

# THREATENED BIRD SPECIES OF MALAYSIA

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TAN KOK KIAT  
NURFARHANA HIZAN HIJAS  
ABDUL RAZAK MOHD NOR RASID





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Forest Research  
Institute Malaysia

2020



Ministry of Energy and  
Natural Resources

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All enquiries should be forwarded to:

Director-General

Forest Research Institute Malaysia

52109 Kepong, Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: 603-62797000

Fax: 603-62731314

Homepage: <https://www.frim.gov.my>

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Edited by: Allen Jeyarajasingam

Authored by: Tan Kok Kiat

Nurfarhana Hizan Hijas

Abdul Razak Mohd Nor Rasid

Design and typesetting by: Abdul Razak Mohd Nor Rasid

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# **PREFACE**

**Malaysia is a country rich in biological diversity. The species richness in Malaysia makes it one of the megadiverse countries in the world. To date, there are more than 15,000 species of vascular plants, 307 species of mammals, 822 species of birds, 567 species of reptiles, 242 species of amphibians, more than 449 species of freshwater fish and more than 150,000 estimated species of invertebrate species have been identified inhabits various type of ecosystem.**

**This e-book is intended to give awareness to the public on some of the threatened and near threatened bird species in Malaysia. The information is gathered from the IUCN Red List, Birdlife International website and book guides on Malaysia birds. This e-book comprises five chapters, which include the introduction of the birds in Malaysia and examples of birds in the threatened and near threatened categories in Malaysia. We hope that the publication of this e-book will create public awareness on endangered birds in Malaysia.**



# **INTRODUCTION**

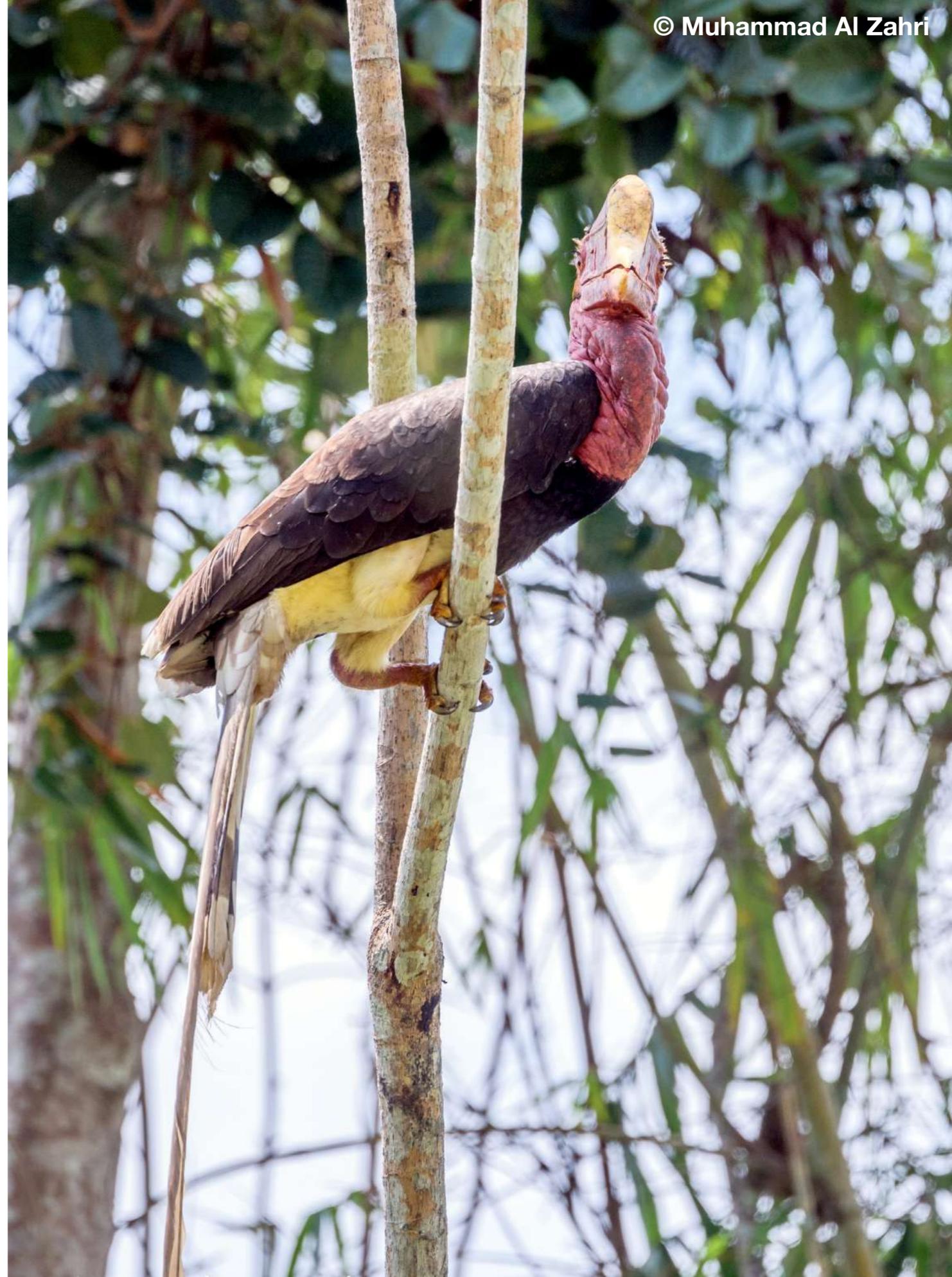
**Malaysia has 822 bird species with 100 families recorded, which include resident species, migrant species, vagrant species and introduced species. In Malaysia, we have 63 species of birds in the Threatened category, 109 species of birds in the Near Threatened category and others at Least Concern with one Data Deficient (BirdLife International, 2020). From all of the bird species, we highlighted two Critically Endangered (CR) species, four Endangered (EN) species, five Vulnerable (VU) species and seven Near Threatened (NT) species. Let's look at some of the species included in the list.**



