BIRDS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

a status assessment

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

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Birds, our common heritage
Celebrating 25 years of the European Birds Directive

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

Together for birds and people

COUNTDOWN 2010
Halt the loss of biodiversity

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Birds in the European Union, published by BirdLife International marks the 25th anniversary of the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Using the most recent data, the effectiveness of the Directive has been assessed, and knowledge gaps as well as challenges for the future have been identified.

This assessment shows that the Birds Directive has been successful in protecting some of Europe's threatened species when properly implemented and backed by plans and resources. Evidence that the Directive works includes:

- Overall, the population trends of Annex I species were more positive than non-Annex I species between 1990–2000.
- The analysis revealed that the populations of Annex I species in the EU15 did better than the same species in non-EU15 between 1990–2000.
- Significant progress has been made through the implementation of Species Action Plans (SAP) for species such as Zino's Petrel, *Pterodroma madeira* and Dalmatian Pelican, *Pelecanus crispus*.
- Annex I species with a Species Action Plan did better than those without a SAP in the EU15, in the period 1990–2000.
- The almost complete coverage of the species with SAPs by the Special Protection Area (SPA) network is suggested as a key reason why these species fare better in general when compared to other Annex I species.
- The Birds Directive has been successful by almost completely eliminating the trade of wild birds, which is illegal according to its provisions, across the EU.
- Cases brought before national or EU courts have been successful not only in clarifying important aspects of the Directive, but also to help solving conflicts between conservation and development.

The Birds Directive, however, does not work in isolation and the overall picture for birds does not look so positive. In particular, the analysis revealed:

- The Conservation Status of birds has deteriorated in Europe, although within the EU the overall situation did not change in the last 10 years.
- There is a higher proportion of species with Unfavourable Status within the EU25 than at the Pan-European level.
- Farmland birds are still in steep decline at the EU and on Pan-European level, a trend that is linked to increased yields driven, within the EU, by the Common Agricultural Policy.
- The SPA network in the EU15 is unfortunately rather incomplete when compared to Important Bird Areas identified by BirdLife International (only 44% of IBA area is covered by SPA classification). There is a strong difference though between individual countries and between regions in terms of SPA classifications.
- The status of Annex II species (which can be hunted) has worsened. A total of 36 species out of 79 (46%) on Annex II have Unfavourable Conservation Status at EU25 level and a total of 31 (39%) have the same status at the Pan-European level.
- Long-distance migrants are declining at an alarming rate.

Most of these changes are linked to damaging land use policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The root cause of the crash in migratory bird populations is not known, but it is likely that it cannot be explained by actions in the EU alone. However, the slow rate of classification of the most valuable sites as SPAs is clearly a responsibility of the EU Member States, many of whom are still delaying unreasonably this all-important issue.

It is also noted in the assessment that a major omission in the existing EU nature legislation is the protection of the outstanding bird diversity of the EU's tropical outermost regions, the French departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion Island. These territories together hold a bird fauna that is richer than the whole of Europe, with eight globally threatened and 13 near-threatened species. The application of some of the EU's policies and budgets in these territories, without adequate legislative safeguards for the protection of biodiversity, can spell doom for these species.

For the next 25 years, BirdLife has the following recommendations for strengthening the implementation of the Directive in order to improve the Conservation Status of birds in the EU:

- Full implementation of all provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives across all EU Member States.
- Full integration of the provisions of these Directives in other EU policies, like CAP, transport, regional development, energy and others.
- Classification of all IBAs as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the EU.
- Consideration of the list of species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in this publication in possible future reviews of the Annex I list of the Birds Directive.
- Full implementation, including financing, of the Species Action Plans.
- Ensuring adequate and targeted EU co-funding for nature conservation measures with the "LIFE Nature" (or an equivalent) instrument and updating the list of priority species for this funding, taking into account the results of this review.
- Continuation and strengthening of control of illegal trade of wild birds in order to eliminate all occurrences across the EU.
- Completion, implementation and assessment of the species management plans for all Annex II species with Unfavourable Conservation Status and cooperative work to reverse those trends.
- Monitoring systems set in place by the Commission and Member States to provide necessary information concerning:
  - Effective delivery of the nature directives against their overall goals.
  - The contribution to broader biodiversity conservation objectives within the EU.
  - Effective delivery of SPAs against their objectives (e.g. through identification of targets and site specific indicators for all SPAs).
- Promotion and support of:
  - Research in order to set baselines, targets and investigate network coherence.
  - Development of predictive modelling for the effect of issues like climate change on biodiversity.
  - Gap analysis and prioritisation.
  - Research on habitat management requirements.
- Use of the indicators suggested by BirdLife International for monitoring common birds, sites and threatened birds in Member States' regular reports to the European Commission every three years.
- Development of special legislation to protect birds and other wildlife in the biodiversity rich outermost regions of the EU.

FOREWORDS

THE European Commission is delighted to support this publication from BirdLife International, as it makes an important contribution to this year's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Birds Directive. This Directive is one of the pillars of EU biodiversity legislation, and to implement it effectively we need reliable scientific information. Birds are valuable indicators of environmental quality, so information on their status and trends provides important insights into how successfully we are meeting our commitment to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010. This is the target that was set by EU Heads of State and Government when they launched the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy in Gothenburg in 2001.

To obtain this important information, birds need to be monitored. Given the amount of work this entails, we rely on large numbers of expert volunteers all over Europe, who—in a way that is perhaps unique—work together with scientific specialists to gather the necessary data. BirdLife International, with its partners in all the Member States, has successfully harnessed this energy to provide authoritative data on the status of birds, their habitats and the threats they are facing across the enlarged European Union. The credibility of this data is high, not only among the scientific community but also among policy-makers at both national and EU levels.

This publication clearly shows that, despite our successes, especially with some of the rarer bird species, many of Europe's common farmland birds are under severe pressure due to changes in land use. This is a key challenge that will need to be met by better integration of bird protection requirements into agricultural and other policies. This is essential to achieve our biodiversity targets in the coming years.

Catherine Day
Director-General for the Environment
Commission of the European Communities

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, with the EU Birds Directive, a comprehensive piece of legislation was established in order to protect the wild birds of Europe. Since then, EU Institutions and Member States, NGOs, scientists and countless volunteers have helped putting it into practice. As part of this process, a wealth of bird data was collected in the territory of the currently enlarged European Union by BirdLife International and its Partner network.

On the basis of these extensive data-set BirdLife International has now published *Birds in the European Union: a status assessment*. This unique analyst's report shows us how far we are today with the implementation of the Birds Directive: where the Birds Directive has been successful, and which challenges still lie ahead on our way to halt and reverse the decline of Europe's birds, our common heritage.

During the Netherlands Presidency of the European Union, its Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is proud to support this valuable publication. Birds are true Europeans, they bridge civil society, countries and continents on their flyways, they are delightful and inspiring, and last but not least excellent indicators for the health of our environment.

I congratulate BirdLife International on this important publication.

Giuseppe Raaphorst
Director of Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands

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The data presented and analysed in this publication are based on a huge amount of work carried out by several thousand ornithologists across the European Union and beyond over the last decades.

Particular thanks are given to the national compilers and contributors—and the numerous organisations which they represent or with which they are associated—who collated and synthesised the ornithological information that formed the basis for this book.

This review is closely related with and based on the data of the publication *Birds in Europe* (BirdLife International 2004), produced by BirdLife International and launched simultaneously in November 2004 on the occasion of a conference celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the EU Birds Directive, organised in Bergen op Zoom (NL) by the Netherlands EU Presidency (Netherlands Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and the European Commission's Environment Directorate General.

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Overall the review production was coordinated by Clairie Papazoglou and Konstantin Kreiser of the BirdLife International European Community Office. Ian Burfield did all analyses regarding the status assessment for birds at the EU level. Paul Donald and Fiona Sanderson analysed population trends.

The whole project received support from a working group of the BirdLife Birds and Habitats Directive Task Force that included Eduard Osieck (then Task Force Coordinator), Ariel Brunner (LIPU/BirdLife Italy) and Zoltán Waliczky, Paul Donald and Nicola Crockford (RSPB/BirdLife UK).

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INTRODUCTION

WHY THIS REVIEW?

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) BirdLife International aims to reflect on the successes of this remarkable piece of European legislation, and at the same time to contribute to its future implementation.

This review looks back into the past 25 years, assessing the effect of the Directive for Europe's wild birds and looking into the future to identify what we need to know to take the right political decisions for birds and their habitats.

In particular, BirdLife International presents within this review:

1. A report, article by article of the Directive, of the status of birds at the Pan-European level and at the level of the EU with its current 25 Member States (EU25), assessing, where possible, the impact of the Directive, based on cutting-edge data.
2. Recommendations for action to address the challenges identified for the future.
3. In addition, two comprehensive lists of the species listed on Annex I and Annex II of the Birds Directive with their conservation status.

THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

The EU Birds Directive, the Directive for the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) was adopted in 1979. The Directive was adopted under a French Presidency of the Community, at a time of widespread concern about declining populations of European birds. At that time, there were nine members of the European Economic Community (as it was called then). Since 1979, the Birds Directive has formed a solid framework for bird conservation across the EU, and its geographical scope has enlarged together with the Union, to include also the ten new Members who joined in May 2004.

It is no coincidence that birds were chosen for the first Directive on nature protection and it is no coincidence that the 'Habitats' Directive, which covers the rest of Europe's wildlife and habitats, came so much later in 1992. Birds are beautiful, inspirational, popular, valued and international. Birds are excellent flagships and indicators of biodiversity, the environment and the sustainability of human activities.

In 2004, the Birds Directive celebrates its 25th anniversary, and it quite fittingly applies now to 25 Member States.

What exactly is the Birds Directive and why is it so important?

The Directive defines the minimum legal requirements and standards that all Member States must comply with, to protect and conserve wild birds and their habitats in their territory and in the EU as a whole. Together with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), it forms the principal means by which the EU delivers its obligations under international Conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Ramsar, Bonn and Bern Conventions. The Birds Directive, together with the Habitats Directive are also among the main tools by which the EU can make progress towards achieving one of the objectives set by the EU Heads of State during the Gothenburg European Council in 2001, which is to halt biodiversity decline by 2010.

What does the Birds Directive regulate?

The Directive regulates a number of elements in particular regarding species, sites and habitat protection:

- It requires Member States to classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for those species listed in Annex I as well as for migratory bird species.
- It requires management and conservation of the sites classified as Special Protection Areas.
- It sets general provisions for species protection, whereby all species are protected from deliberate killing or destruction, destruction or damage to their eggs or nests, taking of their eggs etc.
- It regulates trade of species listed in Annex III.
- It regulates the hunting of certain species listed in Annex II and sets the limits within which Member States can define their hunting season, by saying hunting should not take place during the breeding seasons or during the return migration (in the case of migratory species).
- It includes a derogation article, which allows Member States to derogate from the protection articles, for species causing agricultural damage or for reasons of air safety among others.
- It encourages Member States to undertake ornithological research and lists a number of priority issues in Annex V.
- It requires Member States to report about the implementation of the Directive in their country.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL AND THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

The Birds Directive is very central to the work priorities of BirdLife International. In the European Union BirdLife International has tied its work programme to the provisions of the Birds Directive. This is especially true as regards the site and species protection aspects of the Directive.

Site Protection

The Important Bird Area (IBA) programme of BirdLife International is closely linked to the provisions of the Birds Directive. In fact, the SPA obligations arising from the Directive were the reason why BirdLife International started its IBA programme. The first IBA inventory was done by the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP, precursor of BirdLife International) by Osieck and Mörzer Bruyns (1981). Then the first European IBA inventory was published by Grimmett and Jones (1989). The second and more comprehensive inventory of IBAs for Europe was published in the year 2000 (Heath and Evans 2000). Several BirdLife Partners have also published their national IBA inventories in EU Member States.

In 1998, BirdLife International re-developed its original set of criteria for IBA identification in order to take into account the needs for a global system of site selection. At the same time, the original criteria for selecting IBAs of Community Interest were also adapted to fit them into a coherent system of site selection criteria. These new criteria were called IBA C criteria (BirdLife International 1998) and were applied for the 15 EU countries that were members of the Union in 2000 (Heath and Evans 2000).

BirdLife International has also worked closely with the ten countries that joined the Union in 2004. For all these countries, BirdLife Partners have done inventories applying the criteria C on their IBAs (Hora, Marhoul and Urban 2002, Lovászi 2002, Božič 2003, Kuus and Kalamees 2003, Borg and Sultana 2004, Iezekiel, Makris and Antoniou 2004, Račinskis 2004, Raudonikis 2004, Rybanič, Šutiakova and Benko 2004).

The European Commission has used the IBA inventory a number of times to pursue action against certain Member States

to demonstrate that they had classified insufficient numbers and areas of SPAs. Four of these cases have been judged at the European Court of Justice and four Member States have been condemned (these are the Netherlands Case C-3/96, France Case C-202/01, Finland Case C-240/00, Italy Case C-378/01) for insufficient numbers and areas of SPAs classified as compared to the IBA inventories for those countries. The Commission in taking the above cases to the Court used the "IBA 89" assessment (Grimmett and Jones 1989), the IBA 2000 inventory (Heath and Evans 2000) and national inventories. The cases concerned the obligations arising from articles 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the Directive.

Species

As regards the species protection obligations arising from the Directive, BirdLife International has contributed the first ever inventory of bird Conservation Status in Europe. That was *Birds in Europe* (Tucker and Heath 1994) and it provided information on all Species of European Conservation Concern classified according to a set of standard criteria. BirdLife International is also coordinating the unification of European monitoring schemes for common birds, under a scheme called the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS). BirdLife International works together with the European Bird Census Council (www.ebcc.info) to coordinate this.

Furthermore, BirdLife's monitoring strategy closely mirrors the provisions of the Birds Directive. This includes three strands: site monitoring (IBAs), common species monitoring (Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme) and threatened species monitoring.

Finally, BirdLife International works actively on reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). BirdLife International data have demonstrated severe declines in farmland birds, which have been linked to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). BirdLife recommendations on the policy changes have been largely based on the BirdLife data. BirdLife has been running a campaign to reform the Common Agricultural Policy in the EU since 2002 (www.birdlifecapcampaign.org).

METHODOLOGY

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The geographical scope of this assessment is the European territory of the 25 Member States of the European Union as of May 2004, including the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands (hereafter "EU25"). In several of the analyses, some other country groups are mentioned: "EU15" (EU Member States before 1 May 2004), "AC10" (countries that acceded to the EU on 1 May 2004) and "non-EU25" (countries beyond the EU25 borders)—see Figure 1.

DATA COLLECTION

To assess the Conservation Status of birds in the European Union, it was necessary to obtain updated population information on all species from every country. This was achieved in the framework of a larger project (*Birds in Europe*, BirdLife International 2004a, hereafter "BiE2") to update the publication *Birds in Europe* (Tucker and Heath 1994, hereafter "BiE1"). It involved a continent-wide network of national coordinators (all of whom are listed in BiE2), and collaboration from many relevant experts, monitoring organisations, regional contributors and volunteers.

For all wild bird species occurring naturally and regularly in the European Union, the following data were collected from each country:

- Breeding population size (in or around the year 2000).
- Breeding population trend (over the period 1990–2000).

Where available, equivalent midwinter population data were also collected, mainly for species covered by the International Waterbird Census run by Wetlands International. For waders, many data were effectively collected in parallel with those provided for the International Wader Study Group projects, Breeding waders in Europe 2000 (Thorup *et al.* in press) and Status of migratory wader populations in Africa and Western Eurasia in the 1990s (Stroud *et al.* 2004).

Wherever possible, national coordinators supplied population trend data as actual percentage change figures over the 1990–2000 period. For a number of widespread common species, particularly detailed information was supplied by countries participating in the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS), run by the European Bird Census Council (EBCC, www.ebcc.info) and BirdLife International. For species and countries not covered by PECBMS, national coordinators supplied data on trend direction and magnitude using a fixed set of categories and codes (Table 1). Trend categories ranged from -5 to 5, with the sign indicating the direction of the change. Stable populations were represented by a value of zero. There were thus 11 population trend categories, plus special codes for fluctuating trends, new breeders and extinct species.

Figure 1. The European Union with its first 15 Member States (EU15) and its new Members (AC10) who have acceded on 1 May 2004.

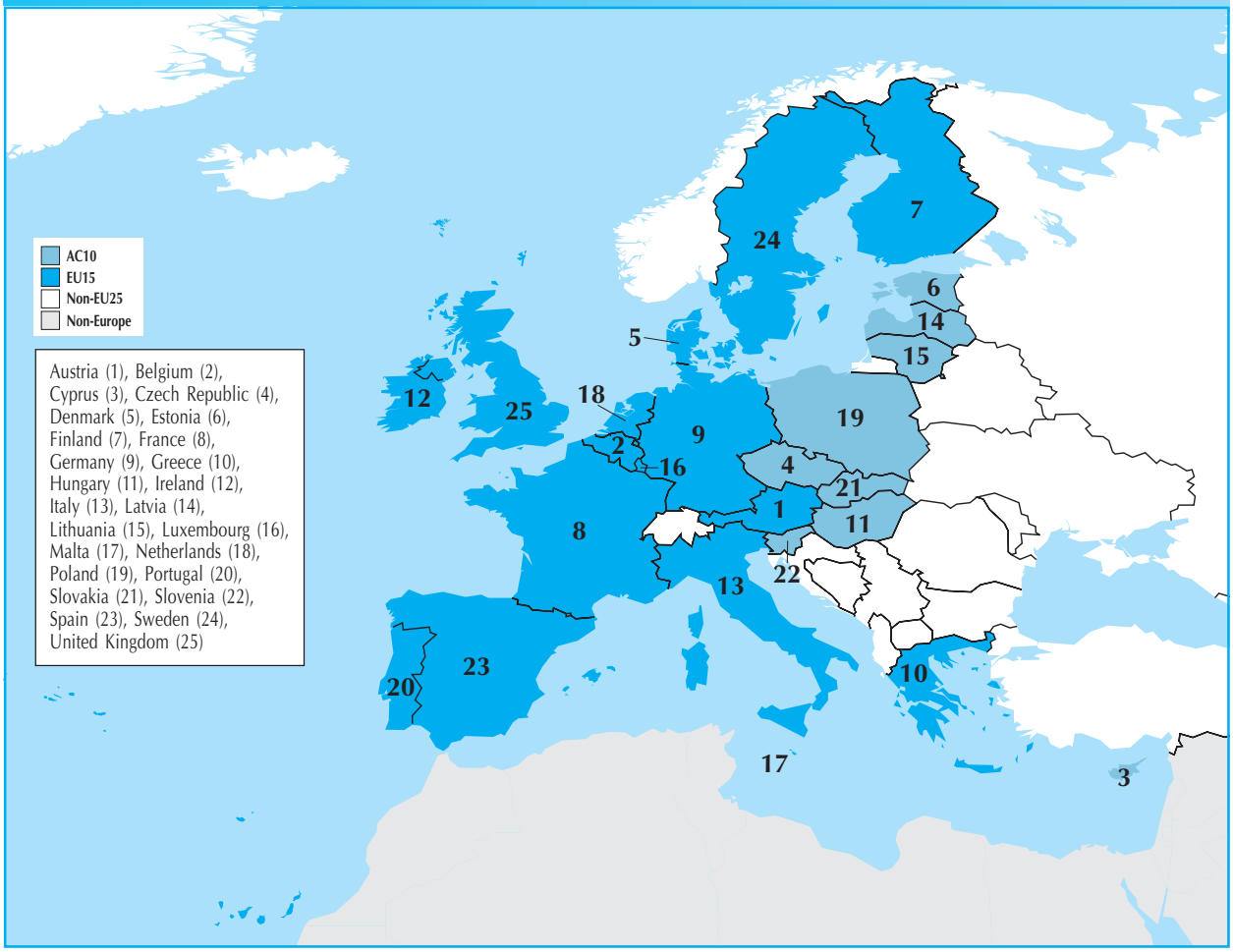


Table 1. Categories and codes for recording population trend direction and magnitude.

	Trend magnitude categories (%)				
Trend direction (codes)	0–19	20–29	30–49	50–79	>80
Increasing (+)	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
Decreasing (-)	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
Stable (0)	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fluctuating (F)[1]	n/a	F	F	F	F
New breeder (N)[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Extinct (X)[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1. Species that underwent interannual changes exceeding 20% during 1990–2000, but whose numbers remained broadly stable over the decade as a whole.
2. Species that began to breed regularly during 1990–2000, either for the first time or as part of a recolonisation.
3. Species that went extinct during 1990–2000, or which were recorded during 1970–1990 in *Birds in Europe* but not since.

In addition, national coordinators recorded the accuracy and reliability of each population size and trend estimate using data quality codes:

1. Poorly known, with no quantitative data available.
2. Generally well known, but only poor or incomplete quantitative data available.
3. Reliable quantitative data available (e.g. atlas, survey or monitoring data) for the whole period and region in question.

All data were checked by staff at the BirdLife Secretariat, and any queries were referred back to national coordinators for comment and approval before amendment. Together with the existing data from 1970–1990 (from BiE1), these new data formed the basis of the status assessment.

DATA ANALYSIS

The starting point for this review was the list of 448 species that breed or winter regularly in the EU25. For each species, the assessment was based on four main parameters (for more details, see BiE2):

- **EU25 population size (in or around the year 2000):** For BiE2, all national population size estimates were supplied as ranges, with minimum and maximum values. To calculate the minimum, maximum and geometric mean EU25 population sizes for the current assessment, national values were summed.
- **EU25 breeding range size:** Calculated by summing the number of occupied 50 x 50 km squares in the *EBCC Atlas* (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997);
- **EU25 population trend during 1970–1990:** Calculated from the data collected for BiE1, using the method described therein. Thus, a species that declined during 1970–1990 by at least 20% in 33–65% of its population, or by at least 50% in 12–24% of its population, and where the total size of declining populations exceeded the total size of increasing populations, was classified as having undergone a moderate historical decline. Similarly, a species that declined during 1970–1990 by at least 20% in at least 66% of its population, or by at least 50% in at least 25% of its population, and where the total size of the declining populations exceeded the total size of the increasing populations, was classified as having undergone a large historical decline. Analogous criteria were used to identify species that underwent moderate or large historical increases in the EU25 during 1970–1990. Species that met neither these criteria, nor those for historical declines, were classified as historically stable.
- **EU25 population trend during 1990–2000:** Calculated from the data collected for BiE2, using the method described therein. Thus, the upper and lower limits of the 1990–2000 trend estimate from each country were applied to the relevant geometric mean national population estimate, to back-calculate the most likely minimum and maximum population sizes in 1990. These back-calculated figures were summed to produce EU25 minimum and maximum population estimates for 1990. These estimates were compared with the geometric mean EU25 population estimate for 2000, thereby calculating the 'best' and 'worst case' EU25 trend scenarios over 1990–2000. Species' trends were then allocated as follows, using the 'worst case' trend scenario in accordance with the precautionary principle, which was also applied in BiE1 and BiE2 (Table 2).

Table 2. Species trends in *Birds in Europe* (2004).

