

***Falco columbarius* (Merlin)**

European Red List of Birds

Supplementary Material

The European Union (EU28) Red List assessments were based principally on the official data reported by EU Member States to the European Commission under Article 12 of the Birds Directive in 2019-20. For the European Red List assessments, similar data were sourced from BirdLife Partners and other collaborating experts in other European countries and territories. For more information, see BirdLife International (2021).

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Recommended citation

BirdLife International (2021) European Red List of Birds. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Further information

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/info/euroredlist>
<http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/european-red-list-birds-0>
<http://www.iucnredlist.org/regions/europe>
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/>

Data requests and feedback

To request access to these data in electronic format, provide new information, correct any errors or provide feedback, please email science@birdlife.org.

Falco columbarius (Merlin)

Table 1. Reported national breeding population size and trends in Europe¹.

Country (or territory) ²	Population estimate				Short-term population trend ⁵				Long-term population trend ⁵				Subspecific population (where relevant)
	Size (pairs) ³	Europe (%)	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	
Belarus	300–350	1	2010-2018	partial	0	-10 to 10	2012-2019	expert	0	-10 to 10	1980-2019	expert	
DK: Faroe Is	25	<1	2014	expert	?				?				
Estonia	10–30	<1	2013-2017	partial	-	-50 to -20	2006-2017	partial	-	-50 to -20	1980-2017	partial	
Finland	2500–6800	16	2013-2018	partial	-	-74 to -18	2007-2018	complete	0	18 to 21	1982-2018	complete	
Iceland	1000–2000	5	2018	expert	?		2006-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Rep. Ireland	200–400	1	2013-2018	expert	?		2007-2018	expert	?		1980-2018	expert	
Latvia	20–60	<1	2013-2017	expert	-	-32 to -17	2000-2017	expert	-	-43 to -29	1991-2017	partial	
Lithuania	1–10	<1	2013-2018	partial	0	0	2013-2018	partial	0	0	1980-2018	partial	
Norway	2000–5000	11	2013-2018	expert	?		2013-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	partial	
Russia	10000–20000	48	2008-2018	partial	-		2008-2018	expert	0		1980-2018	partial	
Sweden	3100–5600	14	2013-2018	partial	-	-50 to -10	2007-2018	partial	0	-30 to 30	1980-2018	partial	
United Kingdom	890–1500	4	2008	complete	-		2004-2016	complete	+	45 to 94	1970-2008	partial	
EU28	6700–14400	36											
Europe	20000–41700	100											

¹ See 'Sources' at end of factsheet, and for more details on individual EU Member State reports, see the Article 12 reporting portal at <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/report>.

² The designation of geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN or BirdLife International concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

³ In the few cases where population size estimates were reported in units other than those specified, they were converted to the correct units using standard correction factors.

⁴ The 'method used' (replacing the data 'quality' assessment in the 2015 European Red List) is reported as: a) Complete: complete survey or a statistically robust estimate; b) Partial: based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data; c) Expert: based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data; d) Defficient: insufficient or no data available.

⁵ The robustness of regional trends to the effects of any missing or incomplete data was tested using plausible scenarios, based on other sources of information, including any other reported information, recent national Red Lists, scientific literature, other publications and consultation with relevant experts.

⁶ Trend directions are reported as: increasing (+); decreasing (-); stable (0); fluctuating (F); or unknown (?).

⁷ Trend magnitudes are rounded to the nearest integer.

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Table 2. Reported national wintering population sizes and trends in Europe¹. Note that some countries within the species' wintering range did not report any data, and that only minimum totals are presented, to avoid double-counting of birds moving between countries.

