

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

Editors

N. J. COLLAR (Editor-in-chief),
A. V. ANDREEV, S. CHAN, M. J. CROSBY, S. SUBRAMANYA and J. A. TOBIAS

Maps by

RUDYANTO and M. J. CROSBY

Principal compilers and data contributors

■ **BANGLADESH** P. Thompson ■ **BHUTAN** R. Pradhan; C. Inskipp, T. Inskipp ■ **CAMBODIA** Sun Huan; C. M. Poole ■ **CHINA** ■ **MAINLAND CHINA** Zheng Guangmei; Ding Changqing, Gao Wei, Gao Yuren, Li Fulai, Liu Naifa, Ma Zhijun, the late Tan Yaokuang, Wang Qishan, Xu Weishu, Yang Lan, Yu Zhiwei, Zhang Zhengwang. ■ **HONG KONG** Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (BirdLife Affiliate); H. F. Cheung; F. N. Y. Lock, C. K. W. Ma, Y. T. Yu. ■ **TAIWAN** Wild Bird Federation of Taiwan (BirdLife Partner); L. Liu Severinghaus; Chang Chin-lung, Chiang Ming-liang, Fang Woei-horng, Ho Yi-hsian, Hwang Kwang-yin, Lin Wei-yuan, Lin Wen-horn, Lo Hung-ren, Sha Chian-chung, Yau Cheng-teh. ■ **INDIA** Bombay Natural History Society (BirdLife Partner Designate) and Sálím Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History; L. Vijayan and V. S. Vijayan; S. Balachandran, R. Bhargava, P. C. Bhattacharjee, S. Bhupathy, A. Chaudhury, P. Gole, S. A. Hussain, R. Kaul, U. Lachungpa, R. Naroji, S. Pandey, A. Pittie, V. Prakash, A. Rahmani, P. Saikia, R. Sankaran, P. Singh, R. Sugathan, Zafar-ul Islam ■ **INDONESIA** BirdLife International Indonesia Country Programme; Ria Saryanthi; D. Agista, S. van Balen, Y. Cahyadin, R. F. A. Grimmett, F. R. Lambert, M. Poulsen, Rudyanto, I. Setiawan, C. Trainor ■ **JAPAN** Wild Bird Society of Japan (BirdLife Partner); Y. Fujimaki; Y. Kanai, H. Morioka, K. Ono, H. Uchida, M. Ueta, N. Yanagisawa ■ **KOREA** ■ **NORTH KOREA** Pak U-il; Chong Jong-ryol, Rim Chuyon. ■ **SOUTH KOREA** Lee Woo-shin; Han Sang-hoon, Kim Jin-han, Lee Ki-sup, Park Jin-young ■ **LAOS** K. Khounbolin; W. J. Duckworth ■ **MALAYSIA** Malaysian Nature Society (BirdLife Partner); K. Kumar; G. Noramly, M. J. Kohler ■ **MONGOLIA** D. Batdelger; A. Bräunlich, N. Tseveenmyadag ■ **MYANMAR** Khin Ma Ma Thwin ■ **NEPAL** Bird Conservation Nepal (BirdLife Affiliate); H. S. Baral; C. Inskipp, T. P. Inskipp ■ **PAKISTAN** Ornithological Society of Pakistan (BirdLife Affiliate) ■ **PHILIPPINES** Haribon Foundation for Conservation of Natural Resources (BirdLife Partner); N. A. D. Mallari, B. R. Tabaranza, Jr. ■ **RUSSIA** Russian Bird Conservation Union (BirdLife Partner Designate); A. V. Andreev; A. G. Degtyarev, V. G. Degtyarev, V. A. Dugintsov, N. N. Gerasimov, Yu. N. Gerasimov, N. I. Germogenov, O. A. Goroshko, A. V. Kondrat'ev, Yu. V. Labutin, N. M. Litvinenko, Yu. N. Nazarov, V. A. Nechaev, V. I. Perfil'ev, R. V. Ryabtsev, Yu. V. Shibaev, S. G. Surmach, E. E. Tkachenko, O. P. Val'chuk, B. A. Voronov. ■ **SINGAPORE** The Nature Society (Singapore) (BirdLife Partner); Lim Kim Seng ■ **SRI LANKA** Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (BirdLife Affiliate); S. Kotagama; S. Aryaprema, S. Corea, J. P. G. Jones, U. Fernando, R. Perera, M. Siriwardhane, K. Weerakoon ■ **THAILAND** Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BirdLife Partner); U. Treesucon; R. Jugmongkol, V. Kongthong, P. Poonswad, P. D. Round, S. Supparatvirkorn ■ **VIETNAM** BirdLife International Vietnam Country Programme; Nguyen Cu; J. C. Eames, A. W. Tordoff, Le Trong Trai, Nguyen Duc Tu.

