Fringilla teydea -- Webb, Berthelot & Moquin-Tandon, 1841

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- FRINGILLIDAE

Common names: Blue Chaffinch; Canary Islands Chaffinch; Teydefinch

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
NT -- Near Threatened, (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: Near Threatened (NT)
EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

This species is endemic to Europe and the EU27, where it has a small range and a moderately small population in the Canary Islands (Spain). The taxon *F. t. polatzeki* of Gran Canaria is rare and highly threatened, but the area of suitable habitat on Tenerife (the majority of the range) is increasing overall, which suggests that the population is also increasing, and the range is not severely fragmented. However, forest fires remain a serious and plausible potential threat and have the potential to cause a rapid population decline which would warrant the species being uplisted to Vulnerable or Endangered. For this reason, the species is classified as Near Threatened (D2).

Were appropriate action to be taken which reduces the risk of serious fires such that they no longer represent a plausible threat, the species may be eligible for downlisting to Least Concern in the future.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Spain; Canary Is. (to ES)

Population

The European population is estimated at 1,100-2,600 pairs, which equates to 2,200-5,300 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be increasing. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

It is largely dependent on Canary pine (*Pinus canariensis*) and will inhabit reforested areas where these fall within the natural distribution of this tree. During the breeding season, it is found in pinewoods at 1,000–2,000 m with a high proportion of broom (*Chamaecytisus proliferus*) in the understorey (Garcia-del-Rey et al. 2009). It has been recorded from 800 to 2,300 m at other times.

The breeding season lasts from April to early August. The nest is built by the female mostly from pine twigs, tree-heath or broom, plant fibres and down, pine needles, grass, moss, lichens, animal hair, feathers and cobwebs. Generally it is placed up to 12 m above ground against trunk of Canary pine and sometimes in laurel or heather (Clement 2010). Two eggs are normally laid. Although Canary pine seeds constitute its main food source, birds occasionally feed outside pinewoods during severe weather. The species selects sheltered sites for feeding during the non-breeding period with the selection of less sheltered sites mediated by pine seed availability (Garcia-del-Rey et al. 2009). The species is resident although vagrants occur on Lanzarote in the east of the Canary Isles (Clement 2010).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	800-2300 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

It suffers from being captured and kept in cages, and possibly also still from illegal trade, primarily to Italy, Germany and Belgium, which may have an effect on population levels. Its pinewood habitat has been subject to intense commercial exploitation which has resulted in habitat fragmentation and population isolation, particularly on Gran Canaria. Forest fires have been important in the destruction of pinewoods on Gran Canaria, most recently in the summer of 2007 when significant areas were destroyed including one of the most important sites on Gran Canaria. Protected areas are heavily used for recreation and leisure on Gran Canaria and this may cause disturbance. Inbreeding may also be a significant threat in the Gran Canaria population (Barov and Derhé 2011). The main cause of breeding failure is predation, mostly by the Great Spotted Woodpecker (Dendrocopos major) (Rodríguez and Moreno 2008).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest])	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Past, Unlikely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Inbreeding			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	No decline	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Natural system modifications	Increase in fire frequency/intensity	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Very Rapid Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. It has been legally protected from hunting, capture, trade, egg or chick collection since 1980. Key areas on Gran Canaria have been protected since 1982 and El Teide forest on Tenerife and six important areas on Gran Canaria were designated as National Parks or Natural Areas in 1987. A conservation programme was initiated in 1991 and a captive breeding programme began in 1992. An action plan was published in 1996 (González 1996) and reviewed in 2004 (Nagy and Crockford 2004) and 2010 (Barov and Derhé 2011). Captive breeding on Gran Canaria was started anew in 2005, and the first chicks were expected to be released in 2010 (Barov and Derhé 2011). Fire prevention measures are implemented, particularly during the summer, and access to suitable habitat is limited on Gran Canaria. There is also an ongoing project that focusses on the restoration of fire-damaged pine forest on Gran Canaria. Control measures against alien species are being implemented on Tenerife and cats have been controlled on Gran Canaria since 1996. Research is being conducted into the potential threat of inbreeding in the population on Gran Canaria (Barov and Derhé 2011).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Monitoring and research should be continued and expanded. An official governmental action plan should be produced to detail conservation requirements such as habitat restoration, prevention of forest fires and eradication of illegal trade. In addition, the species should be included under CITES and adequate protection should be ensured under the Countryside Law and Wildlife Protection Law. Forest management should focus on thinning areas of dense pine trees (as in García-del-Rey et al. 2010) where no undergrowth persists and reafforesting areas within the former range of pine forests on the islands (García-del-Rey and Cresswell

2005). Carry out further work to divert recreational activities from important sites. Conduct public awareness campaigns. Protect drinking sites.

Bibliography

Barov, B and DerhÃé, M. A. 2011. Review of The Implementation Of Species Action Plans for Threatened Birds in the European Union 2004-2010. Final report. BirdLife International For the European Commission

Clement, P. (2010). Blue Chaffinch (*Fringilla teydea*). 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/61287 on 20 January 2015).

Garcia-del-Rey, E.; Cresswell, W. 2005. Density estimates, microhabitat selection and foraging behaviour of the endemic Blue Chaffinch Fringilla teydea teydea on Tenerife (Canary Islands). Ardeola 52: 305-317.