Country (or territory) ²	Population estimate				Short-term population trend ⁵				Long-term population trend ⁵				Subspecific population (where relevant)
	Size (individuals) ³	Europe (%)	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	
Armenia	3–10	<1	2013-2018	partial	F		2007-2018		?		2003-2018	deficient	
Austria	25–100	<1	2013-2018	partial	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1981-2018	deficient	
Belarus	1–10	<1	2013-2018	partial	?		2000-2012	deficient	?				
Belgium	10–100	<1	2013-2018	expert	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Bosnia & HG	10	<1	2015-2018	complete	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Bulgaria	100–200	2	2013-2018	expert	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Croatia	50–100	<1	2015-2015	expert	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Czechia	200–400	3	2007-2018	expert	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Denmark	36	<1	2017-2017	partial	?		2006-2017	deficient	?		1980-2017	deficient	
DK: Faroe Is	5–30	<1	1992		?				?				
France	1000–5000	24	2000-2013	complete	?		2000-2013	expert	?		1980-2018	expert	
Georgia	11–15	<1	2017-2018	expert	-		2002-2018	partial	?		2002-2018		
Greece	100–300	2	2015	partial	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Hungary	150–200	2	2013-2018	partial	-	-25 to -20	2007-2018	partial	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Iceland	100–300	<1	2018	expert	0		2002-2014	partial	?		1980-2018	partial	
Italy	1000–1500	13	2013-2015	partial	?		2007-2018	deficient	?		1991-2015	deficient	
North Macedonia	50–200	1	2013-2018	expert	0		2010-2019	expert	0		1988-2018	expert	
Moldova	6–10	<1	2018-2019	partial	F		2007-2018	partial	0		1990-2018	expert	
Portugal	50–150	<1	2013-2018	partial	+		2007-2018	partial	?		1980-2018	deficient	
Romania	100–500	2	2013-2018	expert	-	-14 to -5	2013-2018	partial	-	-15 to -8	2000-2018	partial	
Serbia	100–350	2	2013-2018	partial	?	-10 to 10	2013-2018	expert	?	-10 to 10	1980-2018	expert	
Slovakia	50–200	1	2013-2018	partial	?		2007-2018	partial	?		1980-2018	partial	
Spain	1400–1500	16	2007-2010	partial	?	-17 to 21	2007-2018	complete	?	-10 to 10	1980-2018	deficient	
Switzerland	15–30	<1	2015-2019	partial	-		2008-2019	partial	-		1990-2019	partial	
Ukraine	600–1000	8	2017	partial	F		2009-2018	partial	F		1996-2018	partial	
United Kingdom	1500–2500	21	1986	expert	?		1991-2017	deficient	?		1980-2017		
EU28	5700–12300	86											
Europe	6700–14700	100											

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Country (or territory) ²	Population estimate				Short-term population trend ⁵				Long-term population trend ⁵				Subspecific population (where relevant)
	Size (individuals) ³	Europe (%)	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	Direction ⁶	Magnitude (%) ⁷	Year(s)	Method ⁴	

¹ See 'Sources' at end of factsheet, and for more details on individual EU Member State reports, see the Article 12 reporting portal at <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/report>.

² The designation of geographical entities and the presentation of the material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN or BirdLife International concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

³ In the few cases where population size estimates were reported in units other than those specified, they were converted to the correct units using standard correction factors.

⁴ The 'method used' (replacing the data 'quality' assessment in the 2015 European Red List) is reported as: a) Complete: complete survey or a statistically robust estimate; b) Partial: based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data; c) Expert: based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data; d) Defficient: insufficient or no data available.

⁵ The robustness of regional trends to the effects of any missing or incomplete data was tested using plausible scenarios, based on other sources of information, including any other reported information, recent national Red Lists, scientific literature, other publications and consultation with relevant experts.

⁶ Trend directions are reported as: increasing (+); decreasing (-); stable (0); fluctuating (F); or unknown (?).

⁷ Trend magnitudes are rounded to the nearest integer.

Trend maps

A symbol appears in each country where the species occurs: the shape and colour of the symbol represent the population trend in that country, and the size of the symbol corresponds to the proportion of the European population occurring in that country.

KEY

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ↑ Large increase (≥50%) | ↓ Large decrease (≥50%) |
| ↑ Moderate increase (20–49%) | ↓ Moderate decrease (20–49%) |
| ↑ Small increase (<20%) | ↓ Small decrease (<20%) |
| ↑ Increase of unknown magnitude | ↓ Decrease of unknown magnitude |
| ■ Stable or fluctuating | |
| □ Unknown | |
| ○ Present (no population or trend data) | |
| × Extinct since 1980 | |

Each symbol, with the exception of Present and Extinct, may occur in up to three different size classes, corresponding to the proportion of the European population occurring in that country.

- ↑ Large: ≥10% of the European population
- ↑ Medium: 1–9% of the European population
- ↑ Small: <1% of the European population

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Figure 1. Breeding population sizes and short-term trends across Europe.

