

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Pseudochelidon sirintarae from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Kingdom of Thailand

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Passeriformes
13. Family: Hirundinidae
14. Species: Pseudochelidon sirintarae
15. Common Names: English: white-eyed river martin
French:
Spanish:
Thai: Nok Chao Fah Sirindhorn
16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Thailand: Known only from Bung Boraphet in Nakhon Sawan Province (winter only) where the species was discovered and described in 1968 (Thonglongya, 1968).
22. Population: Thailand: Very rare; believed to be a migrant from undetermined areas to North of the known locality. Listed as Indeterminate in 1979 ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book; also listed by Collar and Andrew (1988) World Checklist of Threatened Birds and is thought to be on the verge of extinction (Round, 1988). In addition to 9 specimens taken at the time of discovery, roughly 120 birds were said to have been subsequently captured by villagers and sold. Two birds were also sent to the Bangkok Zoo in 1971 and soon died (Sophasan and Dobias, 1984). D. Ogle reported seeing 4 birds in December 1980 and an unconfirmed report of a bird having been caught by a villager was received in 1986 (Ogle, 1986).
23. Habitat: Although the species has so far only been recorded in, or in the immediate vicinity of, tall Phragmites around the margins of a lake, and in which it roosts among congregations of barn swallows Hirundo rustica, it can probably be inferred that, like its only living relative, the African river martin Pseudochelidon eurystomina, the species nests in burrows on riverine sandbanks. All likely major rivers in Thailand,

however, are subject to massive human disturbance and long sections of two rivers, the Mai Nam Nan and the Mai Nam Ping, have been inundated by hydro electric dams.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: None known, though one private zoo in Bangkok has offered a monetary reward for live specimens.
32. Legal International Trade: None.
33. Illegal Trade: Following the unprecedented publicity attached to the discovery, 120 individuals were apparently caught by local villagers and sold to the director of the local fisheries station. Two birds appeared in the Bangkok Zoo in 1971 (Sophasan and Dobias, 1984).
34. Potential Trade Threats: Illegal capture of roosting barn swallows and other birds at Bung Boraphet continues and financial incentives to villagers to catch river martins have apparently been offered illegally by at least one of the many private zoos in Bangkok.

4. Protection Status

The species is protected by domestic Thai legislation (WARPA). However, this only prohibits capture or sale and does not make actual ownership illegal. The wintering site, Bung Boraphet, receives a measure of protection as a Non-Hunting Area.

5. Information on Similar Species

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

7. Additional Remarks

The apparently endangered status of P. sirintarae should be sufficient to warrant its inclusion in Appendix I of the Convention.

8. References

- Collar, N.J. and Andrew, P., 1988. Birds to Watch: The ICBP World Check-list of Threatened Birds. Techn. Publ. No 3, ICBP, Cambridge.
- Ogle, D., 1986. The status and seasonality of birds in Nakhon Sawan Province, Thailand. Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc. 34: 115-143.
- Round, P.D., 1988. Resident forest birds in Thailand: their status and conservation. Monograph No 2, ICBP, Cambridge.
- Sophasan, S. and Dobias, R.J., 1984. The fate of the "princess bird" or White-eyed River Martin (Pseudochelidon sirintatae). Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc. 32: 1-10.
- Thonglongya, T., 1968. A new martin of the genus Pseudochelidon from Thailand. Thai Nat. Sci. Papers, Fauna Series No 1. Applied Scientific Research Corporation, Bangkok.