

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

**A. PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of *Branta ruficollis* in Appendix I

**B. PROPONENT:** Government of the Republic of Hungary

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**1. Taxon**

1.1 Classis	Aves
1.2 Ordo	Anseriformes
1.3 Familia	Anatidae
1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies	<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Pallas) 1769, Monotypic
1.5 Common (English) name	Red-breasted Goose

**2. Biological data**

2.1 Distribution

The breeding range of the species is restricted to the Arctic tundra of the Taimyr, Gydan and Yamal peninsulas of Russia. Its main wintering area is at the Eastern coast of the Black Sea in Romania and Bulgaria. In the wintering areas it is highly localised with the majority of the total global population wintering at less than 10 major sites (Tucker and Heath 1994).

2.2 Population

The total population is estimated at 75,000 individuals (Tucker and Heath 1994). There was a large decline noted during the 50s and 60s but it may have been partly attributed to insufficient counting methods. It is considered Vulnerable largely because its wintering population concentrates in a small number of sites.

2.3 Habitat

The species breeds on high tundra. During migration and winter the species prefers coastal lagoons and lakes along the Black Sea coast and feed on dry grasslands and agricultural areas nearby.

2.4 Migrations

Highly migratory: migration from the breeding areas is mainly to the southwest.

**3. Threat data**

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Hunting and associated disturbance is important mostly at the wintering sites, although the species is protected in almost all Range States. There is also hunting at the Yenisey river delta just South of the breeding area.

The full impact of this threat to the population is unknown, but is probably high (Heredia et al. 1996).

3.2 Habitat destruction

Breeding range is relatively undisturbed and partly covered by extensive protected areas. Land-use changes

affecting agricultural areas and dry grasslands, where the wintering populations feed, may be the most important threat to the species in the future. It is thought that land-use change in the Caspian Sea region in the 50s was the main reason behind the change in the species' winter distribution and population decline in that period (Heredia et al. 1996).

### 3.3 Indirect threats

There is some probability that disturbance occurs in the breeding areas because of fishermen's activities, but it is quite low (Heredia et al. 1996).

### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migration

The species is mainly threatened at the wintering sites, as explained above.

### 3.5 National and international utilisation

In Europe the species is not protected only in Romania, although even there a temporary hunting ban was in effect during 1993/94.

## **4. Protection status and needs**

### 4.1 National protection status

The species is protected in all range states in Europe except in Romania, and also in Kazakstan. There is no information from countries outside Europe.

### 4.2 International protection status

The species is listed under Annex I of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and under Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention)

Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criteria A2b,c; B1+2c,d)

### 4.3 Additional protection needs

There is an international Action Plan prepared by BirdLife International with support from the European Union LIFE funds and Council of Europe (Heredia et al. 1996). In Romania and Bulgaria, where most of the wintering population occur, most of the key sites are under some kind of protection (including the Danube Delta in Romania). Large areas of the breeding grounds are also protected in Russia.

The most important conservation requirements include the full enforced legal protection of the species in all range states, protecting wintering populations from adverse changes in agricultural practices, preventing shooting and disturbance and legal protection to all key sites where the species occur in all range states and monitoring the population.

## **5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)**

Breeds only in Russian Federation. During migration and winter it occurs in Bulgaria, **Hungary, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakstan, Romania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine.**

## **6. Comments from Range States**

## **7. Additional remarks**

## 8. References

Heredia,B., Rose,L. and Painter,M. eds. (1996) Globally threatened birds in Europe: Action plans. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.

Tucker,G.M. and Heath,M.F. (1994) Birds in Europe: their conservation status. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.