- 2. Identification and guarding of breeding sites.
- 3. Provision of artificial nests in (well-guarded) trees (see Meyburg 1981).
- 3. Law enforcement with regard to the hunting and trading of birds of prey.
- 4. Control on the use of pesticides.

But above all, rehabilitation of the Brahminy Kite, and actually of all other birds of prey, through extension programmes, would greatly assist to such measures. The appropriate choice of this raptor as Jakarta's symbol is the first important step.

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The conservation status of the forest birds of Siquijor, Philippines

FORKTAIL 8 (1993); 89 - 96

T. D. EVANS, P. MAGSALAY, G. C. L. DUTSON and T. M. BROOKS

Siquijor is a small island in the central or Visayan region of the Philippines. During a student expedition (the Cambridge Philippines Rainforest Project 1991) in 1991, three days were spent surveying the remnant forests there. The major ornithological interest of the island is its population of the threatened Streak-breasted Bulbul *Ixos signijorensis*, and there are also several endemic bird subspecies.

FOREST STATUS ON SIQUIJOR

Siquijor is a hilly, coralline island, covering 344 km² and reaching 628 m altitude. Only four significant patches of forest remain (Figure 1), which cover a total of 781 ha, and are all in reserves controlled by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Three of these patches were visited by the expedition in the company of forest reserve staff and Perla Magsalay, a native Siquijorian and National Coordinator of Asian Wetland Bureau - Philippines, between 27 and 30 August 1991.

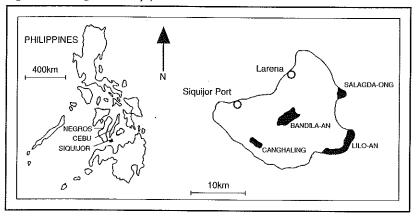
The last detailed report on Siquijor was by Rand and Rabor (1960), who presented a species list and a physical description of the island. They described only two patches of forest, both of the lowland evergreen dipterocarpmolave type, at Lilo-an (then 400 ha), and Bandila-an (then 500 ha). They observed logging and encroachment at both sites.

These two sites are now much smaller (Figure 1), and we noted signs of continuing degradation, which should be halted as soon as possible. Lilo-an is under particular pressure - the understorey has been replaced by maize over about 90% of the area, so the site is more like parkland than forest. This has happened in the last five years, since the visit of J. Hornskov and S. Jensen in 1987 (P. Magsalay pers. obs.). Forest species lost include Orange-bellied Flowerpecker Dicaeum trigonostigma and Yellow-bellied Whistler Pachycephala philippinensis, while the Streak-breasted Bulbul Ixos siquijorensis now occurs in comparatively low numbers (Figures 2 and 3). Bandila-an has the best remaining forest and retains a typical forest avifauna, but a few larger species are apparently extinct even there e.g. Red Junglefowl Gallus gallus, which was noted to be on the verge of extinction by Rand and Rabor (1960).

The two small forest patches not mentioned by Rand and Rabor are also currently under pressure from logging and encroachment (pers. obs.). Apart from a few parts of the Bandila-an site, no primary forest remains on Siguijor.

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Figure 1 Remaining forest on Siquijor



NEW RECORDS FOR SIQUIJOR

Siquijor has an impoverished avifauna of around 90 breeding species (including the new records below), due to its small size, recent origins and, perhaps, recent deforestation (Rand and Rabor 1960). There are no records of, amongst others, tits, drongos, woodpeckers, hornbills or barbets.

We noted seven 'new' species for the island (not listed by Dickinson et al. 1991), of which six are probably resident breeders: Spotted Dove (common), Uniform Swiftlet Collocalia vanikorensis (Lilo-an and Bandila-an), Whitebellied Swiftlet C. esculenta (Bandila-an), Asian Palm-Swift Cypsiurus balasiensis (one or two at Lilo-an), Golden-bellied Gerygone Gerygone sulphurea (three heard in coastal scrub at Larena), Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava (five migrants seen at Lilo-an), and Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus (ubiquitous in towns and farmland, including a roost of 100 in the town of Maria).

