

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

A. PROPOSAL: Inclusion of Gavia stellata (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	Gaviiformes
1.3. Familia	Gaviidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Gavia stellata</u> (Pontoppidan) 1763 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Red-throated Diver
Spanish:	Colimbo Chico
French:	Plongeon catmarin

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Circumpolar, breeding generally north of 50°N and far into the high Arctic. West Eurasian populations breed in Greenland, Iceland, northern Europe and Western Siberia and winter on the Atlantic coast of West Europe south to France (vagrant to Morocco), and less commonly in the Black and Caspian Sea (presumably West Siberian birds). A small number of birds winter on large lakes in Central European.

2.2. Population

No discrete populations are identifiable. Two main groups are recognized on the basis of winter distribution.

- Northwest Europe (including Greenland): 75,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

- West Siberia/Black Sea/Caspian Sea: In the range 10,000-25,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).

Still numerous, although the species may be decreasing in some parts of its range (del Hoyo et al. 1992). In Europe, population estimates include 2,000 pairs in Finland, 1,200-1,500 pairs in Scotland, 1,000 pairs in Iceland and 1,000 pairs in Norway. An estimated 10,000 birds winter in British waters. The Northwest European population is reported to be declining (Rose & Scott 1993); no information is available on population trends in the West Siberian population.

2.3. Habitat

Breeds mostly on fresh water, typically in fairly open moorland (e.g. blanket bog) and tundra; may occupy stretches of water of almost any size, and is often to be found nesting by small pools. Almost

exclusively marine outside the breeding season, wintering in inshore waters along sheltered coasts, but also occasionally occurs inland (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory and dispersive; generally moves southwards and towards the sea after breeding, shunning ice-covered waters. Large concentrations of 200-1,200 birds may occur (del Hoyo et al. 1992)

3. **Threat data**

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Fairly sensitive to human disturbance, and will desert breeding areas if too much human activity; also affected in places by alterations in the water level. Outside the breeding season, highly vulnerable to oil spills at sea, especially near rich fishing grounds where large concentrations of birds may form in winter. Some mortality also occurs at sea and on larger lakes due to drowning in fishing nets set close inshore (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.2. Habitat destruction

Most breeding sites are in relatively remote northern areas where loss of wetland habitat does not as yet pose a serious threat. However, acidification of lakes due to wind-borne pollution from industrial areas is becoming a serious problem in parts of northern Europe, and the contamination of lakes with heavy metals is also reported to be a problem in some areas (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.3. Indirect threats

More suitable nesting habitat is being lost due to increased human disturbance than to actual destruction, as more and more northern lakes are being developed for outdoor recreation. The increasing use of northern lakes as recreational sites for water sports is particularly harmful, as divers are very sensitive to any form of intrusion in their territories. Increasing human occupation is also frequently associated with an increase in predators such as gulls, crows and some mammals, and these may have a negative effect on the breeding success of divers (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting occurs, but as divers are solitary nesters and spend much of the year at sea, the level of persecution is probably very low. Some birds are shot by fishermen who accuse them of taking large quantities of fish fry and thus reducing fish stocks (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. All Gaviidae are partially protected as game species in Morocco.

4.2. International protection status

Gavia stellata 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

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). (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. & 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>Gavia stellata</i>		
Population		
(a) Greenland/Iceland/NW Europe		
(b) W Siberia/Black Sea/Caspian Sea		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	W
Austria	a	V
Azerbaijan	b	W
Belgium	a	W
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	W
Bulgaria	b	W
Croatia	a	W
Denmark	a	W
Greenland	a	S
Estonia	a	V
"	b	V
Finland	a	S
"	b	P
France	a	W
Germany	a	W
Greece	b	V
Hungary	a	W
Iceland	a	Sw
Iran	b	W
Ireland	a	Ws
Israel	b	V
Italy	a	W
Kazakhstan	b	W
Malta	a	V
Morocco	a	V
Netherlands	a	W
Norway	a	Sw
Portugal	a	W
Romania	b	W
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	Sw
Slovenia	a	W

Spain	a	W
Sweden	a	Sw
"	b?	W?
Switzerland	a	W
Turkey	b	W
Turkmenistan	b	W
Ukraine	b	W
United Kingdom	a	Ws
Yugoslavia	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	