'Worst case' trend scenario 1990–2000	1990–2000 trend category	Criteria met
>30% decline	Large decline	IUCN Red List Criteria
10–29% decline	Moderate decline	Declining
<10% decline and <10% increase	Stable	-
10–29% increase	Moderate increase	-
>30% increase	Large increase	-
Unknown (insufficient data)	Unknown	-

CONSERVATION STATUS ASSESSMENT

Criteria development

The aim of this assessment is to identify species with an Unfavourable Conservation Status in the European Union. The Birds Directive requires bird populations to be maintained at (or adapted to) a level that corresponds to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements (Box 1). In the early 1990s, no objective criteria existed for assessing a species's Conservation Status at a regional level. When compiling BiE1, BirdLife therefore used the articles in the Birds Directive (Box 1) to develop a system by which species were allocated a European threat status. Endangered corresponded with article 4(1)a, Vulnerable with article 4(1)b, and Rare and Localised with article 4(1)c, while Declining referred to articles 2 and 4(1)d. Species classified as Secure had Favourable Conservation Status, but all others had Unfavourable Conservation Status, and were therefore treated as Species of European Conservation Concern (SPECs) in BiE1.

More recently, IUCN (the World Conservation Union) published guidelines for applying its Red List Categories and Criteria at regional levels (IUCN 2003). Over the past decade, the IUCN Red List Criteria (IUCN 2001) have gained broad international acceptance for their ability to classify species' relative extinction risk, and have thus become one of the most widely used decision-support tools in conservation. The new guidelines make it possible to assess species' relative extinction risk at EU level, classifying those with a high risk as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable. All species with a relatively high risk of extinction are clearly of conservation concern. Given the advantages of using a widely accepted and standardised system to identify such species, the Endangered and Vulnerable criteria outlined above were therefore replaced by the IUCN Red List Criteria in both the current assessment and in BiE2.

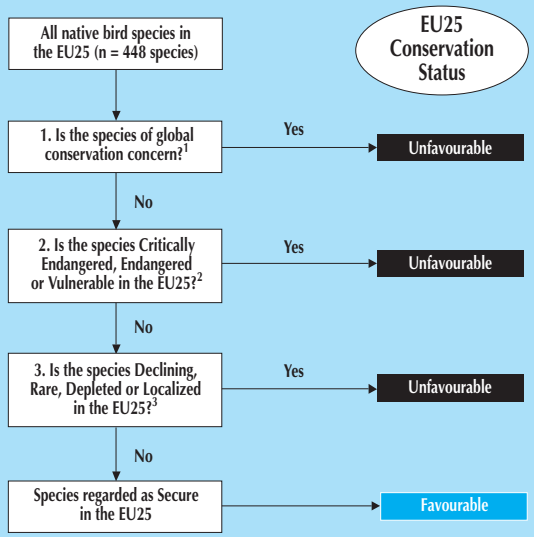
However, as stated above, the Birds Directive is concerned with far more than just preventing extinctions, and the term Unfavourable Conservation Status refers to many more species than just those meeting the IUCN Red List Criteria. This is set out very clearly in article 1 of the Habitats Directive (Box 2), which is currently applied by the European Commission as a working definition of the meaning of article 2 of the Birds Directive (European Commission 2004). To ensure consistency with this definition of Favourable Conservation Status, the additional criteria listed above (Rare, Localised and Declining)

were retained in the current assessment (and in BiE2), applying them in exactly the same way as in BiE1. The only minor differences were: modifying the Declining criterion (because trend data were collected over 10 years, rather than 20); using a lower population threshold for the Rare criterion (because the EU cannot be expected to hold as many birds as Pan-Europe); and introducing a Depleted criterion (see Box 3). The latter was added to highlight species that have already suffered the declines that the Birds and Habitats Directives intend to prevent, but which have yet to recover.

Overall, this approach ensures that all species that cannot be described as Secure in the long term are allocated Unfavourable Conservation Status, and not only those with a relatively high extinction risk. Thus, the only significant difference between this system and that used in BiE1 is the replacement of the Endangered and Vulnerable criteria with IUCN Red List Criteria. By retaining a system as close as possible to that applied in BiE1, the results of the current assessment (and those in BiE2) are comparable to those from the original Pan-European assessment. This is important because any changes to the list of species of conservation concern should reflect genuine changes in status, rather than changes in the criteria. More information about the methods and criteria applied are described in BiE2, which should be referred to for details (BirdLife International 2004a). The criteria were applied in a three-step process (see Figure 2).

All species of global conservation concern are considered to have an Unfavourable Conservation Status in the EU25. The EU has a global responsibility to ensure that the status of these species does not deteriorate within its territory, because any deterioration would increase their (already relatively high) risk of extinction. The list of species produced by Step 1 clarifies which species are of most concern, and highlights those whose global status has deteriorated most recently, based on the latest

Figure 2. Flowchart illustrating the 3-step process of assessing the Conservation Status of birds in the European Union.



1. Species classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Data Deficient under the IUCN Red List Criteria at global level (BirdLife International 2004a; IUCN 2004).
2. Species whose EU25 threat status is classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable under a regional application of the IUCN Red List Criteria.
3. Species whose EU25 threat status is classified as Declining, Rare, Depleted or Localised as described in Box 3.

Box 1. Provisions of the EU Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) relevant for the methodology of this book.

Article 1 states that the Directive relates to the conservation of all species of wild birds occurring naturally in the European territory of the Member States, and that it applies to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats.

Article 2 requires Member States to take measures to maintain the population of the species referred to in article 1 at a level that corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements, or to adapt the population of these species to that level.

Article 4(1) requires Member States to take special habitat conservation measures to ensure the survival and reproduction in their area of distribution of species listed on Annex I that are: (a) in danger of extinction; (b) vulnerable to specific changes in their habitats; (c) considered rare, because of small populations or restricted local distribution; or (d) in need of particular attention, due to the specific nature of their habitat.

In particular, Member States are required to classify the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of these species, as well as regularly occurring migratory species (covered by article 4(2)), taking into account their protection requirements in the geographical sea and land area where the Directive applies.

The Directive also states that trends and variations in population levels should be taken into account as a background for evaluations. For details of the species listed on Annex I as of 2004, see chapter 'Species Tables'.

Box 2. Favourable Conservation Status according to the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Article 1(i) defines the Conservation Status of a species as "the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations in the European territory of the Member States". It states that a species' Conservation Status will be taken as "Favourable" when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Box 3. Additional (non-IUCN) criteria for identifying species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in the European Union.

Based on the equivalent criteria in *Birds in Europe* (Tucker and Heath 1994), a species is considered to be:

Declining if its population does not meet the IUCN Red List Criteria in the EU, but declined by more than 10% over the last 10 years (i.e. 1990–2000) or three generations. Declining species have Unfavourable Conservation Status because they are unable to maintain their populations and/or natural ranges in the long-term.

Rare if its population does not meet the IUCN Red List Criteria and is not Declining in the EU, but numbers fewer than 5,000 breeding pairs (or 10,000 breeding individuals or 20,000 wintering individuals), and is not marginal to a larger non-EU population. Rare species have Unfavourable Conservation Status because they were often more abundant historically, and because their small populations render them more susceptible to accelerated declines via:

- break-up of social structure;
- loss of genetic diversity;
- large-scale population fluctuations and catastrophic chance events;
- existing or potential exploitation, persecution, disturbance and interference by man.

Depleted if its population does not meet the IUCN Red List Criteria and is not Rare or Declining in the EU, but has not yet recovered from moderate or large historical declines suffered during 1970–1990. Depleted species have an Unfavourable Conservation Status because they have already suffered the declines that the Birds and Habitats Directives intend to prevent, and have yet to recover.

Localised if its population does not meet the IUCN Red List Criteria and is not Declining, Rare or Depleted in the EU, but is concentrated, with more than 90% of the EU population occurring at 10 or fewer sites in the EU, as listed in *Important Bird Areas in Europe* (Heath and Evans 2000). Localised species have an Unfavourable Conservation Status because their small ranges render them more susceptible to accelerated declines via:

- large-scale population fluctuations and catastrophic chance events;
- existing or potential exploitation, persecution, disturbance and interference by man.

global assessment (www.redlist.org). In Step 2, the guidelines for applying the IUCN Red List Criteria at regional levels (IUCN 2003) were followed closely at all stages. For details of the decisions that must be made at various points in any regional Red List assessment (e.g. which species to assess), see BiE2. All species that pass through these three steps without meeting any of the criteria are classified as Secure in the EU25, and therefore have a Favourable Conservation Status.

It is important to note that no data were collected on range trends during 1990–2000, and that extremely little reliable information was available on projected future population or range trends. Consequently, the vast majority of status assessments were based solely on current population and range sizes, and on recent (1970–2000) population trends. Had more information on recent range trends and projected population and range trends been available, it is very likely that the Conservation Status of many more species would have been assessed as Unfavourable. Thus, the results of the current assessment should be viewed as conservative.

For selected well-monitored waterbirds, separate assessments were made for breeding and wintering populations, and EU25 Conservation Status was allocated according to the data from the season with the higher degree of threat.

FURTHER ANALYSES

Trend calculation

As explained above (see section on data collection), eleven categories were used to describe trends. Data were analysed using mixed effects models (Littell *et al.* 1996) with a normal distribution and with the 11-level trend as the dependent variable. Both species and country were entered as factorial fixed or random effects in all models. Trend was weighted by the data quality code, and all models excluded species occurring in fewer than five countries. To derive mean trends for each species, species was fitted as a fixed factor and country as a random factor, this order being reversed to derive mean country trends. When sub-groupings of countries (e.g. EU versus non-EU) or species (e.g. comparing trends of species in different habitats) were included as predictor variables, conditional hierarchical mixed models were used, in which the sub-grouping of interest was fitted as a fixed factor and the main class (species or country) was fitted as a random factor, nested within the sub-grouping (Littell *et al.* 1996).

Habitat classification

Species were classified to habitat using the assessment of Tucker and Evans (1997), with the exception that montane grassland,

included a sub-classification of agricultural habitats by Tucker and Evans (1997), was here classified as a separate habitat. This was due to the fact that this habitat supports an avifauna distinct from that occurring in other agricultural habitats; the trends of these species are therefore not representative of agricultural habitats in general. All species with more than 75% of their population occurring in one of the following eight habitats were classified as specialists of that habitat: marine; coastal; inland wetland; tundra, mires and moorland; boreal and temperate forests; Mediterranean forest, shrubland and rocky habitats; agricultural and grassland (excluding montane grassland); and montane grassland (Tucker and Evans 1997). In addition, species with 10–75% of their population using only one of the above were classed as specialists in that habitat, either according to Tucker and Evans (1997) for species of European Conservation Concern (SPECs) or according to the description of Snow and Perrins (1997) for non-SPECs. Remaining species with 10–75% of their population occurring in more than one habitat were classed as non-specialists. Any species which did not meet the above criteria (due to insufficient data) remained unclassified. Tucker and Evans (1997) include a further habitat of lowland Atlantic heathland; however, no species met the criteria to be classed as a specialist of this habitat.

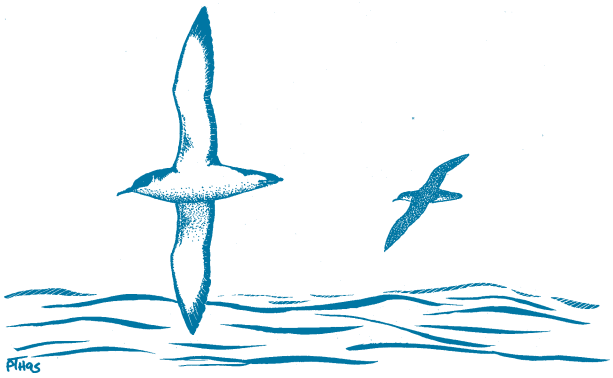
Agriculture intensity data and farmland bird trends

Indices of agricultural intensity for the year 1993, the closest year to the mid-point of the time series for which sufficient data were available, were derived from the FAOSTAT database of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (http://apps.fao.org/faostat/default.jsp). These included cereal yield, fertiliser use per unit area, the population density of agricultural workers, the number of tractors per unit area and livestock density. The yield of wheat, the most widely grown cereal, was selected as an index of intensity of cereal management, as it was strongly positively correlated with the yields of other cereal types (wheat, barley, oats and rye; $r42 > 0.85$). Analyses excluded countries for which agricultural data are not available from the FAOSTAT database and countries with negligible areas of agricultural land. This excluded Andorra, Armenia, the Azores, the Canary Islands, the Faeroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Madeira, Malta and Svalbard, leaving 40 countries included in the analyses.

Estimated mean country trend for farmland species was entered as the dependent variable into a backwards selection least squares regression model in which the northing and easting of the capital city and the agricultural variables were entered as explanatory variables.

Table 3. Species and subspecies that were added to Annex I on 1 May 2004.

Scientific name	Common name
Puffinus yelkouan	Yelkouan Shearwater
Polysticta stelleri	Steller's Eider
Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon
Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover
Calidris alpina schinzii	Dunlin ssp. *schinzii*
Larus minutus	Little Gull
Oenanthe cypriaca	Cyprus Wheatear
Oenanthe pleschanka	Pied Wheatear
Sylvia melanothorax	Cyprus Warbler
Certhia brachydactyla dorothea	Short-toed Treecreeper ssp. *dorothea*
Parus ater cypriotes	Coal Tit ssp. *cypriotes*
Lanius nubicus	Masked Shrike



Species considered for Annex I analyses

There are 194 species and subspecies listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. Ten new species and three subspecies were added with the accession of the new Member States on 1 May 2004 (Table 3). The analyses by BirdLife International in *Birds in Europe* (BirdLife International 2004a) and in this report did not consider subspecies. There are 21 subspecies listed on Annex I and as most of them refer to marginal populations of widespread species they were not considered as part of the Annex I list in the relevant analyses.

There are only three exceptions to this: the Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, which BirdLife recognises as a distinct species and therefore was included in all analyses regarding Annex I, the subspecies of Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrao tetrix* which is the continental subspecies and the most widespread and the two Rock Partridge *Alectoris graeca* subspecies, which represent most of the population of this species and therefore the species was included in the Annex I analyses. Furthermore, there are two species, which do not occur at EU25 level. These are Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* and Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*. This means that results at Pan-European level refer to 176 species, whereas results at EU25 level refer to 174 species.

Finally, some analyses looked only at populations of Annex I species of the EU15 (EU countries before May 2004): for those comparisons the species included in Annex I in May 2004 were not taken into account. This makes the list of species considered 166.

Species considered for Annex II analyses

There are 81 species listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive, 23 species and one subspecies on Annex II/1 and 57 species and one subspecies on Annex II/2. The two subspecies listed on Annex II/1 and Annex II/2 are of the same species (the Willow Ptarmigan *Lagopus lagopus*) and have been treated as one species. Annex II/2 includes the Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus*, which was added after the accession of Cyprus in May 2004 (i.e. 23+57+1=81). There is also one species on Annex II, which does not occur naturally in Europe and therefore there are no data for it. This is the Wild Turkey *Maleagris gallopavo*. Finally, one species the Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* does not occur in the EU25 as a breeding species and therefore was not included in the EU25 analyses. Canada Goose was also not considered in the 1994 analysis of the Conservation Status at Pan-European level (Tucker and Heath 1994). Therefore the analyses refer to 80 species as concerns the Pan-European level, and 79 as concerns the EU25 level.

Important Bird Area/SPA overlap analyses

During 2004, BirdLife Partners in the EU15 Member States were asked to report on the percentage overlap by area between the IBAs identified to date and classified SPAs. In order to obtain comparable results, they should provide data reflecting the status of December 2003, although there are a few exceptions where data was unavailable for this date. Information was also provided on the number of IBAs that are not covered at all by SPAs. Purely marine sites (i.e. those that lie entirely outside coastal waters) were separated out from other sites. The area of IBAs and SPAs were provided in ha for the analysis.

RESULTS: BIRDS IN THE EU AND THE IMPACT OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

This section presents the results of BirdLife International's analyses in relation to the obligations arising from the different articles of the Birds Directive. The basis for all analyses and interpretation presented in this chapter is Table 1 of the chapter Species Tables, which shows analytically the results for each species.

POPULATIONS OF ALL BIRDS: ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Articles 2 and 3 of the Birds Directive make reference to all naturally occurring wild birds in the territory where this Directive applies. The Member States have obligations to protect, conserve and prevent declines in the populations of all those species. This section reports what the analyses tell about:

- The status of all birds at the Pan-European level.
- The status of all birds at the European Union level and differences between Pan-European and EU level.
- The population trends of bird species associated with specific habitat types.

The status of all birds at the Pan-European level

The publication *Birds in Europe* (BirdLife International 2004a), hereafter BiE2, presents the status and trend data for all 524 species occurring in Europe and identifies those that are Species of European Conservation Concern (SPEC). The publication considers the changes in trends since 1994, when the last BirdLife International publication on the status of birds in Europe was published (Tucker and Heath 1994).

According to BiE2, 226 species out of 524 (or 43% of the European avifauna) have Unfavourable Conservation sStatus in Europe. Ten years ago, at the time of the first *Birds in Europe* assessment, this figure was 195 species out of 511 assessed (i.e. 38%) (Tucker and Heath 1994). Overall this means that 31 more species are in trouble now than ten years ago (an increase of 5%).

The species identified as being Species of European Conservation Concern are listed in three SPEC categories (see chapter Methodology). According to BiE2 there are 40 (8%) species in the SPEC 1 category of globally threatened species, 45 (9%) species in the SPEC 2 category, which is the category that includes species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in Europe and their global population concentrated in Europe, and 141 (27%) species in the SPEC 3 category, the species group with Unfavourable Conservation Status in Europe but whose global population is not concentrated in Europe (see Figure 1).

In most cases, population decline is the main reason for a species qualifying as a SPEC. Of the 129 SPECs listed in BiE1 on the grounds of decreasing populations between 1970 and 1990, 79 species (61%) continued to decline during the 1990s. They have now been joined by 35 species formerly considered to have a Favourable Conservation Status in Europe. Regarding the period 1990–2000, only 72 species have increased but 144 species had declining populations.

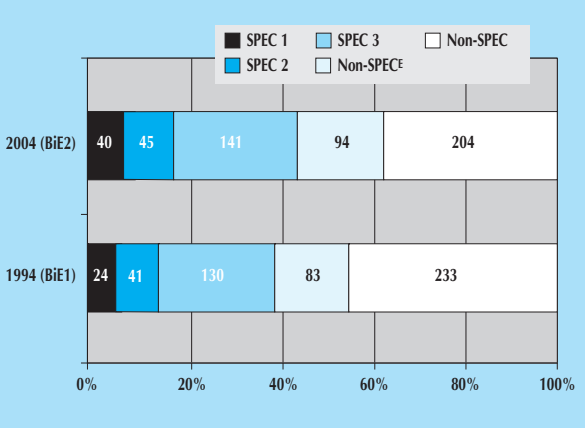
In total, there are 45 species, which in BiE1 still had Favourable Conservation Status but deteriorated to Unfavourable by 2004, while there are 14, which improved from Unfavourable to Favourable (Tucker and Heath 1994, BirdLife International 2004a).

Among the species slipping to Unfavourable Conservation Status in 2004 are many migrant waders and passerines, several waterbirds, and some of Europe's most familiar species, such as House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* and Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. A group particularly affected is farmland birds. Among the ones that have recovered by 2004 to a Favourable Status are species such as the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* and Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*. The full list of species changing status is given in Table 1.

Conclusion:
In 2000 there were 226 (43%) species out of 524, which have Unfavourable Conservation Status at Pan-European level, while in 1990 there were 195 out of 511 (38%) bird species which had Unfavourable Conservation Status across Europe. This represents an overall increase of 5% in the number of species that are in trouble in Europe in the last 10 years.

There are 40 (8%) SPEC 1, 45 (9%) SPEC 2, and 141 (27%) classified SPEC 3 at Pan-European level.

Figure 1. Absolute numbers and percentage of European bird species in each category in BiE1 and BiE2; Non-SPEC[E] corresponds to the SPEC 4 category of *Birds in Europe* (Tucker and Heath 1994).



The status of all birds at the European Union level and differences between Pan-European and EU level

On 1 May 2004, ten countries became new members of the European Union, which made the bloc grow to 25 Member States (EU25). This was the biggest single enlargement of the Union to date, and brought about a considerable enrichment of the EU's avifauna. Through the enlargement process a few more species were added to the EU list, and more importantly, many species "gained" enormously in their EU population, e.g. Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* and Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri*. This gain in biodiversity and unique natural habitats brings along an increased responsibility of the European Union for its natural heritage, including wild birds.

In this review BirdLife International for the first time assesses the Conservation Status of birds at the EU25 level, i.e. taking into account only the populations occurring in the 25 Member States (EU25). BirdLife through this analysis found that, 216 (48%) species out of 448 species have Unfavourable Conservation Status at the EU25 level. This shows that there

Table 1. List of species changing status category between 1994 and 2004 at Pan-European level.

Species which had Unfavourable Conservation Status in 1994 but Favourable Conservation Status in 2004 (n=14)

Scientific name	Common name
Hydrobates pelagicus	European Storm-petrel
Morus bassanus	Northern Gannet
Branta leucopsis	Barnacle Goose
Netta rufina	Red-crested Pochard
Gyps fulvus	Eurasian Griffon
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit
Prunella ocularis	Radde's Accentor
Saxicola torquata	Common Stonechat
Oenanthe cypriaca	Cyprus Wheatear
Hippolais olivetorum	Olive-tree Warbler
Sylvia melanothorax	Cyprus Warbler
Bucanetes githagineus	Trumpeter Finch

Species which had Favourable Conservation Status in 1994 but Unfavourable Conservation Status in 2004 (n=45)

Scientific name	Common name
Podiceps auritus	Horned Grebe
Puffinus griseus	Sooty Shearwater
Puffinus mauretanicus	Balearic Shearwater
Geronticus eremita	Northern Bald Ibis
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck
Milvus milvus	Red Kite
Ammoperdix griseogularis	See-see Partridge
Vanellus indicus	Red-wattled Lapwing
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Larus genei	Slender-billed Gull
Larus armenicus	Armenian Gull
Uria lomvia	Thick-billed Murre
Otus brucei	Pallid Scops-owl
Ketupa zeylonensis	Brown Fish-owl
Apus unicolor	Plain Swift
Apus affinis	Little Swift
Halcyon smyrnensis	White-throated Kingfisher
Ceryle rudis	Pied Kingfisher
Upupa epops	Eurasian Hoopoe
Ammomanes deserti	Desert Lark
Calandrella cheleensis	Asian Short-toed Lark
Delichon urbica	Northern House Martin
Erythropygia galactotes	Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear
Oenanthe xanthoprymna	Rufous-tailed Wheatear
Prinia gracilis	Graceful Prinia
Phylloscopus bonelli	Bonelli's Warbler
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler
Phylloscopus sindianus	Mountain Chiffchaff
Parus palustris	Marsh Tit
Parus cristatus	Crested Tit
Sitta krueperi	Krueper's Nuthatch
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow
Passer montanus	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Carduelis cannabina	Eurasian Linnet
Pyrrhula murina	Azores Bullfinch
Emberiza aureola	Yellow-breasted Bunting
Miliaria calandra	Corn Bunting

is a higher proportion of species with Unfavourable Status than at the Pan-European level. However, looking at the situation in 1990, the percentage of species with Unfavourable Conservation Status at (today) EU25 level was slightly higher (51%) than in 2000. This suggests the overall situation of birds has slightly improved in the EU and in the new joining countries.

