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## REVIEWS

**Collar, N.J., M.J. Crosby & A.J. Stattersfield. 1994. *Birds to Watch 2: The World List of Threatened Birds*. BirdLife Conservation Series No. 4, BirdLife International, Cambridge.**

The new Threatened Bird List still places Indonesia in the 'number one' position, with 104 species in the threatened categories (plus one that is presumed extinct), closely followed by Brazil. In terms of the more seriously threatened species that are also endemic, however, Indonesia takes sixth place, with the Philippines and Brazil having top 'honours'.

On first appearance, this seems to be a reduction from the 126 species listed in the 1988 version of *Bird to Watch*. Out of these 126, 76 remain on the list, 35 are down-graded to the 'Near-threatened' category, 10 are considered 'Data-deficient', and 5 are removed from the list. Of the 29 new species on the list, 12 were previously rated 'near-threatened' and 13 are wholly new; the remaining 4 were previously omitted from the Indonesian list, rightly or wrongly.

The five deleted species are: Sumatran and Flores Scopsowls *Otus stresemanni* and *Otus alfredi*, Slaty and Sula Cuckoo-shrikes *Coracina schistacea* and *Coracina siita*, and Apricot-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia buettikofferi*. The first of these is presumably omitted as taxonomically invalid, but the last three are deleted on the results of recent survey data. This leaves *Otus alfredi*, which has been dropped by Sibley & Monroe as a variant of Moluccan Scopsowl *O. magicus* (a move that the Indonesian Ornithological Society will study further in the light of a recently obtained specimen in the Bogor Zoological Museum).

From the 1988 list of some 94 'Near-threatened' species in Indonesia, 32 have been deleted, but many have now been added, to a total of 152 plus 30 Data-deficient species. Thus in summary, the more up-to-date analysis on which *Bird to Watch 2* is based may have reduced the number of species in the threatened category, but the combined list of threatened and near-threatened species is substantially higher.

The use of "Near-threatened" is perhaps unfortunate in the case of Indonesia, because of the large number of species listed. In fact the criterion seems to be mainly that the species has been considered but then rejected as a candidate for the threatened list. No further analysis is then made to determine whether the category of Near-threatened is actually justified, and in fact we should question the validity of many of these

By contrast, it is surprising to see that the following species that were classified as Vulnerable at the Galliformes CAMP have been omitted: Long-billed Partridge *Rhizophora longirostris*, Chestnut-bellied Partridge *Arborophila javanica*, Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx*

*sanguiniceps* (perhaps unjustified), Crested Partridge *Rollulus rouloul* and perhaps Ferruginous Partridge *Caloperdix oculea*. Has new information come to light since the CAMP that renders the conclusions invalid, or has the CAMP merely been overlooked? It was held in February 1993 and its results were surely available to the *B7W2* compilers even if not yet published. One need only refer to the Megapodes Action Plan (reviewed in this issue of *Kukila*) to highlight this apparent

		Megapode Action Plan	BTW2
Wattled Brush-turkey	<i>Aepyodius arfakianus</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Bruijn's Brush-turkey	<i>Aepyodius bruijnii</i>	Endangered	Vulnerable
Red-billed Talegalla	<i>Talegalla cuvieri</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Maleo	<i>Macrocephalon maleo</i>	Endangered	Vulnerable
Moluccan Megapode	<i>Eulipoa wallacei</i>	Critical	Vulnerable
Philippine Megapode	<i>Megapodius cumingii</i>	Vulnerable	Near-threatened
Sula Megapode	<i>Megapodius bernsteinii</i>	Vulnerable	Near-threatened
Tanimbar Megapode	<i>Megapodius tenimberensis</i>	Vulnerable	Not listed
Biak Megapode	<i>Megapodius geelvinkianus</i>	Endangered	Not listed

anomaly (in terms of species extant in Indonesia):

Similar anomalies are found between *BTW2* and the Pheasants Action Plan, also reviewed below.

*BTW2* is perhaps slightly more faithful to the findings of the parrots CAMP, although here too there are variations, and we have to ask whether the compilers concerned with the global list really have access to information that differs from the CAMP. For example the three Cockatoos:

Yellow-crested, Salmon-crested and White *C. sulphurea*, *moluccensis* and *alba*, were listed as Endangered by the CAMP, but the latter two are now down-graded to Vulnerable. In the opinion of this reviewer, *sulphurea* should be regarded as Critical in most islands of its range, but there remain one or two pockets where the risk may be lower.

