

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Gallinula chloropus chloropus (Western Palearctic populations) 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>Gallinula chloropus</u> (Linnaeus) 1758 ssp. <u>chloropus</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Common Moorhen
Spanish:	Polla de Agua
French:	Poule d'eau

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Four subspecies occur, but three of these appear to be sedentary (correiana of the Azores, meridionalis of Africa south of the Sahara, and pyrrhorhoa of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius). The nominate race breeds widely across West Eurasia and North Africa, and is migratory in the northern and eastern parts of its range, wintering south to Iberia, the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East, and less commonly in subsaharan Africa from Senegal to Chad and Sudan (south to 17°N). No discrete populations are identifiable.

2.2. Population

Two main groups are recognized.

- European/North African breeders (wintering to subsaharan Africa): Over 2,000,000; stable.

- West Asian breeders (wintering to Arabia): In the range 100,000-1,000,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very common throughout much of its range, but very difficult to census. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe is between 750,000 and 1,500,000 pairs. Both populations appear to be more or less stable, although in the northern parts of the range, the numbers fluctuate markedly due to hard winters. Some increase has been reported in Fenno-Scandia and the British Isles, especially in Scotland (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide range of freshwater wetland habitats, such as marshes and swamps, margins of lakes, ponds, sewage farms, rivers, streams,

canals and ditches; occasionally in brackish ponds and marshes, but avoids saline waters. Prefers waters which are sheltered by woodland or tall emergent plants, and generally avoids wide open stretches of water exposed to wind and wave action. Commonly occurs close to human habitation, and often on tiny artificial wetlands such as farmyard ponds and garden ponds (Cramp & Simmons 1980; Ripley 1977).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory in the northern and eastern parts of its range; a partial migrant over much of its range in West Europe, sedentary or dispersive in the south and extreme west. North and East European breeders winter south to Iberia, the Balkans and North Africa, and less commonly in subsaharan Africa from Senegal to Chad and Sudan (south to 17⁰N). Significant numbers of birds, mainly immatures, reach Senegal in winter, and the Western Palearctic subspecies has also been recorded in Mali, Niger, Chad and Sudan. Most birds from Northwest Europe migrate southwest in autumn, with many ringing recoveries in France and Spain; birds from Central Europe migrate south or southeast to Italy and the Balkans. Almost entirely a summer visitor to the republics of the former U.S.S.R., wintering only in Transcaucasia and locally in Tadzhikistan and Turkmenistan. West Siberian breeders probably winter mainly in the Middle East (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

The species is legally hunted in many countries, including France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom within the EEC. The numbers taken would appear to be relatively small, and no problems of over-harvesting have been reported.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands throughout the species' range have undoubtedly caused some local declines. However, the species is highly adaptable to man-made wetlands such as gravel pits, sewage treatment ponds, ornamental lakes, stock ponds, fish ponds, rice cultivation and irrigation ditches, and has benefitted in many areas from the proliferation of these artificial wetlands.

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

Legally hunted as a game species in many parts of its range.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Within the EEC, protected under national legislation in Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Spain; a game species for which an open season is established in France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The species is classified as a game species in Belgium, but no open season has been established in recent years. Fully protected under national legislation in Gambia and Mauritania; partially protected as a game species in Burkina Faso, Mali, Morocco and Tunisia.

4.2. International protection status

Gallinula chloropus is listed in Appendix III (protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), and is also listed in Annex II/2 of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

4.3. Additional protection needs

The populations in question are considered to have a favourable conservation status, and are not in need of any additional special protection measures at the present time.

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.

Taxon: <i>Gallinula chloropus chloropus</i>		
Population		
(a) Europe/North & West Africa		
(b) West Asia		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	Rw
Algeria	a	Wr
Armenia	a	Srw
"	b	Srw
Austria	a	Swr
Azerbaijan	b	Swr
Bahrain	b	Wr
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	Wrs
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	Srw
Bulgaria	a	Srw
Burkina Faso	a	W
Chad	a	Wr
Croatia	a	Srw
Cyprus	a	P
Czech Republic	a	S
Denmark	a	Swr
Egypt	a	Wr
Estonia	a	S
Ethiopia	a	W
Finland	a	S
France	a	Srw
Gambia	a	W
Georgia	a	S
Germany	a	Swr
Greece	a	Wr
Hungary	a	S
Iran	b	Wrs
Iraq	b	Wr
Ireland	a	Wr
Israel	a	Wr
Italy	a	Wr

Jordan	a	Wr
Kazakhstan	b	S
Kuwait	b	Wr
Latvia	a	S
Lebanon	a	Wr
Libya	a	Wr
Liechtenstein	a	R
Lithuania	a	S
Macedonia	a	Srw
Mali	a	W
Moldova	a	S
Morocco	a	Wr
Netherlands	a	Wrs
Niger	a	W
Norway	a	Swr
Poland	a	Swr
Portugal	a	Wr
Qatar	b	Wr
Romania	a	Srw
Russian Federation	a	S
San Marino	a	R
Saudi Arabia	b	Wr
Senegal	a	W
Slovakia	a	S
Slovenia	a	Srw
Spain	a	Wrs
Sudan	a	W
Sweden	a	Swr
Switzerland	a	Wrs
Syria	a	Wr
Tunisia	a	Wr
Turkey	a	Wsr
"	b	Wsr
Turkmenistan	b	Srw
Ukraine	a	S
United Arab Emirates	b	W
United Kingdom	a	Wr
Uzbekistan	b	S

Yemen	b	Wr
Yugoslavia	a	Srw

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	