

**PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION
ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS**

A. PROPOSAL: To list *Polystictus pectoralis pectoralis* in Appendix II

B. PROPONENT: Government of Paraguay

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

- 1.1 Class: Aves
- 1.2 Order: Passeriformes
- 1.3 Family: Emberizidae
- 1.4 Species: *Polystictus pectoralis*
- Subspecies: *pectoralis*
- 1.5 Common names: Tachuri, Tachurí canela, Bearded Tachuri

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution:

The species has a disjointed and very localized range in the Andes of Colombia (subspecies *bogotensis*); north-east Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, French Guyana and the extreme north of Brazil (subspecies *brevipennis*); as well as the east of Bolivia, south of Brazil, Paraguay, north of Argentina and Uruguay (subspecies *pectoralis*).

Subspecies *pectoralis* is known in the central-south region of Brazil (Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, southern Goiás, Sao Paulo, and Río Grande do Sul), but only in a few sites, mostly recorded during the southern winter; the Oriental and west-central region of Paraguay (Boquerón, Presidente Hayes, Concepción, Amambay, Canindeyú, Alto Paraná, Guairá, Central, Cordillera, Paraguari, Caazapá, Misiones, and Itapúa; but recorded only in a few sites over the last years), north of Argentina (Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Córdoba, Buenos Aires, La Pampa, and Mendoza); Uruguay (Artigas, Tacuarembó, Paysandú, Soriano, and Montevideo); and eastern Bolivia (some old specimens in Santa Cruz).

2.2 Population

It is a scarce or rare local species; it has however been recorded in moderate numbers in a few sites. Its population is thought to be declining, to the tune of approximately 20 % in the last 10 years. Projections of habitat loss suggest that population decrease will continue.

2.3 Habitat

The species inhabits different types of grasslands, areas with secondary herbaceous vegetation, and xeromorphic scrublands and savannahs, and in the proximity of marshes, wetlands and lakes. The presence or proximity of abundant water would seem to be an important factor.

2.4 Migrations

In the east-central region of Argentina (Mendoza, La Pampa, and western Buenos Aires) the species is a southern summer visitor. To the north, in Misiones, Argentina, and the Oriental region of Paraguay,

some populations seem to be resident, while others are migratory. Most records in Brazil take place during the wintering period.

3. Threat data

The species is listed in the almost threatened category of UICN, since it is estimated that its population has undergone a marked decrease in the last few years.

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Not known

3.2 Habitat destruction

Conversion of habitat for agricultural purposes (such as cotton for export), *Eucalyptus* and soya plantations, as well as the creation of pastures have had a severe impact on the available habitat in Brazil, where, up to 1993, two thirds of the grasslands in its range had been altered. Grasslands in Paraguay and Argentina meet the same threats, combined with extensive cattle raising and pasturing and frequent fire clearance.

3.3 Indirect threats

Not known

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

The species is threatened by habitat conversion all over its range. It is therefore dependent on conservation action both in its nesting places as well as in those used during migration and wintering.

3.5 National and international utilization.

Not known

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

In Brazil the species has been recorded in Parque Nacional Chapada dos Guimaraes, Parque Nacional das Emas, and Estación Ecológica Itapirina. In Paraguay it is known to be present in Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú, Refugio Biológico Tati Yupi and Área de Reserva para Parque Nacional San Rafael, and in Argentina in Parque Nacional Mburucuyá, Parque Natural Costanero del Sur, Bañados del Río Dulce, Parque Natural Mar Chiquita and Reserva Nacional Científica Otamendi.

4.2 International protection status

The species is not listed in the appendices to the CMS.

4.3 Additional protection needs

The species is not properly represented in the existing network of protected areas.

5. Range States

Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia and Argentina.

6. Comments from Range States

None

7. Additional remarks

None

8. Referencias

BirdLife International (2000) *Threatened Birds of the World*. Barcelona & Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International.

Collar N.J. & Wege, D.C. (1995) The distribution and conservation status of the Bearded Tachuri *Polystictus pectoralis*. *Bird Conservation International* 5: 367-390.