

Estimates of breeding waterbird populations in Central and South-west Asia, The Caucasus and the Arabian Peninsula

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RDS CONSERVATION

Introduction

This report updates waterbird breeding population estimates from the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) area to inform the 7th Conservation Status Report (CSR). The geographic coverage focuses on countries within central and south-west Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East, and the population definitions are taken from those used by Wetland International and AEWA (Wetlands International 2015).

This draft is a consultation draft and if any readers are aware of information that could be incorporated in future revisions then please contact Rob Sheldon via vanellus1970@yahoo.co.uk

Methods

An online search using the common and scientific names for published literature was carried out for each of the species and sub-species. The OSME (Ornithological Society of the Middle East, The Caucasus and Central Asia) Official Regional List (ORL) and the BirdLife International datazone were also checked for each species. All relevant papers in the OSME journal *Sandgrouse* since 2010 (Volumes 32-39) were reviewed for any up to date waterbird breeding estimates. In addition key contacts known to the author were asked to provide any information or knowledge on breeding population estimates. Any new information since the publication of CSR6 were included in the individual species accounts.

In the individual species accounts, introductory sentences are based on the OSME ORL (<https://osme.org/ORL>), the BirdLife International datazone (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/search>) and Jennings (2010), they are not cited throughout the report to avoid repetition.

A number of standard texts were consulted although were not necessarily cited, they nevertheless guided the data collection and review process:

Aye, R., Schweizer, M. & Roth, T. (2012). *Birds of Central Asia*. Christopher Helm, London

Jennings, M.C. (2010). *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Arabia*. Fauna of Arabia series, Vol. 25

Porter, R.F. & Aspinall, S. (2010). *Birds of the Middle East*, 2nd Edn. Christopher Helm, London

Rasmussen, P. & Anderton, J.C. (2012). *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*, 2nd Edn. 2 vols. Lynx Edicions, Smithsonian Institution. Barcelona, Washington. Spain, USA

Wassink, A. (2015). *The new Birds of Kazakhstan*. De Cocksdorp. Texel, Nederland

Wetlands International (2015). *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area*. 6th Edn. AEWA Doc. Stc 10.9

Note 1: throughout the text where Symes *et al.* (2015) is quoted the geographical area of coverage referred to as the Arabian Peninsula includes the whole of the Arabian Peninsula, plus Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, including offshore islands and the Socotra archipelago. This contrasts with Jennings (2010) who does not include Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Note 2: Persian Gulf and Arabian Gulf are used interchangeably within the species accounts depending on the source of the information.

Acknowledgements

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Scientific name: *Podiceps grisegena*

Common name: Red-necked Grebe

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Caspian (win)

Population size (CSR6): 15,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Red-necked Grebe breeds in northern Kazakhstan and at scattered locations around the Black and Caspian Seas. There are no known population estimates from Kazakhstan or elsewhere in the range.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 15,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Podiceps cristatus*

Common name: Great-crested Grebe

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Caspian & south-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 30,000 – 35,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The species is a widely distributed breeder across Central Asia, southern Russia and locations further south, including Afghanistan. Some localised breeding has been recorded in the Arabian Peninsula and other countries in the Middle East.

In Kazakhstan it was estimated that 4,000-10,000 breeding individuals were present in 2006, and 383-624 breeding individuals were recorded in Irgyz-Torgai lakes IBA in Central Kazakhstan in 2006 (BirdLife International 2017a). In August 2012, 10,200 moulting individuals were recorded at Shulbinskoye reservoir (Berezovikov 2012). Smaller numbers breed in Kyrgystan with estimates of 500-1,500 pairs breeding on Lake Chatyr Kul (year of estimate 2004), 100-1,000 breeding pairs on Lake Son Kul (year of estimate 2010), 50-200 breeding pairs in Tokmok reserve (year of estimate 2003) (BirdLife International 2017b, c, d).

The first breeding record of Great-crested Grebe for Syria was at Ba'ath Lake in June 2003 (Murdoch 2005a) and breeding has since been noted at Sabkhat al-Jabbul (Serra *et al.* 2006b) and Mheimideh (Murdoch 2007a). Species probably breeds widely in the Euphrates Valley (Murdoch & Betton 2008) although the numbers are unlikely to be significant in relation to the overall geographic population.

A total of 410-550 pairs are thought to breed in Iran (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*) with 45-50 pairs in Anzali wetland, Gilan Province, 10-15 pairs in Miankaleh, about 40-60 pairs in the wetlands of Golestan province, 30-40 pairs in wetlands of Khorasann-e Razave Province, 100-180 pairs in Zaribar Lake, Kordestan province, 8 pairs in the Gori Gol, East Azarbaijan Province, the wetlands of Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari (100-150 pairs), and the wetlands of west Azarbaijan Province (approximately 80 pairs).

Less than 100 pairs are thought to breed in Iraq (Symes *et al.* 2015)

References:

Berezovikov N.N. (2012). Очаг массовой линьки большой поганки *Podiceps cristatus* на Шульбинском водохранилище в бассейне Верхнего Иртыша [Hotspot for mass moulting of great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* on Shulbinskoe reservoir in Upper Irtysh river catchment]. Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal] volume 21 (805), pp 2548-2551 (In Russian).

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Irgyz-Turgai Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/irgiz-turgay-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Lake Chatyr-Kul. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lake-chatyr-kul-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Lake Son Kul. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/son-kul-lake-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Tokmak Reserve. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/tokmak-pheasant-reserve-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

Murdoch, D.A. (2005a). Observations from Syria with notes on 11 new breeding species. *Sandgrouse* 27: 37-45

Murdoch, D.A. (2007a). Bird sites of the OSME region: 3 – Mheimideh – jewel on the Euphrates. *Sandgrouse* 29: 98-102

Murdoch, DA & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Serra, G., Murdoch, D., Turkelboom, F., Travert, F., Mujawer, Y. & Scott, D.A. (2006b). Sabkhat al-Jabbul, a threatened Ramsar wetland in Syria. *Sandgrouse* 28: 127-141.

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). *The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 30,000 – 35,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Podiceps auritus*

Common name: Slavonian or Horned Grebe

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: *auritus*, Caspian & South Asia (win)

Population size (CSR6): 1-10,000 (Best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The species breeds in northern Kazakhstan and at scattered locations south and east of the Black Sea. Opportunistic breeding in parts of Arabia has been recorded but these are in insignificant numbers. An estimate of 750-1500 pairs has been suggested for Kazakhstan (Wassink *pers. comm.*). There are no other recent breeding population estimates for Horned Grebe.

References:

No recent references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 1-10,000 (Best guess)

Scientific name: *Podiceps nigricollis*

Common name: Black-necked Grebe

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *nigricollis*, Western Asia/South-west & South Asia

Population size (CSR6): 20,000-35,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Black-necked Grebe is a relatively widespread breeder across Central Asia and into Iran and Afghanistan.

In Kazakhstan it is a relatively comm.on breeder in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region with 750-1,800 breeding individuals counted in 2006 in Korgalzhyn nature reserve (BirdLife International 2017a) and up to 100 individuals recorded on one 100ha lake during summer moult (Koshkin 2017). Belyalov & Karpov (2007) estimated 20 breeding pairs on Sorbulak Lake in southern Kazakhstan in 2006. Overall, 10,000+ pairs are estimated to breed in Kazakhstan (Wassink *pers. comm.*).

In Kyrgystan 1,000 – 3,000 breeding pairs bred at Lake Chatyrkol (year of estimate 2004). Wintering counts of 400-8,000 individuals were recorded in 2010 on the western part of Issyk Kul Lake (BirdLife International 2017b).

Small numbers breed in Iran, probably in the region of 110-130 pairs (in 2016), comprising 35 pairs in the wetlands of West and East Azarbaijan Provinces, and at least 80 pairs in the wetlands of Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari province (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Western Issyk Kul Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/western-issyk-kul-lake-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 20,000-35,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Common name: Great White Pelican

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Europe & Western Asia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 37,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The species breeds locally and probably decreasing in Kazakhstan. It is an occasional breeder in the Volga Delta (Arkhipov 2006), Iran, Turkey and across to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. There are no modern breeding records in the Arabian Peninsula.

In Kazakhstan, 473 breeding individuals were recorded within Irgiz-Torgai Lakes IBA in 2006 (BirdLife International 2017a). Overall, 1000-1500 pairs are estimated to breed in Kazakhstan (Wassink *pers. comm.*). An estimated 80-300 individuals bred on Zholdyrbas Lake, Uzbekistan in 2005 (BirdLife International 2017b).

There are some site specific estimates from Iran in 2017, with about 500 pairs breeding at Aras Dam, and about 70 pairs breeding in the wetlands in the vicinity of Lake Uromiyeh (Yousefi *pers. comm.* (via Ashoori *pers. comm.*)).

References:

Arkhipov, VYu. (2006). Status and distribution of selected bird species on the Russia-Kazakhstan border northwest of the Caspian Sea. *Sandgrouse* 28(2): 156-169.

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Irgiz-Torgai Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/irgiz-turgay-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Zholdyrbas Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zholdyrbas-lake-iba-uzbekistan/details>

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 37,000 (census based). Although recent census based data is seriously lacking.

Scientific name: *Pelecanus crispus*

Common name: Dalmatian Pelican

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: South-west Asia & South Asia

Population size (CSR6): 6,000 – 9,000 individuals (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

An AEWA Single Species Action Plan is currently in draft format for the Dalmatian Pelican and the information here is largely taken from that (Catsadorakis & Portolou 2017). The species occurs from Montenegro and Albania in the west to the coastline of E-SE China in the east and in the central Omsk district of Russia to the north, down to E India close to Bombay in the south. During the last 30 years the species has been recorded to breed in: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In Catsadorakis & Portolou (2017) the Dalmatian Pelican is divided into 3 populations with the West Asian population corresponding to the one relevant as part of this review. An updated breeding estimate for the West Asian population is given as 4,501-5,870 pairs (3,000-3,200 in Kazakhstan; 1,500-2,667 in Russia; 1-3 in Uzbekistan). The current global population is estimated at 7,342-8,984 pairs thus the West Asian accounts for in the region of 61-65% of the total breeding population.

In 2017 approximately 500 pairs bred in Aras Dam (Yousefi *pers. comm.* via Ashoori *pers. comm.*)).

Migrating or non-breeding estimates are given for the following countries (Azerbaijan 304-2759; Kazakhstan 150-500; Russia 5,000; Iran 3684-8585; Uzbekistan 218-901; Turkmenistan 19-76; Pakistan 1191-4533; India 250-5000) (Catsadorakis & Portolou 2017).

A detailed country by country breakdown of breeding and wintering populations are given in the Annex of the draft SAP (Catsadorakis & Portolou 2017).

References:

Catsadorakis, G. & Portolou, D. (compilers) (2017). International Single Species Action Plan the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). Report of Action A12 under the framework of Project LIFE EuroSAP (LIFE14 PRE/UK/002). Hellenic Ornithological Society and Society for the Protection of Prespa (unpublished report).

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Updated breeding population estimate = 4,501 – 5870 breeding pairs (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common name: Great cormorant

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *sinensis*, West & South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-200,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

Breeds locally across Central Asia, Iran, Iraq and one breeding record in the Arabian Peninsula, it occurs widely across the region in winter and on passage.

In Kazakhstan, up to 15,000 individuals were recorded during the breeding season (in 2007) in the Tengiz-Korgazhyn region, but since then numbers have steadily declined down to 1,500 individuals (Koshkin 2017). Belyalov & Karpov (2007) estimated 500 breeding pairs on Sorbulak Lake in southern Kazakhstan in 2006. In the Black Irtysh River Delta, Eastern Kazakhstan, 3000 breeding individuals were estimated in 2006 (Berezovikov & Alekseev 2016). In Western Kazakhstan, 1,500-4,000 individuals bred in the Ural River Delta (in 2004), and an estimated 1,000-5,000 individuals bred in the Kazakhstani portion of the Volga River Delta in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017a, b).

In Uzbekistan an estimated 200-2,000 individuals were recorded breeding on Zholdyrbas Lake in 2005-2006 (BirdLife International 2017c). In Turkmenistan between 1998-2007 breeding numbers fluctuated between 40-1,600 individuals in the Gorelde IBA; in the Sarykamysh IBA between 1,000-3,500 individuals bred in 2005-2006 (BirdLife International 2017d, e).

Approximately 2035 pairs breed in Iran, notably 750-850 pairs in Gilan Province and 700-950 pairs in Alalan Asalm (Ashoori *pers. comm.*)

References:

Belyalov, O.V. & Karpov, F.F. (2007) Орнитологические наблюдения на Сорбулаке в 2006 году [Ornithological observations on Sorbulak Lake in 2006] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2006 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2006]. pp: 60-62 (In Russian)

Berezovikov, N.N. & Alekseev, V.V. (2016). Новая колония большого баклана *Phalacrocorax carbo* и кудрявого пеликана *Pelicanus crispus* на Бухтарминском водохранилище [New breeding colony of Greater Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* and Dalmatian Pelican *Pelicanus crispus* on Bukhtarma reservoir]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal] volume 25 (1246), pp:453-457 (In Russian)

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Delta of the Ural River. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/delta-of-the-ural-river-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kazakhstan-portion-of-the-river-volgas-delta-zhambay-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Zholdyrbas Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zholdyrbas-lake-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Gorelde. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/gorelde-iba-turkmenistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017e). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Sarygamysh. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/sarygamysh-iba-turkmenistan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-200,000 (best guess). Although declines in parts of Kazakhstan may be of concern

Scientific name: *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*

Common name: Socotra Cormorant

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea

Population name: Arabian Coast

Population size (CSR6): Gulf of Aden, Socotra, Arabian Sea: 60,000-63,000 (expert opinion)

Arabian Coast: 270,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Socotra Cormorant is endemic to the Arabian Peninsula and associated coastal islands, including the Socotra archipelago. Recent estimates of 6,000–12,000 individuals on the Socotra Archipelago (Porter & Suleiman, 2014 & 2016) have been previously incorporated into the Arabian population estimate of 110,000 breeding pairs (Jennings 2010).

