

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Transfer of Goura spp. from Appendix II to Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT

The Netherlands.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Columbiformes
13. Family: Columbidae
14. Genus: Goura
15. Species: Goura cristata Pallas 1764
Subspecies: Goura cristata cristata
Goura cristata minor
Scientific Synonyms: Columba cristata Pallas 1764
Goura cinerea Hartert
Goura coronata
- Common Names: English: blue-crowned pigeon
common crowned pigeon
grey crowned pigeon
blue goura, grey goura
French: goura couronné
Spanish: paloma crestada azul
- Species: Goura scheepmakeri Finsch 1876
Subspecies: Goura scheepmakeri scheepmakeri
Goura scheepmakeri sclaterii
Scientific Synonyms: Goura albertsii Salvadori
Goura sclaterii Salvadori 1875
- Common Names: English: maroon-breasted crowned pigeon
Scheepmaker's crowned pigeon
southern crowned pigeon
French: goura de Scheepmaker
goura de Sclater, guria
Spanish: Paloma crestada de Scheepmaker
- Species: Goura victoria Fraser 1844
Goura victoria victoria

Goura victoria beccarii

Scientific Synonyms: Goura beccarii Salvadori 1876
Lophyrus victoria Fraser 1844

Common Names: English: white-tipped crowned pigeon
Victoria goura
French: goura de Victoria
Spanish: Paloma crestada Victoria

16. Code Numbers: A-217.003.015.002
A-217.003.015.003
A-217.003.015.004

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

211. Goura cristata

Indonesia: North-western New Guinea eastward to Etna Bay in the south and to the Siriwo River in the north. Also Papuan Islands of Misol, Salawati, Batanta and Waigeu.

Found in lowland forests including marshy and partly flooded areas.

212. Goura scheepmakeri

Indonesia, Papua New Guinea: Southern New Guinea from Mimika to Fly Rivers, and south-eastern New Guinea from Hall Sound to Orangerie Bay.

Inhabits both dry and flooded forests.

213. Goura victoria

Indonesia, Papua New Guinea: Northern New Guinea between head of Geelvink Bay (at Siriwo River) and Astrolabe Bay, also south-eastern New Guinea in Collingwood Bay region between Holnicote Bay and Mount Maneao. Also Japan (Jobi) Island and Biak Island; possibly introduced to the latter.

Inhabits flat, lowland and partly inundated tropical forests.

22. Ecology: Presumably, habits of all three species are quite similar: all reportedly travel in small parties of some two to ten birds, spending much time foraging on the ground, and all roost in trees (Coates, 1985; Goodwin, 1983; Rand and Gillard, 1968). Large congregations of G. cristata have been observed at waterholes in Irian Jaya (T. Cheng, pers. comm.). If disturbed, Goura spp. prefer to walk to run away, but if forced to, will fly noisily to high treelimits where the birds "balance themselves clumsily and gawk at the intruder, making easy targets of themselves" (Rand and Gillard, 1968). Bell, 1967 remarked that G. scheepmakeri was said to be "stupidly tame". Goura cristata is known to feed on fallen fruits, and probably takes other foods such as seeds and molluscs

(Goodwin, 1983). Goura scheepmakeri feeds on small crabs (Grant, 1915 in Goodwin, 1983), seeds, fruits and berries; G. victoria also feeds on fallen fruits, berries and seeds (Bell, 1970; Coates, 1985; Goodwin, 1983). Nests are built in trees, and are neat, solid, compact structures. Goura scheepmakeri nests are situated at heights of 3.5 to 15m from the ground, and include sticks and stems, palm leaves and tendrils (Coates, 1985; Rand, 1942 in Goodwin, 1983). All three species lay one white egg, and the incubation period is between 28 and 30 days in captivity (Goodwin, 1983; Coates 1985; C. King and J. Nijboer, pers. obs.).

23. Population Status, Trends and Threats: There are no actual census data for any of the three species, but some general observations in population trends are available.

231. Goura cristata: Rand and Gillard (1968) reported that this species is common in suitable habitat, but it is being rapidly extirpated by hunting in the vicinity of villages (K.D. Bishop, pers. comm. in Collar and Andrew, 1988). Though J.M. Diamond (pers. comm. in Collar and Andrew, 1988) found that hunting pressure is less for this species than the others due to an unavailability of guns, pressure for the bird trade appears to be high as discussed below.

