

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Federative Republic of Brazil.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Psittaciformes
13. Family: Psittacidae
14. Species: Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus (Latham 1790)
15. Common Names: English: hyacinth macaw
French: ara hyacinthe
Spanish: Ara jacinto, Guacamayo azul
16. Code Numbers: 1318003006003001 (ISIS)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: It occurs mainly in central Brazil, South of Amazonas, but it has also been recorded in the extreme North-East Paraguay and East Bolivia.

Bolivia: Recently recorded from the far East, near San Matias in Santa Cruz, and it is suggested without evidence that it could occur down to the South in marshy habitats along the Río Curiche Grande (Remsem and Ridgely, 1980), although it could be extinct there now (B. Woods, in litt. to N.J. Collar, 12 March 1986).

Brazil: Occurs in the interior, South of Amazonas, from South of Pianí and Pará (probably also Maranhao), West of Bahía and Minas Gerais, the main part of Goiás and Mato Grosso, except North-West. An old report mentions the North of Amazonas, but it is disputable (Ridgely, 1981).

Guyana: Niles (1980) suggests that this species also occurs in Guyana; however, this is almost certainly wrong (Ridgely, 1981).

Paraguay: Its presence is mentioned, at least during certain seasons, in the extreme North-East; apparently because it crosses the border from the adjacent Mato Grosso (Ridgely, 1981).

22. Population:

Bolivia: The population is recorded as very small (Ridgely, 1981); it could be presently extinct (B. Woods, in litt. to N.J. Collar, 12 March 1986).

Brazil: Ridgely (1981) describes this species as uncommon to fairly common locally, saying that it has greatly decreased and that it has even disappeared from some areas. Roth (in litt. of 17 December 1985) says that depletion of the population is drastic and continuous.

Nores and Yzurieta (1984) say that the species was still common in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso, but has declined in various other parts of Brazil, in particular in Goias and Minas Gerais.

Sick (1984) adds that if the species is not yet considered as rare, it will be so soon.

Paraguay: The population there is very small (Ridgely, 1981).

23. Habitat: The largest parrot of the world prefers the gallery forests and semi-open areas, in particular marshes as well as palm groves.

Extended areas of its range have already been deforested for husbandry and this destruction of the habitat is continuing (Ridgely, 1981).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: This species is very much sought after as pet animal in Brazil; as well as for trophies and for food (Forshaw, 1978; Ridgely, 1981).
32. Legal International Trade: It is very difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal international trade. Because they are protected in Brazil since 1967, most of the birds which enter into the international trade are illegal, although some are accompanied by some documentation or are declared captive bred. The international trade in A. hyacinthinus from 1970 to 1979 was analysed by Nilsson and Mack (1980); they reported that the total volume of trade increased from 2 in 1980 to 522 in 1978, decreasing to 72 in 1979. In any case, these figures might have been under-estimates of the total trade. From August 1978 to January 1979, at least 240 A. hyacinthinus were imported into Los Angeles from Paraguay alone and 100 others from Bolivia; many more were also imported into other US cities such as Miami.

The minimum price in the U.S.A. was US\$ 5,000 to 7,000 in 1979 (Ridgely, 1979) and in England it was £2,250 in 1986.

The minimum imports reported to CITES are summarized in Table 1. The total quantity varied between 132 in 1981 and 397 in 1984, with the U.S.A. being the main importer. The origin of most macaws (Table 2) was Bolivia, although the importance of this origin declined in 1984 in favour of Brazil and Paraguay.

The figures of exports authorized by the Autoridad Administrativa de Vida Silvestre Regional of Santa Cruz indicate that a total of 637 A. hyacinthinus were exported from Bolivia between 1980 and 1983, which is a little less than what was indicated in the CITES reports.

Table 1. Minimum Imports of A. hyacinthinus reported to CITES

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Belgium	-	-	-	30
Canada	-	1	14	-
Denmark	-	2	2	-
German Dem. Rep.	-	-	2	-
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	99	7	-	-
Italy	-	10	6	36
France	-	-	-	16
Japan	-	-	-	2
Kenya	-	-	2	-
Philippines	8	2	-	-
South Africa	1	11	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	1
Suriname	-	2	-	-
Sweden	-	12	-	-
Thailand	-	4	-	-
Switzerland	1	27	13	7
United Kingdom	7	1	-	-
United States of America	97	318	249	38
USSR	-	-	-	2
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TOTAL	213	397	288	132

Table 2. Countries of origin or export for exports of live A. hyacinthinus as reported to CITES

Countries which have or might have populations of A. hyacinthinus

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Bolivia	150	382	260	52
Brazil	8	7	10	19

Countries without populations of A. hyacinthinus

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Belgium	-	-	4	-
Dominican Republic	1	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	-	-	36 *
USSR	-	-	-	2
Others	63	8	2	1

* The CITES Management Authority of Uruguay did not issue any export or re-export permit for this species. There might have been an error of identification of the country of origin by the importing country (Italy)(see Annex 1).

The import figures registered by the U.S.A. in its annual report to CITES are in some cases apparently much lower than the trade figures. Nilsson (1985), taking into account the quarantine mortality, found the following figures 1981 - 428; 1982 - 522; 1983 - 431; 1984 - 1. This makes a total of 1,382 for the four years, where the total obtained from the CITES reports in the same period of time is 702.

The level of registered trade seems insufficient to concur with reports about continuous and substantial hunting and smuggling in Brazil; this suggests that either the latter is exaggerated or that there is a large trade which is not registered.

The macaw is too large and prominent when adult not to have been systematically identified by Customs, however it is possible that the chicks might be confused with chicks of other species.

Villalba (1986) found that trafficants from French Guiana traded in this bird in significant numbers. An Austrian trafficant based in Cayenne was holding some 60 specimens in 1984 which disappeared since then from his establishment. In 1985, some 49 specimens were imported by the owner of a zoo in Salzburg (Austria), indicating Paraguay as origin, although he did not have any CITES documentation and had only a health certificate, the legality of which was very dubious.

41. National:

Bolivia: Listed as a protected species under Decreto Supremo No. 16605 of 1979, all exports of wildlife were banned on 1 May 1984.

On 26 June 1986, by Decreto Supremo No. 21312 a new total ban was enacted for three years.

Brazil: All exports of wildlife have been prohibited since 1967. The species occurs in various reserves, mainly in the Cara-Cara Reserve in Mato Grosso, and in the Araguaia National Park, Goias, none of them being totally safe (Ridgely, 1981).

Paraguay: All exports of wildlife have been prohibited since 1975.

42. International: CITES Appendix II.

5. Information on Similar Species

This species is similar to A. leari and A. glaucus, both listed in CITES Appendix I. The first one is very endangered, while the second is presumed extinct. A. leari has the head and neck green-blue, and presents a very large and round area of naked skin under the under-mandible which is absent on the species we are dealing with (Ridgely, 1979).

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Forshaw, J. 1979, Parrots of the World, 2a. ed. Melbourne: Lansdowne.

Nilsson, G. and D. Mack., 1980. Macaws: traded to extinction?
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Remsem V. and R.S. Ridgely, 1980. Additions to the avifauna of Bolivia. Condor.

Ridgely, R.S., 1979. Report to World Wildlife Fund-US sobre el status
de los loros de Brasil.

Villalba, J., 1986, Informe Interno TRAFFIC SUDAMERICA.