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2014). The populations and distribution of the breeding birds of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. 2, Shearwaters to Terns. *Sandgrouse* 36(1): 8-33

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: Gulf of Aden, Socotra & Arabian Sea 60,000-63,000 (expert opinion); and Arabian Coast 270,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Microcarbo pygmaeus*

Common name: Pygmy Cormorant

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 70,000-115,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Pygmy Cormorant is a scarce resident across Central Asia and breeds in Iran, Iraq and into Turkey. In the Caucasus population estimates are poorly known but in Azerbaijan there could be in the region of 10,000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

In Uzbekistan, the only breeding population estimate is for Zholdyrbas Lake in 2005 & 2006 with counts of 94-3,000 individuals (BirdLife International 2017a). From Kazakhstan, an estimated 300-600 individuals bred in the Kazakhstani portion of the Volga river delta in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017b). In June 2008, 360 adult and juvenile birds recorded at the breeding colony in Ural river delta, Kazakhstan (Sarayev & Ivashenko 2009). In Turkmenistan, 1,100 individuals bred in Saryyazy IBA in 2006; 1,000 individuals bred in Muskinata IBA in 2007 (BirdLife International 2017c, d).

In Iran approximately 600 pairs breed, notably two colonies (Abbas Abad and Anzali wetland) in Gilan with about 200 nests in each (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 2000 pairs in Iraq with a rapid recent decline.

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Zholdyrbas Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zholdyrbas-lake-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kazakhstan-portion-of-the-river-volgas-delta--zhambay-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Saryyazy. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/saryyazy-iba-turkmenistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Saryyazy. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/muskinata-iba-turkmenistan/details>

Sarayev, F.A. & Ivashenko, F.N. (2009). Учет птиц водоболотных угодий низовий Урала летом 2008 [Bird counts on wetlands of Ural river lower reaches in summer 2008] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень 2008* [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2008] pp: 25-27 (In Russian).

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 70,000-115,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Ardea cinerea*

Common name: Grey Heron

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *cinerea*, West & South-west Asia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Grey Heron is widespread, albeit a local breeder in Central Asia, Iran and Afghanistan, and small numbers breed in the Arabian Peninsula. There are very few breeding population estimates. In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region of Kazakhstan the numbers are thought to have recently declined. An estimated 30 pairs bred at the Bestobe lake colony (Koshkin 2017).

Small numbers, approximately 80 pairs, breed in Iran; with 25-45 pairs in Anzali wetland, 10-16 pairs in Kiakelayeh A-bandan and 2-3 pairs in Abbas Abbad (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*)

References:

Koshkin A.V. (2017) Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Ardea alba*

Common name: Great White Egret

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *alba*, Western Asia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The species is a widespread yet localised breeder across central and south-west Asia moving south in to the Arabian peninsula during the non-breeding season.

In Kazakhstan, aerial counts in the Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve estimated post-breeding season numbers of 1,500 birds and 1,100 birds in September 2013 and 2015 respectively (Koshkin 2017). In the Ural River Delta an estimated 200-500 individuals were counted in 2004 (BirdLife International 2017).

Small numbers are known to breed in Iran, with two colonies of between 40-80 pairs in total in the Hara Biosphere reserve in South of Iran (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). The species is known to breed in Syria but there are no population estimates (Murdoch & Betton 2008).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Delta of the Ural River. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/delta-of-the-ural-river-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017) Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal], volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Ardea purpurea*

Common name: Purple Heron

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *purpurea*, SW Asia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Purple Heron is a widespread local breeder throughout central and south-west Asia with scattered breeding pairs in the Arabian Peninsula (especially the Red Sea coast).

An estimated 200-500 individuals bred in the Kazakhstani portion of the Volga river delta, Western Kazakhstan, in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017). In Iran the species is widespread across many wetland areas, and approximately 500 pairs breed. Specifically, in the Anzali wetland 100-123 pairs are known to breed (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). In Azerbaijan, it is a common species and breeding numbers are probably in the region of 1000-5000 pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

The breeding population of Iraq is estimated to be 200 pairs (Symes *et al.* (2015). The first breeding record for Syria was from Ba'ath Lake in June 2003 (Murdoch 2005a), but it is likely to breed in other reedbed habitats along Euphrates Valley and the large wetland complex at Sabkhat al-Jabbul (Murdoch & Betton 2008). In Egypt, breeding (5-10 pairs) was confirmed in 2007 on Bahrif Island, north of Aswan (Hoek 2007) and an 10-20 nests at the same location in 2010 (Hoek *et al.* 2010). A further 100 birds were observed during the breeding season at High Dam, Aswan in 2010 (Hoek *et al.* 2010).

References:

BirdLife International (2017) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kazakhstan-portion-of-the-river-volgas-delta--zhambay-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Hoek, D. (2007). A small colony of Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* on Bahrif Island, Nile Valley Aswan - a new breeding species for Egypt? *Sandgrouse* 29(2): 221-224.

Hoek, D., Ibrahim, H. & Noby, K. (2010). Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, a new breeding species for Egypt in a temporary artificial wetland near Aswan. *Sandgrouse* 32(2): 163-166

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Common name: Cattle Egret
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *ibis*, East Mediterranean & South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The species is a scarce and localised breeder primarily in the western part of the region and in the Arabian Peninsula.

Very small numbers are thought to breed in Kazakhstan (0-3 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.* & see Wassink 2015) and the species has been recorded breeding in Uzbekistan (Kaysarov 2010). Jennings (2010) gives an estimate of a minimum of 8000 pairs in the Arabian Peninsula and forecasts that the population could double in the next 20 years (although there are no data to suggest that this is happening yet). The number of individuals on Socotra is probably less than 50 (Porter & Suleiman 2016). Although breeding has not been proven it is strongly suspected. Birds are present throughout the year in increasing numbers (since c1999). Breeding population estimate is based on post-breeding flocks on key lagoons on Socotra (Porter & Suleiman 2014).

In Iran the population is estimated to be in the region of 3000 pairs (especially in Gilan Province) (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*) and in Azerbaijan the population is thought to be 1000-5000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

References:

Kaysarov, T. (2010). Encounter with Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (L. 1758) at the ecocenter "Jeyran" (Uzbekistan). Selevina, the zoological yearbook of Kazakhstan. Almaty, Kazakhstan. [In Russian].

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman A.S. (2014). The populations and distribution of the breeding birds of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. 2, Shearwaters to Terns. *Sandgrouse* 36(1): 8-33.)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-100,000 (best guess) (although the population estimate may be towards the middle to higher range)

Scientific name: *Ardeola ralloides*

Common name: Squacco Heron

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *ralloides*, West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Squacco Heron is a localised breeder across the region including a few pairs in the Arabian Peninsula.

Numbers in Kazakhstan are likely to be between 10-50 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*). In the western part of the region it is a more comm.on breeder with approximately 1000 pairs in Iran, of which 70-150 pairs are in the Anzali wetland and 60-120 pairs in Abasa Abad Ab-bandan (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). In Azerbaijan number are in the range of 1000 -5000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

First recent breeding record from Syria was at Ba'ath Lake in the Euphrates Valley (Murdoch 2005a) but it is probably a widespread breeder in other suitable wetland habitat (Murdoch & Betton 2008)

The population in Iraq is estimated at 3,000 (individuals?) (Symes *et al.* 2015).

References:

Murdoch, D.A. (2005a). Observations from Syria with notes on 11 new breeding species. Sandgrouse 27: 37-45

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Egretta garzetta*

Common name: Little Egret

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *garzetta*, Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

Breeds locally in central and south west Asia and is probably resident in western Afghanistan. Small resident populations are scattered around Arabian coasts.

In Kazakhstan approximately 240 breeding birds were recorded at a colony in the lower Ural River in 2008 (Sarayev & Ivashenko 2009), and for Kazakhstan as a whole the population is thought to be between 150-250 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*).

Approximately 3000 pairs breed in Iran, especially in Gilan and Khouzestan Provinces (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). The population in Azerbaijan is estimated to be 1,000-5,000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

References:

Sarayev, F.A. & Ivasenko F.N. (2009) Учет птиц водоболотных угодий низовий Урала летом 2008 [Bird counts on wetlands of Ural river lower reaches in summer 2008] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень 2008* [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2008] pp: 25-27 (In Russian).

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Egretta gularis*

Common name: Western Reef Heron

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *schistacea*, North-east Africa & Red Sea

Population name: *schistacea*, South-west Asia & South Asia

Population size (CSR6): North-east Africa & Red Sea: 10,000-15,000 (expert opinion)

South-west Asia & South Asia: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Western Reef Heron is a widespread breeder around the coastal zone of the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea. Jennings (2010) gives a population estimate of 3000 pairs for Arabia, and there are no recent updates.

In Iran, 106-209 pairs bred in the Northern Persian Gulf Islands between 2010 and 2012 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013). Approximately 200 pairs breed in the Hara Biosphere reserve in the south of Iran (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

References:

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, H., Ghasemi, A., Aminin, A. & Jafari, H (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and crab plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8(1):1-11

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: North-east Africa & Red Sea: 10,000-15,000 (expert opinion)

South-west Asia & South Asia: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Common name: Black-crowned Night Heron

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *nycticorax*, Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The species breeds locally across the southern parts of central Asia, the Caucasus, and in small numbers on the Arabian Peninsula. The population may be expanding in Arabia linked to the creation of small artificial wetlands, but there are no recent data since Jennings (2010) to confirm this.

In Kazakhstan, an estimated 1,000-1,500 individuals bred in the Volga river delta, Western Kazakhstan, in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017a). In the Mirzaaral Tugai IBA, Uzbekistan, between 300-1,200 breeding individuals were recorded in 2007 (BirdLife International 2017b).

Approximately 3000 pairs are thought to breed in Iran, especially in Gilan and Khuzestan Provinces (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*), and in Azerbaijan the population is estimated to be between 1000-5000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*)

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kazakhstan-portion-of-the-river-volgas-delta--zhambay-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/mirzaaral-tugay-iba-uzbekistan/details>

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess) (although the population estimate may be towards the middle to higher range).

Scientific name: *Botaurus stellaris*

Common name: Eurasian Bittern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *stellaris*, South-west Asia (win)

Population size (CSR6): 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Eurasian Bittern is a widespread breeding species in wetlands across Kazakhstan, the Caucasus and a rare localised breeder further south in Iran and Iraq.

There are no recent population estimates for this species.

References:

Not applicable

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Ixobrychus minutus***Common name:** Little Bittern**Red-list status:** Least Concern**Population name:** *minutus*, West & South-west Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa**Population size (CSR6):** 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)**Summary of updated information:**

The Little Bittern is reasonably widespread across the Caucasus and localised in Kazakhstan. The species has spread in Arabia in association with the creation of artificial wetlands, and Jennings (2010) estimates at least 500 pairs.

The species is present as a breeder in Iraq, although Salim *et al.* (2012) do not give any population estimates. The Little Bittern is thought to be widespread breeding species in suitable wetlands in Iran although there are no estimates (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). In Azerbaijan a minimum of 1000 breeding pairs are thought to be present (Gauger *pers. comm.*). Further east, in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region of Kazakhstan as few as five breeding observations are known from the last 30 years, including an adult bird by a nest in 2015 at Korgalzhyn village (Koshkin 2017). Although the species may be spreading in the Arabian Peninsula there are no data to re-assess the estimated 500 pairs given in Jennings (2010).

References:

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Ciconia ciconia***Common name:** White Stork**Red-list status:** Least Concern**Population name:** *ciconia*, Western Asia/South-west Asia**Population size (CSR6):** 27,000 – 27,100 (census based)**Summary of updated information:**

The *ciconia* subspecies occurs from central and eastern Europe, into the Caucasus and northern Iraq. The central Asian birds are from the *asiatica* subspecies and most authorities consider it a rare breeder.

There are no recent population estimates for the *ciconia* subspecies that can improve previously reported population data. A few hundred pairs breed in Azerbaijan (Gauger *pers. comm.*). Salim *et al.* (2012) confirm the species as a breeder in northern Iraq but give no population estimates.

For Kazakhstan (*asiatica*) no more than 10-20 pairs are thought to breed and are likely to be decreasing (Wassink *pers. comm.*). In Uzbekistan, 30-70 breeding individuals were counted in Mirzaaral Tugai IBA in 2006-2007 (BirdLife International 2017a), and 70-117 breeding individuals recorded on Tuyabuguz reservoir between 2003-2006 (BirdLife International 2017b). In Iran (*asiatica*) there are no recent data although the population is thought to be stable since the estimates of Derek Scott in the 1970s (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Mirzaaral Tugai. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/mirzaaral-tugay-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Tuyabuguz reservoir. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/tuyabuguz-reservoir-iba-uzbekistan/details>

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 27,000 – 27,100 (census based).

