

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Sarothrura boehmi 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>Sarothrura boehmi</u> Reichenow 1900 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Streaky-breasted Flufftail
Spanish:	-
French:	Rale de Bohm

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Breeds from Cameroon, Zaire and Kenya to eastern Angola, southern Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Southern breeders are migratory, retreating towards the equator during the dry season.

2.2. Population

No discrete populations are identifiable.  
- Entire population: Unknown; probably over 10,000.

Usually uncommon, but may be locally numerous, e.g. at least 100 were heard calling on a large grass plain in Zambia (Urban et al. 1986). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in areas of short grass that are temporarily inundated during the rains, and also in short-grass marshes at the edges of rivers, dambos and swamps (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

An intra-African migrant. In contrast to the flight of most rails, S. boehmi is a strong flyer and there is evidence that it is migratory, at least in the southern part of its range. It apparently retreats towards equatorial regions during the dry season, when the breeding habitat is liable to be burned. All records from the southern part of the range (Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe) are during the rainy season, between December and March (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

### 3. Threat data

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

There is some evidence of desertion of nests and loss of eggs following discovery or disturbance by humans (Urban et al. 1986).

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread destruction of grassy plains and marshes through over-grazing by domestic livestock or conversion to agricultural land poses the principal threat to the species.

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

The widespread application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals may be having a harmful effect on some populations.

#### 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 Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania; partially protected in the Central African Republic and Rwanda.

#### 4.2. International protection status

None known.

#### 4.3. Additional protection needs

Sarothrura boehmi is listed in the category 'Vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a species for which no numerical data are available but which appears to be scarce throughout its range and which is dependent on a habitat type which is widely under threat. 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**

- 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>Sarothrura boehmi</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	S
Cameroon	a	Wr
Equatorial Guinea	a	Wr
Gabon	a	Wr
Kenya	a	Wr
Malawi	a	S
Mozambique	a	S
Tanzania	a	S
Zaire	a	Srw
Zambia	a	S
Zimbabwe	a	S
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		