In addition, a frigatebird *Fregata* was seen at Lilo-an. Both Great *F. minor* and Lesser Frigatebirds *F. aquila* are known from the Philippines, but neither has been recorded from Siquijor. Also one Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* and three Bridled Terns *Sterna anaethetus* were seen from a ferry between Negros and Siquijor on 27 August. The Siquijor list now stands at 121° species.

ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES

A special effort was made to locate species of conservation interest. We saw four of the five endemic subspecies in reasonable numbers in the remaining forest (Figure 3). These were Streak-breasted Bulbul *Ixos siquijorensis*

siquijorensis, Yellow-bellied Whistler Pachycephala philippinensis siquijorensis, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker Dicaeum trigonostigma besti and Everett's White-eye Zosterops everetti siquijorensis. Only the bulbul was present at Lilo-an, but all were present at Canghaling and Bandila-an. They occur at high densities in the habitat which remains, so are not under immediate danger of extinction. However, this could change very quickly if any more forest is cleared - it seems that the whistler, flowerpecker and white-eye are already extinct at Lilo-an. They will require careful monitoring.

There are no recent records of the Philippine Hanging-Parrot Loriculus philippensis siquijorensis (Parkes and Dickinson 1991), although they had been reported to Perla Magsalay from the vicinity of Bandila-an. These could have referred to escaped cage-birds of other subspecies, as is apparently the case on Cebu (Rabor 1959), where the endemic subspecies L. p. chrysonotus is also considered extinct.

THREATENED AND NEAR-THREATENED SPECIES

Nine threatened or near-threatened species (Collar and Andrew 1988) are known from Siquijor. Of these, Nicobar Pigeon Caloenas nicobarica (threatened) is known from two specimens, Spotted Imperial Pigeon Ducula carola (near-threatened) from one specimen, Malaysian Plover Charadrius peronii (near-threatened) from one specimen, and Japanese Night-Heron Gorsachius goisagi (threatened) from four specimens. All are probably migrants or occasional visitors. The other five probably once bred on the island.

The Rufous-lored Kingfisher *Todirhamphus winchelli* (near-threatened) is a scarce lowland forest species endemic to the southern Philippines. Two juveniles were seen at Lilo-an, where the habitat has been severely degraded. The population on Siquijor must now be tiny.

The Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* (threatened) formerly bred commonly throughout the Philippines. In the last 15 years, populations have crashed, due mainly to trapping for the cage-bird trade. Extinction seems imminent (F. Lambert verbally 1992). Only Palawan, Mindanao and Luzon still support more than scattered pairs and, even there, all accessible nests are raided annually. It is apparently extinct on Negros (Brooks *et al.* in prep.) and Cebu (P. Magsalay pers. obs.), and extremely rare on Mindoro (Dutson *et al.* in press). One pair remains on Siquijor, at Lilo-an. This pair is well-known locally and the nest has been robbed in each of the last five years, making their future on the island very bleak.

The Philippine Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus philippensis and the Malayan Night-Heron Gorsachius melanolophus (both near-threatened) have not been found on Siquijor since 1891 (Rand and Rabor 1960) and are likely to be extinct.

