

Name:**Starling***Sturnus vulgaris***UK status:**

Rapid recent decline. RSPB Red Listed.

London status:

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Protected status:

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.

Relevant London HAPs:

All

Citation:

A sharp decline to less than half the UK breeding population of 25 years ago has led to concern for the long-term future of this common and much-loved bird. Although most recent national monitoring has not addressed the bird's status in urban areas, repeat surveys at significant sites in central London have revealed trends comparable with the general situation. Recently, the species' European status has been reviewed as unfavourable. Causes for the decline are unclear, although climatic change may be a factor and particularly in urban situations, alterations to the building stock will result in disturbance and loss of breeding sites. Losses in the overall extent and potential yield of foraging habitat (especially permanent pasture) are likely to be having adverse effects on rural populations.



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Conservation priorities:

- Winter roost size and movements surveys
- Breeding population monitoring
- Green Belt development control

References:

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