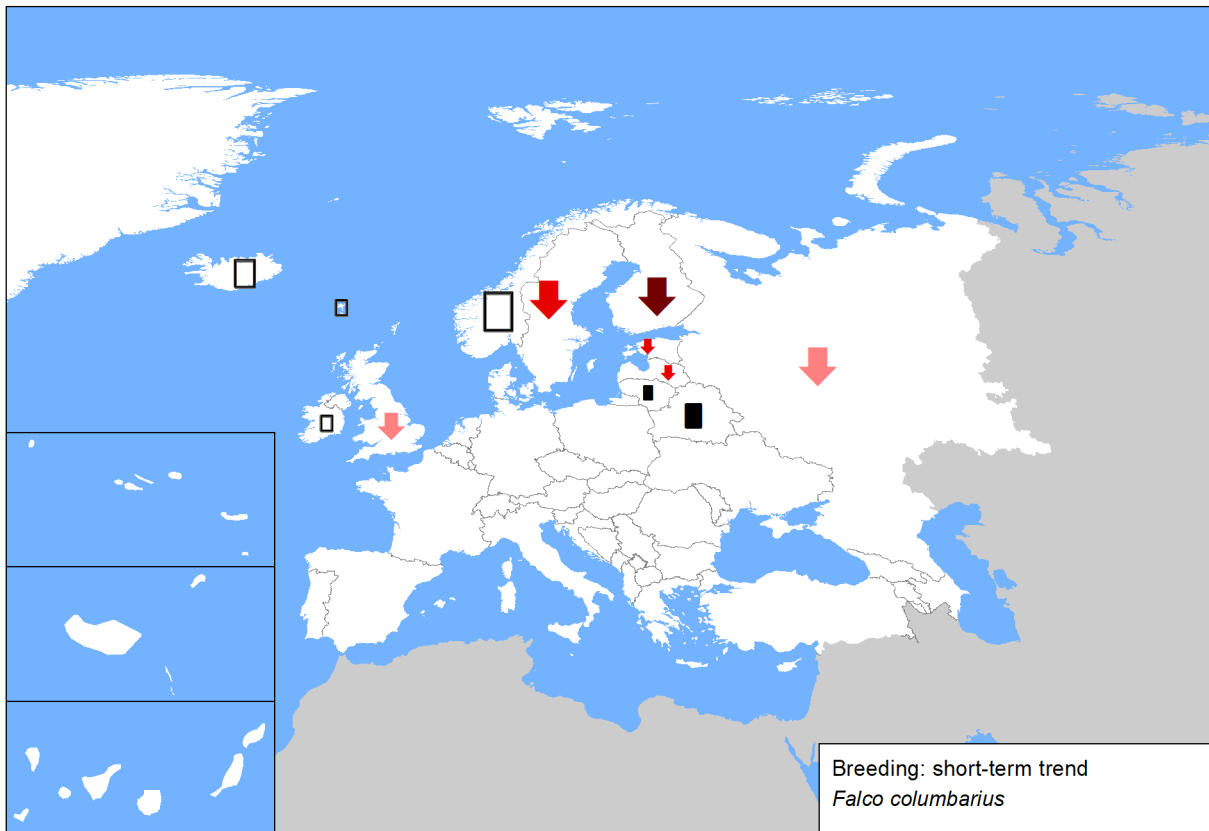


Figure 2. Breeding population sizes and long-term trends across Europe.