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The Streak-breasted Bulbul Ixos siquijorensis (threatened) is known from four islands. It formerly occurred on the mountain-tops of Cebu (I. s. monticola), where it is apparently extinct, following total deforestation of the island, although the widespread Philippine Bulbul I. philippinus was still abundant in scrub there (Rabor 1959). It is found on the small islands of Romblon and Tablas (I. s. cinereiceps, Dickinson et al. 1991), where very little forest remains (Swedish Space Corporation 1988). R. J. Timmins visited both islands in 1992 and found that the bulbul was numerous in the very limited habitat remaining. The subspecies I. s. cinereiceps appears very different in the field and may warrant treatment as a separate species from I. s. siquijorensis (R. J. Timmins verbally 1992). On Siquijor, as on Romblon and Tablas, I. philippinus is absent, and I. s. siquijorensis occurs at all altitudes. We found it common in the three forest patches visited and in dense second growth. It may or may not require forest for breeding, but the remaining forest habitat is probably sufficient for several thousand individuals (given a density of maybe 1-3 pairs per hectare). Scrub is plentiful in the hillier parts of the island, but the comparatively low encounter rate at Lilo-an suggests that dense forest is the preferred habitat. The bird merits its threatened status, and should be considered Rare if it can breed in second growth, and Vulnerable if not.

The Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis* was also formerly known from Siquijor. We did not see it, but it was seen at Lilo-an in 1987 (P. Magsalay pers. obs.) and forest guards reported 'green parrots' there in 1991. The species, although not listed in Collar and Andrew (1988), is under severe pressure. It is apparently extinct on Negros (Brooks *et al.* in prep.) and Cebu, virtually so on Mindoro (Dutson *et al.* in press), and heavily collected throughout its range for the pet trade (R. Wirth *in litt.* 1991), so may warrant inclusion in the next Red Data book.

CONCLUSION

Very little forest remains on Siquijor, and it may be under threat. Four of the five endemic subspecies are not under immediate threat, but the fifth may be extinct. Three globally threatened species still breed, but only one can be considered secure. These rare forest birds are currently vulnerable to destruction of the last fragments of their habitat - several species are now extinct at Lilo-an, where the habitat has been degraded, and some species have been wholly lost from the island. Improved protection is urgently required, particularly the prevention of further logging, of clearance for cultivation inside the official reserves, and of trapping.

We wish to thank our field companions, Derio Asane, Rob Timmins and Jing-Jing Toledo and the DENR on Siguijor for their invaluable help.

