

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice petition acceptance and status review.

SUMMARY: Notice is given that a petition submitted by the International Council for Bird Preservation, U.S. Section, Inc., to list 77 birds as Endangered or Threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 has been accepted. Under provisions of Section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act and 50 CFR Part 424, the Director has determined that substantial evidence has been presented to support the petition. Data on these species are still required before the Service can consider proposing rules to list them. A status review has been conducted for each species and a brief summary is included in this notice as required by 50 CFR 424.14(c). Public comment is hereby requested. The Service is requesting information on environmental and economic impacts and effects on small entities that would result from listing these birds and information on possible alternatives to the listing of any of these 77 species.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on this notice should submit their data or other relevant information to the Director by September 9, 1981.

ADDRESSES: Director (OES), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John L. Spinks, Jr., Chief, Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240 (703/235-2771).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 28, 1980, a petition was received from Dr. Warren B. King, Chairman, United States Section, International Council for Bird Preservation, to add 77 foreign and native species of birds to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11). This request is authorized under the provisions of Section (c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and 50 CFR Part 424. A detailed analysis of most of the existing scientific literature was provided in the petition for each species. Dr. King was the compiler for the Red Data Book, Volume 2 (AVES), published in 1978 and 1979 by the

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland). Citations to the relevant literature on the status of each of these 77 birds may be found in that publication.

The status has been reviewed and is summarized below for each of the 77 birds in this petition. The information summarized in these status reviews is based on information provided by the petitioner and other scientific data contained in the Service files. The Service will make independent evaluation of the status of the species after reviewing full public comment. Specific data requests for a particular species are identified in that summary.

The petition list has been divided into two groupings of 19 and 58 species: native (including Pacific Trust Territories) and foreign, respectively. Approximate historic distributional limits are indicated in brackets. The entries in each of the two groups are arranged in taxonomic sequence.

Status Review—Native Species

Tule White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons elgasi*) [Nests in south-central Alaska, winters in central California]. Until the summer of 1979 the precise nesting grounds of this goose were not known, but suspected to be in Alaska. The total population was previously estimated (1973-1974) at 1200-1500 birds wintering on various refuges in the Sacramento River valley approximately 30-75 miles north of Sacramento, California. In the summer of 1980 intensive field work was conducted on the Tule white-fronted geese nesting in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska, by representatives of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of Alaska. The present population estimate of the Tule white-fronted goose is 2,000-3,000 birds. Accurate population trends and mortality/survivorship rates will not be available for several years (banding studies were only intensively started in Alaska in 1980). A more complete survey for other nesting colonies is planned around Cook Inlet in 1981. For the present, the Service does not believe the Tule white-fronted goose should be proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We do intend to monitor closely this bird's status on a continuing basis.

Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus venator*) [Puerto Rico]. Petitioner suggests that loss of habitat and bot fly infestations of nestlings have reduced the population of this hawk to approximately 100-200 birds (est. 1975). The montane forests in

which it occurs are only partially protected. The hawk is still found over most of its historical range, but in limited numbers. The Service needs more recent survey data on numbers and current threats to see if this hawk should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Puerto Rican Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus brunnescens*) [Puerto Rico]. This non-migratory population of the common (sometimes abundant) broad-winged hawk is restricted to two montane forested areas of Puerto Rico. This hawk was thought to be extinct or very rare in 1927; it had been widespread in the inland forests of Puerto Rico in the last century. The precise causes of its present low numbers are poorly understood. A maximum of 75 individuals was estimated in 1974.

Marianas Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus guami*) [Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. In serious trouble on Guam Tinian, and Saipan where it was quite common up until 1945. The present status on Pagan is unknown. This gallinule was the subject of a previous notice of review (44 FR 29128).

Guam Rail (*Rallus oustoni*) [Guam, Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. A flightless bird which suffered an apparent major decline approximately 10 years ago. This species is also the subject of the same review as the previous species (44 FR 29128).

Palau Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica pelewensis*) [Pacific Trust Territories, Palau Island group, southwest Pacific]. This bird was not recorded between 1880 and 1945. Illegal hunting during the legal hunting season for the common Micronesian pigeon (*Ducula oceanica*) seem to be the present threat to this confiding bird. This species is presently protected under the Trust Territories Endangered Species Act of 1975 but not by any U.S. Federal law.

