Threatened Birds of Asia:
The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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**BRUIJN’S BRUSH-TURKEY**

*Aepypodius bruijnii*

There have been no confirmed records of this species for over 60 years, and it is therefore inferred that its population may be under 1,000, qualifying it as Vulnerable. However there are few data on the species or the threats it faces, and this classification may need revision.

**DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION** Bruijn’s Brush-turkey is endemic to Waigeo, West Papuan Islands, Indonesia, where it is known from 15 specimens (most recently collected in 1938), with the only specified locality being Jeimon, on the east side of Majalibit bay (Holmes 1989, Jones et al. 1995; see also Meyer de Schauensee 1940a,b). None was seen in 1993 (when many islanders did not know the bird at all, although some thought it was uncommon) (Dekker and Argeloo 1993) or in a 10-day survey in 1996 (K. D. Bishop and J. M. Diamond in litt. 2000), but one was caught by a hunter’s dog in February 2001 (C. W. Moeliker in litt. 2001). Based on the extent of available habitat, it has been suggested that the population may number 100–2,500 individuals (Dekker and McGowan 1995, Jones et al. 1995).

**ECOLOGY** It appears to inhabit mountain forests, including the extremely rugged karst interior of the island, and is presumably sedentary, although it may shift in elevation or habitat use seasonally (Holmes 1989, Dekker and Argeloo 1993). There may be some resource partitioning with Dusky Megapode *Megapodius freycinet* which occurs widely in coastal areas and on the slopes up to 400 m (Dekker and Argeloo 1993). There is no information on diet, foraging behaviour or breeding, although like other brush-turkeys, it is thought to be a mound-builder.

**THREATS** Waigeo’s rugged relief, lack of infrastructure and apparently entirely intact forest suggest that there are no current threats to the species (Holmes 1989, Dekker and McGowan 1995). A proposed reduction in the size of the existing reserve on Waigeo and the prospect of cobalt mining were concerns in the late 1980s, but have apparently not come to pass (Dekker and McGowan 1995). Selective logging has been reported in the north, and hunting was speculated to be a problem (Dekker and McGowan 1995). The south-east corner of the island was ravaged by fire in 1982, perhaps rendering it unsuitable for the species (Dekker and Argeloo 1993). The introduction of predators represents a potential threat (Dekker 1989).

**MEASURES TAKEN** Cagar Alam Waigeo Barat Nature Reserve was established in the late 1980s, covering 1,530 km², slightly less than half the island (Holmes 1989, Dekker and McGowan 1995). A two-week survey was conducted in the south-east corner of Waigeo in October 1993 but failed to find the species (Dekker and Argeloo 1993).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** • Conduct further extensive village interviews on Waigeo, to gather presence/absence data. • Conduct field surveys to establish the species’s distribution and population status. • Conduct research into its habitat requirements and threats. • Research presence and impact of introduced mammalian predators. • Determine how much suitable habitat remains on Waigeo. • Produce and promote management recommendations for the bird and its habitat. • Prevent the introduction of potential predators.