

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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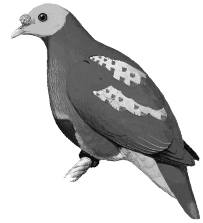
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CARUNCULATED FRUIT-DOVE

Ptilinopus granulifrons

Critical —
Endangered —
Vulnerable C2b



This forest frugivore qualifies as Vulnerable because its small population is inferred to be undergoing a continuing decline owing to habitat loss and degradation.

DISTRIBUTION The Carunculated Fruit-dove (see Remarks 1) is endemic to the island of Obi in the North Moluccas, Indonesia. There are no site-specific historical records, and a mere handful of recent ones, thus:

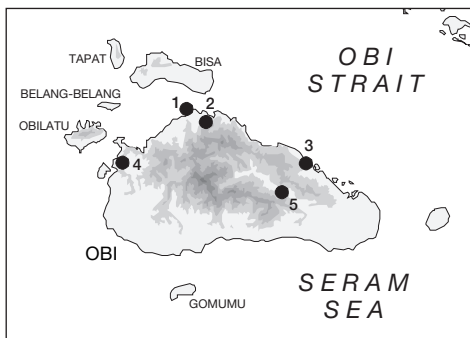
■ **INDONESIA** Obi near **Jikotamo**, December 1989 (Linsley 1995); 6 km south of **Laiwui**, December 1989 (Manchester Polytechnic observers *per* P. Andrew *in litt.* 1990); near **Kelo**, February 1992 (Lambert 1994a); near **Danau Manis** (Lake Manis), December 1989 (Manchester Polytechnic observers *per* P. Andrew *in litt.* 1990), February 1992 (Lambert 1994a), and east of the lake at “km 11 camp”, December 1989 (Linsley 1995); upper **Sungai Wide Besar**, February 1992 (Lambert 1994a).

POPULATION In 1992 the species appeared to be widespread but scarce on the island (Lambert 1994a), but it is probably easily overlooked, as with other *Ptilinopus* species (F. R. Lambert *in litt.* 1999). Nine birds were collected in 1982 and the species was then judged probably locally common (F. G. Rozendaal *in* Collar and Andrew 1988).

ECOLOGY *Habitat* Birds have been found from 40 up to 550 m, in primary forest and in a mosaic of scrub and lightly wooded cultivation, generally in the canopy (Lambert 1994a). This use of primary and secondary habitat fulfils a prediction based on knowledge of its sister species, the Grey-headed Fruit-dove *P. hyogaster* (Collar and Andrew 1988). However, in 1989 birds were seen in the canopy and subcanopy, always below 400 m (Linsley 1995).

Food The species is doubtless frugivorous. Birds have been seen feeding in c.20 m tall trees that had attracted frugivores such as Superb Fruit-dove *P. superbus*, White-eyed and Pied Imperial-pigeons *Ducula perspicillata* and *D. bicolor*, Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia amboinensis* and Paradise Crow *Lycorax pyrrhopterus* (Linsley 1995).

Breeding There is no information.



The distribution of Carunculated Fruit-dove
Ptilinopus granulifrons: (1) Jikotamo; (2) Laiwui;
(3) Kelo; (4) Danau Manis; (5) Sungai Wide Besar.
○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Recent (1980–present)

THREATS Although patches of primary habitat seem likely to survive in the rugged interior of Obi (Collar and Andrew 1988)—such that the island may appear to be largely forested (R. F. A. Grimmett *in litt.* 2000)—forest loss and degradation must remain the most serious threat, such that “we should now be expressing active concern for the future of the known endemic birds” (White and Bruce 1986: 216): much of the lower-lying forest on Obi has been logged, much of the remainder is under logging concession, and meanwhile illegal goldmining is reported to be destroying some areas of forest (F. R. Lambert *in litt.* 1999; also F. G. Rozendaal in Collar and Andrew 1988). The evidence for the Carunculated Fruit-dove (see Habitat; also the map) is that it is very largely a lowland species, which renders it highly insecure. The single proposed protected area on Obi, Pulau Obi, only includes land at 500 m and above (FAO 1981–1982).

The Carunculated Fruit-dove is one of (now) eight threatened members of the suite of 26 bird species that are entirely restricted to the “Northern Maluku Endemic Bird Area”, threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998).

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED A reserve of 450 km², covering the highest peak on the island and protection forest on steep terrain, has been proposed (FAO 1981–1982), but the area is yet to be endorsed and gazetted by ministerial proclamation. This reserve will also protect the Obi Woodcock *Scolopax rochussenii*, plus an endemic cuscus *Phalanger rothschildi*, two rodents and the butterfly *Ornithoptera aesacus*, as well as preserving the island’s watershed (Petocz *et al.* 1997). There is also a move to protect Danau Saku, a freshwater lake unique in Maluku for having no adjacent human habitation, which may contain undescribed fish taxa and is quite likely to host numbers of this pigeon in its fringing forests (F. R. Lambert verbally 1999).

REMARKS (1) The remarkable granuliform fleshy knobs on the forehead and base of bill of this species are discussed by Hartert (1903a), who noted the otherwise great similarity to Grey-headed Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus hyogaster*.