Radak Micronesian Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica ratakensis*) [Marshall Islands, central Pacific]. Rats seem to have reduced the number of islands occupied by this pigeon to two atolls (total 8 square miles) in the Marshall Islands. This subspecies may not be distinct from the nominate race, *D. o. oceanica*. The Service needs more data on the current status and subspecific verification of this population before this pigeon can be proposed for inclusion on the list.

Truk Micronesian Pigeon (*Ducula oceanica teraoki*) [Caroline Islands, western Pacific]. This pigeon was last reported in 1957 on Tol, the largest island in the Truk Group. The bird was

very common until World War II when the blockade by Allied Forces forced the Japanese to utilize all food resources on the islands. Intensive hunting pressures continued after the war. This subspecies may not be distinct from *D. o. monacha* of Palau and Yap. More information on this point is needed by the Service.

Marianas Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus roseicapillus*) [Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. This bird was the subject of a previous notice of review (44 FR 29128).

Ponape Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus ponapensis*) [Ponape, Caroline Islands, western Pacific]. The estimated total population in 1956 was 50 individual owls. Although only one owl was seen in 1975 during a week of surveying birds, knowledgeable ornithologists do not think the size of this small population has changed from past levels. Present data suggests that the loss of its habitat might quickly cause its extinction.

Virgin Islands Screech Owl (*Otus nudipes newtoni*) [St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Johns (American Virgin Islands), and Vieques Islands (Puerto Rico), Caribbean]. This owl was last recorded in 1966 on St. Croix. A calling owl on Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in 1966 was probably this species. This subspecies was never known to be common and current population levels are thought to be low: estimated in 1973 at 25 birds, maximum. This owl requires dry forests with cavities in older trees for roosting and nesting. Forests of the Caribbean Islands are being rapidly cut to provide fuel and farm land. Only a few forested preserves now seem available to the owl.

Guam Micronesian Kingfisher (*Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina*) [Guam, Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. This species was the subject of a previous notice of review (44 FR 29128).

Truk Monarch (*Metabolus rugensis*) [Truk group Caroline Islands, western Pacific]. Until World War II this small, but conspicuous, bird was found on most of the major islands of the Truk group. In 1945 it could not be found on several islands. By 1957 it had recovered slightly. It was still rare in 1975 and has now been placed on the U.S. Trust Territories list of endangered species. The original forest is now much reduced and other forests have been altered in species composition (e.g., by the planting of breadfruit and coconuts). Total population is unknown but possibly low.

Rota Bridled White-eye (*Zosterops conspicillata rotensis*) [Rota, Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. The nominate subspecies, *Z. c. conspicillata*, was part of the above notice of May 18, 1979 (44

FR 29128). The present status of the Rota population is unclear. This white-eye was reported as very common on Rota in 1946, but in 1976 a brief survey seemed to indicate a drastic decline (total population now on the order of only several hundred). Extensive clearing of the forests and the introduction of the songbird black drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), which is now particularly common in the lowlands, may be the causes for serious concern over the continued existence of the Rota bridled white-eye.

Truk Greater White-eye (*Rukia ruki*) [Tol, Truk Islands, western Pacific]. This white-eye is reported from only the top 30 acres of Mt. Winibot on the 14 square mile Tol Island. This bird has been rarely seen, but was last reported (3 individuals) in 1975. All previous reports were prior to World War II.

Amak Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia amaka*) [Amak Island, Aleutians, Alaska]. This song sparrow may be extinct on the small island off the western tip of the Alaska Peninsula. Brief visits by Service biologists in July and August 1973 failed to demonstrate the presence of any song sparrows. The introduction of Arctic foxes onto Amak seems to have caused the sparrow's extinction. A more thorough and successful search is needed of the entire beach-front around the island, before the Service could start processing a proposal to list this subspecies.

Palau Blue-faced Parrotfinch (*Erythrura trichora pelewensis*) [Palau group, western Pacific]. This small bird is known only from the type specimen (described in 1922) collected on Babelthaup and two recent sightings in 1976: Ngermeaus (4 birds) and Arekabesang (1 bird). The causes for its apparent rarity are unknown. Expeditions in 1931 and 1945 did not find any blue-faced parrotfinches.

Palau white-breasted wood-swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus pelewensis*) [Palau group, western Pacific]. A conspicuous bird now reported rarely and locally on several islands in the Palau group. This bird seems to prefer the open savannahs of the more remote sections of Babelthaup, in particular. Present information suggests that the loss of this limited habitat might cause the bird's immediate extinction.

