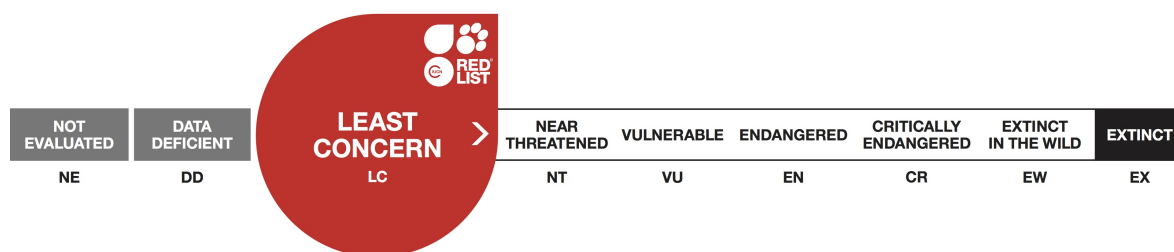


# *Luscinia megarhynchos*, Common Nightingale

Amended version

Assessment by: BirdLife International



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Muscicapidae

**Taxon Name:** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (Brehm, 1831)

### Regional Assessments:

- Europe

### Common Name(s):

- English: Common Nightingale, Nightingale
- French: Rossignol philomèle

### 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 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.T22709696A87884247.en>

2014 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-2.RLTS.T22709696A62581270.en>

2012 – Least Concern (LC)

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

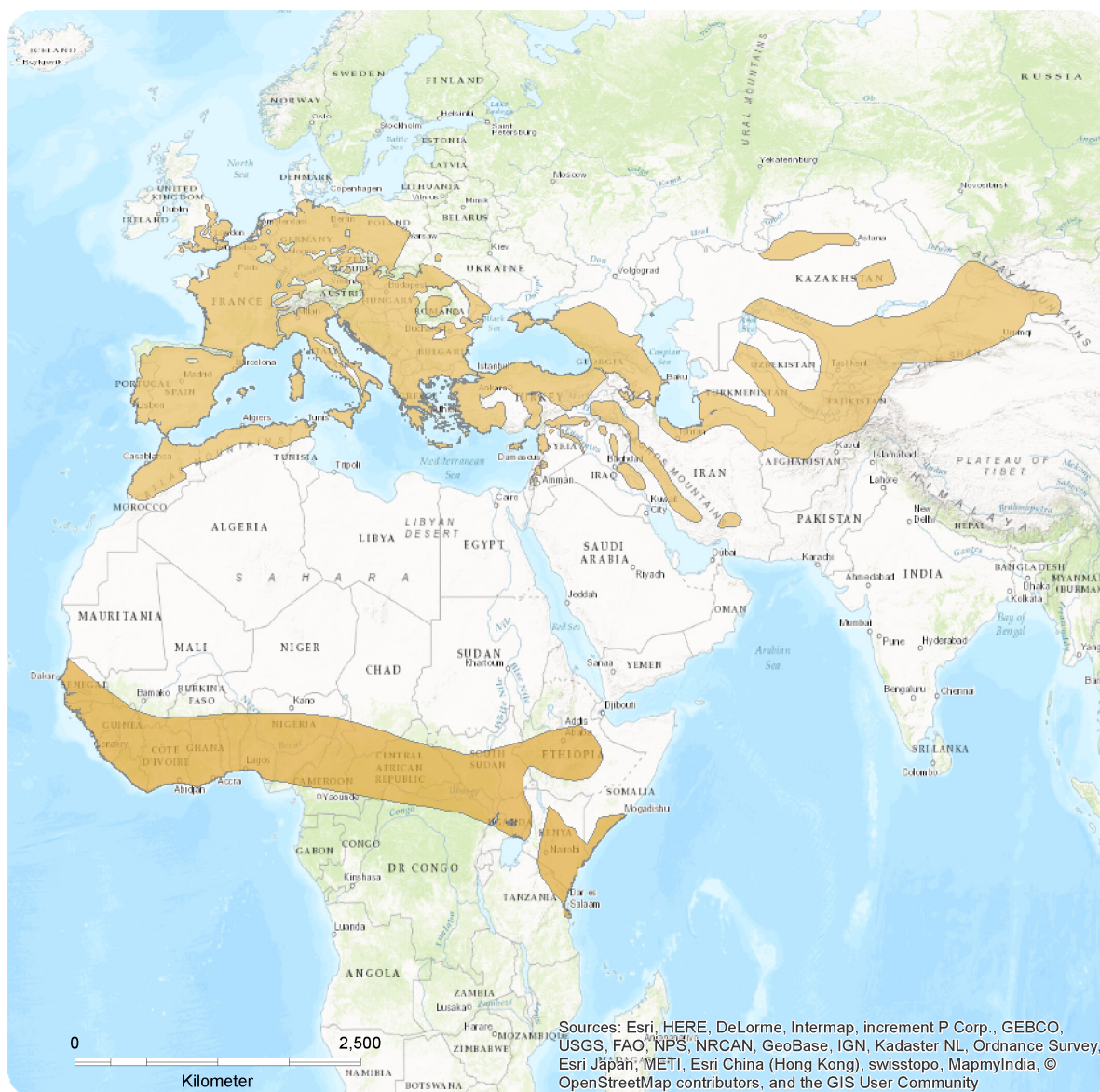
### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Andorra; Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Belgium; Benin; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; China; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Côte d'Ivoire; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Egypt; Ethiopia; France; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Gibraltar; Greece; Guinea; Hungary; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Liberia; Libya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Netherlands; Nigeria; Oman; Palestinian Territory, Occupied; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Serbia (Serbia); Sierra Leone; Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Sudan; Spain (Canary Is.); Sudan; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Togo; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Uzbekistan; Western Sahara; Yemen

