

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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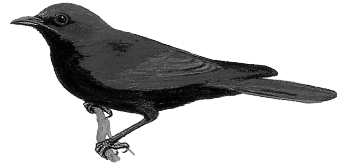
JAVAN COCHOA

Cochoa azurea

Critical —

Endangered —

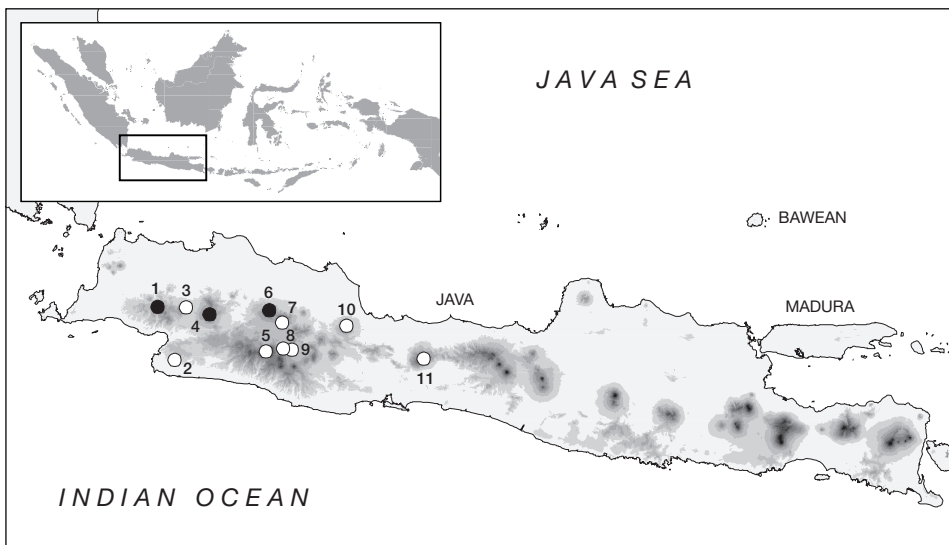
Vulnerable B1+2b,c,e; C2a



This unobtrusive species qualifies as Vulnerable because it is known from a small range, which is becoming increasingly fragmented, owing to habitat loss, such that all subpopulations are likely to be very small.

DISTRIBUTION The Javan Cochoa inhabits mountains on Java, Indonesia, between 1,000 and 2,500 m from Mt Salak to Mt Slamet, apparently only occurring on the higher peaks in its range. In the late 1980s the species was known from only three localities in West Java (Collar and Andrew 1988), and even now, despite new fieldwork and fuller background research, post-1980 records still come from only four sites. Records (west to east) are from:

■ **INDONESIA** Java ■ **West Java Gunung Halimun National Park** at Cikuya, above Ciusul, 820–1,000 m on the west slope, 1994 (D. Liley *in litt.* 1999); **Jampang**, 500 m, January 1895 (two specimens in AMNH; see Remarks 1); **Gunung Salak** on the east and south-east slopes at Pasir Pacar above Duren Gede, 1,500 m, September 1882 (Vorderman 1886), unspecified area, July 1908 (male in RMNH, van Oort 1910, Hoogerwerf 1948a), and at Awibengkok, south-west slope, Sukabumi, 1984 (P. Andrew *in litt.* 2000); **Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park**, on south slope above Pasir Datar, 1,000–2,000 m, Sukabumi, 1900–1922 (47 specimens, and eggs, in RMNH; Bartels 1902, 1906, Hellebrekers and Hoogerwerf 1967), at Cimungkat, undated (Hoogerwerf 1948a), and at Cibodas, 1,400–2,300 m on the north slope, Cianjur,



The distribution of Javan Cochoa *Cochoa azurea*: (1) Gunung Halimun; (2) Jampang; (3) Gunung Salak; (4) Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park; (5) Pengalengan; (6) Gunung Tangkuban Perahu; (7) Gunung Manglayang; (8) Gunung Rakutak; (9) Gunung Guntur; (10) Gunung Ciremay; (11) Gunung Slamet.

○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Recent (1980–present)

1821 (three specimens in RMNH), February–March 1916 (Robinson and Kloss 1924b), Kandang Badak in August 1921 (female in MZB; Robinson and Kloss 1924a), with renewed records from November 1984 (Andrew 1985, SvB and many observers); **Pengalengan**, in the Cinchona plantation area of Preanger, 1,200–1,500 m, undated (Hartert 1891b); **Gunung Tangkuban Perahu**, 1,600–2,000 m, Bandung, October 1926 (female in ZMA; van Heurn 1926), 1954–1955 (three specimens in RMNH), and at Situ Lembang, March 1984 (P. Andrew *in litt.* 2000); **Gunung Manglayang**, Bandung, 1925 (male in RMNH); **Gunung Rakutak**, 1,500 m, February 1900 (two specimens in AMNH); **Gunung Guntur**, Garut, October 1900 (three specimens in AMNH); **Gunung Ciremay**, 2,500 and 3,000 m, Majalengka, February 1927 and June 1928 (four specimens in AMNH, MZB; Kuroda 1930); ■ **Central Java Gunung Slamet**, northern slope at the Kaligua tea estate, 1911 (two specimens in RMNH), and southern foothills at Purbalingga, 1925 (male in ZMA).

