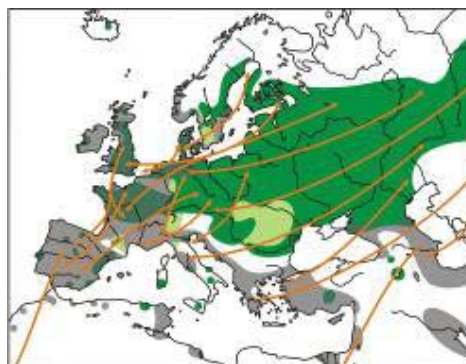


Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) movements

The Pochard breeds in the Palearctic, from western Europe to north-eastern China between 45°N and about 60°N. In western and southern Europe, it is present throughout the year, but otherwise highly migratory. Wintering areas spread out from western and southern Europe through southern Asia to Japan. In winter, it is relatively widespread across central and north-western Europe with major concentrations in Germany, France, The Netherlands and the UK. Other notable concentrations occur in Switzerland, and in countries around the Black and Caspian Seas. Only small numbers are found during winter in north Africa and very few south of the Sahara.

Fairly low numbers of Pochard have been ringed in most countries and the largest numbers of recoveries are from birds ringed in Switzerland, Britain and Russia. Most of the recoveries during the period December to February are reported in western and southern Europe, including Denmark and southern Sweden, as well as in northwest Africa. A general decrease in recoveries from Western and Mediterranean Europe is recorded between January and February, becoming more intense in March; return migration continues in Russia in the east until May. Recoveries from the breeding season (May – June) are spread out from west Europe to about 75°E in Russia. A strong concentration of recoveries is found in the Ob-Irtysh basin, east of the Urals and north of Kazakhstan. The autumn migration starts in August and small numbers of birds are still present in Russia in October. Pochards breeding in northern and central Europe migrate to wintering areas in west Europe. Birds breeding in Britain & Ireland are resident or move to the continent, as far south as Spain. West and central Russian breeders move W to west Europe and Britain and birds breeding in southwest Siberia and Kazakhstan migrate to the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and west to Italy. Pochards breeding further east in Siberia and Central Asia winter in southwest Asia. Moulting migration in males occurs, but many of them remain and moult near breeding sites. Several ringing recoveries of Pochards have shown that complex and aberrant movements regularly take place.



Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*
Distribution Map: Bauer, Bezzel & Fiedler 2006, AULA-Verlag

Figure 1: Map depicting the movements of Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

From:

Delany, S., Veen, J. & Clark, J.A. (eds) 2006. *Urgent preliminary assessment of ornithological data relevant to the spread of Avian Influenza in Europe*. Report to the European Commission. Study contract: 07010401/2005/425926/MAR/B4. Authors: Atkinson, P.W., Clark, J.A., Delany, S., Diagona, C.H., du Feu, C., Fiedler, W., Fransson, T., Gauthier-Clerc, M., Grantham, M.J., Gschwend, M., Hagemeijer, W., Helmink, T., Johnson, A., Khomenko, S., Martakis, G., Overdijk, O., Robinson, R.A., Solokha, A., Spina, F., Sylla, S.I., Veen, J. & Visser, D.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/index_en.htm

Table 1: Summary of the movements of Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*) from the literature based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Distribution: Palearctic, southeastern Russia to northeastern China, western Europe, 120°E, between 45°N and 70°N; northern populations highly migratory, in western and southern Europe present throughout the year

