

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 adamsii (Western Palearctic population) 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 adamsii</u> (Gray) 1859 |
|                               | Monotypic                        |
| 1.5. Common names             |                                  |
| English:                      | White-billed Diver               |
| Spanish:                      | Colimbo de Adams                 |
| French:                       | Plongeon a bec blanc             |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Almost circumpolar; breeds mainly along the coasts of the Arctic Ocean as far north as 78°N. The population breeding in north European Russia winters west along the north coast of Norway and rarely southwest to the North Sea (to about 50°N).

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.

- Northeast Europe: Probably less than 10,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very little is known about numbers, although the species is rather scarce in the western part of its Palearctic range. G. adamsii is almost certainly the least numerous of the four species of divers. However, most of the breeding areas are very remote, and it seems unlikely that populations have declined significantly in recent times (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.3. Habitat

Breeds mostly on freshwater pools and lakes on open tundra; also on low-lying Arctic coasts, rivers and estuaries; generally avoids forested areas. Exclusively marine outside the breeding season, wintering on inshore waters along sheltered coasts (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory, generally moving westwards and towards the sea after breeding, and shunning ice-covered waters.

### 3. Threat data

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

Outside the breeding season, highly vulnerable to oil spills at sea. Wintering birds might also be subject to pollution from heavy metals, and there is probably some mortality through drowning in fishing nets (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

There has probably been little loss of wetland habitat in the species' remote Arctic breeding grounds.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

Most of the breeding areas are remote and little disturbed by human activities. Thus the species is less likely to have suffered from human disturbance at its nesting sites than other divers (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

#### 3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

#### 3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting may occur, but the level of persecution is probably very low.

### 4. Protection status and needs

#### 4.1. National protection status

No information.

#### 4.2. International protection status

Gavia adamsii is listed in Appendix II (strictly protected fauna) of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention).

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

So little is known about the size and trends of the population of this species that its conservation requirements cannot yet be established (del Hoyo et al. 1992). 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. & 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 adamsii</i>		
Population		
(a) NE Europe		
State	Pop.	Status
Austria	a	V
Denmark	a	V
Germany	a	V
Netherlands	a	V
Norway	a	W <sub>s</sub>
Poland	a	V
Russian Federation	a	Sw
Sweden	a	V
United Kingdom	a	V
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		