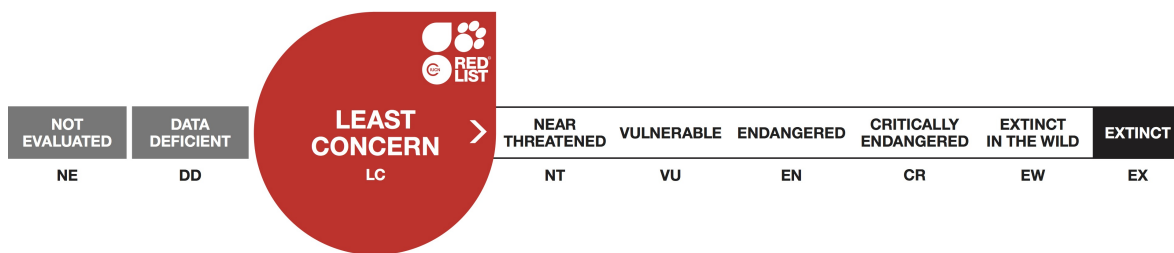


Lanius collurio, Red-backed Shrike

Amended version

Assessment by: BirdLife International



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: BirdLife International. 2017. *Lanius collurio*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T22705001A110988087. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-1.RLTS.T22705001A110988087.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Laniidae

Taxon Name: *Lanius collurio* Linnaeus, 1758

Regional Assessments:

- Europe

Common Name(s):

- English: Red-backed Shrike
- French: Pie-grièche écorcheur

Taxonomic Source(s):

del Hoyo, J., Collar, N.J., Christie, D.A., Elliott, A., Fishpool, L.D.C., Boesman, P. and Kirwan, G.M. 2016. *HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 2: Passerines*. Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International, Barcelona, Spain and Cambridge, UK.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2017

Date Assessed: October 1, 2016

Justification:

This species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence <20,000 km² combined with a declining or fluctuating range size, habitat extent/quality, or population size and a small number of locations or severe fragmentation). 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). The population size is extremely large, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population size criterion (<10,000 mature individuals with a continuing decline estimated to be >10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2016 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22705001A87336658.en>

2012 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2012-1.RLTS.T22705001A39366625.en>

2009 – Least Concern (LC)

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

2004 – Least Concern (LC)

2000 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

1994 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

1988 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

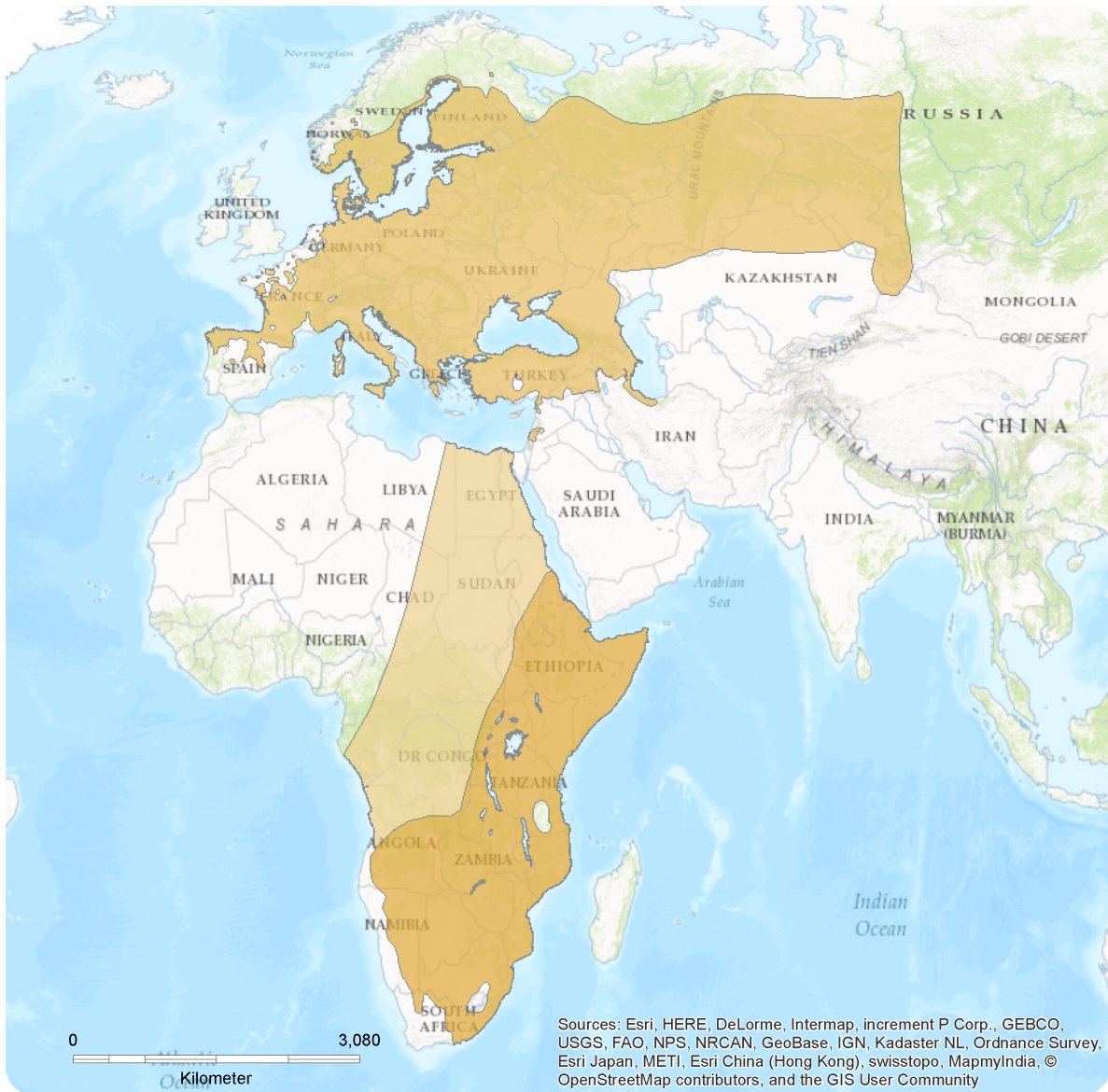
Country Occurrence:

Native: Afghanistan; Albania; Andorra; Angola (Angola); Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burundi; Chad; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libya; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malawi; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Mozambique; Namibia; Netherlands; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Serbia (Serbia); Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Spain (Canary Is. - Vagrant); Sudan; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Vagrant: Algeria; Cameroon; Central African Republic; China; Congo; Faroe Islands; Gambia; Gibraltar; Iceland; Ireland; Morocco; Nigeria; Seychelles; Tunisia

Distribution Map

Lanius collurio



Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (passage)

Compiled by:

BirdLife International and Handbook of the Birds of the World (2016)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

In Europe, the breeding population is estimated to number 7,440,000-14,300,000 pairs, which equates to 14,900,000-28,600,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2015). Europe forms c.60% of the global range, so a very preliminary estimate of the global population size is 24,800,000-47,700,000 mature individuals, although further validation of this estimate is needed.

Trend Justification

The population is estimated to be declining overall following a dramatic decline in the west and north-east of its breeding range from 1970 to 1990 at least (Harris and Franklin 2000). However in Europe, trends between 1980 and 2013 show that the population is stable (EBCC 2015).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The species breeds in temperate and Mediterranean climates (Lefranc and Worfolk 1997). It requires sunny, warm, usually dry, and level or gently sloping terrain, with scattered bushes, shrubs or low trees providing hunting posts overlooking areas of short grass, heath or bare soil. High-quality habitats tend to feature mosaic-like grassy vegetation with alternating areas of tall and short growth and bare areas, with perches. In agricultural areas it occupies neglected overgrown patches, heaths, open downs, overgrown orchards and gardens, hedgerows, and scrub along railways or roadsides. It is also found in temporary steppe-like habitats, such as military training areas, burned forests, forest clearings and spruce (*Picea*) plantations (Yosef *et al.* 2012). Egg-laying occurs from May to July (Lefranc and Worfolk 1997) and clutches are generally three to seven eggs. The untidy-looking nest is a loose foundation of often green plant stems, roots, grass, lichen, hair, or similar, compactly lined with grass, hair, moss, fur, reed (*Phragmites*) or reedmace (*Typha*) flowerheads, plant down and similar material, situated in dense, often thorny bush such as hawthorn (*Crataegus*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), bramble (*Rubus*) or dog-rose (*Rosa*) (Yosef *et al.* 2012). It is an opportunistic feeder, feeding mostly on insects and other invertebrates as well as small mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The species is migratory, wintering in eastern and southern Africa (Lefranc and Worfolk 1997).

Systems: Terrestrial, Freshwater

Threats

Declines are probably due mainly to the loss and fragmentation of habitat resulting from afforestation and agricultural intensification, and the increased use of pesticides causing loss of food resources (Yosef *et al.* 2012). The heavy application of inorganic nitrogen fertilizer causing the earlier and denser growth of vegetation may also be a threat (Tucker and Heath 1994). In northern and western edges of range, its breeding is affected by cooler, wetter summers (Yosef *et al.* 2012).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I.

Conservation Actions Proposed

The species requires wide-scale habitat conservation through the promotion of low intensity farming. Management should include the conservation or creation of open grasslands with a mixture of tall and low vegetation and thorny bushes, conservation of hedges and bushes bordering fields, the planting of bushes in intensively managed orchards and vineyards and the maintenance of fallow areas. In addition the linking of suitable habitat fragments by a series of protected areas would likely benefit the species. The use of broad-spectrum pesticides should also be reduced (Tucker and Heath 1994).

Credits

Assessor(s): BirdLife International

Reviewer(s): Butchart, S. & Symes, A.

**Facilitators(s) and
Compiler(s):** Ashpole, J, Butchart, S., Ekstrom, J.

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Citation

BirdLife International. 2017. *Lanius collurio*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017*: e.T22705001A110988087. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-1.RLTS.T22705001A110988087.en>

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Breeding	Suitable	No
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.4. Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.7. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	Yes
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.1. Forest - Boreal	Breeding	Suitable	No

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Invasive species control or prevention: No
In-Place Species Management
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No

Conservation Actions in Place
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 15700000
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Continuing decline in number of locations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Upper elevation limit (m): 3200
Population
Number of mature individuals: 24000000-47999999
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: No
Continuing decline in subpopulations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in subpopulations: No
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Unknown
Generation Length (years): 4
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

Amended

**Amended
reason:** Map revised.

The IUCN Red List Partnership



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