Scientific name: *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Common name: African Sacred Ibis

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Iraq & Iran

Population size (CSR6): 200 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The African Sacred Ibis is common and widespread in sub-Saharan Africa, with a small breeding population in the Arabian Peninsula and the southern marshes of Iraq. No population estimates are given in Salim *et al.* (2012), although Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 100-150 (individuals?) for Iraq. Symes *et al.* (2015) report an estimate of 30 mature individuals for Yemen. A single bird was confirmed in Turkey for the first time in 2010 although its status was uncertain (Kirwan *et al.* 2014).

References:

Kirwan, G.M., Özen, M., Ertuhan, M. & Atuhan, A. (2014). Turkey Bird Report 2007-2011. Sandgrouse 36(2): 146-175

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 200 (best guess).

Scientific name: *Plegadis falcinellus***Common name:** Glossy Ibis**Red-list status:** Least Concern**Population name:** South-west Asia/Eastern Africa**Population size (CSR6):** 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)**Summary of updated information:**

The Glossy Ibis breeds from the Caucasus to western Kazakhstan. Ararat *et al.* (2011) confirmed the presence of a breeding colony of 60 pairs in the Al-Hammar marshes, southern Iraq, May 2010. Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of <200 pairs breeding in Iraq.

The first breeding record from Saudi Arabia was also reported from Sabya in 2010 (Balmer & Murdoch 2011). In Azerbaijan the population is thought to be in the region of 1000-5000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*). For Iran, Scott & Adhami (2006) considers the species a common summer visitor but no population estimates are given.

The species breeds in small numbers locally in Uzbekistan. Martin *et al.* (2014) suggest breeding at Lake Aydarkul during surveys conducted between 2010-2013, and Ten *et al.* (2012) located birds at Lake Ayakaghytma. Between 2005 and 2008, 88-999 breeding individuals were recorded on Zholdyrbas Lake (BirdLife International 2017a).

In Kazakhstan, an estimated 250-300 individuals bred in the Kazakhstani portion of the Volga river delta in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017b). In the Ural Delta 100 individuals were recorded at a breeding colony in June 2008 (Sarayev & Ivasenko 2009).

References:

Ararat, K., Fadhil, O., Porter, R.F. & Salim, M. (2011). Breeding birds in Iraq: important new discoveries. *Sandgrouse* 33(1): 12-33.

Balmer, D. & Murdoch, D. (2011). Around the Region (compilers), *Sandgrouse* 33 (1) pp89.

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Zholdyrbas Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zholdyrbas-lake-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/mirzaaral-tugay-iba-uzbekistan/details>

Martin, T.E., Nivet-Mazerolles, V., Landsmann, C., Guillemin, M., Dubos, J., Vallejo, F. & Dombrovski, V. (2014). Bird records from south-central Uzbekistan, 2010-2013. *Sandgrouse* 36(1): pp34-49

Sarayev F.A & Ivasenko F.N. (2009) Учет птиц водоболотных угодий низовий Урала летом 2008 [Bird counts on wetlands of Ural river lower reaches in summer 2008] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень 2008* [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2008] pp: 25-27 (In Russian).

Scott, D.A. & Adhami, A. (2006). An Updated Checklist of the Birds of Iran. *Podoces* 1 (1/2): 1-16.

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000 – 100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Platalea leucorodia*

Common name: Eurasian Spoonbill

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *leucorodia*, Western Asia/South-west & South Asia

archeri, Red Sea & Somalia

Population size (CSR6): *leucorodia* 15,000 (best guess)

archeri 2,500 – 4,500 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The *leucorodia* population occurs from Turkey, across to central Asia and it is thought the small numbers of birds breeding on Kuwaiti islands are also *leucorodia* Jennings (2010), with *archeri* confined to the Red Sea area.

Jennings (2010) gives an estimate of up to 200 pairs on the Arabian side of the Red Sea and 75 pairs from Kuwait, and also suggest that the population in the Red Sea and Gulf are stable.

The first proven breeding record for Syria was at Sabkhat al-Jabbul on 8 May 2005, when approximately 140 birds and 50 occupied nests were visible (Serra *et al.* 2006b). The breeding colony at Sabkhat al-Jabbul could be significant but accurate surveys are needed (Murdoch & Betton 2008). Breeding population estimates for Azerbaijan are not known but could be in the region of 100-500 pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*). In Iran, 50-80 pairs (*leucorodia*) breed in Iran, with less than 50 pairs in Fars, 10-15 pairs in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province and approximately 13 pairs on the Gulf coast (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

In Kazakhstan there are in the region of 650 breeding pairs (Wassink 2015, Wassink *pers. comm.*). In Uzbekistan, an estimated 25-350 breeding individuals were recorded on Kagan Fish Farm in 2006; and 50-150 breeding pairs recorded on Tudakul and Kuymazar reservoirs (years of estimate 1996-2005) (BirdLife International 2017a, b).

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kagan Fish Farm. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kagan-fish-farm-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Tudakul and Kuymazar Reservoirs. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/tudakul-and-kuymazar-reservoirs-iba-uzbekistan/details>

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Serra, G., Murdoch, D., Turkelboom, F., Traver, F., Mujawer, Y. & Scott, D.A. (2006b). Sabkhat al-Jabbul, a threatened Ramsar wetland in Syria. Sandgrouse 28: 127-141

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *leucorodia* 15,000 (best guess)

archeri 2,500 – 4,500 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Common name: Greater Flamingo

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: South-west & South Asia

Population size (CSR6): 240,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The Greater Flamingo breeds from Turkey, central Asia, across parts of Iran, and south into the Arabian Peninsula. The species is a sporadic breeder at various sites across the Arabian Peninsula and given the right conditions could increase, for example an exceptional record of 2000 pairs attempted to breed in the UAE in 2009 (Jennings 2010). The first confirmed breeding for Saudi Arabia was recorded in 2016.

One of the key sites in the region is that at Lake Tengiz in Central Kazakhstan. The breeding colony is monitored most years and numbers can fluctuate. Between 2007 and 2016 the following number of breeding individuals were counted at Lake Tengiz: 35,000 (2007), 48,000 (2008), 34,000 (2009), 25,000 (2010), 25,000 (2013), 50,000 (2014), 18,000 (2015 and 2016) (Koshkin 2017). In western Uzbekistan, in May 2014 an estimated 6,000-7,000 individuals were counted at a newly discovered breeding colony on a small island on Sudoche Lake (Jumanov *et al.* 2014)

In Syria, the wetland at Sabkhat al-Jabbul held more than 500 pairs (Serra *et al.* 2006). The species occurs in significant numbers across Iran, with an estimated 20,000-25,000 pairs at Uromiyeh Lake in 2016 (Yousefi *pers. comm.*). In the same year, Department of Environment staff estimated 2000 pairs at Shadgan wetland, and a further 1000 pairs were estimated at Bakhtegan Lake, Fars (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*)

References:

Jumanov, M.A., Ametov Ya.I., Arepbaev I.M. (2014). О гнездовании обыкновенного фламинго (*Phoenicopterus roseus* Pallas, 1811) на озере Судочье (Каракалпакстан) [About nesting of Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus* Pallas, 1811) on Sudoche lake (Karakalpakstan)] Орнитологический вестник Казахстана и Средней Азии [Ornithological news of Kazakhstan and Middle Asia], volume 3, pp: 184-187

Koshkin, A.V. (2017) Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal], volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Serra, G., Murdoch, D., Turkelboom, F., Traver, F., Mujawer, Y. & Scott, D.A. (2006). Sabkhat al-Jabul, a threatened Ramsar wetland in Syria. *Sandgrouse* 28: 127-141

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 240,000 (census based), although recent data are incomplete there maybe a suggestion of a slight decline that warrants further investigation.

Scientific name: *Phaethon aethereus*

Common name: Red-billed Tropicbird

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *indicus*, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea

Population size (CSR6): 6,600 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The species is widespread across the globe with the subspecies *indicus* occurring in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and the Persian/Arabian Gulf. Jennings (2010) gives an estimate of 1500 breeding pairs but acknowledge that this may be an underestimate. Approximately 800 pairs (>1600 individuals) were reported on Socotra (Porter & Suleiman 2014, 2016), which is equivalent to about 12% of the global population.

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2014). The populations and distribution of the breeding birds of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. 2, Shearwaters to Terns. *Sandgrouse* 36(1): 8-33.)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 6,600 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Cygnus olor*

Common name: Mute Swan

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: West & Central Asia/Caspian

Population size (CSR6): 250,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Mute Swan is a localised breeder across the more northern parts of central Asia and in the Caucasus, but is primarily a winter visitor to other countries. It is thought to be an uncomm.on breeder in Azerbaijan with no more than 100-500 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region of central Kazakhstan, the breeding numbers have gradually decreased since the mid 1990s. In August 2010 only 41 broods were recorded during an aerial survey

across all the lakes of the Korgalzhyn State Reserve, together with 2,000 adult birds (Koshkin 2017). A record flock of 25,000 Mute swans were recorded on Esej Lake in autumn 2015 (Koshkin 2017).

For such a visible species there are few breeding population estimates across the known range within the region.

References:

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 250,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Cygnus cygnus*

Common name: Whooper Swan

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: West & Central Siberia/Caspian

Population size (CSR6): 20,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Whooper Swan is primarily a winter visitor (locally) to the region although it does breed in small numbers in northern Kazakhstan.

In Kazakhstan it is an uncommon breeder in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (5 breeding pairs on Esej Lake in 2012), but there have been some significant autumn congregations on Uyaly Lake of up to 3,000 individuals (in 2007) and 2,500 individuals (in 2011) (Koshkin 2017). An estimated 280 breeding pairs were recorded in the Zhambyl district of North Kazakhstan Province (Zuban & Vilkov 2011).

References:

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Zuban, I.A. & Vilkov, V.S. (2011). Животные из красной книги Казахстана на территории северо-казахстанской области [Animals from the Kazakhstan Red Data Book on the territory of the North Kazakhstan Province]. *Межвузовский вестник [Inter-university newsletter]* 1; pp 128-132 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 20,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Anser anser*

Common name: Greylag Goose

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *rubrirostris* Western Siberia/Caspian & Iraq

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-200,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Greylag Goose is a widespread breeding species across Kazakhstan. Erokhov (2013) estimates that in a good year around 16,000 Greylag Geese breed in the whole of Kazakhstan, across 10 major wetland areas. In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, there are an estimated 500 breeding pairs per 30,000 ha of suitable fresh-water habitat in the Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve (Koshkin 2017). Koshkin (2017) also reports 2,000 moulting birds in 2011 and congregations of up to 50,000 birds recorded in the Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve during migration in October.

In Iraq the Greylag Goose is a local breeder in small numbers in the southern marshes Salim *et al.* (2012). In Iran it is classed as scarce summer visitor (Scott & Adhami 2006). Murdoch & Betton (2008) consider the species a possible breeder in Syria.

References:

Erokhov (2013). Серый гусь в Казахстане: распространение, численность и основные стадии годового биологического цикла. [Greylag Goose in Kazakhstan: distribution, numbers and the main stages of the annual cycle] *Kazarka*. Volume 9: pp 110 – 135 (in Russian)

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Scott, D.A. & Adhami, A. (2006). An Updated Checklist of the Birds of Iran. *Podoces* 1 (1/2): 1-16.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-200,000 (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Tadorna ferruginea*

Common name: Ruddy Shelduck

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Asia & Caspian/Iran & Iraq

Population size (CSR6): 50,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Ruddy Shelduck occurs from Turkey across central Asia and into Afghanistan. Birds have bred on the Arabian Peninsula in very small numbers and are most likely escapes from collections (Jennings 2010).

There are few population estimates for Kazakhstan where the species is a widespread breeder. In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region it is considered a rare breeder although a common summer visitor and migrant in. Congregations of 30,000 and 42,000 inds on wheat fields at Santas were recorded in 2012 and 2016 respectively (Koshkin 2017).

Small numbers of breeding Ruddy Shelduck have been counted in Uzbekistan. In May 1997, surveys of lakes in south-western Uzbekistan resulted in 17 adult birds and 6 broods. In summer 2000 on Sudochje Lake 41 adult birds and 2 broods were recorded. In 2002, on the same lake, 13 adults and 1 brood. Significant winter counts include 15,304 individuals recorded on Lake Tuzkan in north-eastern Uzbekistan on 16 January 2003 (Kreuzberg-Mukhina 2003). In Uzbekistan, between 528 – 2,986 inds were recorded wintering on Chimkurgan Reservoir in 2007; 1,450 wintering individuals recorded on Kattakurgan Reservoir in 2008; (BirdLife International 2017a, b).

In Kyrgyzstan, an estimated 300-10,000 pairs were breeding on Chatyr Kol Lake (year of estimate 2004), and 300-1,000 breeding pairs at Lake Song Kol (year of estimate 2010) (BirdLife International 2017c, d).

The Ruddy Shelduck breeds in the northern and central parts of Iran where 800-1000 pairs are thought to breed (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). Breeding estimates for Azerbaijan are not known but could be in the region of 1000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*). In Iraq the species is considered a local breeding resident in the northwest and central Iraq (Salim *et al.* 2012). Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 1000 pairs for Iraq and Syria combined.