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APPENDIX

AN UPDATED LIST OF SIQUIJOR'S BIRDS

	1888	1907		1991					
	-1891	-1954	Lilo-an	Canghaling	Bandila-an	Other			
BLUE-BREASTED QUAIL Coturnix chinensis	-	С	_	_	_				
RED JUNGLEFOWL Gallus gallus	S	CR	-	_	_	_			
WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK Dendrocygna arcuata	SB	C	-	_	_	_			
E PHILIPPINE DUCK Anas luzonica	S? (unconfirmed in Dickinson et al. (1991)								
DOLLARBIRD Eurystomus orientalis	SB	R	1	4	_	_			
COMMON KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis	SB	С	-	-	-	_			
VARIABLE KINGFISHER Ceyx lepidus	В	-	-	-	-	_			
RUDDY KINGFISHER Halcyon coromanda	Mc	R	-	-	-	-			
WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER H. smyrnensis	В	CR	_	-	-	-			
E+ RUFOUS-LORED KINGFISHER Todirhamphus winchelli	В	_	2	_	-	-			
COLLARED KINGFISHER T. chloris	В	CR	26	3	2	+			
BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER Merops philippinus	SB	CR	_	-	-	-			
CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO Clamator coromandus	В	_	_	-	-	-			
HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO Cuculus fugax	-	R	_	-	-	-			
ORIENTAL CUCKOO C. saturatus	В	R	-	? (onc	sp. seen 28	Aug.)			
RUSTY-BREASTED CUCKOO Cacomantis sepulcralis!	-	R	-	- '	٠.	_			
ASIAN KOEL Eudynamys scolopacea	В	CR	-	-	-	-			
E PHILIPPINE COUCAL Centropus viridis	В	CR	7	12	19	-			
LESSER COUCAL G. bengalensis	В	-	_	-	-	_			
E* PHILIPPINE COCKATOO Cacatua haematuropygia	В	CR	1	_	-	_			
BLUE-NAPED PARROT Tanygnathus lucionensis	В	CR	-	_	-				
E PHILIPPINE HANGING-PARROT Loriculus philippensis	SB	С	-	_	_	-			
WHITE-BELLIED SWIFTLET Collocalia esculenta	_	_	40	2 '	7	+			
E PYGMY SWIFTLET C. troglodytes	В	CR	_	_	12	-			
UNIFORM SWIFTLET C. vanikorensis	_	_	40	_	1	_			
ASIAN PALM-SWIFT Cypsiurus balasiensis	-	_	_	-	_	_			
BROWN HAWK-OWL Ninox scutulata	-	R	-	_	_	_			
E PHILIPPINE HAWK-OWL N. philippensis	SB	CR	_	_	2	_			
METALLIC PIGEON Columba vitiensis	-	R	-	-	_	_			
SPOTTED DOVE Streptopelia chinensis	-	_	64	_	_	+			
ISLAND COLLARED-DOVE S. bitorquata	SB	CR	_	-	_	_			
PHILIPPINE CUCKOO-DOVE Macropygia tenuirostris3	-	R	_	1	_	_			
EMERALD DOVE Chalcophaps indica	В	CR	4	8	5	_			
ZEBRA DOVE Geopelia striata	_	Ra	71	6	2	_			
* NICOBAR PIGEON Caloenas nicobarica	В	CR	_	_	_	_			
E WHITE-EARED BROWN-DOVE Phapitreron leucotis	В	CR	4	4	13	_			
PINK-NECKED GREEN-PIGEON Treron vernans	SB	CR	26	_	_	_			
POMPADOUR GREEN-PIGEON T. pompadora	В	CR	_	_	_	_			
BLACK-CHINNED FRUIT-DOVE Ptilinopus leclancheri	_	R	_	_	_	_			
E+ SPOTTED IMPERIAL PIGEON Ducula carola	-	R	_	_	_	_			
GREEN IMPERIAL PIGEON D. actica	SB	C	_	_	_	_			
PIED IMPERIAL PIGEON D. bicolor	SB	CR	_	_	_	_			
SLATY-LEGGED CRAKE Rallina eurizonoides	S	_	_	_	_	_			
BARRED RAIL Gallirallus torquatus	В	С	_	_	_	_			
SLATY-BREASTED RAIL G. striatus	В	_	_	_	_	_			
PLAIN BUSH-HEN Amaurornis olivaceus	SB	_	_	_	_	_			
WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN Amaurornis phoenicurus	SB	C	_	_	_	_			
WHITE-BROWED CRAKE Porzana cinerea	SB	_	_	_	_	_			

