

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Pitta gurneyi in Appendix I.

B. PROPOSER

The Kingdom of Thailand.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves

12. Order: Passeriformes

13. Family: Pittidae

14. Species: Pitta gurneyi

15. Common Names: English: gurney's pitta black-breasted pitta  
French:  
Spanish:  
Thai: Nok Taew Laew Thong Dam, Nok Ten  
Hua Phreh

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

Peninsular Thailand: Formerly ranged from Southern Prachuap Khiri Khan Province (ca. 11° 50' N) to Trang Province (7° 31' N). At present (1986-1988), it is known from 3 distinct areas; in Surat Thani Province; in Krabi Province and on the border of Krabi and Trang Provinces. None of these sites are protected as a national park or wildlife sanctuary although the site on the Krabi/Trang border receives partial protection as a Non-Hunting Area.

Burma: Over 40 specimens were collected from six localities in South Tenasserim (10° 01' N to 11° 28' N) during the years 1875 to 1914.

The only breeding records are from Thailand and the species may possibly be only a non-breeding dry season visitor to Burma (Collar, Round and Wells, 1986).

22. Population:

Thailand: Very rare. No more than an absolute maximum of 50 pairs seems likely following intensive surveys carried out during 1987-1988. Of these, roughly 30 pairs are found at a single site - the Khao Pra Bang Khram Non-Hunting Area (Lansdown, in prep).

Burma: Not known, although there still appears to be abundant cover of lowland forest within the species' historical range.

23. Habitat: Rainforest and older secondary growth of the level lowlands, close to permanent streams. (Gretton, 1988; Lansdown in prep.; Round and Treesucon, 1986). Over 97% of this habitat has been destroyed in Thailand (Conservation Data Centre, Mahidol University, Bangkok).

### 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Like other pittas, this species is much sought as a cagebird.
32. Legal International Trade: At least one captive bird was known in Bangkok during 1982-1985 and was said to have been bought from a trader no earlier than 1978 (Collar, Round and Wells, 1986). Two major animal dealers (one in Bangkok and one in Southern Thailand) reported receiving a number of Gurney's Pittas in 1985-86 and the species was advertised on a price list of a major illicit, Bangkok - based dealer, Suchino Co. in November 1985. It is not reliably known whether the species is still occurring in the trade.
33. Illegal Trade:
34. Potential Trade Threats: The conservation measures aimed at P. gurneyi have inevitable generated publicity and drawn attention to the species. It is reported that prices have risen to US\$ 200 per bird, further powerful incentive for villagers to seek to trap the bird. Large numbers of commoner pitta species are sent by rail into Malaysia by bird dealers operating illegally in Southern Thailand (Round, unpubl).

### 4. Protection Status

Added to CITES Appendix III in 1987. Also protected under domestic Thai legislation (WARPA). This however, still allows for possession of the species, though capture or sale is prohibited.

The principal site in Thailand, Khao Pra Bang Khram, (also known as Khao Noi Chuchi) is protected as a Non-Hunting Area.

### 5. Information on Similar Species

The male is unmistakable. The female is much duller, though still readily identified from other pittas by its drab coloration and uniform mustard-yellow crown. The brown, speckled juveniles may be reliably separated from juveniles of P. guajana by the absence of white in the wing.

### 6. Comments from Countries of Origin

### 7. Additional Remarks

The species' endangered status, its recent and probably continued occurrence in trade, and the major threat which this poses, clearly indicate that it should be added to Appendix I.

8. References

Collar, N.J., Round, P.D. and Wells, D.R., 1986. The past and future of Gurney's Pitta Pitta gurneyi. Forktail 1: 29-51.

Gretton, A., 1988. Gurney's Pitta and the lowland forests of Southern Thailand. A report to Wildlife Conservation International of research and survey carried out in 1987 at Khao Pra Bang Kham Non-Hunting Area. ICBP, Cambridge.

Lansdown, R. (in prep). Assessment of the population and status of Gurney's Pitta in Peninsular Thailand. ICBP Report.

Round, P.D. Unpublished memorandum to ICBP following the rediscovery of Gurney's Pitta, July 1986.

Round, P.D. and Treesucon, U., 1986. The rediscovery of Gurney's Pitta. Forktail 2: 53-66.

