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Wider Caribbean Region

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006

**A PROPOSAL FOR BIRD SPECIES TO BE ADDED TO ANNEXES II AND III  
OF THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

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of the SPAW Protocol  
Presented by  
Birdlife International in collaboration with the SPAW/RAC**

The IUCN Red List of threatened species is widely considered to be the most objective and authoritative system for classifying species in terms of the risk of extinction. Information on a taxon's population size, population trends and range size are applied to standard quantitative criteria to determine its IUCN Red List Category (Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Least Concern). Additional information on ecology and habitat preferences, threats and conservation action are also collated and assessed as part of Red List process.

BirdLife International is the official Red List Authority for birds for the IUCN Red List, supplying the categories and associated detailed documentation for all the world's birds to the IUCN Red List each year. Through its Global Species Programme, BirdLife has collated (from a global network of experts and collaborating organisations and from publications and unpublished sources), assessed and published information on the world's threatened birds for over 25 years. Global checklists of all the world's threatened birds were published as *Birds to watch* (1988) and *Birds to watch 2* (1994). In 2000, BirdLife published a landmark book entitled *Threatened Birds of the World*. This book, which is continually updated at [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org), outlines the current situation with respect to the status of the world's globally threatened birds, and for each species, identifies concrete actions needed to help save them.

The criteria developed for listing species on the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol are very similar to the IUCN Red List criteria and thus there is a strategic opportunity to bring greater parity between the two lists, where currently little such harmony exists: of the 57 species of bird listed by IUCN as Globally Threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) in the insular Caribbean, only 17 are listed on the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.

BirdLife and its partners in the Caribbean are further developing the Globally Threatened Bird Program such that annual updates on species status and conservation actions will be available each year. With greater parity between the IUCN Red List and SPAW Annexes, the opportunity would present itself for monitoring reports to be delivered to the SPAW COP from which our progress in conserving the listed species would be made clear. This in turn would highlight successes and areas for urgent conservation interventions.

Presented below are those Caribbean bird species currently listed as Globally Threatened on the IUCN Red List, but that do not feature on the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol. This contribution from BirdLife International to the SPAW Protocol is being presented to the SPAW Parties as a preliminary proposal for future consideration and discussion as appropriate, in keeping with the discussions and recommendations of the SPAW STAC3 Meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, 4-8 October 2005.



## A proposal for species to be added to the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol

### Globally threatened Caribbean birds (Critical, Endangered and Vulnerable) from the IUCN Red List not currently listed under the SPAW Protocol annexes.

The information below has been taken from BirdLife International's World Bird Database. BirdLife is the listing authority for birds within the IUCN Red List program. Further information on each species can be found at: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/index.html>

#### **Procellariidae: *Pterodroma cahow* Bermuda Petrel Endangered**

Successful conservation has increased the population of this species, but it remains extremely small and the species consequently qualifies as Endangered. If the population continues to grow, the species will warrant downlisting to Vulnerable in due course.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Bermuda (to UK)	no	Native

#### **Procellariidae: *Pterodroma hasitata* Black-capped Petrel Endangered**

This species is Endangered because it has a very small, fragmented and declining breeding range and population. It has already been extirpated from some sites, and this trend is almost certain to continue.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Bahamas	no	Native
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

#### **Procellariidae: *Pterodroma caribbaea* Jamaica Petrel Critically Endangered**

This species was last collected in 1879, after a drastic decline in numbers through the 19th century, presumed to have resulted from the effects of introduced rats and mongooses. It was searched for without success during 1996-2000, but it cannot yet be presumed to be Extinct because nocturnal petrels are notoriously difficult to record, and it may conceivably occur on Dominica and Guadeloupe. Any remaining population is likely to be tiny, and for these reasons it is treated as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct).

