Bucephala clangula -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- ANSERIFORMES -- ANATIDAE

Common names: Common Goldeneye; Goldeneye

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be stable, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has a very large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). Despite the fact that the population trend appears to be decreasing, the decline is not believed to be sufficiently rapid to approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Albania; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Montenegro; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Vagrant:

Cyprus; Greenland (to DK); Malta; Portugal; Gibraltar (to UK)

Population

The European population is estimated at 489,000-623,000 pairs, which equates to 977,000-1,250,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 268,000-381,000 pairs, which equates to 536,000-763,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be stable. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be decreasing by less than 25% in 24 years (three generations). For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

The species is restricted to water close to the shore and less than 10 m deep (Scott and Rose 1996). When breeding the species shows a preference for oligotrophic lakes devoid of fish (Kear 2005) but with abundant invertebrate life (Johnsgard 1978), and requires tree-holes (or artificial nestboxes) for nesting. Suitable

habitats include freshwater lakes, pools, rivers (Carboneras et al. 2014) and deep marshes (Johnsgard 1978) surrounded by coniferous forest (Carboneras et al. 2014). The species winters mainly at sea (Scott and Rose 1996) on inshore waters, estuaries, coastal lagoons (Carboneras et al. 2014) and shallow bays (Kear 2005), especially in the vicinity of sewage outfalls (Carboneras et al. 2014). Further to the south and on migration the species may also frequent large rivers, lakes and reservoirs (Scott and Rose 1996). The species breeds from April in solitary pairs. The species nests in hollows of mature trees (Carboneras et al. 2014) formed by woodpeckers or by bacterial or fungal heart-rot invasions (Kear 2005). The species will also nest in artificial nest boxes Clutches are usually between eight and eleven. It feeds predominantly on aquatic invertebrates such as molluscs, worms, crustaceans, aquatic insects and insect larvae, as well as amphibians, small fish and some plant material (mainly in the autumn) such as seeds, roots and the vegetative parts of aquatic plants (Carboneras et al. 2014). Most of this species is fully migratory although it may only travel short distances (Kear 2005), but certain populations in the north-west of Europe may also be sedentary (Carboneras et al. 2014).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Artificial/Aquatic - Wastewater Treatment Areas		suitable	non-breeding
Forest - Boreal		major	breeding
Marine Neritic - Estuaries		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Macroalgal/Kelp		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Seagrass (Submerged)		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Loose Rock/pebble/gravel		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Rock and Rocky Reefs		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy		major	non-breeding
Marine Neritic - Subtidal Sandy-Mud		major	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)		suitable	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)		suitable	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 2000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The species is very sensitive to habitat alterations. In the winter, the main threats for this species are from major oil incidents near the coast or from eating contaminated food (organochlorines and polychlorinated biphenyls are elevated in some important wintering areas), as large flocks will often gather to feed around sewer outfalls. The species is hunted sustainably in Denmark (Bregnballe et al. 2006); however the impact of hunting of this species across its range is unknown, although an estimated 100,000–250,000 were once shot annually in north-west and central Europe. Lead shot ingestion however, does not appear to be a significant risk, at least compared to some other species of seaducks (Carboneras et al. 2014). Modern forestry management work is limiting as it does not favour the retention of old and decaying trees with likely nest holes (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Agro-industry plantations	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Pollution	Domestic & urban waste water (sewage)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Pollution	Oil spills	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Past, Likely to Return	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Past Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CMS Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex II. In some areas nestbox erection programmes have been shown to cause significant range expansions and population increases (Dennis 1987, Carboneras et al. 2014), although an experiment in southern Finland found that even though nestbox provision increased breeding numbers of the species there was a negative density-dependent effect on reproductive output (i.e. the number of fledged young did not increase despite an increase in breeding pairs) (Poysa and Poysa 2002).

Conservation Actions Proposed

In general nesting habitats may benefit from a more extended rotation of timber harvesting (Kear 2005) and the species may benefit from the introduction of strict legislation on oil transportation. Monitoring and research should be introduced to determine the impact of hunting on this species.

