



Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group

Activity Report 2009–2012

Formed in 1990, the Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (TWSG) is coordinated from the Wildfowl and Trust (WWT), Slimbridge, UK, as part of the IUCN SSC/Wetlands International Waterbird Network. The TWSG focuses on action planning and on the ground action for threatened waterfowl.

This triennium we finalized an AEWA action plan for the globally Endangered Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*), which was adopted at the AEWA Meeting of Parties in May 2012. We also held a Scaly-sided Merganser (*Mergus squamatus*) action planning workshop in Vladivostok, Russia, in April 2010. The workshop was attended by 21 representatives from Russia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Province of China, and by the Chief Executive of the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership. An action plan is under production.

An emergency mission to save the Critically Endangered Madagascar Pochard (*Aythya innotata*) was mounted in 2009. Three clutches of eggs were collected from the single remaining site for the species resulting in 24 birds being reared for a conservation breeding and re-introduction programme. They first bred in 2011, producing 18 ducklings. A total of 35 Madagascar Pochard are now held in captivity, twice the number remaining in the wild. Potential re-introduction sites are currently being identified.

Non-native North American Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) are the greatest long-term threat to the Endangered White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). In 2010 the TWSG reviewed the status of Ruddy Ducks in the Western Palaearctic and updated the international eradication plan on behalf of the Berne Convention. The new plan aims to eradicate the alien population by 2015.

The LIFE+ Project 'Safe Ground for Redbreasts', led by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, aims to conserve and increase the wintering population of Red-breasted Goose, the most threatened goose species globally, by addressing the threats faced by this species, including agricultural changes, hunting and development pressures.

Facts

Chair: Dr Baz Hughes (WWT)

Regional Coordinator for Africa, Eurasia and Middle-East: Dr Andy Green

Regional Coordinator for North America: Dr Tom Rothe

Regional Assistant Coordinator for Oceania: Dr Murray Williams

Number of members: 992

Website: [Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group](http://ThreatenedWaterfowlSpecialistGroup.org)

Success stories

- Producing 12 action plans for seven threatened species since 1990.
- Initiating a EUR 2.7M LIFE+ project for Red-breasted Geese.
- Saving the Madagascar Pochard from extinction.
- Convincing the UK government to eradicate Ruddy Ducks to address the threat to the White-headed Duck.

Challenges

- Building capacity building and local community involvement into species action planning.
- Providing sustainable funding for action plan implementation.

Future Goals

- Continued focus on on-the-ground action.
- Produce and implement Scaly-sided Merganser action plan.
- Reverse the Red-breasted Goose decline.
- Successfully re-introduce Madagascar Pochard.
- Eradicate (wild and captive) Ruddy Ducks from Europe.



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