

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ABNWA03010

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Euptilotis neoxenus*

COMMON NAME: Eared Quetzal, Eared trogon

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Trogonidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Gould, 1838, Monogr. Trogonidae, pt3 pl.10, text.

TYPE LOCALITY:

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 35-40 species in the Trogon family. The *Euptilotis neoxenus* is one of two species in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: *E. neoxenus* measures 12 ½ - 14 in. (31-36 cm) in length with a wingspan of 24 in. The upper parts of the male are metallic green, the lower breast and abdomen is bright red. The tail feathers are broadly tipped with white below and lacking bars and vermiculations. The bill is black or gray. The male has elongated ear tufts projecting from back behind the eyes. The female is similar but head and upper breast brownish instead of green and without ear tufts.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The ear tufts and black bill of the *Euptilotis neoxenus* are their distinguishing characteristics.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Color drawing (National Geographic, 1999:271)

Color drawing (Peterson, 1973: pl 21)

Color drawing (Peterson, 1990: p. 207)

Color photo (Ditch in <http://home.earthlink.net/~richditch/earedtrogon.htm>)

Color drawing (Sibley, 2000)

TOTAL RANGE: Southeastern and east central Arizona to northwestern Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Zacatecas, Nayarit, and Michoacan, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Originally considered to be limited to Cochise County in southeastern Arizona, specifically in the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains. Recent sightings

(1992-1996) have been documented in Coconino County (Chevelon Canyon), Greenlee County (Bear Wallow Wilderness and Black River, White Mountains), and Gila County (Sierra Anchas).

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: Song is a series of croaking *co-ah* notes.

REPRODUCTION: *Euptilotis neoxenus* nests in a natural tree cavity or in an old woodpecker hole, about 10.6 m (35 ft) up. The nests are a bare cavity approximately 14 cm (5.5 in) wide and 28 cm (11 in) deep. The breeding season is mid July to mid August and related to the arrival of the rainy season. There are usually 2 eggs and the incubation is estimated at 18 days. At two weeks the nestlings are covered with black and yellow down and they are tended by both parents.

FOOD HABITS: The Eared Trogon is an insectivore and frugivore.

HABITAT: They prefer pine and pine-oak forests.

ELEVATION: 6,004 - 10,761 ft. (1830-3280 m). Based on records in the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS), elevation ranges from 5,040-7,200 ft. (1536-2195 m) (AGFD, unpublished data accessed 2003).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Madrean Evergreen Woodland and Great Basin Conifer Woodland.

POPULATION TRENDS: Insufficient information available to assess recent trends, but possible declining from a variety of threats. Apparently less common now than in the nineteenth century (NatureServe, 2001).

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999, 2007, 2013)
Listed Threatened (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente 2000, 2010)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Some threats include loss of nesting trees from increased logging pressure, destruction of habitat, agricultural encroachment, and increased human disturbance.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Unknown

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: A thorough examination of ecological needs of this species, including nest site selection, movements, and sensitivity to disturbance needs to be performed.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USFS – Apache-Sitgreaves, Coronado and Tonto National Forests; TNC Ramsey Canyon.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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