Among the habitat codes, it would be useful to make the distinction between lowland and montane habitats, especially for equatorial forest regions. Lowland species, and those occupying foothill zone with its particularly high diversity, are commonly more threatened than montane forms. It might be argued, and indeed it already has, that all lowland specialist forest birds are in some degree threatened, at least in category Alb if not classified vulnerable on other factors. If present rates of deforestation continue, we should consider it likely that 50% of the remaining forest area in the lowlands will be lost "over 20 years or 5 generations"? Once this loss is achieved, other criteria will come into force, such as small and fragmenting range, small population etc.

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With this pessimistic scenario, perhaps we should not be over-critical of the inclusion in the Near-threatened category of species which we in Indonesia would never have even considered for inclusion. It is presumed that these species find their place in the list on the basis of their status on the margins of their range in Thailand or possibly Malaysia. We cannot see why else the following should be included: Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon *Treron fulvicollis*, Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*, Short-toed Coucal *Centropus rectunguis*, Wrinkled Hornbill *Rhyticeros corrugatus*, Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*, Helmeted Hornbill *Rhimphax vigil*, Red-crowned Barbet *Megalaima rafflesii*, Malaysian Honeyguide *Indicator archipelagus*, White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*, Ferruginous Babbler *T. bicolor*, Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosa* and Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus*. On these criteria, we should be considering the whole gamut of lowland forest species, at which stage the listing of threatened species becomes a somewhat pointless exercise.

One can always be picky with individual species - in the Sundanese region, why is the rather common Rufous-fronted Laughing-thrush *Garrulax rufifrons* considered Near-threatened, while in contrast the apparently extremely rare Rueck's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis ruckii*, and Black-browed and Vanderbilt's Babblers *Trichastoma (Malacocinda) perspicillata* and *vanderbilti*, birds about which we know almost nothing, merely get Vulnerable ratings. In fact the last three should surely be classed as Data Deficient (indeed the last named is now shown to be a synonym for Horsfield's Babbler *T. sepiarium*). The temptation to minimize the number of species in the Data Deficient category is understandable, but it is unrealistic to admit to any greater knowledge of the distribution of many of our poorly known endemics. Surely a substantial number of species on the Indonesian list should more correctly be placed in the Data Deficient category? There is no censure in admitting lack of data especially if this encourages more intensive field efforts.

Within those those listed as Data Deficient, some are species that are merely apparently localized and have been poorly known since they were first described. Examples might be Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis buergersi*, and White-striped and Mayr's Forest Rails *Rallina leucospila* and *R. mayri*, yet nevertheless their habitat is intact and there is no reason to suppose they may be threatened. The same holds for Papuan Whipbird *Androphobus viridis*, a classic example of a 'mystery bird'. Indeed, of the 30 Data Deficient species, 13 derive from Irian Jaya and another 10 from islands in the Moluccas or Nusatenggara, regions where future studies are expected to produce substantial amounts of new data. This leaves a *Tyto* owl from Sulawesi and just 7 poorly known species from the Sundanese region, namely four frogmouths *Batrachostomus* sp., Salvadori's Nightjar *Caprimugus pulchellus* and Blue-wattled Bulbul *Pynonotus nieuwenhuisii*. Perhaps all these birds may be considered rare, but that should not be equated with potentially threatened, and there is no reason to allow these to swell the Indonesian list of threatened species.

In conclusion, the list contains a number of anomalies that rather misleadingly swell the Indonesian total, such as rare but wide-ranging migrants or vagrants (9 species), and poorly known species which we would not automatically assume to be at risk, for which Data-deficient would be more appropriate (perhaps 30 species). A reduction of the threatened list of truly

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'Indonesian' birds to 76 species would bring Indonesia down to fourth place in the global ranking. Similarly, from the Near-threatened list, disregarding some 8 that are in the wide-ranging migrant category, we might question perhaps one-third of the entries for various reasons (either outright exclusion such as some listed earlier, or transfer to Data-deficient). Of course, it is all too easy to make subjective assessments, and the intention is not to be critical of a genuine effort to draw global attention to the plight of many of our birds. However, we become wary of the analysis where it quantifies national totals in some sort of ranking of notoriety, because it could become counter-productive for as long as the listing is open to a host of questions.