Conclusion:
There are 216 (48%) species out of 448 species with Unfavourable Conservation Status at the EU25 level. There is a higher proportion of species with Unfavourable Status within the EU25 than at the Pan-European level.

There is an interesting difference, though, between the Conservation Status of individual species at the EU25 and Pan-European levels. There are 31 species (mostly farmland birds and waders, especially upland/moorland species), that do better at the Pan-European level than at EU25 level. On the other hand, 14 species (including a number of raptors) have better status when their population is considered at EU25 level than when all of Europe is taken into account (see Table 2).

Overall conclusion on status of birds at EU25 and at Pan-European level:
The overall Conservation Status of birds has slightly improved at the EU25 level over the last decade, whereas at the Pan-European level it has worsened.

The population trends of bird species associated with specific habitat types

In this part of the analysis, differences are reported among the population trends of species (see chapter Methodology) that are associated with specific habitat types (Tucker and Evans 1997). For these analyses, only the first 15 EU Member States are considered (EU15), in order to evaluate the effect of the Birds Directive and other EU policies for changes that occurred in the period 1990–2000. It must be noted here that even if populations show positive trends during the last ten years, this does not mean that their Conservation Status has improved, as the latter has a broader scope than just population trends.

Marine, coastal, inland wetland and Mediterranean forest habitats

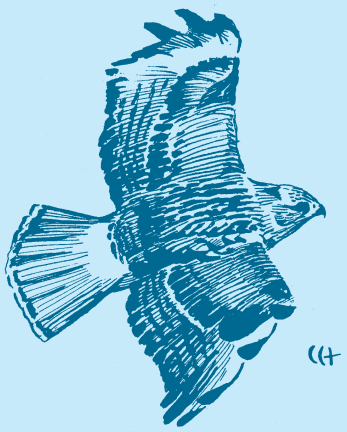
Population trends of bird species inhabiting marine, coastal, inland wetland and Mediterranean forest habitats increased during the last decade.

Conclusion:
Marine and coastal species are increasing in the EU, as well as species living in inland wetlands and Mediterranean Forests.

Table 2. Differences in Conservation Status of bird species between Pan-European and EU25 level.

Species with Favourable Conservation Status in Europe but Unfavourable Conservation Status in EU25 (n=31)	
Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe
Falco columbarius	Merlin
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse
Lagopus lagopus	Willow Ptarmigan
Lagopus mutus	Rock Ptarmigan
Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie
Eudromias morinellus	Eurasian Dotterel
Pluvialis apricaria	Eurasian Golden-plover
Calidris temminckii	Temminck's Stint
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy Turnstone
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo
Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit
Anthus cervinus	Red-throated Pipit
Anthus petrosus	Rock Pipit
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed-warbler
Hippolais olivetorum	Olive-tree Warbler
Sylvia rueppelli	Ruppell's Warbler
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler
Parus montanus	Willow Tit
Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden-oriole
Carduelis flavirostris	Twite
Plectrophenax nivalis	Snow Bunting
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer
Emberiza rustica	Rustic Bunting
Emberiza schoeniclus	Reed Bunting

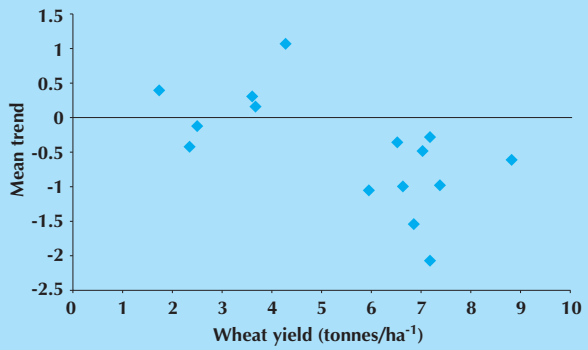
Species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in Europe but Favourable Conservation Status in EU25 (n=14)	
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-heron
Anas strepera	Gadwall
Milvus migrans	Black Kite
Circaetus gallicus	Short-toed Snake-eagle
Buteo rufinus	Long-legged Buzzard
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail
Larus minutus	Little Gull
Cepphus grylle	Black Guillemot
Fratercula arctica	Atlantic Puffin
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle-owl
Apus affinis	Little Swift
Ceryle rudis	Pied Kingfisher
Parus cristatus	Crested Tit



Farmland birds

According to the analysis of population trends, species associated with agricultural habitats continue to decline both in the EU and outside. This fact was already shown with the 1994 data. The only exception is for species on montane grasslands, where there is a significant increase within the EU15, while a decline outside. Downward trends in farmland species are significantly correlated with cereal yield, indicating a strong correlation between the intensity of agricultural production and decline in farmland birds (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Mean trends of farmland birds (56 species) in the EU15 against wheat yield (the dots represent the 15 Member States)—http://apps.fao.org/faostat/default.jsp



Conclusion:
Farmland birds are still in steep declines on EU and on Pan-European level. Results show that steeper declines are correlated to higher cereal yields.

SPAS, ANNEX I AND MIGRANTS: ARTICLE 4 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Article 4 of the Birds Directive requires Member States to classify the most suitable territories in number and size as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for those species requiring special conservation measures: these are the species listed in Annex I and all migratory species. In this section is reported what the analyses tell about.

- The status of species listed on Annex I, at Pan-European and EU level.
- The population trends of Annex I species in relation to non-Annex I species.
- The population trends of Annex I species in the EU15 (EU before May 2004) versus the trends of Annex I species in the countries outside the EU15.
- Action plans for Europe's most threatened birds: helping stop declines.
- The population trends of Annex I species with an international Species Action Plan (SAP) compared to those without a SAP (in the EU15) and with a link to Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and SPAs.
- The population trends of bird species with differing migration strategies.
- Overlap between Important Bird Areas and SPAs in the EU.
- Experience from case studies.

The status of species listed on Annex I (specially protected species) at Pan-European and EU level

From all 176 Annex I species, 126 (72%) have Unfavourable Conservation Status at Pan-European level. At the EU25 level the situation is very similar, with 126 (72%) species out of 174 being of Unfavourable Conservation Status. Of the 14 species that have improved from Unfavourable to Favourable Status at Pan-European level (since the last assessment of Tucker and Heath 1994) ten are listed on Annex I (see Table 1). These are: European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*, Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*, Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*. There are also the two Cypriot endemic species on this list but these were only added to Annex I in May 2004. See Table 2 in the chapter Species Tables for a complete list of Annex I species with their status at Pan-European and EU25 level.

Comparing the proportion of Annex I species with Unfavourable Conservation Status between 1990 and 2000, we see that the situation remained stable, with 120 out of 164[1] species (73%) having Unfavourable Conservation Status.

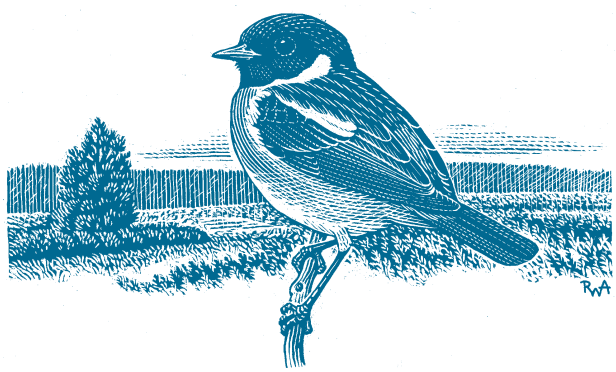
Furthermore it becomes clear that out of the 216 species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in the EU25, only 126 are listed on Annex I.

Conclusion:
The proportion of Annex I species with Unfavourable Conservation Status remained stable during the last ten years, although it is still high (72%). Ten of the 14 species that moved to Favourable Status between 1990 and 2000 are on Annex I.

The population trends of Annex I species in relation to non-Annex I species in the EU15

The stable situation concerning the Conservation Status of Annex I species can also be shown by a different type of assessment, which only looks at the population trends, and not at population size in each country. According to this assessment, in the EU15 Annex I species are doing significantly better than other species. Among the species that are doing particularly well are Barnacle Goose *Branta bernicla*, White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*, Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* and White-tailed Eagle *Haeliaetus albicilla*.

Conclusion:
In the EU15 Annex I species did better than non-Annex I species between 1990–2000, as shown by population trends.



1. Out of the 166 species considered (see chapter on methodology) data for two were not available for the 1994 assessment. These were Balearic Shearwater and Azores Bullfinch.

The population trends of Annex I species in the EU15 versus Annex I species in the countries outside the EU15

In order to investigate further the effect of inclusion on Annex I of the Birds Directive, we compared the population trends of Annex I species in the EU15 countries with the trend for the same species in countries outside the EU15.

The results again showed positive trends for the EU15 and a significant difference between EU15 and countries outside the EU15.

Conclusion:
Annex I species in the EU15 did better than the same species in non-EU15 countries as shown by population trends in the period between 1990–2000.

Action plans for Europe's most threatened birds: helping stop declines

In July 2004, BirdLife International produced a report for the European Commission reviewing implementation of the first 23 international Species Action Plans (SAPs), as adopted in 1996 (Nagy and Crockford 2004). BirdLife International found out the following:

- Implementation of the SAPs was fullest in the UK, the Netherlands, Hungary, Portugal and Austria.
- The most complete implementation was for two critically endangered birds, Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma madeira* and Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostri*s, with Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispu*s being the next most complete.
- Significant progress was made in implementation of 18 of the 23 species action plans.
- Progress was limited for only two species; White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, due to inadequate eradication of the introduced Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* and Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*.
- The EU LIFE Nature[2] fund contributed to the conservation of all 23 species; it was the main driving force in the conservation of the eight island endemics in Portugal and Spain, and has played a very significant role in the implementation of some 14 plans in Spain and Greece.

Overall, BirdLife International found that the situation has improved for 12 species, been maintained for three and declined for six species. Data were insufficient to assess the status change of two Canarian endemics (Nagy and Crockford, 2004).

Conclusion:
Significant progress has been made for certain species through the implementation of Species Action Plans.

The population trends of Annex I species with an international Species Action Plan compared to those without a SAP in the EU 15

In order to investigate further whether having a Species Action Plan (SAP) can make a difference for the Conservation Status of a species, the population trends of those Annex I species with a SAP were compared with those without a SAP. The comparison was done on 166 Annex I species taking into account those 23 with a SAP from the mid-1990s. The results showed that the species with a SAP did better compared to those without.

Conclusion:
Annex I species with a Species Action Plan did better than those without a SAP in the EU15, in the period 1990–2000.

IBAs and SPAs for species with a Species Action Plan (SAP)

According to the same report (Nagy and Crockford, 2004) it was concluded that overall the obligations arising from article 4 of the Directive had played an important role in the protection of species with a SAP. In most cases, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) that had been proposed for those species had been classified as SPAs, and thereby covered the majority of the populations. The species for which this was not the case were: Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*, Corncrake *Crex crex*, Great Bustard *Otis tarda*, Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* and Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*.

The low coverage of species like Corncrake and Aquatic Warbler results from the fact that the large part of the population of these species occur in the new Member States and at the time of compiling the report above these countries had not submitted SPA lists yet.

The almost complete coverage of these species by the SPA network can be one of the reasons why these species do better when compared to other Annex I species.

Conclusion:
The almost complete coverage of the species with SAPs by the SPA network can be one of the reasons why these species do better in general when compared to other Annex I species.

The population trends of bird species with differing migration strategies

BirdLife International also compared the population trends of species with differing migration strategies. These were species that are long-distance migrants, i.e. cross the Sahara to get to their wintering grounds, short distance migrants and partial migrants or residents. Short-distance migrants are species which winter in Europe, North Africa or the Middle East, while partial migrants or residents, are species, which do not migrate or migrate very short distances often responding to adverse weather conditions. The results show that long distance migrants are doing significantly worse than residents or short-distance migrants. The overall trend for long distance migrants was one of strong decline at EU and Pan-European level. This was significantly different to the trends of short-distance migrants and residents.

Conclusion:
Long-distance migrants are declining alarmingly.

2. LIFE Nature, the EU Financial Instrument, introduced in 1992 co-finances projects aimed at conservation of natural habitats and the wild fauna and flora of EU interest, in support of implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Overlap between Important Bird Areas and SPAs in the EU

Article 4 of the Birds Directive requires Member States to "classify in particular the most suitable territories in number and size as Special Protection Areas" for Annex I species, as well as for regularly occurring migratory species. In the absence of a generally accepted set of criteria for selecting SPAs, BirdLife International has been publishing inventories of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) since 1981, which are identified as the most suitable sites for SPA classification. Various judgements of the European Court of Justice (cases C-3/96, C-240/00, C-202-01 and C-378-01) condemned the Member States of the Netherlands, Finland, France and Italy for failure of classifying a sufficient number and area of SPAs in their territory. The first of these Court cases stated that the IBA inventories published by BirdLife, although not legally binding on the Member States, can by reason of their acknowledged scientific value be used as a basis of reference for assessing the extent to which Member States have complied with their obligation to classify SPAs. Various IBA inventories have been used in the other Court judgements in a similar way, in the absence of better scientific criteria and data.

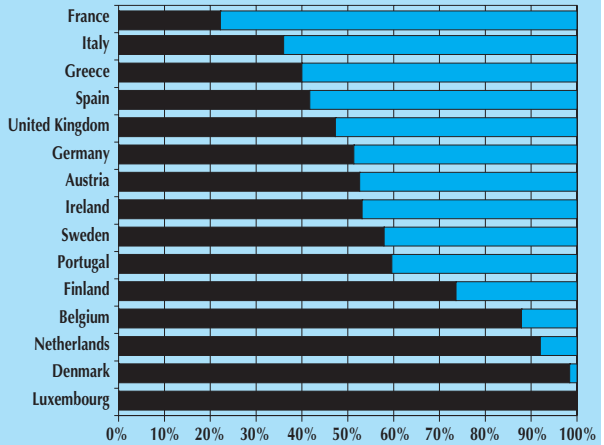
BirdLife International believes that all the sites selected as IBAs within the territory of the EU Member States should be classified as SPAs. Therefore, the number and size of IBAs provides a benchmark against which Member States' performance in classifying SPAs should be measured.

Figure 3 shows the results of an area overlap analysis between non-marine IBAs and SPAs in the 15 first Member States of the EU. This shows that 25 years after the Birds Directive was adopted, only five Member States (Luxembourg, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium and Finland) have classified more than 70% of the IBAs identified, a figure that can be considered more or less acceptable. For the rest of the countries, the situation is clearly inadequate, with France doing worst with 22% of the IBAs classified (despite the above mentioned judgement for failing to classify SPAs). In total, the proportion of SPAs in the EU does not even reach half of the territory of all the IBAs, and is just above 44%, a very unsatisfactory performance. There is a long list of 778 IBAs (29% of the total), which are not covered at all by any SPAs, not even partially.

For marine SPAs, the process and criteria for identifying them is still under discussion, therefore it is not surprising that the classification of such sites is still incomplete. According to BirdLife data, only about 11% of the marine IBAs identified so far have legal protection as SPAs, with the largest area (208,000 ha) in any country covered by two marine SPAs in the Netherlands. Eight out of the 13 identified marine IBAs have no legal protection at all.

In the new Member States that acceded on 1 May 2004, the picture is rather varied. According to preliminary information from BirdLife Partners, five of the countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia) have submitted official SPA lists to the Commission, which cover a substantial proportion (estimated between 88 and 94%) of the IBAs identified in these countries. This is a very big step, which immediately put these countries as front runners in the EU league table. One must add, however, that some of these countries have not yet finalised the legal classification of all of the SPAs. At the other end of the spectrum, it looks like the lists transmitted by the governments of Malta and Poland are not sufficient in number or area, and the governments of Cyprus, Czech Republic and Hungary have not yet submitted their lists of SPAs, hence clearly breaching the accession agreements.

Figure 3. Percentage of IBA area covered by SPA classification (in black) in the EU15 Member States (EU before May 2004).



IBA protection has made very slow progress in France, as up until the end of 2003 only about 22% of the total area of IBAs has been classified as SPAs. The first SPA classifications started in 1986. Between 1986 and 1992, an average of 12 new sites were classified every year. Nearly no new areas were classified between 1993 and 2000, until the Commission's case against France led to a decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ). Thanks to the ECJ judgement, new classifications of SPAs started in 2001. The pace accelerated a little bit: After this, 49 new sites were classified between 2000 and 2004. Now, there are 153 SPAs in France, and about 50 new sites are expected to be classified before the end of 2004.

The proportion of IBAs under protection is very heterogeneous from one administrative region to another. For instance, the Poitou-Charentes region (where LPO-BirdLife France has its headquarters) has the best proportion of IBAs classified as SPAs (59%), followed by Haute-Normandie (58.81%), Bretagne (50.88%) and Provence-Côte d'Azur (48.11%). The regions where IBAs are least protected are Franche-Comté (8.14%), Champagne-Ardenne (7.95%), Picardie (5.8%) and Auvergne (0.81%). Limousin, Alsace and Bourgogne are the three regions where no SPAs have been classified and where IBAs remain largely unprotected, see Table 3.

The distribution of threatened species in the existing French SPAs is also very diverse, showing that site protection did not follow any rigorous scientific method. While some species like Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* or Gannet *Morus bassanus* are concentrated in IBAs that are all protected as SPAs (an impressive 90–100% of the national population), there are several threatened species that are mostly present outside SPAs. Such largely unprotected species include Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus* (2.5% of the breeding pairs are in SPAs), Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* (10%), Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (30–34%) and Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus* (13%). The situation has improved recently for Corncrake *Crex crex*, with more than 71% of its population now found in SPAs. Unfortunately, management measures are not developed enough for protecting Corncrake in SPAs, where habitat destruction and agriculture intensification are still threatening breeding birds.

Table 3. Percentage area of IBAs classified as SPAs in the 22 French regions.

Region	IBA area (in ha)	IBA area classified as SPA	% of IBA area in SPAs
Poitou-Charentes	180989,32	106777	59,00
Haute Normandie	32646,42	19199,45	58,81
Bretagne	108363,21	55131,325	50,88
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	490473,56	235963,72	48,11
Corse	133755,27	56205,094	42,02
Pays de la Loire	223442,37	83990,13	37,59
Languedoc-Roussillon	608279,87	200639,75	32,98
Basse Normandie	204125,83	64809,93	31,75
Ile de France	87881,59	27281,42	31,04
Nord-Pas de Calais	60632,97	13829,3	22,81
Aquitaine	225619,82	32370,28	14,35
Centre	311835,68	41916,32	13,44
Lorraine	99720,47	10460,26	10,49
Midi-Pyrénées	135136,21	12143,11	8,99
Rhône-Alpes	448520,08	37957,75	8,46
Franche-Comté	78905,89	6421,89	8,14
Champagne-Ardenne	446124,13	35486,43	7,95
Picardie	161509,35	9371,4	5,80
Auvergne	306905	2491,16	0,81
Limousin	112400		
Alsace	192890		
Bourgogne	105300		

Box 2. SPAs in Italy.

The classification of IBAs as SPAs is still lagging behind in Italy, although the country has been condemned by the European Court of Justice in March 2003 for insufficiently classifying SPAs in number and area according to the Birds Directive. Currently only 36% of Italian IBA area is classified as SPAs, a small increase compared to the 31% in 2002, when LIPU (BirdLife Italy) published its overlap analysis commissioned by the Ministry of Environment (Brunner, A. *et al.* 2002).

The first SPA classification in Italy started in 1988. New classifications were made in particular between 1997 and 2000, but after that the trend slowed down significantly. A new boost came with the Court's ruling in 2003, prompting several Regions (Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Campania, Val d'Aosta and Toscana) to proceed with a significant number of new classifications. The number of SPAs has kept increasing, reaching the present 532, covering an area of 2,485,677 ha (May 2004), but most sites are small and usually cover only small portions of the relevant IBAs.

The regions where IBAs are least protected are Molise, Sardegna, Trentino, Basilicata and Calabria with, 3%, 4%, 7% 8% and 9% of the IBAs classified as SPAs, respectively. Key IBAs such as the Po Delta and Venice remain largely unprotected even in Regions that have "completed" their classifications.

The distribution of threatened species on the existing SPAs is far from satisfactory. The well-protected species include Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Mediterranean Gull Larus *melanochephalus*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwichensis* and Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* with about 90–100% of their national population on SPAs. On the other hand, the following threatened species are mostly present on unprotected sites: Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* (no population currently covered by SPAs), Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* (3% of the breeding pairs in SPAs), Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis arrigonii* (6%) and Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae* (36%).

Unfortunately, management measures are totally lacking on most SPAs, and habitat destruction mainly from urbanization, infrastructure development and agriculture conversion keeps degrading many sites. A shocking example is the Puglia steppic areas (Murgia and Gargano foothills) where possibly more than three-quarters of the habitat has been destroyed or severely degraded despite the fact that the key sites have long been classified as SPAs.

Box 3. Classification of Special Protection Areas in the Netherlands.

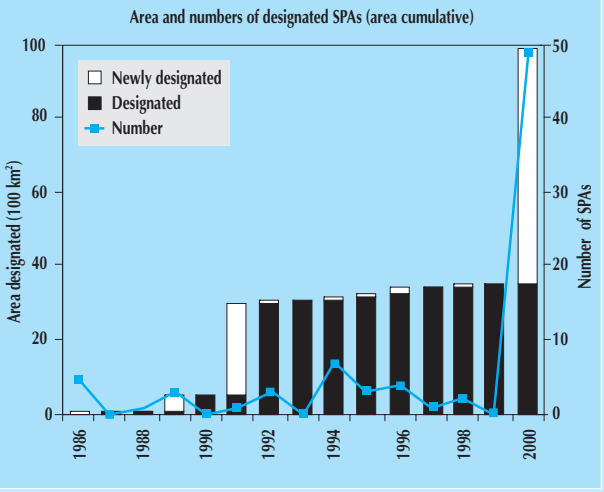
The Netherlands had classified nearly 25% of its total (40,588 km²) territory as Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive by the year 2000. It concerns 79 classified areas with a total area of over one million hectares. Of this total area about three-quarters concerns extensive marine and freshwater bodies. Of the total land area of the country (33,000 km²) about 7% is covered by SPAs. The establishment of this network of protected areas has taken a long time since the adoption of the Directive. The role of BirdLife International (and its predecessor ICBP) and its Dutch Partner organisation Vogelbescherming Nederland has been decisive in the development of the network, in particular to provide an inventory of Important Bird Areas (IBA) based on sound criteria taking adequately into account the requirements of the Directive. The inventory "IBA89" (Important Bird Areas in Europe, Grimmett and Jones 1989) listed 70 sites with a total area of 797,920 hectares suitable for classification as SPAs in the country. The revised list "IBA94" (Areas important for birds in the Netherlands, Van den Tempel and Osieck, 1994) prepared jointly with a government agency and completed in 1994 includes 87 sites with a total area of over 1 million hectares.