232. Goura scheepmakeri: Originally fairly common to common but now very rare anywhere in the vicinity of human settlement (Bell, 1969, 1970, 1982; Coates, 1985; Rand and Gillard, 1968). It has already been hunted to extinction throughout much of its range in the south-east (Schodde, 1978; G.R. Gula, pers. comm. in Collar and Andrew, 1988). K.D. Bishop (pers. comm. in Collar and Andrew, 1988) found it to be still common in undisturbed forests on the Biau River in south-east Irian Jaya, but noted that it is shot indiscriminately there by police and military, and young are taken for pets.

233. Goura victoria: Originally fairly common to common over much of its range, but now due to hunting pressure is absent from large areas, and is only numerous in remote areas (Coates, 1985). Rand and Gillard (1968) also noted that this species is usually extirpated in the vicinity of villages and towns. It is primarily killed for food although its feathers are sometimes used for headdresses (Coates, 1985).

234. Comments: Coates (1985) remarked that all three species were rapidly becoming quite rare because of hunting pressure; all three species are hunted for food and plumes (Beehler, 1985 in Collar and Andrew, 1988).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Birds of all three species are taken for food, feathers and pets.

32. Legal International Trade: Trade figures reported to CITES for 1985 - 1989 are given below.

Species/Year	1985	1986	1987	1987	1988	TOTAL
<u>G. cristata</u>		20	383	107	156	666
<u>G. scheepmakeri</u>	2	36	18	4	11	71
<u>G. victoria</u>	2	18	3	35	10	78
<u>Goura spp.</u>		3				3

Striking is the high number of crowned pigeons exported by Taiwan, with a maximum of 300 C. cristata. All of these are claimed to be captive-bred. Main exporters are Taiwan and Singapore, which also exported mostly captive-bred birds. The large trade in "captive-bred" birds is especially striking seen in the light of the information given on captive-breeding under 34. of this proposal.

T. Cheng, an animal handler based in Singapore, reported catching some nine hundred G. cristata four years ago with nets at waterholes in Irian Jaya (pers. comm. to C. King); an additional large group, which he said included some 200 individuals, was seen during a visit to his farm in Singapore, June 1991 (C. King, pers. obs.). He also stated that he was holding another ca. 100 specimens on Peninsular Malaysia, and that all of the birds currently in his possession were captured three years ago (pers. comm. to C. King). Approximately 10 more G. cristata were seen at the farm of the only other bird dealer visited in Singapore during the same trip. Smaller numbers of G. scheepmakeri and G. victoria, a few dozens collectively, were also seen at these two facilities. The two dealers reported that they primarily sell crowned pigeons to East European countries and within South-East Asia.

T. Yaacob (pers. comm. to K. Brouwer) reported seeding approximately 600 crowned pigeons in Singapore between 1988 and 1989 at pet stores and bird dealer facilities. Four G. cristata were also seen in the only pet store visited during a June 1991 trip to Singapore (C. King, pers. obs.); people conversant in bird trade, and dealers themselves, in the region find that pet stores throughout Singapore carry many of the same items, thus it can be assumed that crowned pigeons are also currently readily available to the public sector. A total of nine crowned pigeons were seen in the Bangkok (Thailand) weekend market during five surveys undertaken in 1987/1988 (Round, 1990).

33. Illegal Trade: Some 560 crowned pigeon heads were confiscated from a feather handler in Amsterdam in 1991 (Anonymous, 1991). Most of the heads were dyed one of several colours and could have been from either G. cristata or G. scheepmakeri.

Obviously, the number of exports reported from Singapore to CITES during 1983-1988 does not come anywhere close to the number that were actually exported during those years. Though the ca. 200 crowned pigeons seen in Singapore in June 1991 were said to be captured in 1988, and thus before the Singapore Endangered Species (import and export) Act of 1989, which enabled implementation of CITES (Anonymous, 1989), it is highly unlikely that these birds have been held there this long, given the housing conditions and diet that these birds are receiving (C. King, pers.

obs.), and the nature of the animal dealer business. It would seem more likely that they are continually replaced by new specimens.

