

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 cristatus cristatus (Western Palearctic populations) in Appendix II.

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

B. PROPONENT: Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

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| 1.1. Classis | Aves |
| 1.2. Ordo | Podicipediformes |
| 1.3. Familia | Podicipedidae |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Podiceps cristatus</u> (Linnaeus) 1758
ssp. <u>cristatus</u> |
| 1.5. Common names | |
| English: | Great Crested Grebe |
| Spanish: | Somormujo Lavanco |
| French: | Grebe huppe |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution

Two subspecies occur: the nominate race breeds across Eurasia and winters south to Morocco, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; P. c. infuscatus occurs in Africa south of the Sahara. African populations are largely sedentary. No discrete populations of P. c. cristatus are identifiable.

2.2. Population

Three main wintering groups are recognized.

- Northwest Europe: In the range 100,000-1,000,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Black Sea/Mediterranean: In the range 100,000-1,000,000 (Rose & Scott 1993).
- Caspian Region/Iraq/Arabia: In the range 10,000-25,000; increasing (Rose & Scott 1993).

The species suffered a widespread decline in Europe during the 19th century due to hunting for the plume trade, but has since recovered and expanded its range to the north and northwest. Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Northwest and Central Europe is currently between 160,000 and 260,000 pairs. In Britain, the population increased from 2,810 birds in 1931 to 6,000-7,000 in 1979; in Denmark, from 4,400-5,000 in 1969 to 6,800-7,800 in 1978; in Sweden from 6,000 in 1971 to 10,000 in 1976; and in Finland from 10,000 in 1958 to 50,000-60,000 in 1983. The main factors responsible for the increase are widespread eutrophication of waters, with consequent increase of cyprinid fish, and the great adaptability of the species to man-made wetlands (del Hoyo et al. 1992). During the Western Palearctic Waterfowl Census of 1992, 36,670 were recorded wintering on lakes in Central Europe (Rose 1992). The numbers wintering in the Black Sea/

Mediterranean region are poorly known, and no information is available on trends; but 24,000 were recorded in one count in Turkey. During the Asian Waterfowl Census of 1992, over 10,200 were recorded in Southwest Asia, mostly in Iran (Perennou & Mundkur 1992). In the 1970s, the wintering population in Iran was estimated at 5,000-7,000 birds (Scott 1992).

2.3. Habitat

During the breeding season, prefers fresh or brackish water lakes fringed by emergent vegetation, with sizeable stretches of open water for foraging. Readily accepts artificial water bodies, including reservoirs, stock ponds, fish ponds, gravel pits and ornamental lakes; also on slow stretches of river with backwaters and pools. Outside the breeding season, disperses to coasts, estuaries and large exposed lakes and reservoirs (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

2.4. Migrations

Migratory and dispersive, especially in the north of its range. After breeding, many birds make local movements to large lakes and reservoirs. After the moult, there is a marked movement towards the coast. Concentrations of up to 20,000 have been recorded on the IJsselmeer in the Netherlands and up to 20,000 on the Turkish coast of the Black Sea. In Central Europe, many winter on large lakes. The migration routes are poorly known; the bird is thought to migrate both along coastlines and overland (del Hoyo et al. 1992).

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population

Massive hunting for the plume trade caused a major decline in the 19th century, but there has been little direct persecution of the bird since then. The species is occasionally affected by oil spills in coastal waters, and suffers some mortality due to drowning in fishing nets.

3.2. Habitat destruction

The negative effects of transformation of wetlands by drainage, pollution, acidification or recreational use have been offset by eutrophication of previously unsuitable sites and 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

Birds wintering in coastal waters, especially in the North Sea, are at risk from oil pollution.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some hunting occurs, but the numbers taken appear to be 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 cristatus is listed in Appendix III (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**

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.
- Perennou, C. & Mundkur, T. (1992). Asian and Australasian Waterfowl Census 1992. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K.
- 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 cristatus cristatus</i>		
Population		
(a) N & W Europe		
(b) E Europe/Black Sea/Mediterranean		
(c) W Siberia/SW Asia		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	b	Wsr
Algeria	b	Wsr
Armenia	b	S
Austria	b	Sr
Azerbaijan	c	Wrs
Bahrain	c	W
Belarus	a	S
"	b	S
Belgium	a	Rw
Bosnia & Herzegovina	b	Wsr
Bulgaria	b	Ws
Croatia	b	Wsr
Cyprus	b	W
Czech Republic	a	S
"	b	S
Denmark	a	Wrs
Egypt	b	R
Estonia	a	S
Finland	a	S
France	a	Rw
"	b	Wr
Georgia	b	Wsr
Germany	a	Wsr
Greece	b	Wrs
Hungary	b	S
Iran	c	Wrs
Iraq	c	Wr
Ireland	b	Swr
Israel	b	S
Italy	b	Wsr
Kazakhstan	c	S

Kuwait	c	W
Latvia	a	S
Lebanon	b	W
Libya	b	W
Liechtenstein	b	R
Lithuania	a	S
Macedonia	b	S
Moldova	b	S
Monaco	b	W
Morocco	b	Ws
Netherlands	a	Rw
Norway	a	Sw
Poland	a	S
"	b	S
Portugal	a	Rw
Romania	b	Sw
Russian Federation	a	S
"	b	S
San Marino	b	S
Slovakia	b	S
Slovenia	b	Wsr
Spain	b	Rw
Sweden	a	Swr
Switzerland	b	Sr
Syria	b	W
Tunisia	b	Wrs
Turkey	b	Wr
Turkmenistan	c	S
Ukraine	b	Sw
United Kingdom	a	Wrs
Uzbekistan	c	S
Yugoslavia	b	Wsr

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	