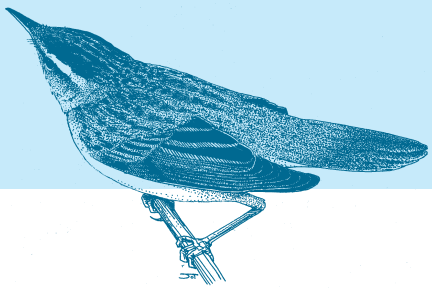
The first five areas (7,680 ha) were classified in 1986. It concerned well-protected sites for which the SPA classification did not lead to any new commitments. During the next four years, four new SPAs were classified including a rather large marine site with extensive intertidal mudflats in the south-western part of the country. The classified area increased by 45,000 ha. A major step was the classification of the Wadden Sea (1991), an area of extensive intertidal mudflats and salt marshes (272,000 ha) that is of major importance as breeding, resting and wintering area for many waterbirds. The next year three new sites were classified, increasing the number to 13 SPAs with a total area of 329,000 ha. The European Commission considered this network highly insufficient and brought the case before the European Court of Justice in early 1996. The main argument was that only less than half the sites listed in IBA89 inventory, with respect to both the number of sites and their total area, had been classified. According to the Commission, "the obligation to classify is infringed if a Member State manifestly disregards the number and area of the territories listed in IBA89".

The Court judgement (1998) was very clear: "by classifying as SPAs territories whose number and total area are clearly smaller than the number and total area of the territories suitable for classification […] the Netherlands has failed to fulfil its obligations". IBA89, prepared by ICBP (forerunner of BirdLife International), played a crucial role in this case. It was considered "the only document containing scientific evidence making it possible to assess whether the defendant State has fulfilled its obligation to classify as SPAs the most suitable territories in number and area for conservation of the protected species". Meanwhile the number of SPAs had increased from 13 to 30 (373,000 ha), but still considered insufficient. Soon after the Court judgement, the Dutch government decided to implement it by the classification of the remaining 58 IBAs listed in the IBA94 inventory. After public consultation and an update of the underlying bird data, 49 new SPAs were finally classified in March 2000. This sudden action has caused a lot of public and parliamentary resistance resulting in more than 1500 applications for administrative and judicial review. Thanks to the robust methodology of site selection and boundary delimitation substantiated by an extensive set of bird data (1993–97) these legal proceedings have not affected the classifications significantly. On the contrary, a number of SPAs had to be enlarged in view of inconsistencies in the delimitation of the sites, see Figure 4.

To which extent offers the Netherlands SPA network protection to threatened and vulnerable species of Annex I and to other migratory birds for which the SPAs have been classified? The coverage of colonial and other congregatory species is good to very good. Of species like Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* and Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, over 80% of their national populations is covered by the network. Even for dispersed breeding species like Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*, Wood Lark *Lullula arborea* and Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* the coverage is quite good (30–50%). The network covers all major resting and wintering habitats of migratory waterbirds extensively, including marine areas, freshwater bodies and marshland. The only exception is that feeding areas of geese and other waterbirds on agricultural grasslands have only been covered to a limited extent because inclusion was not considered necessary in view of their protection requirements. The practical protection and management of the sites is not yet optimal because the protection regime laid down in the Habitats Directive (art. 6) has still not been transposed in Dutch law (expected early 2005). However, a major effort is now being made to establish an effective and balanced management and evaluation scheme for all Natura 2000 sites by determining conservation objectives, preparation of management plans and setting up of a monitoring scheme aimed at maintenance or restoration of Favourable Conservation Status for all species and habitats concerned. It is a complicated process, because it concerns a large number of sites (79 SPAs and 141 Habitats Directive sites), many stakeholders and the basic principles need to be in line with the European (monitoring) framework still being discussed.

Figure 4. Development of SPA classification in the Netherlands in the period 1986–2000.





Box 4. The Spoonbill success story in the Netherlands.

One of the most typical breeding birds of the Netherlands is the Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, a large wading bird that breeds in colonies in marshland and lakes and winters south to tropical Western Africa. In the European Union, the breeding range of the species is largely confined to the Netherlands, Spain and Hungary. Due to chemical poisoning, the Dutch population collapsed in the mid-sixties after which it slowly recovered during the next 20 years.

What has the Birds Directive meant for this species? From the beginning (1979) the species was listed in Annex I of the Directive; at that time the Netherlands held the entire EU breeding population which changed in 1981 with the accession of Greece and in 1986 with the accession of Spain. In 1986, the Netherlands classified the first Special Protection Area (SPA) for its breeding Spoonbills, but it didn't bring the birds much fortune because the colony was disturbed by foxes in 1988 and the birds never returned again. However, they found new breeding sites (the majority shifted to the Wadden Sea area), and the population showed a spectacular recovery: it had doubled by 1990 (541 pairs), passed the 1,000 mark seven years later and the 1,500 mark in 2002. With the classification of the large breeding colony in the Oostvaardersplassen (1989) as SPA half to two-thirds of the Netherlands' Spoonbill population were breeding in SPAs; this percentage increased to nearly 100% with the extension of the network in 2000.

Although the recent population growth cannot be directly attributed to the protection afforded by the Birds Directive, it has certainly supported the recovery of the species in Western Europe (the Spanish population increased during the same period) in particular thanks to improved protection along the Atlantic flyway and the higher interest in its conservation. The increase of the Dutch population has led to expansion of its European breeding range to France, UK, Germany and Denmark. It is hoped that many more bird species will follow this example of the Spoonbill in the near future.

Box 5. Increasing heron populations in NW Italy since protection of their colonies.

In North-West Italy heron and egret species find rich wetland habitats for feeding, due to the large areas of rice fields. However, the densely populated and intensively cultivated planes of the regions Lombaria and Piemonte hold only few adequate nesting sites for heron colonies ("heronries").

Regular monitoring of heron and egret populations started in the two mentioned regions in 1972, and showed that eight species breed in the area: Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*—about 9,000 nests, Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—500 nests, Great Egret *Ardea alba*—2 nests, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—8,000 nests, Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—150 nests, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—230 nests, and Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—7,000 nests. The rice fields are also used for foraging by passing waders and other waterbirds.

The heronries are typically situated in small marshy woods that have been spared by the ubiquitous land reclamation for agriculture and urbanisation. Therefore, they are mostly located among intensive cultivations and considered vulnerable. An analysis of site availability showed that only few alternative sites exist as potential new nesting places. Indeed, during the 1970s and 1980s, a number of heronries disappeared because their site was reclaimed by agriculture.

Site protection initiatives

Between 1972 and 2003, 60–110 heronries were counted in total, of which several contained more than 1,000 nests (the largest ever recorded held 2,300 nests). Many of these heronries qualify as Important Bird Areas according to the criteria of BirdLife International.

In the mid-1980s, in the light of the adopted Birds Directive and realising that the heronries constitute "natural hotspots" among the densely inhabited plains of NW Italy, the region of Lombardia set up a network of 15 specific nature reserves for the conservation of heronries, while the region of Piemonte protected colonies within larger parks. All major heronries have been classified by the regions as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive. This was one of the few initiatives directed to conserve the sensitive habitats of the lowlands, in a country where most protected areas are located in mountainous regions. It is also a globally unique case of a strategic initiative for the conservation of heronries in densely inhabited and cultivated landscapes.

At present, 29 heronries are officially protected by the region of Lombardia and 13 by Piemonte. Other 19 colonies are considered more or less secure due to municipal or private protection measures or because of inaccessibility. The remaining 49 heronries however are still unprotected and may be considered vulnerable.

The specific nature reserves set up for the heronries are usually very small in size, with a core area of 5–10 ha, surrounded by a buffer zone of 50–200 ha where cultivation is permitted. Since most reserves are placed on marshy lands that have not been cultivated for a long time, they interfere only to a small degree with economic activities. Some of these reserves have guided visits.

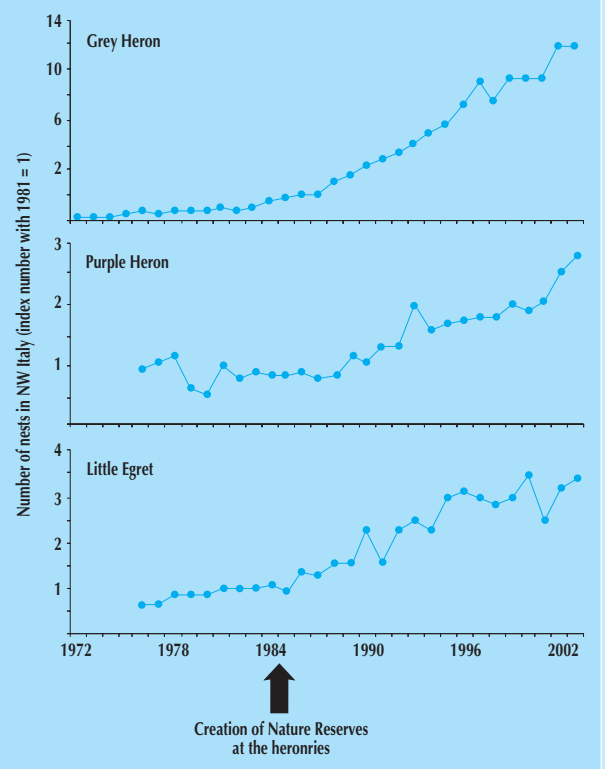
The management plans of these reserves is based on the premise that wetland habitats should be actively maintained, to keep them suitable for herons and other aquatic biota, that once thrived over a large part of the plains, and are now dependent on these small reserves. The implementation of management plans at times has been erratic. For example the Provincia di Pavia, that presently manages 13 of these specific nature reserves, provided an effective management during the early 1990s, but did very little afterwards, due to the decreasing commitment of local politicians.

The success story

Since the protection of the heronries began in 1985, the heron and egret populations in NW Italy have considerably increased. Long-term and strong increases can be seen in Figure 5, with population trends shown for three species. Grey Herons showed a spectacular 14-fold increase between 1981 and 2003. Purple Herons and Little Egret populations have grown about threefold. In addition, the Cattle and Great Egrets started breeding in 1992 and in 2000, respectively, as new colonisers in NW Italy. The Squacco Heron and Night Heron populations have fluctuated during the past 30 years, and presently the former is increasing, while the latter is decreasing. The heronries have remained within the boundaries of the reserves, since they use the same site almost indefinitely, provided that the habitat remains suitable. Early records of heronries still occupied in Italy date back to the early 20th century, and in one case even to the early 17th century.

Considering the strong increase of six heron species out of seven, it can be stated that this network of protected areas, supported by the Birds Directive, has been very effective for the conservation of the important heron and egret population of NW Italy.

Figure 5. Population trends for three species of herons and egrets in NW Italy.



Open questions

However, factors other than colony site protection may have influenced population trends. The Grey Heron for example increased in other areas of Europe as well, probably thanks to reduced illegal killing, and to better survival due to mild winters. The species that winter locally or around the Mediterranean, the Grey Heron, the Little and Cattle Egrets, showed a marked and continued increase.

On the other hand, species wintering in Africa (Night, Purple, and Squacco Herons) showed variable trends of their breeding populations. It is still not completely understood which factors regulate these populations.

References: Fasola and Alieri (1992a), Fasola and Alieri (1992b), Fasola and Hafner (1997), and Fasola *et al.* (2000)

Conclusion:
The SPA network in the EU15 is still very incomplete when compared to IBAs (only 44% of IBA area is covered by SPA classification). There is a strong difference between individual countries (the overlap ranges between 22% and 100%) and between regions in terms of SPA classifications. Some of the Annex I species have good SPA coverage, especially wetland colonial species.

Three case studies (see Boxes 1–3) stress that SPA classification accelerated in those countries, which were condemned by the European Court of Justice for insufficient SPA lists, suggesting that recourse to the Court is a necessary measure for Member States that are lagging behind.

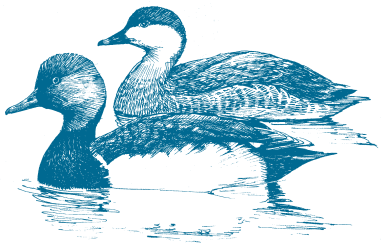
TRADE OF WILD BIRDS: ARTICLE 6 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Article 6 of the Birds Directive prohibits the trade, sale or transport of birds, but specifically permits Member States to allow trade for the species listed on Annex III of the Directive provided they have been legally acquired.

BirdLife's results on this issue are incidental which is linked to the fact that trade of wild birds (as regulated by the Birds Directive) is not a focus of work for the BirdLife Partnership. As all species that are listed on Annex III are also species listed on Annex II, their Conservation Status is referred to under the section dealing with article 7.

However, it is worth noting that the Birds Directive seems to have had a significant impact by eliminating illegal trade of wild birds across the EU. Having said that there are some countries where trade of wild birds is still taking place, not in line with the Directive, such as Malta, Greece, and Italy. Although, especially for the latter two countries, illegal trade has been greatly reduced, the activities of Italian hunters abroad are particularly worrying and relate to the illegal trading of birds killed within and outside the EU back to Italy.

Conclusion:
The almost complete elimination of illegal trade of wild birds (i.e. trade not allowed according to the Birds Directive) across the EU is one of the clear successes of the Birds Directive.



HUNTING: ARTICLE 7 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Article 7 of the Birds Directive permits Member States to allow hunting of certain species of birds owing to their population level, geographical distribution and reproductive rate throughout the Community. These are the species listed in Annex II of the Directive. In this section we report what our analyses tell us about:

- the status of all species listed on Annex II (huntable) at Pan-European and EU level
- species whose status changed between 1994 and 2004.

The status of all species listed on Annex II (huntable) at Pan-European and EU level

At the Pan-European level 31 (39%) out of the 80 species listed on Annex II (see chapter Methodology) have Unfavourable Conservation Status. At the EU25 level, 36 out of the 79 (46%) have Unfavourable Status (see Table 3 in the chapter Species Tables for a detailed list of Annex II species and their status at Pan-European and EU25 level).

Species whose status changed between 1994 and 2004

In 1990, on the other hand, only 25 (32%) out of the 79 species listed had Unfavourable Status at Pan-European level. The eight species whose Conservation Status worsened on a Pan-European level are almost all either ducks or waders and are listed in Table 4. It is worth noting that all those species have also Unfavourable Conservation Status at EU25 level. On the other hand, there are only two species whose status improved in the last 10 years and these are Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* and Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*.

Conclusion:
The status of Annex II (huntable) species has worsened. A total of 36 species out of 79 (46%) on Annex II have Unfavourable Conservation Status at EU25 level and a total of 31 (39%) out of the 80 species listed on Annex II have an Unfavourable Status on the Pan-European level.

Table 6. List of Annex II species whose status has worsened since 1994 on a Pan-European level and their Conservation Status at EU25.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall Pan-European status in 1994	Overall Pan-European status in 2004	Overall status at EU25 in 2004
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable

MONITORING UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE AND ARTICLE 6 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

The ultimate measure of the effectiveness of the Birds Directive effectiveness is the Conservation Status of species. This is also an obligation arising from article 4 of the Birds Directive and article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Conservation Status can be derived from information on changes in the abundance and distribution of species populations across their geographical range. This requires data on population changes (monitoring) and on distribution (atlas works). BirdLife's *Birds in Europe* books use information on population size and trend for assessing the status of birds at Pan-European scale. This demonstrates that it is possible to assess the effectiveness of the Directive, but it is as well crucial to further develop monitoring schemes and improve data quality at national level. The key actions in this respect:

- Ensure that at least trend data (population indices) are available at national level;
- Data on changes of distribution are available. This would require co-ordinated atlas work, but it would be worth exploring the use of predictive distribution models that can effectively complement atlas work at a much lower cost.
- National data are collected in a systematic manner (as it is demonstrated by BirdLife International and Wetlands International).

BirdLife International has developed an integrated approach to bird monitoring in Europe, which is based on three schemes and could be easily adopted for monitoring under the Birds Directive:

- Monitoring of a representative sample of common birds, which may produce state indicators, which can be used to characterise the overall sustainability of the major land use forms on birds and broadly indicates the effectiveness of article 3 of the Directive. For pressures and response measures affecting the wider environment it is probably best to use indicators being developed under different sectoral indicator processes (see Box 6).
- Monitoring of key sites relates to article 4(1) and (2) of the Birds Directive and resulting in indicators for the Conservation Status of Natura 2000 sites based on the performance of their qualifying species, regular assessment of the impacts of threats on individual sites and response measures such as progress in classification and management (a similar framework is being introduced by European BirdLife Partners to monitor Important Bird Areas).
- Monitoring of threatened birds is based on assessing the Conservation Status of bird species based on information on their population size and distribution (such as this publication), as well as the trends in these. Response indicators relate to the protection status of threatened species, their coverage by action plans and the progress in the implementation of these action plans (Nagy and Crockford 2004).

Box 6. The Pan-European Common Bird Index.

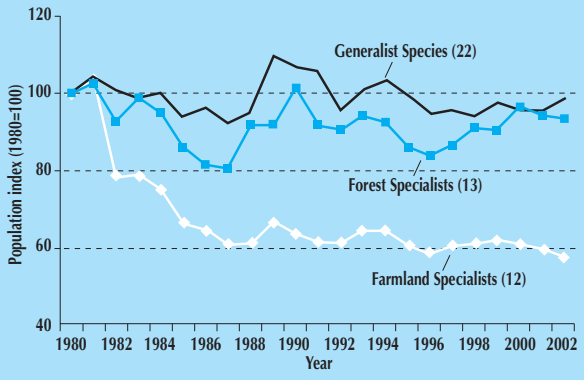
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), BirdLife International and the European Bird Census Council have developed a biodiversity indicator based on population trends of wild birds. The methods used are harmonised, proven and statistically robust, combining cutting-edge expertise from the Netherlands and the UK. National trend data, upon which the indicator is based, are subject to rigorous checking and validation. Data come from 18 countries and this number is set to rise. The wild bird indicator is timely, relevant, capable of annual update in the future, and suitable for development to meet policy needs. It has all the qualities of an effective headline indicator, and is by far the most advanced biodiversity indicator currently available. Apart from its relevance to the Birds Directive, it is also an ideal candidate for being listed as a Biodiversity Structural Indicator to measure progress against the EU's Lisbon process and Sustainable Development Strategy.

The preliminary index (Figure 6) shows that on average, populations of common generalist birds in Europe have remained stable over the last twenty years, although numbers have fluctuated in response to winter conditions (trend 1980–2002 = -2%). Common forest specialists have declined to a small degree (trend 1980–2002 = -7%). Populations of common farmland specialist, in contrast, have declined sharply, especially in the 1980s, and the downward trend continues at a slower rate (trend 1980–2002 = -42%). This reflects deterioration in the quality of farmland habitats, affecting both birds and other elements of biodiversity. There is abundant evidence that declines among farmland birds in Europe have been driven by agricultural intensification.

Harmonised Data Collection—The Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme

Trend information for the Common Bird Index was derived from annually operated national breeding bird surveys spanning different periods from 18 European countries, obtained through the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme. This scheme combines national data into multinational indices. The European Environment Agency (through the European Topic Centre/Nature Protection and Biodiversity) is supporting the development of this indicator in the framework of its core set of biodiversity indicators. See www.ebcc.info, Gregory *et al.* (in press) and Van Strein *et al.* (2001).

Figure 6. The Pan-European Common Bird Index.



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/European Bird Census Council/BirdLife International

Birds as indicators for wider biodiversity and environmental objectives

The EU Heads of State committed themselves to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010, in Gothenburg in 2001. To measure the progress towards these goals and the impacts of EU policies, which may either support or undermine these targets, it is necessary to measure changes of biodiversity. However, biodiversity is a complex phenomenon and we need simple indicators, which provide us with information about the main trends in order to take them into account in political decision making.

Birds are ideal indicators of the trends in overall biodiversity because:

- they usually occupy a high trophic level (thus indicating environmental changes occurring at lower trophic levels),
- they live in all ecosystems,
- their taxonomy and identification is well resolved,
- their conspicuous behaviour allow them to be readily censused,
- it is possible to collect large quantities of data in a highly efficient manner using skilled volunteer enthusiasts,
- importantly, birds have great public resonance across European cultures.

Regular monitoring of bird populations can yield trend information for birds. This can then be summarised to produce relatively simple, transparent indicators of ecosystem function and health, and might act as a model to develop indicators for other taxa. Scientific evidence exists to link changes in bird numbers to policy and environmental changes, therefore birds are ideal subject of developing policy relevant indicators.

Measuring the effectiveness of the SPA network

The SPA network aims to maintain a coherent network of sites for species listed on Annex I and other migratory species not listed on Annex I. The key issues for assessment are:

- Coherence of the network.
- Ecological status of sites.

Coherence of the network concerns two main aspects: (a) the extent the network provides protection to the population of a species (securing viable populations) and (b) the extent to which the sites form a network along flyways (minimising losses during annual movements). A key indicator for the coherence of the network in relation to (a) can be the percentage of the species' population covered by the site network (SPAs and for comparison by IBAs). In case of (b) a more functional assessment is needed to identify key gaps along a flyway.

Ecological status of sites can be assessed in relation to the species they are classified for (qualifying species). The key response indicator is related to management. In this context the existence of management plans and the level of their implementation deserve attention and can be assessed by using a qualitative scoring system. However, the effectiveness of the conservation measures can be ultimately assessed through changes in site conditions. Conditions can be assessed as favourable or unfavourable based on changes in abundance of the qualifying species on the site. It is recognised however that in some cases abundance cannot be used because numbers within sites can change due to external factors (e.g. weather conditions, overall decline of the species). In this case habitat suitability should be used instead. This approach is more practical for stopover sites and sites, which are qualified for forest/marshland birds. Percentage of sites with favourable conditions can be an indicator of assessing the effectiveness of the directive in relation to protecting individual elements of the SPA network.

Engaging citizens

Tens of thousands of citizens are already engaged in monitoring of birds in the European Union and beyond already for decades. Birds are attractive to people and their conservation can mobilise millions of European citizens. The combined membership of BirdLife partners exceeds 1.5 million people in Europe.

Experience with the Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme and the International Waterbird Census shows that monitoring activities are not so much related to the level of economic development in a country rather to the state of organisational development of bird conservation NGOs, which is, in turn, related to the level of collaboration between government and non-governmental organisations. Well-developed schemes exist e.g. in the UK, the Netherlands, but also in the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The key issue in setting up and maintaining monitoring schemes for birds is to reach out to potential volunteers and to provide them with adequate feedback about the results of their work.

This always requires basic capacity to co-ordinate recruitment of volunteers, co-ordinating the data collection process, as well as analysing and communicating the results. Bird conservation NGOs are in a unique position compared to government agencies and scientific institutions in this respect because they have their own membership that is already committed to birds and have basic knowledge of species identification. In many countries, working groups exists which are specialised on certain group of species and which carry out specialised monitoring. The main limitation is in many cases, however, their often limited ability to fund the co-ordination work.

Conclusion:

Most of the work on monitoring of species and sites is currently done by NGOs, like BirdLife International, with only small support by governments. This has to change in the future.

Birds are good indicators for biodiversity and bird trends are appropriate indicators to use at high political levels.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE: JUDGEMENTS AND INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURES

The judgements of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) related to the implementation of the Birds Directive so far have been essential in clarifying some important aspects of the Directive and in showing the way for its better implementation in the future. According to the Commission's 2002 annual report on the application of Community law, the environment sector covered one third of all infringement cases investigated by the Commission in that year. A large number of these cases are related to the nature Directives. So far, there have been 33 judgements related to the Birds Directive, mostly on shortcomings related to both habitat protection (Articles 3 and 4 of the Directive) and species protection (Article 5–9) issues. Especially large numbers of cases relate to site designation and the protection system to be applied to SPAs, as well as to hunting and exemptions from the species protection requirements. It is important to note that in many cases conflicts between conservation and development objectives have been resolved without having to resort to national courts or the ECJ. These cases illustrate best that the Directive can work effectively to promote sustainable development taking into account various interests.