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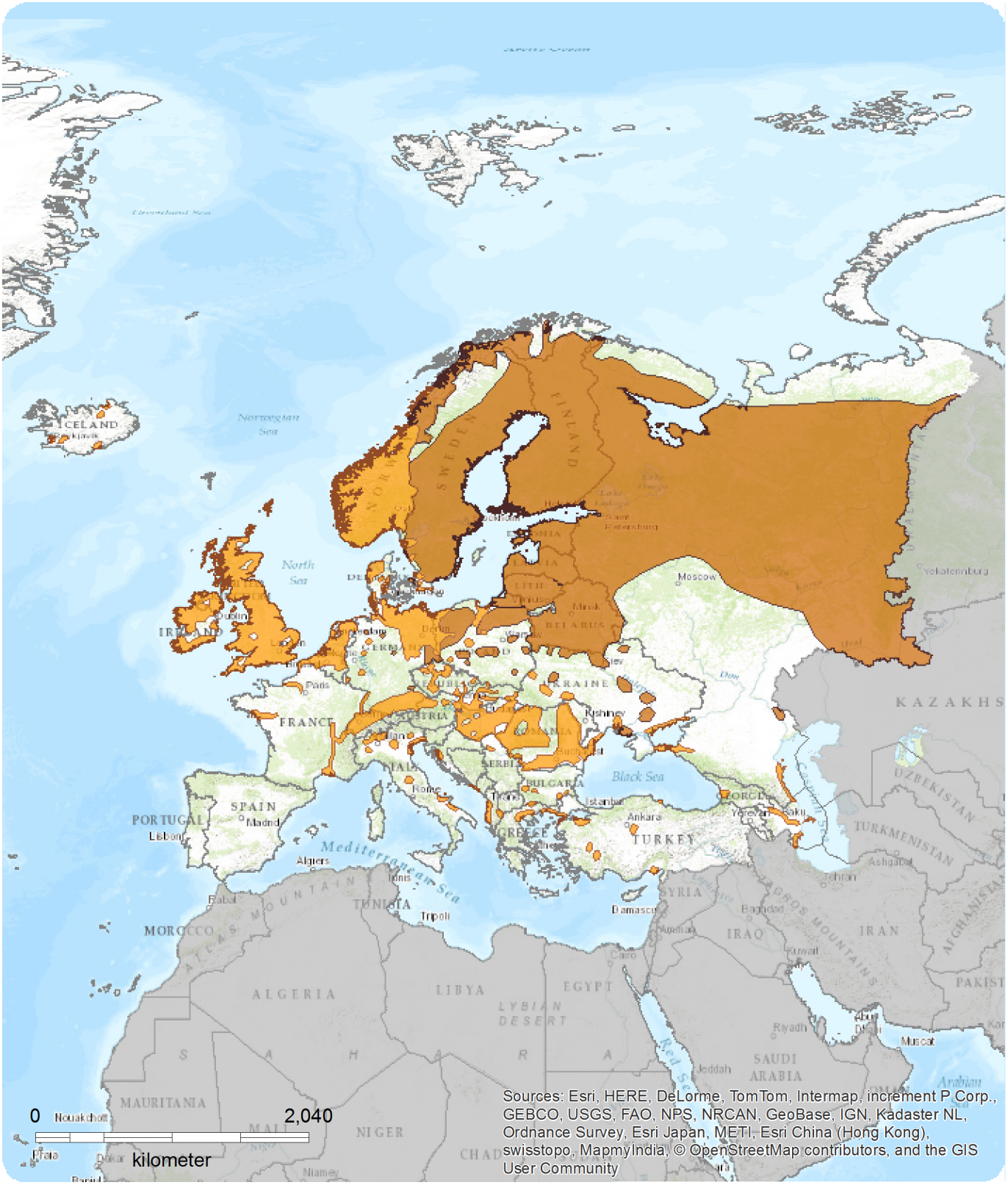
Map (see overleaf)



Bucephala clangula

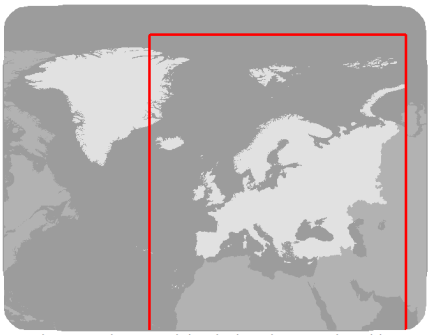
NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

- Extant (breeding)
- Extant (non breeding)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds

Map created 05/13/2015



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