

Bucanetes githagineus -- (Lichtenstein, 1823)

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

Common names: Trumpeter Finch; Bouvreuil à ailes roses

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
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe, although this species may have a restricted range, it is not believed to 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 Europe.

Within the EU27, although this species may have a small range, it is not believed to 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:

Armenia; Azerbaijan; Malta; Spain; Canary Is. (to ES); Turkey

Vagrant:

Austria; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Denmark; France; Germany; Greece; Italy; Portugal; United Kingdom; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 10,500-21,400 pairs, which equates to 21,000-42,900 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 10,300-20,500 pairs, which equates to 20,600-41,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 12.9 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

In Europe, this species uses areas without tree cover but with sparse scrub (less than 100 cm), including erosion-prone, poorly vegetated uncultivated areas. In the Canary Islands, it also nests on sandy plains with halophytic and xerophytic scrub (Tucker and Heath 1994). The breeding season is February to June and the species is monogamous. The nest is built by the female and is a loose collection of twigs, plant stalks, down and fibres, grass, animal hair and occasionally feathers. It is set in a shallow depression in the ground, under a rock, shrub or grass tussock, or up to six metres above ground in a pipe or the wall of a house, derelict

building or old tomb. Clutches are four to six eggs. The diet is mostly small seeds, shoots and buds of grasses and low ground-loving plants as well as some insects and their larvae, mostly grasshoppers (Orthoptera) (Clement 2010). The species is resident and dispersive or nomadic (Snow and Perrins 1998).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	max. 1700 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In Europe the species is vulnerable owing to the small size and probable isolation of the population. Illegal trapping with nets at water sources is a problem in south-east Iberia (Tucker and Heath 1994) and poaching is widespread, affecting the whole Iberian distribution. In Spain it is also threatened by the spread of agriculture, urban development, reforestation and the abstraction of water (Madroño et al. 2004). In areas such as the Canary Islands, the development of the tourist industry and uncontrolled use of four-wheel-drive vehicles are a threat to its habitat (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Natural system modifications	Abstraction of surface water (unknown use)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Residential & commercial development	Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Residential & commercial development	Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

A large proportion of the island population is found in Special Protection Areas and in the Canary Islands it occurs in many Important Bird Areas (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Conservation Actions Proposed

The continued protection of Cabo de Gata Níjar Natural Park together with the enlargement of the Tabernas Desert and Sierra de Alhamilla Natural Area in Almería would assist in protecting the greatest density of the species in the Peninsula. A ban on the capture of finches along with improved enforcement measures against trappers (Tucker and Heath 1994) and the implementation of awareness campaigns amongst hunters would be

beneficial. In addition, the species's nesting areas should be protected as SPAs and afforestation limited in these areas (Madroño et al. 2004).

Bibliography

Clement, P. 2010. Trumpeter Finch (*Bucanetes githagineus*). 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/61379> on 31 March 2015).

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Bucanetes githagineus

Range

■ 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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