



Casmerodius albus albus

W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean

Annex I	Yes-CTC-HTL
International action plan	No

Great White Egret, *Casmerodius albus*, is a species of heron found in wetland, unvegetated or sparsely vegetated land, river and lake and marine inlet and transitional water ecosystems. It is a widespread but patchily distributed breeder across much of Europe. The species inhabits all kinds of inland and coastal wetlands although it is mainly found along the coast in the winter. It frequents river margins, lakes shores, marshes, flood-plains, oxbows, streams, damp meadows, rice-fields, drainage ditches, aquaculture ponds, reservoirs and sewage works inland, and the shallows of salt-lakes, saltpans, mudflats, coastal swamps, saltmarshes, seagrass flats, lagoons and estuaries when in coastal locations (European Red List 2015).

Casmerodius albus has a breeding population size of 5100-7800 pairs and a breeding range size of 140000 square kilometres in the EU27. The breeding population trend in the EU27 is Increasing in the short term and Increasing in the long term. *Casmerodius albus* has a winter population size of 14000-22500 individuals in the EU27. The winter population trend in the EU27 is Increasing in the short term and Increasing in the long term.

The EU population status of *Casmerodius albus* was assessed as Secure, because the species does not meet any of the IUCN Red List criteria for threatened or Near Threatened, or the criteria for Depleted or Declining (the EU27 population or range has not declined by 20% or more since 1980).

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Assessment of status at the European level

Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend		Population status
	Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term	
5100 - 7800 p	+	+	140000			14000 - 22500 i	+	+	Secure

See the endnotes for more informationⁱ

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Mediterranean]

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■ Species distribution

■ EU Member States

■ Outside data coverage

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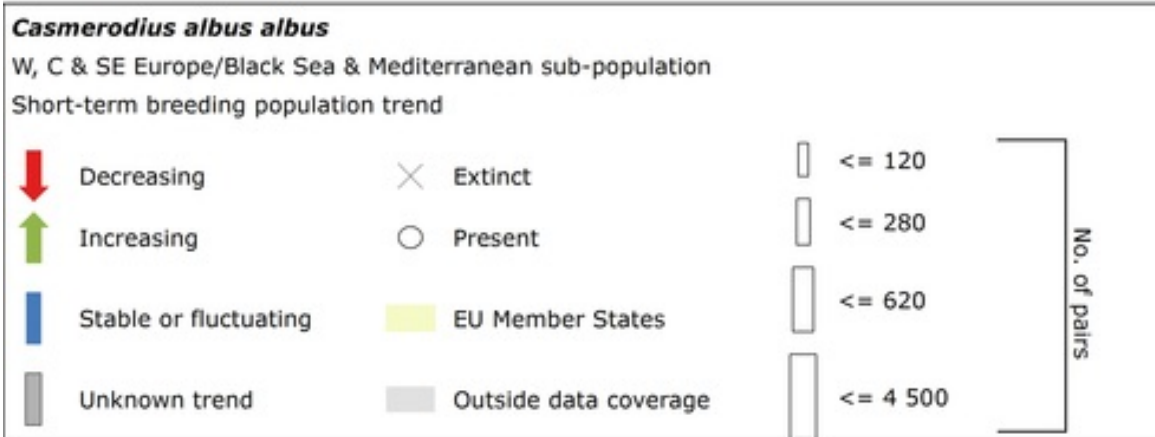
Trends at the Member State level

