

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT AND LISTING PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT FORM

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Ptilinopus perousii perousii

COMMON NAME: many colored fruit dove

LEAD REGION: Region 1

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF: February 2003

STATUS/ACTION (Check all that apply):

New candidate

Continuing candidate

Non-petitioned

Petitioned - Date petition received: ____

90-day positive - FR date: ____

12-month warranted but precluded - FR date: ____

Is the petition requesting a reclassification of a listed species?

Listing priority change

Former LP: ____

New LP: ____

Latest date species first became a Candidate: _____

Candidate removal: Former LP: ____ (Check only one reason)

A - Taxon more abundant or widespread than previously believed or not subject to a degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status.

F - Range is no longer a U.S. territory.

M - Taxon mistakenly included in past notice of review.

N - Taxon may not meet the Act's definition of a species. @

X - Taxon believed to be extinct.

ANIMAL/PLANT GROUP AND FAMILY: Birds, Columbidae

HISTORICAL STATES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: American Samoa (all islands)

CURRENT STATES/COUNTIES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: American Samoa (all islands)

LEAD REGION CONTACT (Name, phone number): Scott McCarthy, 503-231-6131

LEAD FIELD OFFICE CONTACT (Office, name, phone number): Pacific Islands (Ecological Services), Marilet A. Zablan, 808-541-3441

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION (Describe habitat, historic vs. current range, historic vs. current population estimates (# populations, #individuals/population), etc.):

This subspecies is found in American Samoa on the four main islands of Tutuila, Olosega, Ofu, and Tau, and in Western Samoa. Another subspecies, P. p. mariae, is found in Fiji and Tonga. The total population for all islands in American Samoa was estimated at 85 birds in 1986 (Engbring and Ramsey 1989). Over 50 specimens were collected in 1923-24 during the Whitney South Sea Expedition (Murphy 1924; Banks 1984), suggesting a population decline. This taxon is found primarily in large tracts of mature rainforest, and occasionally in isolated stands of fruiting trees. It feeds primarily on fruits of several species fig trees (Ficus spp.), which appear to provide a key food resource for this species (Watling 1982; Engbring and Ramsey 1989). Populations in American Samoa are threatened by loss of rainforest habitat for urbanization and agriculture, the small number of individuals known, catastrophes such as hurricanes, and hunting. The population in American Samoa is the only population of this species under U.S. jurisdiction. The status of populations in other areas is not known.

THREATS (Describe threats in terms of the five factors in section 4 of the ESA providing specific, substantive information. If this is a removal of a species from candidate status or a change in listing priority, explain reasons for change):

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.

Habitat destruction is the primary threat to this species, which requires large tracts of native rainforest containing mature fig trees (Engbring and Ramsey 1989). Clearing and development of land reduces the amount of habitat available on Tutuila, Ofu, and Olosega. Hurricanes pose an additional threat to remaining forest habitat on all islands.

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

Bird hunting may be a potentially significant threat. This species is less preferred as game than larger birds, but its flocking behavior and tendency to congregate at fruiting trees may make it vulnerable to hunting (Banks 1984; Engbring and Ramsey 1989).

C. Disease or predation.

Nest predation by rats (Rattus sp.) is an important threat to many Pacific island birds (Atkinson 1977, 1985), and may play a role in limiting populations of the many-colored fruit dove. Little is known about the distribution or importance of avian diseases in American Samoa (Atkinson 2000), but introduced diseases are a serious threat to birds in the Hawaiian Islands (Warner 1968; van Riper et al. 1986; Atkinson et al. 1995).

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.

Currently, there is no formal or informal protection given to this species.

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Naturally occurring demographic or genetic events can cause instability in small populations,

and may threaten populations of the many-colored fruit dove in American Samoa. Populations are at risk from hurricanes, random variation in sex ratio, and inbreeding depression, a decrease in vigor and viability often associated with low population numbers.

FOR RECYCLED PETITIONS:

- a. Is listing still warranted? ___
- b. To date, has publication of a proposal to list been precluded by other higher priority listing actions? ___
- c. Is a proposal to list the species as threatened or endangered in preparation? ___
- d. If the answer to c. above is no, provide an explanation of why the action is still precluded.

LAND OWNERSHIP (Estimate proportion Federal/state/local government/private, identify non-private owners): Private.

PRELISTING (Describe status of conservation agreements or other conservation activities):

The U.S. National Park of American Samoa may provide some protection for this bird. Researchers from the United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division are beginning a study to assess the severity and urgency of the risk from avian diseases, especially avian malaria (Plasmodium relictum), in the National Park of American Samoa (Atkinson 2000).

REFERENCES (Identify primary sources of information (e.g., status reports, petitions, journal publications, unpublished data from species experts) using formal citation format):

Amerson, A.B., Jr., W.A. Whistler, and T.D. Schwaner. 1982. Wildlife and wildlife habitat of American Samoa. II. Accounts of flora and Fauna. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 151 pp.

Atkinson, I.A.E. 1977. A reassessment of factors, particularly Rattus rattus L., that influenced the decline of endemic forest birds in the Hawaiian Islands. Pacific Science 31:109-133.

Atkinson, I.A.E. 1985. The spread of commensal species of Rattus to oceanic islands and their effects on island avifaunas. Pages 35-81 in P. J. Moors, ed. Conservation of island birds. Tech. Publ. No. 3, Int. Coun. Bird Preserv., Cambridge, England.

Atkinson, C.T., K.L. Woods, R.J. Dusek, L. Sileo, and W.M. Iko. 1995. Wildlife disease and conservation in Hawaii: Pathogenicity of avian malaria (Plasmodium relictum) in experimentally infected Iiwi (Vestiaria coccinea). Parasitology 111:S59-S69.

Atkinson, C.T. 2000. Risk assessment for selected avian diseases in Hawaiian and Pacific parks. United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, unpublished research proposal. Banks, R.C. 1984. Bird specimens from American Samoa. Pacific Science 38:150-169.

Banks, R.C. 1984. Bird specimens from American Samoa. Pacific Science 38:150-169.

Engbring, J., and F.L. Ramsey. 1989. A 1986 survey of the forest birds of American Samoa.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 145 pp.

Murphy, R.C. 1924. Birds collected during the Whitney South Sea Expedition. II. American Museum Novitates 124:1-13.

Watling, D. 1982. Birds of Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. Millwood Press, Wellington, New Zealand. 176 pp.

LISTING PRIORITY (* after number)

THREAT

Magnitude	Immediacy	Taxonomy	Priority
High	Imminent	Monotypic genus	1
		Species	2
		Subspecies/population	3
	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	4
		Species	5
		Subspecies/population	6 *
Moderate to Low	Imminent	Monotypic genus	7
		Species	8
		Subspecies/population	9
	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	10
		Species	11
		Subspecies/population	12

Rationale for listing priority number:

Magnitude:

Imminence:

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Lead Regions must obtain written concurrence from all other Regions within the range of the species before recommending changes to the candidate list, including listing priority changes; the Regional Director must approve all such recommendations. The Director must concur on all additions of species to the candidate list, removal of candidates, and listing priority changes.

Approve: Rowan Gould March 6, 2003
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Concur: _____
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Do not concur: _____
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Director's Remarks:

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Date of annual review: February 2003
Conducted by: _____

Comments:

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