

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

**A. PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of the total population of the Strange tailed Tyrant *Alectrurus risora* on Appendix II.

**B. PROPONENT:** Government of Paraguay.

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:**

**1. Taxon**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>1.1 Class:</b>        | Aves  |
| <b>1.2 Order:</b>        | Passeriformes   |
| <b>1.3 Family:</b>       | Tyrannidae  |
| <b>1.4 Species:</b>      | <i>Alectrurus risora</i>  |
| <b>1.5 Common Names:</b> | Strange-tailed Tyrant, Guyra jetapa, Jetapa'i, Yetapá de collar |

**2. Biological Data**

**2.1 Distribution**

The species occurs primarily in southern Paraguay (Presidente Hayes, Central, Cordillera, Paraguari, Guaira, Misiones and Itapúa) and northern Argentina. In the past, the species' distribution in Argentina included 10 provinces, but currently it is found in just two: in eastern Formosa and north-eastern Corrientes. Between 1840 and 1991 its Argentine extent of occurrence decreased from 380,400 km<sup>2</sup> to 41,500 km<sup>2</sup>. There has perhaps been a catastrophic loss of range in Brazil, where the last record was in Rio de Janeiro in 1974. In Uruguay, the species was formerly an uncommon breeder, but there has been only one unconfirmed record since 1986.

**2.2 Population**

The global population is estimated between 10,000 and 19,999 individuals and is considered to be in decline. In 1993, the population in Corrientes was estimated at c.23,000 birds, but recent records indicate that numbers in Chaco and Formosa are considerably lower.

**2.3 Habitat**

The species inhabits wet grasslands near or within marshes. It apparently requires relatively tall grasses, mostly over 1-1.5 m. Breeding occurs during the austral spring and summer. *Alectrurus risora* feeds on invertebrates.

**2.4 Migrations**

The species was a migrant to the southern part of its former range, arriving in September-October and migrating north, towards Brazil, in February-March. In Paraguay, the first naturalists to visit the country also considered the species to be a migrant.

Currently, the majority of the population appears to be resident, though there is still some evidence of migratory movements in Paraguay.

### 3. Threat data

This species is classified as “Vulnerable” in the IUCN Red List (Criteria A2c, A3c) because it has suffered a large contraction in range and, presumably, numbers (as a result of extensive habitat loss).

#### 3.1 Direct Threats

None known.

#### 3.2 Habitat destruction

Agricultural conversion and cattle-grazing are the principal threats to remaining populations. Additional threats include afforestation with *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* spp. (encouraged by government incentives) since trees are often planted adjacent to, or within, inundated grasslands. The preference of the species for tall grass suggests that it is also adversely affected by fires.

#### 3.3 Indirect threats

Pesticides and other agrochemicals are carried by drainage and run-off directly into marshes.

#### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

The species is threatened by habitat loss throughout its range. As a result, its conservation is dependent on actions in breeding and wintering areas and migration stopover sites. It would appear likely that the fragmentation of natural grasslands, combined with other factors such as the large lake created by the Yacyretá hydroelectric dam are impeding the migratory movements of individuals between the populations in northern Argentina and southern Paraguay.

#### 3.5 National and International utilisation

None known.

### 4. Protection status and needs

#### 4.1 National protection status

It is legally protected in Brazil and Uruguay. In Argentina, it is regularly recorded at El Palmar and Mburucuyá National Parks, and El Bagual, Guaycolec and San Juan Poriahú Private Reserves. The effects of different management regimes are being studied in Corrientes.

#### 4.2 International protection status

The species is included on CMS Appendix I.

#### 4.3 Additional Protection needs.

The species would benefit from conservation actions coordinated across its range states, and in particular, between Paraguay and Argentina. Important actions include the creation of new protected areas in the grasslands of southern Paraguay and northern Argentina, and the elimination of government incentives for afforestation of natural grasslands.

### 5. Range States

ARGENTINA, Brazil, PARAGUAY and URUGUAY.

### 6. Comments from Range States

**7. Additional remarks****8. References**

- BirdLife International (2004) *Threatened Birds of the World*. CD-ROM. Barcelona & Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International.
- BirdLife International (2005) Species factsheet: *Alectrurus risora*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 16/06/2005.
- Di Giacomo, A. S. & Di Giacomo, A.G. (2004) Extinción, historia natural y conservación de las poblaciones del yetapá de collar (*Alectrurus risora*) en la Argentina. *Ornitología Neotropical* 15 (Suppl.) 145-157.

