
About the Cover



The image shows a pied imperial pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*)—deemed as the flagship bird species of Apo Island located in Dauin, Negros Oriental, Philippines. The species is highly regarded by bird watchers for its bright coloration, charismatic appearance, and inter-seasonal abundance in farm lots, beach forests, and mixed grasslands. This bird was observed during an ecological survey conducted from 2022–2023, which revealed that the island supports 21 families of 27 bird species—nine of which are endemic to the Philippines, 16 are residents, and two are migrants. This study provides baseline information on birds as the island's biodiversity indicators, as part of a biodiversity monitoring system implemented by PA managers through the support of provincial experts. To learn more, go to pages 2069–2078.

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