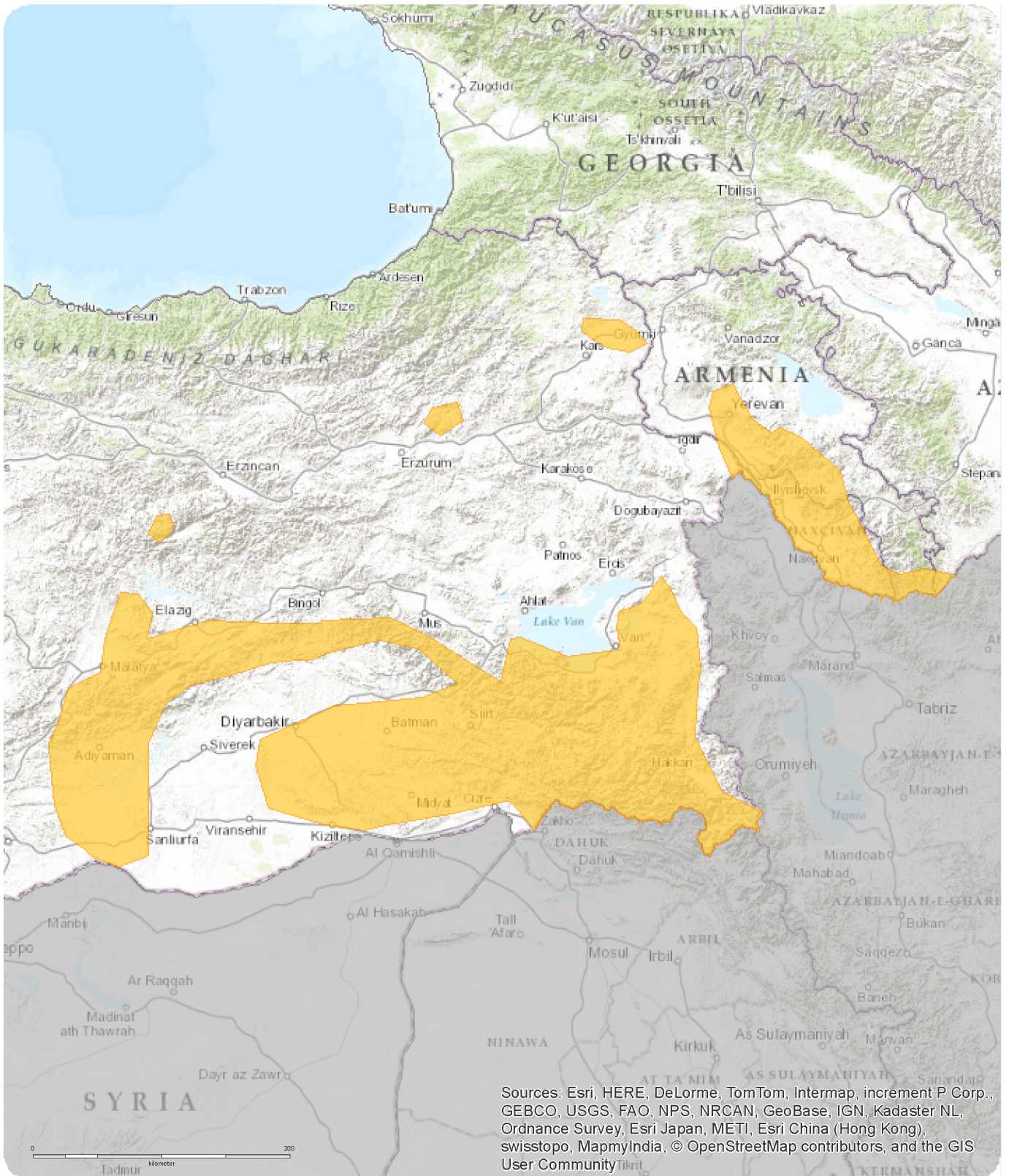
### **Bibliography**

Harrap, S. 2008. Eastern Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta tephronota*). 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/59934> on 29 March 2015).

Menon, S., Islam, Z.U. and Peterson, A.T. 2009. Projected climate change effects on nuthatch distribution and diversity across Asia.

### **Map (see overleaf)**

# European Regional Assessment



## *Sitta tephronota*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

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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