

> Red list Breeding Birds

Threatened species in Switzerland, standing 2010

*Summary of the publication «Rote Liste Brutvögel»
www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/uv-1019-d*

Issued by:
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Bern
Swiss Ornithological Institute, Sempach
2010

> Summary

The Red List 2010 of threatened and rare breeding birds in Switzerland was established following IUCN criteria and guidelines for their application at regional or national level. It replaces the list prepared in 2000 and published in 2001, the first IUCN list for Switzerland.

The Red List contains 78 (39%) of the 199 bird species breeding in Switzerland (all species except accidental breeders). An additional 32 species (16%) are classified as Near Threatened (NT). Out of the 78 red listed species, 7 are *Regionally Extinct* (RE), i.e. they no longer breed in Switzerland, 9 are classified as *Critically Endangered* (CR), 21 as *Endangered* (EN) and 41 as *Vulnerable* (VU). Red listed species are found in all habitats, but percentages of threatened species are much higher in farmland and wetland habitats than in woodland and alpine ones. This is a clear indication that the problems birds are facing are particularly acute in agricultural and wetland habitats.

The percentage of species on the Red List has not changed since 2001. The percentage of near-threatened species has increased. Almost a quarter of all species changed category. Out of the 42 species showing a real change of status, 24 moved to a higher threat category, 18 to a lower one. Overall, 10 species are new on the Red List, whereas 12 were removed. However, 11 of these remain in the category *Near Threatened*.

The comparison between the lists published in 2001 and 2010 shows that overall the conservation status of breeding birds has not improved. A detailed analysis reveals clearly that the situation has even deteriorated. This is due to the fact that most positive changes concern species whose populations are still described as “depleted”, whereas species that had to be reclassified in higher threat categories suffered strong declines.

Red Lists according to IUCN criteria evaluate the risk of extinction at global level or of disappearance from the region concerned in the present case, from Switzerland. They should not be used directly to set conservation priorities. The international importance of the national populations in particular, but also other parameters, such as the necessity and urgency to take action, have to be considered to define species of particular conservation concern.