



Red Vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand



www.mpi.govt.nz

Introduction

General ecology of Red vented bulbul (RVB)

Range

- Natural range: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
- Introduced into many countries including: Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Hawai'i.



Introduction

Diet

- Omnivorous - main diet is fruit, but insects are also eaten particularly during the breeding season.
- Flowers and nectar are also consumed, and there are records of small lizards being eaten on Pacific islands.
- In New Zealand they were recorded eating introduced wasps, native bees, cicadas and fruit, including plums and apples.



Introduction

Description

- Medium-sized bird about the same size as a starling (20 cm).
- Generally dark in appearance with a white abdomen and rump and a distinctive crimson-red patch beneath its tail.
- Head is partially crested and black.
- Under-tail is red, the tail is brown with a white tip and the bill is black.



Credit: Anton Croos

Introduction

Impacts of feral populations

Agriculture

- May impact soft fruit farmers.

Environment

- Very aggressive in nature.
- Will compete with native fauna for resources.
- Possibility of transmitting avian diseases.
- May also spread seeds of invasive species.



Background

- A number of birds/ populations have historically been eradicated in the Auckland region.
- Recently detected in the Tauranga region (Te Puke).
- Unconfirmed sightings received.
- Unknown arrival pathway (suspected via ships).



Challenges

- Seen as a pretty bird.
- Difficult to catch.
- Difficult to spot/ track.



Operational Logistics

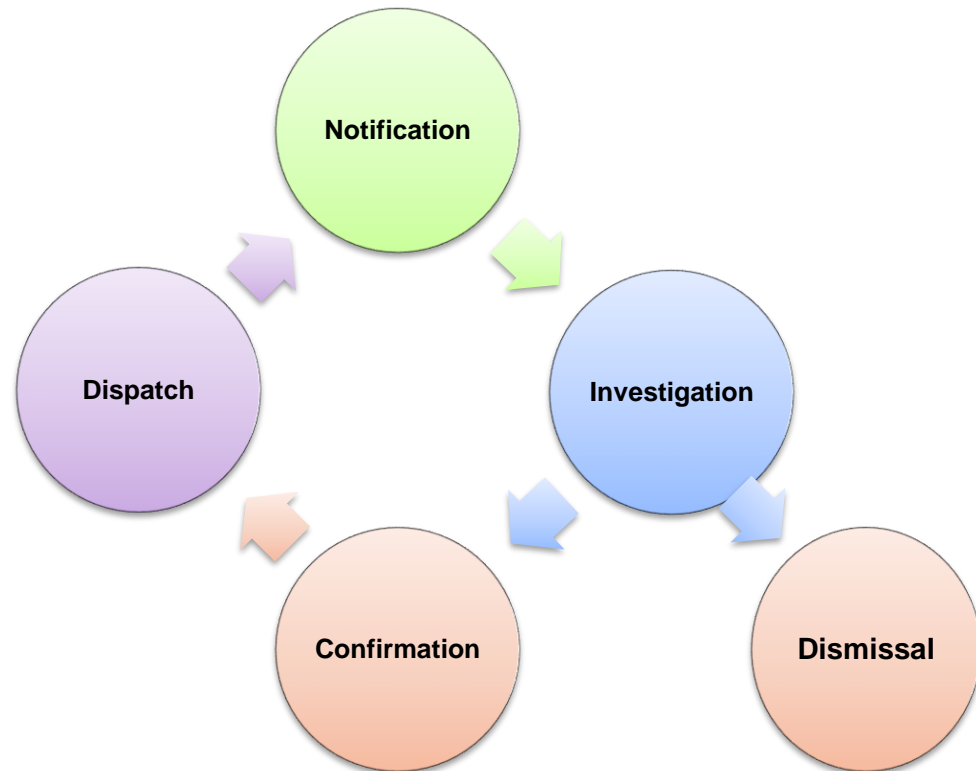
- MPI – Lead agency
- Auckland – DOC
- Tauranga – Contractor



Action Plan

Operational methods are based on what DOC has used previously in Auckland and Tauranga

- Passive surveillance (public).
- Awareness and education.



What can you do?

- Keep a look out.
- Notify us immediately of any suspected sightings.
- Engage with and use your workers to assist.
- Talk to the community and express your concern about this bird.



Acknowledgements

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Questions

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