

Rhodostethia rosea -- (MacGillivray, 1824)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- CHARADRIIFORMES -- LARIDAE

Common names: Ross's Gull;

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

EN -- Endangered, (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., Tarzia, M., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Endangered (EN^o)

EU27 regional assessment: Not Applicable (NA)

This species breeds mainly in the Siberian Arctic but tiny numbers breed within the region in Greenland. The population size within the region meets the threshold for classification as Critically Endangered under the small population criterion, with a stable or fluctuating trend. The species could therefore be listed as Critically Endangered but given the potential for rescue from outside the region the final category is downlisted to Endangered (EN^o D).

The bird is considered vagrant in the EU27 and is assessed as Not Applicable (NA) for this region.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Greenland (to DK)

Vagrant:

Belgium; Denmark; Faroe Islands (to DK); Finland; France; Germany; Iceland; Ireland, Rep. of; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Svalbard and Jan Mayen (to NO); Poland; Sweden; United Kingdom

Population

The European population is estimated at 0-5 pairs, which equates to 0-10 mature individuals. The species does not occur in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be fluctuating. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

The species breeds in boggy terrain of the upper taiga and tundra, preferring marshy tundra in river deltas or small ponds with stunted alders (*Alnus*) and willows (*Salix*). Often associates with Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) and waders (Burger and Gochfeld 1996). On its breeding grounds it is chiefly insectivorous, whilst during its migration it preys mainly on marine invertebrates (plankton, crustaceans, molluscs, and even priapulids) and small fish. Reported feeding on wave-washed "scum" on the beach, presumably plankton. Occasionally feeds on walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) dung. Forages in small loose flocks or solitarily; may join *Xema sabini* or phalaropes. Often follows ships through ice, capturing organisms on the undersurface of disturbed ice. It often feeds by aerial dipping; sometimes by walking, also by surface-dipping. Flocks sometimes gather around dead mammals (Burger and Gochfeld 1996).

Habitats & Altitude	Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
	Grassland - Tundra	major	breeding

Habitats & Altitude			
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Wetlands (inland) - Tundra Wetlands (incl. pools and temporary waters from snowmelt)		major	breeding
Altitude		Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Adverse factors on species's numbers include predation on chicks by gulls, skuas and Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*). Oil development across the Arctic is also a potential threat (Burger and Gochfeld 1996).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Energy production & mining	Oil & gas drilling	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified skua (<i>Catharacta</i>)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Causing/Could cause fluctuations	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

Listed under the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

Conservation Actions Proposed

Identification of Important Bird Areas in Arctic, including for sites at sea, and subsequent designation as marine protected areas.

Bibliography

Burger, J. and Gochfeld, M. 1996. Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). 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.

Snow, D.W. and Perrins, C.M. 1998. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic vol. 1: Non-Passerines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Map (see overleaf)



Rhodostethia rosea

Range

■ Extant (breeding)

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

NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	< EN > ENDANGERED	CR	EW	EX
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Map created 05/12/2015