**Critically Endangered**

## Helmeted Hornbill (*Buceros vigil*)

*Buceros vigil* or well-known as Helmeted Hornbill is a very large hornbill which can grow up to 127 cm. It is a monotypic genus, which contains a single species. The Helmeted Hornbill can be distinguished from other hornbills by its shorter conical bill, deeply truncated casque and elongated central tail feathers. It has dark brown upperparts and breast contrasting with its white belly and tail. The sides and top of the casque and the base of its bill are red while the front end of the casque and the front half of the bill are yellow. For the male, it has red bare and coarsely wrinkled skin around its neck. In comparison, the female has sky-blue skin around its wrinkled neck. It has an odd accelerating laughter that carries over a mile and can be heard just before take-off. This species occurs from Myanmar to the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo and can be found in foothills and elevations up to 1,500 m. This species also requires large expanses of primary forest with huge trees. Logging activities, agricultural conversion, as well as hunting pressure for its casque has led this striking hornbill to be uplisted from Near Threatened to Critically Endangered in the IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species. Conservation action like legislation enforcement, community involvement in protecting this species, and monitoring the impact of hunting pressure on populations should be done.

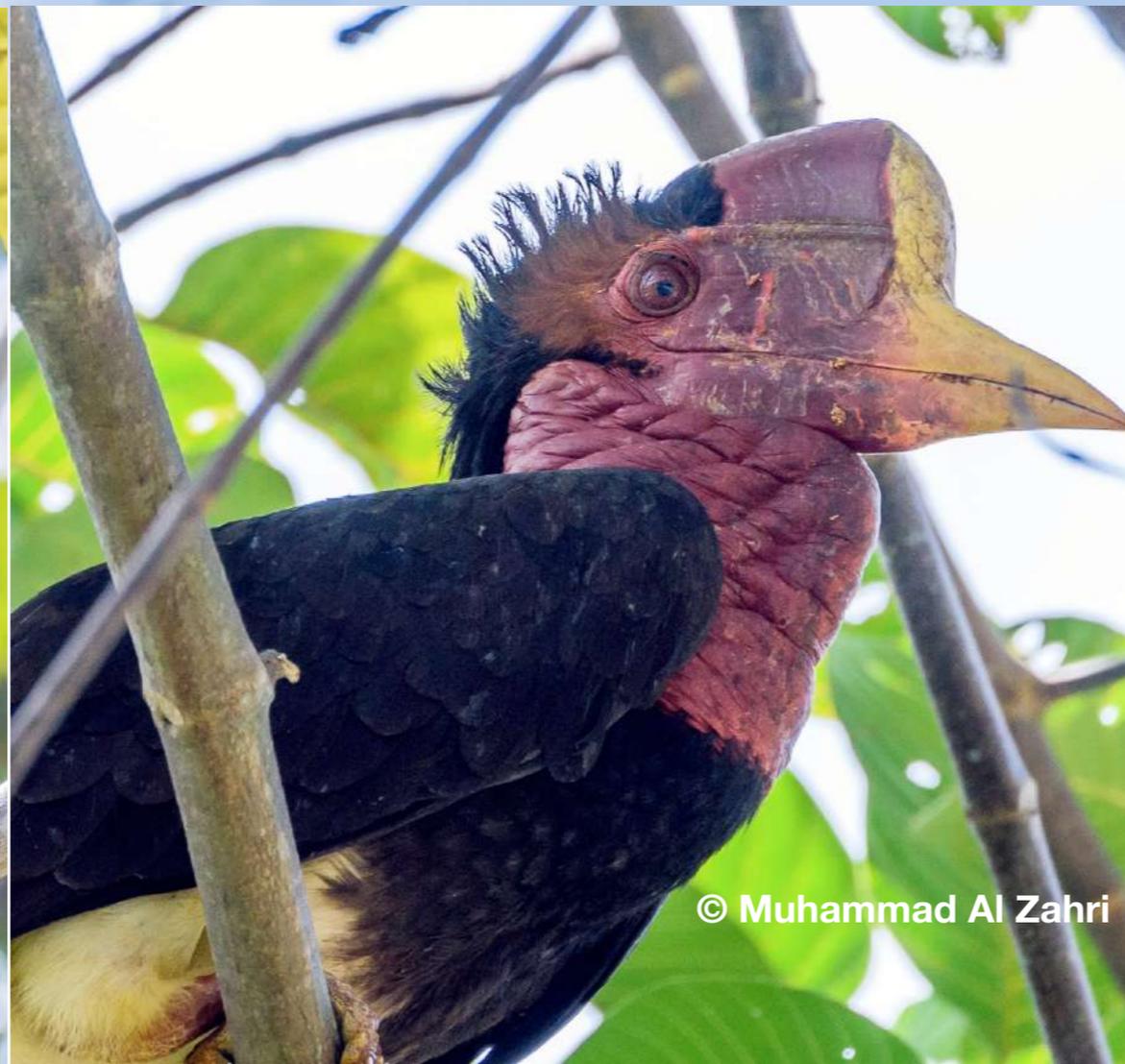




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## Common Name

### Malay:

Burung Tebang Mentua,  
Burung Torak, Enggang  
Bertopi, Enggang Tebang  
Mentua

### English:

Helmeted Hornbill  
Temiar (Ethnic):  
Dekuug



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CR

Critically Endangered  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2019

IUCN status