Marianas crow (*Corvus kubaryi*) [Guam and Rota, Mariana Islands, western Pacific]. This species was part of the notice of May 18, 1979 (44 FR 29128).

Status Review—Foreign Species

Colombian Grebe (*Podiceps andinus*) [Colombia]. Formerly this grebe was found in several temperate lakes in

Colombia. Since the 1950's it has been found only on Lake Tota where 300 were observed in 1968, but less than 5 birds were seen in 1977. The introduction of trout in these lakes over the past 40 years is thought to be the principal cause for the decline. The trout reportedly may out-compete the grebes for food, i. e., small bait fish.

Disturbance of the nesting sites could also be a problem. Loss of habitat or hunting are not concerns at the present.

Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) [New Zealand]. This seabird is found in small colonies on two small islands off the north-east coast of North Island, New Zealand. The total population is estimated at less than 2,000 birds, including non-breeders. Present information indicates that the introduction of cats on the nesting islands, including North Island itself (no recent active colonies known there), has been the greatest cause of the decline. Between 1971 and 1975 there was a 42 percent decline in one study area and productivity was zero for 1974 and 1975. The former population size is unknown, but the petrel is thought to have been fairly common.

Reunion Petrel (*Pterodroma aterrima*) [Reunion Island, Indian Ocean]. This species was thought to be extinct before 1900, but in 1970 two specimens were collected on Reunion. Although there have been no other observations in this century, there could be a small population in some deep ravine or cliff in the higher elevations of Reunion. Introduced mammalian predators (rats, cats, and dogs) are common on the island. A closely related species (with probably a similar diet and also found in the Indian Ocean) is known to lay thin-shelled eggs with high organochlorine contamination. Other potential causes for the reported rarity of the Reunion petrel may include the past practice of human consumption of eggs, young, and adults.

New Zealand Cook's Petrel (*Pterodroma cookii cookii*) [New Zealand]. Predation on the few remaining colony islands has been reported to have reduced this population to a few thousand individuals. Rats take up to 30 percent of the eggs or chicks annually, while cats and other predators take an unknown, but sizeable, number of adults. Attempts to rid the islands of rats and cats have thus far (1978) failed. Subfossil evidence indicates this petrel once bred on North and South Islands of New Zealand. One small island had an estimated 20,000 active burrows in 1935 and has virtually none today.

Chatham Island Petrel (*Pterodroma hypoleuca axillaris*) [Chatham Islands,

southern Pacific]. This petrel is known only from one island in the Chatham Island group. This island was heavily grazed until 1961 by sheep and a few cattle. The reduced vegetation may have restricted the population and subjected it to more predation from avian predators. On the higher mountains there has recently been discovered nesting an apparent conspecific, the black-winged petrel (*P. h. nigripennis*). Competition and other interactions between these two populations need further study. The island is presently a reserve with no introduced or exotic animals. The total population of the Chatham Island petrel is apparently very small and restricted to one small low area.

Magenta Petrel (*Pterodroma magentae*) [Chatham Island, southern Pacific]. Prior to 1978 this bird was known to science only from a single specimen collected at sea in the South Pacific in 1867. In 1978 two birds were trapped, photographed, and released on a high brush-covered ridge of Chatham Island, near New Zealand. Local natives reported a petrel to be fairly common on this island until the end of the last century but the identity of the bird reported by the natives remained a mystery until 1978. The population is now thought by some observers to be quite small and severely threatened by introduced predators and herbivores. Nesting burrows have not been found. This petrel is also known as the Chatham Island Taiko.

Galapagos Dark-rumped Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia phaeopygia*) [Galapagos Islands, eastern Pacific]. Reproductive failures caused by introduced mammalian predators have been reported to severely threaten this bird's continued existence. It is known to nest on four islands, possibly a fifth, and less likely on two more. In 1971, for example, 4,000 occupied burrows contained only 1,600 eggs with only 160 young being estimated to have fledged from this one colony. Also reported are some habitat loss or damage due to agricultural practices. A conspecific, the Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel (*P. p. sandwichensis*), has been listed as Endangered by the Department of the Interior since March 1967.

Hermit Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) [eastern Europe to central Africa]. This bird is also known as the Waldrapp and is one of the few birds with recorded extirpations from Europe in historical times. Some 16 small colonies still remain: Turkey (1) and Morocco (15). Although never reported as common, it was recorded as breeding in the Italian Alps and Swiss Juras, as well as on the

upper Rhone and Danube until the 1600's. Last recorded in Syria, Iraq, and Algeria in the first third of this century. Of 33 historical colonies in Morocco only 15 remain. The colony on the upper Euphrates in Turkey was established in the mid-1800's and reached 3,000 pairs in 1890. This colony presently numbers less than 50 pairs. Less than 250 pairs remain in Morocco. The use of persistent pesticides apparently took heavy tolls in the 1950's when more than 600 dead ibises were reported found around the Turkish colony. Human disturbances at the various colonies are also reported to have contributed to poor production. Conservation measures have been taken by Turkey, Morocco, and private conservationists in the past 10 years.

Madagascar Serpent Eagle (*Eutriorchis astur*) [Madagascar]. This serpent eagle is known from only a few specimens and there have been no reports since 1930. It may be extinct. Loss of its forest habitat to clearing is cited by the petitioner as the probable cause. The bird was known only from the forests of eastern Madagascar.

Madagascar Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus vociferoides*) [Madagascar]. Severe and constant persecution is reported to have reduced this sea eagle to only a few (perhaps a dozen) pairs. The bird was formerly widespread in all coastal regions and inland waterways. Little habitat destruction seems to have occurred. This sea eagle is now recorded from one small unprotected area in the central western part of the island.

Utila Chachalaca (*Ortalis vetula deschauenseei*) [Honduras]. The petition indicates that this bird has been hunted excessively on the single island from which it is known off the north coast of Honduras. Although some reports suggest the species may be extinct, it was thought to number as many as 75 individuals as recently as 1962. Utila Island is mostly covered by mangroves, the chachalaca's preferred habitat.

White-winged Guan (*Penelope albipennis*) [Peru]. The bird is reported only from the northwest coastal forests of Peru. Until September 1977 this species was known only by two specimens collected prior to 1877. A few hundred birds are now suspected to remain in scattered patches of forest. Deforestation and some hunting were given to be the principal causes of its current rarity. Further studies and possible conservation measures have been started since the rediscovery in 1977.

Cauca Guan (*Penelope perspicax*) [Colombia]. Formerly, this guan was recorded in reasonable numbers in the Cauca Valley region of Colombia. The subtropical forests of this region have

been largely removed and only a few guans are suspected of surviving in the Bosque de Yotoco. This latter forest is administered by a local college. Hunting and habitat losses are expected by the petitioner to continue. The total population size is unknown.

Cantabrian Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus cantabricus*) [Spain and Portugal]. This grouse is now recorded from small isolated pockets of undisturbed forest in a narrow strip in northern Spain. It was formerly observed from northern Portugal to Santander in northern Spain. In 1972 there were an estimated 300-400 males on their spring display grounds. The petitioner reports that severe habitat losses and past hunting practices have greatly reduced their numbers.

Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) [Pakistan to Nepal]. Except perhaps in Nepal, this pheasant has reportedly undergone severe reductions and local extirpations throughout most of its range. No estimate of the total wild population can be made. Birds are highly sedentary in family groups which make them very vulnerable to hunting pressures. At least 800 birds were thought to be in captivity in various collections around the world.

Forgetted Wood-quail (*Odontophorus strophium*) [Colombia]. Except for a possible record in 1972, there have been no positive records since approximately 1915. This secretive species may still occur in isolated patches of remnant forest. The size of the present population is unknown; in fact, this species could be extinct.

Italian Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix italica*) [Italy]. This partridge formerly occurred throughout most of the central mountains of Italy. Beginning about 1900 there has been a continuous decline to the point at which only a few coveys of pure wild birds are still being reported in central Italy.

Habitat losses and excessive hunting pressure have contributed to this decline according to the data provided by the petitioner. Grey partridges from captive stocks and from northern and eastern Europe have been released in large numbers. Interbreeding has reportedly eliminated the pure Italian grey partridge in nearly all areas. Competition with introduced pheasants may have also contributed to the species' problems.