POPULATION This species has been characterised as widely distributed but low-density bird, always rare (Delacour 1947). However, although it “may certainly not be called common” (Hellebrekers and Hoogerwerf 1967), this was exactly how Bartels (1902, 1906) thought of it on Pangrango around 1900, and it may well be that it is more unobtrusive than genuinely rare. On Gede it has been considered both (Andrew 1985). Whatever the circumstance, it is likely to be undergoing a steady decline because of loss of habitat in the lower parts of its altitudinal range (SvB).

ECOLOGY Habitat This cochoa is found in tropical lower and upper montane rain forest between 900 and 3,000 m (Kuroda 1933–1936, MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993) where it normally frequents the lower and middle storey within the forest (Andrew 1985, SvB), sometimes moving higher (Delacour 1947, MacKinnon 1988, Tobias and Phelps 1994). A singing bird in November 1984 used a perch only 4 m high; the species is rather tame but moves quietly or sits motionless for long periods (Andrew 1985, Tobias and Phelps 1994).

Food The species takes fruits and berries in the canopy, its serrated bill being used to tear flesh off fruits (MacKinnon 1988, MacKinnon and Phillipps 1993). Such fruit includes *Zanthoxylum ovalifolium* and *Z. scandens*, but insects and snails are also taken (Becking 1989), and indeed a bird in captivity readily took live insect larvae and pupae but refused a variety of fruits (SvB). Lewis *et al.* (1989) saw two foraging in mixed flock in mid-canopy at 2,000 m.

Breeding Breeding appears to take place over a reasonably extended period, from August to April (the following evidence is arranged to match such a chronological sequence). A nest with one young about to fledge was found in September at 2,400 m on Gunung Pangrango, c.7 m above the ground in moss forest; the cup-nest was typically thrush-like, but the core was almost entirely made of beard moss and the rather untidy interior was lined with beard moss and fine rootlets (Hoogerwerf 1950b; see Remarks 2). A singing bird was observed in November (Andrew 1985). A clutch of two eggs was found in December on Gunung Pangrango (Hellebrekers and Hoogerwerf 1967). A family party of four was seen in early October 1994 on Gunung Halimun (D. Liley *in litt.* 1999). An adult was seen feeding a young bird on Gunung Gede at c.1,700 m in April (Andrews 1988, *Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 8 [1989]: 32–36). An adult male was in moult on Gunung Pangrango in March; birds were in good plumage in mid-year (Bartels 1902, 1906). Among 91 museum specimens examined in this study, showing a reasonably equal distribution of specimens by month, 14 were labelled as juveniles or immatures, with the following breakdown: August (1), October (2), November (2), December (4), January (2), February (1), March (2).

THREATS The Javan Cochoa is one of (now) four threatened members of the suite of 20 bird species that are entirely restricted to the “Java and Bali Forests Endemic Bird Area”,

threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998). Threats to habitat at sites for this species are also outlined in the equivalent section under Javan Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi*. Localised deforestation for holiday resorts and agricultural encroachment, especially below 1,000–1,500 m and where the species has been historically recorded, may become increasingly a threat (SvB).

Small numbers have been recorded in the domestic bird trade (e.g. two single birds in November 1989 and July 1990 in Bogor) (SvB), and evidence that the species occasionally (at least) enters international trade emerged recently with the publication of a photograph of a captive bird, apparently in the Netherlands (Borgstein 2000).

MEASURES TAKEN Only the following protected areas are known to hold the species: Gunung Halimun National Park (400 km²), Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park (153 km²).

MEASURES PROPOSED The montane areas around Bandung and east to Gunung Slamet may hold more birds than the very few records suggest. More surveys, especially of areas that historically held the species, are needed to assess the amount of suitable habitat and then to confirm the presence and abundance of the cochoa. Pending further survey results, the following sites should be considered for the establishment or extension of protection (FAO 1981–1982, Sujatnika and Jepson 1995): Gunung Salak, which has no proposals for a reserve, while plans for touristic development and geothermal projects are being implemented (at the very least, cooperation should be sought with local authorities to minimise the impact); Gunung Tangkuban Pahu, which possesses a nature reserve of 16 km² between 1,500 and 2,076 m, the expansion of which should be considered; Gunung Manglayang, which may still hold Javan Cochoa in its upper reaches where forest patches survive; Gunung Ciremay, for which a recreation forest of 120 km² has been proposed for the land between 1,000 and 3,078 m; and Gunung Slamet, for which a 150 km² nature reserve is proposed between 1,000 and 3,418 m (FAO 1981–1982). Further proposals for habitat conservation within the range of this species are in the equivalent section under Javan Hawk-eagle.

A CITES Appendix listing may well be appropriate for this species.

REMARKS (1) This record is much lower than other records and there may be an error in its documentation. (2) MacKinnon (1988) apparently referred to this nest, erroneously reporting nestlings, whereas only a single young was mentioned by the original reporter.