## Straw-crowned Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*)

The largest of the Southeast Asian bulbuls, *Pycnonotus zeylanicus* or commonly known as the straw-crowned bulbul, belongs to family Pycnonotidae. It occurs in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, Thailand and Singapore. Straw-crowned bulbul can be identified by its size which is bigger than other bulbul species. It has a rich golden-yellowish crown which appears streaked or furrowed, a blackish moustache and marks through the eyes, pale throat and

underparts and obscure narrow light streaks at its breast and back. The juvenile has a slight difference from the adults which it has duller and browner head. This species has been threatened by habitat loss and poaching (BirdLife International, 2018).

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**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Barau-barau

**English:**

Straw-crowned Bulbul,

Straw-headed Bulbul



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**CR**

Critically Endangered

IUCN Red List

ver 3.1, 2018

**IUCN status**



**Endangered**



## Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*)

*Mycteria cinerea* or Milky Stork is a very large bird named for its creamy-white plumage. This species is found throughout Southeast Asia and can be easily identified by its dark red, naked head skin with a pale pinkish-yellow bill and dull pinkish-red feet. The male is slightly larger than the female and has a thinner and longer bill.

The adults of this species are pure white in colour with black flight feathers while the juveniles are duller, milky brown in colour with black flight feathers. This species can be found in mangroves and

on mudflats feeding on crabs and mudskippers. The Milky Stork has been uplisted to Endangered because of habitat loss and degradation, poaching, human disturbance, and pollution. This rare and spectacular bird is in need of special conservation measures.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**  
Botak Upih, Upih Bakau  
**English:**  
Milky Stork