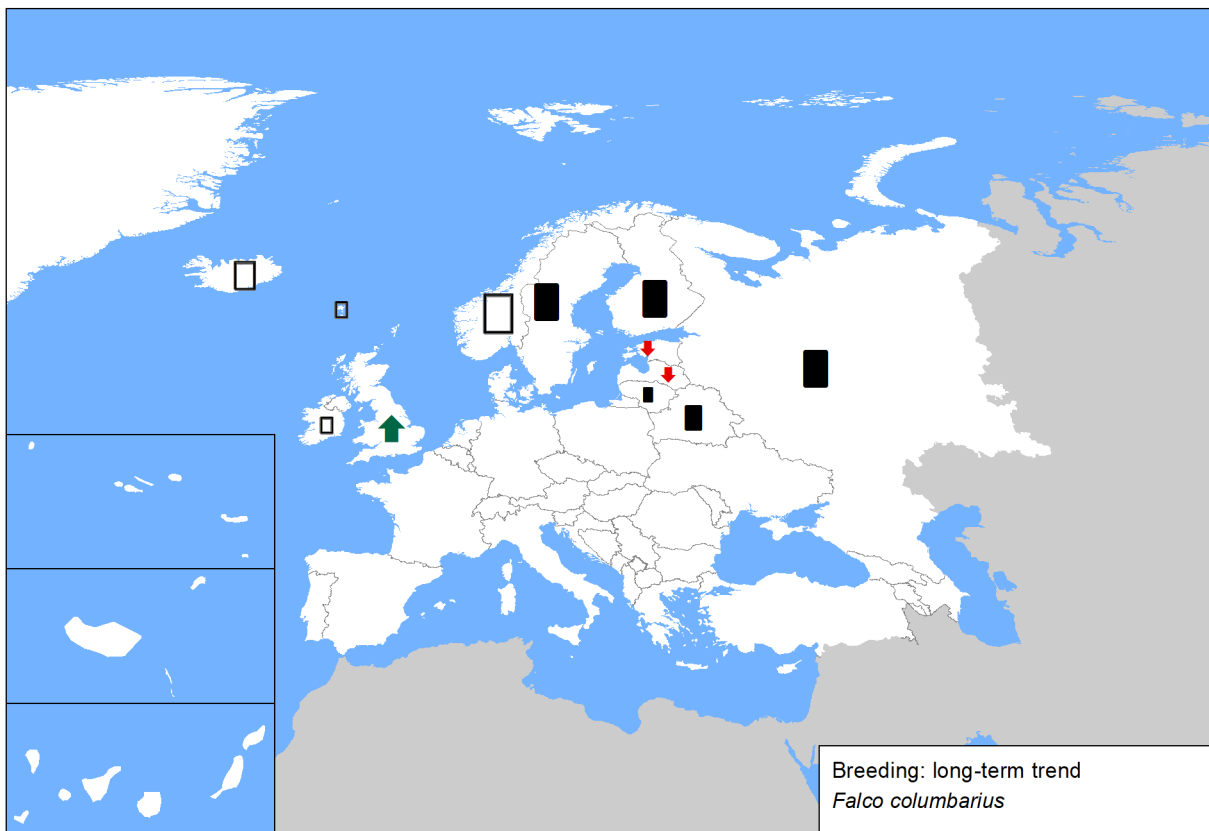


Figure 3. Reported wintering population sizes and short-term trends across Europe. Note that some countries within the species' wintering range did not report any data.

