

# Threatened Birds of Asia:

## The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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## STREAK-BREASTED BULBUL

### *Ixos siquijorensis*

Critical  —

Endangered  A2b,c; B1+2b,c,e

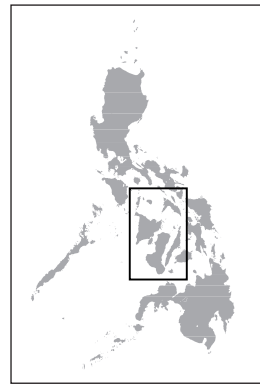
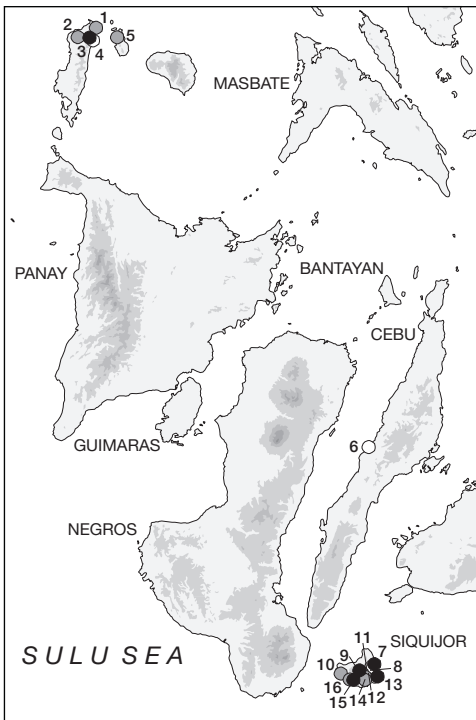
Vulnerable  A1a,c; C1; C2a



*This bulbul qualifies as Endangered because it has a very small and severely fragmented, declining range. It is predicted to undergo a very rapid population reduction in the immediate future based on the decline observed in the past and a decline in the extent of its remaining forested habitat.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Streak-breasted Bulbul is endemic to the Philippines in three races on four islands (see Remarks 1): *cinereiceps* on Tablas and Romblon, nominate *siquijorensis* on Siquijor, and the apparently extinct *monticola* on Cebu. Many specimen records simply list the islands without further qualification, but the specified localities are as follows:

■ **PHILIPPINES** *Tablas* **Sitiobaha**, Mahabangbaybay, San Agustin, 240–330 m, February 1972 (specimen in DMNH); **Mt Payaopao** (Military Reserve), San Agustin, 600–650 m, February 1972 (two specimens in DMNH); **San Agustin**, March 1992, several (Evans *et al.* 1993a, R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997); **Badajoz**, apparently close to Binongaon, September 1892, August and September 1905 (13 specimens in CM, FMNH, MCZ, UMMZ, USNM; also McGregor 1906c, who reported 21 specimens taken in the latter period);



**The distribution of Streak-breasted Bulbul *Ixos siquijorensis*:** (1) Sitiobaha; (2) Mt Payaopao; (3) San Agustin; (4) Badajoz; (5) Ambunan; (6) Toledo; (7) Salagdo-ong beach; (8) Maria; (9) Bandila-an; (10) Katulayan; (11) Poo; (12) Capalasanan; (13) Lilo-an; (14) Cangclaran; (15) Canghaling; (16) Tag-ibo.

○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Fairly recent (1950–1979)  
● Recent (1980–present)

**Romblon Ambunan**, Bagacan, April 1972 (male in DMNH), and present at an unspecified site, March 1992 (Evans *et al.* 1993a, R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997);

**Cebu Toledo**, September–November 1906 (McGregor 1907c);

**Siquijor Salgado-ong beach**, March 1997 (I. Mauro *per* F. Verbelen *in litt.* 1997); **Maria**, March and April 1908 (five specimens in AMNH, USNM); **Bandila-an**, August 1991 (Evans *et al.* 1993b), March 1993 (D. Allen *in litt.* 1993) and in 1995 (R. Pa-alan verbally 1995); **Katulayan**, San Juan, December 1954 (male in UPLB); **Poo**, Lazi, December 1952 and May and June 1953 (at least 26 specimens in AMNH, DMNH, FMNH, MCZ, UPLB); **Capalasanan**, Lazi, May 1953 (female in FMNH); **Lilo-an**, Maria, January 1954 (13 specimens in FMNH), and again in August 1991 (Evans *et al.* 1993b); **Cangclaran**, Lazi, May 1953 (two males in FMNH); **Canghaling**, dates and sources as for Bandila-an, above; **Tag-ibo**, San Juan, December 1954 (five specimens in FMNH).

