

Ammomanes deserti -- (Lichtenstein, 1823)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- ALAUDIDAE

Common names: Desert Lark; Ammomane du désert

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

CR -- Critically Endangered, (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: Critically Endangered (CR)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

Abundant in the Middle East and North Africa, within Europe this species is restricted to an extremely small (30-120 pairs, which equates to 60-240 mature individuals in a single sub-population) and decreasing population in southern Turkey, and it is therefore classified as Critically Endangered (C2a(ii)). It does not occur in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Turkey

Vagrant:

Cyprus

Population

The European population is estimated at 30-120 pairs, which equates to 60-240 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 decreasing. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species occurs in desert or semi-desert, mainly in lowlands and is found on rocky or stony hill slopes and flanking escarpments. It avoids flat and sandy landscapes, although sometimes seen in undulating terrain with rocks and stones. It is mostly found in lowlands, but occurs to at least 2,000 m in mountains.

Egg-laying occurs from March to May. The species is monogamous and territorial. Both sexes build the nest which is placed on the ground beside a rock, grass tuft or small shrub, or in an exposed site. It is made from grass stems and other fine plant material, lined with softer material and with a rampart of small stones on the exposed side, or surrounded by small stones when in an open site. Clutches can be between one to five eggs. It has a mixed diet of small seeds and insects taken in highly variable proportions, according to area and season. Hard food items are broken against rocks or other hard surfaces before consumption. Chicks are fed mainly with insects. This species is mainly sedentary, although some irregular movements recorded and altitudinal movements occur in mountain areas. It has been recorded as an accidental in Cyprus (de Juana and Suárez 2004).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	major	resident

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Shrubland - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	max. 2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The European population is on the edge of its world range, conditions may well be suboptimal for the species within the region making it particularly vulnerable to habitat change. Habitat degradation from factors such as irrigation, overgrazing and erosion as well as are recorded in areas where the species is present (Ozturk et al. 2012) and may be a threat to this species. The use of pesticides may also be a problem (Ozturk et al. 2012).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (agricultural use)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents (soil erosion, sedimentation)	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation					
Pollution	Herbicides and pesticides	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
Indirect ecosystem effects					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

There are no known conservation measures currently in place for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

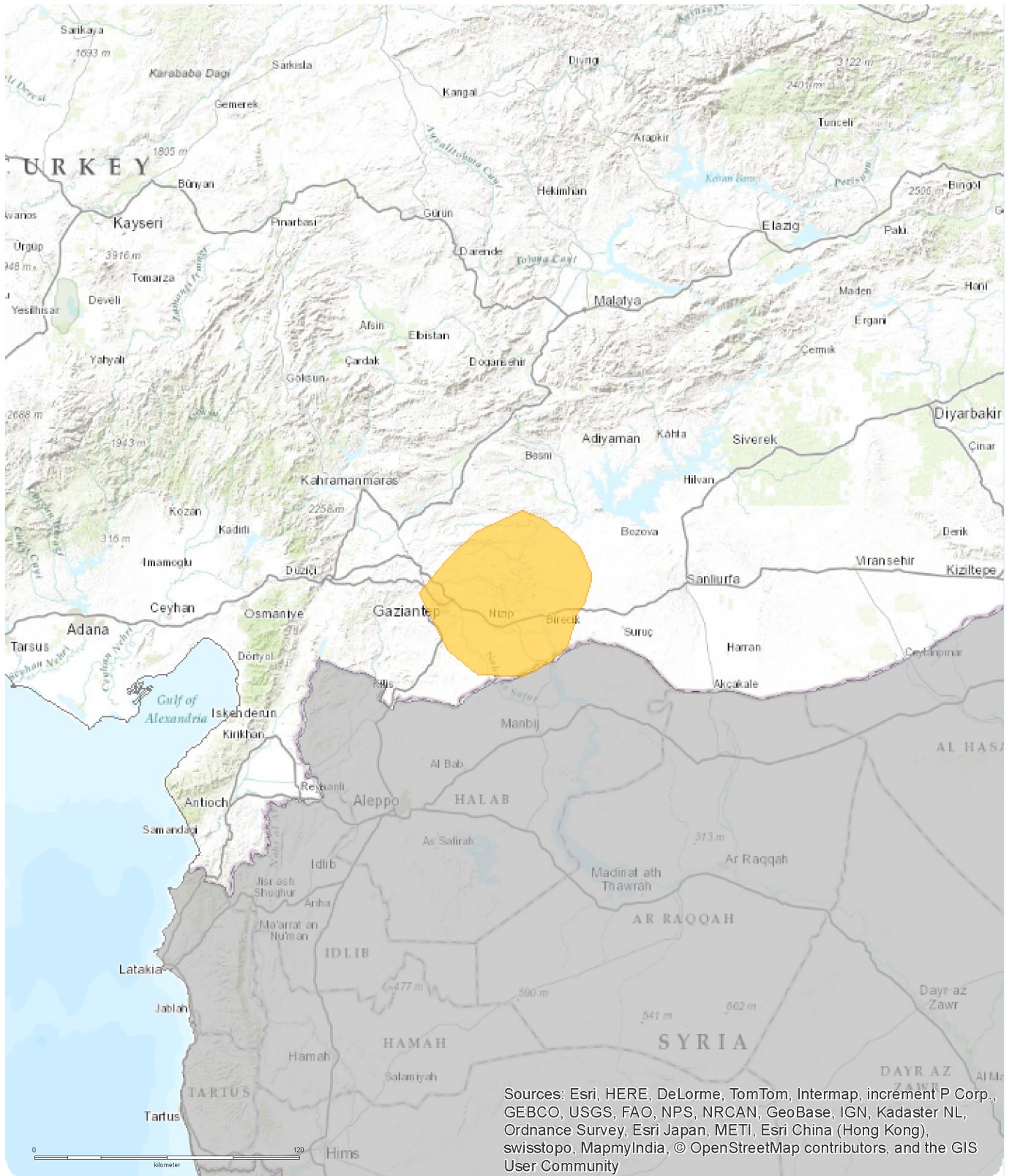
Due to the restricted range of this species in Europe important sites should be protected, including legislation to guard them from development. Research into the species's ecology and habitat needs should be undertaken to inform future conservation measures as well as help assess potential threats and impacts in order to develop appropriate responses.

Bibliography

- de Juana, E. & Suárez, F. 2004. Desert Lark (*Ammomanes deserti*). 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/57648> on 21 January 2015).
- Ozturk, M., Kebapci, U., Gucel, S., Cetin, E. and Altundag, E. 2012. Biodiversity and land degradation in the lower Euphrates subregion of Turkey. *Journal of Environmental Biology* 33: 311-323.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Ammomanes deserti

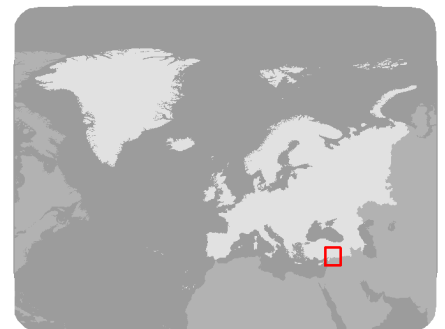
Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.