

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

Fairy-bluebird

(*Irena puella*)

Habitat and Distribution:

Found in South and Southeast Asia (including India, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines), it lives in tropical forests, often in the upper canopy.

Description:

Fairy-bluebird is a medium-sized, forest-dwelling bird known for its vibrant and glossy plumage. Males are striking with iridescent blue upperparts and black underparts, while females are duller, bluish-green all over. Both sexes have bright red eyes and a strong, slightly curved black bill. Their plumage shines beautifully in sunlight, making them easy to spot in the forest canopy. before the bird is seen.

Feeding:

- Fairy-bluebirds mainly eat fruits, especially figs, making them important seed dispersers in forests.
- They also consume nectar and occasionally insects, particularly during the breeding season.
- Feeding mostly in the canopy, they are agile and often forage in pairs or small groups.
- Their diet supports both their energy needs and chick development



Interesting Information

- The name “fairy-bluebird” comes from the bird’s magical, shimmering blue plumage that seems to glow in sunlight—especially in males.
- Both males and females have **bright red eyes**, which stand out vividly against their blue and black feathers.
- Fairy-bluebirds are excellent fruit foragers and play a key role in **seed dispersal** in tropical forests.

Major Threats:

Major threats include deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and illegal trapping for the pet trade.

Conservation Status:

Fairy-bluebird is listed as **Least Concern**.

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