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**EN**

Endangered  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

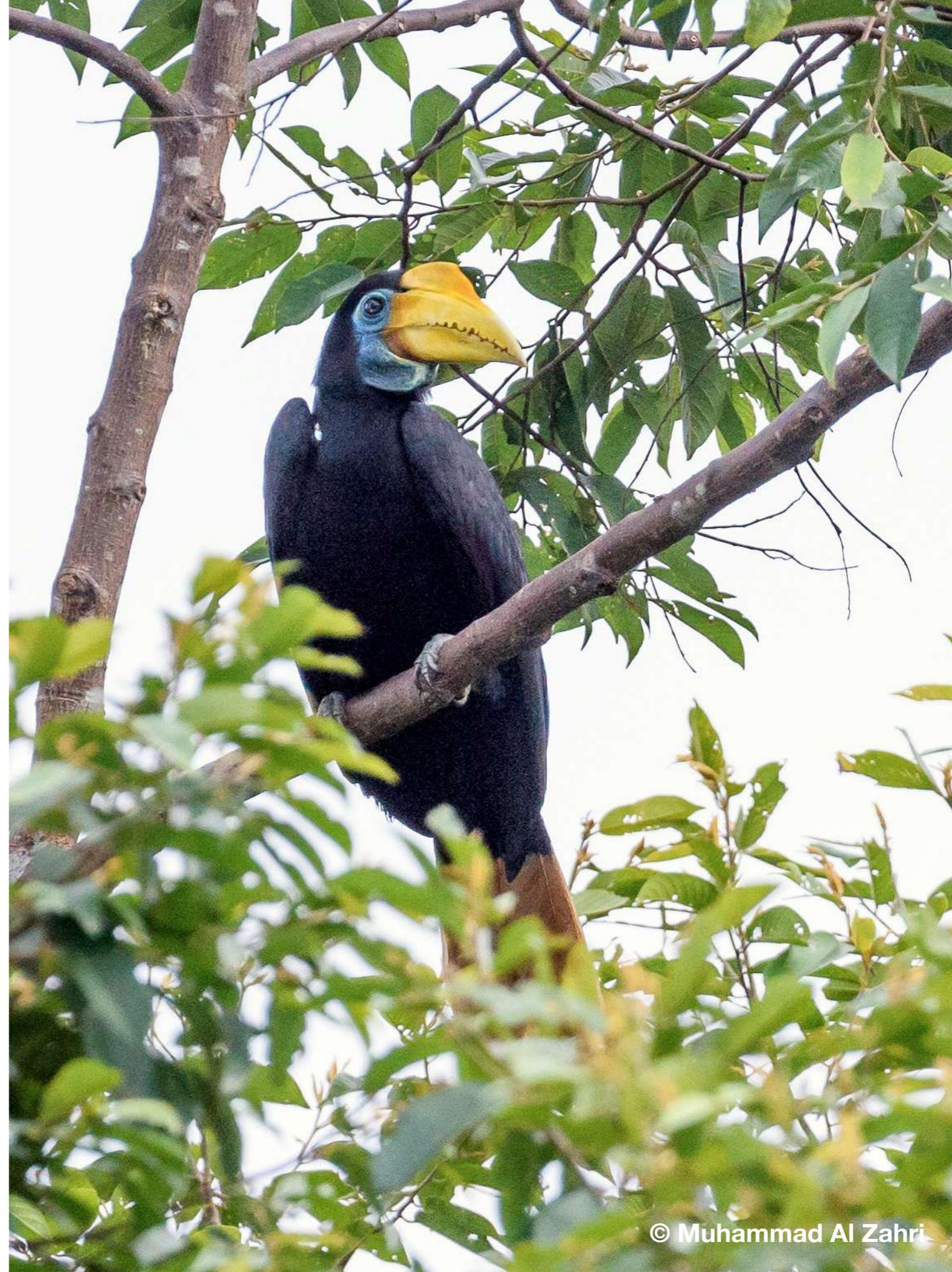
**IUCN status**

## Wrinkled Hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*)

The wrinkled hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*) gains its common name from its casque, a prominent bony crest on top of its large bill which is wrinkled and ridged.

The male and female wrinkled hornbill differ in appearance. As for the male, it has a white head and neck with short black crest, white throat pouch and reddish casque on top and base of its bill. While the female has a black head and neck, blue throat pouch and skin around the eyes. The female also has a smaller casque than the male.

The diet of the wrinkled hornbill consists mainly of fruits, in particular figs. This species is thinly distributed and never in big flocks. Habitat loss poses the greatest threat to the wrinkled hornbill.





**Common Name**

**Malay:**  
Enggang Berkedut  
**English:**  
Wrinkled Hornbill



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**EN**

Endangered  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2018

**IUCN status**



## Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

*Aquila nipalensis*, commonly known as Steppe Eagle is a large, broad-winged eagle measuring about 76-86 cm in length (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012). Its appearance resembles the species from the same genus, Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*) but can be differentiated by larger size and gape extending behind eye. This bird of prey has uniformly dark brown upperpart plumage with blackish flight feathers and tail. It also has yellow hindcrown and nape. In flight, the wings are splayed widely in flat and horizontal position, showing small pale patch at base of primaries. Females are similar to males but slightly larger.

The juvenile is light brown with pale patch on its rump together with blackish primaries and tail (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012). Like other eagles, the Steppe Eagle feeds mainly on small mammals (Birdlife International, 2019) and also takes carrion in its diets (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012). This species can be found soaring over open country and ricefields.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Helang Gurun,  
Helang Padang

**English:**

Steppe Eagle



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**EN**

Endangered  
**IUCN Red List**  
ver 3.1, 2019

**IUCN status**



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## Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)

*Chloropsis sonnerati*, also known as Greater Green Leafbird is slightly larger than other leafbirds, with a robust bill. In Malaysia, the green leafbirds, both Greater and Lesser are very common in the lowland forest. At a glance, it looks very similar to the Lesser Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*). The fact that their predominantly green plumages blend well into their surrounding tropical habitat, where the green leaves of the canopy provide a perfect camouflage for these kinds of birds.