Number of birds confiscated in various countries: in 1990 a total of 13 Goura cristata and Goura victoria were confiscated in Germany. Most of these birds were illegally imported via Yugoslavia.

63 birds were confiscated in Switzerland (1989?)

21 birds were confiscated in Spain (1990)

34. Potential Trade Threats: Some 212 crowned pigeons (115 G. cristata, 29 G. scheepmakeri, 68 G. victoria) are held in just 10 zoos and a private aviary censused in South-East Asia (Yaacob, 1990; C. King, pers. obs.), and a mixed flock including more than 100 specimens of all three species collectively was observed at "Safari World", a private amusement/safari park outside of Bangkok that opened in the past few years (R. Wirth, pers. comm.). Another 47 crowned pigeons of unidentified species were seen in another 3 Indonesian zoos in 1990 (J. Nijboer, pers. comm.). The South-East Asian region does not have a studbook for this group of birds; however, western Europe and North America do have active studbooks, and there are plans to undertake a similar effort in Australia. A Crowned Pigeon European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) is also in effect (Assink, 1988; Nijboer, op. cit.) and the studbook keeper in North America has recently petitioned for a similar Species Survival Plan (SSP). D. Wetzel (pers. comm. to J. Nijboer) has also petitioned for a recognized international studbook.

Registered studbook populations in North America and Europe, as of 31 December 1990 (Wetzel, pers. comm.; Nijboer in press).

Species	N. America	Europe	Total
<u>Goura cristata</u>	77	63	140
<u>Goura scheepmakeri</u>	13	23	26
<u>Goura victoria</u>	71	72	143

There are 53 zoos and private persons participating in the North American studbook (Wetzel undated, b), and 33 (mostly western) Europeans participating in the European one. Unregistered individuals occur within both regions, e.g. 50 unregistered specimens have been located within Europe (Pers. comms. to J. Nijboer). Unfortunately, little information is available from most areas of the world, including South-East Asia and eastern Europe, the regions expected to hold the most specimens. It is believed that many more birds are held in the private sector in all regions, as crowned pigeons are very popular aviary birds; they "can be kept at liberty and look wonderful strutting around the garden" (Roles, 1991) and have much public appeal; indeed, 14 specimens were observed in a hotel aviary in Bangkok (C. King, pers. obs.).

Captive breeding can not supply the large demand for crowned pigeons in the near future. The North American and European studbook populations have collectively suffered a negative population growth, with 156 deaths and 123 births, in the last three years (1988-1990) (Nijboer, undated, in press; Wetzel, undated a,b, pers. comm.). Results in South-East Asia are much the same; seven births and five deaths were reported for a total

population of 186 birds in 1990 (Yaacob, 1991). Much effort is currently being invested into developing techniques to improve breeding success, but this will take time.

4. Protection Status

41. National: Totally protected in Indonesia. Totally protected in Papua New Guinea.
42. International: The genus Goura is listed in Appendix II of CITES. The genus is listed in Annex C1 of the EC (CITES) regulation 3626/82, which gives it the same status as of an Appendix-I CITES species within the EC countries.
43. Additional Protection Needs: Although hunting for food and habitat destruction are probably the primary cause of decline of the crowned pigeons around human settlements, it is unlikely that they would be extensively hunted for this purpose deep in the forests where they still remain. Contrarily, capture for plumes and bird trade could severely undermine such remaining populations. International trade of plumes and live specimens is certainly significantly adding to the observed decline of this unique group of pigeons; transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES will help alleviate the considerable pressure these birds are under. Furthermore an Appendix-I listing will assist both range states in their effort to enforce their national legislation.

Population surveys and natural history studies should be undertaken. It is highly predictable that without substantial (inter)national protection crowned pigeons, because of their desirability as aviary specimens, food items and for the feather market, combined with their very easy capture, will be one of the first species to disappear as Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea are further developed.

5. Information on Similar Species

The genus Goura contains the largest members of the pigeon family and all species have the distinctive crest of head feathers, thus it is unlikely that they would be confused with any other species.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Being sought.

8. References

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