						Andrew Company
	1888	1907		1991		
CSWITATI COTERO ON YOUR CO. H.	-1891		Lilo-an	Canghaling	Bandila-an	Other
SWINHOE'S SNIPE Gallinago megala	В	-	-	-	-	
WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus	SB	-	-	-	-	-
COMMON REDSHANK Tringa totanus	SB	-	-	-	-	-
WOOD SANDPIPER T. glareola	SB	-	-	-	-	-
COMMON SANDPIPER T. hypoleucos	-	C	-	-	-	-
GREY-TAILED TATFLER T. brevipes	SB	-	_	-	-	-
RUDDY TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres	В	-	-	-	-	-
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE Phalaropus lobatus	-	-	-	-	_	1
GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE Rostratula benghalensis	В	-	_	-	_	-
GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola	SB	C	_	-	-	-
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER P. fulva4	SB	С	_	-	_	_
KENTISH PLOVER Charadrius alexandrinus	S	_	_	_	_	_
MALAYSIAN PLOVER C. peronii	SB	_	-	_	_	_
MONGOLIAN PLOVER C. mongolus						
GREATER SAND PLOVER C. leschenaultii	. B	_	-	_	_	_
GREAT CRESTED-TERN Sterna bergii	В	С		_	_	_
BRIDLED TERN S. anaethetus	-	_	_	_		3
SOOTY TERN S. fuscata	В	_	_	_	_	-
WHISKERED TERN Chlidonias hybridus	B (or	nitted fro	m Dick	tinson et al.	10011	
BRAHMINY KITE Haliastur indus	S	CR	-	anson et ar.	1991)	
WHITE-BELLIED FISH-RAGLE Haliaeetus leucogaster	В	-	_		-	-
BESRA Accipiter virgatus		R		-	-	-
GREY-FACED BUZZARD Butastur indicus	SB	-	-	-	-	-
E+ PHILIPPINE HAWK-EAGLE Spizaetus philippensis	В	_	-	-	-	-
ORIENTAL HOBBY Falco severus	В	-	-	-	-	-
PEREGRINE FALCON F. peregrinus	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta		CR -	-	-	-	-
PACIFIC REEF-EGRET E. sacra	В	-	-	-	-	-
CATTLE EGRET Bubulcus ibis	В	_	-	-	-	-
	_	CR -	-	-	-	-
STRIATED HERON Butorides striatus	В	R	-	-	-	-
RUFOUS NIGHT-HERON Nycticorax caledonicus	SB	C	-	-	-	-
* JAPANESE NIGHT-HERON Gorsachius goisagi	-	R	-	-	-	-
+ MALAYAN NIGHT-HERON G. melanolophus	B	-	-	-	-	-
HOODED PITTA Pitta sordida	SB	CR	5	5	4	-
RED-BELLIED PITTA P. erythrogaster	В	R	-	-	-	-
GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE Gerygone sulphurea	-	-				3
BROWN SHRIKE Lanius cristatus	В	CR	-	-	-	~
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE L. schach	SB	CR	-	-	-	+
E YELLOW-BELLIED WHISTLER Pachycephala philippinensis	SB	$^{\rm CR}$	-	10	12	-
LARGE-BILLED CROW Corvus macrorhynchus	SB	CR	2	-	-	+
WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW Artamus leucorhynchus	SB	CR	37	3	5	-
BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE Oriolus chinensis	SB	CR	129	18	5	-
PIED TRILLER Lalage nigra	В	CR	63	-	_	-
PIED FANTAIL Rhipidura javanica	В	CR	35	3	3	_
BLACK-NAPED MONARCH Hypothymis azurea	В	CR	_	14	22	_
BLUE ROCK-THRUSH Monticola solitarius	В	CR	_	-	_	_
GREY-STREAKED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa griseisticta	В	CR	_	_		_
MANGROVE BLUE-FLYCATCHER Cyornis rufigaster	В	CR	_	3	10	-
ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN Copsychus saularis	В	CR	24	3	-	+
PIED BUSHCHAT Saxicola caprata	В	CR	9	_	_	+
ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING Aplonis panayensis	SB	CR	540	140	140	+
E COLETO Sarcops calvus	S	CR	340 4	140	34	т
BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica	В	R	6	-	.54	-
PACIFIC SWALLOW H. tabitica	В	CR	200+	-	-	-
CLECOW 12. CONTRICT	a	CK	200+	-	-	+

Conservation status of the forest birds of Siquijor, Phillipines

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1888 1907 -1891 -1954 Lilo-an Canghaling Bandila-an Other STRIATED SWALLOW H. striolata5 D E* STREAK-BREASTED BULBUL Ixos siquijorensis GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA Cisticola exilis EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE Zosterops everetti ARCTIC WARBLER Phylloscopus borealis TAWNY GRASSBIRD Megalurus timoriensis ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER Dicaeum trigonostigma SB E PYGMY FLOWERPECKER D. pygmaeum PURPLE-THROATED SUNBIRD Nectarinia sperata OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD N. jugularis CR EURASIAN TREE SPARROW Passer montanus YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava GREY WAGTAIL M. cinerea CR PADDYFIELD PIPIT Anthus rufulus6 CR PECHORA PIPIT A. gustavi WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA Lonchura leucogastra BLACK-HEADED MUNIA Lonchura malacca