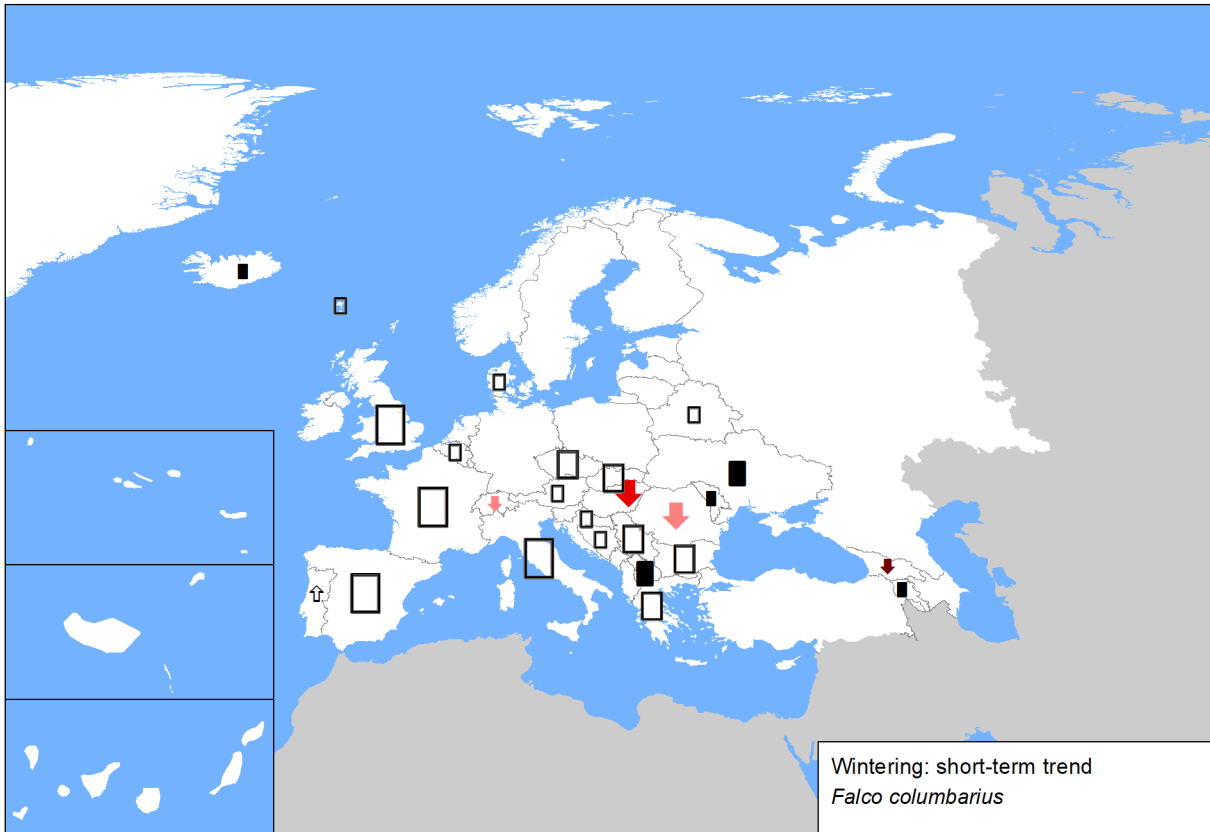
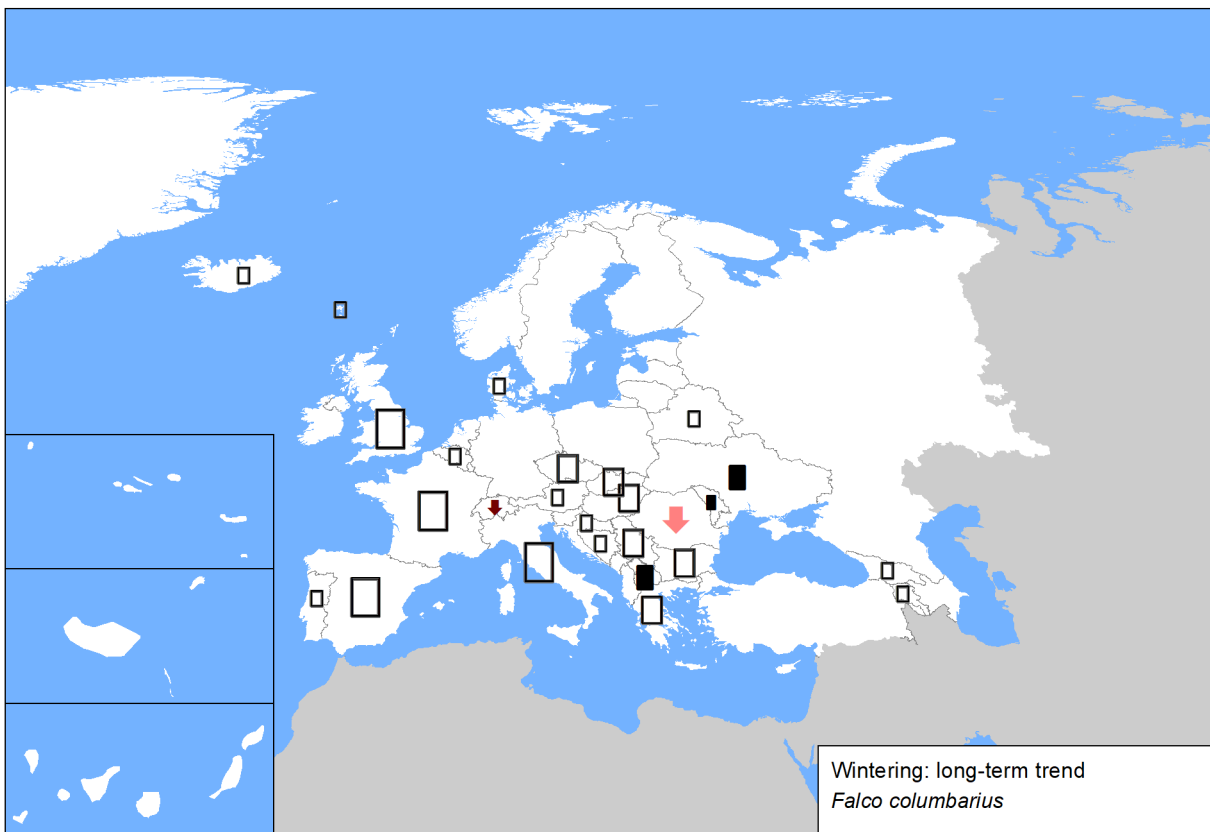


Figure 4. Reported wintering population sizes and long-term trends across Europe. Note that some countries within the species' wintering range did not report any data.



