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 Hean; 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 Sálim 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 Chu-yon. ■ *SOUTH KOREA* Lee Woo-shin; Han Sang-hoon, Kim Jin-han, Lee Ki-sup, Park Jin-young ■ ***LAOS*** K. Khounboline; 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. Supparatvikorn ■ ***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

Recommended citation
BirdLife International (2001) *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book.* Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.

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

BirdLife International is a UK-registered charity

ISBN 0 946888 42 6 (Part A)
ISBN 0 946888 43 4 (Part B)
ISBN 0 946888 44 2 (Set)

British Library-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

First published 2001 by BirdLife International

Designed and produced by the **Nature**Bureau, 36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ, United Kingdom

Available from the Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: +44 1803 865913 Fax: +44 1803 865280 Email nhbs@nhbs.co.uk
Internet: www.nhbs.com/services/birdlife.html

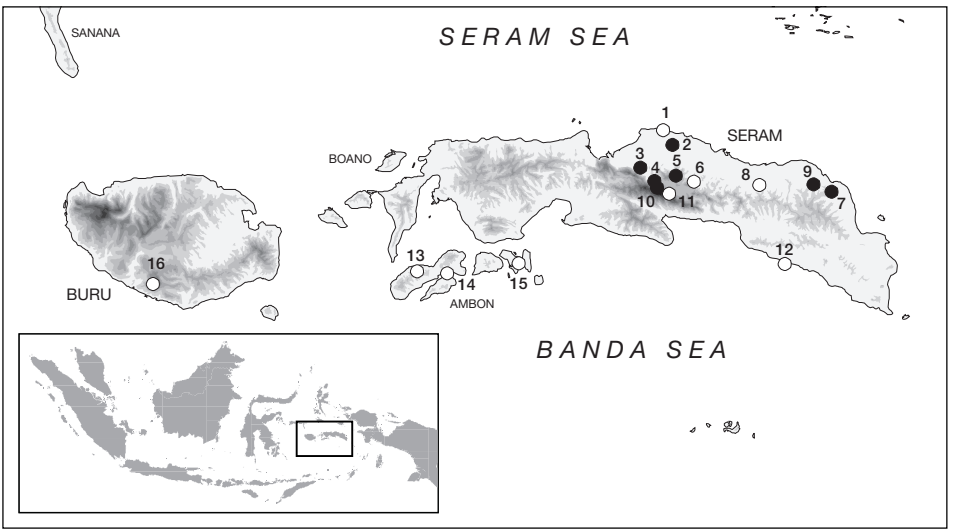
PURPLE-NAPED LORY
Lorius domicella

Critical ☐ —
Endangered ☐ —
Vulnerable ■ C1; C2b

This rainforest parrot qualifies as Vulnerable because it has a small population, which is undergoing a continuing decline owing to trapping for trade.

DISTRIBUTION The Purple-naped Lory is believed to be endemic to the islands of Seram, Ambon and Saparua in the South Moluccas, Indonesia. A population on Buru appears to be feral, possibly derived from birds imported by settlers of the south-east corner of the island (around Tanjung Saroma) who arrived there from Seram (Siebers 1930); Smiet (1985) simply described the species as introduced to Buru. Stresemann (1914a) speculated that the species might have been introduced to Ambon, and F. R. Lambert (*in litt*. 1999) regards colonisation by escaped birds as highly likely. In the following list, Manusela National Park on Seram embraces the sites of Roho, Kanikeh, Wae Ansela, Manusela, Solea, Hatuolo and Wae Atauhuhu. Records are from:

■ ***INDONESIA*** *Seram* (see Remarks 1) **Wahai**, in or before 1862 (Schlegel 1862–1873), February 1907 (three specimens in MCZ), September and December 1917 (two specimens in MZB); above **Solea**, July 1994 (F. Verbelen *in litt*. 1999); near **Roho**, July 1911 (Stresemann 1914a), November 1917 (male in MZB), 300–400 m, September 1995 (MKP); **Kanikeh** (Kineke), July–September 1987 (Bowler and Taylor 1989), August 1991 (Charpentier and Guerquin 1991) and July 1994 (F. Verbelen *in litt*. 1999); **Hatuolo**, 600–900 m, December 1989 (S. J. Marsden *in litt.* 2000); near **Wae Atauhuhu** (Wae Atau), 500 m, May 1911



