

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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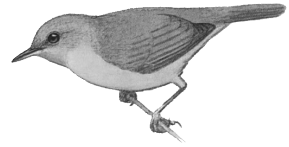
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RUFOUS-THROATED WHITE-EYE

Madanga ruficollis



Critical —

Endangered B1+2b,c,e

Vulnerable C2b

This montane passerine is known from just two or three localities, and it qualifies for Endangered on account of its very small population and range, both of which are declining as a result of forest loss.

DISTRIBUTION The Rufous-throated White-eye is endemic to the island of Buru in the Moluccan archipelago, Indonesia. Records are from:

■ **INDONESIA** *Buru* **Gunung Kapalatmada** inland from Waikeka, 1,460 m, December 1995 (MKP; also Poulsen 1998); **Wa Fehat**, 820 m, April 1922 (Hartert 1924a), and “Mada range” (Wa Fehat is within this area: MKP), 1,500 m, April 1922 (Hartert 1924a).

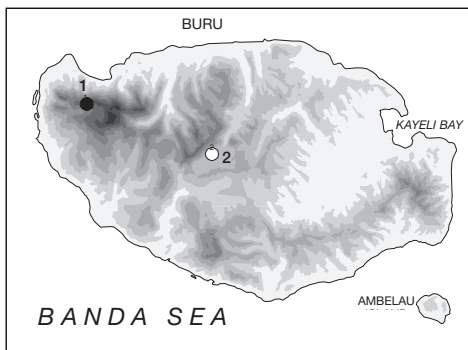
POPULATION Numbers are entirely unknown. The area of habitat at the top of Buru is fairly extensive (e.g. 872 km² of the island lies above 1,200 m, and 382 km² lies above 1,500 m: Poulsen and Lambert submitted), and at least several hundred birds, and very possibly several thousands, would be expected to survive there. Nevertheless, the species appears to exist at very low population densities (MKP).

ECOLOGY *Habitat* All records are from forested montane areas above 820 m (see Distribution). Two birds seen in 1995 were following a mixed-species feeding flock in montane forest, and climbing up and down mossy tree-trunks in the manner of nuthatches *Sitta* (MKP).

Food The species presumably eats small invertebrates gleaned from bark and lichen.

Breeding There is no information.

THREATS It is believed that montane habitats are likely to remain secure (Collar *et al.* 1994), but in 1995 some habitat changes were noted at Wa Fehat and at many other sites at the same elevation; this and its apparent very low overall population are regarded as causes of concern (MKP). The Rufous-throated White-eye is one of (now) three threatened members of the suite of 10 bird species that are entirely restricted to the “Buru Endemic Bird Area”, threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998).



The distribution of Rufous-throated White-eye
Madanga ruficollis: (1) Gunung Kapalatmada;
(2) Wa Fehat.

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

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED Details of a proposed reserve on Buru are given in Measures Proposed under Blue-fronted Lorikeet *Chamosyna toxopei*.

REMARKS “This peculiarly coloured bird appears to be a member of the ‘*Zosteropidae*’, but generically different from *Zosterops*” (Hartert 1924a). Among the differences are the lack of a white eye-ring, a greater length of wing and tail, rectrices not square but pointed, and distinctive coloration; moreover, the toes are rather long and strong (Rothschild and Hartert 1923). Listed immediately after the Bicoloured White-eye *Tephrozosterops stalkerii* from Seram, it is considered “another colour genus of large white-eye” and “another monotypic genus with no close relatives” by White and Bruce (1986).