

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street Vero Beach, FL 32960-3559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 26, 2011

Contacts: Ken Warren, Ken_Warren@fws.gov, 772/562-3909 x 323, ken_warren@fws.gov
Tom MacKenzie, Tom_MacKenzie@fws.gov, 404/679-7291, tom_mackenzie@fws.gov

Listing Smooth-Billed Ani Under ESA Not Substantiated

VERO BEACH, Fla. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not list the smooth-billed ani under the Endangered Species Act because the medium-sized cuckoo has a large global population and a large range. The tropical bird ranges from central Florida and the West Indies, south to Central and South America, to Ecuador, and northern Argentina, except in the Andes.

The Service announced the results of its 90-day finding today in the *Federal Register*, saying that the petition filed by Robert Showler of Homestead, Florida, doesn't provide enough specific information on threats to the smooth-billed ani and only alludes to possible threats within Florida, which is a small portion in the north sector of the species' considerable range. Therefore, the petition does not present substantial information indicating that listing the species is warranted at this time.

“We are not initiating a status review in response to the petition, but we're accepting pertinent, new information concerning the status of, or threats to, the smooth-billed ani or its habitat,” said Paul Souza, field Supervisor of the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office. “New information could come to light and help in the conservation of the species.”

Although the population of the smooth-billed ani in Florida is unknown, information from the Service's files indicates that the species uses the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge near Boynton Beach, Florida and the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The smooth-billed ani is found from the Keys north to West Palm Beach on the east coast and in Collier County on the west coast. Throughout its considerable global range, this species uses disturbed and human-altered rural and suburban areas, open areas with brush or scrub habitat, plantations, gardens, farmlands, forest clearings, cow pastures, and grazing lands.

Today's *Federal Register* notice can be found at www.fws.gov/verobeach or www.regulations.gov (Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2011-0007). Anyone wishing to send information to the Service about this the smooth-billed ani can address it to Paul Souza, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3559.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Visit the Service online at www.fws.gov or <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/>.

###