

Petronia petronia -- (Linnaeus, 1766)

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

Common names: Rock Sparrow;

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: 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 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.

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). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to 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; Bulgaria; France; Georgia; Greece; Italy; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Portugal; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Turkey

Vagrant:

Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Germany; Malta; Poland; Slovenia; Switzerland; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 2,140,000-4,620,000 pairs, which equates to 4,290,000-9,230,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 1,330,000-2,170,000 pairs, which equates to 2,660,000-4,330,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be stable. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 10 years. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species is normally found in bare treeless country, ranging from flat desert steppe to rocky slopes and ravines. In Spain, it is common in open woodland or parkland, such as of maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*). It also often forages in large open areas of cultivation, vineyards, olive groves, near old buildings and even penetrates into human settlements. It breeds from March to August in loose colonies or isolated pairs. The nest is an untidy structure, sometimes domed and made from grass, lined with feathers, animal hair and wool.

It is set in a crack or crevice in a rock or tree, or in a wall or roof of an isolated and ruined building or occasionally in an occupied building. Clutches are four to seven eggs. The diet is mostly seeds of low herbs and grasses, as well as small berries and it also takes animal matter in the breeding season, such as termites (Isoptera) and beetles (Coleoptera). The species is resident and a partial migrant, with some post-breeding dispersal and descent to lower altitudes in the winter (Summers-Smith 2009).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	resident
Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	suitable	resident
Grassland - Temperate	suitable	resident
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	major	resident
Altitude	max. 2500 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

Threats

Declines in the Canary Islands are considered due to competition from the introduced *Passer hispaniolensis* (Summers-Smith 2009).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Spanish Sparrow (<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Competition			

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

Summers-Smith, D. 2009. Common Rock-sparrow (*Petronia petronia*). 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/60955> on 30 March 2015).

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Petronia petronia

Range

- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE
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LEAST CONCERN

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VU
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Map created 05/12/2015



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