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	possibly	Native

#### **Accipitridae: *Accipiter gundlachi* Gundlach's Hawk Endangered**

This species is considered Endangered owing to its very small and severely fragmented population, which is presumably declining in response to habitat loss, and persecution.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Accipitridae: *Buteo ridgwayi* Ridgway's Hawk Critically Endangered**

This species is considered Critically Endangered because it has an extremely small and fragmented population, which continues to decline. Only effective protection of Los Haitises National Park is likely to save this species from extinction.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

**Rallidae: *Cyanolimnas cerverai* Zapata Rail Endangered**

This species is more common than previously thought. However, it still qualifies as Endangered because it is confined to a single area, where habitat loss and predation are almost certainly resulting in reduction of its very small range and population.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Columbidae: *Patagioenas caribaea* Ring-tailed Pigeon Vulnerable**

This species is Vulnerable because anecdotal evidence and the variety of threats indicate that the range and population are now small, fragmented and declining.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	no	Native

**Columbidae: *Leptotila wellsi* Grenada Dove Critically Endangered**

Conservation action may be just in time to save this species from extinction. It is considered Critically Endangered because it has an extremely small and fragmented population as a result of a very rapid decline. The existing recovery plan aims to increase the wild population to 200 individuals in four subpopulations and establish a captive-breeding programme for reintroduction.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Grenada	no	Native

**Columbidae: *Geotrygon caniceps* Grey-headed Quail-dove Vulnerable**

A combination of habitat loss and hunting has resulting in a rapid population reduction. The population is now small and the species is therefore considered to be Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native
Dominican Republic	no	Native

**Columbidae: *Starnoenas cyanocephala* Blue-headed Quail-dove Endangered**

This species is extremely rare and has a very small population with extremely small subpopulations, and numbers are continuing to decline in response to hunting and habitat loss. This combination qualifies the species as Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Psittacidae: *Aratinga euops* Cuban Parakeet Vulnerable**

This species has declined rapidly, and now has a small and fragmented range and population. The rate of decline is likely to have slowed with a reduction in trapping pressure, but habitat loss continues and it still qualifies as Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Psittacidae: *Aratinga chloroptera* Hispaniolan Parakeet Vulnerable**

This species has a small and fragmented range and population, which continues to decline as a result of habitat loss and persecution. It consequently qualifies as Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Guadeloupe (to France)	no	Introduced
Haiti	no	Native
Puerto Rico (to USA)	yes	Native

**Psittacidae: *Amazona collaria* Yellow-billed Amazon Vulnerable**

This species is Vulnerable because it has a small and fragmented range, with suitable habitat declining in extent, area and quality. Numbers are also declining because of trapping.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	no	Native

**Psittacidae: *Amazona ventralis* Hispaniolan Amazon Vulnerable**

This species is considered Vulnerable because anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a rapid population reduction. The size of the population and the exact extent of the decline are unclear, and clarification may lead to the species being reclassified as Near Threatened.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native
Puerto Rico (to USA)	no	Introduced
Virgin Islands (to UK)	no	Introduced
Virgin Islands (to USA)	no	Introduced

**Psittacidae: *Amazona agilis* Black-billed Amazon Vulnerable**

The extent of this species's range is very small, but it does not qualify as Endangered because habitat is not severely fragmented and it is known from more than five sites. Habitat is declining in extent, area and quality, and further population reductions are being caused by trapping and predation, qualifying the species as Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	no	Native

**Cuculidae: *Hyetornis ruficularis* Bay-breasted Cuckoo Endangered**

This species is considered Endangered because it has a very small range in one sierra where there is ongoing habitat loss. However, targeted surveys may find the species to be substantially more widespread, resulting in a downlisting to Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

**Caprimulgidae: *Siphonorhis americana* Jamaican Pauraque Critically Endangered**

This species has not been recorded since 1860, and it may have been driven to extinction by introduced mongooses and rats, whose effect may have been exacerbated by habitat destruction. However, it cannot yet be presumed to be Extinct because there have been recent unconfirmed reports, and surveys may possibly have overlooked this nocturnal species. Any remaining population is likely to be tiny, and for these reasons it is treated as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct).

