Threatened Birds of Asia: The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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WHITE-WINGED CUCKOO-SHRIKE
Coracina ostenta

Critical — Endangered — Vulnerable ■ A1c; A2c; B1+2a,b,c,d,e

This species is undergoing a rapid population decline as a result of extensive forest loss at low to mid-altitudes. It also has a small, fragmented and declining occupied range. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable.

DISTRIBUTION The White-winged Cuckoo-shrike (see Remarks 1) is endemic to the Philippines, where it is known from Panay, Guimaras and Negros, with an ambiguous recent record from Bohol (see Remarks 2). Records are from:

■ PHILIPPINES Panay Malumpati, Pandan, Antique, May 1996 (Y. de Soye in litt. 1997); Culasi, Antique, 1,000 m, May–June 1918 (McGregor 1921a); Mt Maabubo, Panipiason, Madalag, Aklan, February 1993 (NADM); Mt Madja-as, Hantod-tubig, Antique, November 1992 (NADM) and February 1993 (R. S. Kennedy per J. Hornbuckle in litt. 1997), although no observations were made on the west slope and guides did not recognise pictures in August 1997 (D. Allen verbally 1997); Concepcion (type locality), January 1888 (four specimens in BMNH);

Guimaras without locality, December 1887 (specimen in BMNH; Steere 1891);


The distribution of White-winged Cuckoo-shrike
Coracina ostenta: (1) Malumpati; (2) Culasi; (3) Mt Maabubo; (4) Mt Madja-as; (5) Concepcion; (6) Guimaras; (7) Cadiz; (8) Mt Mandalagan; (9) Patag; (10) Butilog Peak; (11) Mambucal; (12) Mt Canlaon; (13) Ban-ban; (14) Hinoba-an; (15) Pagyabunan; (16) Amio; (17) Katumbahan; (18) Basay; (19) Hinubungan; (20) Balangbang; (21) Lake Balinsasayao; (22) Naliong; (23) Kawitan; (24) Mt Talinis; (25) Mantiquil; (26) Kantulongao.

**Coracina ostenta**

1993a); **Butilog Peak**, Murcia, 900–1,360 m, May 1967 (female in UPLB); **Mambucal**, May 1987 (Jensen and Hornskov 1992), July 1991 (Brooks et al. 1992, Evans et al. 1993a); **Mt Canlaon**, March and April 1896 (five specimens in AMNH, BMNH, DMNH), April–May 1953 (at Pula and Masolog), including one specimen at 2,150 m (Ripley and Rabor 1956; eight specimens in YPM), April 1987 (Jensen and Hornskov 1992), January 1990 (Lambert 1993c), July or August 1993 (Curio 1993), January 1994 (Hornbuckle 1994), March 1994, 800–1,000 m (Davidson ms), and January 1997 (B. Gee in litt. 1997); **Ban-ban**, August 1991 (Brooks et al. 1992, Evans et al. 1993a); **Hinoba-an**, inside the ILCO logging concession area, 1979 (S. Alonzo-Pasicolan verbally 1993); **Pagyabunan**, Bais, 300 m, April and May 1949 (two specimens in FMNH); **Amio** at Kabongahan, May 1948 (male in FMNH); **Katumbahan**, Tolong, June 1952 (three specimens in PNM, YPM); **Basay**, Bayawan, December 1959 (20 specimens in AMNH, FMNH, YPM, ZMH); **Hinubungan**, Tolong (also qualified as Santa Catalina), December 1948 (two specimens in FMNH), December 1951 (two females in ANSP, YPM), December 1954 (male in AMNH); **Balangbang**, Tolong, 450 m, May 1950 (two specimens in MCZ, ZMH); **Lake Balinsasayao**, 900–1,050 m, May and June 1949 and December 1953 (nine specimens in FMNH), October 1959 (two specimens in AMNH), January 1977 to July 1978 (Alcala and Carumbana 1980), August 1991 (Brooks et al. 1992, Evans et al. 1993a) and March 1994 (Davidson ms); **Naliton**, Tolong, April and May 1950 (five specimens in MCZ, PNM); **Kawitan**, Santa Catalina, December 1955 (10 specimens in AMNH, ANSP, CM, YPM); **Mt Talinis**, August 1991 (Brooks et al. 1992, Evans et al. 1993a), including “Camp Lookout, Cuernos de Negros”, October 1955 (female in ZMH), Luzuriaga, 1,120 m, January 1953 (male in DMNH) and Valencia, August 1877 (male in BMNH); **Mantiquil** at Dayungan, Siaton, April 1951 (two specimens in FMNH), December 1965 (two specimens in YPM, also McClure and Leelavit 1972); **Kantulongao**, Siaton, January and February 1957 (three specimens in CM, FMNH, YPM), and Siaton area, 1965, when seven birds were ringed (McClure and Leelavit 1972).