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Chimkurgan reservoir. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/chimkurgan-reservoir-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kattakurgan reservoir. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kattakurgan-reservoir-iba-uzbekistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Lake Chatyr-kul. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lake-chatyr-kul-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Son-kul Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/son-kul-lake-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

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Kreuzberg-Mukhina, E.A. (2003). К вопросу о статусе огаря и пеганки в Узбекистане [On breeding of Ruddy Shelduck and Common Shelduck in Uzbekistan] Kazarka 9, pp: 235-248 (in Russian)

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43)

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Include an upper limit given the single count in Kazakhstan: 50,000-70,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Tadorna tadorna*

Common name: Common Shelduck

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Asia/Caspian & Middle East

Population size (CSR6): 30,000-50,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Shelduck breeds across the northern and central part of the region. There are no breeding records from the Arabian Peninsula and it is considered a migrant and winter visitor in Iraq and Syria. The species breeds in Iran although there are no population estimates (Scott & Adhami 2006).

In Kazakhstan it is considered a relatively common breeder and migrant in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. Based on aerial counts approximately 50,000 moulting individuals were recorded on Tengiz Lake in 2009 and 2010 (Koshkin 2017). An estimated 5,000 breeding individuals were at Karasor Lake IBA, Central Kazakhstan, in 2002-2003 (BirdLife International 2017).

In Uzbekistan the Common Shelduck breeds in low densities. In 2000 aerial counts recorded 1,222 wintering birds on the lakes of the Bukhara region (Kreuzberg-Mukhina 2003).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Karasor Lake. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/karasor-lake-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Kreuzberg-Mukhina, E.A. (2003). К вопросу о статусе огаря и пеганки в Узбекистане [On breeding of Ruddy Shelduck and Common Shelduck in Uzbekistan] Kazarka 9, pp: 235-248 (in Russian)

Scott, D.A. & Adhami, A. (2006). An Updated Checklist of the Birds of Iran. *Podoces* 1 (1/2): 1-16.)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Increase estimates to 50,000-70,000 (expert opinion) based on the count of 50,000 individuals at Lake Tengiz, Kazakhstan.

Scientific name: *Mareca/Anas penelope*

Common name: Eurasian Wigeon

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 180,000 – 200,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

There are small numbers breeding in northern Kazakhstan but species is primarily and migrant and winter visitor to the region. There are no breeding population estimates for the region.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 180,000 – 200,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Mareca/Anas strepera*

Common name: Gadwall

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *strepera*, Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 90,000-130,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Gadwall breeds throughout central Asia and probably in northern Iran, and is considered a passage migrant and winter visitor in Iraq (Salim *et al.* 2012) and Syria (Murdoch & Betton 2008).

In Kazakhstan it is a common breeder, summer visitor and migrant in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, with an estimated 1 brood per 50 ha of freshwater habitat (Koshkin 2017). Approximately 20,000 individuals were counted on SultanKeldy Lake in September 2012 (Koshkin 2017). In the Kulykol-Taldykol Lake, northern Kazakhstan, 3,035 breeding individuals were recorded in 2005 (BirdLife International 2017).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kulykol-Taldykol lake system.

Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kulykol-taldykol-lake-system-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, M.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 90,000-130,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Anas crecca*

Common name: Common Teal

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *crecca*, Western Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 500,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Teal is an abundant breeder in northern Kazakhstan but elsewhere in the region is a passage migrant and winter visitor. There are no breeding estimates for this species

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 500,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common name: Mallard

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *platyrhynchos*, Western Siberia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 800,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Mallard is a common and almost ubiquitous breeder across the northern hemisphere. Breeders in the Arabian Peninsula are considered escapes and feral birds (Jennings 2010), although the 1st breeding record from Kuwait was confirmed in April 2013 (Harrison & Lamsdell 2013).

In Kazakhstan an estimated 53,378 breeding individuals were recorded in the Kulykol-Taldykol lake system in 2005 (BirdLife International 2017a). The Mallard is considered a common breeder in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region but there are no breeding population estimates. Up to 20,000 moulting birds were counted on Esey Lake in 2001 (Koshkin 2017), and up to 50,000 individuals wintered on Chardara Reservoir, southern Kazakhstan in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017b).

Between 750-950 pairs breed in northern areas of Iran, including Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan, Kordestan, West and East Azarbaijan Provinces. A minimum of 45 pairs were recorded in Anzali wetland in spring 2015 (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

There appears to be only one confirmed breeding record for Syria in April 2006 (Murdoch & Betton 2008).

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kulykol-Taldykol lake system. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kulykol-taldykol-lake-system-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Chardara Reservoir. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/chardara-reservoir-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Harrison, I. & Lamsdell, C. (2013). Around the Region, Sandgrouse. Vol 35(2) p179.

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 800,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Anas acuta*

Common name: Northern Pintail

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 200,000-400,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Pintail breeds in the Caucasus and northern Kazakhstan, and is a common migrant and winter visitor elsewhere across the region.

In Kazakhstan an estimated 82,217 breeding individuals were recorded in 2005 in the Kulykol-Taldykol Lake system, northern Kazakhstan (BirdLife International 2017). In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region summer congregations of up to 3,000 individuals have been recorded during the last 10 years. The largest autumn congregation of over 100,000 individuals was recorded on wheat fields north of Tengiz Lake in October 2008 (Koshkin 2017).

The species is a possible, but not confirmed, breeding species from wetlands such as Mheimideh and Sabkhat al-Jabbul (Murdoch & Betton 2008).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kulykol-Taldykol lake system. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kulykol-taldykol-lake-system-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal], volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 200,000-400,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Common name: Garganey
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-200,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Garganey is a relatively common breeder from the Caucasus and across northern Kazakhstan, and is abundant on migration. There are no breeding population estimates from the main breeding areas in Kazakhstan.

In Syria there have been observations during the summer, but breeding has not been confirmed. A probable small breeding population at wetlands such as Mheimideh and Sabkhat al-Jabbul seems likely (Murdoch & Betton 2008). Salim *et al.* (2012) suggest that the species may breed in Iraq although this has not been confirmed.

Probably fewer than 50 pairs breed in Iran (north and west), although there is limited evidence of successful breeding in recent years (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). There are no breeding estimates from Azerbaijan but an estimated few hundred pairs may occur (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

References:

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-200,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Spatula clypeata*

Common name: Northern Shoveler

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: W Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 200,000-400,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Northern Shoveler breeds in the Caucasus and northern Kazakhstan, and is comm.on migrant and winter visitor elsewhere across the region. Breeding is suspected in Saudi Arabia (Jennings 2010), although numbers are small.

There are no breeding population estimates for Kazakhstan and other central Asian states. In Iran there are records, especially males, from various wetlands but no proven breeding (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). The first breeding record for Syria was reported in 2007 from Sabkhat al-Jabbul, and a significant breeding population is a serious possibility in this vast area (Murdoch & Betton 2008). Other breeding sites are possible along the Euphrates Valley. A few hundred pairs are thought to breed in Azerbaijan (Gauger *pers. comm.*)

References:

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 200,000-400,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Common name: Marbled Duck

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 46,000-50,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The species has a fragmented distribution across its range. In Turkey the Marbled Duck is considered a local breeder in moderate numbers in the lowland wetlands of Southern Coastlands, and in tiny numbers at some wetlands on Central Plateau and in east (where probably extinct). From Goksu Delta maximum count of 17 individuals reported, so numbers unlikely to impact on overall population estimate (Kirwan *et al.* 2014).

Surveys in Iraq in the winter of early 2010 recorded approximately 44,000 individuals in southern Iraq (Salim 2010). Salim *et al.* (2012) consider the species a local breeding resident in the wetland of central Iraq, and more widespread in the southern marshes. Symes *et al.* (2015) estimate the breeding population of Iraq to be 3,500-4,500 pairs.

In Iran breeding is primarily in the wetlands of Khuzestan Province where there are 500-800 pairs (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

The breeding population of Marbled Duck in Azerbaijan is 300-1,000 pairs (BirdLife International 2015) BirdLife International (2015) estimate an overall European population (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Italy, Russia, Spain, Canary Islands and Turkey) of 330-1,100 pairs, which equates to 650-2,300 mature individuals (clearly the bulk being in Azerbaijan).

The first confirmed breeding for Syria was from Mheimideh on 17 June 2003, when a minimum of 50 birds with at least 3 family parties (Murdoch 2005a). (Serra *et al.* 2006) counted at 200 on 4 May 2005 and at least 300 on 31st March 2006 although breeding was not confirmed (but likely).

Species-focused surveys in 1996-1997 recorded 65 adults, 21 broods and 150 chicks from 5 lakes across Uzbekistan (Kreuzberg-Mukhina 2003).

References:

BirdLife International (2015). European Red List of Birds. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

Kirwan, G.M., Özen, M., Ertuhan, M. & Atahan, A (2014). Turkey Bird Report 2007-2011. Sandgrouse 36 (2): 146-175

Kreuzberg-Mukhina E.A. (2003). Мраморный чирок в Узбекистане: современный статус, распространение и численность [Marbled teal in Uzbekistan: status, distribution and numbers] Kazarka 9, pp: 263-269 (in Russian)

Murdoch, D.A. (2005a). Observations from Syria with notes on 11 new breeding species. Sandgrouse 27: 37-45

Salim, M. A. (2010). Current Status of Marbled Teal/Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* in Iraq, Conservation Approach. Internal report. Nature Iraq.

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Serra, G., Murdoch, D., Turkelboom, F., Travert, F., Mujawer, Y. & Scott, D.A. (2006). Sabkhat al-Jabbul, a threatened Ramsar wetland in Syria. Sandgrouse 28: 127-141.

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 46,000-50,000 (census based).

Scientific name: *Netta rufina*

Common name: Red-crested Pochard

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western & Central Asia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 250,000-400,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Red-crested Pochard is a widespread breeder from the Caucasus across to eastern Kazakhstan. In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region there are an estimated 3,000 – 5,000 breeding individuals (Koshkin 2017). In August 2001 up to 100,000 moulting birds were recorded at Koktal Lake in 2001 (Koshkin 2017).

In Iraq, at two sites in the Al-Hammar marshes 460 and 31 adults were recorded alongside non-flying young in May 2009. It is not clear how many of these represented breeding birds (Ararat *et al.* 2011). Breeding birds were also recorded at Dalmaj Marshes in 2009 and 2010 (no counts given). These are the southernmost breeding areas known in the Middle East. Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of <500 pairs for Iraq.

First breeding record for Syria at Sabkhat al-Jabbul in May 2005, when at least 50 pairs with nests were observed (Serra *et al.* 2006b). The Red-crested Pochard breeds in very small numbers in Iran although there is no population estimate (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). Breeding estimates for Azerbaijan are not known but could be in the region of 100-500 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

References:

Ararat, K., Fadhil, O., Porter, R.F. & Salim, M. (2011). Breeding birds in Iraq: important new discoveries. *Sandgrouse* 33(1): 12-33

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

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Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 250,000-400,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Aythya ferina*

Common name: Common Pochard

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: Western Siberia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 460,000-500,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Pochard is an abundant breeder in northern Kazakhstan, with small numbers in Iran and most likely Syria.

In the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region of Kazakhstan the Common Pochard is the most numerous breeding duck with an estimated 1 brood for every 10 ha of suitable habitat. However numbers have been declining in recent years (Koshkin 2017). The most recent late summer counts in the Korgalzhyn Reserve were conducted in 2008 and 2009, with 250,000 and 300,000 individuals respectively (Koshkin 2017). In 2006 17,905 breeding individuals were recorded in Irgyz-Turgai lakes IBA in Central Kazakhstan (BirdLife International 2017).

The Common Pochard breeds in small numbers in Iran with 33-38 pairs in the north-west. Breeding occurs in the Hasanloo and Kani-Barazan wetlands in West Azarbaijan Province and the Gandoman wetland in the Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari province (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

In Syria the species was regularly observed in late May in suitable breeding habitat, but breeding has not been confirmed. A breeding population is likely at wetlands such as Mheimideh and Sabkhat al-Jabbul (Murdoch & Betton 2008).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Irgiz-Turgai Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/irgiz-turgay-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 460,000-500,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Aythya nyroca*

Common name: Ferruginous Duck

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: Western Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-50,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Ferruginous Duck has a fragmented breeding range from Turkey across central Asia, with small breeding populations further south including the Arabian Peninsula. There are in the region of 200 breeding pairs in the Arabian Peninsula, mainly in Saudi Arabia, but a small number occur in Qatar (Jennings 2010).

For Kazakhstan, BirdLife International suggests an overall breeding population estimate of 6000-7000 pairs (BirdLife International 2017a). For 2006, breeding population estimates are known for selected sites: 30-100 individuals at Akzhar Lakes (Southern Kazakhstan), 30-60 individuals at Kamysh-Samarskie Lakes (Western Kazakhstan) and an estimated 300 individuals bred in the Korgalshyn Reserve (Central Kazakhstan) (BirdLife International 2017b, c, d).

Relatively small numbers breed in Uzbekistan. In 2004-2006, between 30-200 breeding individuals were recorded at Dzheiran Ecocenter IBA. From 1998-2006, breeding numbers varied between 3-43 individuals within the Arnasay Lake System IBA (BirdLife International 2017e).

The Syrian breeding population may well be in the hundreds of pairs and a comprehensive breeding season census is overdue (Murdoch & Betton 2008). A significant breeding season record of at least 30 pairs were recorded at Mheimideh on 18 May 2006 (Murdoch 2007).

