

Subject:Globally Threatened Bird Update for the 2006 IUCN Red List:
reviewing the status of Asian species

Dear colleague,

BirdLife International invites you to take part in an consultation process to discuss possible changes to the global threat status of the Asian bird species listed below under **2006 Globally Threatened Bird Update**. The time available for this consultation is short (<u>deadline for contributions: 20 December</u>), because the results must be fed into the 2006 IUCN Red List in January. To maximise feedback, we would be very grateful if you could please distribute this message to any other people who you consider may have valuable information to contribute on these species. All contributions that are used will be acknowledged in the species accounts that will appear on the BirdLife and IUCN websites in due course, and in future publications.

The BirdLife Asia Partnership published *Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book* in 2001, which was a comprehensive analysis of the conservation status of bird species throughout the Asia region. Since then, information has continued to be gathered about Asia's birds and their key sites and habitats. In some cases, this new information indicates that a species is more or less threatened than previously thought, and that a change in their Red List status might be warranted. As the official authority for birds on the IUCN Red List, BirdLife International is keen to ensure that the latest information is used to revise threat categories where appropriate, and feed any changes made into the IUCN Red List.

Changes made to the 2005 IUCN Red List

An important component of this ongoing review process is the use of discussion fora on BirdLife's website, where people can contribute information on Globally Threatened Birds and discuss implications relevant to the assessment of IUCN Red List threat status in an open, transparent and participatory process. Last year, a forum was run for Asia containing proposals for changes in the threatened status of 31 species. This generated great interest and provided information that allowed us to make the following 19 changes to the 2005 IUCN Red List (see http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/global_species_programme/whats_new_2005.html):

- Downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered: Abbott's Booby Papasula abbotti
- Downlisted from Vulnerable to Near Threatened: Hume's Pheasant Syrmaticus humiae, Germain's Peacock-pheasant Polyplectron germaini, Crested Argus Rheinardia ocellata, Slaty Cuckoo-dove Turacoena modesta and Timor Sparrow Padda fuscata
- Downlisted from Vulnerable to Least Concern: Malaysian Whistling-thrush Myophonus robinsoni
- Downlisted from Near Threatened to Least Concern: White-tailed Eagle Haliaeetus albicilla
- Uplisted from Endangered to Critically Endangered: Isabela Oriole *Oriolus isabellae* and Banggai Crow *Corvus unicolor*
- Uplisted from Least Concern to Vulnerable: Steller's Eider Polysticta stelleri
- Uplisted from Least Concern to Near Threatened: Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*, Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*, European Roller *Coracias garrulus* and Ryukyu Robin *Erithacus komadori*
- Moved from Not Evaluated to Endangered: Flores Hawk-eagle Spizaetus floris
- Moved from Not Evaluated to Vulnerable: Calayan Rail Gallirallus calayanensis
- Moved from Not Evaluated to Near Threatened: Tickell's Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* and Sumatran Babbler *Trichastoma buettikoferi*

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Nevertheless, insufficient information was available to help us resolve the situation with several species. Moreover, during 2005 a number of proposals to review the status of other species were also brought to our attention, and the BirdLife Taxonomic Working Group accepted several newly described species and proposals for new splits. Consequently, the current consultation contains topics on the following species for discussion:

- Rufous-backed Bunting Emberiza jankowskii: information needed
- For information: Amami Thrush Zoothera major: no longer recognised as a full species
- Cinereous Vulture Aegypius monachus downlist to Least Concern?
- White-headed Duck Oxyura leucocephala downlist to Vulnerable?
- Serendib Scops Owl Otus thilohoffanni: newly described and Vulnerable?
- Chestnut-winged Whistling-thrush Myophonus castaneus: newly split and Near Threatened?
- Red-and-black Thrush Zoothera mendeni: newly split and Threatened?
- Enggano Thrush Zoothera leucolaema: newly split and Near Threatened?
- Seram Thrush Zoothera joiceyi: newly split and Near Threatened?
- Buru Thrush Zoothera dumasi: newly split and Near Threatened?
- Baer's Pochard Aythya baeri declines accelerating?
- Falcated Duck Anas falcata: information needed from China
- Sulawesi Eared-nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus*: downlist to Near Threatened?
- Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa: uplist to Near Threatened or Vulnerable?
- Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*: information from Asia needed
- Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*: uplist to Vulnerable?
- Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus: uplist to Near Threatened or Vulnerable?
- Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: what are the trends in Asia?
- White Eared-pheasant Crossoptilon crossoptilon: downlist to Least Concern?
- Black-bellied Tern Sterna acuticauda: upgrade to Vulnerable?

How you can help

To read and contribute to discussions on the species currently under review in Asia, please visit the forum at <u>http://208.185.149.227/Globally%20Threatened%20Bird%20Forums/ThreatenedAsianBirds/</u>. Click each link to view a short topic on each species, giving the rationale for the proposed status change and a request for information. Please make your contribution through the forum by typing it in the box below the topic, and then clicking "post my message".

We appreciate that the speed of Internet access makes it difficult to use the forums in some parts of Asia, and have therefore attached with these notes the latest forum discussions for the species listed above. You are welcome to send contributions to the forums to us by email, which we will post onto the relevant forum topics on your behalf.

Discussions on these forums will run until **20 December**, when we will assess the contributions made and post up a draft list of decisions. There will then follow a further two-week period for people to comment. Final decisions will be made and posted up on **10 January**. These deadlines have been set because the final decisions on these species must be documented and prepared for submission to IUCN for the 2006 IUCN Red List.

Thank you very much. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

Best regards,

Mike Crosby Research and Database Manager, Asia Division Dr. Stuart Butchart Global Species Programme Coordinator