**POPULATION** This species is almost certainly now extinct on Guimaras given the virtual absence of forest on the island (SSC 1988, Development Alternatives Inc. 1992). On Negros in 1990 and 1991 it was relatively common on Mt Canlaon and other non-montane sites: Lambert (1993c) saw 1–4 birds in about half of all mixed-species flocks observed, while Brooks et al. (1992) and Evans et al. (1993a) recorded 287 bird-days over six sites; Davidson (ms) likewise considered it common at 800–1,000 m in 1994. In the ILCO concession, 1979, it had a 100% frequency of occurrence in a primary forest and 94% in a logged-over area (S. Alonzo-Pasicolan verbally 1993). On Mt Madja-as and Mt Maabubo, Panay, the bird was observed to be very rare at 900 m (NADM).

**ECOLOGY** **Habitat** The White-winged Cuckoo-shrike is locally common in lowland and montane forest and forest edge from the lowlands up to 2,150 m in small groups or in mixed flocks (Dickinson et al. 1991), frequenting the larger trees of the canopy and subcanopy (Lambert 1993c). On Negros it was found to be fairly common at all non-montane sites, the sites with lowest numbers being recently logged and therefore devoid of the large trees that appear to be an essential requirement (Brooks et al. 1992, Evans et al. 1993a). On Panay the bird was not common at 900 m as only three individuals were observed on two sites in mid-montane forest along the ridge of the mountain where the forest starts at 700 m (NADM). Most cuckoo-shrikes require large trees and hence are scarcer in recently logged forest, such as at that of Ban-ban, Patag and Mt Talinis (Evans et al. 1993a), although of course not all large trees are of economic value, and some left at Mt Canlaon held the species (B. Gee in litt. 1997). The records at Ban-ban indicate that it can probably survive in secondary forest, albeit at lower densities (Evans et al. 1993a), but (below 300 m on Panay at least) smaller patches of less than 50 ha may be unsuitable (NADM). No birds were recorded.
above 1,100 m, and it seems unlikely, despite the altitudinal range of the species given in Dickinson et al. (1991), that significant populations can survive in montane forest (Evans et al. 1993a).

**Food** One bird from Panay, 1888, had eaten insect larvae and the other Orthoptera (BMNH label data).

**Breeding** Three nests have been recorded, one with three eggs in a large tree on Mt Maabubo, Panay, in February–March, the parents later taking turns in provisioning food (NADM), one in July and one in September, at least one of the latter being positioned 20 m up in the forked branches of a dipterocarp, clutch size two (Alcala and Carumbana 1980). An adult was feeding three juveniles on Negros in May (Jensen and Hornskov 1992). Evans et al. (1993a) reported two fledged young but also display in August.

**Migration** It is possible that some vertical movements may occur with season, but nothing has been recorded.

**THREATS** The major threat to the remaining population of the White-winged Cuckoo-shrike on Negros and Panay is continuing forest destruction within its altitudinal range, which “will lead to its extinction” (Brooks et al. 1992). On Guimaras, the bird is already presumed to be extinct because of the complete deforestation of the island (Evans et al. 1993a, Collar et al. 1994).

**MEASURES TAKEN** Long-term legal protection of habitat at Mt Canlaon, a CPPAP site, is the strongest measure affecting this species (see Appendix, and under Visayan Wrinkled Hornbill Aceros waldeni for further information on this area). The Baloy/Madja-as range on Panay (covering the Mt Baloy and Mts Madja-as/Hantod-tubig “key sites”, both within the proposed Central Panay Mountains National Park) and the Mt Talinis/Twin Lakes area on Negros (covering the Eastern Cuernos de Negros and Lake Balinsasayao “key sites”) are proposed for FPE funding of conservation-related activities (see Appendix).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Apart from the areas targeted for conservation above, the species is known from three “key sites” (Hinoba-an and Mts Silay/Mandalagan on Negros; northwest Panay peninsula on Panay; see Appendix) and these deserve further survey and, at least in part, formal designation under the NIPAS process (see under Visayan Wrinkled Hornbill for further comments with regard to forest conservation on the Western Visayas).

**REMARKS** (1) Early records of this species pass under the name Edolisoma or Edoliisoma panayensis, the name *ostenta* only being provided in 1952 (see Ripley 1952a, Parkes 1971a). (2) A recent record from Rajah Sikatuna National Park (Curio 1994) is without accompanying information (sighting or specimen, number seen, habitat, precise date, number of observers). It was not included in the recent list of birds for the park by Brooks et al. (1995c), possibly because they only had access to Curio (1993), where the record was attributed to either *C. ostenta* or Mindanao Cuckoo-shrike *C. mcgregori*. Indeed, in the appendix to Curio (1994) the specific identity of the bird remains divided between these two possibilities (neither of them very likely), and until further details are published this record is better treated as provisional.