Salim *et al.* (2012) list the Ferruginous Duck as a local breeding resident in south and central Iraq although no population estimates are given. In the Dalmaj Marshes in 2009, six parties of young birds and their parents (totalling 26 birds) were observed, and a further five nests were located in May 2010 (Ararat *et al.* 2011). Symes *et al.* (2015) estimate <500 breeding pairs for Iraq.

Small numbers breed in Iran, maybe 25-40 pairs. In the Anzali wetland, Gilan Province (2-6 pairs), Kashaf-Rud, Khorasann-e Razave Province (1-2 pairs), Zaribar Lake, Kordestan province (3-15 pairs), and various wetlands in West Azarbaijan Province (5-10 pairs) (via Ashoori *et al.* pers. comm.).

1000-5000 breeding pairs are estimated for Azerbaijan (BirdLife International 2015).

References:

Ararat, K., Fadhil, O., Porter, R.F. & Salim, M. (2011). Breeding birds in Iraq: important new discoveries. *Sandgrouse* 33(1): 12-33

BirdLife International (2017a). Species factsheet: *Aythya nyroca*. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/ferruginous-duck-aythya-nyroca/refs> on 20/09/2017.

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Akzhar Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/akzhar-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kamysh-Samarskie Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kamysh-samarskie-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve. <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017e). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Arnasay lake system. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/arnasay-lake-system-iba-uzbekistan/details>

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Murdoch, D.A. & Betton, K. (2008). A checklist of the birds of Syria. OSME Sandgrouse Supplement 2. Sandy, UK

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Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-50,000 (best guess). (It should be noted that BirdLife International are currently considering down-listing this species to Least Concern)

Scientific name: *Aythya fuligula*

Common name: Tufted Duck

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: W Siberia, SW Asia, NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 300,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The Tufted Duck breeds in northern Kazakhstan and winters extensively further south into the Arabian Peninsula. There are no breeding population estimates for this species within the region.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 300,000 (census based)

Scientific name: *Melanitta fusca*

Common name: Velvet Scoter

Red-list status: Vulnerable

Population name: Black Sea & Caspian

Population size (CSR6): 240-420 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Velvet Scoter is a rare and localised breeder in northern Kazakhstan and small numbers breed in Turkey. There are no breeding estimates for the Kazakhstan population. The species is known to nest on four high altitude lakes in Turkey, although there are no breeding estimates (Kirwan *et al.* 2014).

References:

Kirwan, G.M., Özen, M., Ertuhan, M. & Atuhan, A. (2014). Turkey Bird Report 2007-2011. Sandgrouse 36(2): 146-175

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 240-420 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Mergellus albellus*

Common name: Smew

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 30,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Smew breeds very occasionally in north-west Kazakhstan with the last record in 2011 and prior to that in 2005 (Wassink 2015).

References:

Wassink, A. (2015). The new Birds of Kazakhstan. De Cocksdorp. Texel, Nederland

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 30,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Mergus serrator*

Common name: Red-breasted Merganser

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/South-west & Central Asia

Population size (CSR6): 10,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Red-breasted Merganser is a rare breeder in north Kazakhstan, with between 10-40 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*).

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Mergus merganser*

Common name: Goosander

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *merganser*, Western Siberia/Caspian

Population size (CSR6): 20,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Goosander is a scarce breeder in north east Kazakhstan and although there have been occasional spring/summer records in Turkey, there is no known evidence of breeding (Kirwan *et al.* 2014).

In November 2007, 2500 individuals were recorded in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region of Kazakhstan (Koshkin 2017).

References:

Kirwan, G.M., Özen, M., Ertuhan, M. & Atuhan, A. (2014). Turkey Bird Report 2007-2011. Sandgrouse 36(2): 146-175

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 20,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Oxyura leucocephala*

Common name: White-headed Duck

Red-list status: Endangered

Population name: East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 5,000-10,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The White-headed Duck has a fragmented breeding range stretching from Spain through to Kazakhstan and into Mongolia. Four geographic populations are recognised and the eastern population is migratory. The migratory Eastern population was thought to be declining but recent numbers recorded in Kazakhstan (18,049-20,859 individuals) suggest that the population is larger than previously thought (Koshkina *et al.* 2016, Koshkina *pers. comm.*, Sheldon *et al. (in prep)*). Given the extensive breeding range in Kazakhstan and the secretive nature of the species there are no robust breeding estimates for this species.

References:

Koshkina A.I., Koshkin A.V., Timoshenko A.Y. & Schielzeth H. (2016). Results of White-headed Duck monitoring at key sites in Akmola, Kostanai and North Kazakhstan provinces in 2013-2016. Selevinia, volume 24. Almaty, 2016.

Sheldon, R.D., Mikander N. & Fernández Orueta, J. (*in prep.*) International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. AEWA Technical Series No. XX. Bonn, Germany.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Revise the population upwards to 18,000-21,000 based on the autumn counts in Kazakhstan and the updated AEWA Single Species Action Plan

Scientific name: *Anthropoides virgo*

Common name: Demoiselle Crane

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Turkey (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 0-2 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The Demoiselle Crane has a small and localised breeding population in the Bulanik area of Turkey, although no population estimates are given in Kirwan *et al.* (2014). Recent information collated as part of the ongoing Turkish Breeding Atlas suggests that the population is now extirpated (Kerem Ali Boyla *pers. comm.*)

References:

Kirwan, G.M., Özen, M., Ertuhan, M. & Atuhan, A. (2014). Turkey Bird Report 2007-2011. Sandgrouse 36(2): 146-175

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Based on the ongoing revision of the Turkish Breeding Atlas the population can be revised to zero.

Scientific name: *Grus grus*

Common name: Common Crane

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *archibaldi*, Turkey & Georgia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 621-900 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Crane is both a resident (western) and migrant (eastern) in Turkey and a migrant in Georgia.

In Turkey the population is estimated to be 28 pairs, in Armenia 1-4 pairs, and a further 10 pairs have recently bred on Javakhrti Plateau, Georgia (BirdLife International 2015, Javakhishvili *pers. comm.*), although other populations are also likely.

References:

BirdLife International (2015). Downloaded from

http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/erlob/supplementarypdfs/22692146_grus_grus.pdf

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Revise the population downwards to 100-130 individuals

Scientific name: *Rallus aquaticus*

Common name: Water Rail

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *korejewi*, Western Siberia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): (No estimate)

Summary of updated information:

The Water Rail is a widespread breeding species occurring from Europe eastwards to Japan, including the Caucasus and central Asia. Due to the difficulty in surveying this species there are no overall breeding (or wintering) population estimates.

In the Arabian Peninsula at least 100 pairs are thought to breed on artificial wetlands and this may well be an underestimate (Jennings 2010).

In Iran the species is considered a common resident by Scott & Adhami (2006) although no breeding estimates are given, and Ashoori (*pers. comm.*) suggests the species breeds in most wetlands across Iran, but again no estimates are given. In Azerbaijan several 1000 pairs may breed (Gauger *pers. comm.*). No estimates are known for the central Asian range states.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: due to a lack of data this can not be updated

Scientific name: *Gallinula chloropus***Common name:** Common Moorhen**Red-list status:** Least Concern**Population name:** *chloropus*, West & South-west Asia**Population size (CSR6):** 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess)**Summary of updated information:**

The Common Moorhen is widespread across the region with more northerly populations migrating south in the winter.

The species occurs at most wetland sites across the Arabian Peninsula and the total breeding population is estimated at 3,500 pairs (Jennings 2010). It is considered a common and widespread breeder in Syria, Iraq, Iran and throughout central Asia, but no breeding population estimates are known.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Fulica atra***Common name:** Common Coot**Red-list status:** Least Concern**Population name:** *atra*, South-west Asia (win)**Population size (CSR6):** 2,000,000 (best guess)**Summary of updated information:**

The Common Coot is widespread across the region with some migration of more northerly populations to the south. The species has increased in Arabia as more artificial wetlands have been established, and approximately 350 pairs may now breed (Jennings 2010).

In Kazakhstan an estimated 1 brood per 1 km of fresh-water lakes shoreline in Tengiz-Korgazhyn region. In September 2016 a total of 85,000 coots were recorded in the Kulanutpes river delta (Koshkin 2017). In Kyrgyzstan, an estimated 500-10,000 breeding pairs occurred at Lake Songkol (BirdLife International 2017).

In the West Azarbaijan Province of Iran, an estimated 20,000 pairs breed in suitable wetlands (O.Yousefi *pers. comm.* via Ashoori *pers. comm.*)

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Lake Son-Kul.

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/son-kul-lake-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 2,000,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Dromas ardeola*

Common name: Crab-plover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: North-west Indian Ocean, Red Sea & Gulf

Population size (CSR6): 70,000-110,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

In the region the Crab Plover is restricted to the coast and offshore islands of the Gulf and Red Sea. Approximately 4000 pairs were thought to breed on the Arabian Peninsula (Jennings 2010). A recent survey (2012-14) of the Bubiyan Islands in Kuwait estimated up to 2626 birds bred on the islands (Bom & al-Nasrallah 2015). The maximum number of nesting burrows in any one year was 1750 which is comparable to the 1600 reported in Jennings (2010). Bom & al-Nasrallah (2015) also review the latest breeding colony numbers at all key known sites. Crab Plovers were found to be breeding at just 19 sites consisting of at least 56 colonies, 30 of which were found in one area in Eritrea (De Marchi *et al.* 2006). In total, 32,120 burrows were recorded in the review. Most burrows were found in the Arabian Gulf: ~17,200 in total, compared to ~12,200 in the Red Sea, 2,600 in the Gulf of Oman and 60 in the Arabian Sea (Bom & al-Nasrallah, 2015). Using a calculation incorporating a correction for unoccupied burrows, Bom & al-Nasrallah (2015) give a population estimate of 52,200-69,500 birds.

In Iran, 8000-19,000 pairs bred in the Northern Persian Gulf Island from 2010 to 2012, (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013), and these figures are included in the revised population estimate of Bom & al-Nasrallah (2015). There are no breeding estimates for the species from Iraq, although the numbers are likely to be small due to the limited coastline.

References:

Bom, R.A. & al-Nasrallah, K. (2015). Counts and breeding biology of Crab Plovers *Dromas ardeola* on Bubiyan Islands, Kuwait, in 2012–2014. *Wader Study* 122(3): 212–220.

De Marchi, G., Chiozzi, G., Semere, D., Galeotti, P., Boncompagni, E. & Fasola, M. (2006). Nesting, overwintering, and conservation of the Crab Plover *Dromas ardeola* in central Eritrea. *Ibis* 148: 753–764.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, H., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Based on Bom & al-Nasrallah (2015) an estimate of 52,200-69,500 individuals is suggested

Scientific name: *Haematopus ostralegus*

Common name: Eurasian Oystercatcher

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: *longipes*, SE Eur & W Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 27,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Eurasian Oystercatcher breeds from the Caucasus across to central Asia, and is considered a scarce breeder in Iraq and Iran.

There are no updated breeding estimates available for this species.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 27,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Himantopus himantopus*

Common name: Black-winged Stilt

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *himantopus*, W, C & SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 40,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Black-winged Stilt is a relatively common and widely distributed bird across the region, breeding in the Caucasus, central Asian and further south into the Arabian Peninsula.

The species was formerly a scarce breeder Arabia, but has become increasingly widespread with the increase in artificial wetlands and lagoons. Jennings (2010) estimates 2500 breeding pairs occurring in all countries of Arabia. On the island of Socotra approximately 300 individuals bred in 2008 (Porter & Suleiman 2014, 2016). Symes *et al.* (2015) suggest there are 10,000 mature individuals in the extended Arabian Peninsula and considers the species to be increasing.

In Iran, approximately 800-1500 pairs are thought to breed (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). There are no estimates for Iraq and Syria, although the species is known to breed. In Azerbaijan the breeding population is likely to be between 1000-5000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

There are no recent breeding estimates from central Asia.

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2014). The populations and distribution of the breeding birds of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. 2, Shearwaters to Terns. Sandgrouse 36(1): 8-33

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 40,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Common name: Pied Avocet

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Pied Avocet breeds from the Caucasus across the northern parts of central Asia becoming more fragmented further south. The species breeds in small numbers in the Arabian Peninsula, approximately 200 breeding pairs (Jennings 2010).

The Pied Avocet breeds in the southern Marshes of Iraq but there are no specific breeding estimates (Salim *et al.* 2012). The first breeding record for Syria was recorded in May 2005, and a minimum of 50 nests were observed in 2006 at Sabkhat al-Jabbul (Serra *et al.* 2006b). Symes *et al.* (2015) suggests an extended Arabian Peninsula population of less than 1000 individuals.

Approximately 800-1000 pairs breed in Iran (Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*) and 100-500 breeding pairs in Azerbaijan (Gauger *pers. comm.*)

There are no overall breeding population estimates for Kazakhstan, but 500 breeding individuals were estimated to breed in the Korgalzhyn nature reserve in 2006 (BirdLife International 2017).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve.

Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Glareola pratincola*

Common name: Collared Pratincole

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *pratincola*, SW Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Collared Pratincole is relatively widespread across the southern part of central Asia with very small (and sporadic) numbers breeding in the Arabian Peninsula.

