

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Anas formosa in Appendix II.

B: PROPONENT

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Anseriformes
13. Family: Anatidae
14. Species: Anas formosa (Georgi 1775)
- 15: Common Names: English: Baikal teal, spectacled teal/duck, Formosa teal  
French: Canard formose  
Spanish:  
German: Prachtente, Zierente  
Japanese: Tomoe-gamo  
Korean: Kachang-ori  
Russian: Klocktun  
Chinese: Many different names in varying dialects, various translated meanings, including king of the ducks and flowery faced duck

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Breeding area restricted to the north eastern USSR: North-east Siberia, from the Ob and Yensei in the west to the Anadyr in the east, north to 70° -75° latitude and south to the northern shores of Lake Baikal in the west, and the Amur in the east, but concentrated around the northern river valleys of the Arctic drainage basin. Currently known from the following river valleys and basins; the Anadyr, Kolyma, Yana, Indigirka, Lena and Amur, and on the Okhotsk coast. There are no recent records from the western part of the range, around the Ob, Yensei and Taz, (Dementiev and Gladkov, 1952; Gerassimov and Lobkov, 1976; Ivanov, 1976; Kitchinski, 1976; Ler et al, 1989). A passage migrant through the SE USSR, particularly around the Amur Valley and Lake Khanka (Bocharnikov, in litt.; Dementiev and Gladkov, 1952; Ler et al, 1989) and also through north eastern China (Cheng, 1976),

to winter in South Korea (Won, 1987; Poole *et al.*, 1990) Japan (Brazil, 1991) and SE China - concentrated around the lower Yangtze River Valley (Cheng, 1976; Lu Jian, East China Normal University, Shanghai, pers. comm.)

22. Population: Little quantitative data exists for populations in the early and mid-twentieth century, but it is obvious from all records that the species has undergone a catastrophic decline from being one of the commonest ducks in the NE Asia to being one of the rarest.

In the early and mid twentieth century in Japan it was described as "at times almost unbelievably abundant" with huge concentrations reported from September to March. Flocks of 100,000 were observed near Osaka, and rafts of 10,000 were not uncommon in Gifu Prefecture (Austin and Kuroda, 1953). The remaining Japanese population is now widely dispersed throughout the country, and only one site is still known to regularly hold significant numbers (WBSJ, 1982-1988). By 1980 the population had declined to fewer than 10,000 birds (Brazil, 1991), and comprehensive national wildfowl counts in January 1990 recorded only 2060. Similar declines are obvious in records from Chinese wintering grounds (Cheng, 1976; Styan, 1891) and of passage birds through China, Korea (Austin, 1948; Gore and Won, 1971) and the USSR (Borcharnikov, in litt.; Ler *et al.*, 1989; Nazarenko *et al.*, 1984). In Hebei Province, China, early this century, it was described as being extremely abundant (La Touche, 1921). At the same site continuous coverage in spring from 1986-1989 produced only two records of eight birds (Holt and Marshall, 1989; Williams (ed), 1986).

Due to the inaccessibility of the breeding grounds, no quantitative estimates of breeding population are known. But from wintering counts the current known population can be estimated at around 40,000 birds. This consists primarily of a single wintering population in Korea - at Chunam Lakes, Kyongsangnam Province. Where from 1987, 20,000 birds have been regularly recorded, making it by far the most important site for the species (Won, 1987; Poole *et al.*, 1990). The remaining wintering population consists of small numbers in Japan (Brazil, 1991), and scattered populations through SE China estimated at around 18,500-19,000 by (Lu Jian (pers. comm.)). Although this figure is likely to be only an estimate, the population is in order of the low thousands to low tens of thousands.

Breeding Biology: Nests close to water, laying in June. Clutch size 6-10, 8-9 frequent. Incubation period 14-15 days. Fledging period unknown. (Cheng (ed.), 1963; Delacour, 1954; Dementiev and Gladkov (eds.), 1952; Flint *et al.*, 1984; Johnsgard, 1978; Soothill and Whitehead, 1978). Feeding Ecology: Omnivorous but predominantly taking grain and seeds, foraging terrestrially and nocturnally (Dementiev and Gladkov (eds.), 1952; Shibaev and Litvinenko, 1971; Labutin and Pozdnyakov, 1988; Allport *et al.*, in press. Japan Hunter's Association, 1989; Zhong *et al.*, 1989; Cheng (ed.), 1963; Qian and Zhu, 1980; Cai, 1987).

