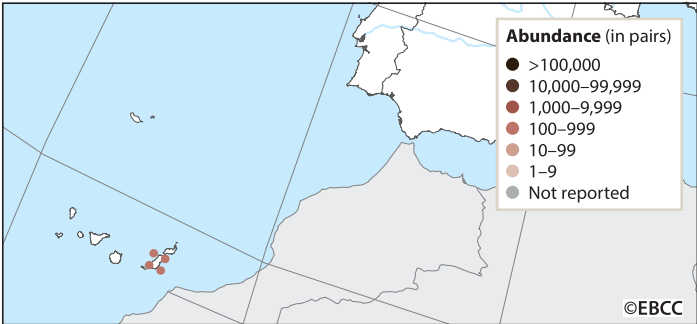
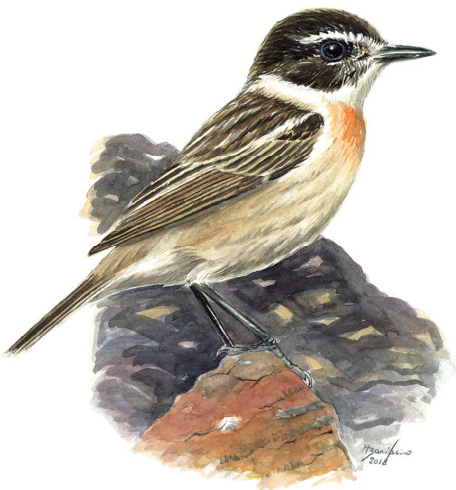


*Saxicola dacotiae*



Fuerteventura Stonechat

The Fuerteventura Stonechat is endemic to the Canary Islands with two subspecies recognised, the nominate and extant *dacotiae* occurring only on Fuerteventura, and the extinct *murielae*, which inhabited the small islets of Alegranza and Montaña Clara. Formerly considered a subspecies of the Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*, molecular studies have confirmed that they are sister species (Illera *et al.* 2008b).

The species is common all over Fuerteventura. It is associated with stony and ravine habitats, avoiding recent lava fields and sandy habitats, which can also be occupied, but at lower density (Seoane *et al.* 2010). Stonechats select high, steep terrain, which supports the largest invertebrate abundances, and avoid lower and flatter areas, which are the most common zones on Fuerteventura (Illera 2001, Seoane *et al.* 2010). The species shows year-round site-fidelity, adjusting its life cycle to the temporal variability of habitat quality rather than assessing and responding to the spatial variability of habitat quality (Illera & Díaz 2008).

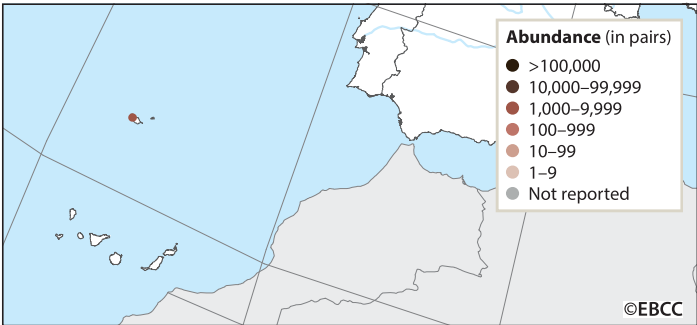
The population size was estimated at 13,376–15,492 individuals (Seoane *et al.* 2010). There is no information about population trends, and a new estimation of its population size is needed. However, overgrazing by livestock and destruction or alteration of optimal habitats due to extensive construction works are still present in Fuerteventura and are real threats to the conservation of the species.

The current absence from nearby islands could be explained by the lower quality of habitat characteristics needed for foraging and breeding. Geological and paleoclimatic processes, as well as past human impact, provoked the extinction of former populations on nearby islands and islets (Illera *et al.* 2006).

Juan Carlos Illera

Illustration: Marco Bonifacino

*Regulus madeirensis*



Madeira Firecrest

Once considered conspecific with the Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*, nowadays the Madeira Firecrest is classified as an endemic species of Madeira [HBW]. Its breeding range is found in a single 50-km square including the whole island of Madeira, where it is very common across all areas with suitable habitat. There are references of breeding birds in Porto Santo, where the species should be considered only an occasional breeder. It occupies a wide range of habitats, from indigenous and exotic forests to rural and agricultural areas. However, it prefers high-altitude areas of transitional laurel forest, where heather is abundant (Oliveira & Menezes 2004b). It is absent or rare in the lower S parts of the island, with more anthropogenic habitat and dry areas, and more common in the N part, where most of the preferred habitats occur.

The breeding range has not changed at the 50-km scale since EBBA1, and even at a fine scale there are no significant changes in distribution (Equipa Atlas 2013). Although there are no accurate estimates, the population is probably larger than 10,000 individuals (Equipa Atlas 2013). Comparisons with estimates of 50,000–100,000 individuals [ERL] show that these numbers are far from precise and just give an idea of the population's conservation status. A positive trend has been reported [ERL], but there is no field evidence to support this information. A more conservative approach should be adopted and the population considered stable.

The Madeira Firecrest has a favourable conservation status of Least Concern [ERL] and thus, there are no specific conservation actions aimed at this species. However, it occurs mainly in areas included in full or partial nature reserves of the Parque Natural da Madeira and is therefore well protected.

Paulo Oliveira

Illustration: Martina Nacházellová