MS/Ter.	% in EU27	Breeding population size	Breeding population trend		Range area	Breeding range trend		Winter population size	Winter population trend	
			Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term		Short term	Long term
AT	1.1	490 - 770 p	0	+	799	0	0			
BE								186 - 229 i	+	x
BG	55.0	10 - 30 p	0	0	96600	0	0	200 - 2000 i	+	+
CZ										
DE								401 - 1000 i	+	+
ES	2.6	51 - 53 p	+	x	1901	+	x	925 - 1011 i	+	+
FR	5.9	180 - 180 p	+	+	6500	+	+			
GR										
HU	20.6	3600 - 5500 p	+	+	12718	+	+			
IT	6.5	85 - 100 p	+	+	14000	+	x	6409 - 7110 i	+	+
LT	0.5	15 - 30 p	+	x	300	+	x			
LU								10 - 15 i	+	+
LV	0.6	91 - 111 p	+	x	357	+	+			
NL	1.3	86 - 160 p	+	+	2000	+	+	2300 - 2800 i	+	+
PL		144 - 205 p	+	x		x	x			
RO	5.4	210 - 365 p	x	+	4800	x	x	1000 - 3000 i	+	x
SI								350 - 1200 i	+	+
SK	0.5	70 - 110 p	+	+	400	0	+			
UK		0 - 1 p	+	+	200	+	+			

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱ

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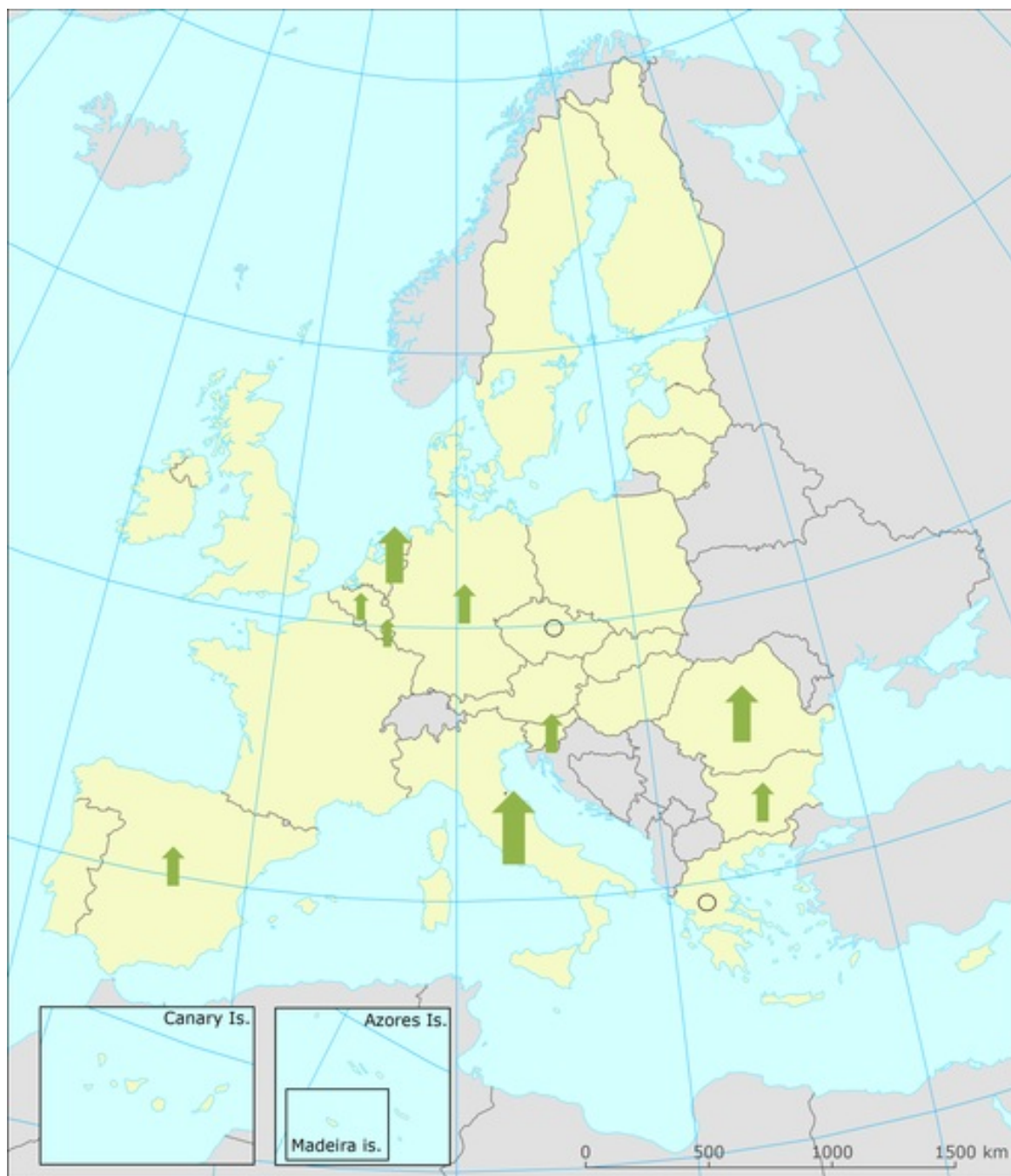
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Casmerodius albus albus

