

Phylloscopus borealis -- (Blasius, 1858)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- SYLVIIDAE

Common names: Arctic Warbler;

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.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

In Europe this species has an extremely 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 extremely 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). 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 in Europe.

In the EU27 the small, declining population qualifies as Vulnerable, and there is not considered to be significant potential for rescue from outside the EU27, so the final category is unchanged.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Finland; Norway; Russian Federation; Sweden

Vagrant:

Bulgaria; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); France; Germany; Greece; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Spain; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 3,700,000-7,000,000 pairs, which equates to 7,400,000-14,000,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 560-2,100 pairs, which equates to 1,100-4,300 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be increasing. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by at least 10% in 10.8 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

During the breeding season this species is found in thick undergrowth, such as dwarf willow (*Salix*) clumps in damp valleys and riverine thickets, and in forests, principally of birch (*Betula*), willow, poplar (*Populus*) and pine (*Pinus*) forests with occasional spruce (*Picea*). At higher altitudes, it is also found in rhododendron (*Rhododendron*) thickets and in montane scrub above the tree-line. In Siberian taiga it frequently uses *Alnaster fruticosus* thickets. Breeding occurs from June to August. The nest is made mostly of grass stalks, bits of reeds, moss, plant fibres and horsetail (*Equisetum*) shoots and is placed on the ground in vegetation among

tree roots, grass or reed clumps, tussocks or hummocks. Clutches are five or six eggs. It feeds mostly on small insects and other invertebrates. The species is migratory and winters in south-east Asia (Clement 2006).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Boreal		suitable	breeding
Shrubland - Boreal		major	breeding
Altitude	1800-2500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species is threatened by future climate change (Heikkinen 2006).

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

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

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

Conservation Actions Proposed

Research into causes of declines in Europe and into appropriate measures for mitigating climate change threat.

Bibliography

Clement, P. 2006. Arctic Warbler (*Phylloscopus borealis*). 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/58885> on 27 March 2015).

Heikkinen, R.K., Luoto, M. and Virkkala, R. 2006. Does seasonal fine tuning of climatic variables improve the performance of bioclimatic envelope models for migratory birds?. *Diversity and Distributions*, 12(5): 502-510.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Phylloscopus borealis

Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



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