

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Gavia arctica (subspecies G. a. arctica and G. a. suschkini) in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Gaviiformes
1.3. Familia	Gaviidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Gavia arctica</u> (Linnaeus) 1758 ssp. <u>arctica</u> and <u>suschkini</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Black-throated Diver
Spanish:	Colimbo Artico
French:	Plongeon arctique

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies occur. The nominate race breeds in northern Europe and northern Siberia east to the Lena River. Western populations (east at least as far as the Taymyr Peninsula) winter in west and south Europe, south to northwest Africa (scarce) and east to the Black Sea; the central Asian form suschkini (often lumped with arctica) breeds in southwestern Siberia and winters in Turkmenistan and the Caspian Region.

2.2. Population

Two populations are recognized.
- West Eurasian arctica: 120,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- suschkini (Central Asia, entire population): In the range 10,000-25,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Population still large, but generally decreasing throughout south of range in North America and perhaps also in Eurasia (del Hoyo et al. 1992). Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe excluding Russia is currently between 17,000 and 29,000 pairs. The wintering population in British waters is estimated at 1,300 birds; that in six West European countries at 3,350. A small number of birds winter on large lakes in Central Europe, e.g. 76 were recorded during the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census of 1992 (Rose 1992). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds on fairly large, deep, freshwater lakes, preferably with islets; more typically in the taiga and boreal zone, and less in the Arctic

tundra than G. stellata. Largely marine outside the breeding season, wintering mainly in inshore waters along sheltered coasts, but occasionally also on large, deep freshwater lakes inland, e.g. in central Europe (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory and dispersive; generally moves southwards and towards the sea after breeding, shunning ice-covered water; often forms flocks of up to about 50 birds.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Particularly sensitive to human disturbance, and reproductive output noticeably lower in areas much frequented by humans. Outside the breeding season, highly vulnerable to oil spills at sea, especially near rich fishing grounds where birds may concentrate in winter. Some mortality also occurs at sea and on larger lakes due to drowning in fishing nets set close inshore (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Most breeding sites are in relatively remote northern areas where loss of wetland habitat does not as yet pose a serious threat. The species is affected in places by alterations in water level, and less directly by some modifications of habitat, e.g. afforestation with conifers in Scotland. Also suffers from acidification of lakes due to wind-borne pollution from industrial areas and contamination of lakes with heavy metals in parts of northern Europe (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.3. Indirect threats

More suitable nesting habitat is being lost due to increased human disturbance than to actual destruction, as more and more northern lakes are being developed for outdoor recreation. The increasing use of northern lakes as recreational sites for water sports is particularly harmful, as divers are very sensitive to any form of intrusion in their territories. Increasing human occupation is also frequently associated with an increase in predators such as gulls, crows and some mammals, and these may have a negative effect on the breeding success of divers (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting occurs, but as divers are solitary nesters and spend much of the year at sea, the level of persecution is probably very low. Some birds are shot by fishermen who accuse them of taking large quantities of fish fry and thus reducing fish stocks (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. All Gaviidae are partially protected as game species in Morocco.

4.2. International protection status

Gavia arctica 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

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). (1977). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.1: Ostrich to Ducks. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- del Hoyo, J., Elliott A. & Sargatal, J. (eds). (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Volume 1: Ostrich to Ducks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
- Rose, P.M. (1992). Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- 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>Gavia arctica</i> (ssp <i>arctica</i> & <i>suschkini</i>)		
Population		
(a) W Siberia/NW Europe (ssp <i>arctica</i>)		
(b) W Siberia/Caspian (ssp <i>suschkini</i>)		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	W
Algeria	a	W
Armenia	b	W
Austria	a	V
Azerbaijan	b	W
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	W
Bulgaria	a	W
Croatia	a	W
Denmark	a	W
Estonia	a	S
Finland	a	S
France	a	W
Georgia	a	W
Germany	a	W
Greece	a	W
Hungary	a	W
Iran	b	W
Ireland	a	V
Italy	a	W
Kazakhstan	b	Sw
Latvia	a	S
Lithuania	a	S
Luxembourg	a	V
Morocco	a	W
Netherlands	a	W
Norway	a	Ws
Romania	a	W
Russian Federation	a	Sw
"	b	Sw
Slovenia	a	W

Spain	a	W
Sweden	a	Sw
Switzerland	a	W
Turkey	a	W
Turkmenistan	b	W
Ukraine	a	W
United Kingdom	a	Ws
Yugoslavia	a	W

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	