

# 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

**Recommended citation**

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

© 2001 BirdLife International

Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1223 277318 Fax: +44 1223 277200 Email: [birdlife@birdlife.org.uk](mailto:birdlife@birdlife.org.uk)

Internet: [www.birdlife.net](http://www.birdlife.net)

BirdLife International is a UK-registered charity

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.

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)

The presentation of material in this book and the geographical designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of BirdLife International concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

## WHITE-BROWED NUTHATCH

### *Sitta victoriae*



Critical  —

Endangered  B1+2a,b,c,e

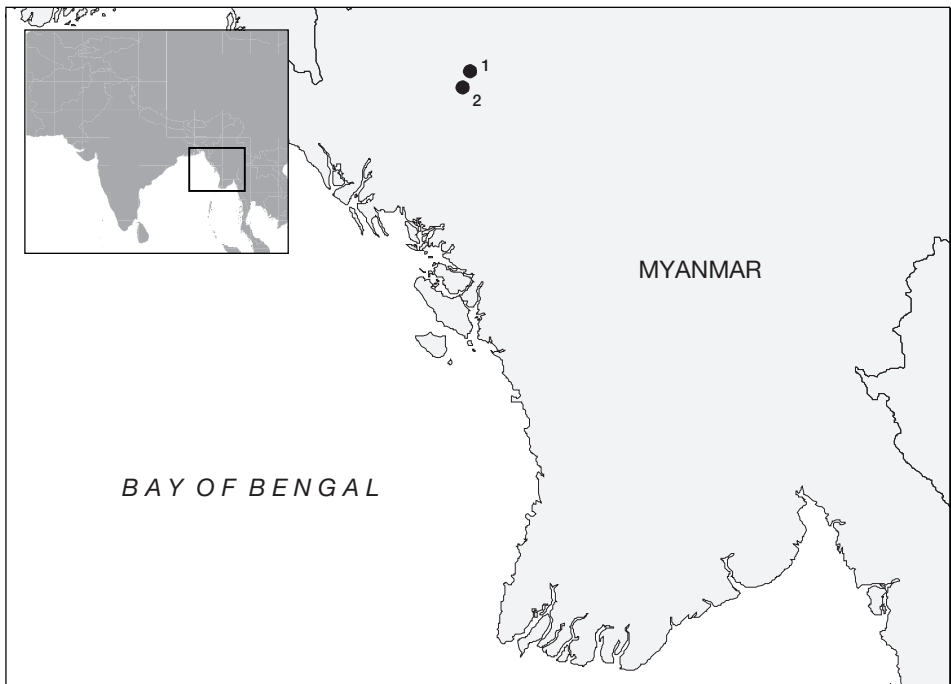
Vulnerable  C1

*This nuthatch is known from just one small area of mountain and is inferred to have a small, declining range which qualifies it as Endangered.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The White-browed Nuthatch is entirely restricted to the Chin hills of Myanmar, in the region of Mount Victoria. Records are from:

■ **MYANMAR** Mindat, three, April 1995 (*Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 22 [1995]: 57–62, Robson *et al.* 1998); **Mount Victoria**, 2,300–2,750 m, April 1904 (five in BMNH, Rippon 1904), April–June 1938 (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940), up to 14 around the summit, April 1995 (*Oriental Bird Club Bull.* 22 [1995]: 57–62, Robson *et al.* 1998).

**POPULATION** Although almost nothing has been published about the population of this species, the general impression is that it is fairly common in its limited range (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940, C. R. Robson verbally 1998). In April 2000, however, the species was found only five times in a two-week period of observation at Mount Victoria, and was thus regarded as sparse (P. Alström verbally 2000).



**The distribution of White-browed Nuthatch *Sitta victoriae*:** (1) Mindat; (2) Mount Victoria.

● Recent (1980–present)

**ECOLOGY *Habitat*** The species is found from the “upper half of the Alpine region to the summit” of Mount Victoria, apparently being “narrowly circumscribed” in its vertical distribution, but presumably descending during the dry (and cold) season (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940). The span of altitude is given variously as 2,500–3,000 m (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940), 2,300–2,800 m (BMNH label data, Baker 1922–1930), and mostly below 2,500 m (P. Alström verbally 2000); differences may relate to seasonal movements. According to Stresemann and Heinrich (1940) it “inhabits the moss forest and avoids the pines”.

***Food*** There is no information, but it appears to forage primarily along the thinner outer branches of trees (P. Alström verbally 2000), presumably in search of insects.

***Breeding*** Recently fledged young were found at 2,600 m on 28 April (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940).

***Migration*** The species is presumably resident (Smythies 1986), although some altitudinal movement is probably involved with birds descending in the cold season (Stresemann and Heinrich 1940).

**THREATS** The White-browed Nuthatch is one of nine threatened members of the suite of 19 bird species that are entirely restricted to the “Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area”, threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Stattersfield *et al.* (1998). Forest on Mount Victoria has been almost completely cleared to 2,000 m and is degraded to 2,500 m; whilst high-quality forest remains above this altitude, the White-browed Nuthatch is apparently (at least seasonally) commonest below 2,500 m (P. Alström verbally 2000).

**MEASURES TAKEN** The species is listed as a totally protected species in Myanmar under the Wildlife Act 1994. Mount Victoria lies within Natma Taung National Park (Khin Ma Ma Thwin *in litt.* 1998), although it is not clear how effective this protected area is likely to be.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Natma Taung National Park is potentially very important for this species and many others, but this is dependent on it being properly managed and protected (King *et al.* 1996, Robson *et al.* 1998).