With contributions from: S. H. M. Butchart, D. S. Butler (maps), P. Davidson, J. C. Lowen, G. C. L. Dutson, N. B. Peet, T. Vetta (maps), J. M. Villasper (maps), M. G. Wilson

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Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1223 277318 Fax: +44 1223 277200 Email: birdlife@birdlife.org.uk

Internet: www.birdlife.net

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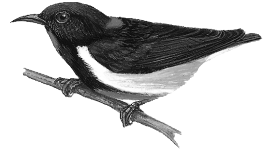
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SCARLET-COLLARED FLOWERPECKER

Dicaeum retrocinctum



Critical —

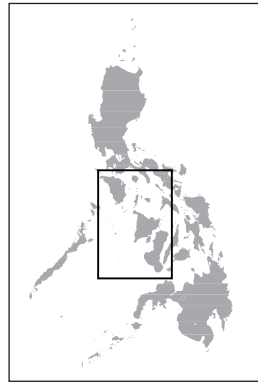
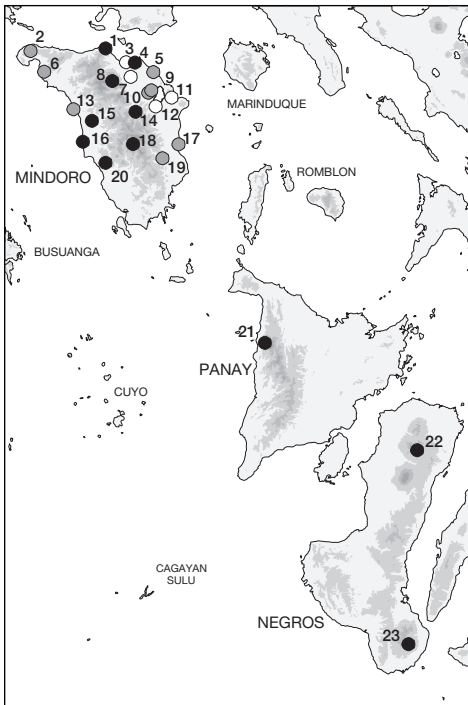
Endangered —

Vulnerable **A1c; A2c; B1+2a,b,c,d,e**

This species has a small, rapidly declining population and a small, severely fragmented, declining range, as a result of the destruction of lowland forest, which qualifies it as Vulnerable.

DISTRIBUTION The Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker is endemic to the Philippines, where it is known from Mindoro and, very recently and surprisingly (but apparently excluding the possibility of Visayan Flowerpecker *D. haematosiactum*; see relevant account), from Panay and Negros (see Remarks 1). Records—with others from as-yet unsurveyed Bongabong (see Measures Proposed) anticipated—are as follows:

■ **PHILIPPINES** *Mindoro* **Puerto Galera**, March 1991 (Gonzalez 1993, J. C. T. Gonzalez verbally 1996) and June 1997 (J. C. T. Gonzalez *in litt.* 1997); **Mt Calavite** on the west slope, 180 m, February and April 1964 (seven specimens in AMNH, PNM); **Chicago** and **Balete**, near the coast on the Baco River, March–May 1905 (McGregor 1905c; three specimens in FMNH); **San Vicente** near Mt Hinundunang, September 1991 (Dutson *et al.* 1992); **San Luis**, Naujan, 30 m, April–May 1954 (nine specimens in UPLB, YPM; also Ripley and Rabor 1958); **Tubili**, Paluan, Occidental, June and July 1965 (three specimens in AMNH); **Calawang**, Calapan, April 1937 (Peters 1939); **Mt Halcon**, April 1937 (Peters 1939), including Bignay,



The distribution of Scarlet-collared

Flowerpecker *Dicaeum retrocinctum*: (1) Puerto Galera; (2) Mt Calavite; (3) Chicago; (4) San Vicente; (5) San Luis; (6) Tubili; (7) Calawang; (8) Mt Halcon; (9) Alcate; (10) Matungao; (11) Pola; (12) Merit; (13) Tilago; (14) MUFRC Experimental Forest; (15) Manamlay Lake; (16) Siburan; (17) Bok-bok; (18) Mt Iglit-Baco National Park; (19) Bahay Bundok; (20) Malpalon; (21) Alojipan; (22) Mt Mandalagan; (23) Mt Talinis.

