

**Ecology and Conservation of the Isabela Oriole  
in Baggao, Cagayan Province**

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**Abstract**

The Isabela Oriole (*Oriolus isabellae*) is a rare, Luzon-endemic bird classified with the most severe risk of extinction in the IUCN Red List, that is, Critically Endangered. It was historically known in two main locations – the Sierra Madre mountain range in the northeast and the Bataan mountain range in the southwest region. But recent expeditions indicate that the Isabela Oriole may be locally extinct in Bataan. A precautionary estimate of its global population is placed between 70 and 400 individuals and that it is believed to be decreasing owing to the continued loss of its lowland forest habitat. The currently largest known population of the Isabela Oriole is in the northern Sierra Madre mountains in Baggao (Cagayan Province), with estimated 30 to 40 individuals based on a survey of just over 15% of the total land area of the municipality. With other potential habitats un-surveyed and a limited understanding of its ecology and the threats to the species and its habitat, effective conservation of the oriole in Baggao will be difficult to achieve. This study aims to determine the population density and distribution of the Isabela Oriole in Baggao using Distance sampling through point counts and Maximum Entropy Algorithm, respectively. Further information on habitat and species associations, threats, behavior, diet and call variations of the Isabela Oriole will also be gathered. The field survey is proposed to be conducted from June to August 2019. The data that will be generated will be used to provide recommendations for priority areas for protection and site-based management of the lowland forest and agricultural areas in Baggao.

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