

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Pluvianus aegyptius aegyptius in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Charadriiformes
1.3. Familia	Glareolidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Pluvianus aegyptius</u> (Linnaeus) 1758 ssp. <u>aegyptius</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Egyptian Plover
Spanish:	Pluvial de Egipto
French:	Pluvian d'Egypte

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies have been described: P. a. aegyptius from Senegal to lower Egypt and northern Zaire; and P. a. angolae in northern Angola and western Zaire. The nominate subspecies is to some extent a rains migrant; angolae appears to be mainly sedentary.

2.2. Population

Only one migratory population is recognized.

- Entire population of aegyptius: Unknown (over 10,000); apparently stable.

Almost no information is available on numbers. Rare to abundant according to local rather than regional conditions; flocks of up to 60 have been recorded outside the breeding season (Urban et al. 1986). Formerly abundant along the Nile in northern Sudan and Egypt, but extinct there since the early 20th century. However, there has been no evidence of a decline further south. The only substantial numbers recorded during the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993 were 54 in Niger and 20 in Sudan (Taylor 1993).

2.3. Habitat

During the breeding season, confined to the immediate vicinity of rivers, especially those with sand, silt and gravel bars, but at other times occasionally found around lakes or ponds; occurs on the coast only where rivers reach the sea. Forages mostly above the water-line on islands in rivers or along river banks (Urban et al. 1986).

## 2.4. Migrations

P. a. aegyptius makes irregular movements in response to changes in water level, and is also to some extent a rains migrant, moving north during the rainy season. It appears to be a seasonal migrant in Nigeria, leaving southern rivers in the wet season (June to October) and appearing in peak numbers in northern areas at this time. Similar movements have been noted in Chad, where it moves north during the wet season to temporary wetlands in the Sahel zone. Birds ringed in Ethiopia have been recovered up to 840 km away in Sudan, and the species has occurred as a vagrant in the Canary Islands, the Jordan Valley and Libya (Urban et al. 1986), indicating that it will occasionally undertake long-distance movements (Urban et al. 1986).

## 3. **Threat data**

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Eggs and chicks are sometimes destroyed when rising river levels flood the nesting islands (Urban et al. 1968). The reasons for the disappearance of the species from the Nile Valley in Egypt and northern Sudan are not known, but seem likely to be related to an increase in human population and boat traffic along this busy waterway, and associated increased disturbance at the birds' nesting sites on sand banks.

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

Some suitable habitat must have been lost as a result of the creation of dams on some of the major rivers within the species' range.

### 3.3. Indirect threats

Possibly at risk from the contamination of rivers 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

Fully protected under national legislation in Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Benin and Burkina Faso; partially protected in Rwanda.

### 4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The population in question is considered to have a favourable conservation status, and is 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). (1983). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.3: Waders to Gulls. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Hayman, P., Marchant, J. & Prater, T. (1986). Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world. Croom Helm, London & Sydney.
- Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Pluvianus aegyptius aegyptius</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population of <i>aegyptius</i>		
State	Pop.	Status
Benin	a	Rw
Burkina Faso	a	Sr
Cameroon	a	Rws
Central African Republic	a	Wr
Chad	a	Sr
Cote d'Ivoire	a	Rw
Egypt	a	?w
Ethiopia	a	Rws
Gambia	a	Sr
Ghana	a	Rw
Guinea	a	Rw
Guinea-Bissau	a	Rs
Israel	a	V
Kenya	a	Wr
Liberia	a	Rw
Libya	a	V
Mali	a	Sr
Niger	a	Sr
Nigeria	a	Rws
Senegal	a	Sr
Sierra Leone	a	Rw
Sudan	a	Rws
Togo	a	Rw
Uganda	a	Wr
Zaire	a	Wr

  

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	