○ Historical (pre-1950) ◐ Fairly recent (1950–1979)

● Recent (1980–present)

April 1937 (two males in MCZ), Mt Ilong, September 1991 (Dutson *et al.* 1992), “Tarugin”, Naujan, 360 m, March 1972 (eight specimens in DMNH), and on the north slope at “Arangin”, Naujan, July and August 1964 and November 1971 (15 specimens in AMNH, DMNH); **Alcate**, Victoria, 60 m, April 1954 (Ripley and Rabor 1958), including the Mindoro Horticultural Center, 25–30 m, March 1971 (13 specimens in DMNH); **Matungao**, Victoria, 25 m, March 1971 (male in DMNH); **Pola**, Suba-an, October 1903 (three males in ANSP) and March 1937 (three specimens in MCZ; also Peters 1939); **Merit**, Naujan, March 1937 (Peters 1939); **Tilago**, Santa Cruz, Occidental, 150 m, June 1966 (four specimens in AMNH); **MUFRC Experimental Forest**, 1980 (Catibog-Sinha 1982); **Manamlay Lake**, December 1991 (Dutson *et al.* 1992); **Siburan** at Sablayan Penal Colony, December 1991 (Dutson *et al.* 1992), January 1994 (Hornbuckle 1994), February 1995 (P. A. J. Morris *in litt.* 1996) and February 1997 (B. Gee *in litt.* 1997); **Bok-bok**, Bongabong, Oriental, 200 m, July 1963 (female in AMNH); **Mt Iglit-Baco National Park**, December 1991 (Evans *et al.* 1993a); **Bahay Bundok**, Bongabong, Oriental, 210 m, July 1963 (three males in AMNH); **Malpalon**, December 1991, below 300 m (Dutson *et al.* 1992);

Panay Alojipan bordering the Magsaysay and Bacong rivers at 30–60 m, near Culasi, Antique province, November–December 1992 (Curio *et al.* 1996a);

Negros Mt Mandalagan, 1 km upslope of the staff house at Campestehuan, 900 m, July 1994 (Curio 1994, Curio *et al.* 1996a); **Mt Talinis** at Palinpinan, 1,000 m, near the PNOC construction road, August 1993 (Curio 1993, 1994, Curio *et al.* 1996a).

POPULATION At the start of the century the species was fairly abundant (McGregor 1909). It was “rather common” in early 1954 (Ripley and Rabor 1958) and “fairly common” in the later 1980s (Gonzales and Rees 1988). Recent data suggest that it remains common at the sites identified on Mindoro, being one of the commonest bird species in closed forest at Halcon (Dutson *et al.* 1992), and apparently the commonest flowerpecker at Siburan (Brooks *et al.* 1995b), but it is important to stress that being a common or the commonest species at the sites and in the habitat in question is not evidence of its security. In nine days’ intensive fieldwork at three good sites—Malpalon, Manamlay and Sablayan (Siburan)—a total of nine records of 1–2 birds was seen (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997), and this is clearly not a high encounter rate. Numbers on Negros may be very small (Curio 1993).

ECOLOGY Habitat The species is to be found inside primary lowland forest in flowering and fruiting trees, but also occurs at the edge of forest and inside clearings, sometimes even in well-cultivated areas including coconut groves (Ripley and Rabor 1958), although McGregor (1905c) reported never having seen it in coconut trees. Recent data show that it occurs commonly in lower-altitude closed-canopy forest up to 1,000 m, being much rarer above this level and recorded only once in montane forest at 1,200 m (Dutson *et al.* 1992, Evans *et al.* 1993a); it was recently reported from old second-growth limestone forests along rivers in a lowland area of Panay, and in low scrub and second growth at mid-altitude on Negros (Curio *et al.* 1996a). It occupies secondary forest (Gonzalez 1993), forest edge and logged forest, but is poorly tolerant of highly degraded land (Dutson *et al.* 1992, Evans *et al.* 1993a), although it was seen in forest patches at Malpalon (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997), and at Puerto Galera it was seen in roadside second growth, attracted to the numerous “aratitis” *Muntingia* trees (J. C. T. Gonzalez *in litt.* 1997).