We do not deny the need to produce *Birds to watch 2*, nor indeed its intrinsic value, as long as it is realized that this is merely another stepping stone to determining status, species by species, in those regions of the World where status is poorly known, and in identifying some immediate priorities. The need now is to prepare a fully descriptive Indonesian threatened list of birds, perhaps in conjunction with ongoing plans by BirdLife International for an Asian Red Data Book, but we would see this as a purely Indonesian version to focus internally on the demands of conservation. We might well be adding further species: the Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris* might be an early candidate.

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**Dekker R.W.R.J. & P.J.K. McGowan (Compilers). 1995. *Megapodes: an action plan for their conservation 1995-1999*. IUCN and the World Pheasant Association. ISBN 2-8317-0223-2 pp.41 plus numerous b+w photographs.**

The action plan for the Megapodes has been produced by the Megapode Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission, and is one of three action plans that resulted from the successful Galliformes Conservation Assessment Workshop that was held in Antwerp during February 1993. The plan for the Pheasants is reviewed below.

Current taxonomy recognizes 22 species of megapodes, of which no less than 15 occur in Indonesia, including 9 endemic species, mostly in Wallacea and Irian Jaya. Clearly Indonesia has a major responsibility in the conservation of this fascinating group, and appropriately the Maleo is the logo of our Indonesian Ornithological Society. There are 16 taxons, in 14 species, that are considered to be threatened, of which 9 occur in Indonesia: Wattled Brush-turkey *Aepyodhis arfakianus*, Bruijn's Brush-turkey *A. brujnii*, Red-billed Talegalla *Talegalla cuvieri*, Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo*, Moluccan Megapode *Eulipoa wallacei*, Philippine Megapode *Megapodius cumingii*, Sula Megapode *M. bernsteinii*, Tanimbar Megapode *M. tenimberensis*

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and Biak Megapode *M. Geelvinkianus*.

The threats to the megapodes are the familiar ones of habitat loss or degradation, but of course a uniquely megapode problem is the over-exploitation of their eggs for human consumption. In the case of at least two species (Maleo and Moluccan Megapode), there is evidence of strict rules of sustainable exploitation by the local communities that have traditionally lived near their nesting grounds, but unfortunately these rules rapidly break down when immigrant communities settle nearby. Transmigration of Javanese, Balinese and Buginese farmers into northern and central coastal districts of Sulawesi (both spontaneous settlement and government sponsored) must take much of the blame for the demise of the Maleo.

A range of conservation actions is indicated for the immediately threatened species, including of course research, *in situ* management, and education, but it seems to be very significant that "survey to provide basic information on the status and distribution" seems to be the primary action plan for several species (including Bruijn's Brush-turkey, Tanimbar and Biak Megapodes). Indeed Bruijn's Brush-turkey of Waigeo island has never been observed in the wild, including during a two-week survey carried out in October 1993, although the text fails to describe why searching the forests (of Waigeo) may be physically impossible. Presumably the terrain is simply too rugged, as in much of Biak's forests, to permit sensible access, and this indeed may provide the best safeguard for the bird's future.

Megapodes perhaps lend themselves particularly well to projects by research students of Indonesian universities, and several may also serve as flagship species for the conservation of island habitats, and for these reasons alone it is hoped that this action plan is widely distributed to relevant government officials and grant-awarding bodies.

#### Reference:

Collar, N.J., Crosby, M.J. & A.J. Stattersfield. 1994. *Birds to Watch 2. The World List of Threatened Birds*. Cambridge, UK: Birdlife International (Birdlife Cons. Series No. 4).

DAH

**McGowan P.J.K. & P.J Garson (Compilers). 1995. *Status survey and action plan 1995-1999: Pheasants*** Compiled on behalf of the World Pheasant Association/BirdLife/SSC Pheasant Specialist Group, vi+116+numerous b&w photographs, maps and line drawings.

This is the second of the action plans that resulted from the Galliformes Conservation Assessment Workshop that was held in Antwerp during February 1993. As with the Megapodes, Indonesia plays a prominent role in the report by virtue of the fact that all nine species of pheasant *sensu stricto* that occur here are classified as threatened (the two exceptions are the Junglefowls *Gallus*

*gallus* and *G. Variust*).

- Critical: Bornean Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*;
- Endangered: Crestless Fireback *Lophura erythrophthalma*, Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*;
- Vulnerable: Hoogerwerfs and Salvadori's Pheasants *L. hoogerwerfi* and *L. inornata*. Crested Fireback *L. ignita*, Bulwer's Pheasant *L. Bulweri*, Bronze-tailed Peacock-pheasant *P. chalcurom*, and even the Great Argus *Arguasinus argus*.

Inevitably the information upon which these classifications are based is scanty and subjective. With so few records of Hoogerwerfs Pheasant (the male has yet to be described, and so its taxonomic status remains unverified), it is sheer speculation that the population is between 100 and 10,000 and probably stable in its montane habitat, but inspired guesswork has to take a prominent role in the CAMP assessments. Some may be surprised at the inclusion of the Great Argus, that seemingly common and often noisy bird of lowland forest, with an estimated population of over 100,000, but its inclusion is based on rates of lowland forest clearance according to Mace-Lande criteria. The Bornean Peacock-pheasant is assumed to have a population of less than 1000 but in truth we know almost nothing about it.

The five year action plan includes two regional surveys in Indonesia: establishing conservation priorities for forest galliformes (jointly with the Partridge, Quail and Francolin Specialist Group) in both Sumatra and Borneo, and one species orientated project: conservation of Green Peafowl.

DAH

**Sözer, R. & V. Nijman. 1995. *Behavioural ecology, distribution and conservation of the Javan Hawk-eagle Spizaetus bartelsi* Stresemann, 1924.** Verslagen en Technische Gegevens No. 62. Institute of Systematics and Population Biology, University of Amsterdam, pp. i-viii, 1-122. ISSN 0928-2386.

The Javan Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi* was declared Indonesia's national bird and symbol of rare species in 1993, because of its rareness and uniqueness, but also because Indonesia's mythological Garuda is also a bird-of-prey. The report presents the results of a research project to study the range and habitat requirements, behaviour and distribution of the eagle. The project was part of a study to fulfil MSc requirements at the University of Amsterdam.

The report is very well presented, readable and informative, with seven pages of colour photos. The first of these is a humorous portrayal of erroneous depictions of the plumage, taken from a variety of sources including a postage stamp, the Bogor telephone directory, and recent literature. They illustrate how poorly this bird is known. Confined to Java's relict forests, the population is believed to be less than 200 birds. The previously known distribution was West and East Java

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only. so. the search and discovery of several populations in the central part has considerable significance.

Following a general introduction, which reviews the genus *Spizaetus* world-wide. Part A then describes the taxonomic position and describes the bird, with some excellent line drawings. Part B deals with distribution in detail. A widely held misconception is that the bird is confined to hill and montane forest, whereas it would probably have occurred commonly in lowland forests when these were extant in Java. In this context, the sighting, of a bird in Ujung Kulon may have particular significance.

Part C treats the behavioural ecology, and Part D reviews conservation aspects. Recommendations are made for gazettelement and management of more protected areas, especially in Central Java. This is necessary for a variety of endemic species, but surely Java has now reached the level of deforestation that all forest remnants on the island should be managed as protected areas, complete with buffer zones developed to supply timber and firewood, the extraction of which is the principal cause of ongoing forest degradation. The depletion of large and valuable timber trees from these forests is of serious concern in view of the eagle's dependence on such trees for breeding.

This report represents the type of study that is required for so many of our endangered endemics, and there must be a host of species that might be selected for future post-graduate studies. Highly recommended.

DAH.

**Bildstein, K.L. & S.A. Zailles. Editors. 1995. *Raptor migration watch-site manual*. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton, Pennsylvania, USA. pp vi+177. Available from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, RR 2 Box 191, Kempton, PA 19529 at price \$20.**

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary was established at a raptor migration site in the Appalachian mountains of Pennsylvania in 1934, and the sanctuary has maintained annual counts ever since. It gradually extended its activities world-wide, though hitherto based at the one site. Then in 1988, the sanctuary embarked upon its cooperative conservation initiative: *Hawks Aloft Worldwide*. The Indonesian Ornithological Society has been on its mailing list for questionnaires and newsletters for several years. *Hawks Aloft Worldwide* aims to provide a strategy for strengthening local conservation action along the world's major raptor-migration corridors. It is currently compiling the *Atlas of Hawk and Eagle Migration* from a data-base that incorporates some 270 sites.