Moult: early June and late August/September in or close to breeding ground

Population (or part of population)	Autumn Migration		Wintering / Non-breeding Grounds		Spring Migration		References
	direction / via	during	location	during	direction / via	during	
(no defined populations)	West to South	Sep-Oct (Nov)	from W- and S-Europe to North Africa		Feb-April		1, 5
Central Asia	West		Western Eurasia, Netherlands				2, 8
Finland	WSW		Britain, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Denmark, France, Spain, Albania				6, 7, 8
Northwest Europe, Baltic states, Poland	WSW, via Germany, West		Germany, Italy, Britain, Netherlands, Denmark				3, 5, 8, 12
England & Scotland	SSW to E		Spain, France, Switzerland, Netherlands				2, 3
(Eastern) Denmark	NNW to SSW	Sep-Nov	Britain, Netherlands, N-France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, smaller groups occasionally to Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Poland, Estland, Lettland, Lithuania				2, 3, 5, 6, 8
(Eastern) Sweden	W to SW		Sweden, Germany, France, Netherlands, Denmark		Mar-Apr		2, 4, 5, 8
Czech Republic	Germany	Aug	France				13
Russia	WSW		Britain, Netherlands, Denmark				2, 5, 8
Southern Russia	S to SW		Black Sea, Mediterranean				8
Southern and Central Europe	SW to SE	Sep-Oct	Black Sea, Mediterranean				8
Southern West and Central Siberia	W to SW		Black Sea, Mediterranean, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, India, Pakistan, Western Europe along Mediterranean, Caspian Sea, Italy				8, 11, 12
Kazakhstan, other central Asian republics			Black Sea, Mediterranean, Italy				8, 12
Central Asian republics, western and central Siberia			Southwest Asia, Poland, Belarus, Central Europe to Britain				8
Iran			India				8
NW Europe (350,000)		Sep-Nov			Mar-Apr		8
Central Europe, Black Sea/Mediterranean (1 million)	crossing Sahara		West Africa, e.g. Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Chad				8
Southwest Asia (350,000)	via Azerbaijan (?)		Northeast Africa, most Sudan and Ethiopia, smaller troupes occasionally to Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania		Mar-May		1, 8

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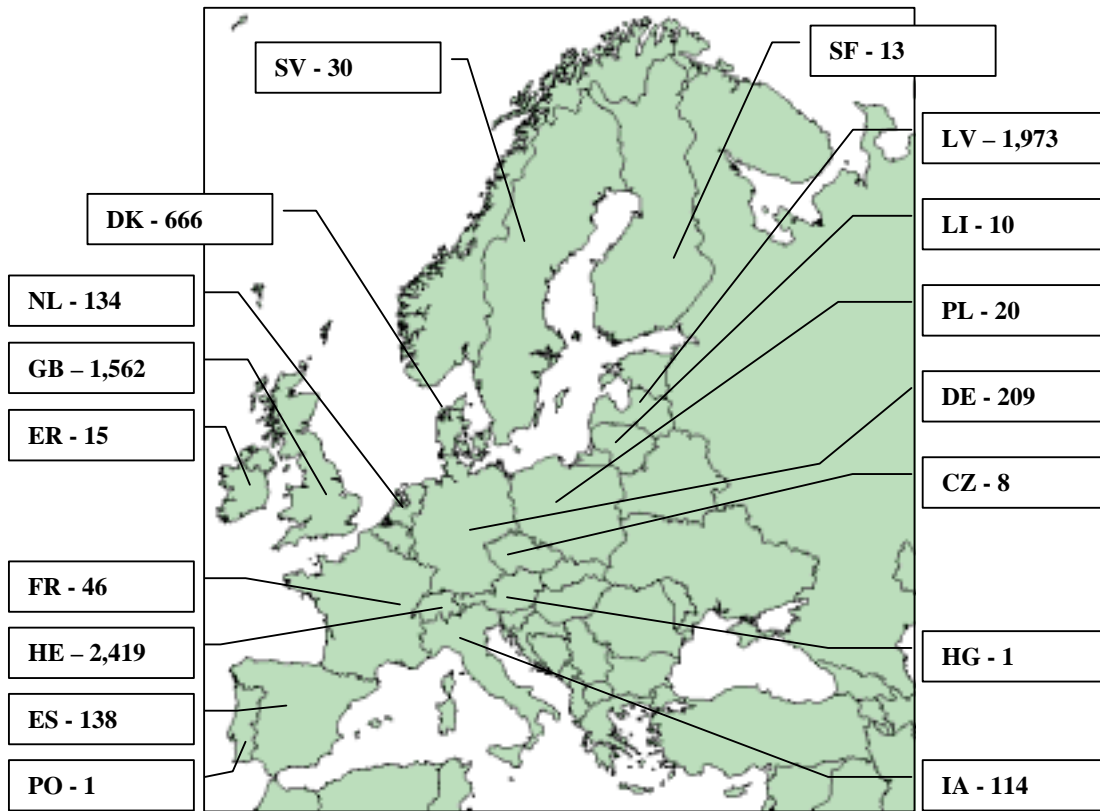


Figure 2. Country of ringing and numbers of recoveries of birds featured in maps of finding locations - Common Pochard (*Aythya farina*).