Infringement procedures, however, take a long time to reach their conclusions, which requires a lot of time investment from NGOs with limited resources, but also from Commission services. The Commission has initiated some new working methods to improve the performance of Member States in implementing Community law, such as preparation of guidelines and interpretative texts, linking Community funding to correct implementation of environmental legislation and

'naming and shaming' Member States. There are also ideas about processing some or all of the complaints first at Member State level, in order to focus the work of the Commission on the ones that constitute infringements of legislation. These measures will hopefully aid the better implementation of the Directives at national level, while at the same time it is important that the Commission remains firm on taking legal action against Member States when it is needed.

Conclusion:
A large number of cases have helped interpret the provisions of the Birds Directive and increased its effectiveness. Interpretative texts, guidance and 'name and shame' seminars by the Commission can aid the implementation at national level. Recourse to the European Court of Justice always needs to be a clear option.

RESEARCH: ARTICLE 10 AND ANNEX V OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Article 10 of the Birds Directive encourages Member States to undertake research and any work required as a basis for the protection, management and use of the population of all naturally occurring species in the European Union. Annex V lists a number of topics which Member States are encouraged to undertake research on[3].

As scientific methodology and evidence has advanced considerably over the last 25 years, and as new challenges emerged (e.g. climate change), the European Commission and the European Partnership of BirdLife International see the need of defining new research priorities under the Birds Directive. In BirdLife International identifies the following priorities for future research:

1. **Sustainable long-term monitoring**
   BirdLife International is among those NGOs that have been supporting long term monitoring schemes across several European countries, through its network of staff and skilled volunteers. The critical importance of long-term monitoring schemes and the need for them to be sustained by modest financial support is crucial.

   As governments are finally realising the value and cost-effectiveness of such schemes, they should acknowledge that long-term monitoring is just as important as cutting-edge research, and thus be prepared to commit the very modest sums required to support it. They should also consider that one of the best ways to improve public awareness of—and participation in—stopping biodiversity decline is to encourage people to get involved in volunteer schemes.

2. **Baselines, targets and network coherence**
   While it is beyond doubt that many species are currently at levels that are probably below the natural carrying capacities of their habitats, we have little idea what these actual current carrying capacities are. The progressive shift in Natura 2000 objectives—from establishing the network to maintaining it—means we need research on how to set the right targets—at species population level, site level and network level. Scientific rationales on how to set targets and assess the coherence of protected area networks remain thin.

3. **Predictive modelling**
   Rapid, man-influenced climate change is an additional serious threat to many European species, including birds, who will face severe problems to adapt geographically given the highly fragmented habitats of our densely populated continent. A network like Natura 2000 is aimed at sustaining and restoring populations as they adapt to these challenges. Predictive models are—together with indicators—the basis on which decision-makers act. The high political profile of the climate change debate is due partly to researchers being able to produce predictive models of various plausible scenarios. We need similar data for the effect on biodiversity too. For instance, using data from the *EBCC Atlas* (Hagemeijer, W. J. M. and Blair, M. J. ed, 1997), Collingham *et al.* (publication expected 2005) model the recent geographical distribution of European breeding birds in terms of just three bio-climate variables. They have used this model to map the 'envelope' in which the climate is likely to be suitable for each species in the late 21st century, under the most plausible climate change scenario.

4. **Gap analysis and prioritisation**
   Considerable detailed autecological research has been carried out on the requirements of many European species, especially on popular and well-studied groups like birds. However, the results are often unpublished, languish in obscure journals, have not been translated, or are otherwise difficult to access.

5. **Habitat management for biodiversity**
   Over the past decade, detailed investigations into farmland bird declines have successfully pinpointed the needs of species, the causes of their declines, and how to reverse these with practical measures and changes in policy, i.e. agri-environment schemes. Further work on this is needed now, especially concerning other habitat types.

Conclusion:
Although important research has taken place in the last 25 years, there are important challenges ahead regarding ornithological research priorities that will aid in the monitoring of populations, facilitate the implementation of the Birds Directive and prioritise action.

3. Annex V lists the following subjects:
   a) National lists of species in danger of extinction or particularly endangered species, taking into account their geographical distribution.
   b) Listing and ecological description of areas particularly important to migratory species on their migratory routes and as wintering and nesting grounds.
   c) Listing of data on the population levels of migratory species as shown by ringing.
   d) Assessing the influence of methods of taking wild birds on population levels.
   e) Developing or refining ecological methods for preventing the type of damage caused by birds.
   f) Determining the role of certain species as indicators of pollution.
   g) Studying the adverse effect of chemical pollution on population levels of bird species.

REPORTING: ARTICLE 12

Article 12 of the Birds Directive requires Member States to submit a report on the implementation of the Birds Directive nationally to the European Commission every three years. Other reporting obligations by the Member States include the article 9 report on derogations, which should be submitted annually, and reporting on SPA classifications under article 4(3). Once every three years the Commission produces its own report on the application of the Directive.

In this section, we present BirdLife's views and ideas on how this reporting should be made more useful:

The main problems in the way the composition report is made by the Commission are:

- **Long delays** in reporting due to delays with national reports from the Member States and due to the procedures set out in article 12(2), which require that parts of the reports should be the Member State in question for verification.
- **Focus on administrative procedures** (e.g. classification of sites, legal provisions) and no or **limited information on enforcement** and impacts of these measures.

The latter is especially problematic because the guiding principle behind the Directive that Member States are bound to achieving the desired aim of the Directive, i.e. Favourable Conservation Status of the species. Therefore, it is important that reporting should go beyond reporting administrative compliance and should report on enforcement and effectiveness, too.

BirdLife International suggests addressing these problems through the following measures:

Imposing more explicit obligation on the Member States to **report on the performance of the species** covered by the Directive. This should be based on relative population estimates in **every three years** (see monitoring section above). Populations of hunted or otherwise utilised species should be monitored annually including information on the level of takings (**bag statistics**). Major assessment of the **Conservation Status of bird species** should take place **every ten years** including the re-assessment of the distribution of the species. Relevant NGOs should be involved in reporting at both national and international level.

Information on SPAs should be up-dated every three years and their conservation conditions should be assessed against preset conservation targets. The results of this assessment, and the targets, should be stored in the Natura 2000 database to allow summarising information at the level of the network. The information should include the latest as well as earlier population estimates for the site, the status assessment with justification, evaluation of human impacts on the site assessed against the conservation needs of the species and the key management objectives for the site and the progress in achieving them.

Regarding species conservation, beyond existing information, the reports should include **data on enforcement of legal obligations**. This can include information on the main causes and level of bird mortality caused by human-induced factors (such as illegal shooting, poisoning, drawing in fish nets, collision with electrical power lines, etc.), the measures taken to eliminate them and their effectiveness. In order to obtain a more objective picture about factors causing Unfavourable Conservation Status, Member States should report on the **factors causing Unfavourable Conservation Status of each relevant species in their country**. This report should refer to relevant scientific evidence. BirdLife expects that this would strengthen the scientific basis of the implementation of the Directive and would result in more targeted conservation actions. It would also help to identify knowledge gaps.

Conclusion:
The Commission triennial reports on the implementation of the Birds Directive arrive late and are not useful tools for stakeholders and Member States.

THE EU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE 2010 TARGET: THE OUTERMOST REGIONS OF THE EU

The Heads of State in the EU adopted the EU Sustainable Development Strategy in the Gothenburg European Council in 2001. The Strategy among other things sets the target of halting biodiversity decline by 2010.

BirdLife International believes that the full implementation of the Birds Directive is an important tool for contributing towards achieving this target. It also promotes its indicator of common birds as an appropriate indicator for measuring progress towards this target. However, BirdLife International in this section emphasises a clear difficulty regarding the achievement of this target when one considers the French outermost regions and the clear contradiction between their rich biodiversity value and the fact that they are not protected by the nature Directives, while at the same time they receive Structural Funds for development (see Box 7).

Box 7. Globally threatened birds in the outermost regions of the EU: the case of the French overseas departments.

The tropical regions of Europe

France is the only Member State of the European Union with regions well beyond the limits of continental Europe, four of which are recognised as integral parts of the EU, situated in the tropical zone (overseas départements: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion Island). The other regions include the overseas territories, thus not directly associated with the EU, but linked through their political connection to France (Mayotte, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, South Territories, St Pierre et Miquelon, Clipperton). In 2007 however, Mayotte is due to become an overseas département also. Other EU Member States such as the UK have overseas territories as well, however these are not recognized as integral parts of the EU.

France, together with its overseas départements and territories, holds nearly 1,500 species of birds (1,265 breeding species) and is ninth on the list of countries in the world with the highest number of globally threatened species (Deceuninck, B. and Duncan, A. 2004a) The situation has worsened since 2000, when 64 species were considered globally threatened in France and its overseas territories and départements, today the number is 71 (Deceuninck, B. and Duncan, A. 2004b).

As shown below the EU Birds Directive and other environmental legislation do not apply in these territories, while on the other hand EU structural and agricultural funding instruments are operating there with potential damaging pressure on birds and habitats.

Biodiversity value of French overseas départments

France and its four current overseas départments: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion Island, hold together 1,238 bird species (994 breeding species). Of these, the four overseas départements alone hold 918 species (719 regular breeders), which shows their outstanding biodiversity importance.

Threatened Birds of the World (BirdLife International 2000) lists eight bird species in the French outermost regions of the EU, which are globally threatened (Table 5). Réunion Island holds five globally threatened species of which four are endemic to the island. Martinique has two globally threatened species, one of which is endemic. Guadeloupe holds one globally threatened species. French Guiana, on the South American continent, is approximately the size of Portugal and holds one of the last intact and extensive areas of tropical forest. French Guiana holds as many as 700 bird species (621 breeding species), mSore than in all the 25 countries of the European Union put together, and this is equivalent to the number of species in the entire Western Palaearctic region.

In addition 13 species are Near-threatened under IUCN criteria (Table 6): eight in French Guiana, two in Réunion Island, three in Guadeloupe, and one in Martinique.

Mayotte which will become part of the EU in 2007, holds a further two globally threatened species. See Figure 7 for the distribution of globally threatened and near threatened species in the different départments.

Three out of four of these départements are islands (Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion Island, plus Mayotte in 2007) so limited in area, with fragile environments in the tropical zone.

Of these 21 priority species (8 threatened and 13 Near-threatened), a relatively large proportion have a limited distribution. They are either endemic (6; plus 1 in Mayotte) or show a restricted range (1) world distribution < 50,000 km^2 (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998).

The 12 endemic and 21 restricted range species present today are the remainder of a more diverse avifauna in these French départements, as 13 endemic and two restricted range species are no longer present; 14 of them are extinct (12 e + 2r) since 17th century.

The EU Nature Directives do not apply in the tropical outermost regions of Europe

The overseas départements of France are recognised as an integral part of the EU and categorised as "outermost regions". The outermost regions of the EU also include the Canary Islands (Spain), together with the Azores and Madeira (Portugal). The policies of the EU are not applied equally in these outermost regions. The Spanish and Portuguese outermost regions are fully integrated into the European Union, socially, economically and environmentally, whereas the French outermost regions lack environmental integration at the European level, which means that currently neither the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC nor the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC apply. The annexes of the two directives only cover the flora and fauna of continental Europe and the islands belonging to Spain and Portugal.

However, exceptions are made within the economic rules of the EU for these regions in order to enable them to compete in the European market within which they are integrated. These regions receive Structural Funds as all underdeveloped regions of the EU and are classed as Objective 1 regions under the 2000–2006 funding round. Agriculture is also subsidised under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), for the tropical products, such as sugar cane and bananas, which are already produced in large quantities (with little or no subsidy), in neighbouring ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries.

In the face of the EU commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, as agreed by Heads of State in 2001 and reaffirmed in June 2004, it will be interesting to see how the EU will achieve this in these outermost regions under European responsibility and yet with no European environmental legislation and under pressure from rapid development fuelled by European Structural and Agricultural funds.

Table 5. List of globally threatened bird species regularly present in the current overseas départements of France (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion Island), and in Mayotte, and their IUCN threat level (CR: Critical, EN: Endangered, VU: Vulnerable. e: endemic endemic species, n: non breeding species); source: BirdLife International 2000.

Réunion Island	
Mascarene Black Petrel *Pseudobulweria aterrima*	**CR e**
Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui*	**EN e**
Réunion Harrier *Circus maillardi*	**EN e**
Réunion Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina newtoni*	**EN e**
Madagascar Pond-heron *Ardeola idae*	**EN**
Guadeloupe	
Forest Thrush *Cichlherminia lherminieri*	**VU**
Martinique	
White-breasted Thrasher *Ramphocinclus brachyurus*	**EN**
Martinique Oriole *Icterus bonana*	**VU e**
Mayotte (in 2007)	
Mayotte Drongo *Dicrurus waldenii*	**EN e**
Madagascar Pond-heron *Ardeola idae*	**EN n** (also in Réunion)
Madagascar Heron *Ardea humbloti*	**EN n**

Figure 7. Distribution of the number of globally threatened species, and near threatened (NT) species in the French overseas départements.

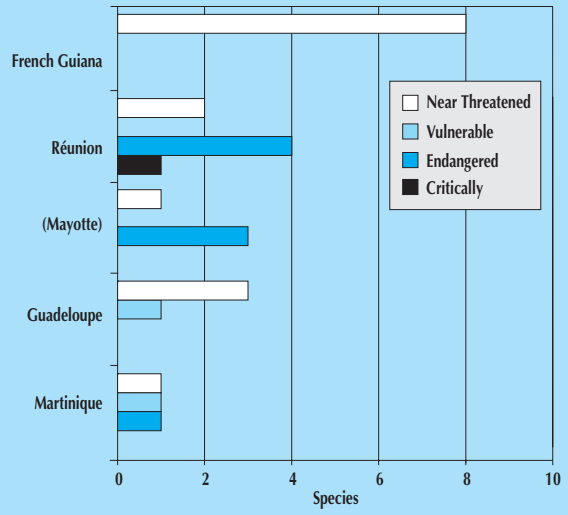
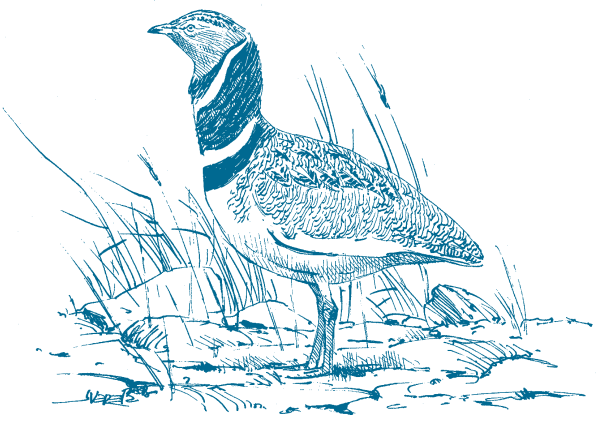


Table 6. List of Near-threatened species at a world level regularly present in the French overseas départements. Status: n: non-breeding; e: endemic species; r: restricted-range species; BirdLife International 2000.

French Guiana	
Orinoco Goose *Neochen jubata*	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*	**n**
Solitary Eagle *Harpyhaliaetus solitarius*	
Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja*	
Blue-cheeked Amazon *Amazona dufresniana*	
Crested Eagle *Morphnus guianensis*	
Great-billed Seed-finch *Oryzoborus maximiliani*	
Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis*	
Réunion Island	
Northern Giant-petrel *Macronectes halli*	**n**
Mascarene Swiftlet *Collocalia francica*	**r**
Guadeloupe	
Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*	**n**
White-crowned Pigeon *Columba leucocephala*	
Guadeloupe Woodpecker *Melanerpes herminieri*	**e**
Martinique	
Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*	**n**
Mayotte (in 2007)	
Comoro Olive-pigeon *Columba pollenii*	**e**

Conclusion:

The outermost regions of France have enormous biodiversity value, more than the whole of the European Union of 25 combined. The biodiversity in these regions is put in danger by economic development through structural funds and agricultural funds, while at the same time the nature Directives of the European Union do not apply.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The status of birds in Europe is worsening. When looking at the European Union alone, the overall situation seems more stable. This can be seen as a clear success of the EU Birds Directive.

However, a more detailed assessment shows that many bird species are in deep trouble also in the EU. This can be partly due to the fact that the Birds Directive is not implemented fully across the EU, and partly because other EU policies, such as the Common Agricultural (CAP) and transport policies, run counter to the objectives of the Directive. There could also be factors operating outside the borders of the European Union on which currently the EU has no influence. The most positive messages identified in this review relate to Annex I species, i.e. those species, which are subject of special measures under the Directive. This is in general encouraging for the effectiveness of the Directive.

The LIFE Nature fund has made a significant contribution to the success of the Birds Directive. Its continuation or the establishment of an equivalent financing instrument, targeted specifically to nature conservation, is crucial for addressing the challenges of the future.

Overall this review reinforces the need to fully implement all provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directives across the 25 European Union Member States and the need to fully integrate the provisions of these Directives in other EU policies, like the CAP, transport, regional development, energy and others. Finally, it also highlights the importance of taking measures for birds outside the EU borders.

POPULATIONS OF ALL BIRDS: ARTICLES 2 AND 3 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Population trends in different habitats

This assessment tends to suggest that measures taken for species occurring in marine and coastal habitats, inland wetlands, Mediterranean forests and montane grasslands in the EU15 have benefited these species.

In particular, inland wetlands are a type of habitat that is relatively well protected by SPA classification so, although it cannot be confirmed, it is possible that these increases are associated with SPA classification (see also the case study on Italian Herons in the chapter Results, Box 5). It is generally more difficult to suggest which factor is responsible for the positive changes in Mediterranean forests and montane grasslands.

Farmland birds

The decline of farmland birds is an issue that deserves attention at EU level. From new data collected by BirdLife it is clear that the decline in farmland bird continues.

BirdLife recognises the importance of 'Greening the CAP' and is committed to working in order to ensure that CAP subsidies do not damage biodiversity but act as subsidies for supporting a healthy environment full of biodiversity.

BirdLife International calls for:

- Effective integration of the objectives of the Birds and Habitats Directives in the Common Agricultural Policy in order to address the issue of decline of farmland birds.

SPAS, ANNEX I AND MIGRANTS: ARTICLE 4 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

Most of the positive messages in this review are linked to Annex I species and species with an international Species Action Plan. This reinforces the need to fully implement the provisions of the Directive, including completing the classification of the SPA network, and the subsequent management and monitoring of those sites.

BirdLife International calls for:

- All IBAs to be classified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the European Union.

Looking at the Conservation Status of all species at Pan-European and at EU25 level it is clear that there are currently 100 species at Pan-European level and 90 on EU25, which qualify as having Unfavourable Conservation Status but are not listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

BirdLife International calls for:

- The list of species with Unfavourable Conservation Status in this publication to be considered in possible future reviews of the Annex I list of the Birds Directive.

Species with a Species Action Plan (SAP)

The overall success of species with SAPs reinforces those plans as an appropriate means of planning necessary action for threatened species. The fact that actions prescribed by these plans were also specifically financed by the LIFE financial instrument also contributes to their success.

BirdLife International calls for:

- Full implementation, including financing, of the Species Action Plans.
- The updating of the list of priority species for funding under the LIFE instrument (or equivalent) at EU level, taking into account the results of this review. For example, all SPEC1 species including those newly classified should be priority species for funding.

Long distance migrants declining

The fact that long distance migrants are declining is alarming, and could be linked to events taking place during their stay on their wintering grounds although at this stage of the analysis it was not possible to determine this. However, it highlights the need for the EU to look beyond its borders when it comes to protecting certain species, as actions on EU territory might not be enough to ensure their Favourable Conservation Status in the long term.

BirdLife International calls for:

- The EU to take actions beyond its borders in order to investigate and if appropriate, address the declines of long-distance migrants.

TRADE OF WILD BIRDS: ARTICLE 6 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

BirdLife International calls for:

- The success of controlling illegal trade of wild birds (i.e. trade not allowed according to the Birds Directive) should be continued and strengthened in order to eliminate all occurrences across the EU 25.

HUNTING: ARTICLE 7 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

The increased number of Annex II species with Unfavourable Conservation Status is of considerable concern. It now seems that consideration should be given to producing plans also for the new species that have Unfavourable Conservation Status, as well as completing the old. Member States, Commission, hunters and conservationists will have to work together in all countries to reverse those negative trends otherwise hunting of these species will become unsustainable.

BirdLife International calls for:

- For the completion of the species management plans for all Annex II species with Unfavourable Conservation Status.
- Upon Member States, Commission, hunters and conservationists to work together to reverse those trends.

MONITORING UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE AND ARTICLE 6 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Because of the importance of the Birds Directive for the EU biodiversity policy, monitoring of bird populations is an essential tool of good governance and the Commission and the Member States should set in place systems which will be able to provide information to enable judgements concerning:

- how effectively the nature directives are delivering their overall goals;
- appropriate priorities for actions to improve performance under the nature directives; and
- the extent to which achievements through implementation of the nature directives contribute to broader biodiversity conservation objectives within the EU[4].

The preconditions for assessment of SPAs are that adequate information is available at community level. This would require that:

- Member States set up or support surveillance and monitoring schemes which assess SPAs against their objectives (e.g. targets and site specific indicators are identified for the species the site is classified for) covering all SPAs.
- The Natura 2000 database is redesigned to support monitoring and periodic assessment of site conditions.
- Complex data are summarised into simple scores.

BirdLife believes that long-term partnership between national bird conservation NGOs and the competent national authorities is the best way to engage citizens in monitoring of species and sites.

RESEARCH: ARTICLE 10 AND ANNEX V OF THE BIRDS DIRECTIVE

BirdLife International calls on governments to promote and support:

- **Financially long-term monitoring schemes and to encourage Integrated Population Monitoring Schemes**, which can combine and promote the results of detailed scientific studies with data from e.g. bird ringing, hunting bags and citizen science.
- **Research programmes in order to set baselines, targets and investigate network coherence.** Research could help by mobilising and synthesising the large amounts of existing historical data, and then using modelling approaches to calculate meaningful baselines and set realistic targets, based on different scenarios. Without such targets, it is often difficult for politicians or the public to attach much meaning to the data provided by monitoring schemes.
- **Development of predictive modelling** for the effect of issues like climate change on biodiversity. We need much more systematically-recorded data, collected synchronously using standardised methods, to provide the raw material for testing and verifying models e.g. how can we accommodate the predicted species redistributions in the existing Natura 2000 network. Similarly, models could be applied to support environmental assessment of policy changes including the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- **Gap analysis and prioritisation**. Considerable detailed autecological research has been carried out but is often difficult to access. It is essential that this existing science is inventoried, reviewed and presented in a non-technical and accessible way. We need mechanisms to promote effective information exchange and technology transfer between researchers in different countries, e.g. user-driven databases of publications on the ecology, declines and recoveries of particular species or communities. As well as helping to prevent wastage in terms of repetition, this would also help to focus new research projects on really policy-relevant issues.
- **Habitat management for biodiversity research** into farmland bird declines have successfully pinpointed the needs of species, the causes of their declines, and how to reverse these with practical measures and changes in policy, i.e. agri-environment schemes. This approach should now be extended to other habitat types and ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic. Such research should aim to develop an evidence-based approach to biodiversity management.

