

## Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) in Finland

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KORHONEN J, TIAINEN J 2017: Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) in Finland. WhinCHAT 1, 41.

There are no conservation projects at all going on for the whinchat, because the species is not thought to be threatened in Finland. Actually, nobody knows the exact situation of whinchat in Finland today, as there is no active research particularly of this species. Anyway, whinchat was regarded as a species of least concern (LC) in the latest evaluation of Red List of Finnish Bird Species in 2015 (TIAINEN et al. 2016).

Yearly total numbers of whinchats ringed in Finland are currently very low indeed. For example, only 78 individuals were ringed in 2016. <https://rengastus.helsinki.fi/tuloksia/Rengastus/laji/SAXRUB>

During eleven years in 1980–1993 more than thousand nestlings were ringed yearly. More than 2000 nestlings in the top year 1980 alone! Total numbers of ringed whinchats have fallen dramatically since 1993. However, this mainly reflects the activity of bird ringers, not a drastic crash of breeding population of whinchat in Finland. (VALKAMA et al. 2014). On the other hand, Väisänen and Lehikoinen (2013) showed that the Finnish population of whinchat declined to one third especially in Southern Finland in 1980–2010. This result was based on line transect censuses, point counts and mapping censuses in all habitats.

Interestingly, with his colleagues Juha Tiainen, senior scientist at the National Resources Institute Finland, has shown whinchat populations to remain fairly stable in representative monitoring areas (annual average

number of mapping census plots 60 with a total area of 7000 ha) in cultivated land in Southern Finland in 2001–2011 (TIAINEN et al. 2012).

### Literature

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