

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (73) 31

ON BIRDS IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION IN EUROPE

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 October 1973
at the 225th meeting of the Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Recognising the international importance of avifauna as an indicator of the biological balance of the natural environment ;

Recognising that, despite the efforts made during the last few years in European States to protect this fauna, the situation remains critical ;

Recalling its Resolution (67) 24 on birds in need of special protection in Europe and its Resolution (67) 25 on the various causes of the disappearance of wildlife ;

Congratulating the European Ministerial Conference on the Environment on its Resolution No. 2, which recognised the need for an inventory of animals which are becoming rare or are in danger of extinction in Europe so that adequate measures may be taken for their protection ;

Having approved the study on birds in need of special protection in Europe commissioned by the European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources,

Recommends that the governments of member States

1. reinforce legal and administrative measures at present in force with a view to ensuring greater protection for avifauna and for its habitat ;
2. when drawing up or revising such measures, take into consideration as far as possible the principles set out in the European Committee's study and accord particular attention to the 59 species mentioned therein as examples requiring special protection in Europe ;
3. give special attention to the migratory species ;

4. inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of amendments to such measures or of new arrangements made to encourage the conservation of the avifauna in Europe ;
5. ratify as soon as possible the convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat.