

# Threatened Birds of Asia:

## The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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## BLACK-WINGED LORY

### *Eos cyanogenia*

Critical  —  
Endangered  —  
Vulnerable  C1



*This parrot qualifies for Vulnerable because it is assumed to have a small population that is undergoing a continuing decline owing to exploitation for the cagebird trade and loss of lowland forest. However there are very few recent data on it, and it may be declining more rapidly or be secure on Supiori.*

**DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION** The Black-winged (or Biak Red) Lory is endemic to the Geelvink Bay islands of Papua (formerly Irian Jaya), **Indonesia**, where it is known from Biak–Supiori and the much smaller Numfor, Mios Num and Manin and Mios Num (Mayr and Meyer de Schauensee 1939, Beehler *et al.* 1986). On Biak it is fairly common in patchy forest, although it has sometimes been recorded in flocks of 40–60 (Gibbs 1993, Collar *et al.* 1994, S. van Balen and B. M. Beehler *in litt.* 2000, M. van Beirs *in litt.* 2000) but, on Supiori, it is common, although less so at higher altitudes (Bishop 1982, Gibbs 1993). It is nomadic, making it difficult to assess its true numbers but, on Biak, it appeared to decline notably between 1982 and 1995 (K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 2000).

**ECOLOGY** It is a gregarious species which apparently feeds chiefly in inland forest, up to 460 m (although less common above 200 m on Supiori at least), and roosts in coconut plantations and coastal forest (Bishop 1982). It is common in “flat forest” on Supiori (Gibbs 1993), and still relatively common in secondary forest on Biak (N. Bostock *in litt.* 1993) but is absent from low scrubby regrowth (K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 2000).

**THREATS** The species has been trapped in relatively large numbers for domestic and international trade (Nash 1990, K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 1994), and it is commonly observed as a pet on Biak (Bishop 1982). Large areas of forest on Biak have been destroyed or damaged by logging and subsistence farming, particularly the southern plains, and the remainder is under pressure (Bishop 1982, K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 1996, D. A. Holmes *in litt.* 2000). However, Supiori possesses much virtually impenetrable forest on steep limestone which is likely to be safe from clearance (Bishop 1982).

**MEASURES TAKEN** There are two protected areas on the islands, Biak-Utara (covering 110 km<sup>2</sup>) and Pulau Supiori (covering 420 km<sup>2</sup>) Nature Reserves (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). It was common in Biak-Utara reserve in 1997 (S. van Balen and B. M. Beehler *in litt.* 2000). The species is listed on CITES Appendix II.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** • Conduct surveys on all the Geelvink Bay islands to clarify its current distribution and population status. • Research its ecology and movements to facilitate planning for its conservation. • Investigate trade in the species and devise and implement appropriate controls. • Control logging on Supiori.