Here in Indonesia, it has long been assumed that the raptor migration corridor through the Malay Peninsula, with a branch that crosses the Straits of Malacca, would continue south through Sumatra and then east through Java into the Lesser Sundas and beyond. We hardly know whether the route through Java follows the north or south coast, or the central mountains. However, there

was only anecdotal confirmation of this until recent surveys of raptors arriving in Bali across the strait from Java. It could also be assumed that another corridor would lie through the Philippines and Sulawesi, but definite evidence was only obtained in March this year when this reviewer observed a northward passage of sparrowhawks across Sangihe Island. At the present time, this is almost the sum of our knowledge of raptor migration routes through Indonesia, and surely the time is ripe to chart these routes more accurately and commence an annual monitoring operation.

The manual, also titled 'A cooperative strategy for protecting the world's migratory raptors', provides an introductory guide to operating raptor migration watch-sites. Its thirteen chapters cover a comprehensive range of topics to those who would manage a site or undertake the monitoring surveys. Perhaps inevitably, this manual still carries the flavour of the Americas, but the principles apply globally, and it is welcome to see on p. 1.8 that the initiative is endorsed by the World Working Group for Birds of Prey and Owls and by the Raptor Research Foundation Inc. Presumably this will ensure that there will be cooperation rather than duplication of effort in fund-raising and activities.

The copy of this manual will be deposited at the Indonesian Ornithological Society library, currently housed at the Birdlife International - Indonesia office in Bogor. Surely this could provide another research topic to be taken up by Indonesian students (see the review of the Megapode Action Plan above), and hopefully we will see increased initiatives taken here of this important subject.

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**Also received:**

**Hong Kong Bird Report** 1994. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong. 228 pp plus numerous colour photographs.

This year's issue includes identification features on 'large white-headed gulls'. Dusky, Radde's and Yellow-streaked Warblers, and of particular interest in SE Asia, Japanese Sparrowhawk and Besra.

**Johnstone, R.E. & P. Jepson. 1996. The birds of Roti Island, Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.** West Australian Naturalist.

[A total of 83 species were identified during two surveys, including 37 new records for the island list. These include a female Boobook *Ninox sp* which is a new species for which a description is



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awaited.]

**Yus Rusila Noor & Enis Widjanarti Hanafia. 1995. *A preliminary survey on the ecological potential of the cagar alam Muara Kendawangan, West Kalimantan. Survei Pendahuluan potensi ekologis cagar alam Muara Kenilawangan, Kalimantan Barat Asian Wetland Bureau, Bogor.***

**Sujatnika, P. Jepson, T.R. Soehartono, M.J. Crosby, & A. Minlmtuti. 1995. *Melestarikan Keanekaragaman Hayati Indonesia: Pendekatan Daerah Burung Endemik. [Conserving Biodiversity: the Endemic Bird Area Approach], Jakarta: PHPA/BirdLife International-Indonesia Programme.***

#### ANNUAL OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM ROTTERDAM

The following offprints from DEINSEA, the Annual of the Natural History Museum Rotterdam, have been received courtesy of the authors:

Modiker, C.W. & C.J. Heij. 1995. The rediscovery of *Monarcha boanensis* (Aves: Monarchidae) from Boano Island, Indonesia. *Deinsea 1*: 123-143. Heij, C.J. 1995. The biology of the Moluccan megapode *Eulipoa wallacei* (Aves: Galliformes, Megapodiidae) on Hamku and other Moluccan islands: part 1: scope of the study and preliminary results. *Deinsea 2*: 145-155.

[The rediscovery of the Black-chinned Monarch on Boano Island off the coast of Seram, Maluku, has been one of the more exciting results of the current upsurge of ornithological surveys in Indonesia. The species was previously known only from the holotype, taken in 1918 but described in 1939. Boano Island has an area of only 149 sq. km, but the authors conclude that the bird is confined to the mountainous part of the island, covering only 70 sq. km, of which probably no more than 20% forms suitable habitat. They estimate its population at 100-200 individuals, but believe that this population has been more or less stable for more than a century. Clearly, however, and assuming that the species does not occur on any neighbouring islands, the Black-chinned Monarch must be classified as endangered. The paper goes on to discuss the taxonomic relationships, and supports the taxon's separation as a full species, believing it to be related to the *M. leucurus* group but having an intermediate position between this and the *M. trivirgatus* group. An appendix lists the 68 spp observed on the island, of which only 8 have been previously reported. This includes the single island endemic subspecies of Common Paradise-kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea boanensis*.

The Moluccan Megapode paper forms part of an ongoing investigation, and Part 2 is in preparation.

Reprints may be obtained while stocks last by application to Natural History Museum Rotterdam,