

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Gubernatrix cristata in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Argentine Republic.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Passeriformes
13. Family: Emberizidae
14. Species: Gubernatrix cristata (Vieillot, 1817)
15. Common Names: English: yellow cardinal
French: cardinal vert
Spanish: Cardenal amarillo
German: grun kardinal
Italian: cardinale verde
16. Code Numbers: A-227.043.025.001 (I.D. Manual)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: In Argentina from southern Misiones, East of Formosa, Salta, Tucumán and Santiago del Estero to La Rioja, Córdoba, San Luis, La Pampa and Río Negro. In addition, South of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul) and Uruguay.
22. Population: There are no accurate population estimates for this species, but a progressive depletion can easily be noticed in a large part of its range. For example, in the Córdoba Province, Argentina, there are only two localities where the species is more or less common, San Francisco del Chañar and Los Cóndores. In the rest of the Province, it is clearly declining (Nores et al., 1983).

Another area which still is a secure refuge for the species in Argentina is the "Selva de Montiel" in the northern Entre Ríos Province (Federal Dept.) where pairs or small flocks may be sighted (Chebez et al., 1986). Of all its Argentine range the species is only protected in the Lihué-Calel National Park (La Pampa Province).

23. Habitat:

Xerophil forests in the phytogeographic provinces of Espinal and of Chaco, where trees of the genus Presopis and Acacia are dominant, sometimes with palm trees and cacti and concentrations of Schinopsis spp. and Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco. This is a

ligneous formation deeply altered through forestry activities and for cattle which due to their continuous browsing destroy young shoots and sprouts, damaging substantially the vegetation composition and structure. As a secondary effect to this activity, there are intentional fires to burn the brush vegetation to favour pasture development.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: It is one of the most sought after cage birds in Argentina and, at the same time, one of the most appreciated for its wonderful colour.
32. Legal International Trade: No detailed information is available.
33. Illegal Trade: : No detailed information is available, but it exists. In 1978, 6 specimens were exported from Argentina to the United States of America (Nilsson, 1981).
34. Potential Trade Threats:
 341. Live Specimens: The continuous trapping pressure added to the increasing process of transformation of the habitat is endangering several populations of the species. For example, in Tucumán from July 1985 to June 1986, 8 specimens were confiscated; In Córdoba from 1977 to 1985, 41 specimens have been seized in 16 cases. In Buenos Aires, 7 cardinals of this species have been seized in 1983 and 1984. In Santa Fe between 1981 and 1986, 61 specimens have been seized. The species is regularly sold in bird markets of Nueva Pompeya (Buenos Aires) and Villa Domínico (Avellaneda)
 342. Parts and Derivatives: There is apparently no trade in its feathers.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The Resolution No. 62 of the Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería de la Nación is currently in force; it prohibits over the whole national territory (Federal Capital and Tierra del Fuego) the trade in live animals of our native fauna. In Jujuy the species is protected by Ley 3014/73, Decreto Reglamentario 5096/73. In Tucumán, it is prohibited by Decreto Reglamentario No. 842/14 of the Ley de Caza No. 1723. In Corrientes the Ley 1863/54 and its Decreto Reglamentario 2249/55 protect it. In Córdoba it is protected by the Decreto-Ley No. 4046-C-58. Its trade is prohibited in Salta by Ley 5513/79, in La Pampa by Ley No. 502/69 and its Reglamento 147/70, Disposición No. 1/86, in Santa Fe by Ley No. 04218 Article 9, Ley 4830 and Ley 22421, and in Chaco by Ley No. 635/64 Article 3°. In Río Negro it is protected by Ley No. 2056 and in Buenos Aires by Decreto No. 110/81 and Article 287 of Código Rural (Decreto-Ley 10081/83).
42. International: The species is listed in CITES Appendix III (Uruguay) Code A-227.043.025.001, 1986 (1).
43. Additional Protection Needs: National reserves should be created to effectively protect the species, e.g. in la Selva de Montiel, Entre Ríos Province, where it still exists in certain numbers.

5. Information on Similar Species

The cardinals Paroaria coronata and Paroaria capitata suffer similar problems, but they are less serious due to a wider distribution and relatively higher population numbers.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

None. In Uruguay, the species is hunted by trappers and it has a high value as a singing bird and it is known that shipments of these birds left the country in 1982 and 1984.

7. Additional Remarks

None.

8. References

Olrog, Claes, 1963. Lista y Distribución de las Aves Argentinas. Opera Lilloana IX: 337 págs. Tucumán.

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Nores M., D. Yzurieta and R. Miatello. 1983. Lista y Distribución de las Aves de Córdoba, Argentina. Bol. Acad. Nac. Cs. Córdoba 56 (1-2): 114 págs. Cordoba.

Chebez J.C., G. Gil, S. Krapovichas, D. Gomez, C. Bertonatti, H. Rodríguez Moulin, A. Bosso, S. Heinonen, D. Forcelli y W. Heinonen, 1986. Relevamiento Bioecológico de la Selva de Montiel, Dpto. de Federal, provincia de Entre Ríos. Primera etapa. Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, Bs. As.

