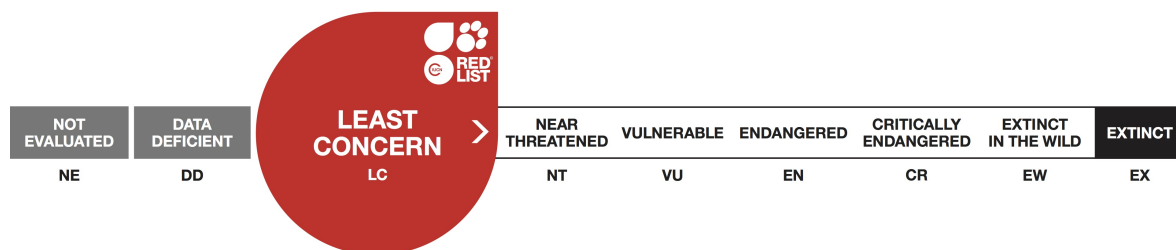


Athene cunicularia, Burrowing Owl

Assessment by: BirdLife International



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Strigiformes	Strigidae

Taxon Name: *Athene cunicularia* (Molina, 1782)

Synonym(s):

- *Speotyto cunicularia cunicularia* Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993)
- *Speotyto cunicularia cunicularia* Stotz et al. (1996)

Common Name(s):

- English: Burrowing Owl

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 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

2012 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2012-1.RLTS.T22689353A40408155.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

Range Description:

Athene cunicularia is distributed throughout the Americas, occurring in **Canada, U.S.A., Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Netherlands Antilles, Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay** and **Uruguay**. The Lesser Antillean subspecies *guadeloupensis* and *amaura*, of Guadeloupe (to France) and Antigua and Barbuda respectively, have both been extinct since the late 1800s (del Hoyo *et al.* 1999).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Argentina; Aruba; Bahamas; Belize; Bolivia, Plurinational States of; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; United States; Uruguay; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

Possibly extinct: Saint Kitts and Nevis

Regionally extinct: Antigua and Barbuda; Guadeloupe

Vagrant: Costa Rica; Falkland Islands (Malvinas); Panama; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Distribution Map

Athene cunicularia

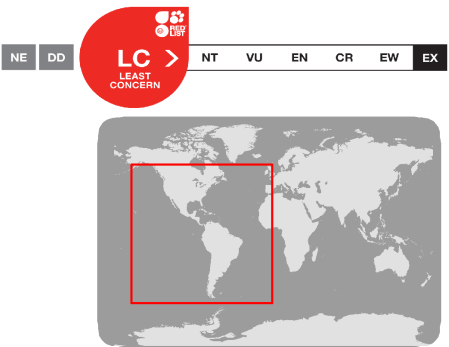


Range

- Extant & Vagrant (seasonality uncertain)
- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)
- Extant (resident)
- Possibly Extant (resident)
- Possibly Extinct

Compiled by:

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



Population

Trend Justification

This species has undergone a small or statistically insignificant decrease over the last 40 years in North America (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.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Systems: Terrestrial

Credits

Assessor(s): BirdLife International

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

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

Bibliography

del Hoyo, J.; Elliott, A.; Sargatal, J. 1999. *Handbook of the Birds of the World, vol. 5: Barn-owls to Hummingbirds*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain.

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Citation

BirdLife International. 2016. *Athene cunicularia*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016*: e.T22689353A93227732. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22689353A93227732.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?
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Breeding	Suitable	No
3. Shrubland -> 3.7. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude	Breeding	Suitable	No
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Breeding	Suitable	Yes
8. Desert -> 8.1. Desert - Hot	Breeding	Suitable	No
8. Desert -> 8.1. Desert - Hot	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Non-breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Breeding	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	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: 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

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: No
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): 39100000
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): 4000
Population
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): 4.6
Movement patterns: Full Migrant

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