The distribution of Purple-naped lory *Lorius domicella*: (1) Wahai; (2) Solea; (3) Roho; (4) Kanikeh; (5) Hatuolo; (6) Wae Atauhuhu; (7) Bula; (8) Ilo; (9) Wae Fufa; (10) Wae Ansela; (11) Manusela; (12) Oson; (13) Telaga Raja; (14) Paso; (15) Saparua; (16) Ehu.
○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Recent (1980–present)

(Stresemann 1914a); along the river Bolifar 11 km inland of **Bula**, 400–450 m, January 1990 (S. J. Marsden *in litt.* 2000); **Ilo** ("Illong"), October 1884 (male in SMF); **Wae Fufa**, August 1996 (Isherwood *et al.* 1997, Willis 1997, Isherwood and Willis 1998); between **Wae Ansela** and Wasa Mata, September 1998 (I. Mauro *in litt*. 1999), and eastern edge, 250 m, March 1998 (F. R. Lambert *in litt*. 1999); **Manusela**, 600 m, June 1911 (Stresemann 1914a); **Oson** ("Ossong"), October 1884 (male in SMF); Maquala-inan (untraced), 300 m, July 1911 (Stresemann 1914a); Nusawele (untraced), July 1911 (male in AMNH); Sesar in the north-east, 50 m, but probably an escape, January 1990 (S. J. Marsden *in litt.* 2000);

Ambon unspecified locality, 1863 (Schlegel 1862–1873), November 1874 to January 1875 (Salvadori 1880–1882); **Telaga raja** (when declared "only to be found in the Latua mountains"), 800 m, August 1923 (Stresemann 1934), and by local report near this site above Hila in the 1990s (MKP); **Paso**, July 1881 (two specimens in SNMB);

Saparua recorded apparently in the 1920s (Stresemann 1934);

Buru **Ehu**, 1,000 m, October 1921 (Siebers 1930); Makatita river (untraced) in the south-east, September 1921 (Siebers 1930).

The species was recorded provisionally, apparently in the 1920s, on Haruku (Stresemann 1934).

POPULATION During fieldwork in the Moluccas, 1979–1981, this species was encountered only three times (single birds) on Seram, and not on Ambon or Buru (Smiet 1985). A low population was assumed in Collar *et al.* (1994) simply on the basis of the narrowness of the elevation span (see Ecology), and this certainly appears to be borne out by the evidence below.

Seram Stresemann (1914a) cited a source published in 1726 which indicated that although the species then occurred throughout the island, it was commonest in the Hatuë estuary. It was nowhere common in 1911 (Stresemann 1914a). Indeed, the species was so rare on the island in 1859 that Wallace (1861) was unable to obtain a specimen, and fieldwork in south-west Seram in September 1983 resulted in no observations (Bishop 1992b). In Manusela National Park, 1987, the species was encountered at a rate of only 0.7 birds per hour near Kanekeh (Kineke) (Bowler and Taylor 1989). At Wae Fufa in the north-east the species was rare below 700 m but fairly common on higher ridges, particularly above 900 m on the highest ridge in eastern Seram, August 1996 (Isherwood *et al.* 1997, Isherwood and Willis 1998); a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 individuals were judged to live along 1–2 km of this ridge (Willis 1997).

Ambon Wallace (1861) merely referred to this as one of the two "best birds" of the island, contrasting its availability there with the difficulty of finding it on Seram. In 1995 slash-and-burn farmers above Hila reported the species as still present (MKP).

Buru The species is or was apparently feral, and was apparently rare in 1921–1922 (Siebers 1930). A major expedition in 1989 failed to find it (S. J. Marsden *in litt*. 1999).

ECOLOGY ***Habitat*** This species lives in pairs (Stresemann 1914a) within a fairly restricted altitudinal range of around 400–900 m (500–1,000 m in Taylor 1991a) in submontane forest (Bowler and Taylor 1989). The record from Manusela at 250 m appears exceptional (F. R. Lambert *in litt*. 1999). In one study the species was not found at all in logged forest, and in unlogged forest it was only found above 300 m (Marsden 1998). Local people reported the importance of *Eucalyptus deglupta* as both a food source (flowers) and nest-tree, and observations indeed suggested that the association may be important (S. J. Marsden *in litt.* 2000).

