



THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN HUNTERS

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Red Listed huntable birds threatened by Invasive Alien Species

Policy relevance

As part of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the European Commission has set itself the goal to step up the implementation of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation. The introduction and establishment of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the EU environment should be minimised and where possible eliminated. To reverse biodiversity loss, the management of already established IAS is also of key importance. With key commitment 9 under the EU Nature Restoration Plan, the aim will be to manage established IAS and decrease the number of Red List species they threaten by 50%.

EU Nature Restoration Plan: key commitment 9

There is a 50% reduction in the number of Red List species threatened by invasive alien species.

European Red List

The lists of threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are commonly recognized as the most comprehensive and objective global approaches for evaluating the conservation status of animal and plant species. The Red Lists are designed to define the relative risk of extinction and are aiming to highlight those species that are facing a high risk of extinction. The European Red List is a review of the status of European species according to IUCN Regional Red List guidelines. It identifies those species that are threatened at the European level (Pan-Europe and the European Union).

IAS as a threat

IAS can significantly undermine efforts to protect and restore nature. Besides inflicting major damage to nature and the economy, many IAS also facilitate the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases, posing a threat to humans and wildlife. Of the 1,872 species now considered threatened in Europe, 354 are under threat from IAS. Without effective control measures, the rate of invasion and the risks it brings to our nature and health will continue to rise. IAS are especially problematic for native threatened species that use the same niche or are declining due to a combination of factors such as climate change, habitat loss or diseases.

Example: IAS impact on birds of Europe

According to the latest Article 12 reporting under the Birds Directive (2013 – 2018), IAS are reported as a high-ranking pressure for 116 bird species/taxa in total. For huntable birds listed in Annex II species, IAS was

reported as a high-ranking pressure for 33 species. Out of this group 18 are migratory species in an insecure status and 3 are sedentary in an insecure status (see table 1).

Table 1 Annex II birds in insecure status with IAS as a high-ranking pressure plus IUCN red list status at EU level.

Form	Latin name	Common name	EU Red list status
Migratory	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal	LC
Migratory	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard	VU
Migratory	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck	VU
Migratory	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	EN
Migratory	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	Ruff	NT
Migratory	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Quail	LC
Migratory	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Coot	LC
Migratory	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Common Snipe	LC
Migratory	<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew gull	LC
Migratory	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black headed gull	VU
Migratory	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Wigeon	VU
Migratory	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Velvet Scoter	VU
Migratory	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew	NT
Migratory	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eider	VU
Migratory	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Shoveler	NT
Migratory	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove	NT
Migratory	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	VU
Migratory	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Northern Lapwing	VU
Sedentary	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	Rock partridge	NT
Sedentary	<i>Bonasa bonasia</i>	Hazel grouse	VU
Sedentary	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge	VU

Good practice

Friends of the Eider, Finland

Friends of the Eider is a conservation project for the Common Eider in their breeding grounds in the Åland archipelago. The project started as a result of the heavy decline in the population during the last decades. It is run and administrated voluntarily by local hunters. These methods are a mix of traditional management efforts combined with latest research on variables that drive the Eider population decline. Based on thousands of voluntary hours, the project ensured 24/7 surveillance to avoid predation on nesting females and ducklings and the making of around 500 Eider shelters. The rigorous management of IAS is also essential to protect the

species, especially from the Raccoon dog and American mink which pose a great threat to the breeding success and survival of the Eider.

The results show great success as the Eider's breeding success increased from 31 nests where brooding succeed for the breeding season 2020 to 113 nests for the breeding season 2021. Please find more information [here](#).

Hunters support Ruddy duck eradication

The Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is a North American species introduced in Europe which is threatening the native White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) through hybridization.

In 2021/2022, there were around 225 Ruddy Ducks in Europe, similar to numbers from recent winters.

Since the species is well known amongst the hunting community, hunters in France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are key in monitoring the remaining populations and altering governments in case of new sightings. Further, (professional) hunters are supporting the eradication of Ruddy duck in many areas of Europe as outlined in the [2021 report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Hunting and Invasive Alien Species](#).

FACE and its members will continue to monitor the progress made and update the hunting community, other stakeholders and decision-makers.