

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION  
ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Porzana pusilla intermedia in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.1. Classis                  | Aves   |
| 1.2. Ordo                     | Gruiformes   |
| 1.3. Familia                  | Rallidae   |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Porzana pusilla</u> (Pallas) 1776<br>ssp. <u>intermedia</u> |
| 1.5. Common names             |  |
| English:                      | Baillon's Crake  |
| Spanish:                      | Polluela Chica   |
| French:                       | Marouette de Baillon   |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Three subspecies occur, but one of these (obscura of Africa south of the Sahara and Madagascar) appears to be largely sedentary. P. p. intermedia breeds widely in western Europe, North Africa and the Middle East east to Iran, and apparently winters widely in subsaharan Africa, but its distribution there is poorly known because of overlap with resident obscura. The nominate race is largely extralimital, breeding from the Ukraine and Iran east across Asia to China and Japan, and wintering widely in southern Asia.

2.2. Population

Only one migratory population is relevant.  
- Entire population (intermedia): In the range 10,000-100,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe is between 4,000 and 9,000 pairs. Little information is available on trends, but it appears that the species was more numerous in the Western Palearctic in the 19th century. In Hungary, there has been a marked decline during the present century due to wetland drainage (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

2.3. Habitat

Inhabits freshwater marshes, especially floodlands, with not too tall or too dense stands of sedges (Carex), rushes (Juncus), spike-rushes (Eleocharis), bulrushes (Scirpus) and marsh grasses; generally avoids dense, tall stands of reeds. In Africa, also occurs on seasonally inundated grassland (Cramp & Simmons 1980; Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

## 2.4. Migrations

Migratory, but winter distribution imperfectly known because of secretive behaviour. The main winter quarters of Western Palearctic breeders are believed to be in subsaharan Africa, where the birds are indistinguishable (except in the hand) from resident breeding populations. Migrants occur in spring and autumn throughout the Mediterranean Basin and in Asia Minor, and there is considerable evidence of trans-Saharan migration. Small numbers apparently winter in Egypt, Israel and Iraq (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

## 3. Threat data

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

A general decline in numbers in Europe during the present century is undoubtedly attributable to the widespread drainage and reclamation of freshwater wetlands almost throughout the species' breeding range.

### 3.3. Indirect threats

Possibly at risk from the contamination of wetlands with pesticides and other chemicals, but details are lacking.

### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

### 3.5. National and international utilization

None known.

## 4. Protection status and needs

### 4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. Fully protected under national legislation in Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Tunisia; partially protected as a game species in Benin, the Central African Republic and Morocco; partially protected in Rwanda.

### 4.2. International protection status

Porzana pusilla is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

Porzana pusilla intermedia is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a subspecies which is thought to number less than 100,000 individuals and appears to be declining throughout all or a large part of its range. See attached note on additional protection needs for species and populations with an unfavourable conservation status.

#### 5. **Range States**

See attached table.

#### 6. **Comments from Range States**

#### 7. **Additional remarks**

#### 8. **References**

- Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. (eds). (1980). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.2: Hawks to Bustards. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
- Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. (1993). Waterfowl Population Estimates. Draft report presented at the Fifth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, 9-16 June 1993, Kushiro, Japan. IWRB, Slimbridge.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Porzana pusilla intermedia</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population of <i>intermedia</i>		
State	Pop.	Status
Algeria	a	P
Angola	a	?
Austria	a	S
Bahrain	a	Pw?
Belgium	a	S
Benin	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Bulgaria	a	S
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Congo	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Djibouti	a	?
Egypt	a	W
Equatorial Guinea	a	?
Ethiopia	a	?
France	a	S
Gabon	a	?
Gambia	a	?
Ghana	a	?
Greece	a	S
Guinea	a	?
Guinea-Bissau	a	?
Hungary	a	S
Israel	a	Pw
Jordan	a	S
Kenya	a	?
Kuwait	a	P
Lesotho	a	?
Libya	a	P

Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mauritania	a	?
Morocco	a	S
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Netherlands	a	S
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Portugal	a	S
Qatar	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
Saudi Arabia	a	?
Senegal	a	W
Sierra Leone	a	?
Somalia	a	W
South Africa	a	?
Spain	a	Sr
Sudan	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Switzerland	a	S
Tanzania	a	?
Togo	a	?
Turkey	a	?
Uganda	a	?
United Arab Emirates	a	?
Yugoslavia	a	S
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	a	?
Zimbabwe	a	?

Key to Status	
S/s Breeding summer visitor	R/r Resident
W/w Winter visitor	V Vagrant
P/p Passage migrant	? Status uncertain
Upper case = primary status Lower case = secondary status	