GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Pycnonotus cafer***

Pycnonotus cafer 简体中文 正體中文 **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Pycnonotidae

Common name red-vented bulbul (English), Rußbülbül (German), Bulbul à ventre rouge (French), Bulbul cafre (Spanish)

Synonym

Similar species

Summary Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbul) is a noisy, gregarious bird distinguished by a conspicuous crimson patch below the root of the tail. It is aggressive and chases off other bird species and may also help to spread the seeds of other invasive species. It is an agricultural pest, destroying fruit, flowers, beans, tomatoes and peas. It occurs naturally from Pakistan to southwest China and has been introduced to many Pacific Islands, where it has caused serious problems by eating fruit and vegetable crops, as well as nectar, seeds and buds.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Species Description
Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbul) is about 8.25 inches in length (Berger, 1972) and weighs between 26 and 45 grams (Long, 1981). In general it is dark and is crested (Pratt, 1987) with a white abdomen and rump and is crimson under the tail coverts (Berger, 1981). The immature bird is like the adult except there is some brownish edging on the feathers (Hawai'i Audubon Society, 1993). The red-vented bulbul is larger than the red-whiskered bulbul (*P. jocosus*) (Berger, 1981)
The male and female are similar in appearance, although the male tends to be slightly larger, (Stuart & Stuart 1999, in Vander Velde, 2002). \"It is usually found in trees (Kumar & Bhatt 2000), a quick flyer with a flight that is recognisable by being somewhat bouncy rather than even.\" (Vander Velde, 2002) \"The nest is cup-shaped, made of plant matter, with spider webs binding the outside. It is lined with soft material. In it are laid 2 to 5 pale pink to reddish eggs marked with darker spots and streaks. There are often two to three broods each year. When not breeding, they tend to form large flocks and gather together in communal roosts. (Islam & Williams 2000)\" (Vander Velde, 2002)

Habitat Description
Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbuls) live around secondary growth and shrub, cultivation, parks and gardens. They are also found in forest and agricultural areas. (Dept. of Agriculture - WA)

Reproduction
Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbuls) are known to breed year round (Hawai'i Audubon Society, 1993), with a peak between January and October (Berger, 1981). The birds can have up to three broods per season (Long, 1981). At any one time about two to four eggs are laid (Hawai'i Audubon Society, 1993). The eggs are pinkish-white base colour and are profoundly blotched with purplish brown (Berger, 1981). The nest is cup-shaped and made of rootlets and sometimes cobwebs (Long, 1981). The incubation period is about 14 days (Berger, 1981).\" (Shehata, 1996)

Nutrition
Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbul) consumes fruits (e.g. bananas, lychees and papaya), berries, insects, flower nectar, seeds and buds, (Dept. of Agriculture - WA undated). \"Its primary food is berries and fruit. It is known to also eat plant buds, flowers, but it will also eat insects and small lizards (Islam & Williams 2000) and will come to sugar water. (Ralph 1984)\" (Vander Velde, 2002)

General Impacts
Pycnonotus cafer (red-vented bulbuls) are reported to destroy fruits, flowers, beans, tomatoes, peas and ripe fruit (e.g. bananas and other soft fruits), (Dept. of Agriculture - WA undated). They may also help in the spread of seeds of other invasive species.

Management Info
Preventative measures: In March 1977, the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed that *Pycnonotus cafer* (red-vented bulbuls) be added to the list of injurious species that should not be imported into the United States without a special permit, (Dept. of Agriculture - WA undated).

Pathway
Islam and Williams (2000) describe the red-vented bulbul as nesting in some very unorthodox locations within its native range, including the motor of a ceiling fan and the end of a curtain rod, both within buildings. It could even be speculated that a pair of birds could have constructed a nest in a container on a ship that was readying to come to the Marshalls. (Vander Velde, 2002)A fishing boat, originating from an Asian or another Pacific Islands country where the red-vented bulbul is established, could have brought some birds with them. (Vander Velde, 2002)

Principal source: Nancy Vander Velde, 2002. The Red-vented bulbul has come to Micronesia. Aliens - Number 16 2002. ISSN: 1173-5988 (ISSG)

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] AUSTRALIA
[4] FRENCH POLYNESIA
[2] NEW CALEDONIA
[1] SAMOA
[2] UNITED STATES
[1] FIJI
[1] MARSHALL ISLANDS
[1] NEW ZEALAND
[1] TONGA

Red List assessed species 4: CR = 3; EN = 1;

Acrocephalus caffer **EN**
Hemignathus lucidus **CR**
Myadestes palmeri **CR**
Pomarea nigra **CR**

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13 references found for **Pycnonotus cafer**

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Summary: This report reviews available information on the adverse effects of 14 alien vertebrates considered to be significant invasive species on islands of the South Pacific and Hawaii, supplementing the authors experience with that of other workers.

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Summary: Available from: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/red-vented-bulbul [Accessed 12 March 2010]
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Gill, B.J. Hunt, G.R. and Sirgouant S. 1995. Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*) in New Caledonia. Notornis, 42: 214-215.

General information

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Summary: Cette étude suggère que le Martin triste et le Bulbul à ventre rouge représentent une menace importante pour la survie du Monarque de Tahiti.
Department of Agriculture and Food - Western Australia (WA). undated. *Pycnonotus cafer* Red-vented Bulbul
Summary: Available from: http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/content/pw/vp/bird/redventbulbul.htm [Accessed 11 February 2008].
ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2005. Online Database *Pycnonotus cafer*
Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.
Available from: http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Pycnonotus+cafer&p_format=&p_ifx=plglt&p_lang= [Accessed March 2005]
Pascal, M., Barr&#65533;, N., De Garine-Wichatitsky, Lorvelec, O., Fr&#65533;tey, T., Brescia, F., Jourdan, H. 2006. Les peuplements n&#65533;o-cal&#65533;doniens de vert&#65533;b&#65533;br&#65533;s : invasions, disparitions. Pp 111-162, in M.-L. Beauvais *et al*., : Les esp&#65533;ces envahissantes dans l&#65533;archipel n&#65533;o-cal&#65533;donien, Paris, IRD &#65533;ditions, 260 p.+ c&#65533;d&#65533;rom
Summary: Synth&#65533;se des introductions d esp&#65533;ces de vert&#65533;br&#65533;s en Nouvelle-Cal&#65533;donie et &#65533;valuation de leurs impacts.
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Thibault, J.C., Meyer, J.Y. 2001. Contemporary extinctions and population declines of the monarchs (*Pomarea* spp.) in French Polynesia, South Pacific. Oryx 35 (1), 73-80.
Summary: Des enqu&#65533;tes intensives conduites entre 1998 et 2000 indiquent que quatre sous-esp&#65533;ces de Monarques se sont &#65533;teintes de cinq &#65533;les de l archipel des Marquises dans les derni&#65533;res d&#65533;cennies. L introduction du Rat noir en est la cause principale et la pr&#65533;sence r&#65533;cente d oiseaux introduits agressifs constituent une menace supplementaire.
Vander Velde, Nancy., 2002. The Red-vented bulbul has come to Micronesia. Aliens - Number 16 2002. ISSN: 1173-5988 (ISSG)
Summary: A report on the Red-vented bulbul written by Nancy for the Aliens news letter.