

**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 Chestnut Seedeater *Sporophila cinnamomea* on 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: | <i>Sporophila cinnamomea</i> |
| 1.5 Common Names: | Chestnut Seedeater, Guyra juru tu'ĩ pytâ, Capuchino corona gris |

2. Biological Data

2.1 Distribution

The breeding range of this species is restricted to the Mesopotamian grasslands, in the Endemic Bird Area (EBA) 077, as defined by BirdLife International (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). It breeds in north-east Argentina (not uncommon in Corrientes but more local in Entre Ríos), west and extreme south-east Uruguay (mostly Paysandú, Río Negro and Rocha, but also Artigas, Soriano and Treinta y Tres), extreme south-east Paraguay (Itapúa) and southernmost Brazil (west and south-central Rio Grande do Sul).

Migrants have been recorded in Argentina (Misiones, Formosa and Buenos Aires) and throughout eastern Paraguay (including Presidente Hayes department in the Chaco), with presumed wintering birds in Brazil (Pará, Goiás, Minas Gerais, São Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul) and perhaps north-east Paraguay.

2.2 Population

The global population is estimated in 2500 – 9999 individuals and is considered to be in decline. In 1969, there were c.100 males at Arroyo Barú and Arroyo Perucho Verna, Argentina, but only one singing male at Arroyo Barú in 1992. Surveys in 1991-1993 found no more than eight males at any site in Argentina. In 1998, there were 23 males at Nu Guazu, Paraguay.

2.3 Habitat

It occurs in periodically inundated grassland and marsh, especially with tall, dense grasses (particularly *Paspalum*).

2.4 Migrations

The species migrates between its breeding area, centred on north-east Argentina, and wintering area in central-south Brazil.

3. Threat data

This species qualifies as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List (Criteria A2c, d, e; A3c, d, e; C2a(i)), owing to a rapid population reduction and the loss and fragmentation of its habitat.

3.1 Direct threats

The species is trapped for the cage bird trade.

3.2 Habitat destruction

Extensive areas of habitat have been lost due to afforestation with *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* spp., even affecting wet valley bottoms. Mechanized agriculture, invasive grasses and annual burning additionally threaten winter and migration habitats.

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, it is dependent on conservation action in breeding and wintering areas and at migration stopover sites.

3.5 National and International utilisation

The species is kept as a cage bird.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1 National protection status

Trapping is prohibited in Argentina. The species is known to breed in El Palmar National Park, and large numbers of non-breeding birds have been recorded in Emas National Park, Goiás, Brazil.

4.2 International protection status

The species is included on the CMS Appendix I, though it is not listed on any CITES appendices.

4.3 Additional Protection needs

The species would benefit from conservation actions coordinated across the four range states. Specific actions include: Localization of the most important breeding and wintering sites; surveys for breeding populations in the grasslands of Misiones and Ñeembucú departments, Paraguay; development of an action plan for this and similar seedeaters; elimination of incentives for afforesting natural grasslands; establishment of a reserve network in the grasslands of southern Paraguay; and greater enforcement of the prohibition of trapping and trade.

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

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).