**Vagrant:** Cape Verde; Djibouti; Estonia; Faroe Islands; Finland; Iceland; India; Ireland; Lithuania; Niger; Norway; Sweden

# Distribution Map

*Luscinia megarhynchos*



## Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)

## 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 10,700,000-20,300,000 pairs, which equates to 21,500,000-40,500,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2015). Europe forms c.50% of the global range, so a very preliminary estimate of the global population size is 43,000,000-81,000,000 mature individuals, although further validation of this estimate is needed.

### Trend Justification

In Europe the overall trend from 1980-2013 was a moderate decline (EBCC 2015). However from 2000-2012 the European population was estimated to be increasing (BirdLife International 2015).

**Current Population Trend:** Stable

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occupies two main habitat types in Europe: lowland open woodland with thickets and dense patches of vegetation of coppice stands, nettles and brambles, bordering waterbodies; and the edges and glades of broadleaf woodland, undergrowth-rich pinewoods and dry maquis, garrigue and shrubbery on sand and chalk (i.e. with no surface water). It is also found in various mixtures of the two, such as cultivated land with mature hedgerows and untended bush-rich suburban gardens and parks with leaf litter. In Russia it breeds in dense riverbank cover, in open hornbeam (*Carpinus*) woodland, in oak (*Quercus*) and beech (*Fagus*) forest, alder (*Alnus*), sea buckthorn (*Hippophae*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus*) thickets, and orchards. Farther south it occupies scrubby woodland, undergrowth-free orchards, edges of wadis, thickets, bramble and nettles. In Morocco it breeds mainly along streams in woodland, in low thickets (especially bramble) along rivers, coastal maquis, undergrowth of cork oak forest, holm oak coppice, brushwoods (*Tetraclinis*, *Olea*, *Pistacia*) and orchards, in plains and on lower slopes up to 1,300 m, occasionally in cultivated valleys to 1850 m. In Afghanistan it is found up to 2,300 m in shady tangles, thickets and scrub, usually near water as well as in orchards and gardens. In the African non-breeding grounds it uses dense forest edge and secondary growth, riverine and woodland thickets, savanna scrub, farmbrush, thorny scrub, rank herbage along watercourses, overgrown clearings, tall grass patches, field margins and garden hedges. It breeds from late April to mid July in Europe, May-July in Afghanistan, mid-April to June in Morocco and May in Algeria. The nest is an occasionally domed bulky cup of dead leaves and grass, lined with fine grasses, feathers and hair. It is sited on or very close to the ground (most are below 0.5 m) in the base of a thicket or in low herbage. Clutches are four to five eggs. It feeds principally on invertebrates but takes berries and seeds in the late summer and autumn (Collar and Christie 2015). The species is migratory, wintering in the Afrotropics (Snow and Perrins 1998). The nominate race winters from Senegal east to western Ethiopia and Uganda. Birds from the *africana* and *hafizi* races winter in central Ethiopia and East Africa (Collar and Christie 2015).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Threats

Declines in the west of its range have been driven since the 1950s by modern agricultural development and an increasing tendency for 'tidying' of gardens and woodland. Nesting habitat along streams and rivers is being lost in Spain (Collar and Christie 2015). The species is also sensitive to climatic variations (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). In the U.K., it is thought that habitat modification as a result of grazing by deer may be a threat to this species (Newson *et al.* 2011).

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

### Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species within its European range.

### Conservation Actions Proposed

In the U.K., deer management plans, including the integrated exclusion and culling of deer, should be coordinated on a large scale and target areas of importance for the species. Further research on the relationship between deer abundance and habitat quality should also be undertaken (Newson *et al.* 2011). The species would also likely benefit from the maintenance of low-intensity farming practices and areas of woodland and thickets.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** BirdLife International

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**Contributor(s):** Dowsett, R.J.

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## Bibliography

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Tryjanowski, P.; Kuzniak, S.; Sparks, T. H. 2005. What affects the magnitude of change in first arrival dates of migrant birds? *Journal of Ornithology* 146: 200-205.

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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	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	Yes
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	Yes

## 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

<b>Conservation Actions in Place</b>
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Invasive species control or prevention: No
<b>In-Place Species Management</b>
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
<b>In-Place Education</b>
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 10200000
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
<b>Population</b>
Number of mature individuals: 43000000-80999999
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
<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Unknown

<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Generation Length (years): 4.2
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

## Amended

**Amended reason:** Added a country of occurrence and a Contributor.

## The IUCN Red List Partnership



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