

***Sylvia hortensis* -- (Gmelin, 1789)**

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

Common names: Orphean Warbler; Fauvette orphée; Western Orphean 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: Least Concern (LC)

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 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend is not known, but the population is not believed to be decreasing sufficiently rapidly to approach the thresholds 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.

Within the EU27 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 in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; France; Georgia; Greece; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Portugal; Serbia; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey; Gibraltar (to UK)

Vagrant:

Austria; Belgium; Czech Republic; Germany; Luxembourg; Malta; Slovakia; Canary Is. (to ES); United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 274,000-592,000 pairs, which equates to 549,000-1,180,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 125,000-251,000 pairs, which equates to 249,000-502,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is found in various types of open or semi-open woodland with variable bushy cover, such as maquis with cork oak (*Quercus suber*) and holm oak (*Quercus ilex*), dehesa-like forest of *Argania spinosa*, olive groves and park-like pine (*Pinus*) forest. It is also found in abandoned orchards, suburban gardens, and forested margins of vineyards and ravines. In southern Europe, breeding occurs from mid-April to July. It is monogamous and both sexes build the nest which is a rather robust cup of grass and plant material with vegetable down, moss and cobwebs, lined with finer grasses and fibres. It is placed c. 0.5–3.5 m above the

ground in a bush or tree; frequently close to nest of Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*). Clutches are typically three to five eggs. The diet is mainly arthropods, especially insects and their larvae but it also takes berries outside the breeding season. The species is a medium-distance to long-distance migrant (Aymí and Gargallo 2006).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations		suitable	breeding
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens		suitable	breeding
Forest - Temperate		major	breeding
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		major	breeding
Altitude	max. 2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Habitat loss and deterioration of its woodland habitat have been caused mainly by agricultural intensification and decreased grazing. Wildfires can have adverse effect in the short term but may be beneficial by helping to open up forested areas (Tucker and Heath 1994, Aymí and Gargallo 2006). The species is also likely to suffer negative impacts from climate change (Doswald *et al.* 2009).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Natural system modifications	Fire & fire suppression (trend unknown/unrecorded)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

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

Conservation Actions Proposed

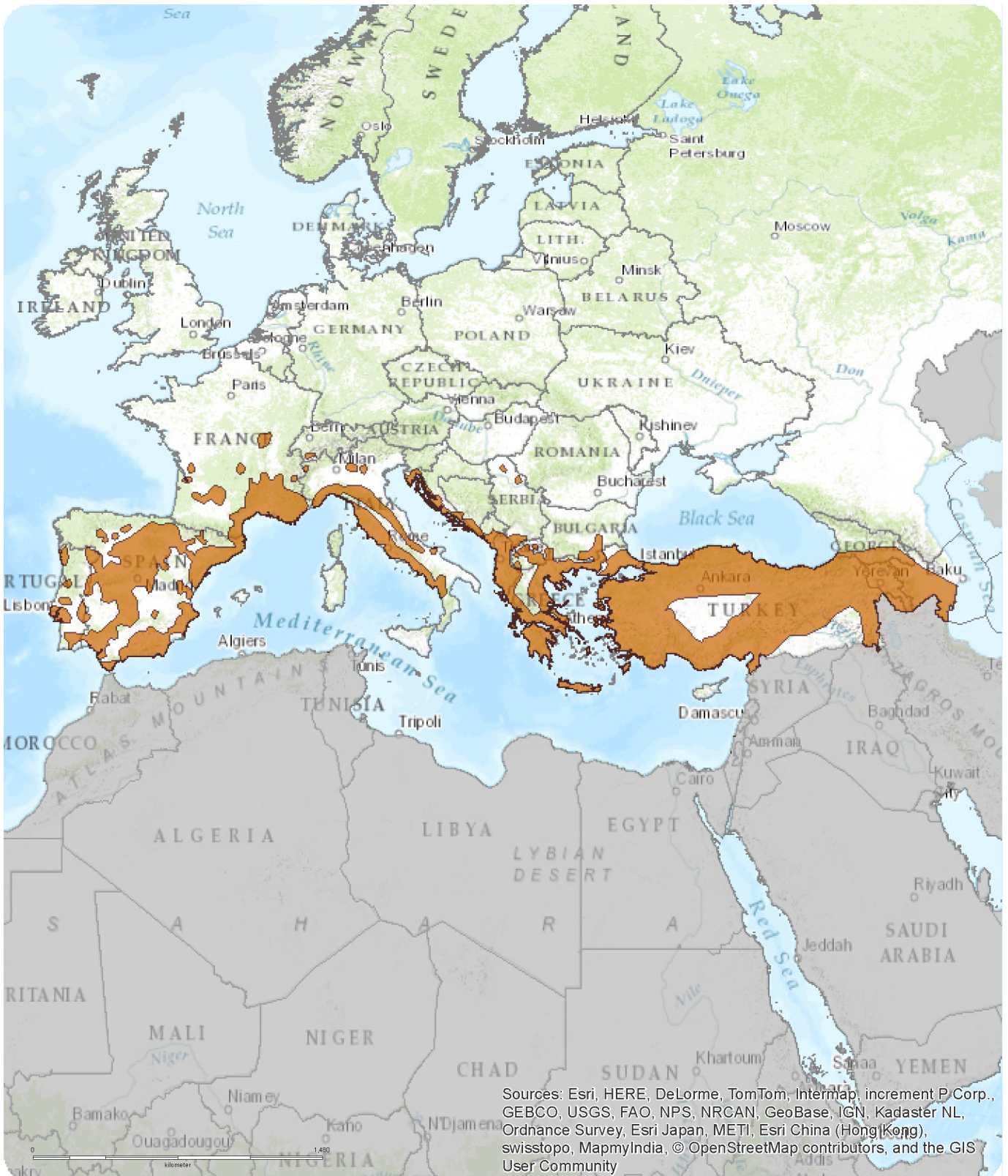
Low-intensity land-use practices and traditional management of olives, fruit trees and orchard should be maintained. Research should focus on the species's habitat requirements to help ascertain causes of decline and to inform suitable future conservation measures (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Bibliography

- Aymí, R. and Gargallo, G. 2006. Orphean Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*). 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/58958> on 27 March 2015).
- Doswald, N., Willis, S.G., Collingham, Y.C., Pain, D.J., Green, R.E. and Huntley, B. 2009. Potential impacts of climatic change on the breeding and non-breeding ranges and migration distance of European *Sylvia* warblers. *Journal of Biogeography*, 36(6): 1194-1208.

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

European Regional Assessment



Sylvia hortensis

Range

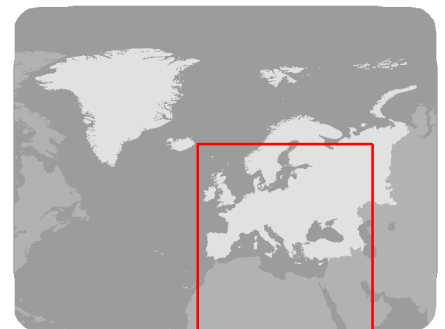
Extant (breeding)

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

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LC **LEAST CONCERN**

Map created 05/12/2015



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