

# Threatened Birds of Asia:

## The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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**Recommended citation**

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

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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

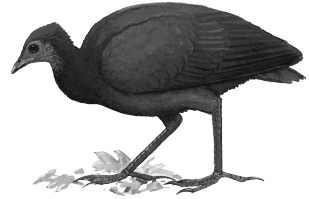
Available from the Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: +44 1803 865913 Fax: +44 1803 865280 Email [nhbs@nhbs.co.uk](mailto:nhbs@nhbs.co.uk)  
Internet: [www.nhbs.com/services/birdlife.html](http://www.nhbs.com/services/birdlife.html)

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## BIAK MEGAPODE

### *Megapodius geelvinkianus*

Critical  —  
Endangered  —  
Vulnerable  C1



*This little-known megapode is classified as Vulnerable because of its small estimated population, which is inferred to be declining at more than 10% in three generations owing to a variety of possible threats. However, research may show that its range is severely fragmented, triggering Endangered status, or that its rate of decline is slow enough to allow Near Threatened.*

**DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION** The Biak Megapode is endemic to Biak-Supiori in Papua (formerly Irian Jaya), **Indonesia**, and its satellite islands, Mios Korwar, Numfor, Manim and Mios Num, with one specimen apparently from Manokwari on mainland Papua representing either a straggler from a nearby island or an error in labelling (D. N. Jones *et al.* 1995). Its population size is unknown, but believed to be small and declining: it was formerly common on Biak (Mayr and Meyer de Schauensee 1939) and was recorded daily in and around Biak-Utara Reserve in 1997 (S. van Balen and B. M. Beehler *in litt.* 2000), but only “small numbers” were seen recently on Owi (a satellite of Biak) and Supiori (D. Gibbs in D. N. Jones *et al.* 1995).

**ECOLOGY** It has been recorded in forest, logged forest, secondary growth, dry scrub and scrub near a river, but there are no data on habitat preferences, general habits, food or breeding biology, although these are probably broadly similar to other megapodes; it presumably builds nest mounds or buries its eggs between decaying roots of trees (D. N. Jones *et al.* 1995).

**THREATS** Specific threats are undocumented, but are likely to include egg-collecting (although its widely spaced nest mounds may reduce this risk) (S. van Balen and B. M. Beehler *in litt.* 2000), hunting and perhaps predation by introduced mammals (Dekker and McGowan 1995). Much forest on Biak (particularly the southern plains) and Numfor has been destroyed or damaged by logging and subsistence farming, and the remainder is under pressure (Bishop 1982, K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 1996, D. A. Holmes *in litt.* 2000), but 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 and Pulau Supiori nature reserves, which cover substantial areas of lowland and hill forest on Biak and Supiori (Sujatnika *et al.* 1995). A further reserve has been proposed for Numfor (Diamond 1986).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** • Conduct surveys on all appropriate islands to establish its distribution and current population status. • Assess its habitat requirements and threats. • Conduct research into its breeding biology. • Assess status of forest on Biak-Supiori. • Devise a list of management recommendations, including ensuring adequate protection of nesting areas if different from non-breeding habitats. • Prevent potential introduction of ground predators.