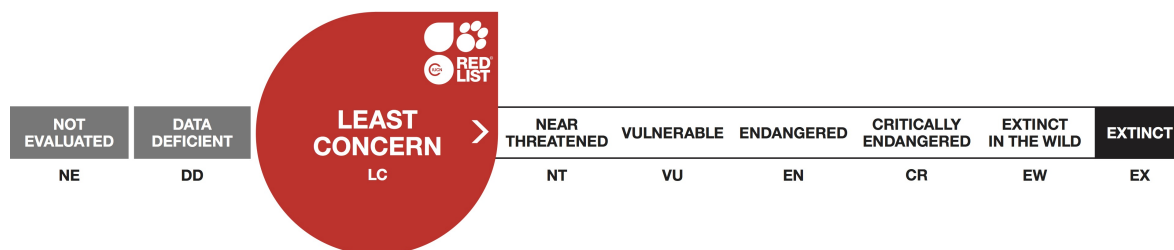


## *Caprimulgus europaeus*, European Nightjar

Assessment by: BirdLife International



View on [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

**Citation:** BirdLife International. 2016. *Caprimulgus europaeus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22689887A86103675. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22689887A86103675.en>

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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Caprimulgiformes	Caprimulgidae

**Taxon Name:** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Linnaeus, 1758

### Regional Assessments:

- [Europe](#)

### Common Name(s):

- English: European Nightjar, European Nightjar, Nightjar
- French: Engoulevent d'Europe

### 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*. Lynx Edicions BirdLife International, Barcelona, Spain and Cambridge, UK.

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2016

**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). 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

2012 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2012-1.RLTS.T22689887A40439990.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; Algeria; Andorra; Angola (Angola); Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Bulgaria; Burundi; Cameroon; China; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Estonia; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Gabon; Gambia; Georgia; Germany; Gibraltar; Greece; Hungary; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lesotho; Libya; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Malawi; Malta; Mauritania; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Netherlands; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Palestinian Territory, Occupied; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia; Serbia (Serbia); Slovakia; Slovenia; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Spain; Sudan; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Tajikistan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Tunisia; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; Uzbekistan; Western Sahara; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

**Vagrant:** Côte d'Ivoire; Faroe Islands; Ghana; Iceland; Liberia; Mali; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone

# Distribution Map

*Caprimulgus europaeus*



## 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

The European population is estimated at 614,000-1,100,000 calling or lekking males, which equates to 1,230,000-2,200,000 mature individuals (BirdLife International 2015). Europe forms c. 40% of the global range, so a very preliminary estimate of the global population size is 3,100,000-5,500,000 mature individuals, although further validation of this estimate is needed. The population is therefore placed in the band 3,000,000-5,999,999 mature individuals.

### Trend Justification

The population is suspected to be in decline owing to ongoing habitat destruction, pesticide use reducing the availability of food, and disturbance (del Hoyo *et al.* 1999). In Europe the population is estimated to be stable (BirdLife International 2015).

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

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

The species nests on bare or sparsely vegetated ground, often on free-draining soils (Cramp 1985). It uses mainly dry, open country including lowland heaths with scattered trees and bushes, commons and moorland, forest and woodland (especially glades, clearings and edges), recently felled woodland and young forestry plantations. It also uses chalk downland, industrial waste tips, wooded or scrub-covered steppe, sparsely forested or stony hillsides, oak scrubland, dense coppices, shingle, sand dunes, semi-deserts and deserts. It breeds between late May and August. It usually lays one to two eggs. Eggs are laid directly on the ground on leaf litter, pine needles or bare soil. It feeds on flying insects. It hunts over open country in clearings, along woodland edges and borders, in woodland glades and rides, in gardens and orchards, over wetlands, in meadows and farmland, around grazing animals, and over stagnant ponds. The species is highly migratory wintering mainly in south and east Africa, although small numbers may winter in West Africa (Cleere and Christie 2013).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Threats

The main threats to this species are the reduction of insect availability due to pesticide use (Tucker and Heath 1994, Cleere and Christie 2013) and habitat loss or degradation, generally caused through the grazing of heathlands and pastoral woodlands and conversion of such habitats to agricultural land, vineyards, commercial forestry and urban areas. Disturbance from recreational use of heathlands and road deaths may also contribute to its decline (Tucker and Heath 1994). The species has numerous predators, especially of eggs and chicks, including: crows (*Corvus*), Magpies (*Pica pica*), Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*), owls (*Strigidae*), Sooty Falcon (*Falco concolor*), hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), weasels (*Mustela nivalis*) and domestic dogs (Cleere and Christie 2013). Nitrogenous pollutants in rain may lead to eutrophication of dry-land breeding areas and unsuitable vegetation structure. Climate change may affect the species's geographic range in the future (Tucker and Heath 1994).

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

### Conservation Actions Underway

EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. The following information refers to the species's European range only: In some areas, such as Britain, creation of habitat through commercial

forestry has seen an increase in numbers in recent years, though habitats are not permanent and stability of higher population levels is not guaranteed (Cleere and Christie 2013). It is a U.K. Biodiversity Action Plan species. Conservation actions targeted at the nightjar will also likely help the woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) (Langston *et al.* 2007).

### **Conservation Actions Proposed**

The following information refers to the species's European range only: The maintenance and enhancement of existing forest and heathland habitats is essential. Further work should be undertaken to restore heathlands, including those in planted forests to prevent fragmentation and increase spatial connectivity. Agri-environment schemes to help provide foraging habitat should be developed. Visitor numbers to important heathland areas should be minimised to reduce disturbance and the development of urban areas nearby prevented. Research should focus on the role of foraging habitat on population processes (Langston *et al.* 2007).

## **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** BirdLife International

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

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

## Bibliography

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

## Citation

BirdLife International. 2016. *Caprimulgus europaeus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016*: e.T22689887A86103675. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22689887A86103675.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?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Non-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
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



<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> ): 19500000
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): 2800
<b>Population</b>
Number of mature individuals: 3000000-5999999
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
Generation Length (years): 5.6
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

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