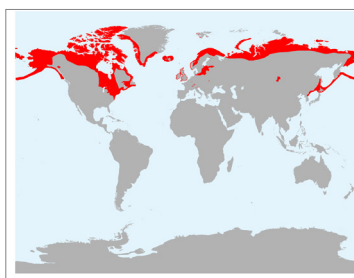




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Long-tailed Duck

The **Long-tailed Duck**, *Clangula hyemalis*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This sea duck has a circumpolar range and breeds predominantly in freshwater habitats in the Arctic tundra of Europe, Asia and North America, and migrates to marine areas further south for the non-breeding season, most notably the Baltic Sea.

There has been a rapid decline of this species (by c.65%) detected in the Baltic Sea, where the majority of the global population overwinters; estimated numbers there have fallen dramatically from 4.2 to 1.4 million birds. The causes of this decline have yet to be elucidated, but may include direct mortality from oil pollution and gill net bycatch, ecological changes within the Baltic Sea, and increased prevalence of low annual breeding success. Hunting of Long-tailed Duck continues in some European countries, though the numbers harvested are fairly small and this is unlikely to be having a significant impact on the population trend.

Few species specific conservation actions have yet to be implemented, but spring hunting in the Aland Islands has recently ceased. Ecological research and action planning are underway, and it is hoped priority actions will soon be adopted and implemented across Europe in order to stem the ongoing decline.

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