REPORTING: ARTICLE 12

BirdLife International calls on governments:

- To use the indicators suggested by BirdLife International for monitoring common birds, sites and threatened birds in their regular reports to the European Commission every three years.

BirdLife International calls on the European Commission:

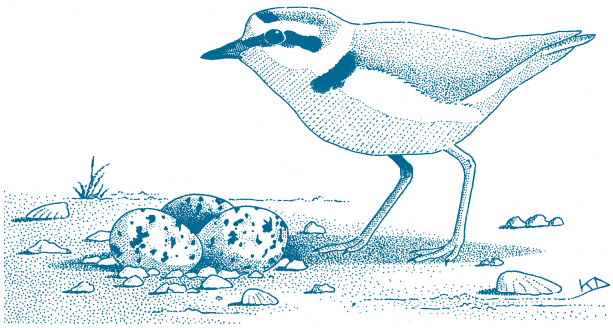
- To create a new up-graded Natura 2000 barometer which will focus on the 'health' of Natura 2000 sites instead of their designation.

THE EU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE 2010 TARGET

The outermost regions of France have enormous biodiversity value, more than the whole of the European Union of 25 combined. The biodiversity in these regions is put in danger by economic development through structural funds and agricultural funds, while at the same time the nature Directives of the European Union do not apply.

BirdLife International calls for:

- The development of special legislation, with adequate financial resources, to protect birds and other wildlife in the biodiversity rich tropical outermost regions of the EU.



4. This includes, for example, the objectives set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and targets set under the 6th Community Environment Action Programme (and reinforced by the European Council at its meetings in Gothenburg, June 2001 and Brussels, March 2003).

SPECIES TABLES

Table 1. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Gavia stellata	3,000–4,000	51,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Stable	Stable	Rare
Gavia arctica	14,000–17,000	8,300	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate increase	Stable	Depleted
Gavia immer	–	4,200	–	Stable	–	Stable	Secure▼
Tachybaptus ruficollis	53,000–93,000	45,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Moderate increase	Secure
Podiceps cristatus	140,000–210,000	140,000	Large increase	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Moderate increase	Secure
Podiceps grisegena	14,000–20,000	1,500	Large increase	Stable	Stable	Moderate increase	Secure
Podiceps auritus	3,300–5,700	1,800	Large decline	Stable	Large decline	Stable	Vulnerable
Podiceps nigricollis	9,100–13,000	43,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate increase	Declining
Fulmarus glacialis	540,000–540,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pterodroma madeira	30–40	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Critically Endangered
Pterodroma feae	170–260	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Vulnerable
Bulweria bulwerii	7,000–9,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Calonectris diomedea	260,000–280,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Puffinus gravis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Puffinus griseus	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Puffinus puffinus	320,000–360,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Localised
Puffinus mauretanicus	1,700–2,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Large decline	–	Critically Endangered
Puffinus yelkouan	13,000–23,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Puffinus assimilis	5,200–6,900	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Pelagodroma marina	61,000–61,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Vulnerable
Hydrobates pelagicus	130,000–150,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Oceanodroma leucorhoa	37,000–65,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Localised
Oceanodroma castro	3,700–4,800	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Morus bassanus	270,000–270,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Phalacrocorax carbo	150,000–160,000	260,000	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Secure
Phalacrocorax aristotelis	46,000–47,000	3,000	Large increase	Stable	Moderate decline	Stable	Secure
Phalacrocorax pygmeus	1,400–1,600	35,000	Stable	Large increase	Moderate increase	Stable	Rare
Pelecanus onocrotalus	50–100	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare▼▼
Pelecanus crispus	500–550	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Rare
Botaurus stellaris	7,900–10,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Ixobrychus minutus	9,400–15,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Nycticorax nycticorax	23,000–30,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Ardeola ralloides	2,200–3,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Bubulcus ibis	50,000–140,000	60,000	Large increase	Large increase	Moderate increase	Large increase	Secure
Egretta garzetta	39,000–54,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Casmerodius albus	2,500–4,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure▼
Ardea cinerea	130,000–160,000	73,000	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Secure
Ardea purpurea	7,800–9,200	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Ciconia nigra	4,200–6,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Rare
Ciconia ciconia	100,000–110,000	–	Large decline	–	Large increase	–	Depleted
Plegadis falcinellus	560–660	–	Large decline	–	Large increase	–	Rare
Platalea leucorodia	3,400–5,700	–	Moderate increase	–	Large increase	–	Rare
Phoenicopterus roseus	41,000–42,000	66,000	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Localised
Cygnus olor	68,000–92,000	220,000	Moderate increase	Large increase	Large increase	Stable	Secure
Cygnus columbianus	1–1	23,000	–	Moderate increase	New breeder	Large decline	Vulnerable
Cygnus cygnus	6,400–8,000	56,000	Large increase	Moderate increase	Large increase	Large increase	Secure
Anser fabalis	2,300–3,200	380,000	Stable	Large increase	Stable	Stable	Secure▼
Anser brachyrhynchus	–	290,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	Secure
Anser albifrons	–	930,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	Secure
Anser erythropus	0–5 [5–10*]	[140*]	Large decline	Large decline	Large decline	Stable	Critically Endangered
Anser anser	65,000–87,000	350,000	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Secure
Branta leucopsis	5,900–7,600	370,000	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Large increase	Secure
Branta bernicla	–	240,000	–	Large increase	–	Large decline	Vulnerable

See page 48 for explanations related to this table.

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	**2004 Global** IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	**% European** population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	**% Global** population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	4–9	<5	I	–	–		Red-throated Loon
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	18–27	5–24	I	–	–		Arctic Loon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<5 **winter**	<5 **winter**	I	–	–		Common Loon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	54–55	5–24	–	–	–		Little Grebe
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	47	25–49	–	–	–		Great Crested Grebe
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	36–44	5–24	–	–	–		Red-necked Grebe
A2b; C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	52	<5	I	–	–		Horned Grebe
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	14–17	<5	–	–	–		Black-necked Grebe
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	12–19	5–24	–	–	–		Northern Fulmar
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	CR: D1	100	100	I	–	–		Zino's Petrel
D1; D2	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: D1; D2	100	25–49	I	–	–		Fea's Petrel
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	5–24	I	–	–		Bulwer's Petrel
A4b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	96–97	75–94	I	–	–		Cory's Shearwater
–	Not assessed*	Not assessed	[n/a]	–	–	–	–	–	–	* Passage migrant only	Great Shearwater
–	Unfavourable*	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2d,e; A3d,e	–	–	–	–	–	* Passage migrant only; globally Near Threatened	Sooty Shearwater
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	91–92	75–94	–	–	–		Manx Shearwater
A4b,c,e; B2a+b(ii,iii,iv,v)	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	CR: A4b,c,e; B2a+b(ii,iii,iv,v)	100	100	I	–	–		Balearic Shearwater
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	75–94	75–94	I	–	–		Yelkouan Shearwater
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	5–24	I	–	–		Little Shearwater
D2	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	5–24	I	–	–		White-faced Storm-petrel
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	29–30	25–49	I	–	–		European Storm-petrel
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	30–31	5–24	I	–	–		Leach's Storm-petrel
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	25–49	I	–	–		Band-rumped Storm-petrel
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	87–90	75–94	–	–	–		Northern Gannet
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	43–48	25–49	–	–	–		Great Cormorant
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	58–61	50–74	I *	–	–	* *P. a. desmarestii* only	European Shag
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2c; A3c	4–5	5–24	I	–	–		Pygmy Cormorant
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	1–2	<5	I	–	–		Great White Pelican
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2c; A3c	28–31	5–24	I	–	–		Dalmatian Pelican
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19–23	5–24	I	–	–		Great Bittern
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	13–16	5–24	I	–	–		Little Bittern
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	34–37	5–24	I	–	–		Black-crowned Night-heron
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	11–12	<5	I	–	–		Squacco Heron
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	93	5–24	–	–	–		Cattle Egret
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	57	5–24	I	–	–		Little Egret
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	17–23	<5	I	–	–		Great Egret
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	55–62	5–24	–	–	–		Grey Heron
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	22–27	5–24	I	–	–		Purple Heron
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	50–54	25–49	I	–	–		Black Stork
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	50–56	50–74	I	–	–		White Stork
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	3–4	<5	I	–	–		Glossy Ibis
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	38	5–24	I	–	–		Eurasian Spoonbill
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	72–73	5–24	I	–	–		Greater Flamingo
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	77–79	25–49	–	II/2	–		Mute Swan
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3W	–	<1	<5	I	–	–		Tundra Swan
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}W	–	38–40	5–24	I	–	–		Whooper Swan
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}W	–	<5	<5	–	II/1	–		Bean Goose
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	100 **winter**	100 **winter**	–	II/2	–		Pink-footed Goose
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	75–94 **winter**	25–49 **winter**	I *	II/2	III/2 **	* *A. a. flavirostris* only; ** *A. a. albifrons* only	Greater White-fronted Goose
C1; C2a(i); D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2b,c,d; A3b,c,d	2	<5	I	–	–	* Reintroduced populations	Lesser White-fronted Goose
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	46–54	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Greylag Goose
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC^{E}	–	14	5–24	I	–	–		Barnacle Goose
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3W 7	–	100 **winter**	25–49 **winter**	–	II/2	–		Brent Goose

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Branta ruficollis	–	2,300	–	Stable	–	Stable	Localised
Tadorna ferruginea	18–47	150	Large decline	Large increase	Stable	Stable	Critically Endangered
Tadorna tadorna	31,000–45,000	270,000	Large increase	Large increase	Stable	Moderate decline	Secure
Anas penelope	70,000–120,000	1,600,000	Large increase	Moderate increase	Stable	Stable	Secure
Anas strepera	20,000–28,000	79,000	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Large increase	Secure
Anas crecca	220,000–360,000	570,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure
Anas platyrhynchos	1,600,000–2,800,000	2,900,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure
Anas acuta	16,000–27,000	97,000	Large decline	Large decline	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Anas querquedula	14,000–23,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Anas clypeata	30,000–38,000	140,000	Stable	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Marmaronetta angustirostris	30–210	220 **max**	Large decline	Large decline	Stable	Large increase	Endangered
Netta rufina	4,200–12,000	13,000	Large increase	Stable	Unknown	Moderate increase	Secure▼
Aythya ferina	69,000–110,000	440,000	Stable	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Aythya nyroca	850–1,600	150	Stable	Large decline	Moderate decline	Stable	Vulnerable
Aythya fuligula	180,000–290,000	970,000	Stable	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Aythya marila	1,200–2,200	100,000	Large decline	Stable	Large decline	Large decline	Endangered
Somateria mollissima	490,000–610,000	880,000	Large increase	Large increase	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Secure
Polysticta stelleri	–	3,100	–	Large increase	–	Stable	Localised
Clangula hyemalis	2,500–4,000	2,000,000	Stable	Moderate increase	Stable	Stable	Secure▼
Melanitta nigra	2,700–5,200	610,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure▼
Melanitta fusca	25,000–31,000	110,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Bucephala clangula	280,000–360,000	270,000	Large increase	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Stable	Secure
Mergellus albellus	1,300–2,400	11,000	Large increase	Moderate decline	Stable	Stable	Rare
Mergus serrator	50,000–67,000	52,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure
Mergus merganser	37,000–59,000	140,000	Moderate increase	Stable	Moderate decline	Stable	Secure
Oxyura leucocephala	250–1,000	680	Large increase	Stable	Large increase	Large increase	Vulnerable
Pernis apivorus	36,000–52,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Elanus caeruleus	810–2,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Rare
Milvus migrans	30,000–44,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Milvus milvus	18,000–23,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Haliaeetus albicilla	1,500–1,700	3,500	Large increase	Moderate increase	Large increase	Large increase	Rare
Gypaetus barbatus	130–130	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Vulnerable
Neophron percnopterus	1,600–1,800	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Endangered
Gyps fulvus	18,000–19,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Aegypius monachus	1,400–1,400	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Rare
Circaetus gallicus	5,400–7,500	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Circus aeruginosus	29,000–39,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Circus cyaneus	11,000–18,000		Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Circus pygargus	9,400–21,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Accipiter gentilis	46,000–70,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Accipiter nisus	150,000–220,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Accipiter brevipes	1,000–2,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Buteo buteo	410,000–590,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Buteo rufinus	210–330	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼
Buteo lagopus	2,500–9,000	54,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure▼
Aquila pomarina	7,000–10,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Aquila clanga	30–50	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Endangered
Aquila heliaca	87–110	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Rare▼▼
Aquila adalberti	180–180	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Endangered
Aquila chrysaetos	4,100–4,500		Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Hieraaetus pennatus	2,700–5,800	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Rare
Hieraaetus fasciatus	880–1,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Endangered
Pandion haliaetus	5,300–6,300	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Falco naumanni	18,000–28,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Falco tinnunculus	240,000–350,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Falco vespertinus	890–1,700	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Endangered
Falco columbarius	7,600–10,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Falco subbuteo	27,000–40,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Falco eleonorae	5,800–6,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Falco biarmicus	140–200	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Falco cherrug	160–220	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Vulnerable

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
≥90% winter at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1W	VU: B2a+b(iii)	5–24 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	I	–	–		Red-breasted Goose
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	<1	<5	I	–	–		Ruddy Shelduck
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	69–74	5–24	–	–	–		Common Shelduck
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[D]W	–	23–33	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Eurasian Wigeon
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	29–33	<5	–	II/1	–		Gadwall
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	24–30	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Eurasian Teal
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	48–55	5–24	–	II/1	III/1		Mallard
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	5–8	<5	–	II/1	III/2		Northern Pintail
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	4	<5	–	II/1	–		Garganey
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	18	<5	–	II/1	III/2		Northern Shoveler
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2c,d; A3c,d	8–21	<5	I	–	–		Marbled Teal
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	16–20	5–24	–	II/2	–		Red-crested Pochard
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	25–33	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Common Pochard
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2c,d; A3c,d	7–9	<5	I	–	–		Ferruginous Duck
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	25–33	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Tufted Duck
A2b; C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3W	–	1	<5	–	II/2	III/2		Greater Scaup
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	51–58	25–49	–	II/2	III/2		Common Eider
≥90% winter at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3W	–	25–49 **winter**	<5 **winter**	I	–	–		Steller's Eider
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	II/2	–		Long-tailed Duck
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	3–4	<5	–	II/2	III/2		Black Scoter
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	29–31	<5	–	II/2	–		White-winged Scoter
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	57–61	25–49	–	II/2	–		Common Goldeneye
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	25–29	<5	I	–	–		Smew
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	56–68	25–49	–	II/2	–		Red-breasted Merganser
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	79–80	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Merganser
A3e; D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: A2b,c,d,e	45–71	5–24	I	–	–		White-headed Duck
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	33	25–49	I	–	–		European Honey-buzzard
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	<5	I	–	–		Black-winged Kite
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	44–47	5–24	I	–	–		Black Kite
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	92–95	75–94	I	–	–		Red Kite
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: C2a(i)	26–30	25–49	I	–	–		White-tailed Eagle
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	13–21	5–24	I	–	–		Lammergeier
A4b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	32–46	5–24	I	–	–		Egyptian Vulture
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	90–95	25–49	I	–	–		Eurasian Griffon
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: C1	74–78	25–49	I	–	–		Cinereous Vulture
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	58–64	25–49	I	–	–		Short-toed Snake-eagle
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	28–31	5–24	I	–	–		Western Marsh-harrier
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	31–34	<5	I	–	–		Northern Harrier
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	27–32	5–24	I	–	–		Montagu's Harrier
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	29–33	5–24	I *	–	–	* *A. g. arrigonii* only	Northern Goshawk
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	44–49	5–24	I *	–	–	* *A. n. granti* only	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	26–31	5–24	I	–	–		Levant Sparrowhawk
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	49–58	5–24	–	–	–		Common Buzzard
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	2	<5	I	–	–		Long-legged Buzzard
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	7–11	<5	–	–	–		Rough-legged Hawk
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	50–53	25–49	I	–	–		Lesser Spotted Eagle
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: C1	4–5	<5	I	–	–		Greater Spotted Eagle
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: C1	8–10	5–24	I	–	–		Imperial Eagle
C1; C2a(i)	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: C1; C2a(i)	100	100	I	–	–		Spanish Imperial Eagle
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	41–49	5–24	I	–	–		Golden Eagle
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	61–65	5–24	I	–	–		Booted Eagle
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	91–96	5–24	I	–	–		Bonelli's Eagle
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	57–70	<5	I	–	–		Osprey
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2b,c,e; A3b,c,e	67–72	25–49	I	–	–		Lesser Kestrel
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	70–73	5–24	–	–	–		Common Kestrel
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	3–4	<5	I	–	–		Red-footed Falcon
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	20–25	<5	I	–	–		Merlin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	33–38	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Hobby
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	97–98	75–94	I	–	–		Eleonora's Falcon
C1; D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	22–29	<5	I	–	–		Lanner Falcon
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: A2b,c,d; A3b,c,d	41–44	<5	I	–	–		Saker Falcon

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Falco rusticolus	110–170	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare▼▼
Falco peregrinus	7,400–8,800	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Falco pelegrinoides	75–75	–	Stable	–	Large increase	–	Secure▼▼▼
Bonasa bonasia	470,000–760,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Lagopus lagopus	310,000–680,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Lagopus mutus	70,000–130,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Tetrao tetrix	550,000–820,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Tetrao urogallus	300,000–430,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Alectoris chukar	110,000–210,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Alectoris graeca	20,000–37,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Alectoris rufa	2,000,000–4,500,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Alectoris barbara	7,500–20,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Francolinus francolinus	2,000–5,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate increase	–	Rare
Perdix perdix	720,000–1,700,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Coturnix coturnix	640,000–1,300,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phasianus colchicus	2,900,000–3,900,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Turnix sylvatica	0–1	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Critically Endangered
Rallus aquaticus	71,000–200,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Porzana porzana	8,400–16,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Porzana parva	17,000–30,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Porzana pusilla	11–110	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Rare▼▼▼
Crex crex	110,000–160,000	–	Large decline	–	Large increase	–	Depleted
Gallinula chloropus	690,000–1,300,000	270,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure
Porphyrio porphyrio	6,900–7,400	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Localised
Fulica atra	590,000–1,100,000	1,500,000	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Stable	Secure
Fulica cristata	80–80	30 **max**	Stable	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Critically Endangered
Grus grus	46,000–61,000	97,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate increase	Large increase	Depleted
Tetrax tetrax	110,000–280,000 **ind**	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Chlamydotis undulata	530–530 **ind**	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Vulnerable
Otis tarda	25,000–26,000 **ind**	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Vulnerable
Haematopus ostralegus	240,000–350,000	840,000	Large increase	Moderate increase	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Secure
Himantopus himantopus	20,000–30,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Recurvirostra avosetta	30,000–36,000	41,000	Large increase	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate increase	Secure
Burhinus oedicnemus	39,000–60,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Cursorius cursor	100–600	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Endangered
Glareola pratincola	5,500–7,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Glareola nordmanni	0–1	–	Unknown	–	Stable	–	Critically Endangered
Charadrius dubius	40,000–61,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Charadrius hiaticula	33,000–51,000	62,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure
Charadrius alexandrinus	11,000–18,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Eudromias morinellus	4,000–13,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Pluvialis apricaria	130,000–240,000	820,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Stable	Moderate increase	Depleted
Pluvialis squatarola	–	120,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	Secure
Vanellus spinosus	40–110	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare▼▼
Vanellus vanellus	830,000–1,300,000	2,800,000	Large decline	Stable	Large decline	Large increase	Vulnerable
Calidris canutus	–	470,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	Declining

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	7–8	<5	I	–	–		Gyrfalcon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	35–62	<5	I	–	–		Peregrine Falcon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	>95	<5	–	–	–		Barbary Falcon
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	19–25	5–24	I	II/2	–		Hazel Grouse
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	15–21	<5	–	II/1 * II/2 **	III/1 ***	* *L. l. scoticus* + *L. l. hibernicus* only; ** *L. l. lagopus* only; *** *L. l. lagopus, scoticus* + *hibernicus* only	Willow Ptarmigan
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	9–16	<5	I *	II/1	III/2	* *L. m. pyrenaicus* + *L. m. helveticus* only	Rock Ptarmigan
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	22–26	5–24	I *	II/2 **	III/2 ***	* *T. t. tetrix* only; ** all others; *** *T. t. britannicus* only	Black Grouse
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	39–43	5–24	I	II/2	III/2		Western Capercaillie
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	11–17	<5	–	II/2	–		Chukar
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	47–50	25–49	I *	II/1**		* *A. g. saxatilis* + *A. g. whitakeri* only; ** all others	Rock Partridge
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	100	100	–	II/1	III/1		Red-legged Partridge
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	<5	I	II/2	III/1		Barbary Partridge
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	28–33	<5	–	II/2	–		Black Francolin
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	45–55	5–24	I *	II/1 **	III/1	* *P .p. italica* + *P. p. hispaniensis* only; ** all others	Grey Partridge
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	23–28	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Quail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	83–85	5–24	–	II/1	III/1		Common Pheasant
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	<5	I	–	–		Small Buttonquail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	51–56	5–24	–	II/2	–		Water Rail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	6–7	5–24	I	–	–		Spotted Crake
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	21–28	5–24	I	–	–		Little Crake
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	1–3	<5	I	–	–		Baillon's Crake
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A3c	8	5–24	I	–	–		Corncrake
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	76–77	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Moorhen
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	21–53	5–24	I	–	–		Purple Swamphen
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	45–48	25–49	–	II/1	III/2		Common Coot
C2a(ii); C2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	<5	I	–	–		Red-knobbed Coot
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	55–62	25–49	I	–	–		Common Crane
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2c,d; A3c,d	92–93	75–94	I	–	–		Little Bustard
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2b,c,d; A3b,c,d	>95	<5	I	–	–		Houbara Bustard
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A3c	72–81	25–49	I	–	–		Great Bustard
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	78–80	25–49	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Oystercatcher
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	47–54	5–24	I	–	–		Black-winged Stilt
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	63–79	25–49	I	–	–		Pied Avocet
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	77–85	25–49	I	–	–		Eurasian Thick-knee
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	>95	<5	I	–	–		Cream-coloured Courser
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	39–55	5–24	I	–	–		Collared Pratincole
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	DD	<1	<5	–	–	–		Black-winged Pratincole
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	25–36	5–24	–	–	–		Little Ringed Plover
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	23–28	25–49	–	–	–		Common Ringed Plover
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	50–51	5–24	I	–	–		Kentish Plover
C1	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	31–36	5–24	I	–	–		Eurasian Dotterel
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	28–32	25–49	I	II/2	III/2		Eurasian Golden-plover
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	–	II/2	–		Grey Plover
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	4–7	<5	I	–	–		Spur-winged Lapwing
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	46–49	25–49	–	II/2	–		Northern Lapwing
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3W	–	100 **winter**	25–49 **winter**	–	II/2	–		Red Knot

