

Mindoro Bleeding-Heart Pigeon (*Gallicolumba platenae*)

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Why in News?

Researchers and Indigenous Forest patrollers captured the first confirmed photograph of the Mindoro bleeding-heart pigeon in the wild in two decades.

- **Taxonomy** - Belongs to the family Columbidae (pigeons and doves) and is one of five bleeding-heart species endemic to the Philippines.
- **Nomenclature** - Named for a distinctive vivid orange-red patch of feathers on its white chest that resembles an open, bleeding wound.
- **Physical Attributes** - Measures about 30 cm in length. Features iridescent green plumage on its head and neck, blue-green and brown upper parts, brown wings, and a single whitish wing bar.
- **Behavior** - A secretive, predominantly ground-dwelling bird that forages on the forest floor and takes flight only when threatened.
- **Endemism** - Found exclusively on the island of **Mindoro** in the Philippines.
- **Traditional Habitat** - Historically described as a lowland forest specialist, typically inhabiting forests at elevations around 400 m (up to 800 m).
- **New Elevation Milestone** - The 2026 camera trap documented the bird above **900 meters (nearly 3,000 feet)** in the rainforests of the Iraya Mangyan ancestral domain.
- Scientists note that its presence at high elevations is likely not a habitat expansion, but rather a sign of habitat compression.
- **Conservation - IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered (CR).**
- Estimated wild population is extremely low, ranging between 50 and 249 mature individuals.
- **Search for Lost Birds Program** - It was designated as a "lost" species after going undocumented by science since 2005.
- **Primary Threats**
 - **Habitat Loss** - Widespread deforestation driven by agricultural expansion, logging, and infrastructure development.
 - **Snaring & Poaching** - Accidental capture in snares set on the forest floor for other ground species like red junglefowl.
 - **Illegal Wildlife Trade** - Hunting for food and live capture for trade.



Reference

[Times of India | A pigeon with a 'bleeding heart'](#)



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