Symes *et al.* (2015) refer to a population of 20,000 pairs in Iraq. Approximately 1000-1500 pairs breed in Iran, with 70-80 pairs in Boujagh National Park, 100-110 pairs in Anzali wetland, 80-100 pairs on Sifedroud River, 300-400 pairs in Miankaleh wildlife refuge, and 100-180 pairs in Golestan province (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*)

There are no recent breeding population estimates from Central Asia

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Based on the estimates for Kazakhstan revise the lower estimate to 66,000-100,000 (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Glareola nordmanni*

Common name: Black-winged Pratincole

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: SE Europe & Western Asia/Southern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 228,000-285,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The breeding population of the Black-winged Pratincole is concentrated in Kazakhstan (Russia and Ukraine), with possible small numbers in Azerbaijan. There are no further breeding population estimates since the survey work of Kamp *et al.* (2009).

References:

Kamp, J., Koshkin, M. & Sheldon, R.D. (2009). Population size, breeding performance and habitat use of the Black-winged pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*. Bird Conservation International, 19: 149-163.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 228,000-285,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Vanellus vanellus*

Common name: Northern Lapwing

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: Europe, W Asia/Europe, N Africa & SW Asia

Population size (CSR6): 5,500,000-9,500,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Northern Lapwing is relatively common breeding species across Kazakhstan. Small numbers breed in Iran, less than 150 pairs (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). There are no recent breeding population estimates from Kazakhstan.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 5,500,000-9,500,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Charadrius dubius*

Common name: Little Ringed Plover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *curonicus*, West & South-west Asia/Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): (no estimate)

Summary of updated information:

The Little-ringed Plover is a common and widespread breeder from the Caucasus, across central Asia and south into the Arabian Peninsula. Jennings (2010) estimates about 500 breeding pairs in the Arabian Peninsula with a high density of pairs in the UAE, and notes that the species is likely to be under-recorded.

The species is common and widespread in Iran, Iraq and Syria although there are no breeding population estimates. In Azerbaijan the breeding population is likely to be between 100-1000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

In Kazakhstan, up to 5 nests per 1 km of shoreline of steppe lakes were recorded in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Koshkin 2017).

References:

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: the limited breeding data available is from only a small part of the breeding range

Scientific name: *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Common name: Kentish Plover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *alexandrinus*, SW & Central Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Kentish Plover is common and widespread occurring in scattered populations across Europe to Far East Asia. Some 30,000 breeding pairs are in the Arabian Peninsula (Jennings 2010) and this estimate was not updated by Symes *et al.* (2015). On Socotra there are approximately 300 breeding pairs (Porter & Suleiman 2016). All potential breeding areas on Socotra were counted regularly between 1999 and 2011 providing a total population estimate of 200 birds, with a further 100 potential breeding pairs. Counts over the 12 years were fairly consistent with birds in small groups or pairs, suggesting a stable resident population.

There are no overall breeding population estimates for central Asia, Iran, Iraq or Syria, although Tayefeh *et al.* (2013) reported 15 pairs on islands in the Persian Gulf (surveys 2010-2012). In Azerbaijan the breeding population is likely to be between 100-1000 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, H., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Based on the number of pairs in the Arabian Peninsula revise the population estimate upwards to 100,000-150,000 (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Charadrius mongolus*

Common name: Lesser Sandplover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *pamirensis*, West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-150,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Lesser Sandplover is a scarce breeder in the region with breeding populations only in central Asian countries and Iran. The species doesn't breed in Kazakhstan (Wassink 2015), Small breeding numbers (n=4) were confirmed in Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan in 2008 (Busuttill & Ayé 2009).

In Tadjikistan, 20-30 pairs bred at Bulunkul and Yashilkul Lakes, 40-50 pairs at Lake Karakul and 40-60 pairs in Zorkul nature reserve (year of estimates 2006); in 2005, 20-30 breeding pairs were recorded at Rangkul and Shorkul Lakes (BirdLife International 2017a, b, c, d).

In Kyrgyzstan an estimated 50-100 pairs bred on Lake Chatyr-kul in 2004 (BirdLife International 2017e).

References:

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Bulunkul and Yashilkul Lakes and Mountains. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/bulunkul-and-yashilkul-lakes-and-mountains-iba-tajikistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Karakul Lake and Mountains. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/karakul-lake-and-mountains-iba-tajikistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Zorkul Nature Reserve. Downloaded from: [http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zorkul-nature-reserve-\(lake-victoria\)-iba-tajikistan/details](http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/zorkul-nature-reserve-(lake-victoria)-iba-tajikistan/details)

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Rangkul valley (Rangkul & Shorkul Lakes). Downloaded from: [http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/rangkul-valley-\(rangkul-&-shorkul-lakes\)-iba-tajikistan](http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/rangkul-valley-(rangkul-&-shorkul-lakes)-iba-tajikistan)

BirdLife International (2017e). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Lake Chatyr-kul. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lake-chatyr-kul-iba-kyrgyzstan/details>

Busuttil, S. & Ayé, R. (2009). Ornithological surveys in Bamiyan Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Sandgrouse 31(2): 146-159

Wassink, A. (2015). The new Birds of Kazakhstan. De Cocksdorp. Texel, Nederland

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-150,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Common name: Greater Sandplover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *leschenaultii*, Central Asia/Eastern & Southern Africa

columbinus, Turkey & SW Asia/E. Mediterranean & Red Sea

scythicus, Caspian & SW Asia/Arabia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): *leschenaultii*, 25,000-50,000 (best guess)

columbinus, 2,400-5,000 (best guess)

scythicus, 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Greater Sandplover breeds from eastern Turkey across to Mongolia and China. There are no overall estimates of breeding numbers for any of the three populations that occur in the region.

Jennings (2010) estimates less than 10 pairs (*columbinus*) even in favourable years, whereas Symes *et al.* (2015) suggest about 1000 mature individuals across the extended Arabian Peninsula. In Turkey there are an estimated 600-1000 breeding pairs (BirdLife International 2015). In Iran approximately 10 breeding pairs are present (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). In Azerbaijan there are 10-100 breeding pairs (*Gauger pers. comm.*).

Fouw *et al.* (2017) estimate 15,000 individuals at Barr Al Hikman, Oman, and report up to 8,000 in Iran in 2009 and up to a few thousands in other Gulf countries. Only a few hundred were reported from the Red Sea, but the area is very incompletely surveyed. Based on surveying 7% of the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia (Nagy *et al.* 2014), the wintering numbers can be estimated to be around 5,000 individuals there. Assuming similar numbers for the African coast of the Red Sea and deducting the estimates for the *columbinus* subspecies results in a lower estimate of 35,000 and a provisional upper estimate of 50,000 (making some allowances for Yemen and Somaliland where the species breeds).

There are no breeding population estimates from central Asian countries.

References:

BirdLife International (2015). European Red List of Birds. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

De Fouw, J., Thorpe, A.W., Bom, R.A., de Bie, S., Camphuysen, C.J., Etheridge, B., Hagemeyer, W., Hofstee, L., Jager, T., Kelder, L., Kleefstra, R., Kersten, M., Nagy, S. & Klaassen, R.H.G. (2017). Barr Al Hikman, a major shorebird hotspot within the Asian–East African flyway: results of three winter surveys. *Wader Study* 124(1): 10–25.

Nagy, S., Alanazi, F., Almomen, A., Alsuhaibani, A., AlRashidi, M., Dereliev, S., Keijl, G., Ruiters, P. & Shobrak, M. (2014). Winter waterbird survey in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 2014. Wetlands International, Ede, The Netherlands.

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *leschenaultii*, 25,000-50,000 (best guess).

Revise *columbinus* upwards to 3,000-5,000 (expert opinion) and *scythicus*, 35,000-50,000 (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Charadrius asiaticus*

Common name: Caspian Plover

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: SE Europe & West Asia/E & Central Southern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 40,000-55,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Caspian Plover breeds from the Caspian Sea and across Kazakhstan. There are no recent breeding estimates for this species.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 40,000-55,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Scolopax rusticola*

Common name: Eurasian Woodcock

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/South-west Asia (Caspian)

Population size (CSR6): (No estimate)

Summary of updated information:

The Eurasian Woodcock is primarily a passage migrant across the region with possible small breeding populations in north-east Turkey and eastern Kazakhstan. Due to the difficulty in surveying this species there are no overall breeding population estimates.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: no estimate available

Scientific name: *Gallinago stenura*

Common name: Pintail Snipe

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Northern Siberia/South Asia & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Pintail Snipe is primarily a passage migrant in the region although a small breeding population occurs in north-east Kazakhstan. This breeding population has not been surveyed but is thought to be in the region of 50-75 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*).

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Gallinago gallinago*

Common name: Common Snipe

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *gallinago*, Western Siberia/South-west Asia & Africa

Population size (CSR6): 1,000,000-1,000,001 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Snipe is mainly a passage migrant and winter visitor across the region, with breeding populations in the north and east of Kazakhstan. There are no recent breeding population estimates for this species.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 1,000,000-1,000,001 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Limosa limosa*

Common name: Black-tailed Godwit

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: *limosa*, West-central Asia/SW Asia & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Black-tailed Godwit is relatively widespread across the northern part of Kazakhstan and migrates south to other parts of the region. Salim *et al.* (2012) refer to occasional summer birds in southern and central Iraq but these are likely to be non-breeders. Brown *et al.* (2014) give estimates for the East European *limosa* & Asian *limosa* of 90,000-165,000 and 25,000-100,000 respectively based on BirdLife International (2004) and Perennou *et al.* (1994), suggesting there are no more recent population updates.

In Kazakhstan there are few site population estimates. Koshkin (2017) recorded a maximum count of 200 birds in the summer of 2016 in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region. In 2006, 1010 breeding individuals were recorded in the Irgiz-Torgai Lakes IBA in Central Kazakhstan (BirdLife International 2017).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Irgiz-Turgai Lakes. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/irgiz-turgay-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2004). Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (Conservation Series No. 12).

Brown, D., Crockford, N. & Sheldon, R.D. (2014). Drivers of population change and conservation priorities for the Numeniini populations of the world: Conservation statements for the 13 species and 38 biogeographic populations of curlews, godwits and the upland sandpiper. BirdLife International & Wader Study Group

Perennou, C.P., Mundkur, T. & Scott, D.A. (1994). The Asian Waterfowl Census 1987–1991: distribution and status of Asian waterfowl. IWRB Spec. Publ. No. 24, AWB Spec. Publ. 86. Slimbridge, UK and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Numenius phaeopus*

Common name: Whimbrel

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *phaeopus*, West Siberia/Southern & Eastern Africa

Population name: *alboaxillaris*, South-west Asia/Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): *phaeopus* 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

alboaxillaris 1-1,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Whimbrel (*phaeopus*) is a common passage migrant across much of the region with some wintering in Arabia. The breeding status of *alboaxillaris* is uncertain, although increasingly accepted that it does breed in parts of Russia and Kazakhstan.

Brown *et al.* (2014) give *alboaxillaris* a population estimate of between 1-100 individuals (and declining) based on Thorup (2006) and Morozov (2000).

(it is worth noting that *N.p. rogachavae* has recently been described although no population estimates are given (see Köhler *et al.* 2012)).

References:

Brown, D., Crockford, N. & Sheldon, R.D. (2014). Drivers of population change and conservation priorities for the Numeniini populations of the world: Conservation statements for the 13 species and 38 biogeographic populations of curlews, godwits and the upland sandpiper. BirdLife International & Wader Study Group

Köhler, P., Lachmann, L. & Urazaliyev, R. (2012). *Numenius* species and subspecies in west Kazakhstan. Wader Study Group Bull. 120(1) 2013:1-10.

Morozov, V.V. (2000). Current status of the southern subspecies of Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris* (Lowe 1921) in Russia and Kazakhstan. WSG Bull. 92: 30-37

Thorup, O. (comp.) (2006). Breeding Waders in Europe 2000. International Wader Studies 14. International Wader Study Group, UK.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *phaeopus* 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess); *alboaxillaris* to be revised downward to 1-100 individuals based on Brown *et al.* (2014)

Scientific name: *Numenius arquata*

Common name: Eurasian Curlew

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: *orientalis*, Western Siberia/SW Asia, E & S Africa

Population name: *suschkini*, South-east Europe & South-west Asia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): *orientalis* 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

suschkini 1-1,500 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Eurasian Curlew breeds in northern Kazakhstan and is a passage migrant and winter visitor to other countries in the south of the region. Three races occur across the region and their distributions and overlap is unclear.

For *orientalis*, Brown *et al.* (2014) report a population size of 25,000-100,000 (possibly declining) based on Delany *et al.* (2009) and Perennou *et al.* (1994).

The *suschkini*, population is poorly understood partly due to difficulties with identification. Brown *et al.* (2014) report a population size of 1-10,000 (possibly declining) However, the CSR6 population estimate of 1-1500 is preferred based on Tomkovich & Mischenko (*pers. comm.*).

The *orientalis* and *suschkini* population estimates highlighted above are also used in the draft revised Species Action Plan for Curlew (Brown *in prep.*)

References:

Brown, D. (*in prep*) International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata arquata*, *N. a. orientalis* and *N. a. suschkini*. AEWA Technical Series No. XX. Bonn, Germany.