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

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Calidris alba	–	47,000	–	Stable	–	Large increase	Secure
Calidris minuta	0–5	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Calidris temminckii	6,500–8,500	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Calidris ferruginea	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Calidris maritima	1,000–3,000	22,000	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Secure▼
Calidris alpina	49,000–85,000	1,300,000	Stable	Large decline	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Limicola falcinellus	8,000–20,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Philomachus pugnax	51,000–71,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Lymnocryptes minimus	12,000–19,000	11,000	Stable	Moderate decline	Stable	Stable	Depleted
Gallinago gallinago	300,000–450,000	290,000	Moderate decline	Stable	Moderate decline	Large increase	Declining
Gallinago media	2,200–4,200	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Scolopax rusticola	460,000–1,500,000	440,000	Stable	Large decline	Stable	Unknown	Depleted
Limosa limosa	60,000–69,000	60,000	Large decline	Stable	Large decline	Moderate decline	Vulnerable
Limosa lapponica	110–350	120,000	Stable	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Endangered
Numenius phaeopus	40,000–61,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Numenius tenuirostris	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Numenius arquata	160,000–220,000	410,000	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Stable	Declining
Tringa erythropus	15,000–26,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Tringa totanus	100,000–140,000	170,000	Large decline	Stable	Moderate decline	Stable	Declining
Tringa stagnatilis	13–40	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Tringa nebularia	46,000–67,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Tringa ochropus	110,000–170,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Tringa glareola	250,000–400,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Xenus cinereus	15–30	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Actitis hypoleucos	230,000–430,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Arenaria interpres	6,200–8,800	77,000	Stable	Stable	Moderate decline	Moderate decline	Declining
Phalaropus lobatus	20,000–45,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phalaropus fulicarius	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stercorarius pomarinus	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stercorarius parasiticus	3,100–3,300	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure▼
Stercorarius longicaudus	600–7,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼
Catharacta skua	9,600–9,600	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Larus melanocephalus	7,500–8,600	–	Stable	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Larus minutus	12,000–25,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Xema sabini	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Larus ridibundus	990,000–1,300,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Larus genei	5,500–5,700	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Localised
Larus audouinii	18,000–19,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Localised
Larus canus	270,000–420,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Larus fuscus	240,000–260,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Larus argentatus	500,000–590,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Larus cachinnans	220,000–410,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Larus glaucoides	–	–	–	Unknown	–	Unknown	Secure
Larus hyperboreus	–	–	–	Unknown	–	Unknown	Secure
Larus marinus	41,000–51,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Rissa tridactyla	430,000–430,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Sterna nilotica	3,800–4,500	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Sterna caspia	1,500–1,800	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Sterna bengalensis	2–3	–	–	–	New breeder	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Sterna sandvicensis	55,000–57,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Sterna dougallii	1,800–1,900	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Sterna hirundo	140,000–190,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sterna paradisaea	160,000–200,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Sterna albifrons	17,000–23,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Chlidonias hybrida	7,900–18,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Chlidonias niger	13,000–19,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Chlidonias leucopterus	170–6,900	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼
Uria aalge	1,100,000–1,100,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Alca torda	160,000–160,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Cepphus grylle	47,000–71,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	–	–	–		Sanderling
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Little Stint
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–8	5–24	–	–	–		Temminck's Stint
–	Not assessed*	Not assessed	[n/a]	–	–	–	–	–	–		Curlew Sandpiper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	4	<5	–	–	–		Purple Sandpiper
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	15–16	<5	I *	–	–	* *C. a. schinzii* only	Dunlin
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	87–91	25–49	–	–	–		Broad-billed Sandpiper
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	14–26	5–24	I	II/2	–		Ruff
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	27–67	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Jack Snipe
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	24–32	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Common Snipe
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2c,d; A3c,d	2–4	<5	I	–	–		Great Snipe
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	23–26	5–24	–	II/1	III/2		Eurasian Woodcock
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	49–61	25–49	–	II/2	–		Black-tailed Godwit
C1	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	5–8	<5	I	II/2	–		Bar-tailed Godwit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	17–25	5–24	–	II/2	–		Whimbrel
–	Unfavourable*	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	CR: C2a(ii); D1	–	–	I	–	–		Slender-billed Curlew
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	61–73	25–49	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Curlew
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	62–79	25–49	–	II/2	–		Spotted Redshank
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	23–36	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Redshank
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Marsh Sandpiper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	42–61	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Greenshank
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	21–33	5–24	–	–	–		Green Sandpiper
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	33–71	5–24	I	–	–		Wood Sandpiper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	I	–	–		Terek Sandpiper
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	27–32	25–49	–	–	–		Common Sandpiper
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	11–18	<5	–	–	–		Ruddy Turnstone
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	20–24	<5	I	–	–		Red-necked Phalarope
–	Not assessed*	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	–	–	–	–	–		Grey Phalarope
–	Not assessed*	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	–	–	–	–	–		Pomarine Jaeger
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–8	<5	–	–	–		Parasitic Jaeger
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	5–9	<5	–	–	–		Long-tailed Jaeger
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	60	50–74	–	–	–		Great Skua
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	3–6	<5	I	–	–		Mediterranean Gull
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	43–50	5–24	I	–	–		Little Gull
–	Not assessed*	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	–	–	–	–	–		Sabine's Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	59–66	25–49	–	II/2	–		Common Black-headed Gull
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	10–15	5–24	I	–	–		Slender-billed Gull
≥90% breed at ≤10 sites	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A3c	100	>95	I	–	–		Audouin's Gull
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	28–46	25–49	–	II/2	–		Mew Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	74–80	50–74	–	II/2	–		Lesser Black-backed Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	42–66	25–49	–	II/2	–		Herring Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	71	25–49	–	II/2	–		Yellow-legged Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	5–24 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	–	–	–		Iceland Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	5–24 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	–	–	–		Glaucous Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	28–37	5–24	–	II/2	–		Great Black-backed Gull
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	14–20	5–24	–	–	–		Black-legged Kittiwake
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	20–32	5–24	I	–	–		Gull-billed Tern
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19–32	<5	I	–	–		Caspian Tern
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	<5	–	–	–		Lesser Crested-tern
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	44–67	25–49	I	–	–		Sandwich Tern
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	5–24	I	–	–		Roseate Tern
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	33–52	5–24	I	–	–		Common Tern
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	22–32	5–24	I	–	–		Arctic Tern
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	42–49	5–24	I	–	–		Little Tern
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19–21	5–24	I	–	–		Whiskered Tern
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	11–16	5–24	I	–	–		Black Tern
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	0–3	<5	–	–	–		White-winged Tern
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	41–55	5–24	I *	–	–	* *U. a. ibericus* only	Common Murre
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	21–37	5–24	–	–	–		Razorbill
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	24–36	25–49	–	–	–		Black Guillemot

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Alle alle	–	90,000	–	Unknown	–	Unknown	Secure
Fratercula arctica	640,000–640,000	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Pterocles orientalis	2,900–11,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Pterocles alchata	10,000–20,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Columba livia	4,200,000–6,300,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Columba oenas	480,000–640,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Columba palumbus	7,500,000–13,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Columba trocaz	4,100–17,000 **ind**	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Columba bollii	2,500–10,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Columba junoniae	1,000–2,500	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Endangered
Streptopelia decaocto	2,100,000–4,600,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Streptopelia turtur	1,600,000–2,600,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Clamator glandarius	56,000–71,000	–	Large increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Cuculus canorus	850,000–1,900,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Tyto alba	100,000–210,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Otus scops	56,000–110,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Bubo bubo	9,100–20,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Nyctea scandiaca	0–22	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare▼▼▼
Surnia ulula	2,200–8,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼
Glaucidium passerinum	28,000–44,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Athene noctua	160,000–430,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Strix aluco	320,000–680,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Strix uralensis	9,300–14,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Strix nebulosa	550–2,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼
Asio otus	95,000–220,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Asio flammeus	5,200–19,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Aegolius funereus	22,000–61,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Caprimulgus europaeus	190,000–400,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Caprimulgus ruficollis	21,000–110,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Tachymarptis melba	13,000–35,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Apus unicolor	2,500–10,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Rare
Apus apus	3,000,000–7,300,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Apus pallidus	35,000–140,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Apus caffer	100–160	–	Large increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure▼▼▼
Apus affinis	1–1	–	–	–	New breeder	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Alcedo atthis	39,000–91,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Ceryle rudis	1–1	–	–	–	New breeder	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Merops apiaster	140,000–340,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Coracias garrulus	4,800–9,400	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Upupa epops	590,000–980,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Jynx torquilla	170,000–330,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Picus canus	35,000–62,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Picus viridis	430,000–1,000,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Dryocopus martius	130,000–260,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Dendrocopos major	2,500,000–5,600,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Dendrocopos syriacus	30,000–64,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Dendrocopos medius	78,000–210,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Dendrocopos leucotos	7,700–13,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Dendrocopos minor	130,000–360,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Picoides tridactylus	26,000–40,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Chersophilus duponti	13,000–15,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Melanocorypha calandra	1,000,000–3,400,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Calandrella brachydactyla	2,200,000–2,700,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Calandrella rufescens	240,000–280,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	5–24 **winter**	5–24 **winter**	–	–	–		Dovekie
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	9–11	5–24	–	–	–		Atlantic Puffin
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	10–18	<5	I	–	–		Black-bellied Sandgrouse
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	>95	5–24	I	–	–		Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	42–45	5–24	–	II/1	–		Rock Pigeon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	88–92	50–74	–	II/2	–		Stock Pigeon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	76–83	25–49	I *	II/1 **	III/1	* *C. p. azorica* only; ** all others	Common Wood-pigeon
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: B1a+b(i,ii,iii,iv,v); B2a+b(i,ii,iii,iv,v)	100	100	I	–	–		Madeira Laurel Pigeon
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: C2a(i)	100	100	I	–	–		Dark-tailed Laurel Pigeon
B1a+b(iii)	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: B1a+b(iii)	100	100	I	–	–		White-tailed Laurel Pigeon
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	42–45	5–24	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Collared-dove
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	36–46	5–24	–	II/2	–		European Turtle-dove
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	92–97	5–24	–	–	–		Great Spotted Cuckoo
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	20–22	5–24	–	–	–		Common Cuckoo
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	91–95	5–24	–	–	–		Barn Owl
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	25–27	5–24	–	–	–		Common Scops-owl
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	48–53	5–24	I	–	–		Eurasian Eagle-owl
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	<1	<5	I	–	–		Snowy Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	21–24	<5	I	–	–		Northern Hawk Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	40–60	5–24	I	–	–		Eurasian Pygmy-owl
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	29–33	5–24	–	–	–		Little Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	67–68	25–49	–	–	–		Tawny Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	10–18	<5	I	–	–		Ural Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	26–30	5–24	I	–	–		Great Grey Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	25–27	5–24	–	–	–		Long-eared Owl
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	9–11	<5	I	–	–		Short-eared Owl
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	17–20	<5	I	–	–		Boreal Owl
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	40	25–49	I	–	–		Eurasian Nightjar
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	25–49	–	–	–		Red-necked Nightjar
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	9–11	<5	–	–	–		Alpine Swift
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	100	100	–	–	–		Plain Swift
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	43	5–24	–	–	–		Common Swift
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	88–90	25–49	–	–	–		Pallid Swift
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	<5	I	–	–		White-rumped Swift
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Little Swift
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	49–57	5–24	I	–	–		Common Kingfisher
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	1	<5	–	–	–		Pied Kingfisher
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	29–34	5–24	–	–	–		European Bee-eater
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	9	5–24	I	–	–		European Roller
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	58–66	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Hoopoe
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	25–29	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Wryneck
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19	<5	I	–	–		Grey-faced Woodpecker
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	73–77	50–74	–	–	–		Eurasian Green Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	18–19	5–24	I	–	–		Black Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	21–31	5–24	I *	–	–	* *D. m. canariensis* + *D. m. thanneri* only	Great Spotted Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	6	<5	I	–	–		Syrian Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	56–68	50–74	I	–	–		Middle Spotted Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–4	<5	I	–	–		White-backed Woodpecker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	29–33	5–24	–	–	–		Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	4–7	<5	I	–	–		Three-toed Woodpecker
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	25–49	I	–	–		Dupont's Lark
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	10–14	<5	I	–	–		Calandra Lark
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19–30	5–24	I	–	–		Greater Short-toed Lark
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	7–15	<5	–	–	–		Lesser Short-toed Lark

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Galerida cristata	930,000–2,100,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Galerida theklae	1,500,000–2,100,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Lullula arborea	860,000–2,400,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Alauda arvensis	17,000,000–32,000,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Eremophila alpestris	650–1,100	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Riparia riparia	890,000–2,200,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Hirundo rupestris	45,000–200,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Hirundo rustica	7,900,000–17,000,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Hirundo daurica	43,000–260,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Delichon urbica	5,700,000–13,000,000	-	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Anthus campestris	460,000–820,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Anthus berthelotii	20,000–100,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Anthus trivialis	8,200,000–16,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Anthus pratensis	4,300,000–7,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Anthus cervinus	800–3,900	–	Stable	–	Large decline	–	Endangered
Anthus spinoletta	130,000–320,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Anthus petrosus	61,000–83,000	–	Unknown	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Motacilla flava	1,200,000–2,300,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Motacilla citreola	86–210	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure▼▼▼
Motacilla cinerea	230,000–580,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Motacilla alba	4,100,000–7,900,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Bombycilla garrulus	31,000–200,000	–	Stable	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Cinclus cinclus	53,000–170,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Troglodytes troglodytes	18,000,000–31,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Prunella modularis	9,100,000–20,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Prunella collaris	44,000–90,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Erythropygia galactotes	9,900–22,000	–	Stable	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Erithacus rubecula	25,000,000–53,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Luscinia luscinia	390,000–860,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Luscinia megarhynchos	1,900,000–6,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Luscinia svecica	280,000–530,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Tarsiger cyanurus	50–500	–	Large decline	–	Large increase	–	Secure▼▼▼
Irania gutturalis	0–5	–	–	–	New breeder	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Phoenicurus ochruros	2,600,000–5,900,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	1,400,000–2,400,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Saxicola rubetra	1,500,000–2,600,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Saxicola dacotiae	1,300–1,300	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Endangered
Saxicola torquata	1,400,000–3,500,000	–	Large decline	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Oenanthe isabellina	50–200	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼▼
Oenanthe oenanthe	870,000–1,700,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Oenanthe cypriaca	90,000–180,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Oenanthe hispanica	570,000–800,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Oenanthe leucura	4,100–16,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Rare
Monticola saxatilis	28,000–61,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Monticola solitarius	36,000–91,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Turdus torquatus	98,000–190,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Turdus merula	31,000,000–62,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Turdus pilaris	2,400,000–4,800,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Turdus philomelos	9,200,000–18,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Turdus iliacus	2,400,000–4,300,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Turdus viscivorus	1,500,000–3,400,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Cettia cetti	340,000–1,100,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Cisticola juncidis	230,000–1,100,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Locustella naevia	310,000–670,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Locustella fluviatilis	200,000–370,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Locustella luscinioides	42,000–100,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus melanopogon	13,000–27,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus paludicola	3,300–3,800	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	26–28	5–24	–	–	–		Crested Lark
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	25–49	I	–	–		Thekla Lark
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	66–73	25–49	I	–	–		Wood Lark
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	40–43	5–24	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Skylark
C1	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Horned Lark
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	16–23	<5	–	–	–		Sand Martin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	38–54	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Crag-martin
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	47–49	5–24	–	–	–		Barn Swallow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	43–60	5–24	–	–	–		Red–rumped Swallow
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	54–58	5–24	–	–	–		Northern House Martin
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	43–46	5–24	I	–	–		Tawny Pipit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Berthelot's Pipit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	30–38	5–24	–	–	–		Tree Pipit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	44–61	25–49	–	–	–		Meadow Pipit
A2b; C1	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Red-throated Pipit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	16–20	<5	–	–	–		Water Pipit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	29–55	25–49	–	–	–		Rock Pipit
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	15–16	5–24	–	–	–		Yellow Wagtail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Citrine Wagtail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	31–36	5–24	–	–	–		Grey Wagtail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	30–32	5–24	–	–	–		White Wagtail
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	24–29	5–24	–	–	–		Bohemian Waxwing
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	31–52	5–24	–	–	–		White-throated Dipper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	78	5–24	I *	–	–	* *T. t. fridariensis* only	Winter Wren
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	76–77	50–74	–	–	–		Hedge Accentor
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	44–50	5–24	–	–	–		Alpine Accentor
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	23–31	5–24	–	–	–		Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	58–64	25–49	–	–	–		European Robin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	11–12	5–24	–	–	–		Thrush Nightingale
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	45–50	25–49	–	–	–		Common Nightingale
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	6–7	<5	I	–	–		Bluethroat
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	1–2	<5	–	–	–		Orange-flanked Bush-robin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		White-throated Robin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	65–67	5–24	–	–	–		Black Redstart
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	15–21	5–24	–	–	–		Common Redstart
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	26–28	5–24	–	–	–		Whinchat
B1a+b(ii,iii,iv,v)	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: B1a+b(ii,iii,iv,v); C2a(ii)	100	100	I	–	–		Fuerteventura Chat
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	70–76	5–24	–	–	–		Common Stonechat
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Isabelline Wheatear
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	13–19	5–24	–	–	–		Northern Wheatear
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	I	–	–		Cyprus Wheatear
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	24–41	5–24	–	–	–		Black-eared Wheatear
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	100	25–49	I	–	–		Black Wheatear
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	19–28	5–24	–	–	–		Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	30–35	5–24	–	–	–		Blue Rock-thrush
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	28–32	25–49	–	–	–		Ring Ouzel
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	76–78	25–49	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Blackbird
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]W	–	17–20	5–24	–	II/2	–		Fieldfare
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	46–50	25–49	–	II/2	–		Song Thrush
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]W	–	15–20	5–24	–	II/2	–		Redwing
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	46–50	25–49	–	II/2	–		Mistle Thrush
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	57–69	5–24	–	–	–		Cetti's Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	<5	–	–	–		Zitting Cisticola
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	30–37	5–24	–	–	–		Common Grasshopper-warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	8–11	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian River Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	8–13	5–24	–	–	–		Savi's Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	9	<5	I	–	–		Moustached Warbler
A2b; C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	VU: A2c; A3c	19–28	5–24	I	–	–		Aquatic Warbler

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	1,400,000–2,500,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus dumetorum	10,000–18,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus palustris	1,400,000–2,500,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus scirpaceus	1,300,000–2,400,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	240,000–460,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Hippolais pallida	93,000–290,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Hippolais caligata	0–30	–	–	–	New breeder	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Hippolais olivetorum	3,000–5,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Hippolais icterina	700,000–1,500,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Hippolais polyglotta	1,000,000–3,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia sarda	29,000–75,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Sylvia undata	1,900,000–3,700,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Sylvia conspicillata	180,000–440,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Sylvia cantillans	1,400,000–3,100,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Sylvia melanocephala	2,300,000–5,600,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia melanothorax	70,000–140,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia rueppelli	3,000–10,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Sylvia hortensis	110,000–290,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Sylvia nisoria	82,000–180,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia curruca	1,400,000–2,800,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia communis	5,600,000–10,000,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Sylvia borin	6,100,000–13,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sylvia atricapilla	15,000,000–33,000,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phylloscopus trochiloides	6,100–20,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Phylloscopus borealis	2,000–5,100	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼
Phylloscopus bonelli	1,300,000–3,400,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	3,700,000–6,400,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Phylloscopus collybita	13,000,000–31,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phylloscopus brehmii	360,000–530,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Phylloscopus canariensis	20,000–100,000	–	Unknown	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Phylloscopus trochilus	27,000,000–49,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Regulus regulus	7,500,000–15,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Regulus teneriffae	10,000–20,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Regulus ignicapilla	2,500,000–5,400,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Muscicapa striata	3,900,000–7,400,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Ficedula parva	120,000–220,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Ficedula semitorquata	1,000–3,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Vulnerable
Ficedula albicollis	150,000–360,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Ficedula hypoleuca	2,400,000–5,000,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Panurus biarmicus	30,000–70,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Aegithalos caudatus	2,200,000–6,200,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus palustris	1,400,000–3,200,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Parus lugubris	10,000–30,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus montanus	2,000,000–4,300,000	–	Stable	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable
Parus cinctus	55,000–160,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus cristatus	2,700,000–6,100,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus ater	7,400,000–19,000,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus caeruleus	15,000,000–35,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Parus major	23,000,000–53,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sitta krueperi	50–200	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Endangered
Sitta whiteheadi	1,500–4,500	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Sitta europaea	4,100,000–9,100,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sitta neumayer	10,000–30,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Tichodroma muraria	16,000–40,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Certhia familiaris	2,100,000–4,100,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Certhia brachydactyla	2,400,000–8,900,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Remiz pendulinus	67,000–140,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Oriolus oriolus	720,000–1,600,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Lanius collurio	1,500,000–2,700,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Lanius minor	6,500–10,000	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Vulnerable

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	32–34	5–24	–	–	–		Sedge Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Blyth's Reed-warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	37–44	25–49	–	–	–		Marsh Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	48	25–49	–	–	–		Common Reed-warbler
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	16	5–24	–	–	–		Great Reed-warbler
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	3–4	<5	–	–	–		Olivaceous Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Booted Warbler
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	22–27	5–24	I	–	–		Olive-tree Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	20–21	5–24	–	–	–		Icterine Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	>95	–	–	–		Melodious Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	I	–	–		Marmora's Warbler
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	100	>95	I	–	–		Dartford Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	25–49	–	–	–		Spectacled Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	>95	75–94	–	–	–		Subalpine Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	69–74	25–49	–	–	–		Sardinian Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	I	–	–		Cyprus Warbler
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	2	<5	I	–	–		Rueppell's Warbler
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	60–65	5–24	–	–	–		Orphean Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	18	5–24	I	–	–		Barred Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	29–36	5–24	–	–	–		Lesser Whitethroat
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	40	25–49	–	–	–		Common Whitethroat
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	36–42	25–49	–	–	–		Garden Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	60–67	25–49	–	–	–		Blackcap
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Greenish Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Arctic Warbler
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	93–97	50–74	–	–	–		Bonelli's Warbler
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	26–29	5–24	–	–	–		Wood Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	43–52	5–24	–	–	–		Common Chiffchaff
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Iberian Chiffchaff
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Canary Islands Chiffchaff
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	48–49	5–24	–	–	–		Willow Warbler
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	39–43	25–49	–	–	–		Goldcrest
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Canary Islands Kinglet
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	76–81	50–74	–	–	–		Firecrest
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	28–34	5–24	–	–	–		Spotted Flycatcher
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	4–5	<5	I	–	–		Red-breasted Flycatcher
C1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	6–7	<5	I	–	–		Semicollared Flycatcher
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	11–15	5–24	I	–	–		Collared Flycatcher
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	20–25	5–24	–	–	–		European Pied Flycatcher
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	13–15	5–24	–	–	–		Bearded Parrotbill
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	44–52	5–24	–	–	–		Long-tailed Tit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	47–53	5–24	–	–	–		Marsh Tit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	2	5–24	–	–	–		Sombre Tit
A2b	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	8–10	<5	–	–	–		Willow Tit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	6–9	<5	–	–	–		Siberian Tit
–	Favourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	44–51	25–49	–	–	–		Crested Tit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	62–66	5–24	I *	–	–	* *P. a. cypriotes* only	Coal Tit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	75–80	25–49	–	–	–		Blue Tit
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	50–58	5–24	–	–	–		Great Tit
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	<1	<5	I	–	–		Krueper's Nuthatch
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	100	100	I	–	–		Corsican Nuthatch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	48–55	5–24	–	–	–		Wood Nuthatch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Western Rock-nuthatch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	40–42	5–24	–	–	–		Wallcreeper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	37	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Tree-creeper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	89–92	50–74	I *	–	–	* *C. b. dorotheae* only	Short-toed Tree-creeper
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	32–33	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Penduline-tit
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	21–23	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Golden-oriole
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	21–24	5–24	I	–	–		Red-backed Shrike
A2b	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	1	<5	I	–	–		Lesser Grey Shrike