23. Habitat: Breeding in marshy areas in taiga and dwarf forest tundra, but rarely entering the true tundra. Concentrated around the lowland river deltas and valleys of the northern arctic drainage basins. Wintering on large areas of open freshwater (e.g. floodplain lakes), that remain relatively ice-free and are in close proximity to large flat expanses of rice fields for foraging.

### 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Hunting for food in Japan, China and USSR, has undoubtedly been responsible for the species' decline. In Japan in the 1940's 50,000 were caught in 20 days by just three hunters on one pond (Austin and Kuroda, 1953), although the species has now been protected there for 20 years and more recent declines are due to problems elsewhere in the species' range. Currently in China, thousands of Anatidae are killed annually on the Yangtze Valley Lakes, these birds are officially traded and consumed throughout the country, the annual catch from Hubei Province alone is estimated at 400,000-600,000 waterfowl (Lu Jian, pers. comm.; Wang, 1988; Yuan and Wang, 1989).

Formerly large numbers of Baikal teal were reported to be processed by trading posts in the northern USSR (Dementiev and Gladkov, 1952), but there are no current references to this continuing.

32. Legal International Trade: Baikal teal has always been popular and in demand for wildfowl collections, due to its beauty and "quiet disposition" (Delacour, 1954). By 1911 it was the commonest duck imported into Europe (Todd 1979) and during the following 30 years they were imported "by the thousand" and also to North America. At this time it was the easiest and cheapest teal to obtain. All these birds originated in south China (Delacour, 1954).

In China it is still taken extensively for official trade, (Lu Jian Jian, 1990 pers. comm.; Wang Tian Hou, East China Normal University, Shanghai, 1990 pers. comm.). Up to 1989 a government run wild duck marketing facility existed at Tai Hu, Jiangsu Province and 10,000 wildfowl were taken every winter of which 400-600 were Baikal teal. These were then exported live to markets or dealers in Hong Kong or Japan (Lu Jian Jian, pers. comm.). The current status of the Tai Hu "factory" is unclear. Baikal teal are available from Shenzhen Market, Guangdong Province, costing in winter 1989-1990 US\$ 5.50 per bird (Lau, WWF Hong Kong, pers. comm., 1990).

Baikal teal originating from China occur occasionally in markets in Hong Kong during the winter months, with up to 60 birds being noted for sale at any one time in the largest wildfowl stall during winter 1989-1990, costing US\$ 7 per bird (Lau, pers. comm.). It is available to the international bird market via Hong Kong, and is listed by the major bird dealer at US\$ 47 (1990) per bird (Lau, pers. comm.). The total exported from Hong Kong to Europe and USA, and the extent of direct trade between China and Japan is unknown.

Baikal teal is a difficult species to propagate in captivity, primarily due to its shyness (Delacour, 1954), but small numbers are now bred successfully (Hewston, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, pers. comm., 1991; Prentice, pers. comm., 1990). They are available through UK dealers at £ 250-£ 275 (1990) per pair, and although wild birds are still thought to be present in the UK marketplace most birds are thought to be captive-bred (Hewston, pers. comm.; Prentice pers. comm.). The following birds have been applied for on recent applications for licences to import the species into UK (Inskipp, Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, pers. comm.):

1979	140	
1980	150	
1981	72	from Hong Kong
1983	30	from China
1987	60	from China
	6	from China via Hong Kong
	20	captive-bred in Belgium

It is also favoured throughout its range for its "tasty meat flavour" (Chen, 1976) and birds of Chinese origin are available in food shops in Hong Kong (Melville, WWF Hong Kong, pers. comm., 1990). Formerly the plumage was used for ornamental purposes and exported widely by the Chinese to overseas markets (Cheng, 1976), but there are no current references to this continuing.

The species seems to be currently imported into Japan as live specimens and perhaps also for food but there is no information on the scale of this trade (Ishii, Japan Wildlife Research Center, in litt., 1991).

33. Illegal Trade: Not known.

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: Interest in the species as an avicultural specimen is likely to continue in the short and long term.

342. Parts and Derivatives: The food trade is potentially the most significant potential parts and derivative trade but exportation of plumage for ornamental purposes occurred in the past and may be continuing or recommence.

#### 4. Protection Status

41. National: In all four countries, several important sites are protected with hunting bans however enforcement in some range states is lax. In Japan, the species is protected, having been removed from the list of official game in 1971. The species is not protected nationally in China but may be at provincial level, however information on this point is lacking.

42. International: Listed in Appendix II of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals within the listing of Anatidae.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The apparent dependence of a substantial proportion of the remaining population in just one critical wintering area leaves the species at risk if this area is damaged or disturbed. There is an urgent need to afford protection to the site in question so that such risks are minimised.

