

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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Recommended citation

BirdLife International (2001) *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.

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ISBN 0 946888 42 6 (Part A)

ISBN 0 946888 43 4 (Part B)

ISBN 0 946888 44 2 (Set)

British Library-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

First published 2001 by BirdLife International

Designed and produced by the **Nature**Bureau, 36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ, United Kingdom

Available from the Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: +44 1803 865913 Fax: +44 1803 865280 Email nhbs@nhbs.co.uk
Internet: www.nhbs.com/services/birdlife.html

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CINNABAR HAWK-OWL

Ninox ios

Critical —
Endangered —
Vulnerable D1; D2



Assessment of threat status in this recently discovered species is hampered by its considerable obscurity. Given its apparent rarity and the continuing loss and degradation of forest habitat on Sulawesi, it seems reasonable to surmise that its population is very small, qualifying it as Vulnerable.

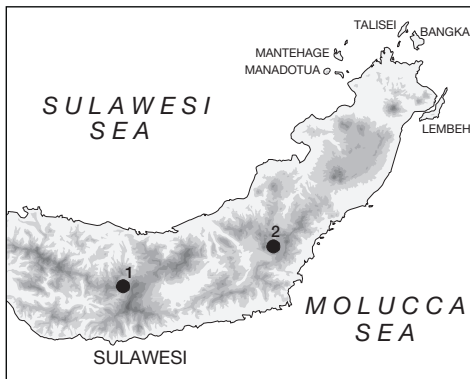
DISTRIBUTION This newly described owl (see Remarks 1) is currently known from the type locality and one other site in Sulawesi, Indonesia. The records are from:

■ **INDONESIA Sulawesi** ■ **North Sulawesi Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park** (formerly Dumoga Bone) at Clark's Camp (Hill 1440), 1,120 m, April 1985 (Rasmussen 1999; also Rozendaal and Dekker 1989); **Gunung Ambang Strict Nature Reserve** at Paya swamp above the village of Singsingon, 1,420 m, November 1999 (Lee and Riley in press).

The above localities are only 60 km apart (Lee and Riley in press). However, calls from an unidentified *Ninox* near the eastern boundary of Lore Lindu National Park, at c. 1,300 m, September 1996 (Ekstrom *et al.* 1998) may possibly have referred to this species (Rasmussen 1999), and there is no reason to assume that it would not occur on other forested mountains in Sulawesi, at least in the Minahassa Peninsula (Rasmussen 1999, Lee and Riley in press; see Ecology).

POPULATION There is no information. If the species proves to be widespread in montane forest in Sulawesi, it is very likely to be numerous and secure, but at present this cannot be assumed.

ECOLOGY Habitat The type- and only specimen was collected in a forested valley at 1,120 m, and it is assumed that the species is sympatric with but probably at higher elevations than the Ochre-bellied Hawk-owl *Ninox ochracea* (Rasmussen 1999). A second example was captured at 1,420 m on the boundary between an open area of marshland and surrounding hill forest dominated by pioneer species such as *Macaranga hispida* and *Piper aduncum* (Lee and Riley in press).



The distribution of Cinnabar Hawk-owl *Ninox ios*:

(1) Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park;

(2) Gunung Ambang.

● Recent (1980–present)

Food The morphology of the species recalls the owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae, suggesting that it may prey largely on flying soft-bodied invertebrates (Rasmussen 1999).

Breeding The type specimen appears to have had regressing testes in April (Rasmussen 1999).

Migration There is no information.

THREATS Forest at higher elevations on Sulawesi is relatively intact at present (J. Riley *in litt.* 2000). However, until it is demonstrated that the species occurs more widely than its current two localities, it is precautionary to regard it as at risk simply on the basis of its highly restricted range and possibly therefore highly restricted population.

MEASURES TAKEN The species has only been recorded within protected areas, namely Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, which also holds Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo*, Snoring Rail *Aramidopsis plateni*, Blue-faced Rail *Gymnocrex rosenbergii*, Sulawesi Golden Owl *Tyto inexpectata* and Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi*; and Gunung Ambang Strict Nature Reserve, which also holds Matinan Flycatcher (see relevant accounts).

MEASURES PROPOSED Work is needed to establish the calls and calling periods of this species as a prerequisite to full surveys, by which its true status and needs can be determined (Rasmussen 1999). A suggestion for the preservation of a further area of montane forest on Sulawesi, fulfilling a proposal in Indonesia's original national conservation plan, is made in the equivalent section under Blue-faced Rail.

REMARKS (1) The affinities of Cinnabar Hawk-owl are not entirely clear, and in some respects (its small size, relatively long tail, narrow pointed wing and weak feet) it is aberrant for a *Ninox* (Rasmussen 1999).