Takahe (*Notornis mantelli*) [New Zealand]. Prior to the arrival of Europeans this rail became extirpated from North Island, New Zealand. In the late 1800's the bird was restricted to about 1,600 square miles of Fiordland, South Island, New Zealand. It is now

recorded from about 250 square miles within Fiordland National Park. Present (1970's) population estimates are about 250 birds. The population is reported to be barely stable in most areas. Data from the petitioner suggest past habitat destruction by introduced herbivores and current predation by introduced weasels pose a serious threat to its continued existence. Alpine grasslands and subalpine forests are reported to be used during the summer and winter, respectively. The long-term prognosis by the petitioner for the survival of this species is uncertain, but hopeful. The New Zealand Wildlife Service has been trying to conserve this species (as well as many other depleted endemics).

Barred-wing Rail (*Rallus poecilopterus*) [Fiji, south-central Pacific]. This rail was thought extinct for some 83 years. A single bird was seen in June 1973 in an old taro patch surrounded by secondary forest on the Nadrau Plateau, Viti Levu, Fiji. Estimates of its former abundance (or rarity) cannot be made because of its secretive nature. The introduction of the mongoose and cat coupled with possible habitat losses are reported in this literature to be the causes of this rail's precarious status.

Chatham Island Oystercatcher (*Haematopus chathamensis*) [Chatham Islands, southern Pacific]. See also the Chatham Island Petrel and Magenta Petrel summarized above. This large shorebird is now reported to be starting to recover slowly from near extinction. With the removal of the sheep from two islands in the Chatham Islands group in 1961, the bird is reported on the increase. Total population in 1973 was estimated at 50 birds. Status on other islands in the group is apparently still tenuous according to the data provided by the petitioner.

Canarian black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus moquini meadowaldoi*) [Canary Islands, eastern Atlantic]. There were no reports in the Canaries from 1940 until a single bird was observed in 1968 on Tenerife. A very tiny population may exist somewhere on these islands. This subspecies has always been reported to be rare and no nest has ever been reported.

Black Stilt (*Himantopus novaezelandiae*) [New Zealand]. This shorebird was widely distributed on both North and South Islands, New Zealand, but is now recorded from a single large valley on South Island. Water projects planned for this valley may further threaten this species' continued existence. The present (1975) population was estimated at 50-100 birds. Hybridization with a sympatric species of stilt (*H. himantopus*)

leucocephalus) may further endanger the black stilt as the latter species finds it more difficult to find appropriate mates. The black stilt was never abundant but has shown a decrease from all reports.

Laurel Pigeon (*Columba junoniae*) [Canary Islands, eastern Atlantic]. This pigeon was formerly found to be quite common on two of the Canary Islands. The petitioner reports that excessive hunting and loss of its forest habitat have greatly decreased the total population. Only a handful of observations have been made in the past 40 years. The laurel forests are virtually gone and hunting is still occurring in the pigeon's range.

Marquesas Pigeon (*Ducula galeata*) [Marquesas Islands, Polynesia]. This pigeon has been found only on the western end of Nukuhiva. Hunting and habitat losses have been reported to have contributed to its decline. A 1972 estimate was only 75-105 birds, while a more recent estimate was 200-400 birds. An international jetport was planned less than a mile from the remaining habitat. Cattle, goats, and pigs may represent a continuing threat to the habitat according to the petitioner's data.

Pink Pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) [Mauritius, Indian Ocean]. This pigeon is now recorded from the southwest corner of the island of Mauritius in the indigenous montane evergreen forest. The pink pigeon is thought by the petitioner to be one of the rarest birds in the world now with a population of less than 20 individuals in the wild. Rats and Macaque monkeys are suggested to be serious introduced predators.

Seychelles Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia picturata rostrata*) [Seychelles Islands, Indian Ocean]. This well marked subspecies may be extinct. As early as 1867 the introduction of the nominate subspecies, *S. p. picturata*, was causing massive interbreeding with the endemic subspecies on one of the islands. By 1975 none of the distinctive Seychelles turtle doves were found on any islands. All turtle doves seen were recorded as either intermediate "hybrids" or seemingly pure *S. p. picturata*. Habitat loss does not seem to have been a problem; only the competition with and the genetic swamping by the introduced relative have been suggested as the causes of this dove's present status.

Red-tailed Parrot (*Amazona brasiliensis*) [Brazil]. This parrot is reported only from the forests of southeastern Brazil. Deforestation in this region may pose a threat to the bird. Trade, although banned by Brazilian law, may also pose a problem. No current population estimate is available.

but a decline has been reported by the petitioner in the past twenty years. The species is no longer seen over most of its limited former range.