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Table 1...continued. List of all bird species occurring regularly in the European Union and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	EU25 breeding population size (pairs, unless stated)	EU25 wintering population size (min. individuals, unless stated)	1970–1990 EU25 breeding population trend	1970–1990 EU25 winter population trend	1990–2000 EU25 breeding population trend	1990–2000 EU25 winter population trend	EU25 Threat Status
Lanius excubitor	240,000–360,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Lanius senator	430,000–1,000,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Lanius nubicus	4,500–12,000	–	Large decline	–	Stable	–	Rare
Garrulus glandarius	2,800,000–6,400,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Perisoreus infaustus	80,000–160,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Stable	–	Depleted
Cyanopica cyanus	260,000–460,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Pica pica	3,000,000–7,800,000	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Nucifraga caryocatactes	73,000–180,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pyrrhocorax graculus	43,000–97,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	15,000–28,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Corvus monedula	2,200,000–3,900,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Corvus frugilegus	2,100,000–3,400,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Corvus corone	3,800,000–8,300,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Corvus corax	140,000–230,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Large increase	–	Secure
Sturnus vulgaris	11,000,000–27,000,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Sturnus unicolor	2,100,000–3,100,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Sturnus roseus	0–1,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Passer domesticus	32,000,000–69,000,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Passer hispaniolensis	670,000–1,600,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Passer moabiticus	0–2	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure▼▼▼▼
Passer montanus	8,900,000–17,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Petronia petronia	860,000–1,400,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Montifringilla nivalis	13,000–31,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Fringilla coelebs	58,000,000–110,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Fringilla teydea	1,000–2,500	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare
Fringilla montifringilla	1,500,000–4,500,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Serinus serinus	7,100,000–17,000,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Serinus canaria	20,000–100,000	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Serinus citrinella	240,000–290,000	–	Large increase	–	Unknown	–	Secure
Serinus corsicana	19,000–85,000	–	Unknown	–	Stable	–	Secure
Carduelis chloris	8,600,000–22,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Carduelis carduelis	5,700,000–17,000,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Carduelis spinus	2,100,000–4,700,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Carduelis cannabina	5,000,000–13,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Carduelis flavirostris	7,900–18,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Carduelis flammea	560,000–1,800,000	–	Moderate increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure
Carduelis hornemanni	2,000–10,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure▼
Loxia leucoptera	1,500–25,000	–	Stable	–	Large increase	–	Secure▼
Loxia curvirostra	500,000–1,800,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Loxia scotica	300–1,300	–	Stable	–	Unknown	–	Data Deficient
Loxia pytyopsittacus	22,000–160,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Bucanetes githagineus	10,000–20,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Carpodacus erythrinus	390,000–660,000	–	Large increase	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pinicola enucleator	8,000–35,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	2,100,000–4,400,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Pyrrhula murina	240–240 **ind**	–	Unknown	–	Stable	–	Endangered
Coccothraustes coccothraustes	880,000–1,900,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Calcarius lapponicus	120,000–450,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Plectrophenax nivalis	22,000–54,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Emberiza citrinella	10,000,000–20,000,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Emberiza cirlus	1,400,000–3,900,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate increase	–	Secure
Emberiza cia	930,000–2,700,000	–	Large decline	–	Unknown	–	Depleted
Emberiza cineracea	120–310	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Rare▼▼
Emberiza hortulana	430,000–700,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Emberiza caesia	13,000–44,000	–	Stable	–	Stable	–	Secure
Emberiza rustica	130,000–300,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Emberiza pusilla	1,000–5,200	–	Large increase	–	Moderate decline	–	Secure▼
Emberiza aureola	0–10	–	Large decline	–	Large decline	–	Critically Endangered
Emberiza schoeniclus	1,800,000–3,700,000	–	Moderate decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Emberiza melanocephala	40,000–140,000	–	Large decline	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining
Miliaria calandra	2,500,000–7,900,000	–	Stable	–	Moderate decline	–	Declining

Criteria met in EU25 (IUCN and others)	2004 EU25 Conservation Status	2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	2004 SPEC Category	2004 Global IUCN Red List Category & Criteria	% European population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	% Global population in EU25 (breeding unless stated)	Birds Directive Annex I	Birds Directive Annex II	Birds Directive Annex III	Notes (e.g. Annex restrictions)	Common name
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	90–96	5–24	–	–	–		Great Grey Shrike
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	83–90	50–74	–	–	–		Woodchat Shrike
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	12–13	5–24	I	–	–		Masked Shrike
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	47–49	5–24	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Jay
Moderate historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	23–24	5–24	–	–	–		Siberian Jay
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	100	5–24	–	–	–		Azure-winged Magpie
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	40–41	5–24	–	II/2	–		Black-billed Magpie
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	18–21	5–24	–	–	–		Spotted Nutcracker
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	31–33	5–24	–	–	–		Yellow-billed Chough
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	25–35	5–24	I	–	–		Red-billed Chough
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	26–42	5–24	–	II/2	–		Eurasian Jackdaw
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	19–21	5–24	–	II/2	–		Rook
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	49–54	5–24	–	II/2	–		Carrion Crow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	24–31	5–24	–	–	–		Common Raven
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	48	5–24	–	II/2	–		Common Starling
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	50–74	–	–	–		Spotless Starling
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Rosy Starling
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	51–53	5–24	–	–	–		House Sparrow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	24–26	5–24	–	–	–		Spanish Sparrow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Dead Sea Sparrow
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	34–35	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Tree Sparrow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	37–51	<5	–	–	–		Rock Sparrow
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–3	<5	–	–	–		White-winged Snowfinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	45–46	25–49	I *	–	–	* *F. c. ombriosa* only	Chaffinch
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: B1a+b(ii,iii,v); B2a+b(ii,iii,v); C2a(ii)	100	100	I	–	–		Blue Chaffinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	12–20	5–24	–	–	–		Brambling
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	85–86	50–74	–	–	–		European Serin
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Island Canary
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	91–96	75–94	–	–	–		Citril Finch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	100	100	–	–	–		Corsican Finch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	61–69	25–49	–	–	–		European Greenfinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	48–59	5–24	–	–	–		European Goldfinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	21–26	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Siskin
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	46–50	25–49	–	–	–		Eurasian Linnet
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–5	<5	–	–	–		Twite
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	6–9	<5	–	–	–		Common Redpoll
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–6	<5	–	–	–		Hoary Redpoll
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Two-barred Crossbill
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	9–14	<5	–	–	–		Red Crossbill
–	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	DD	100	100	I	–	–		Scottish Crossbill
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	8–15	5–24	–	–	–		Parrot Crossbill
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	91–95	<5	I	–	–		Trumpeter Finch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	11–13	<5	–	–	–		Common Rosefinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	7–12	<5	–	–	–		Pine Grosbeak
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	29–31	5–24	–	–	–		Eurasian Bullfinch
D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	EN: D1	100	100	I	–	–		Azores Bullfinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	37–45	5–24	–	–	–		Hawfinch
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–4	<5	–	–	–		Lapland Longspur
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	3	<5	–	–	–		Snow Bunting
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	56–65	25–49	–	–	–		Yellowhammer
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	70–75	50–74	–	–	–		Cirl Bunting
Large historical decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 3	–	66–72	5–24	–	–	–		Rock Bunting
<5,000 pairs	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: D1	4–5	<5	I	–	–		Cinereous Bunting
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	4–8	5–24	I	–	–		Ortolan Bunting
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC[E]	–	9–19	5–24	I	–	–		Cretzschmar's Bunting
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	2–3	<5	–	–	–		Rustic Bunting
–	Favourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	<1	<5	–	–	–		Little Bunting
A2b; C1; C2a(i); D1	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 1	NT: A2d; A3d	<1	<5	–	–	–		Yellow-breasted Bunting
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Favourable	Non-SPEC	–	38–42	5–24	–	–	–		Reed Bunting
Moderate continuing decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	1–2	<5	–	–	–		Black-headed Bunting
Moderate recent decline	Unfavourable	Unfavourable	SPEC 2	–	32–36	5–24	–	–	—		Corn Bunting

Table 2. List of all species of Annex I of the Birds Directive and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall 2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	Overall 2004 EU25 Conservation Status
Gavia stellata	Red-throated Loon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gavia arctica	Arctic Loon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gavia immer	Common Loon	Favourable	Favourable
Podiceps auritus	Horned Grebe	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pterodroma madeira	Zino's Petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pterodroma feae	Fea's Petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Bulweria bulwerii	Bulwer's Petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Calonectris diomedea	Cory's Shearwater	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Puffinus mauretanicus	Balearic Shearwater	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Puffinus yelkouan	Yelkouan Shearwater	Favourable	Favourable
Puffinus assimilis	Little Shearwater	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pelagodroma marina	White-faced Storm-petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Hydrobates pelagicus	European Storm-petrel	Favourable	Favourable
Oceanodroma leucorhoa	Leach's Storm-petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Oceanodroma castro	Band-rumped Storm-petrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Phalacrocorax pygmeus	Pygmy Cormorant	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pelecanus onocrotalus	Great White Pelican	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pelecanus crispus	Dalmatian Pelican	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Botaurus stellaris	Great Bittern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-heron	Unfavourable	Favourable
Ardeola ralloides	Squacco Heron	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	Favourable	Favourable
Casmerodius albus	Great Egret	Favourable	Favourable
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Plegadis falcinellus	Glossy Ibis	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Platalea leucorodia	Eurasian Spoonbill	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Phoenicopterus roseus	Greater Flamingo	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Cygnus columbianus	Tundra Swan	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Cygnus cygnus	Whooper Swan	Favourable	Favourable
Anser erythropus	Lesser White-fronted Goose	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Branta leucopsis	Barnacle Goose	Favourable	Favourable
Branta ruficollis	Red-breasted Goose	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tadorna ferruginea	Ruddy Shelduck	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Marmaronetta angustirostris	Marbled Teal	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aythya nyroca	Ferruginous Duck	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Polysticta stelleri	Steller's Eider	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Mergellus albellus	Smew	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Oxyura leucocephala	White-headed Duck	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pernis apivorus	European Honey-buzzard	Favourable	Favourable
Elanus caeruleus	Black-winged Kite	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Milvus migrans	Black Kite	Unfavourable	Favourable
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gypaetus barbatus	Lammergeier	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Neophron percnopterus	Egyptian Vulture	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gyps fulvus	Eurasian Griffon	Favourable	Favourable
Aegypius monachus	Cinereous Vulture	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Circaetus gallicus	Short-toed Snake-eagle	Unfavourable	Favourable
Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh-harrier	Favourable	Favourable
Circus cyaneus	Northern Harrier	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier	Unfavourable	Not in EU
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	Favourable	Favourable
Accipiter brevipes	Levant Sparrowhawk	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Buteo rufinus	Long-legged Buzzard	Unfavourable	Favourable
Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aquila clanga	Greater Spotted Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aquila heliaca	Imperial Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aquila adalberti	Spanish Imperial Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable

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Table 2 ...continued. List of all species of Annex I of the Birds Directive and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall 2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	Overall 2004 EU25 Conservation Status
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Hieraaetus pennatus	Booted Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Hieraaetus fasciatus	Bonelli's Eagle	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	Unfavourable	Favourable
Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco columbarius	Merlin	Favourable	Unfavourable
Falco eleonorae	Eleonora's Falcon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco rusticolus	Gyrfalcon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	Favourable	Favourable
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse	Favourable	Unfavourable
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie	Favourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris graeca	Rock Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris barbara	Barbary Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Turnix sylvatica	Small Buttonquail	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Porzana porzana	Spotted Crake	Favourable	Favourable
Porzana parva	Little Crake	Favourable	Favourable
Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Crex crex	Corncrake	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple Swamphen	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Fulica cristata	Red-knobbed Coot	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Grus grus	Common Crane	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tetrax tetrax	Little Bustard	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Chlamydotis undulata	Houbara Bustard	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Otis tarda	Great Bustard	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	Favourable	Favourable
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	Favourable	Favourable
Burhinus oedicnemus	Eurasian Thick-knee	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Cursorius cursor	Cream-coloured Courser	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Glareola pratincola	Collared Pratincole	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Charadrius alexandrinus	Kentish Plover	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Eudromias morinellus	Eurasian Dotterel	Favourable	Unfavourable
Pluvialis apricaria	Eurasian Golden-plover	Favourable	Unfavourable
Vanellus spinosus	Spur-winged Lapwing	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gallinago media	Great Snipe	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	Favourable	Unfavourable
Numenius tenuirostris	Slender-billed Curlew	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Xenus cinereus	Terek Sandpiper	Favourable	Favourable
Phalaropus lobatus	Red-necked Phalarope	Favourable	Favourable
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull	Favourable	Favourable
Larus minutus	Little Gull	Unfavourable	Favourable
Larus genei	Slender-billed Gull	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Larus audouinii	Audouin's Gull	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sterna nilotica	Gull-billed Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sterna caspia	Caspian Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sterna sandvicensis	Sandwich Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sterna dougallii	Roseate Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	Favourable	Favourable
Sterna paradisaea	Arctic Tern	Favourable	Favourable
Sterna albifrons	Little Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Chlidonias hybrida	Whiskered Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pterocles orientalis	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pterocles alchata	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Columba trocaz	Madeira Laurel Pigeon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Columba bollii	Dark-tailed Laurel Pigeon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable

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Table 2 ...continued. List of all species of Annex I of the Birds Directive and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall 2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	Overall 2004 EU25 Conservation Status
Columba junoniae	White-tailed Laurel Pigeon	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Bubo bubo	Eurasian Eagle-owl	Unfavourable	Favourable
Nyctea scandiaca	Snowy Owl	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Surnia ulula	Northern Hawk Owl	Favourable	Favourable
Glaucidium passerinum	Eurasian Pygmy-owl	Favourable	Favourable
Strix uralensis	Ural Owl	Favourable	Favourable
Strix nebulosa	Great Grey Owl	Favourable	Favourable
Asio flammeus	Short-eared Owl	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aegolius funereus	Boreal Owl	Favourable	Favourable
Caprimulgus europaeus	Eurasian Nightjar	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Apus caffer	White-rumped Swift	Favourable	Favourable
Alcedo atthis	Common Kingfisher	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Coracias garrulus	European Roller	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Picus canus	Grey-faced Woodpecker	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker	Favourable	Favourable
Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker	Favourable	Favourable
Dendrocopos medius	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	Favourable	Favourable
Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker	Favourable	Favourable
Picoides tridactylus	Three-toed Woodpecker	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Chersophilus duponti	Dupont's Lark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Melanocorypha calandra	Calandra Lark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Calandrella brachydactyla	Greater Short-toed Lark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Galerida theklae	Thekla Lark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Lullula arborea	Wood Lark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Anthus campestris	Tawny Pipit	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Luscinia svecica	Bluethroat	Favourable	Favourable
Saxicola dacotiae	Fuerteventura Chat	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Oenanthe pleschanka	Pied Wheatear	Favourable	Not in EU
Oenanthe cypriaca	Cyprus Wheatear	Favourable	Favourable
Oenanthe leucura	Black Wheatear	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Acrocephalus melanopogon	Moustached Warbler	Favourable	Favourable
Acrocephalus paludicola	Aquatic Warbler	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Hippolais olivetorum	Olive-tree Warbler	Favourable	Unfavourable
Sylvia sarda	Marmora's Warbler	Favourable	Favourable
Sylvia undata	Dartford Warbler	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sylvia melanothorax	Cyprus Warbler	Favourable	Favourable
Sylvia rueppelli	Rueppell's Warbler	Favourable	Unfavourable
Sylvia nisoria	Barred Warbler	Favourable	Favourable
Ficedula parva	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Favourable	Favourable
Ficedula semitorquata	Semicollared Flycatcher	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Ficedula albicollis	Collared Flycatcher	Favourable	Favourable
Sitta krueperi	Krueper's Nuthatch	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Sitta whiteheadi	Corsican Nuthatch	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Lanius nubicus	Masked Shrike	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	Red-billed Chough	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Fringilla teydea	Blue Chaffinch	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Loxia scotica	Scottish Crossbill	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Bucanetes githagineus	Trumpeter Finch	Favourable	Favourable
Pyrrhula murina	Azores Bullfinch	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Emberiza cineracea	Cinereous Bunting	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Emberiza hortulana	Ortolan Bunting	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Emberiza caesia	Cretzschmar's Bunting	Favourable	Favourable

Table 3. List of all species of Annex II of the Birds Directive and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall 2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	Overall 2004 EU25 Conservation Status
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	Favourable	Favourable
Anser fabalis	Bean Goose	Favourable	Favourable
Anser brachyrhynchus	Pink-footed Goose	Favourable	Favourable
Anser albifrons	Greater White-fronted Goose	Favourable	Favourable
Anser anser	Greylag Goose	Favourable	Favourable
Branta canadensis	Canada Goose	Favourable	Not in EU
Branta bernicla	Brent Goose	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Anas penelope	Eurasian Wigeon	Favourable	Favourable
Anas strepera	Gadwall	Unfavourable	Favourable
Anas crecca	Eurasian Teal	Favourable	Favourable
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	Favourable	Favourable
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Anas querquedula	Garganey	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Anas clypeata	Northern Shoveler	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Netta rufina	Red-crested Pochard	Favourable	Favourable
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Aythya marila	Greater Scaup	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Somateria mollissima	Common Eider	Favourable	Favourable
Clangula hyemalis	Long-tailed Duck	Favourable	Favourable
Melanitta nigra	Black Scoter	Favourable	Favourable
Melanitta fusca	White-winged Scoter	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Bucephala clangula	Common Goldeneye	Favourable	Favourable
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser	Favourable	Favourable
Mergus merganser	Common Merganser	Favourable	Favourable
Bonasa bonasia	Hazel Grouse	Favourable	Unfavourable
Lagopus lagopus	Willow Ptarmigan	Favourable	Unfavourable
Lagopus mutus	Rock Ptarmigan	Favourable	Unfavourable
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tetrao urogallus	Western Capercaillie	Favourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris chukar	Chukar	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris graeca	Rock Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris rufa	Red-legged Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Alectoris barbara	Barbary Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Francolinus francolinus	Black Francolin	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail	Unfavourable	Favourable
Phasianus colchicus	Common Pheasant	Favourable	Favourable
Rallus aquaticus	Water Rail	Favourable	Favourable
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	Favourable	Favourable
Fulica atra	Common Coot	Favourable	Favourable
Haematopus ostralegus	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Favourable	Favourable
Pluvialis apricaria	Eurasian Golden-plover	Favourable	Unfavourable
Pluvialis squatarola	Grey Plover	Favourable	Favourable
Vanellus vanellus	Northern Lapwing	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Calidris canutus	Red Knot	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Lymnocryptes minimus	Jack Snipe	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Scolopax rusticola	Eurasian Woodcock	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	Favourable	Unfavourable
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel	Favourable	Unfavourable
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tringa totanus	Common Redshank	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	Favourable	Favourable
Larus ridibundus	Common Black-headed Gull	Favourable	Favourable
Larus canus	Mew Gull	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Larus fuscus	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Favourable	Favourable
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull	Favourable	Favourable

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Table 3 ...continued. List of all species of Annex II of the Birds Directive and their Conservation Status.

Scientific name	Common name	Overall 2004 Pan-European Conservation Status	Overall 2004 EU25 Conservation Status
Larus cachinnans	Yellow-legged Gull	Favourable	Favourable
Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull	Favourable	Favourable
Columba livia	Rock Pigeon	Favourable	Favourable
Columba oenas	Stock Pigeon	Favourable	Favourable
Columba palumbus	Common Wood-pigeon	Favourable	Favourable
Streptopelia decaocto	Eurasian Collared-dove	Favourable	Favourable
Streptopelia turtur	European Turtle-dove	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Alauda arvensis	Eurasian Skylark	Unfavourable	Unfavourable
Turdus merula	Eurasian Blackbird	Favourable	Favourable
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	Favourable	Favourable
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	Favourable	Favourable
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	Favourable	Favourable
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	Favourable	Favourable
Garrulus glandarius	Eurasian Jay	Favourable	Favourable
Pica pica	Black-billed Magpie	Favourable	Favourable
Corvus monedula	Eurasian Jackdaw	Favourable	Favourable
Corvus frugilegus	Rook	Favourable	Favourable
Corvus corone	Carrion Crow	Favourable	Favourable
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Unfavourable	Unfavourable

Explanations related to Table 1:

Breeding and wintering population sizes
Rounded to two significant figures in most cases.
ind – Breeding population figure refers to individuals
max – Wintering population figure refers to uppermost estimate

Historical and recent population trends
Historical (1970–1990) declines are defined as per Tucker and Heath (1994) and outlined in the chapter Methodology, section Data Analysis:

- Large decline – population declined by ≥20% in ≥66% of the population *or* by ≥50% in ≥25% of the population (where total size of declining populations exceeded that of increasing populations);
- Moderate decline – population declined by ≥20% in 33–65% of the population *or* by ≥50% in 12–24% of the population (where total size of declining populations exceeded that of increasing populations).
- Large and moderate historical increases were calculated similarly. All species classified as neither increasing nor declining were classified as stable.

The methods used to calculate recent (1990–2000) breeding and winter trends are outlined in the chapter Methodology, section Data Analysis.

EU25 Threat Status
Threat status categories are defined in the chapter Methodology, section Conservation Status Assessment. The ▾ symbol indicates that the EU25 threat status has been downgraded from a higher category because the European population is marginal to a large non-European population, and is therefore not considered to be at risk from the effects of small population size. The number of ▾ symbols indicates the number of steps by which the species's status has been downgraded.

Criteria met
See IUCN (2001) for full details of IUCN Red List Criteria. Non-IUCN criteria are defined in the chapter Methodology, Box 3.

SPEC categories

- SPEC 1 – Species of global conservation concern, i.e. classified as globally threatened, Near Threatened or Data Deficient (BirdLife International 2004a; IUCN 2004).
- SPEC 2 – Concentrated in Europe and with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.
- SPEC 3 – Not concentrated in Europe but with an Unfavourable Conservation Status.
- Non-SPEC^{E} – Concentrated in Europe but with a Favourable Conservation Status.
- Non-SPEC – Not concentrated in Europe and with a Favourable Conservation Status.
- W indicates that the category relates to the winter population.

Global IUCN Red List Category and Criteria
Categories and criteria per BirdLife International (2004a) and IUCN (2004): CR – Critically Endangered; EN – Endangered; VU – Vulnerable; NT – Near Threatened. See IUCN (2001) for full details of criteria.

% European/global population in EU25
winter – Percentage refers to species's wintering population

Birds Directive
The list of species incorporates all amendments to the Annexes of the Council Directive (79/409/EEC) up until May 2004. Four species listed on the Annexes do not appear herein: *Branta canadensis* (Annex II/1; feral population only within EU25); *Circus macrourus* (Annex I; does not occur regularly within EU25); *Meleagris gallopavo* (Annex II/2; feral population only within EU25); *Oenanthe pleschanka* (Annex I; does not occur regularly within EU25).

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