

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BIRD?

A pair of red-vented bulbul birds has been spotted recently in the central Auckland and Devonport areas.

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) is concerned that this species may establish a population in Auckland that would affect resident's gardens, native vegetation and birdlife in the region. BNZ is working with the Department of Conservation and Auckland Regional Council to track these birds and eradicate them.

The red-vented bulbul is native to parts of Asia and has been introduced to a number of Pacific Islands where it is now recognised as a serious invasive pest. Globally the red-vented bulbul is listed as one of the top one hundred invasive species. It is known to cause significant damage to fruit and vegetable crops and aggressively chase and attack

other birds. They will feed on native fruits, berries, insects, flower nectar, seeds and buds displacing species such as Kereru by their aggressive competitive nature.

In the 1950s a small population of about 50 red-vented bulbuls became established between Takapuna and Mt Eden after some were released from a ship. It took until 1955 for them to be completely eradicated, and since the late 1960s it has been illegal to import them. It is not known how the recently sighted birds arrived in Auckland, but they may have been released from a yacht or ship arriving in Auckland from elsewhere in the Pacific.

Description

The red-vented bulbul is a noisy very active bird with a light-coloured abdomen and a distinctive crimson patch beneath its tail. It also has a black head with a small peaked crest.



THE THREAT

Red vented bulbuls are a recognised globally as a highly invasive species. They aggressively chase and attack other birds, displace other birdlife from their feeding and nesting areas, and cause significant damage to fruit and vegetable crops.

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If you see a bird like the one in the photo please call Biosecurity New Zealand on **0800 80 99 66** to report its location as soon as possible.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHĪTANGA TAIAO



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