Seychelles Lesser Vasa Parrot (*Coracopsis nigra barklyi*) [Seychelles Islands, Indian Ocean]. This parrot is known only from Praslin Island, Seychelles, where it was a pest and common as recently as 1939. It is now largely restricted to a single valley where the population in 1965 was at least 17 birds. By 1976 the population was estimated at 70-110 birds concentrated in the remaining native fruit palm forest. A shortage of nesting holes in dead trees has been thought to be the most recent limitation for the parrot. Loss of the native forest was reported to be the principal cause leading to the current status of this species.

Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus malherbi*) [New Zealand]. This parakeet is known only from South Island, New Zealand, and recent records are only from the north end of that island. The population was never large and reported to have declined dramatically around the end of the last century. Since 1900 it has been reported from only six localities. This parakeet might only be a color morph of the yellow-crowned parakeet (*C. a. auriceps*) with which it was nearly always seen. This latter parakeet has no known difference in morphology or behavior from the orange-fronted, except for the simple crown coloration which has separated them. The reported rarity of the orange-fronted may preclude ever determining its relationship with the yellow-crowned.

Norfolk Island Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii*) [Norfolk Island, southwest Pacific]. This once common parakeet is now known only from a single patch of 1,000 acres of native forest on Norfolk Island. No more than 20 individuals were thought to exist in 1969 and it was considered very rare as early as 1908. The petitioner suggests that the loss of the forest habitat and competition with an introduced parrot (Rosella, *Platycercus elegans*) for nest sites and food have apparently contributed to this bird's problem. Future lumbering and hunting may eliminate the few remaining birds based upon the petition.

Uvea Horned Parakeet (*Eunymphicus cornutus uvaensis*) [Loyalty Islands, southwestern Pacific]. As recently as 1939 this parakeet was reported throughout Uvea Atoil, Loyalty Islands, and estimated to number about 1,000 birds. The most recent (1974) estimate is less than 200 birds in a small remnant

forest patch. Attempts to transplant it to a nearby atoll were unsuccessful. There is a reported continuing loss of the native forest on Uvea Atoll.

Southeastern Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo (*Neomorphus geoffroyi dulcis*) [Brazil]. This bird quickly vacates the native forests with any disturbance. Never common, this subspecies was found at several localities in southeastern Brazil, usually following army ant swarms. No birds of this species have been reported in the recent past. It may still survive in the few large patches of remaining forest.

Soumagne's Owl (*Tyto soumagnei*) [Madagascar]. This owl is known only from the eastern humid forest zone of Madagascar. The last positive record was in 1930, although an unconfirmed report was made in 1973. This owl was always considered rare. The reasons for its reported scarcity are not known; however, the decline in available native humid forests is a factor suggested by the petitioner.

Lanyu Scops Owl (*Otus elegans botelensis*) [Taiwan]. This small owl is known only from a small island off the coast of southeastern Taiwan. Almost the entire native forest has been lost and the few remaining owls are found in isolated clumps of remaining trees. This owl was observed to be fairly common throughout this small island as recently as 1969. By 1973 only 10 males could be heard calling.

Chilean Woodstar (*Eulidia yarrellii*) [Chile]. This hummingbird is known from only the northernmost province of Chile. It was considered common to abundant in this restricted range between 1935 and 1948. By 1971 it was reported to be scarce. An ornithologist residing in one of its former strongholds from April 1972 to July 1973 only saw this species three times. The species was formerly common in the gardens and towns of the fertile valleys of the region. The causes for this apparent decline are presently unknown.

Klabin Farm Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis margaritae*) [Brazil]. This hummingbird was only recently discovered in a 10,000-acre area of forest in Espirito Santo, Brazil. A hermit of probably this same species was seen nearby in 1977. The primary rain forest that this bird may have originally occupied has been reduced to two tracts in Espirito Santo after decades of cutting. Eight other species or subspecies of birds occur on the same 10,000-acre tract and are also under reported threat of extinction. These remaining tracts of native forests appear to be very important to the continued existence of these birds (and other biota) as suggested by the petitioner.

Black Barbthroat (*Threnetes grizeki*) [Brazil]. This hummingbird was also recently discovered (1972) in southeastern Brazil in two areas (one tract is the same forest to which the preceding species is also apparently restricted). Of the millions of acres of original forest only two uncut tracts totaling about 74,000 acres are left in the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil. Only four specimens are known.

