

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Deletion of Meliphaga (Lichenostomus melanops) cassidix from Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Commonwealth of Australia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Passeriformes
13. Family: Meliphagidae
14. Species: Meliphaga (Lichenostomus melanops) cassidix
15. Common Names: English: helmeted honeyeater
French: méliphage casqué
Spanish: Melero de casco

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

Historical: Formerly widespread throughout southern Gippsland, Victoria.

Current: Occurs in a small area on the Woori Yallock Creek system, mostly in the Yellingbo State Wildlife Reserve.

22. Population: A population of about 200 individuals occurs on the Woori Yallock Creek system.

23. Habitat: The species appears to require a restricted and specific habitat of swamp and manna gums (Eucalyptus ovata, E. viminalis), with shrubby tea-trees, bracken and dense tussocks of grass and saw-sedge along watercourses.

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 Meliphaga cassidix has been exported since the Act came into force on 1 May 1984.

33. Illegal Trade: None.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The species is endangered and listed in the CONCOM national list of endangered vertebrates. Protected in Victoria under the Wildlife Act 1975.

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

5. Information on Similar Species

Four subspecies of Meliphaga melanops are recognised. The yellow tufted honeyeater Meliphaga melanops gippslandicus, is similar, but lacks the conspicuously-raised forehead tufts and the bright colours of the crown; also the nape and mantle merge, rather than ending abruptly. This subspecies ranges from Noojee, Victoria, South and East of the Great Dividing Range to Narooma, New South Wales.

Meliphaga melanops melanops occurs along coastal New South Wales.

Meliphaga melanops meltoni is nomadic and inhabits inland regions West of the Great Dividing Range in Victoria and New South Wales.

Populations of the three subspecies in Victoria are mobile in autumn and winter, meltoni moving the greatest distance, especially in drought years.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

The species is endemic to Australia.

7. Additional Remarks

8. References

Blakers, M., J.J.F. Davis and P.N. Reilly, 1984. The Atlas of Australian Birds. RAOU, Melbourne University Press.

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Crome, F., 1976. Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. In Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds (1976). Reader's Digest Services Pty Ltd, Sydney.