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Extinction Countdown

Sunday Species Snapshot: Bali Myna

Birds don't get much more beautiful than the Bali myna. Unfortunately, they also don't get much rarer. Species name: Bali myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), a.k.a.

By John R. Platt on October 27, 2013

Birds don't get much more beautiful than the Bali myna. Unfortunately, they also don't get much rarer.

Species name: Bali myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*), a.k.a. the Rothschild's Mynah, Bali Starling, or Jalak Bali

Where found: Bali, an island province of Indonesia

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IUCN Red List status: Critically endangered, with an estimated wild population of

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Major threat: The illegal pet trade. The population has probably been low for more than a century, but poaching brought the wild population down to about 15 birds in 1990. Captive breeding brought that number up a bit, but continued poaching caused the number to sink to an [See Subscription Options](#). Numbers have jumped a bit since then, and the birds are breeding in the wild, but they are also still being caught and illegally sold. They also face potential risks such as low genetic diversity and disease. [Already a subscriber? Sign in.](#)

Notable conservation programs: The Bali Starling Conservation Project on Nusa Penida, which this month celebrated the birth of [four healthy chicks](#).

You can hear the Bali myna's striking song in this video, shot in 2010 in Bali Barat National Park:



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John R. Platt is the editor of The Revelator. An award-winning environmental journalist, his work has appeared in Scientific American, Audubon, Motherboard, and numerous other magazines and publications. His "Extinction Countdown" column has run continuously since 2004 and has covered news and species. John lives on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon, with his wife and two children. He is a fan of science fiction and cartoonists. [Follow John R. Platt on Twitter](#)

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