

Rhodopechys obsoletus -- (Lichtenstein, 1823)

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

Common names: Desert Finch;

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: Not Applicable (NA)

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). 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.

The bird is not recorded from the EU27 region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Turkey

Population

The European population is estimated at 3,000-6,000 pairs, which equates to 6,000-12,000 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 stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species is found in lowland and submontane dry, arid and semi-arid areas of open plains, semi-deserts and wadis with sparse vegetation, low scrub, thickets and scattered trees. It also occurs in irrigated areas and on the edges of cultivation, particularly orchards and vineyards. The species is monogamous and both sexes build the nest which is an untidy cup constructed mostly of twigs, plant stalks, fibres and down and occasionally also animal hair or fur and scraps of cloth. It is set in the fork of a branch in a shrub or low tree, in semi-desert areas usually tamarisk (*Tamarix*) or *Arthrophytum*, in agricultural areas often in orchard and then in *Prunus*, vine (*Vitis*) or pistachio (*Pistacia*) and also in eucalypt (*Eucalyptus*), acacia (*Acacia*) or pine (*Pinus*), poplar (*Populus*), elm or mulberry (*Morus*). Clutches are four to six eggs. The diet is mostly small seeds, buds and shoots but it also takes some insects (Clement 2010). The species is mainly sedentary in Europe (Snow and Perrins 1998).

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	suitable	resident

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	max. 1400 m	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).

Threats & Impacts			
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses	

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

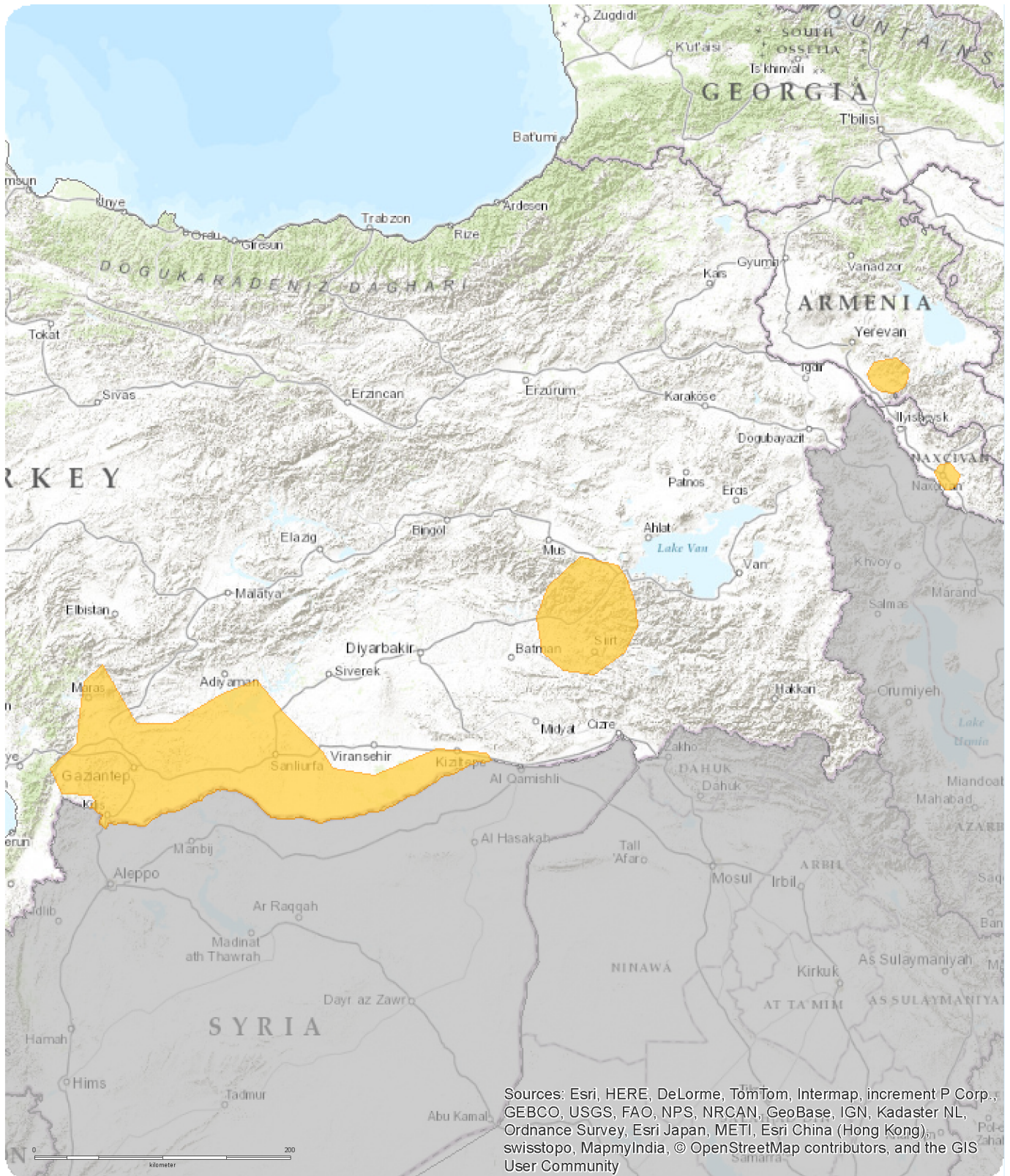
BirdLife International (2004) *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

Clement, P. (2010). Desert Finch (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*). 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/61381> on 31 March 2015).

Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. (1998) *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 2: Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Rhodopechys obsoletus

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

