

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

A. PROPOSAL: Listing the entire migratory population of *Zoothera guttata* on Appendix I.

B. PROPONENT: Government of Kenya.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

1. Taxon

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|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.1 | Class: | Aves |
| 1.2 | Order: | Passeriformes |
| 1.3 | Family: | Muscicapidae |
| 1.4 | Genus/species/subspecies: | <i>Zoothera guttata</i> |
| 1.5 | Common name : | Spotted Ground Thrush |

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution

There are two migratory races of this species. One (*Z. g. fischeri*) occurs as a non-breeding visitor in coastal and northeast Kenya, notably at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest; its breeding grounds are incompletely known, but it breeds in Tanzania (Litipo and Rondeau Plateau Forest reserves, at least), and may do so in Mozambique. The other race (*Z. g. guttata*) breeds and winters in South Africa. (Non-migratory populations occur in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and Sudan).

2.2 Population

The population of the whole species, including non-migratory elements, has been estimated at 1,000 - 2500 individuals. The population of the migratory races may therefore be taken to be less than this.

2.3 Habitat

The species occurs in shaded forest habitats (both moist and dry forests) with deep leaf-litter. In Kenya, this includes *Afzelia* forest and dry *Cynometra* thickets. In South Africa often occurs in coastal forests, but also in moist bush further inland.

2.4 Migrations

The migrations of *fischeri* are not well understood, though it breeds in the United Republic of Tanzania and perhaps in Mozambique, migrating mainly along the Tanzanian and Kenyan coast to winter as far north as northeast Kenya. In South Africa, *guttata* breeds in Natal and Transkei; Eastern Cape populations appear to migrate to Transvaal.

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threats

The main threat is deliberate destruction of forest habitat. Habitat disturbance is likely to be a factor in some places, notably in protected areas in South Africa.

3.2 Habitat destruction

In Tanzania, coastal forest patches that are probably "stepping stones" during migration are under heavy pressure and becoming increasingly fragmented. Wintering habitat in Kenya is also under a lot

of pressure, particularly the smaller sites. In South Africa, mining has destroyed much wintering habitat and may affect more forest in the near future.

3.3 Indirect threats

None known.

3.4 Threats connected especially with migrations

The species is a night migrant, and collision with lighted buildings has an unknown but possibly significant effect on populations.

3.5 National and international utilisation

No details of such utilisation are known, but there is likely to be little or none.

4. **Protection status and needs**

4.1 National protection status

There are few published data on national protection status. In Kenya, the species, like all other wildlife is protected under Wildlife Act but at present has no special protection status. It is presumed that this bird is likely to be given general protection in those countries that have enacted legislation. It should now be added, as appropriate, to such appendices as cover endangered species.

4.2 International protection status

The species is listed by IUCN as Endangered. Migratory populations are listed on Appendix II of CMS (under Muscicapidae sensu lato).

4.3 Additional protection needs

None known.

5. **Range States¹**

KENYA, Mozambique, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

6. **Comments from Range States**

Kenya: Survey has been conducted within its distribution range at the Kenyan coast. International and Kenyan action plans have been made, and the implementation of the plans is the process through BirdLife International – Africa Partnership.

7. **Additional remarks**

A monitoring programme for the species should be initiated.

8. **References**

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

BirdLife web site <http://www.birdlife.net/datazone/index/xxxx.html>: accessed 15 June 2005.

Urban, Fry and Keith (1997) *The Birds of Africa* Vol. Academic Press, San Diego and London.

¹ CMS Parties in capitals.