Okinawa Woodpecker (*Sapheopipo noguchii*) [Okinawa, south of Japan]. This species was known only from the forested hills of the northern area of about 3,700 acres and is now (1973) estimated to be reduced to 20-60 pairs. Since 1920 this species has been reported to be rare. The primary forest habitat has been greatly reduced and fragmented. This woodpecker prefers undisturbed forest, but has been seen foraging in nearby second-growth woodland.

Black-headed Antwren (*Myrmotherula erythronotos*) [Brazil]. This secretive species may be extinct. It has been reported in the past from only two areas in southeastern Brazil. Severe destruction of much of the primary forests in this region may have caused this species' reported decline.

Fringe-backed Fire-eye (*Pyriglena atra*) [Brazil]. This antbird is known only from a small area in southern Bahia, eastern Brazil. The total population is unknown but is suggested to be quite small by the petitioner. Most of the habitat of primary forest has been either totally removed or highly fragmented. Protection of the few remaining tracts of habitat is reported to be unlikely.

Black-capped Bush Shrike (*Malaconotus alius*) [Tanzania]. This shrike is said to be shy and difficult to find in the Ulugutu Mountain forests of Tanzania, the only known area where it has been recorded. The last report was in 1952 and subsequent visits have not produced any sightings. Habitat loss in some areas may have caused some of the reported decline.

Van Dam's Vanga (*Xenopirostris damii*) [Madagascar]. This species is now known only from Ankarafantsika Nature Reserve, but was known some 250 miles farther north on the northwestern tip of the island prior to 1900. It has always been considered very rare by past observers. Sightings were made in 1929, 1969, and 1971. Loss of the forests seems to have been the principal cause for the vanga's apparent decline.

Pollen's Vanga (*Xenopirostris polleni*) [Madagascar]. This vanga was locally distributed and reported to be more numerous in the past in the forests of

eastern Madagascar. Loss of forests may have caused the apparent decline. Two were seen in 1971 and another possibly in 1972.

St. Lucia Forest Thrush (*Cichlherminia iherminieri santaeluciae*) [St. Lucia, West Indies]. This thrush was formerly quite common in the forests of St. Lucia. With the great reduction in the forests the bird is now reported to be restricted to a few small forested ravines. The introduced mongoose had not as yet reached these locations by 1974. Rats and mongooses could easily prey upon the nests of the few remaining birds.

Southern Ryukyu Robin (*Erithacus komadori subrufa*) [Ryukyu Islands, south of Japan]. This bird has not been reported in recent years, but it was formerly noted on the three southernmost islands in the Ryukyu group. The native forests on these islands have been nearly eliminated and this appears to be the cause of the bird's apparent decline.

Dappled Mountain-robin (*Modulatrix o. orostruthus* and *M. o. amani*) [Mozambique and Tanzania, east Africa]. There have been no records of the nominate subspecies since 1932 (first and last specimens collected) in the montane forests of northern Mozambique. The subspecies *amani* was thought to number between 85 and 200 in 1977 in the small montane forests of the east Usanbara Mountains of northeastern Tanzania. It has always been considered rare by ornithologists since first collected in 1935. The total possible forest habitat was estimated not to exceed 20 square miles in 1977.

Grey-headed Blackbird (*Turdus poliocephalus poliocephalus*) [Norfolk Island, southwest Pacific]. This thrush was formerly found over the entire 14 square miles of Norfolk Island. It is now restricted to about 1,000 acres of the remaining indigenous forest habitat. In 1962, the thrush population was estimated at about 100 birds; by 1969 less than half were estimated to survive. Competition with an introduced relative (European blackbird, *Turdus merula*), loss of forest, and predation by rats have apparently caused the reported decline.

Eiao Polynesian Warbler (*Acrocephalus caffer aquilonis*) [Eiao, Marqueses Islands, Polynesia]. This Old World warbler is restricted to Eiao Island where it was common until 1952. Small numbers still existed in 1968. Intensive French military operations began in 1971. Grazing over the past many years has reduced the formerly forested island to a near barren desert with only a few remnant forest patches.

Moorea Polynesian Warbler

(*Acrocephalus caffer longirostris*) [Society Islands, south Pacific]. This old world warbler is only found on Moorea in the Society Islands. It was formerly quite common but only a few individuals have been reported recently. The introduction of avian malaria seems to have been the principal cause for this apparent decline. It has been recorded only in the montane forests above 2,500 feet elevation, where mosquitos may not be present. Individuals of related subspecies are found at lower elevations on other islands in a greater variety of habitats, including non-native vegetation.