Sources

Armenia

Winter population size: TSE NGO, National Bird Monitoring
Winter short-term trend: TSE calculations using TRIM
Winter long-term trend: TSE calculations using TRIM

Austria

Winter population size: BirdLife Austria, estimate based on unpublished data from www.ornitho.at
Winter short-term trend: BirdLife Austria, unpublished data
Winter long-term trend: BirdLife Austria, unpublished data

Belarus

Breeding population size: Research work of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus "Dynamics and predictive assessment of changes in the state of populations of the main resource and biocenotically most important bird species in Belarus"
Breeding long-term trend: Nikiforov M.E., Kozulin A.V., eds. Belarusian birds at the beginning of XXI century: status, numbers, distribution. - 1997. - Minsk. - 187 p.
Winter population size: Bogdanovich I.A. - personal communication

Belgium

Winter population size: waarnemingen.be/observation.be , database INBO & Aves
Winter short-term trend: waarnemingen.be/observation.be , database INBO & Aves
Winter long-term trend: waarnemingen.be/observation.be , database INBO & Aves

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Winter population size: based on IWC reports-all reports published in magazine Bilten mreže posmatrača ptica (www.ptice.ba)
Winter short-term trend: based on IWC reports-all reports published in magazine Bilten mreže posmatrača ptica (www.ptice.ba)
Winter long-term trend: There are no qualitative data before 2005 to make estimates

Bulgaria

Winter population size: National workshop of experts, Sofia 27-29.8.2019.; National Art. 12 reporting database 2013-2018;
Winter short-term trend: National Art. 12 reporting database 2013-2018;
Winter long-term trend: No complex sources available

Croatia

Winter population size: Zavod za ornitologiju (Sanja Barišić, Davor Čiković, Jelena Kralj, Goran Sušić, Vesna Tutiš), Dragan Radović, Ivan Budinski, Robert Crnković, Antun Delić, Dubravko Dender, Vlatka Dumbović, Ivan Darko Gričar, Bariša Ilić, Luka Jurinović, Davor Krnjeta, Krešimir Leskovar, Duje Lisičić, Ivica Lolić, Gordana Lukač, Kristijan Mandić, Krešimir Mikulić, Tibor Mikuska, Gvido Piasevoli, Andrej Radalj, Zlatko Ružanović, Vlatka Ščetarić, Mirko Šetina, Adrian Tomik (2015): Procjene brojnosti za SPA područja. Državni zavod za zaštitu prirode, Zagreb
Winter short-term trend: no data available
Winter long-term trend: no data available

Czechia

Winter population size: ČSO, AOPK ČR, MŽP 2017: Národní strategie ochrany dravců a sov ČR. Praha 2017
Winter short-term trend: Národní strategie ochrany dravců a sov ČR. Praha 2017 (manuscript)
Winter long-term trend: Národní strategie ochrany dravců a sov ČR. Praha 2017 (manuscript)

Denmark

Winter population size: Jørgensen, H.E. (1990). Danmarks rovfugle - en statusoversigt. Frederikshus www.dofbasen.dk
Winter short-term trend: Jørgensen, H.E. (1990). Danmarks rovfugle - en statusoversigt. Frederikshus
Winter long-term trend: Jørgensen, H.E. (1990). Danmarks rovfugle - en statusoversigt. Frederikshus

DK: Faroe Is

Breeding population size: Hammer et al. (2014) Færøsk trækfugleatlas [Faroeese bird migration atlas]. Fróðskapur / Faroe University Press, Tórshavn.
Winter population size: BirdLife International 2004

Estonia

Breeding population size: Estonian Working Group on Bird Status and Numbers
Breeding short-term trend: Estonian Working Group on Bird Status and Numbers
Breeding long-term trend: Estonian Working Group on Bird Status and Numbers

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Finland

Breeding population size: Lehtinen, A., Below, A., Jukarainen, A., Laaksonen, T., Lehtiniemi, T., Mikkola-Roos, M., Pessa, J., Rajasärkkä, A., Rusanen, P., Sirkkiä, P., Tiainen, J. & Valkama, J. 2019: Suomen lintujen pesimäkantojen koot. – Linnut-vuosikirja 2018: 38-45.

