

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Pittidae spp. in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

Malaysia.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves

12. Order: Passeriformes

13. Family: Pittidae

14. Species: (classification following Sibley and Monroe, 1990):
P. anerythra, P. angolensis, P. arcuata, P. baudii,
P. brachyura¹, P. caerulea, P. cyanea, P. dohertyi²,
P. elegans, P. elliotii, P. erythrogaster, P. granatina,
P. iris³, P. maxima, P. megarhyncha⁴,
P. moluccensis, P. nipalensis, P. oatesi, P. phayrei,
P. reichenowi⁵, P. schneideri, P. sordida, P. soror,
P. steerii, P. superba, P. venusta⁶, P. versicolor.

(NB. P. gurneyi and P. kochi are presently listed in Appendix I; P. guajana and P. nympha (as P. brachyura nympha) are presently listed in Appendix II

¹ sometimes considered conspecific with P. moluccensis

² sometimes considered conspecific with P. erythrogaster

³ sometimes considered conspecific with P. versicolor

⁴ sometimes considered conspecific with P. moluccensis

⁵ sometimes considered conspecific with P. angolensis

⁶ sometimes considered conspecific with P. granatina

15. Common Names:

English: Pittas, jewel thrushes
P. anerythra: black-faced pitta

P. angolensis: African pitta
P. arcuata: blue-banded pitta
P. baudii: blue-headed pitta
P. brachyura: Indian pitta, green-winged pitta
P. caerulea: giant pitta
P. cyanea: blue pitta
P. dohertyi: Sula pitta
P. elegans: elegant pitta
P. elliotii: bar-bellied pitta, Elliot's pitta
P. erythrogaster: red-bellied pitta, blue-breasted pitta, red-breasted pitta
P. granatina: Garnet pitta
P. iris: rainbow pitta
P. maxima: ivory-breasted pitta, great pitta, halmahera pitta, Moluccan pitta
P. megarhyncha: mangrove pitta, large blue-winged pitta, Malay pitta
P. moluccensis: blue-winged pitta Moluccan pitta
P. nipalensis: blue-naped pitta
P. oatesi: rusty-naped pitta, fulvous pitta
Pitta phayrei: eared pitta, Phayre's pitta
P. reichenowi: green-breasted pitta
P. schneideri: Schneider's pitta
P. sordida: hooded pitta, black-headed pitta
P. soror: blue-rumped pitta, blue-backed pitta
P. steerii: azure-breasted pitta, Steere's pitta
P. superba: black-backed pitta, superb pitta
P. venusta: black-crowned pitta
P. versicolor: noisy pitta, buff-breasted pitta

French:
 Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution:

Range of the Family: Pittas occur from sub-Saharan Africa to Australia and the Solomon Islands. The centre of distribution for the family is tropical Asia, mainly in South-East Asia, where 22 species are found (Bruce, 1985)

Range of Species not listed in the CITES appendices

- P. anerythra: Papua New Guinea (Bougainville), Solomon Islands (Choiseul, Santa Isabel)
- P. angolensis: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- P. arcuata: Indonesia (Kalimantan), Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak)
- P. baudii: Brunei, Indonesia (Kalimantan), Malaysia, (Sabah, Sarawak)
- P. brachyura: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- P. caerulea: Indonesia (Kalimantan, Sumatra), Malaysia (Peninsular, Sabah, Sarawak), Myanmar, Thailand
- P. cyanea: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. elegans: Indonesia (Nusa Penida east to Kai Islands and north to Ternate)
- P. elliotii: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. eryioragasteri: Australia, Indonesia (Sulawesi, Moluccas, Kai, Aru, Irian Jaya), Papua New Guinea, Philippines
- P. granatina: Brunei, Indonesia (Kalimantan, Sumatra), Malaysia (Peninsular Sarawak), Myanmar, Thailand
- P. iris: Australia
- P. maxima: Indonesia (Moluccas, Bacan, Halmahera, Morotai)
- P. megarhyncha: Bangladesh, Indonesia (Bangka, Riau Archipelago, Sumatra, ?Kalimantan), Malaysia (Peninsular), Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand
- P. moluccensis: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Christmas Island, Hong Kong, Indonesia (Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (Peninsular, Sabah, Sarawak), Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. nipalensis: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Viet Nam
- P. oatesi: China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
- Pitta phareii: Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. reichenowi: Cameroon, Congo, Uganda, Zaire
- P. schneideri: Indonesia (Sumatra)
- P. sordida: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia (Irian Jaya, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (Peninsular, Sabah, Sarawak), Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. soror: Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam
- P. steerii: Philippines (Bohol, Leyte, Mindanso, Samar)
- P. venusta: Indonesia (Kalimantan, Sumatra), Malaysia (Sabah)
- P. versicolor: Australia, Indonesia (Irian Jaya), Papua New Guinea.

