

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

A. **PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of Porzana porzana (populations breeding in the Western Palearctic) 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>Porzana porzana</u> (Linnaeus) 1766 Monotypic
1.5. Common names	
English:	Spotted Crake
Spanish:	Polluela Pintoja
French:	Marouette ponctuee

2. **Biological data**

2.1. Distribution

Breeds widely across West Eurasia to Central Asia east to 100°E. Most populations (to Western Siberia) winter in Africa south of the Sahara, apparently sparingly in West and East Africa and more commonly in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. A few birds winter in Southwest Europe and North Africa. Central Asian populations winter in South Asia and are thus extralimital. No discrete populations are identifiable in the Western Palearctic.

2.2. Population

Only one population is relevant.

- West Eurasia/Africa: In the range 100,000-1,000,000; declining (Rose & Scott 1993).

Unpublished data suggest that the total breeding population in Europe excluding Russia is between 40,000 and 80,000 pairs; the population in Russia is given as between 10,000 and 100,000 pairs. There were some signs of an increase in northern Europe in the 19th century, but there has been a widespread decrease since then, except in Sweden where there has been a recent increase. Marked declines have been reported in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary and Poland.

2.3. Habitat

Largely confined to freshwater wetlands, although occasionally found in brackish marshes. During the breeding season, frequents dense, low vegetation in shallow standing water, and normally found in fairly extensive wetlands where drying-up or too deep inundation in some parts is compensated for by suitable water depth elsewhere. Outside the

breeding season, occurs in a wider variety of wetland habitats including the marshy fringes of ponds and dams, sewage farms, dambos and seasonally flooded grassland (Cramp & Simmons 1980; Ripley 1977; Urban et al. 1986).

#### 2.4. Migrations

Migratory. Relatively few birds winter in southern Europe and North Africa, the majority wintering in Africa south of the Sahara, apparently sparingly in West and East Africa and more commonly in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique (Urban et al. 1986). Marked passages have been reported in the Middle East, Egypt and Sudan, but the species is also known to cross the Sahara on a broad front. The passage through North Africa and the Mediterranean islands is more marked in spring than in autumn, possibly because more birds overfly the Mediterranean and Sahara in continuous flight in autumn (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

### 3. **Threat data**

#### 3.1. Direct threats to the population

No information.

#### 3.2. Habitat destruction

The marked declines in many parts of Europe during the present century have been directly attributed to drainage and reclamation of freshwater wetlands. The species seems to be particularly vulnerable to changes in water-level, whether caused by drainage or climatic changes (Cramp & Simmons 1980).

#### 3.3. Indirect threats

Possibly at risk from the contamination of wetlands with pesticides and other chemicals, but details are lacking.

#### 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

Protected under national legislation in all twelve member states of the EEC. Fully protected under national legislation in Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Tunisia; partially protected as a game species in Benin, the Central African Republic and Morocco; partially protected in Rwanda.

#### 4.2. International protection status

Porzana porzana 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

The Western Palearctic breeding population of Porzana porzana is listed in the category 'Potentially vulnerable' in the Draft Management Plan for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, because it is a biogeographical population which, although still with a population size of over 100,000 individuals, has shown a marked decrease in numbers over the whole or a large part of its range in recent decades. 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). (1980). Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vol.2: Hawks to Bustards. Oxford University Press. Oxford, London and New York.
- Ripley, S.D. (1977). Rails of the World. Godine, Boston, U.S.A.
- 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.
- Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. & Keith, S. (1986). The Birds of Africa. Volume II. Academic Press, London & Orlando.

Taxon: <i>Porzana porzana</i>		
Population		
(a) West Eurasia/Africa		
State	Pop.	Status
Albania	a	S
Algeria	a	P
Angola	a	W
Armenia	a	S?
Austria	a	S
Azerbaijan	a	S?
Bahrain	a	P
Belarus	a	S
Belgium	a	S
Bosnia & Herzegovina	a	S
Botswana	a	W
Bulgaria	a	S
Burundi	a	W
Chad	a	V
Cote d'Ivoire	a	V
Croatia	a	S
Czech Republic	a	S
Denmark	a	S
Egypt	a	W
Estonia	a	S
Ethiopia	a	Pw
Finland	a	S
France	a	S
Gambia	a	W
Georgia	a	S?
Germany	a	S
Hungary	a	S
Iran	a	Sr
Italy	a	S
Jordan	a	P
Kazakhstan	a	S
Kenya	a	W
Kuwait	a	P

Latvia	a	S
Lesotho	a	V
Libya	a	P
Lithuania	a	S
Malawi	a	W
Mali	a	V
Mauritania	a	V
Moldova	a	S
Morocco	a	W
Mozambique	a	W
Namibia	a	W
Netherlands	a	S
Nigeria	a	V
Norway	a	S
Poland	a	S
Portugal	a	W
Qatar	a	P
Romania	a	S
Russian Federation	a	S
Rwanda	a	W
San Marino	a	S
Saudi Arabia	a	P
Senegal	a	W
Seychelles	a	V
Slovakia	a	S
Somalia	a	V
South Africa	a	W
Spain	a	Sw
Sudan	a	Pw
Swaziland	a	W
Sweden	a	S
Switzerland	a	S
Tanzania	a	W
Tunisia	a	V
Uganda	a	W
Ukraine	a	S
United Arab Emirates	a	P
United Kingdom	a	S

Yugoslavia	a	S
Zaire	a	W
Zambia	a	W
Zimbabwe	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	