Brown, D., Crockford, N. & Sheldon, R.D. (2014). Drivers of population change and conservation priorities for the Numeniini populations of the world: Conservation statements for the 13 species and 38 biogeographic populations of curlews, godwits and the upland sandpiper. BirdLife International & Wader Study Group

Delany, S., Scott, D., Dodman, T. & Stroud, D. (2009). An atlas of wader populations in Africa and western Eurasia. Wetlands International. Wageningen, Nederland

Perennou, C.P., Mundkur, T. & Scott, D.A. (1994). The Asian Waterfowl Census 1987–1991: distribution and status of Asian waterfowl. IWRB Spec. Publ. No. 24, AWB Spec. Publ. 86. Slimbridge, UK and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *orientalis* 25,000-100,000 (best guess); no change: *suschkini* 1-1,500 (best guess).

Scientific name: *Tringa totanus*

Common name: Common Redshank

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *ussuriensis*, Western Asia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Redshank is a widespread breeder in northern and central Kazakhstan and in the eastern countries of central Asia. Some birds occasionally over summer in Iraq but these are likely to be non-breeders (Salim *et al.* 2012). The species probably breeds in the Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan but no estimates are given (Busuttil & Ayé 2009).

An estimated 3000 pairs breed in Iran, primarily in the Neur Lake and Gandoman wetlands of Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari Province, and in West Azarbaijan Province (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*)

References:

Busuttil, S. & Ayé, R. (2009). Ornithological surveys in Bamiyan Province, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. *Sandgrouse* 31(2): 146-159.)

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Tringa stagnatilis*

Common name: Marsh Sandpiper

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Asia/SW Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 50,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Marsh Sandpiper is common on migration across the region with breeding populations confined to the north of Kazakhstan. There are no recent breeding population estimates for this species.

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 50,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Tringa ochropus*

Common name: Green Sandpiper

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Western Siberia/SW Asia, NE & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 100,000-1,000,001 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Green Sandpiper is very common on migration across the region with breeding populations confined to Kyrgyzstan. There are no recent breeding population estimates for this species

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000-1,000,001 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common name: Common Sandpiper

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: E Europe & W Siberia/Central, E & S Africa

Population size (CSR6): 1,250,000-3,500,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Common sandpiper is a common bird across the region, especially in the mountainous regions of central Asia and the Caucasus. Salim *et al.* (2012) suggest the species may breed in the mountains of northern Iraq but this is not confirmed.

There are no recent breeding population estimates for this species

References:

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. Sandgrouse 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 1,250,000-3,500,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Larus armenicus*

Common name: Armenian Gull

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: Armenia, Eastern Turkey & NW Iran

Population size (CSR6): 69,000-75,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Armenian Gull breeds from western Turkey through the Caucasus to Armenia and north-west Iran. The species is reported to be declining moderately rapidly in Turkey and apparently stable in Armenia (BirdLife International 2015).

BirdLife International (2015) estimate 19,000-29,000 pairs in Armenia, Georgia and Turkey.

Although Scott (2007) gives an estimate of 4000-5000 for the West Azarbaijan Province in Iran this is from the 1970s. More recent estimates from Mayghan wetland, Arak (30 pairs) and Shahed Kazemi reservoir (500 pairs), West Azarbaijan Province (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*) suggest the breeding population is much reduced.

References:

BirdLife International. (2015). European Red List of Birds. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

Scott, D. (2007). A Review of the Status of the Breeding Waterbirds in Iran in the 1970s

Suggested population size for CSR7:

Revise the estimate to 59,000-89,000 individuals (expert opinion).

Scientific name: *Larus leucophthalmus*

Common name: White-eyed Gull

Red-list status: Near Threatened

Population name: Red Sea & nearby coasts

Population size (CSR6): 57,000-66,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The White-eyed Gull breeds within the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden occurring on the Arabian coastline and islands, as well as Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia.

Jennings (2010) estimates the Arabian population to be 8000 breeding pairs, and Symes *et al.* (2015) cite this estimate suggesting these have not been updated. Habib (2017) counted 8000 birds on islands in the Egyptian Red Sea.

PERSGA/GEF (2003) estimated 12,000-13,000 breeding pairs (36,000-39,000 individuals), excluding Eritrea, equating to 37,000-44,000 individuals overall. This estimate of 37,000-44,000 is used by BirdLife International (2017). However, Semere *et al.* (2008) counted 5900 pairs in Eritrea, and Habib (2017) reports 2672 nests from Egypt.

References:

BirdLife International (2017). <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/white-eyed-gull-larus-leucophthalmus> accessed on 8th September 2017.

Habib, M.I. (2017). Surveys of White-eyed Gull on islands in Red Sea, Egypt, and notes on behaviour. *Dutch Birding* 39(1): 13-21

PERSGA/GEF. (2003). *Status of breeding seabirds in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden*. PERSGA, Jeddah.

Semere, D., Hagos, T., Seleba, G., Gebrezgabhier, Y., Haile, Z., Chiozzi, G. & De Marchi, G. (2008). The status of breeding seabirds and waterbirds on the Eritrean Red Sea islands. *ABC Bulletin* 15(2): 228-237

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). *The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 57,000-66,000 (census based).

Scientific name: <i>Larus hemprichii</i>	Common name: Sooty Gull
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Red Sea, Gulf, Arabia & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 88,000-95,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The Sooty Gull is distributed across the islands of the Red Sea, Arabian Gulf and southern Arabia, as well as east Africa south to Kenya. Jennings (2010) estimates 28,000 breeding pairs in Arabia, which is broadly similar to the estimate of 26,000 pairs cited by Symes *et al.* (2015).

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). *The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 88,000-95,000 (census based)

Scientific name: *Larus cachinnans*

Common name: Caspian Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Black Sea & Western Asia/SW Asia, NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 200,000-500,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Caspian Gull breeds widely from the Black Sea, across the north of the Caspian Sea to eastern Kazakhstan. Robust breeding population estimates are lacking primarily due to taxonomic confusion and difficulties with identification.

In Kazakhstan, 1118 adult and 892 chicks were recorded in a breeding colony on Sredny Island, Alakol Lake (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2007).

References:

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky, U.P. (2007) Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2006 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2006] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2006 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2006] pp: 71-77

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 200,000-500,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Larus fuscus*

Common name: Lesser Black-backed Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *heuglini*, NE Europe & W Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population name: *barabensis*, South-west Siberia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): *heuglini* 25,000-1,000,000 (best guess)

barabensis (no estimate)

Summary of updated information:

(*heuglini*) NE Europe & West Siberia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Robust population estimates are lacking primarily due to taxonomic confusion and difficulties with identification. *Heuglini* is considered a migrant and winter visitor in the region (eg Salim *et al.* 2012)

(*barabensis*) South-west Siberia/South-west Asia

Breeds in northern Kazakhstan but as with other large white-headed gulls in the region there are no population estimates (including of the breeding population) due to taxonomic confusion and identification problems. Wintering birds reach Southern Arabia although the status there remains unclear.

References:

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *heuglini* 25,000-1,000,000 (best guess); *barabensis* (no estimate)

Scientific name: *Larus ichthyaetus*

Common name: Pallas's Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Black Sea & Caspian/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 100,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Pallas's Gull breeds primarily in the Caspian region and Central Asia. Ringing recoveries suggest an exchange of breeders between Caspian & SW Siberia, crossing Kazakhstan (Veen *et al.* 2005). The species is widespread in the winter throughout many countries of the Middle East, especially at coastal sites. Estimates are available for some breeding sites in Kazakhstan. Approximately 400 breeding pairs were recorded at 3 sites in the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region, near Korgalzhyn nature reserve (Koshkin 2017). In 2006, within the Korgalzyhn Nature Reserve 100 breeding individuals were estimated (BirdLife International 2017a). In 2004 in Western Kazakhstan, an estimated 2,000-4,500 individuals bred in the Ural river delta (BirdLife International 2017b). In 2007-2008 an estimated 1,000 pairs bred on 3 islands on the western Atyrau waste water reservoir (Giszov & Baizhanov 2012). At a breeding colony on Zuyd-Vest Shalyga Island in Ural river delta (June 2008) 5,000 adults and 6,000 juvenile birds were recorded (Sarayev & Ivashenko 2009). A total of 1,105 adult birds were recorded within 3 breeding colonies on Alakol Lake in 2007 (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2008).

References:

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky, U.P. (2008). Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2007 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2007] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2007 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2007]. pp: 75-81 (In Russian)

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Delta of the Ural River. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/delta-of-the-ural-river-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Giszov, A.P. & Baizhanov, M.H. (2012). Состояние колониально-гнездящихся чаек и крачек казахстанской части побережья Каспия. [Situation with colonial breeding terns and gulls of the Kazakhstani part of Caspian Sea] Сборник тезисов международной конференции «Животные Казахстана и прилегающих территорий» [Proceedings of the international conference "Wildlife of Kazakhstan and adjacent territories"] pp.18-24 (in Russian)

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal], volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Sarayev, F.A & Ivasenko F.N. (2009). Учет птиц водоболотных угодий низовий Урала летом 2008 [Bird counts on wetlands of Ural river lower reaches in summer 2008] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень 2008* [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2008] pp: 25-27 (In Russian).

Veen, J., Yurlov, A.K., Delany, S.N., Mihantiev, A.I., Selivanova, M.A. & Boere, G.C. (2005). An Atlas of movements of Southwest Siberian waterbirds. Wetlands International. Wageningen, The Netherlands

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 100,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Larus ridibundus*

Common name: Black-headed Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: West Asia/SW Asia & NE Africa

Population size (CSR6): 250,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Black-headed Gull is a common and widespread breeder in Kazakhstan and more localised in other central Asian states. Small numbers breed in north-east Iraq and Iran (Ararat *et al.* 2011, Scott & Adhami 2006).

In Kazakhstan, up to 12,000 individuals were recorded during spring migration along the Kazakhstani part of the Caspian (Giszov & Baizhanov 2012). An estimated 500 breeding pairs were counted in a colony on Baibala Island in Eastern Kazakhstan (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2007). In 2006 an estimated 2,500-3,500 individuals bred on Kamysh-Samarskie lakes in Western Kazakhstan (BirdLife International 2017).

In Iran in 2015, 1150-1250 pairs were found breeding in the marshes of West Azerbaijan: 500 pairs on islets in Shahed Kazemi reservoir, 250-300 pairs in marshes near Mahabad, 300 pairs in marshes near Naghadeh and 100-150 pairs on islets in a marsh near Miandoab (Omid Yousefi *pers. obs.* reported in Ashoori & Watanabe 2017).

References:

Ararat, K., Fadhil, O., Porter, R.F. & Salim, M. (2011). Breeding birds in Iraq: important new discoveries. *Sandgrouse* 33(1): 12-33.)

Ashoori, A. & Watanabe, H. (2017). A breeding record of black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* at a Caspian coastal area, Iran. *Sandgrouse* 39 (1): 45-47

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky, U.P. (2007). Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2006 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2006] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень 2006* [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2006] pp: 71-77

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kamysh-Samarskie Lakes. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kamysh-samarskie-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Giszov, A.P. & Baizhanov, M.H. (2012). Состояние колониально-гнездящихся чаек и крачек казахстанской части побережья Каспия. [Situation with colonial breeding terns and gulls of the Kazakhstani part of Caspian Sea] Сборник тезисов международной конференции «Животные Казахстана и прилегающих территорий» [Proceedings of the international conference “Wildlife of Kazakhstan and adjacent territories”] pp.18-24 (in Russian)

Scott, D.A. & Adhami, A. (2006). An Updated Checklist of the Birds of Iran. *Podoces* 1 (1/2): 1-16.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 250,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Larus genei*

Common name: Slender-billed Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: West, South-west & South Asia (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 150,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Slender-billed Gull is widespread across Central Asia in scattered populations, with breeding populations as far south as Kuwait. Jennings (2010) reports 1600 pairs in Kuwait and 200 over-summering birds (probably breeders) at Sabkhat al-Fasl, Saudi Arabia.

The species breeds in Iraq although no population estimates are given (Salim *et al.* 2012), however Symes *et al.* (2015) suggest an estimate of 4,000-5,000 (pairs?) breeding in central and southern Iraq. About 2000 pairs breed in Shahid Kazemi Dam, west Azarbaijan Province (O. Yousefi *pers. comm.* via A Ashoori *pers. comm.*) with a further 2000 pairs breeding in south and central Iran (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). Symes *et al.* (2015) estimate a breeding population in Syria of 4,000-5,000 pairs, and suggest 1,000-2,000 (pairs?) in Kuwait based on Jennings (2010).

There are an estimated 7,500-10,000 breeding pairs in Kazakhstan (Wassink *pers. comm.*). During 2009-2014 annual counts varied between 300-400 breeding pairs on Sholak Lake and 500-1,000 pairs on Balyksor Lake (Koshkin 2017). In 2006, an estimated 3,100 breeding individuals bred in Korgalzhyn nature reserve (BirdLife International 2017).