Although they are similar, there are some characteristics that can be distinguished among them. As for the male, the Greater Green has a bigger size and stronger bill compared to the Lesser Green Leafbird. While the female of Greater Green Leafbird has a yellow eye-ring and throat patch which is lacking in the female Lesser Green Leafbird.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Burung Daun Besar,  
Burung Daun Hijau Besar

**English:**

Greater Green Leafbird



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**EN**

Endangered  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2019

**IUCN status**



**Vulnerable**

# Javan Myna

## (*Acridotheres javanicus*)

*Acridotheres javanicus* is a medium-sized myna belongs to the family Sturnidae. It is known as the Javan Myna. Compared to other myna, this species has black plumage with yellow bill and legs. Also, the crest is long and the vent is white (Strange, 2000).

Javan Myna is an introduced species to Singapore and gradually spread northwards into south Peninsular Malaysia since the 1970s. (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012), and Sarawak since 1980s (Phillipps, 2014). It is originally native to Java and Bali where it is Vulnerable. However, in Malaysia, it is common to abundant. Normally, it occurs in open country, parks, gardens, orchards, oil palm plantation and the forest edge (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012). The major threat for Javan Myna is the bird trade (IUCN, 2017).



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**Common Name**

**Malay:**  
Tiong Jambul Jawa  
**English:**  
Javan Myna



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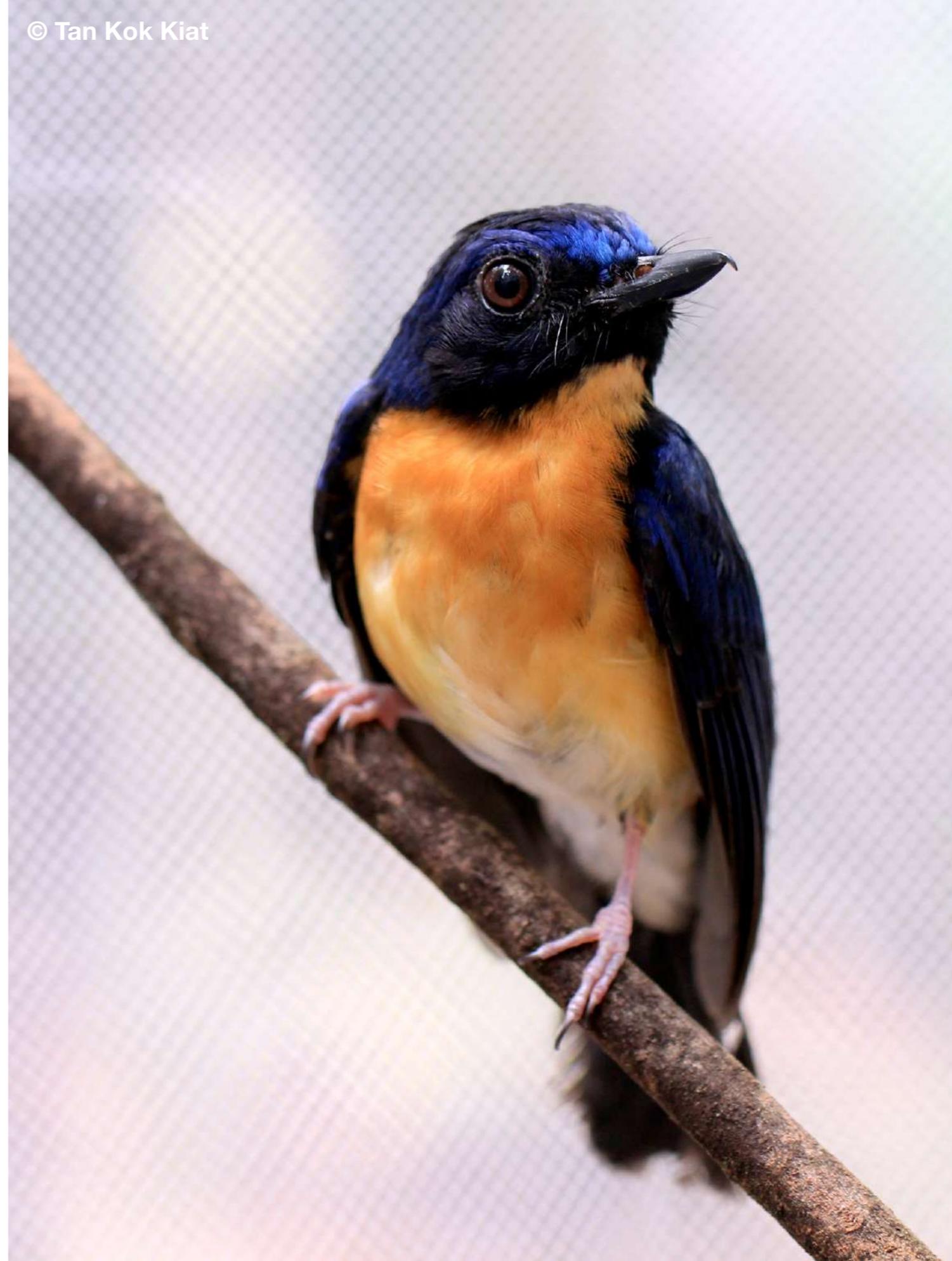
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**VU** Vulnerable  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