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	possibly	Native

**Picidae: *Colaptes fernandinae* Fernandina's Flicker Vulnerable**

This species has been downlisted to Vulnerable because although it has a very small population, which is severely fragmented and rapidly declining, the largest subpopulation in Zapata is thought to number more than 250 individuals.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Picidae: *Campephilus principalis* Ivory-billed Woodpecker Critically Endangered**

This species was rediscovered in eastern Arkansas in 2004, 60 years after the last confirmed North American record. Although all sightings may have referred to just one individual, a large area of fairly suitable habitat remains. It may also survive in south-eastern Cuba, but there have been no confirmed records since 1987 despite many searches. The global population is likely to be tiny, and for these reasons it is treated as Critically Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	possibly	Native

**Tyrannidae: *Tyrannus cubensis* Giant Kingbird Endangered**

This species has declined rapidly for largely unknown reasons, and is extinct on two of the three island groups that it formerly occupied. It is Endangered because it now has a very small and severely fragmented range and population, which continue to decline significantly.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Bahamas	yes	Native
Cuba	no	Native
Turks and Caicos Islands (to UK)	yes	Native

**Corvidae: *Corvus minutus* Cuban Palm Crow Endangered**

The conservation status of this species appears to be deteriorating. It qualifies as Endangered because it is known from a small number of locations within a very small range, and declines are occurring in the number of locations and individuals, perhaps due to interspecific competition.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Hirundinidae: *Tachycineta cyaneoviridis* Bahama Swallow Vulnerable**

This species is listed as Vulnerable because it has a small and severely fragmented breeding range, within which competition for nest-sites with introduced species is presumably causing continuing declines in the number of mature individuals. Renewed logging and planned housing developments may result in further declines in available breeding habitat in the future.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Bahamas	no	Native
Cuba	no	Native

**Hirundinidae: *Tachycineta euchrysea* Golden Swallow Vulnerable**

This species has a small, fragmented and declining range and population, and consequently qualifies as Vulnerable. It has declined massively since the 19th century, but the rate of decline has slowed with its increasing rarity.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native
Jamaica	no	Native

**Troglodytidae: *Ferminia cerverai* Zapata Wren Endangered**

A recent survey suggests that this species might be more common than previously feared. However, it is Endangered because it has a very small range and presumably population, which are confined to one area and continue to decline in response to habitat loss.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Turdidae: *Catharus bicknelli* Bicknell's Thrush Vulnerable**

The continuing reduction in the extent, area and quality of this species's wintering habitats, as a result of agricultural conversion, logging and charcoal production, is thought to be causing a rapid population decline, qualifying it as Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native
Jamaica	no	Native

Puerto Rico (to USA) no Native

**Turdidae: *Turdus swalesi* La Selle Thrush Endangered**

The combination of a very small, severely fragmented and declining range qualifies this species as Endangered. It has been apparently extirpated (or is on the brink of extirpation) from several significant portions of its disjunct range.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

**Turdidae: *Cichlherminia lherminieri* Forest Thrush Vulnerable**

Human-induced deforestation, introduced predators and severe habitat loss from volcanic eruptions on Montserrat in 1995-1997 have produced rapid population declines, qualifying the species as Vulnerable. However, the population (but not the range) on Montserrat has increased markedly since 1997 and the overall decline rate is likely to be lower in the future.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominica	no	Native
Guadeloupe (to France)	no	Native
Montserrat (to UK)	no	Native
St Lucia	no	Native

**Fringillidae: *Loxia megaplaga* Hispaniolan Crossbill Endangered**

This species has a very small, fragmented and declining range. Although its numbers fluctuate naturally, its available habitat is decreasing as a result of logging, small-scale agriculture and uncontrolled fires. It hence qualifies as Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