Food The species occurs singly, in groups or in mixed-species foraging flocks in fruiting and flowering trees (Dickinson *et al.* 1991), gleaning high in the canopy, or occasionally visiting epiphytic flowers (Dutson *et al.* 1992, Evans *et al.* 1993a). Birds observed in forest edge and logged forest had a very similar foraging ecology to Bicoloured Flowerpecker *D. bicolor*, active within the entire vegetated portions of canopy trees but rarely descending to bushes; in December, however, more birds were seen at lower canopy levels,

including higher understorey vegetation (Dutson *et al.* 1992, Evans *et al.* 1993a). Choice of food is unrecorded, but the species has been noted to have “a very slender, well curved, honeyeater (*Myzomela*)-like bill” (Delacour and Mayr 1945b). In 1905 birds were found feeding at flowering vines, high flowering trees and near the ground on the fruit of various fig trees (McGregor 1905c). “Aratilis” *Muntingia* trees are favoured at Puerto Galera (J. C. T. Gonzalez *in litt.* 1997).

Breeding Eight specimens taken at “Tarugin”, March, all possessed small or fairly small gonads (DMNH label data). However, four males and a female had enlarged gonads in April and May (Ripley and Rabor 1958), while a male simply labelled “Mindoro”, June, was breeding (BMNH label data). A family party and independent juveniles were encountered on five dates in September (Evans *et al.* 1993a).

Migration There is no evidence that this bird undertakes any seasonal or other displacement. However, Curio *et al.* (1996a) offered one explanation of the species’s recent records from Panay and Negros through dispersion following habitat loss on Mindoro; on the other hand, they accepted the (altogether more plausible) alternative possibility, that small populations have simply remained undetected on these two islands until their studies.

THREATS Irrespective of its abundance, this bird is threatened by the degree of deforestation within its elevational range (Dutson *et al.* 1992; also Evans *et al.* 1993a). At Siburan, it may be threatened by disturbance to the forest undergrowth owing to the collection of rattan by prisoners for furniture production, and by occasional selective logging of large trees, for milling on site, again for furniture production (B. Gee *in litt.* 1997), and also by encroaching *kaingin*, illegal tree-cutting and collection of forest products by locally resettled people and Mt Pinatubo refugees (Custodio *et al.* 1994, Brooks *et al.* 1995b). Threats to forest on the PNOC construction road, Mt Talinis, Negros, are outlined under Negros Striped-babbler *Stachyris nigrorum*.

MEASURES TAKEN Information provided in the equivalent section for Mindoro Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba platenae* relating to Siburan and Puerto Galera is relevant here. Mt Iglit-Baco National Park is a NIPAP site (see Appendix), but only small, scattered patches of forest exist within its boundaries (G. C. L. Dutson *in litt.* 1996). Additional smaller protected areas include the MUFRC Experimental Forest on Mindoro, covering 7,853 ha (Catibog-Sinha 1982). Two further areas in which the species has been recorded are proposed for FPE funding of conservation-related activities: the Mts Baloy/Madja-as range on Panay (covering the Mt Baloy and Mts Madja-as/Hantod-tubig “key sites” and forming part of 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”; see Appendix). The species is known from Lake Naujan National Park, although it needs to be established how much (if any) suitable habitat remains at this site.

MEASURES PROPOSED Apart from the areas targeted for conservation above, the species is known from three “key sites” (Mt Halcon and Malpalon on Mindoro; Mts Silay/Mandalagan on Negros, within the unprotected North Negros Forest Reserve; see Appendix) and these deserve formal designation, at least in part, under the NIPAS process. It is probably sufficiently common within its elevational range to need no special insight into its year-round ecological requirements as a guide to the management of existing sites. However, a detailed map of forest habitats on Mindoro, with a status-weighted inventory of the key species each contains (of which this is certainly one), is urgently needed as the basis for a plan of long-term forest conservation. On Negros and Panay the status and distribution of this species needs assessment.

REMARKS (1) This bird is a close relative of Red-keeled Flowerpecker *D. australe* but with a longer, more slender bill (Delacour and Mayr 1946); indeed its differences from *australe* are sufficient that Salomonsen (1960) hesitated over uniting the two as a superspecies. The fact that *haematostictum* is itself very close to *australe* makes the notion of sympatry between *haematostictum* and *retrocinctum* highly surprising and, although the recent records of the latter from Negros and Panay are reproduced here, there is clearly a real need to support them with new evidence.