

# Red-vented bulbul

*Pycnonotus cafer*



## KEY FEATURES



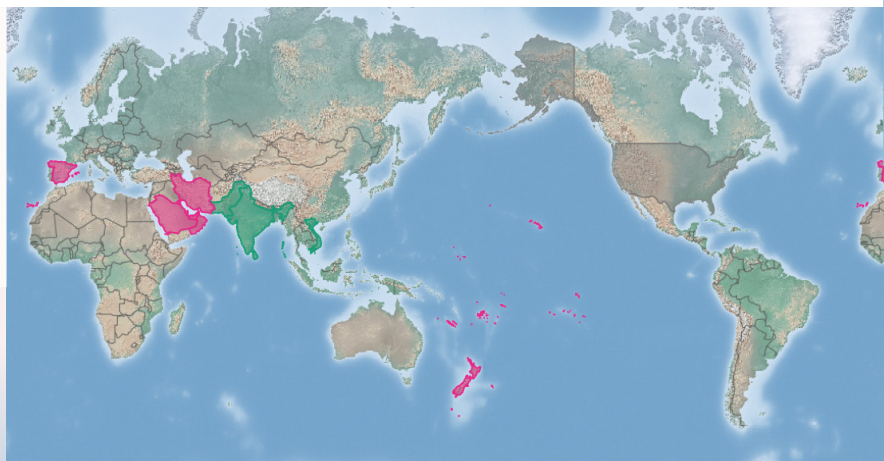
- Around 21 cm long with a mass of 26–45 g
- The head is dark and crested (with feathers sticking up) with a white belly and bottom but crimson under the tail coverts (coverts are feathers that cover other feathers)
- The young is much like the adult except there is some brownish edging on the feathers
- The male and female look similar, although the male tends to be slightly larger
- The Red-vented bulbul is a quick flyer with a flight that is recognisable by being somewhat bouncy rather than even
- Red-vented bulbuls live around secondary growth and shrub, cultivated areas, parks and gardens and are found in forest and agricultural areas. Rarely found in mature forests
- Although the main diet is fruits, berries, it also eats plant buds and flowers, as well as insects and small lizards



## PATHWAYS

- Introduced
- Native
- Origin not recorded

- Shipping
- Pet trade



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## IMPACTS



### Environment

Not reported, but could compete with native species that have a similar diet or nesting needs



### Health

Not reported.



### Society and Culture

Not reported.



### Economy

The birds destroy fruits, flowers, beans, tomatoes, peas and ripe soft fruit like bananas. They might also help spread of seeds of invasive plants like *Lantana camara* and *Miconia calvenscens*.

## DISTRIBUTION

### Native range

The eight Red-vented bulbul sub-species are variously found across India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, south-western China and Vietnam.

### Introduced range

Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Spain, Hawai'i, parts of the United States, Fiji, Tonga, American Samoa, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Marshall Islands, Samoa, French Polynesia, Australia (eradicated).

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

There are eight sub-species of Red-vented bulbul, and some can hybridise (cross-breed).

## SOURCES

Images: © Anton Croos-2011 via wikipedia and CABI - CC BY-SA 3.0 (top)

© Dianne Parker via <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/red-vented-bulbul> (bottom)

Text: Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-vented\\_bulbul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-vented_bulbul)

Text and map: *Pycnonotus cafer* (red-vented bulbul) – CABI <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/45977>



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