

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 parva parva 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 parva</u> (Scopoli) 1769 ssp. <u>parva</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Little Crake
Spanish:	Polluela Bastarda
French:	Marouette poussin

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Only the nominate subspecies occurs. This breeds widely at temperate latitudes in West Eurasia and probably winters widely in Africa south of the Sahara from Senegal and Ethiopia south at least to Zambia, despite the paucity of records. The subspecies illustris of Central and Southern Asia is extralimital.

2.2. Population

Only one population is recognized.  
- Entire population (parva): Unknown (over 25,000).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe excluding Russia is between 15,000 and 22,000 pairs; the population in Russia is given as between 10,000 and 100,000 pairs. Little information is available on trends. The species has apparently increased in the Netherlands since 1942. Breeding was first proven in the former Czechoslovakia in 1945, with numbers increasing to 1960, then probably decreasing. In Hungary, the species has increased and spread with the introduction of rice cultivation and expansion of fish-ponds.

2.3. Habitat

Confined to freshwater habitats, frequenting marshes and swamps with tall emergent aquatic plants such as bulrush (Scirpus), reedmace (Typha), sedges (Carex) and rank grasses; sometimes on the margins of lakes and rivers, or in flooded woodland. In Africa, also occurs on seasonally inundated grassland. Prefers more aquatic habitats than P. porzana, and often walks out onto floating aquatic vegetation to feed (Cramp & Simmons 1980; Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

## 2.4. Migrations

Migratory, but winter distribution imperfectly known because of secretive behaviour. The normal winter range for Western Palearctic breeders is believed to be in the Mediterranean Basin (small numbers), northeast and East Africa, south occasionally to Zambia. Small numbers apparently also winter in the Arabian Peninsula. There are very few records from West Africa south of the Sahara, except in Senegal, but this paucity of records is probably due to poor observer coverage, as the species is fairly common on passage in the Maghreb and Libya (Cramp & Simmons 1980). Passage across the Mediterranean is more marked in spring than in autumn. Apparently migrates singly, and concentrations of birds are rarely observed.

## 3. Threat data

### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands throughout the species' range have undoubtedly caused some local declines. However, the introduction of rice cultivation and expansion in fish ponds in some parts of Central Europe seem to have benefitted the species, and in these areas, at least, it may not be as severely affected by wetland drainage and reclamation as other Porzana species (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

### 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, 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 parva 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 parva parva is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. Although there have been no reports of any major decline in numbers, the natural habitat of the species is under threat in much 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.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Porzana parva parva</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Austria	a	S
Bahrain	a	Pw?
Belarus	a	S
Benin	a	?
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	S
Bulgaria	a	S
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Congo	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Croatia	a	S
Czech Republic	a	S
Djibouti	a	?
Egypt	a	W
Equatorial Guinea	a	?
Estonia	a	S
Ethiopia	a	W
France	a	S
Gabon	a	?
Gambia	a	?
Germany	a	S
Ghana	a	?
Greece	a	S
Guinea	a	?
Guinea-Bissau	a	?
Hungary	a	S
Israel	a	W
Kazakhstan	a	S
Kenya	a	?
Kuwait	a	P

Latvia	a	S
Liberia	a	?
Lithuania	a	S
Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mauritania	a	?
Morocco	a	W
Mozambique	a	?
Netherlands	a	S
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Poland	a	S
Portugal	a	W
Romania	a	S
Russian Federation	a	S
Rwanda	a	?
Saudi Arabia	a	P
Senegal	a	W
Sierra Leone	a	?
Slovakia	a	S
Slovenia	a	S
Somalia	a	?
Spain	a	Sr
Sudan	a	W
Togo	a	?
Turkmenistan	a	S
Uganda	a	?
Ukraine	a	S
Uzbekistan	a	S
Yugoslavia	a	S
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	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	