

## **Anthus petrosus -- (Montagu, 1798)**

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- MOTACILLIDAE

**Common names:** Rock Pipit; Eurasian Rock Pipit

### **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 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 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). 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:**

Belgium; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom

##### **Vagrant:**

Croatia; Czech Republic; Montenegro; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Serbia; Gibraltar (to UK)

### **Population**

The European population is estimated at 164,000-281,000 pairs, which equates to 329,000-562,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 62,200-77,000 pairs, which equates to 124,000-154,000 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 decreasing by less than 25% in 11.1 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

### **Habitats and Ecology**

This species occupies exposed rocky sea coasts and islands with low vegetation. It occasionally breeds away from coast, such as on St. Kilda (western Scotland), or on islands in large inland lakes, such as in southern Sweden. It can also occur inland along estuaries and at various wetlands or along less rocky coasts, during migration and in winter. Breeding occurs from mid-March to August and varies with latitude. The nest is built by the female in a crevice in a cliff, in a small cavity on a bank or grassy slope, or under a rock or clump of vegetation. It is as a bulky cup of grass stems, leaves and seaweed and rather flimsily lined with finer material. Clutches are four to six eggs. It feeds primarily on invertebrates but will also take seeds. The species

is resident and migratory: the nominate race is largely resident, with some short-distance dispersal; *kleinschmidti* may move short distances inland to rivers and lakes or to sandy shores; *littoralis* is migratory (Tyler 2004).

<b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Rocky Shoreline	major	breeding
Marine Intertidal - Tidepools	major	breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	major	breeding
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	major	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	marginal	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	marginal	resident
Altitude	max. 100 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

### Threats

There are few threats to this species's habitat. Locally, oil pollution on rocky shores can have an adverse, although generally temporary, effect on this species's invertebrate prey (Tyler 2004).

<b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Pollution	Oil spills	Timing	Scope		
		Past, Likely to Return	Minority (<50%)	Severity	Impact
				Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

### Conservation

#### Conservation Actions Underway

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

#### Conservation Actions Proposed

Locally, the enforcement of stricter legislation on oil transportation would be beneficial to this species.

### Bibliography

Tyler, S. 2004. Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*). 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/57805> on 23 March 2015).

### Map (see overleaf)

# European Regional Assessment



## *Anthus petrosus*

### Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

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

NE DD **LC** > NT VU EN CR EW EX  
LEAST CONCERN

Map created 05/12/2015



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