

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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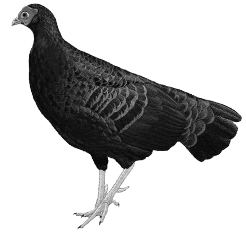
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SALVADORI'S PHEASANT

Lophura inornata

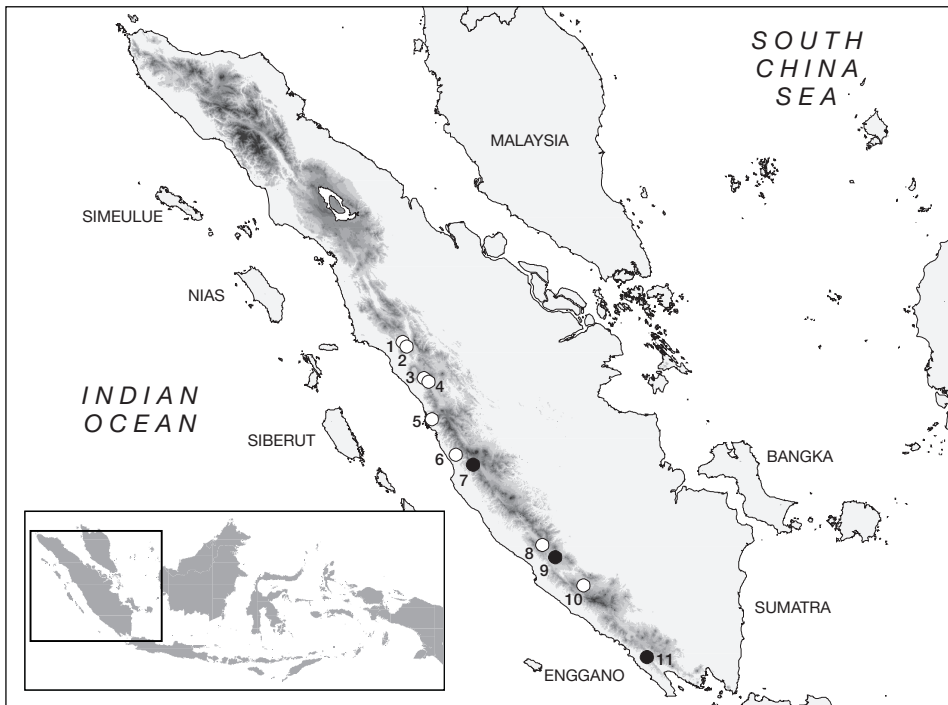
Critical —
Endangered —
Vulnerable C1; C2a



This pheasant qualifies as Vulnerable. There are few records, indicating that it has a small population which is declining and becoming increasingly fragmented owing to clearance of mid-altitude forests.

DISTRIBUTION Salvadori's Pheasant (see Remarks 1) is endemic to the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, where it has been found at sites over a large part of the Barisan range, but only at a few localities, as follows:

■ **INDONESIA** *Sumatra* ■ **West Sumatra Talu**, May 1939 (two males in BMNH); **Gunung Talamau**, above Sukamananti, Pasaman county, 1,000 m, May 1917 (Jacobson 1919, Robinson and Kloss 1924a; two specimens in RMNH); **Gunung Singgalang**, July 1878 (Salvadori 1879); **Padang Highlands**, November 1884 (Büttikofer 1887, male in RMNH); **Barungbarung** ("Barong Bharu"), 1,200 m, Bukit Barisan (not within the park), West Sumatra,



The distribution of Salvadori's Pheasant *Lophura inornata*: (1) Talu; (2) Gunung Talamau; (3) Gunung Singgalang; (4) Padang Highlands; (5) Barungbarung; (6) Tanangtalau; (7) Kerinci Seblat National Park; (8) Rimbopengadang; (9) Gunung Kaba; (10) Gunung Dempo; (11) Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park.