**Parulidae: *Dendroica cerulea* Cerulean Warbler Vulnerable**

This species has been uplisted to Vulnerable, because its population is now estimated to have undergone a very rapid decline, owing to continuing habitat loss and fragmentation on its breeding grounds.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Bahamas	no	Native
Barbados	no	Native
Cuba	no	Native
Jamaica	no	Native

**Parulidae: *Dendroica angelae* Elfin-woods Warbler Vulnerable**

There are no direct or immediate threats, but the combination of a very small range and population may have important implications for its chances of long-term survival, and this species consequently qualifies as Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Puerto Rico (to USA)	no	Native

**Parulidae: *Catharopeza bishopi* Whistling Warbler Endangered**

This species qualifies as Endangered because it has an extremely small range, within which its habitat is declining in extent, area and quality. These reductions have probably resulted in some population declines. However, as the species disappears from outside areas protected by law or terrain, its range will probably stabilise, resulting (somewhat paradoxically) in a downlisting to Vulnerable.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
St Vincent and the Grenadines	no	Native

**Parulidae: *Leucopezia semperi* Semper's Warbler Critically Endangered**

This species has not been recorded with certainty since 1961, and there are few records from the 20th century despite being apparently more abundant before then. It may have been driven extinct by introduced mongooses, perhaps compounded by habitat loss. However, it probably remains extant because some suitable habitat remains, searches have not been adequately extensive, and there have been a number of possible or tentative sightings. A tiny population is assumed to remain and therefore it is treated as Critically Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
St Lucia	no	Native

**Parulidae: *Xenoligea montana* White-winged Warbler Vulnerable**

This species is considered Vulnerable because it has a small and severely fragmented range and population, which is presumably declining rapidly as a result of habitat loss.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native

**Icteridae: *Icterus oberi* Montserrat Oriole Critically Endangered**

This species has always had an extremely small range, but recent volcanic eruptions have caused an extremely rapid population decline and extirpated it from all but two disjunct areas. Deposits of volcanic ash have seriously damaged the habitat of the remaining population, and further deposits or an increased frequency of hurricanes could have devastating effects. The future of this species in the wild is extremely uncertain, and it consequently qualifies as Critically Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Montserrat (to UK)	no	Native

**Icteridae: *Icterus bonana* Martinique Oriole Vulnerable**

This species qualifies as Vulnerable as it has a very small range and is declining in response to brood-parasitism. Monitoring and assessment of the precise impact of this threat may ultimately result in a revised evaluation of the species's conservation status.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Martinique (to France)	no	Native

**Icteridae: *Nesopsar nigerrimus* Jamaican Blackbird Endangered**

This species is restricted to a severely fragmented habitat, and has a very small and declining range and population. The primary cause of this continuing decline is habitat loss, and it consequently qualifies as Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Jamaica	no	Native

**Icteridae: *Agelaius xanthomus* Yellow-shouldered Blackbird Endangered**

This species has a very small, fragmented and declining range. An ongoing conservation programme has substantially improved its status but, until habitat loss is halted, the species will continue to qualify as Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Puerto Rico (to USA)	no	Native

**Emberizidae: *Torreornis inexpectata* Cuban Sparrow Endangered**

This species is confined to three distinct areas. Habitat loss is continuing throughout this very small range, and populations in two of these areas appear to be declining. Together, these factors qualify the species as Endangered.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
Cuba	no	Native

**Emberizidae: *Melanospiza richardsoni* St Lucia Black Finch Endangered**

This species qualifies as Endangered because it has a very small and severely fragmented range, within which suitable habitat is declining and introduced predators are reducing numbers.

Country distribution	Extinct	Occurrence
St Lucia	no	Native

**Thraupidae: *Calyptophilus frugivorus* Chat-Tanager Vulnerable**

This species is considered Vulnerable because it has a small range and population, which are fragmented and declining. There have been some rapid declines in the past and two races are possibly already extinct. The much needed



redefinition of its taxonomic status will almost certainly result in significant changes to this classification.

<b>Country distribution</b>	<b>Extinct</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>
Dominican Republic	no	Native
Haiti	no	Native