

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis (Western Palearctic populations) in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Aves
1.2. Ordo	Podicipediformes
1.3. Familia	Podicipedidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Podiceps nigricollis</u> Brehm 1831 ssp. <u>nigricollis</u>
1.5. Common names	
English:	Black-necked Grebe
Spanish:	Zampullin Cuellinegro
French:	Grebe a cou noir

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies occur. The nominate subspecies breeds patchily across temperate and southern Europe to west-central Asia and winters south to North Africa and the Persian Gulf. P. n. gurneyi has a fragmented distribution in Africa from Ethiopia and southern Angola to South Africa; most populations appear to be sedentary or nomadic, but the movements are poorly understood.

2.2. Population

Two main wintering groups of P. n. nigricollis are recognized.

- Southwest Europe/Mediterranean/Black Sea (European breeders): 100,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Southwest Asia/South Asia (Caspian Region & Arabian Peninsula to NW India; West-central Asian breeders): At least 25,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).

Widespread and locally abundant. In Europe, it has expanded north and west in the last 100 years, colonizing most of the central and west of the continent. It has been claimed that this expansion is due to invasions of birds from the east following desiccation of lakes in the steppe areas around the Caspian Sea, but hard evidence is lacking. In contrast, the species is declining in the south of its range in the Western Palearctic, e.g. in Italy, Spain and especially North Africa, where it is not known to have bred in recent years (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census of 1992, 1,440 were recorded wintering on lakes in Central Europe (Rose 1992). It remains abundant in parts of Southwest Asia, with very large numbers occurring in winter in the South Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf, and appears to be increasing in some areas, especially in the east of its

wintering range. In the 1970s, the wintering population in Iran was estimated at 3,500-4,500 birds (Scott 1992).

2.3. Habitat

Generally breeds on small, shallow, highly eutrophic water bodies, with lush vegetation and typically with stretches of open water; these include lakes, ponds, marshes, fish ponds, sewage farms and quiet river backwaters. The species is rather erratic, readily moving into newly flooded areas, but also abandoning many sites after only a few years. Outside the breeding season, moves to open lakes, generally with brackish to saline water, or sheltered coastal sites such as estuaries, bays and channels (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

P. n. nigricollis is mainly migratory and dispersive, although some populations in the south of the range are more or less sedentary. Highly gregarious on migration and in winter, forming concentrations of many thousands in parts of Southwest Asia (e.g. at Lake Uromiyeh and in the South Caspian Sea in Iran). Much of the movement is apparently nocturnal, although diurnal migration has also been recorded (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Vulnerable to oil pollution in coastal waters, especially in the Persian Gulf where this was one of the main sufferers of a massive oil slick during the Gulf War in early 1991. Over 17% of the birds brought into recovery centres were of this species, and the total mortality may have exceeded 10,000 birds (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Local declines have occurred as a result of wetland loss and degradation. However, the species has also benefitted locally from the creation of artificial wetlands.

3.3. Indirect threats

Declines in some areas have been attributed to increased human disturbance, especially recreational activities on breeding lakes (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting occurs, especially in Southwest Asia (e.g. in the South Caspian Region) but the numbers taken are likely to be small and insignificant.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. In Africa, protected under national legislation in Morocco and Tunisia.

4.2. International protection status

Podiceps nigricollis 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

The populations in question are considered to have a favourable conservation status, and are 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

The population of P. nigricollis breeding in western Asia and wintering south to the Arabian Peninsula and northwest India is also included in the Bonn Convention Draft Agreement on the Conservation of Asian-Australasian Migratory Waterbirds, as a substantial proportion of the population spends a part of its annual cycle in the Asian-Australasian Region.

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.
- Scott, D.A. (1992). Summary of Waterfowl Counts in Iran in the 1970s. Unpublished manuscript on file at IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.

Taxon: <i>Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis</i>		
Population		
(a) SW Europe/Mediterranean/Black Sea		
(b) W Asia/Caspian/Arabia		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	Wr
Algeria	a	W
Armenia	b	R
Austria	a	S
Azerbaijan	b	Wsr
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	Wsr
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	Ws
Bulgaria	a	Wsr
Croatia	a	Ws
Cyprus	a	W
Czech Republic	a	S
Denmark	a	S
Egypt	a	W
France	a	Wr
Georgia	a	S
Germany	a	Sr
Greece	a	W
Hungary	a	S
Iran	b	Wr
Iraq	b	Wr
Israel	a	W
Italy	a	W
Kazakhstan	b	W
Kuwait	b	V
Lebanon	a	W
Libya	a	W
Lithuania	a	S
Macedonia	a	Wr
Moldova	a	S
Morocco	a	W
Netherlands	a	Wsr

Norway	a	V
Poland	a	S
Portugal	a	W
Qatar	b	W
Romania	a	Sw
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	S
Slovakia	a	S
Slovenia	a	Ws
Spain	a	Wr
Switzerland	a	W
Syria	a	W
Tunisia	a	W
Turkey	a	Wr
Turkmenistan	b	W
Ukraine	a	Sw
United Kingdom	a	Ws
Gibraltar	b	W
Yugoslavia	a	Sw

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	