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

1,200 m, June 1914 (Robinson and Kloss 1918a); **Tanangtalu**, 1,000 m, May 1915 (Jacobson 1919, Robinson and Kloss 1924a; three specimens in RMNH); **Kerinci-Seblat National Park** at Sungaikumbang, 1,240 m, March and May 1914 (Robinson and Kloss 1918a), at 1,400–1,600 m, August 1915 (Robinson and Kloss 1924a; three specimens in RMNH), at the peak, 2,100–2,200 m, April 1914 (Robinson and Kloss 1918a), August 1921 (female in FMNH), on the main trail above Kerisik Tua from the lowest forest edge at 1,800 m up to 2,200 m, throughout the 1980s and 1990s (Holmes 1989, 1996, Lambert and Howes 1989, Lewis *et al.* 1989, van Balen and Holmes 1993, Tobias and Phelps 1994, many observers *in litt.* 1999), but with individuals wandering as low as 800 m (Holden 1997), and in the “North Korintji Valley” at 1,500 m, September and October 1921 (four specimens in FMNH): ■ **Bengkulu Rimbopengadang**, south-west slope, 1,000 m, Hulususup, Rejanglebong county, between 1913 and 1917 (Robinson and Kloss 1924a); **Gunung Kaba** at Pematang Danau, above Suban Ayam tea estate, Rejanglebong county, 1,200 m between 1913 and 1917 (Robinson and Kloss 1924a) and at 1,500 m in April 1989 (Holmes 1989); ■ **South Sumatra Gunung Dempo**, 2,000 m, July 1936 (two specimens in MCZ), and specifically on the east slope above the Pasumah estate (Pagaralam), near Air Njurus, Palembang, 1,400 m, August 1916 (Robinson and Kloss 1924a; three females in RMNH); ■ **Lampung Bukit Barisan National Park**, at only 100 m, 1990s (M. F. Kinnaird *in litt.* 1999).

Two specimens were taken in the Palembang residency in December 1918 (male in RMNH, female in MZB; also Kloss 1931).

POPULATION At and around Kerinci in 1914 this pheasant was “fairly common” (Robinson and Kloss 1918a). In recent times it has been judged little known (van Marle and Voous 1988) but “locally not uncommon” (van Balen and Holmes 1993); however, it is now scarce (see Threats). In the early 1990s it was surmised that fewer than 20,000 birds might survive (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994), and this was quickly revised downwards to 1,000–10,000 (McGowan and Garson 1995), although the extent of occurrence is thought to be greater than 15,000 km² (SvB). Part of the population may be stable above the current range of logging activities, but the rate of decline may be substantial in lower-lying areas (SvB). Quantification of decline in this species has been attempted, but this exercise was greatly hampered by paucity of data: 16 localities were traced (only 11 in this study), 16 before and three after 1970 (i.e. three shared) (McGowan *et al.* 1998a).

ECOLOGY Habitat This is a bird of lower montane rainforest, with all elevational records coming from 800–2,200 m (see Distribution). The species “keeps to the dense forest” (Robinson and Kloss 1924a). At and around Kerinci in 1914 it was found “throughout the flat land to the foot of the actual peak and for some distance up it”, but was very shy, running “with great rapidity through the undergrowth at the least alarm, the females... [reportedly] being much warier... than the males” (Robinson and Kloss 1918a; also 1924a). The birds found on Kerinci in 1986 were in disturbed forest just below primary habitat, but they could have been at the final limit of their elevational tolerance (Lambert and Howes 1989). There have been recent records from somewhat degraded forest (albeit with undisturbed forest nearby), as low as 800 m, and in one recent case 100 m; these probably involved wanderers from primary unlogged forest higher up the slopes (Holden 1997).

Food Stomach contents noted were “big and small kernels of different fruit” (Robinson and Kloss 1924a). On the summit trail at Kerinci a number of birds have become habituated to human presence and feed on biscuit crumbs tossed out by hikers (F. Verbelen *in litt.* 1999).