22. Population: Pittas are notoriously shy and difficult to observe, and except in a few cases there is little reliable information on their status. Eight species of pittas are listed as threatened or endangered by ICBP (Collar and Andrew, 1988). Of these, P. anerythra has apparently not been recorded since 1936

(Diamond, 1987), and P. schneideri went unrecorded between 1914 and 1988 (Murrell, 1989; Rozendaal, 1990). The other six species listed include P. gurneyi and P. kochi, already included in Appendix I of CITES, and P. nympha, included in Appendix II. At least one of these, P. ellioti, appears to be locally commoner than originally feared (Anon., 1989; Rozendaal and Cu., 1989). P. superba has been recently studied on Manus I. (Dutson and Newman, 1991); its total population was estimated at 1000 calling birds (it is not known what proportion of the birds call).

In addition to the above, Collar and Andrew list six further species as near-threatened: P. megarhyncha, P. nipalensis, P. elegans, P. caerulea, P. baudi, and P. grantina. The total of fourteen species listed as of concern by ICBP is a high proportion of the total of 31 recognized by Sibley and Monroe (1990).

Round (1988) considered P. granatina, P. ellioti and P. gurneyi to be endangered in Thailand, with P. caerulea listed as threatened, P. megarhyncha as indeterminate and P. soror as rare.

23. Habitat: Pittas inhabit "moist evergreen or deciduous forests, bamboo groves, dense secondary scrub and wooded ravines in more open areas; up to 2,500m." (Bruce, 1985;p.464). Some species at least seem to require primary forest; these include P. gurneyi (Round and Treesucon, 1986), P. steerei (Johns, 1989) and P. superba (Dutson and Newman 1991). Wells (1985) included P. caerulea, P. moluccensis, P. sordida, P. granatina, P. arguata, P. baudi, P. guajana and P. gurneyi in a list of birds ranging from Peninsular Malaysia to Bali that are "dependant extensively or exclusively on lowland mixed evergreen forest". Johns (1989) recorded that pittas have failed to recolonize logged forests in the Tekam Forestry Concession, Malaysia, even P. gurneyi and P. caerulea show some tolerance for secondary growth in Thailand (Round et al., 1989).

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The greater proportion of trade in live birds of all species in Thailand is aimed at the domestic market, as there are a great many aviculturists in Bangkok (Round, 1988 p. 25). "Medium numbers of P. moluccensis were recorded at the Bangkok Weekend Market on 8 December 1985" (Inskipp, 1986).
32. Legal International Trade: Pittas are among the most colourful birds in the world, and are prized by aviculturists. There is, however, limited information as to the scope of trade in pittas. The following examples indicate that several species of pittas other than those listed in the appendices to CITES appear at low but regular frequencies in international trade.

Exportation from India: Inskipp (1983) recorded that between 1970 and 1982 P. brachyura, P. sordida and P. nipalensis were exported from India. Specimens of brachyura of Indian origin were recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and of sordida in the United States of America. 1977-1979 retail prices for brachyura and sordida were u63 and u43 respectively; the export price for nipalensis was u77.

Importation into the United Kingdom: 13 P. angolensis were imported into the UK in 1988; one died in quarantine. Pittas are listed as "sensitive species" by the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (source: Environmental Investigation Agency).

Importation into the United States of America: Nilsson (1986, 1990, pers. comm.) recorded importation of 90 P. guajana, 15 P. sordida, 36 P. moluccensis, 2 P. Persicolor and 16 unidentified Pitta sp. into the United States of America between 1980 and 1990.

In 1989 a total of 28 pittas were imported into the United States of America, more than double the total of 13 birds imported in 1988 (G. Nilsson, pers. comm.). None were identified to species. Twelve of these birds were imported in two shipments from the Netherlands and West Germany, respectively, by an agent for the San Diego Zoo. Four of one shipment of six birds died in quarantine. The remaining sixteen were imported from Singapore by an importer from Florida; five of these birds died in quarantine.

These figures, derived from quarantine forms, probably do not represent all birds imported. It is not unusual for importers to fail to record species names of birds on such forms.

33. Illegal Trade: Domestic and international trade in all bird species in Thailand appears to be unhindered, despite the fact that the greater proportion of such trade (including trade in pittas) is illegal under Thai law (Round, 1988). P. guajana (listed in Appendix II) and P. moluccensis occur frequently in the illegal cage bird trade in Thailand (op. cit., p. 98).

