

Sitta neumayer -- Michahelles, 1830

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- SITTIDAE

Common names: Western Rock-nuthatch; Rock Nuthatch; Western Rock Nuthatch

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). 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). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend is not known, but the population is not believed to be decreasing sufficiently rapidly to approach the thresholds under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Georgia; Greece; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Montenegro; Serbia; Turkey

Vagrant:

Slovenia

Population

The European population is estimated at 1,030,000-5,080,000 pairs, which equates to 2,060,000-10,200,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 10,200-30,500 pairs, which equates to 20,400-61,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be stable. In the EU27 the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

This species occupies barren regions and areas with low shrubs, herbs and grasses, and is occasionally found in woodland with scattered rocks. It chooses sites with bare rocks, typically rocky slopes, cliffs and gorges in dry or arid regions, including walls, old buildings and ancient ruins. The breeding season is from late March to April or May. The nest is built mainly by the male and is a remarkable flask-shaped structure, with an entrance tunnel up to 10 cm long and is sited on a rock face, usually under a slight overhang or sometimes on a building or other man-made structure. It is built of mud, animal dung, hair, feathers, beetle wings and similar materials. The chamber is lined with hair, wool, feathers and grass. The surrounding area is sometimes decorated with various objects, both natural and man-made. Clutches are four to ten eggs (Harrap 2008). In

the summer it feeds mainly on insects and in the autumn and winter mostly on seeds, although snails are also important (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is sedentary, showing limited post-breeding dispersal (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)		major	resident
Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation		suitable	resident
Altitude	max. 2650 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

There are currently no known significant threats to this species.

Threats & Impacts		
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

There are no known current conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

No conservation measures are currently needed for this species.

Bibliography

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997 *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance*. T & A D Poyser, London.

Harrap, S. 2008. Western Rock Nuthatch (*Sitta neumayer*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/59933> on 19 March 2015).

Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 2: Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford..

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



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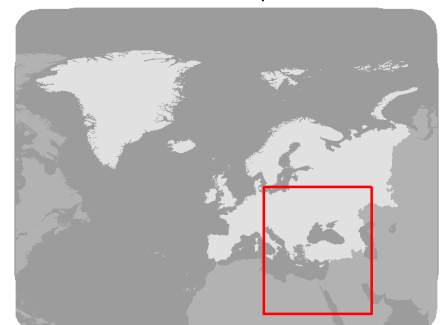
Range

■ Extant (resident)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds

NE DD LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX
LEAST CONCERN

Map created 05/12/2015



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