

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Psophodes nigrogularis from Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The Commonwealth of Australia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

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| 11. Class: | Aves |
| 12. Order: | Passeriformes |
| 13. Family: | Muscicapidae (Orthonychidae) |
| 14. Species: | <u>Psophodes nigrogularis</u> |
| 15. Common Names: | English: western whipbird, tjadjing
French: timalie du Maltée
Spanish: Tímalo occidental |
| 16. Code Numbers: | |

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

Historical: Formerly south-western Western Australia, Eyre and York Peninsulas of South Australia, Kangaroo Island, and from South East South Australia to North West Victoria.

Current: There are now two main isolated populations, one on the far South coast of Western Australia and the other in South Australia and adjacent Victoria.

22. Population: The two main populations were originally isolated by increasing aridity, and European settlement caused continued shrinkage. A limited survey carried out in Western Australia in 1985 indicated that P. nigrogularis was present in 38 out of 54 sites surveyed. The species appears to be most abundant in Western Australia at Two Peoples Bay, Beaufort Inlet, Fitzgerald River National Park, North of the Fitzgerald River National Park and the southern Ravensthorpe Ranges. Results of a prior survey at Two Peoples Bay (Smith, 1985) indicated that there were 100 pairs of birds. This species is relatively common in parts of southeastern South Australia and rare in adjacent northwestern Victoria.
23. Habitat: Mallee, heath and scrub. When mallee or heath are cleared the species seems unable to survive elsewhere.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None.
32. Legal International Trade: Exportation of native Australian wildlife is regulated by the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982. No specimen of P. nigrogularis has been exported since the Act came into force on 1 May 1984.
33. Illegal Trade: None known.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Included in the CONCOM national list of endangered vertebrates. Protected in the range states under the following legislation:

Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 Section 14(12), under which it is gazetted as being "likely to become extinct, or rare, or otherwise in need of special protection".

South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

Victorian Wildlife Act 1975.

42. International: Currently listed in Appendix II of CITES.

5. Information on Similar Species

The most closely related species is the eastern whipbird Psophodes divaceus which is common on the east coast of Australia.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Psophodes nigrogularis is endemic to Australia.

7. Additional Remarks

The species is not subject to trade. It is abundant in some areas but regionally restricted, being located in several widely separated populations in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.

8. References

- Blakers, M., J.J.F. Davis and P. N. Reilly, 1984. The Atlas of Australian Birds. RAOU, Melbourne University Press.
- Burbidge, A.A. & R.W.G. Jenkins (eds), 1984. Endangered Vertebrates of Australia and its Island Territories. Report of the Working Group on Endangered Fauna of the Standing Committee of the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. ANPWS, Canberra.
- Ford, J., 1976. Western Whipbird. In Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds. Reader's Digest Services Pty Ltd, Sydney.
- McNee, S., 1986. Surveys of the Western Whipbird and Western Bristlebird in Western Australia, 1985. RAOU Report No. 16 RAOU, Victoria.

Smith, G.T., 1985. Fire effects on populations of the Noisy Scrub-bird (Atrichornis clamosus), Western Bristlebird (Dasyornis longirostris) and Western Whip-bird (Psophodes nigrogularis). In Ford, J. (Ed) Fire Ecology and Management in Western Australian Ecosystems. WAIT Environmental Studies Group Report No. 14: 95-101.

