

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

The rationalisation of listings of New Zealand parakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp.) as follows: transfer of the orange-fronted parakeet (*C. malherbi*) to Appendix I; transfer of the red-crowned parakeet (*C. novaezelandiae*) to Appendix II.

New Zealand withdrew by letter of 11 October 1994 its proposal to transfer *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae* from Appendix I to Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

New Zealand.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

The taxonomy of the *Cyanoramphus* parakeets in New Zealand has been investigated recently, resulting in confirmation of the orange-fronted parakeet as a separate species. It was regarded as a separate species until 1986, when breeding experiments suggested that it was simply a colour morph of the more widespread and common yellow-crowned parakeet (*C. auriceps*) (Taylor *et al.* 1986). However, a genetic analysis (Triggs and Daugherty, in press) reveals important differences between the species, and concludes that Taylor *et al.* results were based on hybridization between the two species rather than breeding of different colour morphs within a species. A more comprehensive genetic study would confirm this conclusively but, currently, there is no reason to question the status of *C. malherbi* as a separate species

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Psittaciformes
13. Family: Psittacidae
14. Species: *Cyanoramphus malherbi* Souance
C. novaezelandiae
15. Common Names: English: Orange-fronted parakeet and red-crowned parakeet
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers:

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The orange-fronted parakeet has never been recorded widely, and is now apparently restricted to scattered locations in beech forest in the northern South Island (Harrison 1970), though it was once more widespread (Taylor 1985).

The red-crowned parakeet occurs in small numbers on the North and South Islands of New Zealand with other subspecies in New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, the Kermadec Islands, Chatham Islands, Macquarie Island and the Antipodes Islands. It is common on some of New Zealand's inshore islands including Stewart Island.)

22. Population: The size of the orange-fronted parakeet population is not known, but there are unlikely to be more than hundreds of individuals. Along with other species of parakeet on the New Zealand mainland, this species is probably still in decline and must be regarded as endangered.

While the red-crowned parakeet is very uncommon on the New Zealand mainland, populations still thrive on a number of islands. It is therefore locally under threat, though not endangered as a species.

23. Habitat: While it is not possible to gauge trends in habitat quality, the area of habitat is more than adequate to serve the survival of this species.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: Orange-fronted parakeets are held in captivity in two institutions in New Zealand. While permits are required to keep them, red-crowned parakeets are widely held and bred in captivity.

32. Legal International Trade: To our knowledge, there are no specimens of *C. malherbi* in overseas institutions. There is a small trade in *C. novaezelandiae*.

33. Illegal Trade: Not documented. Trade in *C. malherbi* is unlikely at this stage, while some illegal trade of *C. novaezelandiae* is presumed to occur. We have unconfirmed reports of traders "dressing" red-crowned parakeets as yellow-crowned parakeets as the latter are listed in Appendix II rather than Appendix I.

34. Potential Trade Threats

341. Live Specimens: Given the declining natural populations of these parakeets, the relative impact of trade in live specimens is likely to grow even if the trade remains at a low level. Recent apprehension of smugglers carrying New Zealand parrots has heightened concern about trade in other species such as the parakeets.

342. Parts and Derivatives: No threats known.

4. Protection Status

41. National: All species are protected under the Wildlife Act 1953. Permits are required for the keeping and trade of specimens.

42. International: *C. novaezelandiae* is currently in Appendix I of CITES, while *C. malherbi* is, by default, in Appendix II.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Research is urgently needed on the status of orange-fronted parakeets. An increased effort at captive breeding is warranted.

5. Information on Similar Species

New Zealand is at the centre of radiation of the genus *Cyanorhamphus*.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

NA. (Australia may wish to comment in respect of *C. novaeseelandiae cooki* on Norfolk Island and France on *C. novaeseelandiae saisseti* in New Caledonia.)

7. Additional Remarks

In our view, the suggested amendments more accurately reflect the relative level of threat than the present arrangement. The taxonomic status of *C. malherbi* has admittedly been under some dispute and it is not listed in the current Checklist of New Zealand Birds (Ornithological Society of New Zealand 1990). Nevertheless, the work of Triggs and Daugherty restores the species distinction thereby, potentially, increasing the attractiveness of the species to traders.

8. References

- Harrison, M. 1970. The Orange Fronted Parakeet (*Cyanorhamphus malherbi*). *Notornis* 17:115-125.
- Ornithological Society of New Zealand. 1990. Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand and the Ross Dependency, Antarctica. 3rd Edition. Random Century in association with OSNZ. Wellington. 247pp.
- Taylor, R.H. 1985. Status, habits and conservation of *Cyanorhamphus* parakeets in the New Zealand region. ICBP Technical Publication 3:195-211.
- Taylor, R.H., Heatherbell, E.G. and Heatherbell, E.M. 1986. The Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Cyanorhamphus malherbi*) is a colour morph of the Yellow-crowned Parakeet (*C. auriceps*). *Notornis* 33:17-22.
- Triggs, S.A. and Daugherty, C. In Press. Conservation and genetics of New Zealand parakeets. In: Management of Populations of Threatened Species. Eds. B.D. Bell, S. Tidemann, J. Komdur. Birdlife Conservation Series. Birdlife International. Cambridge.