Long-legged Warbler (*Trichocichla rufa*) [Fiji, south Pacific]. Since first discovered in 1890, this bird has been reported only a few times from Fiji: 1894, 1967, 1973. This species has never been reported by ornithologists as common, yet the natives of Fiji have a specific name for it (Manu Kalo). This warbler was probably more widespread and common prior to its discovery by biologists. Cats and mongooses may pose a serious threat to this species.

Codfish Island Fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata wilsoni*) [New Zealand]. This bird is restricted to one small (3,700 acres) island off Stewart Island, New Zealand. The low scrub vegetation is rapidly being altered by introduced herbivores. The bird was quite common as recently as 1966, but in 1975 its population was thought to be only about 100 individuals. Introduced predators also pose a threat.

Uapou Flycatcher (*Pomarea mendozae mira*) [Marquesas Islands, south Pacific]. This subspecies is restricted to Uapou Island in the Marquesas. The woodlands that once covered 90 percent of Uapou now only cover 15 percent. Much of what remains has been severely degraded by introduced mammalian herbivores. This bird was reported to be common over the island, but by 1975 the total population was estimated at 100-200 pairs.

Kabylian Nuthatch (*Sitta ledanti*)

[Algeria]. This nuthatch was discovered in 1975 on a small mountain ridge in Algeria. The total population was estimated at about 20 pairs in the forests on this one mountain (about 3,000 acres total habitat). The relict forest is isolated and has other endemic flora and fauna. Grazing by goats and cattle is reported to be preventing the regeneration of this small forest.

Gizo White-eye (*Zosterops luteirostris luteirostris*) [Solomon Islands, southwest Pacific]. This bird is known only from Gizo Island in the central Solomons. It was formerly thought to be common. In 1974 only a few birds could be seen in what remained of the once extensive native forest. Most of the forest has been either cleared or killed by poisoning. A review of the taxonomy of this population and others in the area is needed.

Cherry-throated Tanager (*Nemosia rourei*) [Brazil]. Petitioner indicates this species may be extinct in southeastern Brazil. No reports have been made in over 100 years. The State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been well explored and is the only known locality for this bird. Loss of the primary forest is thought by the petitioner to have caused the apparent loss of this species.

Rodrigues Fody (*Foudia flavicans*) [Mascarene Islands, Indian Ocean]. This species is restricted to Rodrigues Island in the Mascarene group. In the last century this species was reported to be common and widespread on this one island. By 1930 it was found only in the forested areas at the higher elevations. Surveys in 1974 resulted in population estimates of 45-70 birds. In 1978 the estimated population was about 200 birds, but a February 1979 cyclone apparently caused a 40 percent reduction. Loss of the native scrub woodland and some competition by another fody that has been introduced seem to be the major causes for the reported decline.

Mauritius Fody (*Foudia rubra*) [Mauritius, Indian Ocean]. This species was once observed to be common on

Mauritius, but the loss of the major portion of the native forests has seemingly reduced its numbers. By 1974 the total population was estimated at less than 300 birds. Introduced predators may also pose a problem.

Lord Howe Currawong (*Stephanomaria graculina crissalis*) [Lord Howe Island, southwest Pacific]. This bird is restricted to Lord Howe Island where it has always been reported in the scientific literature to be very rare. This bird was once observed to be common but by 1974 was estimated at only 30-50 birds. The causes for the apparent decline are undetermined. The bird is usually seen in the higher subtropical rainforest.

Information Requested

Any person, group, governmental unit, or other entity may submit any relevant information on the above species. In particular, the Service requests the most recent data on the status of any of these species and the degree and types of threats to their continued existence. Also, the Service is requesting information on environmental and economic impacts and effects on small entities (including small businesses, small organizations and small governmental jurisdictions) that would result from the listing of these birds as Endangered or Threatened species, and information on possible alternatives to listing. This information will aid the Service in complying with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 12291 on Federal Regulation, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and in preparing any required analyses of effect.

The primary author of this notice is Jay M. Sheppard, Office of Endangered Species, Washington, D.C. 20240, (703/235-1975).

Dated: April 29, 1981.

F. Eugene Hester,

Acting Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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