34. Potential Trade Threats:

341. Live Specimens: A large proportion of species in the Pittidae are endemic to small areas, making them particularly vulnerable to depletion when exploited. Like many other primarily terrestrial forest birds, Pittas are particularly susceptible to disturbance during the breeding season; for example, birdwatchers' activities have given cause for concern in the limited range of P. gurneyi, an Appendix I species (Oriental Bird Club, 1989). Attempts to capture such shy birds for trade may, therefore, be detrimental to nesting success in the wild even for individuals not taken.

Dutson and Newman (1991) considered that hunting was not a threat to P. superba, but noted that "occasional birds will undoubtedly be taken for their beauty, unless an overseas market opens up, the difficulty of finding the species should protect it" (p. 221; emphasis added).

342. Parts and Derivatives: There appears to be no recorded trade in parts or derivatives of pittas, although it is possible that some birds may be taken for the local plume trade in some areas (see e.g., Dutson and Newman, 1991, as cited above).

4. Protection Status

41. National:

Angola:	
Australia:	No exports allowed
Bangladesh:	All species completely protected
Bhutan:	Unprotected
Brunei:	Unprotected
Burundi:	
Cambodia:	
Cameroon:	
China:	All species are subject to "local key protection" and thus require a permit from the provincial government
Congo:	
Ghana:	
Guinea:	
Hong Kong:	All birds completely protected
India:	All species are prohibited from export
Indonesia:	Capture, possession, transport and export are only permitted under licence for limited scientific purposes
Kenya:	Exports banned
Laos:	
Liberia:	
Malaysia:	Peninsular: 7 species are totally protected Sabah: All species are protected, licences for scientific or zoological use may be issued Sarawak: export requires a licence
Mozambique:	
Myanmar:	Export requires a licence
Nepal:	Capture requires a licence
Nigeria:	
Pakistan:	Export has been banned since 1981
Papua New Guinea:	No commercial export is allowed
Philippines:	Capture and export require licences
Rwanda:	
Sierra Leone:	
Singapore:	Capture and export require licences
Solomon Islands:	Fully protected
South Africa:	
Sri Lanka:	Fully protected
Tanzania:	
Thailand:	Fully protected
Uganda:	
Viet Nam:	
Zaire:	
Zambia:	
Zimbabwe:	

42. International: P. gurneyi and P. kochi are presently listed in Appendix I of CITES; P. quajana and P. nympha (as P. brachyura nympha) are presently listed in Appendix II.

43. Additional Protection Needs: The primary reason for listing the entire family Pittidae in Appendix II, as opposed to a separated listing of certain species only, is for look alike purposes under the terms of Article II(2)(b). As most of the Asian range states likely to be involved in trade already require licences for capture and export of pittas, accepting this proposal will not provide an additional administrative burden.

The trade data available suggest that pittas suffer high mortality in shipment; they are difficult to establish and maintain, and it is probable that many do not survive long in captivity (G. Nilsson, pers. comm.). Nilsson (1990, p. 11) recommended that pittas not be imported into the United States of America because of their tendency to high mortality.

The 1989 import of 28 pittas to the United States of America, with no record of the species involved, underlines the need for the entire family to be listed in the CITES appendices. The extremely rare P. gurneyi, an Appendix I species still coveted by bird trappers in Thailand where illegal trade is rife (Round, 1988), might be included in such shipments if the entire family is not listed.

5. Information on Similar Species

The so-called antpittas of the family Formicariidae are apparently ecological counterparts to pittas in the new world tropics. They lack the bright colours of most true pittas, however, and are almost completely unknown in aviculture.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

All range states will be consulted.

7. Additional Remarks

Although they differ from each other in plumage and, in some cases, size, pittas form a morphologically and ecologically similar group of species. The Pittidae forms a highly distinct taxonomic unit, apparently allied to the quite different looking broadbills of the family Eurylaimidae (Sibley and Ahlquist, 1990). Although there is some disagreement as to the number of genera that should be recognized, there is no argument about which species should be placed in the family.

There are, however, taxonomic disagreements with respect to species limits within the Pittidae that could lead to confusion if the entire family is not listed. The present proposal follows Sibley and Monroe (1990) in treating the various distinctive forms as species, but other authorities have merged several of these; most notable, Hall and Morcau (1970) treated angolensis, reichenowii, brachyura, nympha, moluccensis, megarhyncha, elegans, iris, versicolor and anerythra as conspecific.

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