

# **Carpodacus rubicilla -- (Güldenstädt, 1775)**

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

**Common names:** Great Rosefinch;

## **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 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.

The bird is not found in the EU27 and is Not Applicable (NA).

## **Occurrence**

### **Countries/Territories of Occurrence**

**Native:**

Azerbaijan; Georgia; Russian Federation

## **Population**

The European population is estimated at 5,100-10,300 pairs, which equates to 10,100-20,500 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Trend**

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

## **Habitats and Ecology**

This species is found in alpine and subalpine areas with stunted and sparse vegetation, montane and submontane plateaux, usually above the rhododendron (Rhododendron) zone, in barren, desolate and windswept hillsides, around rock faces and valleys with occasional dwarf birch (Betula), juniper (Juniperus) and willow (Salix) thickets and boulder-strewn and rock-strewn screes. It also occupies the edges of glaciers and ice-fields, alpine meadows, and open fields at edges of cultivation. Outside of the breeding season it is found at lower levels in similar habitat (Clement 2010). In Europe breeding is from July to August (Hagemeyer and Blair 1997). The nest is constructed mainly from thin twigs, plants stalks and root fibres, grass, moss, animal hair, wool and feathers. It is set in a crevice in a rock face or in a low bush on cliff face and exceptionally in a deserted building. Clutches are four to five eggs. The diet is chiefly seeds, buds, shoots and flowers of small alpine plants but it sometimes takes berries and small insects as well. The species is resident and an altitudinal migrant, moving to lower levels from October to March (Clement 2010).

| <b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>         |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2)            | Importance | Occurrence |
| Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens | suitable   | resident   |
| Grassland - Temperate                  | suitable   | resident   |

| <b>Habitats &amp; Altitude</b>                  |             |                               |              |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Habitat (level 1 - level 2)                     |             | Importance                    | Occurrence   |
| Grassland - Tundra                              |             | major                         | resident     |
| Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks) |             | suitable                      | resident     |
| Shrubland - Temperate                           |             | suitable                      | non-breeding |
| Altitude  | 2000-3500 m | Occasional altitudinal limits | 1000 m       |

### Threats

In Europe, declines are attributed to the destruction of habitats rich in Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) scrub and predation by Alpine Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*) (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). During the winter and increasing number of the species are being trapped as cagebirds (Tucker and Heath 1994). The size of the European population could also render it susceptible to the risks affecting small populations (BirdLife International 2004).

| <b>Threats &amp; Impacts</b>                             |  |                     |                   |                     |            |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Threat (level 1)   | Threat (level 2)   | Impact and Stresses |                   |                     |            |
| Biological resource use                                  | Gathering terrestrial plants (unintentional effects - species is not the target) | Timing              | Scope             | Severity            | Impact     |
|  |  | Ongoing             | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
|  |  | Stresses            |                   |                     |            |
|  | Indirect ecosystem effects   |                     |                   |                     |            |
| Biological resource use                                  | Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target) | Timing              | Scope             | Severity            | Impact     |
|  |  | Ongoing             | Majority (50-90%) | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
|  |  | Stresses            |                   |                     |            |
|  | Species disturbance  |                     |                   |                     |            |
| Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases | Yellow-billed Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> )                             | Timing              | Scope             | Severity            | Impact     |
|  |  | Ongoing             | Minority (<50%)   | Negligible declines | Low Impact |
|  |  | Stresses            |                   |                     |            |
|  | Species mortality  |                     |                   |                     |            |

### Conservation

#### Conservation Actions Underway

There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

#### Conservation Actions Proposed

Essential, is the conservation of winter habitats rich in *Hippophae rhamnoides*, especially in the river valleys bordering the Kabardino-Balkarian and North Ossetian highland reserves, where the majority of the species winters. Sustainable exploitation of *Hippophae* berries should also be ensured. A complete ban on catching and keeping birds should be implemented until its effects can be investigated. Accurate monitoring of the species and its population trends should also be undertaken as well as an assessment of the impacts of predation by Alpine Chough (Tucker and Heath 1994).

### Bibliography

- BirdLife International 2004. *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.
- Clement, P. 2010. Great Rosefinch (*Carpodacus rubicilla*). 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/61402> on 31 March 2015).
- Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997. *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T and A D Poyser, London.
- Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. 1994. *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. BirdLife Conservation Series no. 3, BirdLife International, Cambridge.

**Map (see overleaf)**

# European Regional Assessment



## *Carpodacus rubicilla*

### 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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