E = species endemic to the Philippines

- * = included as 'threatened' in Collar and Andrew (1988)
- + = included as 'near-threatened' in Collar and Andrew (1988)

Numbers in the columns for Lilo-an, Cangbaling and Bandila-an refer to bird-day totals. A total of 27 observer-hours were spent surveying Lilo-an, 18 observer-hours at Balinga-an and 9 observer-hours at Cangbaling.

B = collected by D. C. Worcester and F. S. Bourns in 1891 (mainly from Bourns and Worcester, 1894)

- C = collected by A. Celestino in 1907-1908 (McGregor 1908)
- D = Dickinson et al. (1991)

Mc = McGregor (1909-1910)

R = collected or observed by D. S. Rabor, 1949-1954 (Rand and Rabor 1960)

Ra = Rabor et al. (1970)

S = collected by J. B. Steere in 1888 (Steere 1890).

- 1 = considered conspecific with C, variolosus by Dickinson et al. (1991)
- ² = considered conspecific with *T. capensis* by Dickinson *et al.* (1991)
- 3 = considered conspecific with M. phasianella by Dickinson et al. (1991)
- 4 = considered conspecific with P. dominica by Dickinson et al. (1991)
- 5 = considered conspecific with H. daurica by Dickinson et al. (1991)
- 6 = considered conspecific with A. novaeseelandiae by Dickinson et al. (1991)

Birds recorded during a visit to Bhutan in autumn 1991

C. INSKIPP AND T. P. INSKIPP

The birds recorded during a visit to Bhutan between 10 October and 10 November 1991 are documented. Brief details of habitats and approximate altitudes for the records are given. A total of 309 species was recorded, of which 21 were apparently first published records for Bhutan. Small numbers of 13 species of migrating birds of prey were seen during our visit.

In autumn 1991 we were very fortunate to be invited to visit friends working in Bhutan. We recorded 309 species including 21 for which there are no previously published records for the country. Our visit, between 10 October and 10 November, was outside the main breeding season and most altitudinal migrants and summer visitors had descended below 2500 m (please note all altitudes given are approximate). Above this altitude we recorded few birds, especially in the coniferous forests and shrubberies. In contrast, the broadleaved lower temperate and subtropical forests below 2100 m were alive with birds. The resident species were augmented by altitudinal migrants which had moved down for the winter, and also summer visitors to higher altitudes which were returning to their winter quarters.

Most of our birdwatching was in primary forest. Unlike neighbouring countries, Bhutan's original forest cover is still substantially intact. As much as 57% of the country is forested, only 16% is cultivated and almost all of the remaining land is above the tree-line. The government is implementing a very restrictive forest policy where the highest priority is conservation of soil, the water regime and climate. A Master Plan for Forestry Development is currently being finalised (Bhutan National Environmental Secretariat Planning Commission 1992). Because of its relatively unexploited environment Bhutan holds some of the best remaining representatives of habitat types found in the Himalayas (Sherpa 1991).

During our stay we were lucky to have two short treks. During our first trek we walked from the Phobjika valley (3000m) to Wangdiphodrang (1350m) via Gogona (3120m), Tashila (2850m) and Jenatimbaka (2050m). Until we reached Tashila the habitat mainly comprised upper temperate coniferous forest and pastures, with some mixed coniferous/broadleaved forest. Beyond Tashila we descended through primary broadleaved temperate and subtropical forest. Four Satyr Tragopans *Tragopan satyra* roosting near Gogona gompa were one of the highlights of the trek.

Our second trek was from Drugyel in the Paro valley (2150 m) through upper temperate forests of coniferous/broadleaved and pure coniferous trees