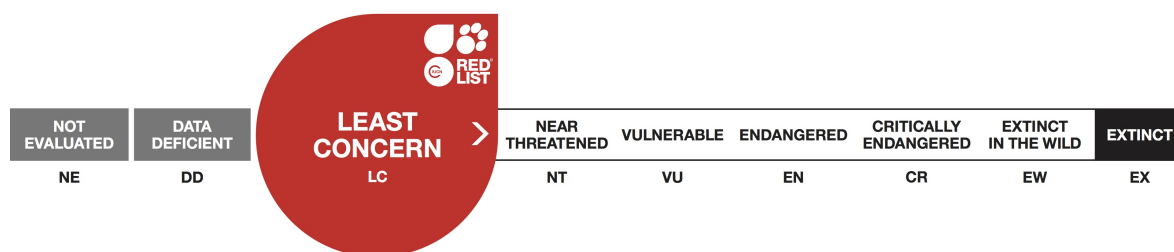


Falco rusticolus, Gyrfalcon

Amended version

Assessment by: BirdLife International



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Falconiformes	Falconidae

Taxon Name: *Falco rusticolus* Linnaeus, 1758

Regional Assessments:

- Europe

Common Name(s):

- English: Gyr Falcon, Gyr Falcon

Taxonomic Source(s):

del Hoyo, J., Collar, N.J., Christie, D.A., Elliott, A. and Fishpool, L.D.C. 2014. *HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Non-passerines*. Lynx Edicions 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). 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). The population size is very 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.T22696500A93568460.en>

2015 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T22696500A80463760.en>

2012 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2012-1.RLTS.T22696500A40326899.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 – Near Threatened (NT)

Geographic Range

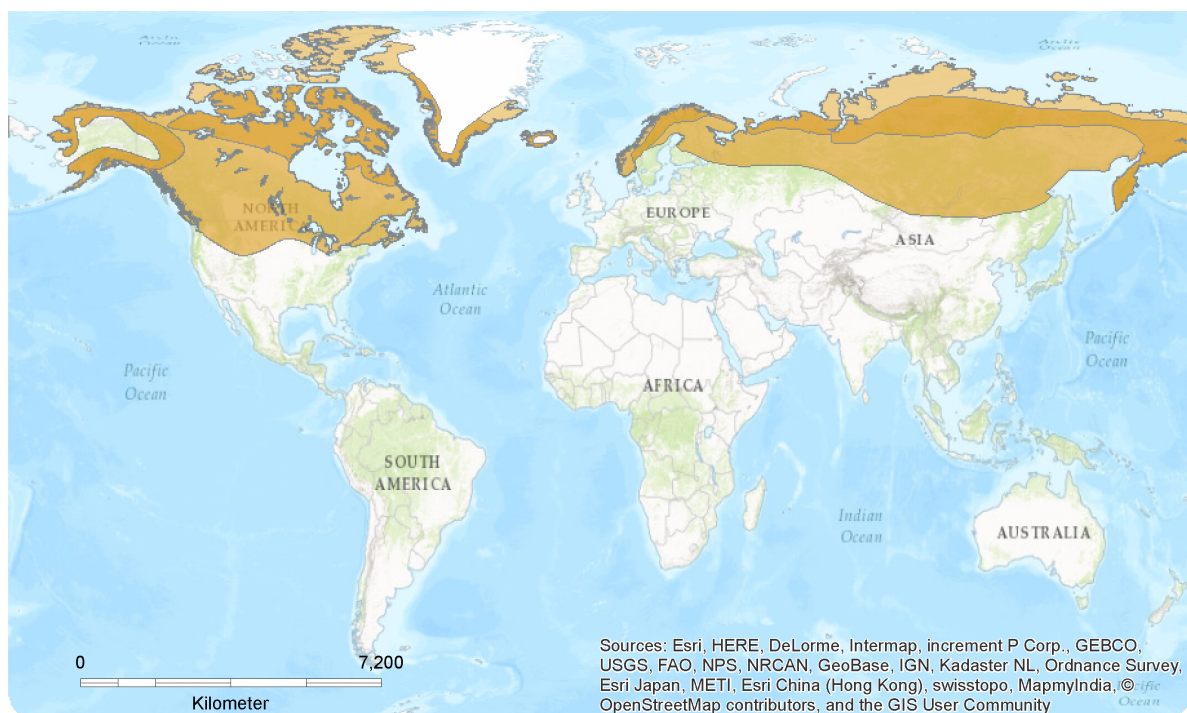
Country Occurrence:

Native: Canada; China; Finland; France; Greenland; Iceland; Japan; Mexico; Norway; Russian Federation; Sweden; United States

Vagrant: Austria; Belgium; Bermuda; Brazil; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Germany; Ireland; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Netherlands; Pakistan; Poland; Portugal; Saint Pierre and Miquelon; Spain; Svalbard and Jan Mayen; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Distribution Map

Falco rusticolus

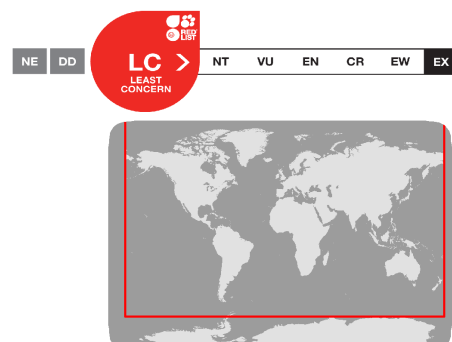


Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

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



Population

The global population is estimated to number c.70,000 individuals which equates to 46,700 mature individuals (Partners in Flight Science Committee 2013). The European population is estimated at 1,100-1,900 pairs, which equates to 2,200-3,900 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2015). Europe forms approximately 13% of the global range, so a very preliminary estimate of the global population size is 16,900-30,000 mature individuals, although further validation of this estimate is needed. It is placed in the band 20,000-49,999 mature individuals.

Trend Justification

The overall trend is likely to be stable. This species has undergone a large and statistically significant increase over the last 40 years in North America (311% increase over 40 years, equating to a 42.4% increase per decade; data from Breeding Bird Survey and/or Christmas Bird Count: Butcher and Niven 2007). Note, however, that these surveys cover less than 50% of the species's range in North America. In Europe the population trend size is estimated to be stable (BirdLife International 2015). The Russian population trend is also thought to be relatively stable (Russia constitutes approximately 37% of the species's total range) (Potapov 2011).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Systems: Terrestrial, Marine

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The species is threatened by the collection of eggs and young for the falconry market (Tucker and Heath 1994) with an unknown number collected each year within Europe (White *et al.* 2013). Some 1,000-2,000 birds are thought to be killed annually by trappers in Siberia (White *et al.* 2013). Illegal shooting also occurs in some areas such as Norway and Sweden. In parts of Fennoscandia, intensive hunting of grouse (Tucker and Heath 1994), such as Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) and Willow Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) may affect numbers of this species. In the past, Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) trapping was the main threat in Russia (Potapov 2011). Disturbance of nests through tourism is also a problem (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). The species is also threatened by climate change (Booms *et al.* 2011). It was not affected by organochlorines in the 1960s and 1970s (White *et al.* 2013), however it was found to contain very high levels of organochlorines which probably derive from marine prey (Ólafsdóttir *et al.* 2001).

Credits

Assessor(s): BirdLife International

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

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

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Tucker, G.M. and Heath, M.F. 1994. *Birds in Europe: their conservation status*. BirdLife International, Cambridge, U.K.

White, C.M., Kirwan, G.M. and Boesman, P. 2013. Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds), *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*, Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Citation

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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 -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.1. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Sea Cliffs and Rocky Offshore Islands	Breeding	Suitable	No
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.1. Grassland - Tundra	Breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.1. Forest - Boreal	Breeding	Suitable	No

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.1. Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.2. Unintentional effects (species is not the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.3. Persecution/control	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
6. Human intrusions & disturbance -> 6.1. Recreational activities	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.3. Herbicides and pesticides	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects -> 2.3.7. Reduced reproductive success		

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: Yes
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
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
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: Yes

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): 37100000
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): 1400
Population
Number of mature individuals: 20000-49999
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations: No

Population
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): 6.4
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

Amended

**Amended
reason:** Map revised.

The IUCN Red List Partnership



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