IUCN status

## Large-billed Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis caerulatus*)

*Cyornis caerulatus* is a medium-sized forest-dwelling flycatcher measuring around 14 cm. It is commonly known as Large-billed Blue Flycatcher. The male of this large-billed blue flycatcher has blue upperparts with black chin (Phillipps, 2014), and the female is brown above with a pale eye-ring (IUCN, 2017). The habitat for this species is lowland mixed dipterocarp forest. It is distributed in Sumatra and Borneo. It is categorised as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List due to the habitat loss as a result of agricultural conversion and fire.





**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Sambar Biru Sunda

**English:**

Large-billed Blue Flycatcher, Long-billed Blue-flycatcher, Sunda Blue Flycatcher



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VU

Vulnerable  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

IUCN status



## Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*)

*Leptoptilos javanicus* is a very large stork measuring between 114 cm and 129 cm in length. *L. javanicus* is commonly known as Lesser Adjutant and can be identified by its naked head, yellowish orange neck and hunched appearance. The upperparts of this stork are dark grey-black with dark underwings, while the underparts are white. The wedge-shaped bill is massive and yellowish with light corrugations on the base of its mandible. The breeding males show sexual dimorphism, in which they show coppery magenta spots on their wing coverts, small white triangular patch at the base of wings

and redder head sides (IUCN, 2017). For the juveniles, the head and neck have more feathers and their upperparts are less glossy. Usually, the lesser adjutant is solitary or in small loose groups and its main diet includes molluscs, fishes and crustaceans.

The Lesser Adjutant can be found in South Asia and South-East Asia. They are restricted to mangrove habitats. It is listed as Vulnerable under the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss and hunting pressure.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Botak Kecil

**English:**

Lesser Adjutant



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VU

Vulnerable

IUCN Red List

ver 3.1, 2017

**IUCN status**

## Blue-Headed Pitta (*Hydrornis baudii*)

*Hydrornis baudii* or the blue-headed pitta is a small-sized, brightly coloured, forest dwelling pitta measuring up to 17 cm in length. The blue-headed pitta has a typical small blue tail and both sexes show dimorphism. The male has a glittering blue crown, black cheeks and reddish-brown mantle and the black wings are marked with white. The male also has a white throat with deep violet blue underparts whereas the female is differentiated by its fulvous-buff crown, buff underparts and dull rufous upperparts. It is unique as it hunts invertebrate prey by turning over leaves with a rapid jerk of the beak.

This species is endemic to Borneo, occurring in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia and is found in lowland primary rainforest near and along the rivers up to 600 m in elevation. It is a scarce resident in East Malaysia. As the area of lowland forest is being lost owing to illegal logging and land conversion, this species now fall under the category of Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.



(Male)

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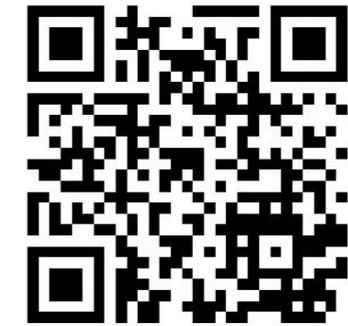
**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Pacat Kepala Biru

**English:**

Blue-headed Pitta



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(Female)

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VU

Vulnerable

IUCN Red List

ver 3.1, 2017

IUCN status



## Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*)