Breeding short-term trend: Meller, K., Björklund, H., Saurola, P. & Valkama, J. 2019: Kuuma kesä suosi haukkoja — myyräkato masensi pöllöjä. – Linnut-vuosikirja 2018: 80-95. (in Finnish with English summary). Björklund, H., Saurola, P. & Valkama, J. 2018: Breeding and population trends of common raptors and owls in Finland in 2017. – Linnut-vuosikirja 2017: 56–69. (in Finnish with English summary).

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France

Winter population size: Issa N. & Muller Y. 2015. Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs de France métropolitaine. , LPO/SEOF/MNHN/Delachaux et Niestlé, Paris

Georgia

Winter population size: Zurab Gurgendze Zurab.Gurgendze@Sabuko.ge;

Winter short-term trend: Zurab Gurgendze Zurab.Gurgendze@Sabuko.ge; Abuladze, A. 2013. Birds of Prey of Georgia (Materials towards a Fauna of Georgia Issue VI). Tbilisi, Printing House "Lasha Khvichia". Tbilisi: 218 pp. (in English).

Greece

Winter population size: 1) BirdLife International (2004) Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12). 2) 1) Λεγάκις Α. & Μαραγκού Π. 2009. Το Κόκκινο Βιβλίο των Απειλούμενων Ζώων της Ελλάδος. Ελληνική Ζωολογική Εταιρεία, Αθήνα, 528 σελίδες 2) Δημηλέξης Τάσος. 2009. Προσδιορισμός συμβατών δραστηριοτήτων σε σχέση με τα είδη χαρακτηρισμού των Ζωνών Ειδικής Προστασίας της Ορνιθοπανίδας. Παραδοτέο 8. Οδηγός οικολογικών απαιτήσεων, απειλών και ενδεδειγμένων μέτρων για τα είδη χαρακτηρισμού των Ζωνών Ειδικής Προστασίας της Ορνιθοπανίδας. Παραδοτέο 8. Οδηγός οικολογικών απαιτήσεων, απειλών και ενδεδειγμένων μέτρων για τα είδη χαρακτηρισμού 4) Πορτόλου Δ., Μπουρδάκης Σ., Βλάχος Χ., Κασσέρης Θ. και Τα. Δημηλέξης (επιμ). 2009. Οι σημαντικές περιοχές για τα πουλιά της Ελλάδας: Περιοχές Προτεραιότητας για τη διατήρηση της βιοποικιλότητας. Ελληνική Ορνιθολογική Εταιρεία, Αθήνα Βλάχος Χ., Μπίρτσας Π., Θωμαΐδης Χ., Χατζηνίκος Ε., Μπουντζούρος Β., Μπραζιώτης Σ., Κόντος Κ., Βλαχάκη Δ., Δεδουσοπούλου Ε., Κιούσης Δ., Ξένος Α., Στεφάνου Λ.Μ., Κασάμπηλης Δ., και Μελικώκη Κ. (Συντονιστές έκδοσης). 2015. Γ' Φάση της Μελέτης 9 «Εποπτεία και Αξιολόγηση της Κατάστασης Διατήρησης Ειδών Ορνιθοπανίδας στην Ελλάδα» ΥΠΑΠΕΝ, Αθήνα, Σύμπραξη Γραφείων Μελετών «Φ.ΦΑΣΟΥΛΑΣ-Ν.ΜΑΝΤΖΙΟΣ" Ε.Ε. – ΡΟΔΟΥΛΑ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΙΔΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ – "ΑΘ.ΤΖΑΚΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΙΑ" Ε.Ε.», Θεσσαλονίκη.

Winter short-term trend: no data available

Winter long-term trend: no data available

Hungary

Winter population size: Expert opinions National Eagle Count database National Park Directorates' databases Prommer M. (2017): A kis sólyom (Falco columbarius) előfordulása Magyarországon. Heliaca 15, p. 107-110. <http://www.birding.hu/>

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Winter long-term trend: Expert opinions National Eagle Count database National Park Directorates' databases Prommer M. (2017): A kis sólyom (Falco columbarius) előfordulása Magyarországon. Heliaca 15, p. 107-110. <http://www.birding.hu/>

Iceland

Breeding population size: Icelandic Institute of Natural History, unpubl.data.