Breeding Most breeding appears to occur in the second quarter of the year. Thus birds were usually found in pairs, March–June 1914 (Robinson and Kloss 1918a); phototrapping has produced pictures of a pair with two fortnight-old chicks in mid-June (Holden 1997), a female was seen with small chicks in June 1998 (E. Verduyck *per* F. Verbelen *in litt.* 1999),

and a pair and 10-day-old youngster were seen in July 1998 (P. A. J. Morris verbally 1998). However, a pair accompanied by a single juvenile has been seen in late December (Myers 1994, Holmes 1996). In captivity a clutch of two eggs took 22 days to hatch (Houpert and Lastère 1977).

THREATS Salvadori's Pheasant is a threatened member of the suite of 20 bird species that are entirely restricted to the "Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia Endemic Bird Area", threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998).

Habitat loss Much the most important threat to this species is forest destruction. This is most intense in the lowlands of Sumatra (see, e.g., the equivalent section under Crestless Fireback *Lophura erythrophthalma*), but it extends up the foothills in many areas and hence intrudes, possibly heavily, into the elevation zone of Salvadori's Pheasant. The extent of deforestation in the lower elevational range of this species, the general plight of upland forest on Sumatra and the particular plight of Kerinci-Seblat National Park are outlined in Threats under Sumatran Ground-cuckoo *Carpococcyx viridis*.

Hunting and trade In the lower forest at Kerinci the species has recently become scarce owing to heavy local hunting (with air rifles) and trapping for food, not for trade (Holden 1997, F. Verbelen *in litt.* 1999); such persecution is likely to occur throughout its limited range. Trade is unlikely to be significant, but it is worth noting that several pairs, mixing *inornata* and Aceh Pheasant *L. hoogerwerfi* (see relevant account), were believed to have reached Europe and the USA in 1975–1976 (Lambert and Howes 1989, R. Sözer *in litt.* 2000).

MEASURES TAKEN Of the two protected areas for which this species was recently listed (McGowan *et al.* 1999) one was Gunung Leuser, which is only appropriate for Aceh Pheasant, and the other was the 14,846 km² Kerinci-Seblat National Park, where it occurs along with Sumatran Ground-cuckoo, Schneider's Pitta *Pitta schneideri*, Graceful Pitta *P. venusta*, Sumatran Cochoa *Cochoa beccarii* and Large-billed Blue-flycatcher *Cyornis caerulatus*, but this area suffers heavy human pressure, with constant damage to the habitat (SvB). Several other sites also experience varying degrees of protection, however, notably Bukit Barisan National Park. Gunung Singgalang is a 97 km² protection forest, but with garden ("ladang") encroachment along the lower peripheries (SvB). Gunung Kaba is a forested volcanic peak currently designated a recreation park (but see below) (D. A. Holmes *in litt.* 1999). Bukit Dingin/Gunung Dempo consists of c.380 km² protection forest (SvB). Malampah-Alahan Panjang is a 369 km² nature reserve with fairly disturbed forest from 300 m, embracing Gunung Talamau and Tanangtalu (SvB, D. A. Holmes *in litt.* 1999).

MEASURES PROPOSED Surveys are needed to establish the true range of this species especially in protected areas, so that suitable habitat can be conserved effectively (del Hoyo *et al.* 1994, McGowan and Garson 1995). A 250 km² wildlife reserve has been proposed between 1,000 and 1,938 m on Gunung Kaba (SvB), and both Gunung Singgalang and Bukit Dingin/Gunung Dempo are proposed for upgrading to reserves (D. A. Holmes *in litt.* 1999). A strict hunting ban is needed at Kerinci (F. Verbelen *in litt.* 1999).

REMARKS (1) The northern Sumatran species Aceh Pheasant *Lophura hoogerwerfi* (see relevant account) is sometimes treated as conspecific with this species (Delacour 1949, del Hoyo *et al.* 1994, Johnsgard 1999); see Remarks 1 under that species.