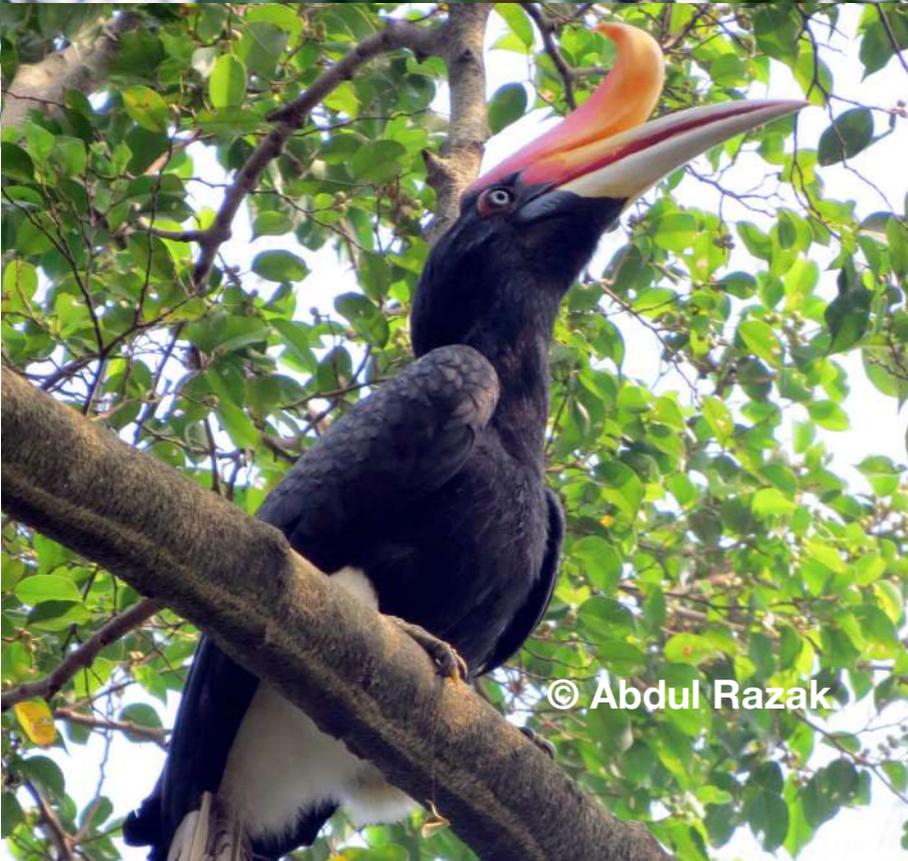
The Rhinoceros Hornbill is one of the largest birds in rainforests of Asia. It is found in the forest from lowlands to 1,300 m above sea level. It usually pairs for life and spends its entire life on treetops. This hornbill is the one most likely to be recognised by its call, though occurring at low density. *B. rhinoceros* has a black body, with a white abdomen and tail crossed by a wide black band. It also has an ivory white tinged yellow bill at the base and orange-red with a yellow tip casque (helmet-like structure) on top of the bill (Strange & Jeyarajasingam, 1993), which helps to amplify their calls.

The calls or the sounds can be distinguished by being differently pitched in male and females with forceful hok, hok notes of the male from the female's hak, hak notes.

This species is affected by the removal of their large nesting trees. It is also hunted for its meat and tail feathers, which are used for traditional costumes and dancing (BirdLife International, 2018).



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© Abdul Razak



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**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Enggang, Enggang Badak

**English:**

Rhinoceros Hornbill



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VU

Vulnerable  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2018

IUCN status



**Near Threatened**



## **Chestnut-collared Kingfisher (*Actenoides concretus*)**

*Actenoides concretus* is commonly known as the Chestnut-collared Kingfisher. The adult size of this species is medium with a proportioned head. The Chestnut-collared Kingfisher has a shaggy crest, large and thick bill, blue head and back, and white throat and collar. It has a white underbody and blue band across its chest. For the male, it does not have the rufous band across its white abdomen. An addition, the female, some feather tips along the blue breast are rufous. Their diet includes fishes, insects, scorpions and small snakes. *Actenoides concretus* is confined to the Sundaic

lowlands, which include Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam. It was regionally extinct in Singapore. Its habitat constitutes the closed canopy forest and regenerating logged forest. Due to forest loss, forest fires and land conversion, this species is listed as Near Threatened (NT) in the IUCN status.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Pekaka Rimba Besar,  
Pekaka Tengkuk Perang

**English:**

Rufous-collared Kingfisher,  
Chestnut-collared  
Kingfisher



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
**IUCN Red List**  
ver 3.1, 2016

**IUCN status**

## Green lora (*Aegithina viridissima*)

The Green lora (*Aegithina viridissima*) is a species of bird in the Aegithinidae family measuring about 13 cm in length. This species is found in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests and subtropical or tropical mangrove forests. This species is threatened by habitat loss.

The male *A. viridissima* has mainly green plumage, black tail and split yellow eye ring. While the female *A. viridissima* has greenish yellow underparts, less distinct eye ring, yellow wing bar. The appearance of *A. viridissima* is similar to the Common lora, *A. tiphia*. They can be distinguished by the pale green underparts with a yellow vent and the split yellow eye ring on *A. viridissima*.