Winter population size: Icelandic Institute of Natural History. Mid-winter bird counts, <https://www.ni.is/greinar/vetrarfuglatalningar-nidurstodur>; Icelandic Institute of Natural History, unpubl.data.

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Republic of Ireland

Breeding population size: Balmer, D., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B., Swan, B., Downie, I. & Fuller, R. (2013) Bird Atlas 2007-2011 The breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland. British Trust for Ornithology. Ewing, S.R., Rebecca, G.W., Heavisides, A., Court, I.R., Lindley, P., Ruddock, M., Cohen, S. & Eaton, M.A. 2011. Breeding status of Merlins Falco columbarius in the UK in 2008. Bird Study 58: 379–389. Hardey, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B. & Thompson, D. (2009) Raptors: a field guide for surveys and monitoring. 2nd edition. The Stationary Office, Edinburgh. Lusby, J., Fernandez Bellon, D., Norriss, D., Lauder, A. (2011). Assessing the effectiveness of monitoring methods for Merlin Falco columbarius in Ireland: the Pilot Merlin Survey 2010. Irish Birds 9: 143 – 154. Lusby, J., Corkery, I., McGuinness, S., Fernández-Bellon, D., Toal, L., Norriss, D., Breen, D., O'Donnell, A., Clarke, D., Irwin, S., Quinn, J. and O'Halloran, J. (2017) Breeding ecology and habitat selection of Merlin Falco columbarius in forested landscapes. Bird Study, 64 (4):445-454. Expert opinion - J. Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland; <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>

Breeding short-term trend: Lusby, J., Corkery, I., McGuinness, S., Fernández-Bellon, D., Toal, L., Norriss, D., Breen, D., O'Donnell, A., Clarke, D., Irwin, S., Quinn, J. and O'Halloran, J. (2017) Breeding ecology and habitat selection of Merlin Falco columbarius in forested landscapes. Bird Study, 64 (4):445-454 Balmer, D., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B., Swan, B., Downie, I. & Fuller, R. (2013) Bird Atlas 2007-2011 The breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland. British Trust for Ornithology. Expert opinion - J. Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland; <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>

Breeding long-term trend: Lusby, J., Corkery, I., McGuinness, S., Fernández-Bellon, D., Toal, L., Norriss, D., Breen, D., O'Donnell, A., Clarke, D., Irwin, S., Quinn, J. and O'Halloran, J. (2017) Breeding ecology and habitat selection of Merlin Falco columbarius in forested landscapes. Bird Study, 64 (4):445-454. Balmer, D., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B., Swan, B., Downie, I. & Fuller, R. (2013) Bird Atlas 2007-2011 The breeding and wintering birds of Britain and Ireland. British Trust for Ornithology. Sharrock, J.T.R. (1976) The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland. T. & AD Poyser. Expert opinion - J. Lusby, BirdWatch Ireland; <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>

Italy

Winter population size: Brichetti & Fracasso 2003. Ornitologia Italiana, vol. 1 - Gavidae-Falconidae:408-410

Winter short-term trend: No recent data available - Brichetti P & Fracasso G. 2013. Ornitologia italiana. Vol. 1/3: Pandionidae-Falconidae. Oasi Alberto Perdisa, Bologna

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Italy

Winter long-term trend: no data available for the past

Latvia

Breeding population size: Unpublished data for European Breeding Bird Atlas (2013-2017); Expert: Andris Dekants, andris.dekants@lob.lv

Breeding short-term trend: Unpublished data for European Breeding Bird Atlas (2013-2017); Expert: Andris Dekants, andris.dekants@lob.lv

Breeding long-term trend: Priednieks J., Strazds M., Strazds A., Petriņš A. 1989. Latvian Breeding Bird Atlas 1980-1984. Riga: Zinatne Unpublished data for European Breeding Bird Atlas (2013-2017); Expert: Andris Dekants, andris.dekants@lob.lv

Lithuania

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Winter long-term trend: Ornitodata (Romanian Ornithological Society) Database, OpenBirdMaps (Milvus Group) Database, Rombird (Romanian Rarity Commission) Database

Russia

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Falco columbarius (Merlin)

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