Garcia-del-Rey, E.; Gil, L.; Nanos, N.; LÃ³pez-de-Heredia, U.; Muoz, P. G.; Fernndez-Palacios, J. M. 2009. Habitat characteristics and seed crops used by Blue Chaffinches *Fringilla teydea* in winter: implications for conservation management. *Bird Study* 56: 168-176.

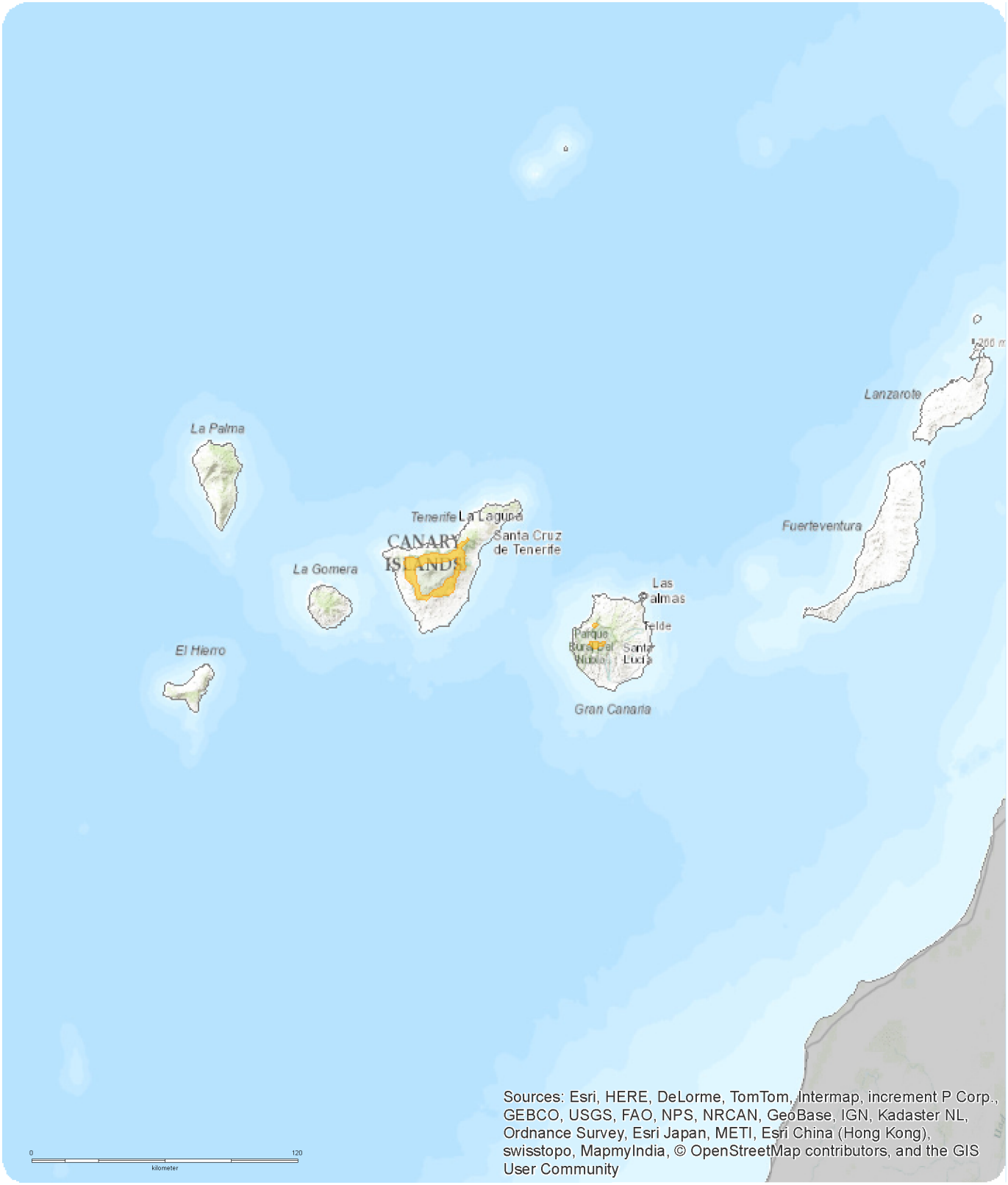
Garcia-del-Rey, E.; Otto, R.; Fernndez-Palacios, J. M. 2010. Medium-term response of breeding Blue Chaffinch Fringilla teydea teydea to experimental thinning in a Pinus canariensis plantation (Tenerife, Canary Islands). Ornis Fennica 87: 180-188.

González, L. M. 1996. Action plan for the Blue Chaffinch Fringilla teydea. In: Heredia, B.; Rose, L.; Painter, M. (ed.), Globally threatened birds in Europe: action plans, pp. 339-346. Council of Europe, and BirdLife International, Strasbourg.

Nagy, S & Crockford, N (2004) Implementation in the European Union of species action plans for 23 of Europe's most threatened birds, BirdLife International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Rodríguez, F.; Moreno, A. C. 2008. Breeding biology of the endangered Blue Chaffinch *Fringilla teydea polatzeki* in Gran Canaria (Canary Islands). *Acta Ornithologica* 43(2): 207-215.

Map (see overleaf)



Fringilla teydea

NE | DD | LC | **NT** NEAR THREATENED | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (resident)

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

Map created 05/12/2015