Food It appears to forage in the canopy and, particularly, the subcanopy (Isherwood *et al.* 1997). A bird on Seram was watched eating rattan "fruits" in September, hanging onto and picking into a dry flower or fruit stand (MKP). Large fruiting figs are common attractions, and birds sometimes chew the bark of dead trees (Isherwood *et al.* 1997). *Eucalyptus deglupta*

trees may be important for feeding (see Habitat). The species sometimes forages with other parrots such as Red Lory *Eos bornea*, Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* and Moluccan King-parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* (Isherwood *et al.* 1997).

Breeding There is almost no information. A June bird was immature (Stresemann 1914a). *Eucalyptus deglupta* trees may be important for nesting (see Habitat).

Migration The species is presumably largely sedentary, although there may be seasonal differences in abundance at various sites, perhaps related as much to elevation as to phenology.

THREATS The Purple-naped Lory is one of (now) three threatened members of the suite of 14 bird species that are entirely restricted to the "Seram Endemic Bird Area", threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998).

Habitat loss Although Seram is still heavily forested, suitable forest within the range of this species has been modified or cleared, particularly on the southern slopes of the Merkele Ridge up to 1,000 m; the relatively high densities on the Wae Fufa ridge indicate the importance of remote and intact lower montane forests of eastern Seram (Isherwood *et al.* 1997). Most of eastern Seram has been granted to logging concessions and an oil-drilling concession (Willis 1997).

Trade This bird is widely and intensively trapped and kept as a pet in villages on Seram, and any external trade would be regarded as a serious threat to its survival (Stresemann 1914a, Bowler and Taylor 1989, Bishop 1992b). Its bright plumage, musical voice, imitative skill and local reputation as a "seer" make it a popular cagebird in the southern Moluccas (Isherwood *et al.* 1997). Indeed, it is much favoured for its melodious call and imitative abilities (Smiet 1985, Taylor 1991a); however, according to locals, only birds from the west of the island are adept at learning to speak (Stresemann 1914a)—a view which if still prevalent might result in a heavily skewed trapping pressure. In January 1978 "large numbers" of this species were seen in captivity especially in "the villages in the northern lowland Wasa, Solea, Alimata and Hatuola in the neighbourhood of the Way Mual reserve" (*sic*) (Wind and Amir 1978). Certainly it was being trapped for trade to Ambon in 1980 (Smiet and Siallagan 1981), and birds were witnessed being transported there in August 1991 (Charpentier and Guerquin 1991). Trading in small numbers was continuing in 1990 (Taylor 1991a), and it is now recognised that a significant domestic and local trade exists in the species (Jepson 1996, Isherwood *et al.* 1997, N. Bostock *in litt.* 1999). There must be a very large population of captive birds within Indonesia, since the species is a popular souvenir of Seram for visitors to the island (MKP). In 1998–1999 birds were found in local markets (e.g. 72 counted during 44 visits to the Ambon market between March and October 1998: R. Saryanthi *in litt.* 2000), mostly for sale to travellers to other parts of Indonesia, although some must have been destined for shipment on fishing boats to the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan (F. R. Lambert *in litt.* 1999)—nevertheless, the total number of birds officially reported in international trade in the entire decade 1990–1999 was four (CITES annual report data, CITES Secretariat/UNEP-WCMC *per* J. Caldwell *in litt.* 2000).

MEASURES TAKEN This species has been protected under Indonesian law since 1972 (Smiet 1985, Inskipp 1986). It is listed on CITES Appendix II. The species is present in Manusela National Park (Bowler and Taylor 1989; seven sites listed under Distribution) and will benefit from the local awareness programme planned with the Salmon-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis* as the key target (see equivalent section under that species).

MEASURES PROPOSED A major initiative is needed on Seram to reduce the local trade pressure on this and other endemic bird species. This should involve strong monitoring of the domestic parrot trade and the enforcement of existing legislation.

The proposal for a protected area in north-east Seram is crucial for the long-term security for this species (see equivalent section under Salmon-crested Cockatoo).

The paragraph on research under Salmon-crested Cockatoo equally applies to this species.

REMARKS (1) Helpful negative evidence has come from K. D. Bishop (*in litt.* 2000), who in several visits to Seram failed to record this species in the wild, areas searched including the forested hills on ultrabasic rock in the extreme south-west corner of the island; coastal and foothill forests between the ferry dock (Kairatu) and Masohi; and hill forest along the road between Masohi (south coast) and Sawai (north coast) even at a pass at 700 m just west of Manusela.