

Passer moabiticus -- Tristram, 1864

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- PASSERIDAE

Common names: Dead Sea Sparrow;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

VU -- Vulnerable, (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 small, declining population in Europe and is therefore classified as Vulnerable (C1).

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

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Turkey

Vagrant:

Cyprus; Greece

Population

The European population is estimated at 1,000-3,000 pairs, which equates to 2,000-6,000 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 decreasing by at least 10% in 17.4 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species inhabits riverine or lacustrine areas with trees or scrub, and irrigated semi-desert with flushes of annual grasses. Outside breeding season in cultivated land. Unusually for the genus, it has no association with built-up areas or habitations. It breeds from March to July. The nest is a large ovoid structure, domed and with an entrance spiralling down from top. It is strongly constructed from dead twigs, lined with feathers and plant down and built openly in the branches of a tree, often a dead tree standing in water. Clutches are three to five eggs. The diet is primarily seeds and it specializes on the smaller seeds of grasses, rushes and sedges, shrubs and trees. The species is migratory and partially migratory (Summers-Smith 2009).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	suitable	breeding
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The size of the European population could render it susceptible to the risks affecting small populations; however it is adjacent to a much larger non-European population (Birdlife International 2004). 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). In Cyprus, a local extinction occurred at a lake near Akrotiri in the 1980s when the lake dried out (Summers-Smith 2009).

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 currently no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

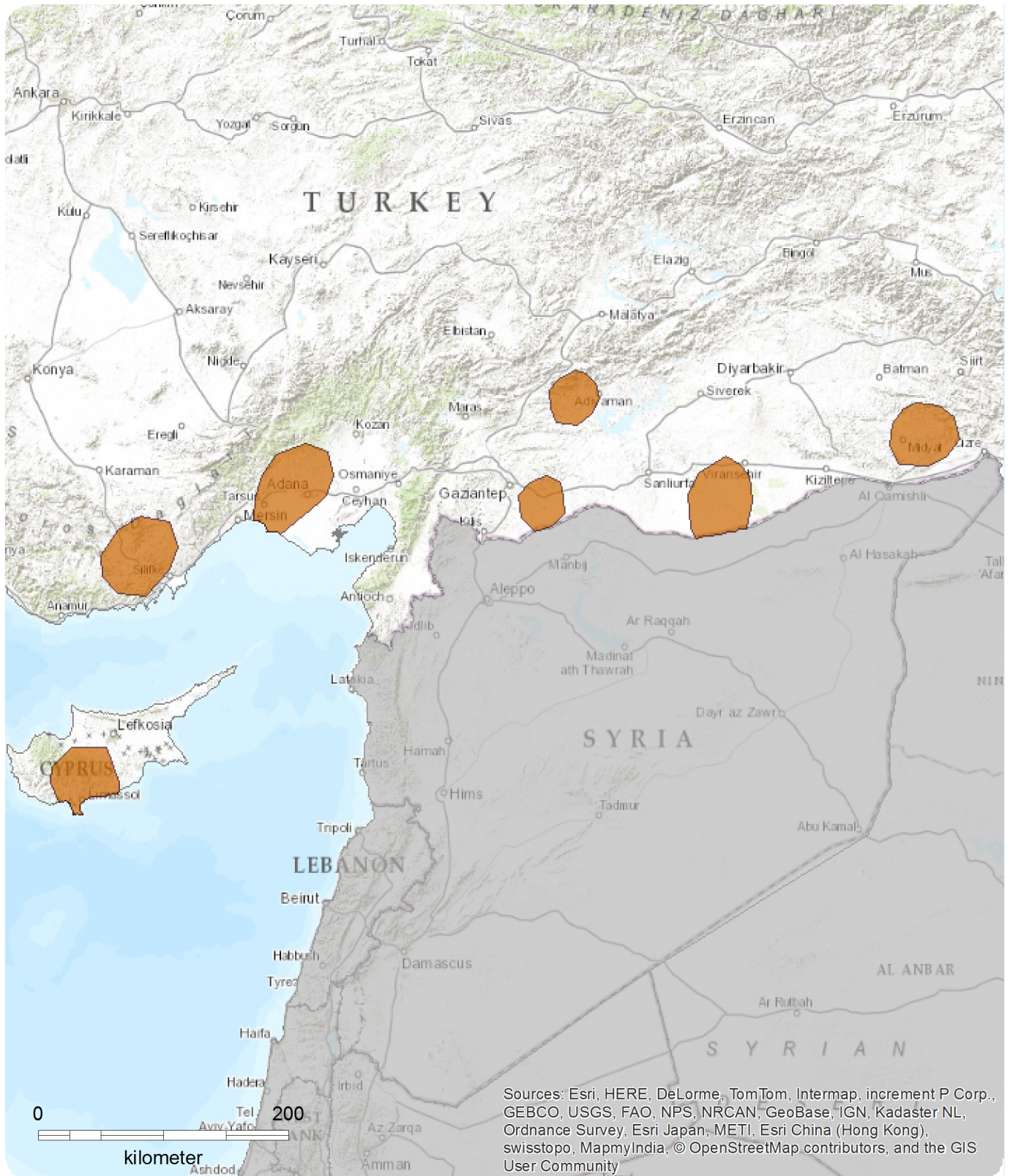
No conservation measures are currently needed for this species.

Bibliography

- BirdLife International 2004. *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.
- Ozturk, M., Kebapci, U., Gucl, 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.
- Summers-Smith, D. 2009. Dead Sea Sparrow (*Passer moabiticus*). 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/60932> on 30 March 2015).

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Passer moabiticus

Range

Extant (breeding)

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



Map created 05/14/2015

