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EN Timor Green-pigeon *Treron psittaceus*

2009 IUCN Red List Category (as evaluated by BirdLife International - the official Red List Authority for birds for IUCN): **Endangered**

Justification The population of this species is suspected to be declining very rapidly, concurrent with the rapid reduction in its lowland forest habitat. As a result, it is classified as Endangered.

Family/Sub-family Columbidae

Species name author (Temminck, 1808)

Taxonomic source(s) Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993)

Synonyms *Treron psittacea* Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993), *Treron psittacea* BirdLife International (2004), *Treron psittacea* BirdLife International (2000), *Treron psittacea* Collar et al. (1994), *Treron psittacea* Collar and Andrew (1988)

Taxonomic note Gender agreement of species name follows David and Gosselin (2002b).

Identification 28 cm. Medium-sized, arboreal, green pigeon. Male slightly greyish-green, brighter on throat, rump and uppertail-coverts. Greyish-black wings with coverts fringed yellow. Green central tail-feathers, remainder grey with darker band. Vent and undertail-coverts white, tipped green. Female duller green with paler yellow wing-covert fringes. Similar spp. Only other



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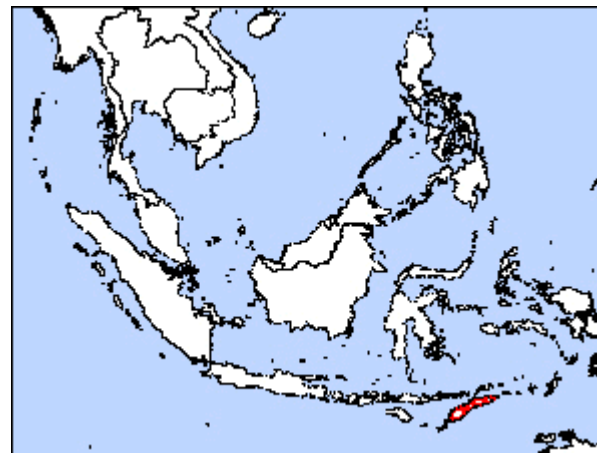
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green-coloured pigeon in range is Rose-crowned Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus regina*, and this has orange and yellow patches on underparts and pink crown in the male. Voice Series of 6-7 accelerating, descending see-saw notes and medley of high-pitched bubbling and gargling sounds.

| Population estimate | Population trend | Range estimate (breeding/resident) | Country endemic? |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2,000 - 5,000 | decreasing | 19,800 km ² | No |

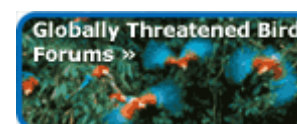
Range & population *Treron psittaceus* is endemic to Timor-Leste, West Timor and its satellite islands, Semau (though there is no recent data) and Roti, Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, where it appears to be uncommon or rare, and apparently very local. It has been infrequently recorded during recent fieldwork, although it is perhaps overlooked owing to its inconspicuous and very wary disposition. It is thought to have declined recently throughout West Timor, but is more common in Timor-Leste¹, being described as scarce to moderately common at all locations visited during survey work in 2003². Flocks of 50 birds and exceptionally 140 have been recorded in Timor recently and one record of a bird well away from forest indicates it may tolerate degraded habitat⁴.



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Ecology: It inhabits primary and tall secondary, lowland dry and monsoon-forest, mostly in the extreme lowlands, straggling up to 1,000 m^{2,3,4}. It may be nomadic in response to the fruiting cycle of figs, and is usually encountered in small flocks containing tens of birds, exceptionally up to 140 individuals⁴.

Threats Loss of monsoon-forest has been severe in its range, and together, this and hunting represent the greatest threats to the species. The mountains of Timor-Leste were heavily deforested early in the 20th



century, but habitat destruction has recently accelerated: an estimated 50% decline in remaining montane forest-cover occurred during Indonesian rule (1975-1999). Monsoon-forests now only cover an estimated 4% of West Timor, scattered in around seven unprotected patches that are continually declining in size due to intensive grazing and burning. Pigeons (including this species) are hunted extensively in Timor and have been in preceding decades during military occupation; the species is considered delicious and guns are widely available⁴.

Conservation measures underway Recent surveys have identified several areas in West Timor to be of conservation importance to the islands' endemic avifauna, one of which, Bipolo (though now only c.2 km²), supports the species and another, Camplong, did until very recently. Another site, Gunung Timau, is subject to an initiative to include it within the Gunung Mutis protected area. Recent surveys in Timor-Leste have located at approximately ten sites⁴. The recently designated Nino Konis Santana National Park supports a population estimated to number in the low hundreds⁴.

Conservation measures proposed Conduct surveys for the species using tape playback in remaining monsoon-forest tracts in Timor-Leste (when security problems allow) and West Timor, to assess its current distribution, movements, ecological constraints, status and threats². Propose key sites for establishment as strict protected areas. Strongly support initiatives to establish a nature reserve encompassing Gunung Mutis and Gunung Timau. Initiate conservation awareness programmes to elicit local support for forest conservation and reduce pigeon hunting.

References BirdLife International (2001). 1. Trainor et al. (2004). 2. Mauro (2003). 3. Trainor and Soares (2004). 4. C. Trainor in litt. (2007).

Further web sources of information

[Fully detailed species accounts from the Threatened birds of Asia: the BirdLife International Red Data Book \(BirdLife International 2001\), together with new information collated since the publication of the Red Data Book](#)

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