

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?

RED-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus cafer*

The threat: The Red-vented bulbul is a major pest to agriculture and horticulture and it has the potential to have negative impacts on New Zealand's native species. It is aggressive, chasing off other birds, including native species, competing with them for food and space. This bird is a prolific breeder allowing populations to build rapidly to nuisance levels.

RED-VENTED BULBUL IN AUCKLAND?

The Ministry for Primary Industries has recently received confirmed reports that a small number of these birds are present in the wider Auckland area.

Red-vented bulbuls occur naturally from Pakistan to southwest China and they have established on a number of Pacific Islands. Evidence suggests that they spread to new land masses on board sea vessels which may be how these birds have got here.

Given the threat they pose to both agriculture and native plants and birds, the Ministry is working in partnership with Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation to eradicate this species from New Zealand and prevent their establishment here.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Red-vented bulbuls are the size of a starling. The one key feature that distinguishes Red-vented bulbuls from other birds commonly found in New Zealand is a small patch of bright red feathers beneath the tail.

The Red-vented bulbul also has a very distinctive call. You can hear the sound it makes at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/red-vented-bulbul>

FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE RED-VENTED BULBUL

- » Small-medium sized bird – larger than a sparrow, but smaller than a blackbird.
- » Approximately 20 cm in length.
- » Generally dark brown/black in colour with a light coloured belly and the distinctive crimson-red patch beneath the tail.
- » Head is black with a small peaked crest.



Anton Croos

If you see this bird, contact MPI immediately on the Pest & Disease Freephone 0800 80 99 66 and report its location. If possible, take a photo.