

The 2024 IUCN Red List update for birds

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BirdLife is the global Red List Authority for birds

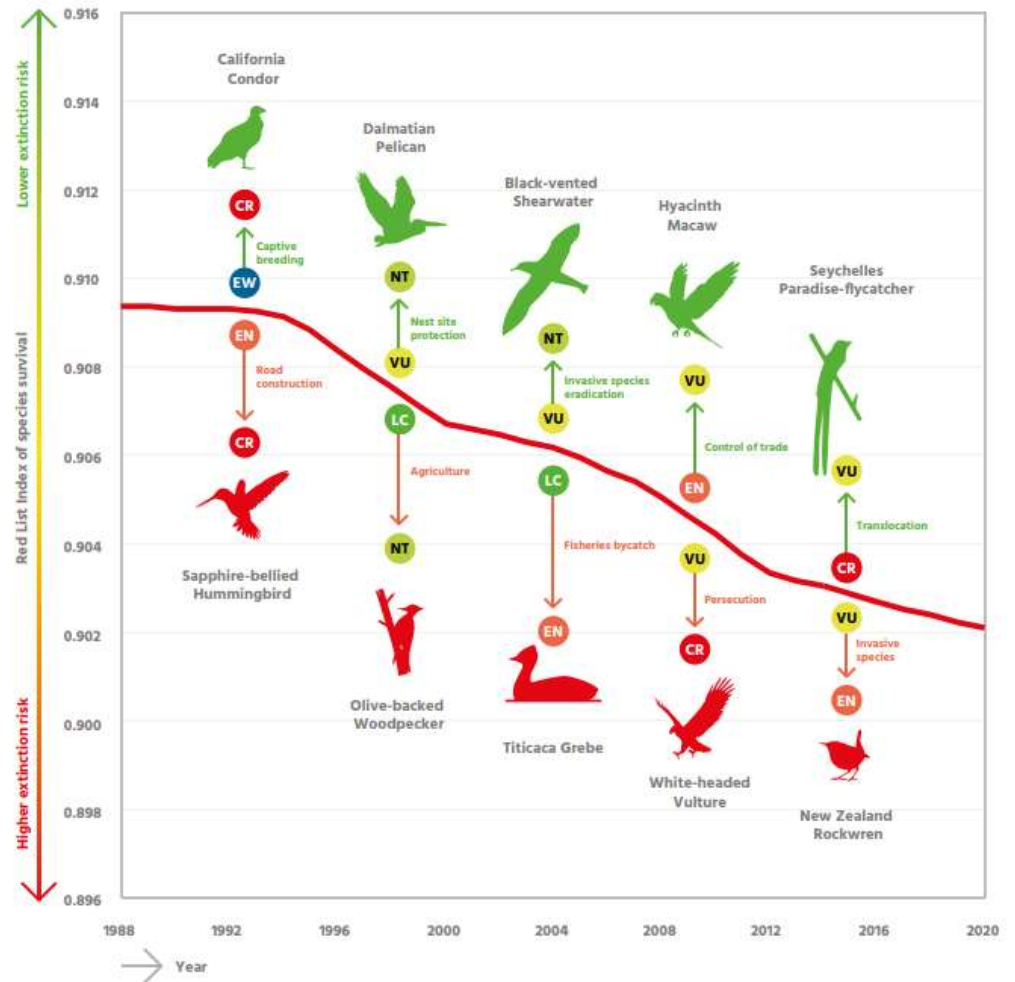
Responsible for evaluating all of the world's c. 11,000 bird species against the IUCN Red List categories and criteria.

Currently completing 8th comprehensive assessment for birds. Other than mammals (three assessments), no other group has been assessed more than twice.

Repeated reassessment is crucial for input to global biodiversity policy through underpinning the Red List Index.



Red List Index of species survival for birds



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2024 Red List update for birds

- 4,742 species reassessed (42% of all birds globally)
- >4,300 Least Concern species, bulk-updated using newly available information sources (screened to identify potentially Threatened or Near Threatened species), including:
 - Global Forest Watch (population trends inferred from remotely-sensed changes in tree cover within the distributional ranges of forest-dependent bird species)
 - European Red List of Birds
 - Action Plan for Australian Birds
 - Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Assessment Database (North America)
 - Waterbird Populations Portal
- >400 Threatened or Near Threatened species, updated manually using latest data and info from scientific literature, monitoring schemes, BirdLife Partners, species experts, etc.
- 145 species reassessed in different Red List categories, following transparent expert consultation on BirdLife's web-based discussion Forums (<https://forums.birdlife.org/>)

101 species downlisted to lower threat categories

- Only 7 due to genuine improvement
- Rest due to better knowledge – e.g. many Amazonian species have not declined as much as feared 10–15 years ago, because deforestation has not been as severe as projected.

Example of genuine improvement:

- **Okinawa Woodpecker**
- Endemic to Okinawa island
- Was **Critically Endangered** – now **Endangered**
- Was declining due to habitat clearance and predation by invasive Small Indian Mongoose
- Threats addressed by forest protection and successful programmes to control invasive mongoose
- Population remains small (<400 mature individuals) but is now stable



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38 species uplisted to higher threat categories

- 25 due to genuine deterioration
- 5 species reclassified as **Extinct** – previously **Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct)**
 - White-chested White-eye
 - 4 Hawaiian honeycreepers
- 16 migratory shorebirds uplisted to **Near Threatened** or **Vulnerable** due to population declines, involving species using all flyways, including **East Asian – Australasian Flyway**:
 - Grey Plover (photo)
 - Ruddy Turnstone
 - Broad-billed Sandpiper
 - Curlew Sandpiper
 - Dunlin
- African Penguin
 - Was **Endangered**
 - Now **Critically Endangered**



Next steps and future plans

Monday 28 October

- 2024 Red List update officially published at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) in Colombia.
- Then available at <https://datazone.birdlife.org>

November 2024 to July 2025

- Complete 8th comprehensive bird assessment.
- Update Red List Index with changes 2020–2024.
- Publish results at IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi (October 2025).

2025–2029

- Undertake 9th comprehensive bird assessment.
- Update Red List Index with changes 2024–2028.
- Measure progress towards 2030 CBD targets.

**Grateful thanks to the
Japan Fund for Science
and Gala Dinner guests for
generously supporting
BirdLife International's
Red List work**

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