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал [Russian Ornithological Journal]*, volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Salim, M.A., al-Sheikly, O.F., Majeed, K.A. & Porter, R.F. (2012). An annotated checklist of the birds of Iraq. *Sandgrouse* 34(1): 4-43

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 150,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Common name: Little Gull

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: W Asia/E Mediterranean, Black Sea & Caspian

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Little Gull breeds in northern Kazakhstan but there are no breeding population estimates for the species although between 1500-2000 pairs may be a reasonable estimate (Wassink *pers. comm.*)

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Common name: Common Gull-billed Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *nilotica*, West & Central Asia/South-west Asia

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Common Gull-billed Tern has a widespread but fragmented breeding range across the region. Up to 1000 breeding pairs occur in Arabia, mostly Kuwait (Jennings 2010). Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 600 pairs in Iraq and <10 pairs in Syria. In Iran 139 pairs bred on Khan Island, 35-60 pairs in Golestan Province, 30-50 pairs in west Azarbaijan (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013), and 200-220 pairs in Hamedan Province (R. Ramzani *pers. comm.* via Ashoori *pers. comm.*). In Azerbaijan there are probably in the region of 100-500 breeding pairs (Gauger *pers. comm.*).

In Kazakhstan in 2014 up to 1,000 breeding birds were recorded on Balyksor Lake, Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Koshkin 2017). In 2006 an estimated 200 pairs bred on Alakol Lake in Eastern Kazakhstan (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2007), and in the same year 300-400 individuals bred on the Kamysh-Samarskie Lakes in Western Kazakhstan and 1500 individuals bred in the Korgalzhyn nature reserve (BirdLife International 2017a,b). In Turkmenistan, 300-400 individuals bred in the Goyungyrlan IBA in 2005-2006, and in the same years between 100-1200 individuals bred in Sarygamysh IBA in 2005-2006 (BirdLife International 2017c,d).

References:

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky U.P. (2007). Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2006 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2006] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2006 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2006] pp: 71-77

BirdLife International (2017a). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kamysh-Samarskie Lakes. Downloaded from <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kamysh-samarskie-lakes-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017b). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Korgalzhyn State Nature Reserve. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/korgalzhyn-state-nature-reserve-iba-kazakhstan/details>

BirdLife International (2017c). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Goyungyrlan. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/goyungyrlan-iba-turkmenistan/details>

BirdLife International (2017d). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Sarygamysh. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/sarygamysh-iba-turkmenistan/details>

Koshkin, A.V. (2017). Орнитофауна Тениз-Коргалжынского региона (Центральный Казахстан) [Avifauna of the Tengiz-Korgalzhyn region (Central Kazakhstan)]. *Русский орнитологический журнал* [Russian Ornithological Journal], volume 26 (1415): 909-956 (in Russian)

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, H., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Common name: Caspian Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Caspian (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Caspian Tern is a relatively common species that has a widespread but fragmented breeding range across the region.

Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 500 pairs in the Arabian Peninsula (based on Jennings 2010), with a further 400 pairs in Iraq and approximately 20 pairs in Syria. In Iran, 114 pairs bred on Khan Island in 2010 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013). Small numbers, 30-40 pairs, breed in west Azarbaijan Province, Iran (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*).

In Kazakhstan there is an estimated breeding population of 12,500-15,000 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*). In 2008 around 500 breeding pairs were recorded on islands in the Ural river delta in Western Kazakhstan (Giszov & Baizhanov 2012). 40 adult and 150 chicks were recorded in one colony on Alakol Lake in 2006 (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2007) and 95 breeding pairs were recorded there the following year (Berezovikov & Levinsky 2008).

References:

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky, U.P. (2007). Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2006 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2006] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2006 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2006] pp: 71-77

Berezovikov, N.N. & Levinsky, U.P. (2008), Орнитологические наблюдения в Алакольской котловине в 2007 году [Ornithological observations in Alakol depression in 2007] *Казахстанский орнитологический бюллетень* 2007 [Kazakhstan Ornithological Bulletin 2007]. pp: 75-81 (In Russian)

Giszov, A.P. & Baizhanov, M.H. (2012). Состояние колониально-гнездящихся чаек и крачек казахстанской части побережья Каспия. [Situation with colonial breeding terns and gulls of the Kazakhstani part of Caspian Sea] Сборник тезисов международной конференции «Животные Казахстана и прилегающих территорий» [Proceedings of the international conference “Wildlife of Kazakhstan and adjacent territories”] pp.18-24 (in Russian)

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, A., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>	Common name: Lesser Crested Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *bengalensis*, Red Sea/Eastern Africa

Population name: *bengalensis*, Gulf/Southern Asia

Population size (CSR6): *bengalensis*, Red Sea/Eastern Africa 215,000-250,000 (expert opinion)

bengalensis, Gulf/Southern Asia 286,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Lesser Crested Tern breeds at coastal sites in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf. In Arabia, Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 80,000 pairs based on Jennings (2010). In Iran, 27000-30000 pairs bred on the Northern Persian Gulf Islands from 2010 to 2012 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013).

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, A., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: *bengalensis*, Red Sea/Eastern Africa 215,000-250,000 (expert opinion); *bengalensis*, Gulf/Southern Asia 286,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Common name: Sandwich Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *sandvicensis*, West & Central Asia/South-west & South Asia

Population size (CSR6): 110,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Sandwich Tern breeds at locations around the Caspian Sea and is primarily a winter visitor to the Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring waters. The breeding population in Kazakhstan is likely to be in the region of 10,000-11,000 pairs (Wassink *pers. comm.*).

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 110,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	Common name: Greater Crested Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *velox*, Red Sea & North-east Africa

Population size (CSR6): 15,000-20,000 (census based)

Summary of updated information:

The Great Crested Tern occurs around the coastal shores of the Arabian Peninsula. Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 13,000 breeding pairs which is based on Jennings (2010). In Iran 2800-3200 pairs bred on the Northern Persian Gulf Islands in 2010 to 2012 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013)

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, A., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 15,000-20,000 (census based)

Scientific name: *Sterna dougallii*

Common name: Roseate Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *bangsi*, North Arabian Sea (Oman)

Population size (CSR6): 120-150 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Roseate Tern has a widespread global population. Within the Arabian Peninsula it has a very small breeding population (40-50 pairs), primarily in Oman, that is thought to be declining (Jennings 2010).

References:

No specific references found

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 120-150 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Sternula albifrons*

Common name: Little Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *albifrons*, Caspian (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Little Tern is a widespread species across the region although there are few breeding population estimates. Symes *et al.* (2015) give an estimate of 200 pairs in Arabia (based on Jennings 2010), a stable population of 4,000 pairs in Iraq and a maximum of 50 pairs Syria.

In Iran, 80-160 pairs are thought to breed in West Azarbaijan and 50-180 pairs breed in the southeast of Caspian sea, although the overall population is likely to be higher (via Ashoori *et al.* pers. comm.)

In Egypt, surveys at seven colonies around Port Said recording 2652 nests in 2015 compared to 2591 nests in 2014 (Habib 2016) and these colonies are thought to be declining due to construction and disturbance.

References:

Habib, M.I. (2016). A survey of Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* colonies at Port Said, Egypt, in 2015 with notes on behaviour. *Sandgrouse* 38(1): 118-123)

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). *The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula*. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 10,000-25,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: <i>Sternula saundersi</i>	Common name: Saunders's Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 12,000-12,100 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Saunders's Tern is restricted to the northern India Ocean, breeding in the Red Sea, north-east Africa, the Arabian Gulf and further south. Jennings (2010) gives an estimate of 4000 breeding pairs, which includes significant populations (500 breeding pairs) on the Socotran archipelago (Porter & Suleiman 2014).

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2014). The populations and distribution of the breeding birds of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. 2, Shearwaters to Terns. *Sandgrouse* 36(1): 8-33

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 12,000-12,100 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: <i>Sterna repressa</i>	Common name: White-cheeked Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: W South Asia, Red Sea, Gulf & Eastern Africa

Population size (CSR6): 275,000-400,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The White-cheeked Tern breeds in the Persian Gulf and Oman along the Red Sea coast and further south (Somalia and Kenya). Jennings (2010) gives a population estimate upwards of 75,000 breeding pairs, which is cited as 78,000 pairs by Symes *et al.* (2015).

In Iran, between 100-2600 pairs bred in the Northern Persian Gulf Islands from 2010 to 2012 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013).

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, A., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 275,000-400,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	Common name: Bridled Tern
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Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *antarcticus*, Red Sea, E Africa, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea to W India

Population size (CSR6): 1,500,000-1,650,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Bridled Tern is a common species distributed throughout the tropics. There are no recent population estimates that improve the figure of 300,000 breeding pairs from the Arabian Peninsula (Jennings 2010). This estimate includes the 2000 individuals estimated from Socotra (Porter & Suleiman 2016).

In Iran, 68,500-72,900 breeding pairs were recorded from the Northern Persian Gulf Island during surveys between 2010-2012 (Tayefeh *et al.* 2013).

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Tayefeh, F.H., Zakaria, M., Amini, A., Ghasemi, M., Amini, A. & Jafari, H. (2013). Monitoring of populations of breeding terns and Crab Plovers on the Iranian Islands of the Persian Gulf. *Podoces* 8: 1–11.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 1,500,000-1,650,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Onychoprion fuscatus*

Common name: Sooty Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *nubilosus*, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, E to Pacific

Population size (CSR6): 18,200,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Arabian breeding sites of the Sooty Tern are at the extreme edge of its Indian Ocean range. Breeding is only known from the Musandam area of Oman and in very small numbers, 15-30 breeding pairs (Jennings 2010; Symes *et al.* 2015).

References:

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 18,200,000 (expert opinion)

Scientific name: *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common name: Whiskered Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *hybrida*, Caspian (bre)

Population size (CSR6): 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The Whiskered Tern is a common breeder across central Asia and the Caspian region. In Kazakhstan an estimated 2,000-5,000 individuals bred in the Volga river delta in 2003 (BirdLife International 2017).

In Iran approximately 4000-5500 pairs breed, with 3000-4000 pairs in Gilan Province, about 800-1100 pairs in Mazandaran, and 200-400 pairs in Kurdistan (Zaeivar wetland) (via Ashoori *et al. pers. comm.*). An estimated 6,000 pairs breed in Syria and Iraq (Symes *et al.* 2015)

References:

BirdLife International (2017). Important Bird Areas factsheet: Kazakhstan portion of the river Volga's Delta - Zhambay. Downloaded from: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/kazakhstan-portion-of-the-river-volgas-delta--zhambay-iba-kazakhstan/details>

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 25,000-100,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Common name: White-winged Tern

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: Eastern Europe & Western Asia/Africa

Population size (CSR6): 2,500,000-3,500,000 (best guess)

Summary of updated information:

The White-winged Tern is a widespread and common breeding species across central Asia, especially Kazakhstan. There are no breeding estimates for Kazakhstn or other central Asian states. The species has bred in the Arabian Peninsula, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but the numbers are unlikely to be more than a few 10s of pairs.

In Iraq there may be 2000 pairs and the population is thought to be stable (Symes *et al.* 2015). Recent reports of high altitude nesting White-winged Terns (310-360 adults) in Eastern Anatolia, Turkey are interesting (Hering & Buckley 2013) but are insignificant in terms of the overall population size.

References:

Hering, J. & Buckley, P.A. (2013). White-winged Terns *Chlidonias leucopterus* breeding at high elevation in eastern Anatolia, Turkey. *Sandgrouse* 35(2): 158-160

Symes, A., Taylor, J., Mallon, D., Porter, R., Simms, C. & Budd, K. (2015). The Conservation Status and Distribution of the Breeding Birds of the Arabian Peninsula. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and Sharjah, UAE: Environment and Protected Areas Authority.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 2,500,000-3,500,000 (best guess)

Scientific name: *Anous stolidus*

Common name: Brown Noddy

Red-list status: Least Concern

Population name: *plumbeigularis*, Red Sea & Gulf of Aden

Population size (CSR6): 96,000-126,000 (expert opinion)

Summary of updated information:

The Brown Noddy is a mainly pelagic species and is a relatively common breeding visitor to the Red Sea and Socotra Islands. Jennings (2010) gives an estimate of 17,000 breeding pairs which includes 5,000 reported by Porter & Suleiman (2016).

References:

Porter, R.F. & Suleiman, A.S. (2016). The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas of the Socotra archipelago, Yemen. *Sandgrouse* 38(2): 169-191.

Suggested population size for CSR7:

No change: 96,000-126,000 (expert opinion)

Annex 1: Peripheral breeding species and/or wintering/migratory

The following species were briefly checked for breeding numbers within central Asia, The Middle East and Caucasus, but were considered to be primarily passage or wintering species.

Scientific name	Common name	Comments
<i>Gavia arctica (arctica)</i>	Black-throated Diver	Kazakhstan: 150-500 breeding pairs (Wassink <i>pers. comm.</i>)
<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Bewick's Swan	
<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Taiga Bean Goose	
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Greater White-fronted Goose	
<i>Melanitta deglandi (stejnegeri)</i>	White-winged Scoter	Kazakhstan: 10-25 breeding pairs (Wassink <i>pers. comm.</i>)
<i>Pluvialis apricaria (altifrons)</i>	European Golden Plover	
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover	
<i>Pluvialis squatarola (squatarola)</i>	Grey Plover	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula (tundrae)</i>	Comm.on Ringed Plover	
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	Eurasian Dotterel	
<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Jack Snipe	
<i>Gallinago media</i>	Great Snipe	
<i>Limosa lapponica (taymyrensis)</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Spotted Redshank	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Comm.on Greenshank	
<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Terek Sandpiper	
<i>Arenaria interpres (interpres)</i>	Ruddy Turnstone	
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	
<i>Calidris alba (alba)</i>	Sanderling	
<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Little Stint	
<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Temminck's Stint	
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	
<i>Calidris alpina (centralis)</i>	Dunlin	
<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff	
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked Phalarope	