

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Amaurornis flavirostra 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>Amaurornis flavirostra</u> (Swainson) 1837. Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Black Crake
Spanish:	-
French:	Marouette noire

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Occurs almost throughout Africa south of the Sahara, including forested areas, from the northern edge of the Sahel zone to Cape Province in South Africa; from sea level to 3,000 m (Urban et al. 1986). Absent only from North Africa and the desert regions in the northeast and southwest.

2.2. Population

No discrete populations are identifiable.
- Entire population: Unknown (probably over 1,000,000).

Common to abundant; the most widespread and most numerous rail in Africa (Urban et al. 1986). The highest national total during the African Waterfowl Census of January 1993 was 153 in Kenya (Taylor 1993). No information is available on population trends.

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide variety of wetland habitats with emergent vegetation, including marsh vegetation fringing open water, rank grass, sedges, reeds, papyrus, swampy thickets, bushes and other vegetation beside lakes, ponds, pans and rivers. Especially favours ponds with water-lilies and other floating aquatic vegetation. In forested regions, occurs in dense undergrowth in boggy clearings and along streams; in open country, may occur in broad, grassy marshes (Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

2.4. Migrations

Mainly sedentary but locally migratory. Probably a rains migrant in the northern parts of its range; in northern Ghana, northern Nigeria and the Sahel zone of Sudan, the species appears to be a local migrant, appearing commonly with the rains in places where it is absent during the dry season. In East Africa, it often occupies temporary waters, and presumed migrants have been captured at night at Nguli, Kenya (Urban *et al.* 1986).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

None known.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The widespread loss and degradation of freshwater wetlands, especially shallow wetlands with tall emergent vegetation, are doubtless having a negative impact on populations in many parts of the species' range, but details are lacking.

3.3. Indirect threats

The widespread application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals in and around wetlands 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 Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania; partially protected as a game species in Benin, Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic; partially protected in Rwanda.

4.2. International protection status

None known.

4.3. Additional protection needs

The species is considered to have a favourable conservation status, and is 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**

8. **References**

- Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
Taylor, V. (1993). African Waterfowl Census 1993. IWRB, Slimbridge,
U.K.
Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume
II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>		
Population		
(a) Entire population		
State	Pop.	Status
Angola	a	?
Benin	a	?
Botswana	a	?
Burkina Faso	a	?
Burundi	a	?
Cameroon	a	?
Central African Republic	a	?
Chad	a	?
Congo	a	?
Cote d'Ivoire	a	?
Equatorial Guinea	a	?
Ethiopia	a	?
Gabon	a	?
Gambia	a	?
Ghana	a	?
Guinea	a	?
Guinea-Bissau	a	?
Kenya	a	?
Lesotho	a	?
Liberia	a	?
Malawi	a	?
Mali	a	?
Mozambique	a	?
Namibia	a	?
Niger	a	?
Nigeria	a	?
Rwanda	a	?
Senegal	a	?
Sierra Leone	a	?
South Africa	a	?
Sudan	a	?
Swaziland	a	?
Tanzania	a	?

Togo	a	?
Uganda	a	?
Zaire	a	?
Zambia	a	?
Zimbabwe	a	?

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	