**POPULATION** On Siquijor the species appeared to be “fairly abundant” in 1907–1908 (McGregor 1908), the MAPS initiative ringed 269 birds on the island in 1966 (McClure and Leelavit 1972), and birds were “very common” there during a brief visit in 1986 (Jensen and Hornskov 1992). It was also recorded in 1991 and found to be still in good numbers (may approach several thousand individuals) in three of only four remaining patches of forest (Evans *et al.* 1993b; see Remarks 2). The race *cinereiceps* was clearly abundant on Tablas in 1905 (see Distribution), and nine were seen there and six on Romblon in 1992, the impression being that the birds were still “numerous” in whatever little habitat remained (Evans *et al.* 1993a), “although not found in scrub and second growth away from forest patches” (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1994). In 1906 the race *monticola* was “extremely rare” on Cebu and only found at one site (McGregor 1907c), and by the 1950s it was believed already extinct; during recent fieldwork on the island it was not found (indeed it has not been since 1906) and is presumed extinct (Dutson *et al.* 1993, Evans *et al.* 1993b, Brooks *et al.* 1995a), although it is still by no means impossible that a small population survives somewhere on the island.

**ECOLOGY Habitat** The Streak-breasted Bulbul occurs in forest, forest edge and tall second growth (Rand and Rabor 1960, Dickinson *et al.* 1991), including very degraded patches, but at low density in scrub on Siquijor (Evans *et al.* 1993b). Forest in some condition appears to be essential, since birds are absent from scrub that does not lie adjacent to areas of taller growth (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997). The Cebu race may have had a markedly different ecology, since F. S. Bourns and D. C. Worcester (in McGregor 1909–1910) reported that on Siquijor the species was found “about low bushes in open fields, often in flocks”, on Tablas and Romblon it was “in the open, but is far more abundant in the woods”, while on Cebu it was “invariably... in the forest on the tops and sides of the hills in central Cebu and was never seen in open or flat country”.

**Food** Nothing is recorded.

**Breeding** On Cebu breeding was recorded in early June (F. S. Bourns and D. C. Worcester in McGregor 1909–1910, Dickinson *et al.* 1991); on Tablas and Siquijor, specimens (in DMNH, FMNH, MCZ) collected in January and February showed no sexual development, whereas (at least) 17 out of 23 birds (in AMNH, DMNH, FMNH) taken in late May and early June at Poo, Siquijor, were fully developed.

**Migration** This species seems likely to be sedentary throughout the year.

**THREATS** Forest destruction clearly affects this bird, even if it can survive in damaged habitat (see above). This would explain the fate of the race on Cebu, although it has also been noticed that its potential niche in scrub on the island has been taken over by the Philippine Bulbul *Ixos philippinus*, which may indicate a degree of competition (Rabor 1959, Dutson *et al.* 1993, Evans *et al.* 1993b). It has also been noticed that “the fragmented range of *siquijorensis*

from scattered central islands and of *everetti* (absent from Zamboanga–Basilan) suggests that they are older, relict species ousted by an expanding *philippinus*” (Rand and Rabor 1959). Tablas, which still held “a considerable area of undisturbed forest... on the slopes of the high hills and low mountains in its interior” in 1905 (McGregor 1906c), appeared to possess only a few small tracts of degraded cover in 1992 (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1997). There is no clear evidence that habitat destruction has abated on Tablas, Romblon or Siquijor, or will.

**MEASURES TAKEN** The remaining four patches of forest on Siquijor, covering a total of 781 ha, are all in reserves controlled by DENR (Evans *et al.* 1993b), but Romblon only possesses one reserve (the 2,670 ha Calatrava–San Andres–San Agustin watershed forest reserve) and Tablas none (DENR-PAWB 1993). Siquijor itself is officially listed as an FPE site (see under Mt Bandila-an in the Appendix).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** A suitable protected area in the range of this species needs to be formally designated under the NIPAS process. Siquijor itself has been proposed for FPE funding and the Mt Bandila-an “key site” appears to offer the best opportunity on the island for a conservation initiative to succeed (see Appendix). Further logging, clearance for cultivation inside the existing reserves and trapping all need to be prevented. Siquijor’s forests are small enough that surrounding fences could be erected to prevent further clearance (Evans *et al.* 1993b). In addition, documentation of the avifauna at Salagdo-ong would be valuable (see Remarks 2). Siquijor, Romblon and Tablas support an extremely small and diminishing area of forest and deserve increased attention by conservationists: for example, Tablas is the only home of the drab, curly-tailed and possibly now extinct form *menagei* of the Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus* (Dickinson *et al.* 1991, R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1994), described by McGregor (1906c) as “very distinct.”

**REMARKS** (1) It has been suggested that the race *cinereiceps* from Tablas and Romblon may warrant consideration as a full species (R. J. Timmins *in litt.* 1995). Moreover, Baud (1976) noted that two females from Romblon were slightly larger and less contrastingly marked than birds from Tablas. (2) The map in Evans *et al.* (1993b) shows four forest patches, Liloan, Canghaling, Bandila-an and Salagda-ong, but only the first three were visited in August 1991; the appendix in Evans *et al.* (1993b) lists bird-day totals for this species at these sites as 87 in 27 observer-hours, 242 in 18 and 101 in 9, respectively.