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**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Burung Kunyit Hijau,  
lora Hijau, Kunyit Bakau

**English:**

Green lora



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

IUCN status



## Malay Blue-Banded Kingfisher (*Alcedo peninsulae*)

A medium-sized river kingfisher, *Alcedo peninsulae* is commonly known as the Malay Blue-banded Kingfisher. It feeds on fish, crustaceans, insects and larvae, and small lizards. This species has dark blackish upperparts with a silvery-azure streak from the mantle to rump. It also has a long, white neck-flash with rufous tip, white throat and rest of underparts in the male are whitish with bold blue bands across the chest. While the female has rich orange underparts but lacking breast-band.

The Malay Blue-banded Kingfisher is listed as Near Threatened (NT) by IUCN Red List due to habitat loss.



(Female)

**Common Name**

**Malay:**  
Pekaka Bukit  
**English:**  
Malay Blue-banded  
Kingfisher



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(Female)



(Male)



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
**IUCN Red List**  
ver 3.1, 2016

**IUCN status**

## Gould's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus stellatus*)

*Batrachostomus stellatus* or commonly known as the Gould's frogmouth is a species of bird in the Podargidae family. It is found in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests. This species is listed as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss.

The Gould's frogmouth has two colour morphs which are chestnut and dark chestnut. The adult has whitish collar across the mantle, bold whitish spots on its wings, greyish-white spots on scapular, and underparts with oval shaped buffish markings. It feeds on insects in the lower storeys of the forest.





**Common Name**

**Malay:**  
Burung Segan Bintik Emas,  
Segan Bintik Mas

**English:**  
Gould's Frogmouth



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
**IUCN Red List**  
ver 3.1, 2017

**IUCN status**

## Asian Green Broadbill (*Calyptomena viridis*)

The Asian Green Broadbill or Takau Hijau in Malay is a small bird measuring about 19 cm long. It has a chunky and plump body, with a short tail and a large head adorned above its wide and short beak with a dense tuft of short feathers hiding its beak partially. This species can be found in lowland forests, in the middle and lower storeys, and often near the rivulets.

Scientifically known as *Calyptomena viridis*, the Asian Green Broadbill has an excellent camouflage and is difficult to spot among leaves. The male species has a fully emerald green plumage and has markings of black dots behind each of its ears, on its wings and on its neck, while the female is slightly dull and does not have black spots on its neck. This species feeds largely on figs.





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**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Burung Seluwit, Takau Hijau, Takau Rimba Hujan, Takau Selawit, Tekau Hijau

**English:**

Asian Green Broadbill,  
Green Broadbill



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NT

Near Threatened  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

IUCN status



## Fluffy-backed Babbler (*Macronus ptilosus*)

*Macronus ptilosus* or Fluffy-backed Babbler is a small tit-babbler measuring around 17 cm in length. This babbler has a very dark brown plumage with rufous chestnut crown, black throat and sides of the head. The blue orbital skin and rictal areas can be seen near its eyes. When it is calling, the white spots on the sides of its neck can be seen. Usually, this bird moves solitarily or in pairs near the ground. Because of its skulking habits (always keeping out of sight), this tit-babbler is more often heard than seen.

The Fluffy-backed Babbler occurs in Brunei, Malaysia, Sumatra and Thailand, where it is usually found in forest and forest edges. Presently, the population of this species is decreasing owing to illegal logging and land conversion of its habitat. It is categorised as Near Threatened (NT) under the IUCN Red List.



**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Rimba Pong Pong

**English:**

Fluffy-backed Babbler,  
Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
**IUCN Red List**  
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**IUCN status**

## Rufous-crowned Babbler (*Malacopteron magnum*)

*Malacopteron magnum* is a medium-sized bird, measuring around 18 cm (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012; Phillipps, 2014). It is commonly known as the Rufous-crowned Babbler or known locally as Rimba Tua Besar or Kekicau Ubun Merah in Malay (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012). This bird has a rufous crown, black nape and olive-brown mantle. The underpart is whitish with greyish streaks on its breast (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012).

It is a common resident throughout the forest of the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo and Palawan. It is distributed at low elevations and hills up to 500 m (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson, 2012; Phillipps, 2014). It is categorised as Near Threatened as the population is declining due to habitat loss (IUCN, 2017).



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**Common Name**

**Malay:**

Kekicau Ubun Merah,  
Rimba Tua Besar

**English:**

Rufous-crowned Babbler



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**NT**

Near Threatened  
IUCN Red List  
ver 3.1, 2016

IUCN status

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# THREATENED BIRD SPECIES OF MALAYSIA

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