

Bucephala islandica -- (Gmelin, 1789)

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

Common names: Barrow's Goldeneye;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

NT -- Near Threatened, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
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: Near Threatened (NT)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

This species has a restricted range within Europe, breeding only in Iceland where it is largely restricted to a small area which is at risk from future development for hydroelectric and geothermal energy, which could cause rapid future declines. It is therefore classified as Near Threatened.

The bird does not breed in the EU27 and is considered Not Applicable there.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Greenland (to DK); Iceland

Vagrant:

Czech Republic; Faroe Islands (to DK); France; Germany; Montenegro; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Russian Federation; Serbia; Spain; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 800-900 pairs, which equates to 1,600-1,800 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size trend is unknown. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species uses relatively productive lakes and rivers in Iceland. It is a hole-nesting species using natural holes in lava fields and nest boxes erected on farmhouses at the edge of the breeding area (Tucker and Heath 1994). It winters mainly on ice-free fresh water in the breeding area but small numbers winter on other partly ice-free fresh waters, mostly within the volcanic zone (Gardarsson 1978). Laying is usually from mid-May although slightly earlier if using nest boxes. It lays 8 to 11 eggs (Carboneras and Kirwan 2014). It feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates (Tucker and Heath 1994). It is largely sedentary in Iceland (Carboneras and Kirwan 2014)

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over ha)	major	non-breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	major	breeding
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	major	non-breeding
Altitude	max. 3000 m	Occasional altitudinal limits

In Europe this species is mainly confined to NE Iceland, where 85–90% of the local population occurs at Lake Mývatn and on the River Laxá, and c. 50% of population disappeared in 1989 due to a crash in foraging resources (Carboneras and Kirwan 2014). Plans to introduce Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) into the river system (Einarsson and Magnúsdóttir 1993), along with sediment dredging that occurs, could negatively affect future food availability (Kear 2005). Eggs are harvested by local people but this is considered sustainable as each nest is subject to a quota. There is a comparatively large sexual imbalance in the Icelandic population with rarely more than 400 females available in any given breeding season (Carboneras and Kirwan 2014).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	No decline	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Natural system modifications	Other ecosystem modifications	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Bern Convention Appendix II. CMS Appendix II. Listed as Endangered on Icelandic National Red List (Institute of Natural History 2000). The species is fully protected from hunting in Iceland (Carboneras and Kirwan 2014).

Conservation Actions Proposed

Research should be undertaken into the species's ecology, habitat and foraging needs. An assessment of the impacts of *S. salar* introduction and sediment dredging should be made as well as ensuring the sustainability of local egg harvesting. Research studies into the causes of the population sexual imbalance should be developed.

Bibliography

Carboneras, C. and Kirwan, G.M. 2014. Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.) 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://www.hbw.com/node/52924> on 6 October 2014).

Einarsson, Á., and Magnúsdóttir, M.L. 1993. The effect of sediment dredging on the distribution of diving ducks at Lake Myvatn, Iceland. *Biological conservation* 66(1): 55-60.

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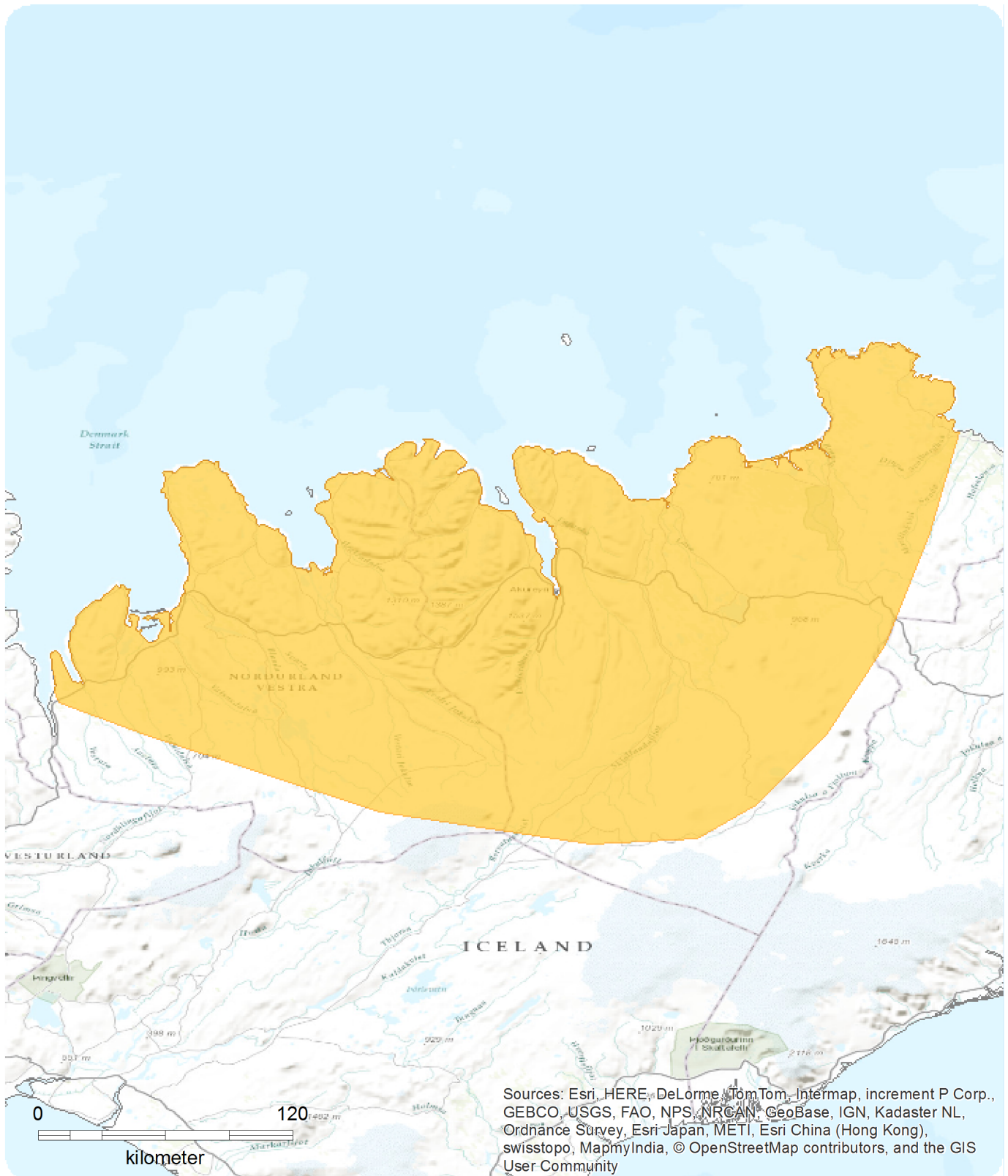
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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment



Bucephala islandica

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



Map created 05/13/2015

