

Luzon Bleeding-Heart Dove

Scientific Name: *Gallicolumba luzonica*

Class: Aves

Order: Columbiformes

Family: Columbidae



The Luzon bleeding-heart dove is a ground dove. The “blood” feature is most pronounced, with the reddish hue extending down the belly, furthering the illusion of blood having run down the bird’s breast. On the upper surfaces, the bird is slate grey in color, but because it is iridescent, it can appear to be purple, royal blue, or bottle-green, depending on the light. Considered Near-threatened by the IUCN due to habitat loss and fragmentation through deforestation for timber extractions and agricultural lands. It is vulnerable to snaring for the pet trade. A captive breeding project has been started in Australia and in 2009 a program by AZA aims to reach 100 birds in the North American zoo population.

Range

Philippines, in the Sierra Madre south to Quezon National Park and Mt. Makiling. Local name of punalada

Habitat

Found in lowland forest, including selectively logged and otherwise poor secondary growth and even plantations.

Gestation

15-17 days

Litter

Usually two eggs in each clutch

Behavior

They are shy and secretive, and very quiet, and rarely leave the ground except when nesting

Reproduction

Nesting occurs mid-May. This is typical of other subspecies of same genus in the Philippines.

Wild Diet

It forages on the ground, searching the leaf-litter for seeds, fallen fruits and invertebrates