#### 5. Information on Similar Species

Males are readily separable from other ducks at most times of the year but females may be confused with Anas crecca and Anas querquedula, both of which are listed in Appendix III.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The Japanese CITES Scientific Authority (in litt., 1991) has no strong objections to the submission of this proposal. The Chinese CITES Scientific Authority agrees that the species should be listed in Appendix II. Comments from other range states have been sought.

7. Additional Remarks

The fact that this species is highly sociable and that substantial proportions of the population gather together at a small number of sites renders it vulnerable if exploitation of the species is carried out.

8. References

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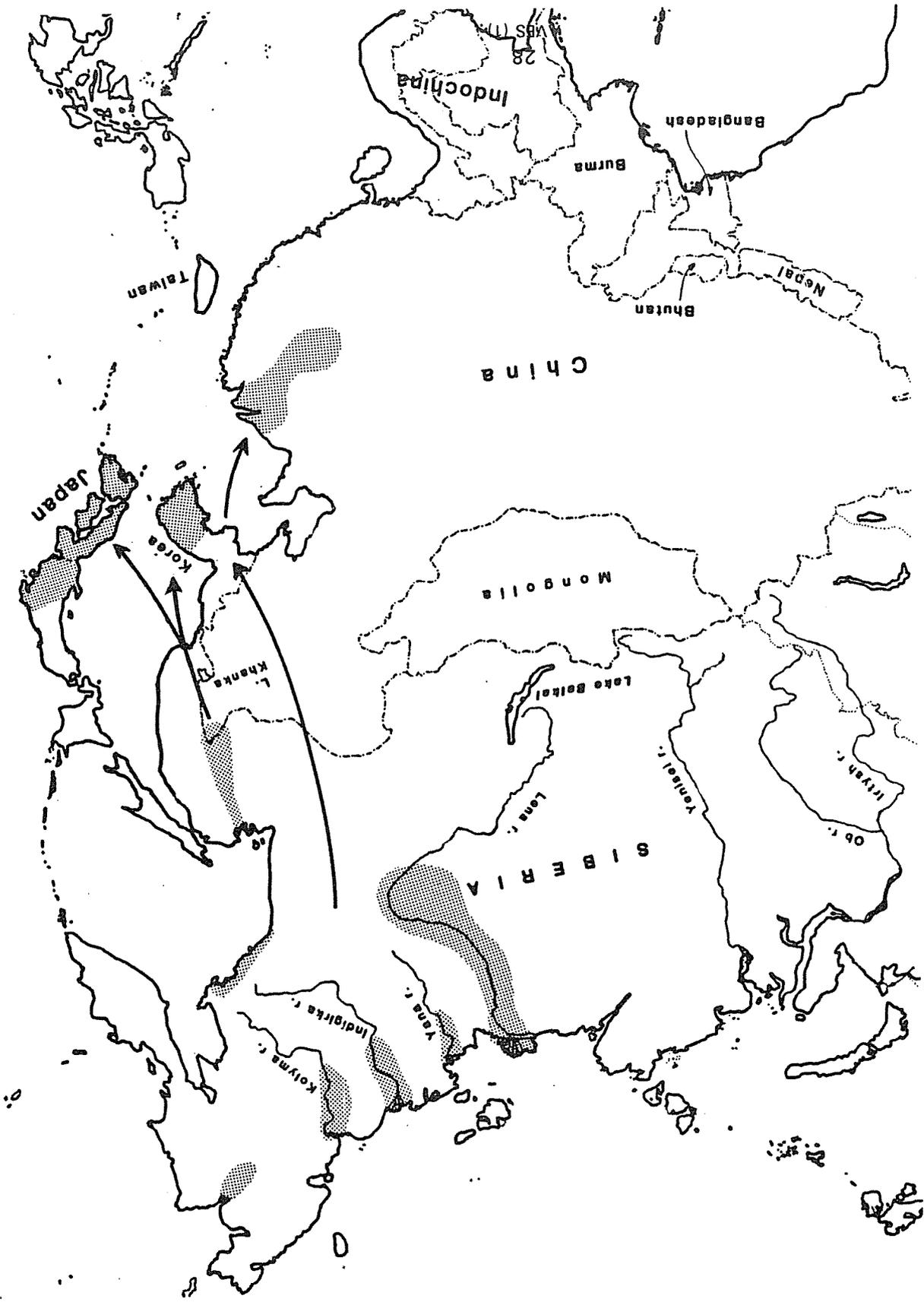


Fig 1. Distribution of Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*