

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis 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>Tachybaptus ruficollis</u> (Pallas) 1764. ssp. <u>ruficollis</u>

1.5. Common names

English:	Little Grebe
Spanish:	Zampullin Comun
French:	Grebe castagneux

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Three subspecies occur: T. r. ruficollis in Europe and Northwest Africa; T. r. capensis in Southwest Asia and Africa south of the Sahara; and T. r. iraquensis in Iraq and southwest Iran. T. r. capensis and T. r. iraquensis are largely sedentary. The nominate race is also mainly sedentary, although most populations in temperate and southern Europe show some dispersion southwest, especially during hard weather.

2.2. Population

Only one population of T. r. ruficollis is recognized, and this includes a mixture of resident and migratory populations.

- Europe/NW Africa: In the range 100,000-1,000,000; stable (Rose & Scott 1993).

Very little precise information is available on numbers. The species is widespread and common over most of its range in the Western Palearctic. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe, excluding Turkey, is currently between 70,000 and 170,000 pairs. Well-studied areas in Europe show fluctuations in numbers related mainly to winter conditions; there was a marked decline in Britain following the exceptionally cold winter of 1962/63, and similarly in the Netherlands after that of 1984/85. The increase in Scandinavia during the 20th century has been attributed to the amelioration of climate. The population of Britain and Ireland was estimated at 9,000-18,000 pairs in mid-1970s, and there has been little evidence of subsequent change (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census of 1992, 3,270 were recorded wintering on lakes in Central Europe (Rose 1992).

2.3. Habitat

Occurs in a wide range of wetland habitats, most commonly on small, shallow lakes and ponds, including farm ponds, fish ponds and irrigation tanks, and also along canals and quiet stretches of rivers and streams, generally where there is an abundance of emergent or floating aquatic vegetation. Also occurs in sheltered bays and along vegetated shores of larger lakes and reservoirs. Outside the breeding season, occurs on more open waters; much less frequent than other grebes on the coast, where usually found only in estuaries protected from wave action (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Resident, dispersive or migratory, depending on winter temperatures on the breeding grounds. Populations breeding in Sweden, the Baltic States and East Europe are migratory, wintering in west and south Europe and therefore overlapping extensively with sedentary populations. Frequent records outside the main range, even in unsuitable habitat, indicate a considerable capacity for aerial reconnaissance and colonization of new areas (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

No major threats known.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The negative effects of transformation of wetlands by drainage, pollution, acidification or recreational use have been offset to a large extent by the construction of artificial ponds and reservoirs, leading to an expansion of the species in many areas (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.3. Indirect threats

None known.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

None known. Hunting pressure in the Western Palearctic appears to be very slight.

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

Tachybaptus ruficollis 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

Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis 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**

- 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.

Taxon: <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i>		
Population		
(a) Europe/NW Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	Wrs
Algeria	a	Wr
Armenia	a	R
Austria	a	Sr
Azerbaijan	a	R
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	R
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	Srw
Bulgaria	a	Sw
Croatia	a	Swr
Cyprus	a	W
Czech Republic	a	S
Denmark	a	Rsw
Egypt	a	Wr
France	a	R
Georgia	a	Rw
Germany	a	R
Greece	a	Wsr
Hungary	a	S
Iran	a	Wr
Iraq	a	W
Ireland	a	R
Israel	a	Wr
Italy	a	Rs
Jordan	a	W
Kazakhstan	a	S
Latvia	a	S
Lebanon	a	Ws
Libya	a	Wr
Liechtenstein	a	R
Lithuania	a	S
Luxembourg	a	R
Macedonia	a	S

Malta	a	V
Mauritania	a	R
Moldova	a	S
Monaco	a	S
Morocco	a	Wr
Netherlands	a	R
Oman	a	Wr
Poland	a	Sr
Portugal	a	R
Qatar	a	Wr
Romania	a	Sw
Russian Federation	a	S
San Marino	a	R
Slovakia	a	S
Slovenia	a	Srw
Spain	a	R
Sweden	a	Sw
Switzerland	a	R
Syria	a	Wr
Tunisia	a	Wr
Turkey	a	Wr
Turkmenistan	a	Rs
Ukraine	a	S
United Arab Emirates	a	Wr
United Kingdom	a	R
Uzbekistan	a	S
Yemen	a	Wr
Yugoslavia	a	Srw

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	