

**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 White-collared Seedeater *Sporophila zelichi* on Appendix II.

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

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**1. Taxon**

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>1.1 Class:</b>        | Aves   |
| <b>1.2 Order:</b>        | Passeriformes  |
| <b>1.3 Family:</b>       | Emberizidae  |
| <b>1.4 Species:</b>      | <i>Sporophila zelichi</i>  |
| <b>1.5 Common names:</b> | White-collared Seedeater, Narosky's Seedeater, Guyra juru tu'ĩ o Capuchino de collar, Entre Rios Seedeater |

**2. Biological Data**

**2.1 Distribution**

This species breeding distribution is restricted to the Mesopotamian grasslands, in the Endemic Bird Area (EBA) 077, as defined by BirdLife International (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). *Sporophila zelichi* is extremely local, known from a small number of sites in north-east Argentina (primarily in Entre Ríos, with two records from Corrientes), eastern Paraguay (two records, in Itapúa and Concepción) and recently in Uruguay (Sierra de Chafalote, Rocha and two other sites in the Bañados del Este Biosphere Reserve).

The wintering grounds are unknown but probably lie in the Brazilian Cerrado or Pantanal. The only record of the species outside of its breeding area is one in Concepción, Paraguay, in October 1999.

**2.2 Population**

The global population is estimated between 50 and 249 individuals and is considered to be in decline. In the 1970s and 1980s, the species was regularly observed by bird-trappers, but in recent years only tiny numbers (mostly isolated pairs) have been found during targeted searches.

**2.3 Habitat**

It breeds in the austral summer in semi-open grasslands. At Puerto Boca, Entre Ríos, one male had a territory delimited by *Acacia* sp. (used as song posts), at the edge of a large stand of *Panicum grumosum* in a marsh containing *Eryngium* spp. and 20-40 cm surface water. It fed on the seeds of *Paspalum dilatatum* and other grasses.

At Ñu Guazú, Itapúa, Paraguay, a male inhabited an area where tall, dense permanently flooded grass intergraded with shorter, grazed grass.

#### 2.4 Migrations

The species is absent from its breeding area during the austral winter. Although its migratory behaviour is unknown, the record from the Paraguayan Cerrado suggests that, as with the congeneric *S. palustris* and *S. cinnamomea*, the species winters in the Pantanal or Cerrado, primarily in central-south Brazil.

### 3. Threat data

This species qualifies as “Critically Endangered” in the IUCN Red List (Criterion C2a(i)) due to the small declining population, with all subpopulations of less than 50 mature individuals. It also qualifies as “Endangered” (under Criterion D1) due to the small total population, and as “Vulnerable” (under the Criteria A2c, d, e; A3c, d, e) due to the continued decline of its global population and the loss and fragmentation of its habitat.

#### 3.1 Direct threats

This species is highly-prized in the cage-bird trade.

#### 3.2 Habitat destruction

Widespread habitat loss is occurring through the conversion of natural grasslands into grazing pastures, and the afforestation of wetlands with *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* spp.

#### 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 presumed distribution. As a result, it is dependent on conservation action at breeding, wintering and migration stopover sites.

#### 3.5 National and international utilisation

The species is highly-prized as a cage bird.

### 4. Protection status and needs

#### 4.1 National protection status

It has been reported from El Palmar National Park (in May 1982), and near Iberá Provincial Park, Argentina, and from Bañados del Este Biosphere Reserve, Uruguay.

#### 4.2 International protection status

The species is included on the CMS Appendix I, but it is not included on any CITES appendix.

#### 4.3 Additional protection needs

The species would benefit from conservation actions coordinated across all three range states. Recommended actions in Paraguay include studies to locate breeding populations in the south of the country, and the creation of a network of reserves in the same area. Other actions should include the monitoring of known populations, the elimination of incentives to afforest natural grasslands, and the prohibition and penalization of trapping, trade and possession of the species. The development of an agreement under CMS for this and other threatened migratory seedeaters has also been recommended.

**5. Range States<sup>1</sup>**

ARGENTINA, 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: *Sporophila zelichi*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 16/06/2005.

Clay, R.P., and Field, B. (2005) First records of Narosky's Seedeater *Sporophila zelichi* in Paraguay. *Cotinga* 23: 84-85.

Stattersfield, A.J., Crosby, M.J., Long, A.J. & Wege, D.C. (1998) *Endemic Bird Areas of the World*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International (Conservation Series No. 7).

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<sup>1</sup> CMS Parties in capitals.

