Anser fabalis breeds mainly in Iceland, Fennoscandia and northern Russia, but winters patchily across much of Europe, which constitutes >50% of its global wintering range. Its European wintering population is relatively large (>65,000 individuals), and was stable between 1970–1990. Although there were declines in a handful of countries during 1990–2000, most European wintering populations—including key ones in Denmark and Germany—were broadly stable or increased, and the species underwent a large increase overall. Consequently, it is evaluated as Secure.

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