W, C & SE Europe/Black Sea & Mediterranean sub-population

Short-term winter population trend



Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the 20 most important pressures and threats using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal (http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Reporting/Article_12/reference_portal). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. The table below only contains information from Member States, where a species triggers SPA classification. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance', the table below only shows pressures and threats classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten pressures and threats reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures and threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	30
F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture	20
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	10
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	10
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	10
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	10
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	10

Proportion of population covered by the Natura 2000 network

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report the size of a species population occurring within the Natura 2000 network. The percentage of species population covered by the network was estimated by comparing the population size within the network and the total population size.

Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites

MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
AT	breeding	YES	100
BE	winter	YES	70.53
BG	breeding	YES	100
BG	winter	YES	70.71
DE	winter	YES	58.02
ES	breeding	YES	19.23
ES	winter	YES	36.71
FR	breeding	NO	
HU	breeding	YES	89.41
IT	breeding	YES	100
IT	winter	YES	60.72
LT	breeding	YES	51.64

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MS/territory	season	SPA trigger	% coverage
LU	winter	NO	
LV	breeding	YES	99.45
NL	breeding	YES	97.9
NL	winter	YES	10.52
PL	breeding	YES	75.4
RO	breeding	YES	100
RO	winter	YES	84.89
SI	winter	YES	38.73
SK	breeding	YES	100
UK	breeding	NO	

See the endnotes for more informationⁱⁱⁱ

Most frequently reported conservation measures

For the bird species triggering SPA classification Member States were asked to report up to 20 conservation measures being implemented for this species using an agreed list which can be found on the Article 12 Reference Portal. Member States were further requested to highlight up to five most important ('highly important') measures; the table below only shows measures classed as 'high', for many species there were less than ten measures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' conservation measures

Code	Measure	Frequency
6.1	Establish protected areas/sites	37
6.3	Legal protection of habitats and species	30
4.2	Restoring/improving the hydrological regime	13
4.0	Other wetland-related measures	10
2.1	Maintaining grasslands and other open habitats	7
6.2	Establishing wilderness areas/ allowing succession	3

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 12 of the Birds Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2008-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at: <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article12/summary?period=1&subject=A698> .

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ⁱ **Assessment of status at the European level:** The EU assessments of birds population status was made by the European Red List of Birds Consortium (under contract with the European Commission)

The EU27 population trends were assessed using these categories: '+' Increasing, '0' Stable, 'F' Fluctuating, '-' Decreasing, 'xu' Uncertain and 'x' Unknown. The breeding population size is estimated in majority of the cases as 'p' number of pairs. Alternative population units used are: 'males' number of males, 'i' number of individuals, 'cmales' number of calling males and 'bfem' number of breeding females. The winter population size is estimated as number of individuals.

ⁱⁱ **Species trends at the Member State level:** The percentage of the EU27 species population occurring in the Member States (% in EU27) is calculated based on the population size reported by the Member States.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Percentage of coverage by Natura 2000 sites:** In some cases the population size within the Natura 2000 network has been estimated using a different methodology to the estimate of overall population size and this can lead to percentage covers greater than 100%. In such case the value has been given as 100% and highlighted with an asterisk (*). The value 'x' indicates that the Member State has not reported the species population and/or the coverage by Natura 2000. No information is available for Greece and for non-Annex I species in the Czech Republic.