

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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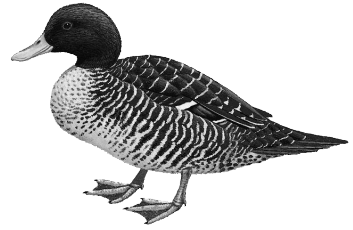
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SALVADORI'S TEAL

Salvadorina waigiuenis

Critical —
Endangered —
Vulnerable C1



Although based on little quantitative data, it seems plausible to categorise this duck as Vulnerable based on its inferred small population which is possibly declining through hunting and habitat degradation. However, it is poorly known and may prove to be Near Threatened.

DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATION Salvadori's Teal is endemic to the mountains of New Guinea (**Indonesia** and **Papua New Guinea**). It is rare and local at lower altitudes, including records at 70 m in Lakekamu Basin, but occurs across the island in suitable montane habitat; however, there are recent records from few locations, a consequence of the inaccessibility of most of its range and the species's unobtrusive, shy and perhaps nocturnal habits (Coates 1985, Beehler *et al.* 1986, K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 1994, J. Hornbuckle *in litt.* 1999). The population has been variously estimated to be 2,500–20,000 birds and stable or slowly declining (Callaghan and Green 1993, Callaghan *in prep.*).

ECOLOGY Although recorded from 70 m up to 4,100 m, this omnivorous dabbling and diving duck is uncommon below 600 m and commonest at the highest altitudes, breeding beside fast-flowing rivers and streams and alpine lakes, and has also been recorded on slow-flowing rivers (Kear 1975, Coates 1985, Beehler *et al.* 1986, Callaghan and Green 1993, J. Hornbuckle *in litt.* 1999). Breeding territories constituted 1,600 m of stream on the Baiyer river (Kear 1975) but only 160 m on the Ok Menga river (Bell 1969). It lays clutches of 2–4 eggs near water in the dry season (Kear 1975).

THREATS Some local extirpations and declines have been attributed to hunting (Bishop 1987, K. D. Bishop *in litt.* 1994), predation by dogs, and habitat degradation, largely through increasing human pressure and siltation, especially from hydroelectric projects, mining and logging (Murray 1988, A. Mack *in litt.* 1999, Callaghan *in prep.*), but these have only impacted small areas (B. M. Whitney *in litt.* 2000). The stocking of alpine rivers with exotic trout species has been suggested as a potential risk to food sources (Kear 1975, Callaghan and Green 1993).

MEASURES TAKEN This species is protected by law in Papua New Guinea (Callaghan and Green 1993).

MEASURES PROPOSED • Assess best survey techniques. • Survey rivers in areas with varying human population pressure. • Assess hunting pressure through discussion with local hunters. • Survey rivers upstream and downstream of hydroelectric, mining and logging activities. • Survey rivers with high numbers of trout. • Research ecology on both lakes and rivers. • Address hunting through public awareness programmes.