

Certhia familiaris -- Linnaeus, 1758

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- PASSERIFORMES -- CERTHIIDAE

Common names: Eurasian Treecreeper;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

At both European and EU27 scales this species has an extremely 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 within both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 6,050,000-11,400,000 pairs, which equates to 12,100,000-22,700,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 2,790,000-5,450,000 pairs, which equates to 5,580,000-10,900,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

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

Habitats and Ecology

This species inhabits forest and woodland, generally requiring well-grown trees with many cracks and crevices in the bark for foraging, roosting and nesting. It tends to favour older stands of spruce (*Picea*), but habitat preferences are complex and apparently affected by presence or absence of *Certhia brachydactyla*. In the western Palearctic breeding occurs from late March to June. The species is monogamous and both sexes build the nest from conifer needles, bark fibres, grass, moss, lichen, wood chips and the like and the lining, which is added by the female alone, includes feathers, hair, wool, lichen, spider webs, eggs and cocoons. It is placed up to 16 m above ground behind a flap of loose bark or in a crevice on a tree trunk, in a building or stone wall and occasionally hidden among or behind vegetation. Clutches are typically five or six eggs. The diet is mostly insects, spiders (Araneae) but also takes some seeds, particularly pine and spruce, in the winter (Harrap 2008).

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Boreal		major	resident
Forest - Temperate		major	resident
Altitude	max. 3000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

In Europe, populations may be exhibiting declines owing to habitat fragmentation and the loss of older-growth woodland (Harrap 2008) through modern forestry management practices (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997). The species is susceptible to the effects of severe winters, especially extended periods of glazed frost or freezing rain. In the north and east of its range populations fluctuate in an irregular pattern, which may be linked to variations in the crop of spruce seeds (Harrap 2008). The species may also suffer from the effects of future climate change (Felton *et al.* 2014).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Climate change & severe weather	Habitat shifting & alteration	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Indirect ecosystem effects			
Climate change & severe weather	Temperature extremes	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. There are currently no known conservation measures for this species.

Conservation Actions Proposed

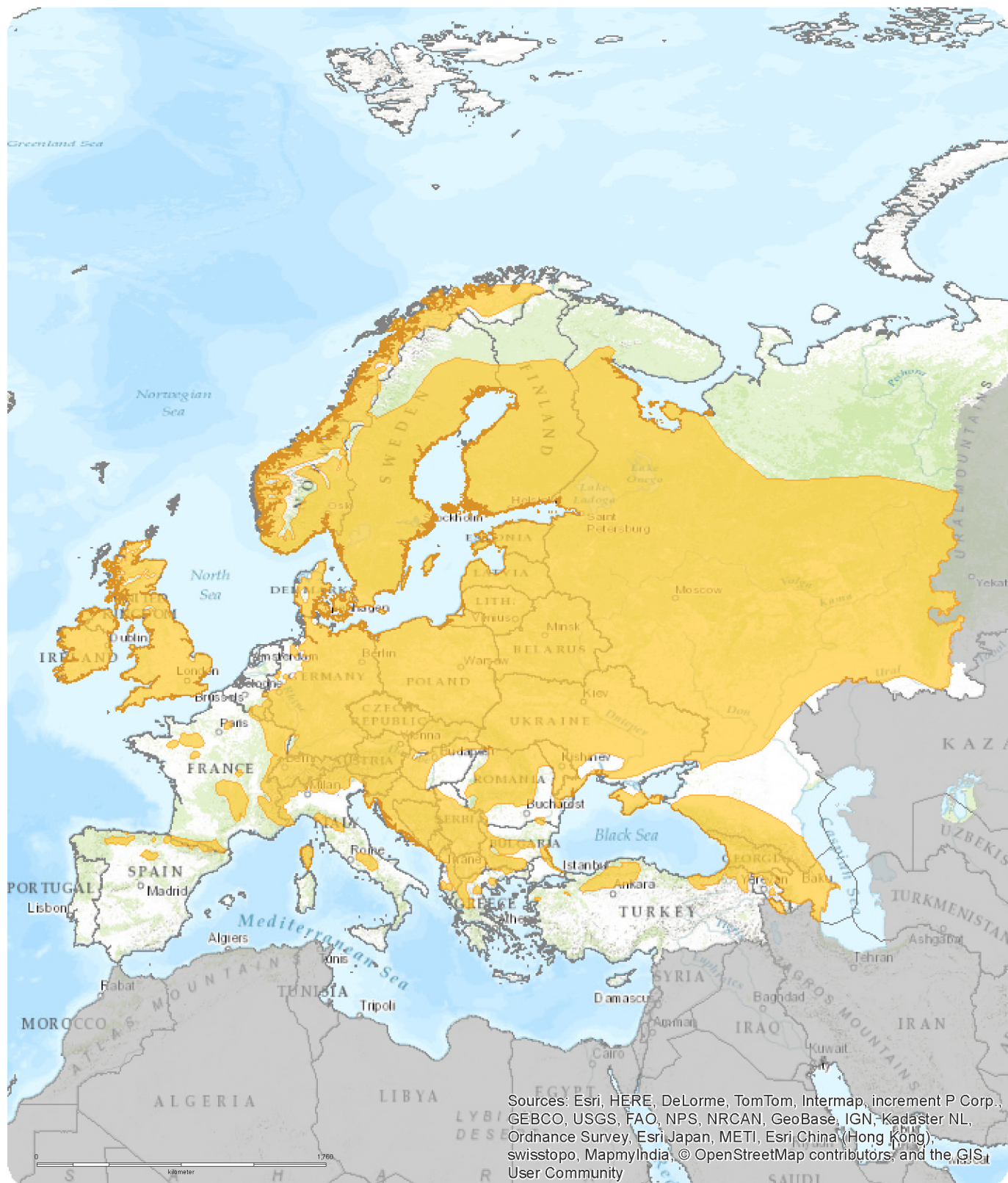
This species would benefit from the promotion and expansion of forest managed under low-intensity practices, particularly the preservation of older woodland growth.

Bibliography

- Felton, A., Lindbladh, M., Elmberg, J., Felton, A. M., Andersson, E., Sekercioglu, C.H., Collingham, Y. and Huntley, B. 2014. Projecting impacts of anthropogenic climatic change on the bird communities of southern Swedish spruce monocultures: will the species poor get poorer? *Ornis fennica.*, 91(1), 1-13.
- 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. Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*). 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/59942> on 29 March 2015).

Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Certhia familiaris

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/12/2015

