Pitangus sulphuratus **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Aves	Passeriformes	Tyrannidae

Common name

Bentevi (Portuguese), Tyran kiskidi (French), Tyran sulfureux (French), Tyran quiquivi (French), Tyran quesquildit (French), Moucherolle masqué (French), Bentevi (German), Grote kiskadie (Dutch), Naamioväijy (Finnish), Bentewi wielki (Polish), Kibaraootairanchou (Japanese), Pitango solforato (Italian), Bem-te-vi (Portuguese), Storkiskadi (Norwegian), Större kiskadi (Swedish), Bem-te-vi-verdadeiro (Portuguese), Bem-te-viu (Portuguese), Bem-te-vi-de-coroa (Portuguese), Triste-vida (Portuguese), Bentevi-de-coroa (Portuguese), Bem-te-vi-carrapateiro (Portuguese), Pitanguá (Portuguese), Pitauã (Portuguese), Pituã (Portuguese), Siririca (Portuguese), Bentevi-verdadeiro (Portuguese), Bem-te-vi-de-cabeça-rajada (Portuguese), Lord Derby's flycatcher (English), Kiskadee flycatcher (English), Derby flycatcher (English), Greater kiskaee (English), Great kiskadee (English), Pitogue (English), Luis grande (Spanish, Mexico), Luis bienteveo (Spanish, Mexico), Bienteveo grande (Spanish, Costa Rica), Cristofué (Spanish, Honduras), Pitogüé (Spanish, Paraguay), Tyran bentevi (Slovak), Postriežkár bentevi (Slovak), Güis común (Spanish, Nicuragua), Pitangua (English), Schwefelmaskentyrann (German), Kiskadie (Danish), Benteveo (Spanish, Argentinia, Bolivia, Chile), Tyran bentevi (Czech), Great Kiskadee (English), Benteví (Portuguese), Bichofué (Spanish, Columbia), Kiskadì maggiore (Italian), Benteveo común (Spanish, Argentinia, Uruguay)

Synonym

Lanius sulphuratus
Lanius sulphuratus ,Linnaeus, 1766

Similar species

Summary

view this species on IUCN Red List

Notes

While the genus *Pitangus* is monotypic, there are a number of described *P. sulphuratus* subspecies: *P. sulphuratus argentinus* (Todd, 1952), *P. sulphuratus bolivianus* (Lafresnaye, 1852), *P. sulphuratus caucensis* (Chapman, 1914), *P. sulphuratus derbianus* (Kaup, 1852), *P. sulphuratus guatimalensis* (Lafresnaye, 1852), *P. sulphuratus maximiliani* (Cabanis & Heine, 1859), *P. sulphuratus rufipennis* (Lafresnaye, 1851), *P. sulphuratus sulphuratus* (Linnaeus, 1766), *P. sulphuratus texanus* (Van Rossem, 1940),*P. sulphuratus trinitatis* (Hellmayr, 1906) (ITIS, 2010).

Uses

200 individuals of *Pitangus sulphuratus* were intentionally introduced to Bermuda from Trinidad in 1957 as biological control agents for the introduced anole lizards (particularly the Jamaican anole (*Norops grahami*) (Cheesman & Clubbe, 2007; Davenport *et al.*, 2008) and insect pests (Griffith *et al.*, unpublished data). However, this biocontrol attempt was a failure, with *P. sulphuratus* preferring to feed on various species of native fauna instead.

Habitat Description
Preferred habitats of *Pitangus sulphuratus* include around rivers, streams, and lakes bordered with dense vegetation as well as open country and parks (Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2007). *P. sulphuratus* has also been observed in arable land, pastureland, heavily degraded forest, moist lowland and montane forests, moist shrubland, dry grassland, mangrove habitats (Birdlife International, 2009); and beaches (Latino & Beltzer, 1999).

Reproduction
Pitangus sulphuratus forms monogamous relationships. It breeds in open woodland with some tall trees, including cultivated areas and around human habitation. Two to five creamy white eggs spotted with brown and lavender are laid in a bulky, domed nest with a side entrance made of grass, weeds, bark strips, moss, and other plant fibers, and built in trees, bush and telephone poles 6 to 50 feet above the ground. Incubation ranges from 13 to 15 days and is carried out by the female. (Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2007).

Nutrition
Pitangus sulphuratus is a generalist feeder, with a stomach content analysis on 83 *P. Sulphuratus* stomachs revealing that insects had the highest relative importance index score of 5304, followed by seed and fruit (4606), crustaceans (170) and fishes (154) (Latino & Beltzer, 1999). Feeding activity was the highest between 11 am and 4 pm (Latino & Beltzer, 1999). Although they are physically unable to probe in the dirt for insect larvae and other invertebrates such as earthworms and snails, kleptoparasitic behaviour has been observed, with instances of *P. sulphuratus* stealing these food items from other birds being recorded (Llambıas *et al.*, 2001). *P. sulphuratus* is also known to feed on frogs, small lizards, baby birds, mice (Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2007), and bats (Fischer *et al.*, 2010). In urban envronments, the ability that *P. sulphuratus* has for identifying food items absent from more natural habitats (such as human food scraps and animal food pellets) and for exploiting resources of unpredictable spatial and temporal distributions confers the species a dietary flexibility that probably contributes to its efficiency in colonizing urban habitats (Argel-De-Oliveira *et al.*, 1998).

General Impacts
In its introduced range, in Bermuda, *Pitangus sulphuratus* predates on and competes with various native species, playing a significant role in the population declines of insect, bird and reptile species (Cheesman & Clubbe, 2007; Davenport *et al.*, 2008; Forbes, 2010).
P. sulphuratus disperses seeds of invasive species through native forest, contributing to the spread of invasive species and the decline of native plant species (The Encyclopedia of Earth, 2006). As a generalist feeder, it is reported as an agricultural pest in its native range (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004).

Management Info
Physical control: *Pitangus sulphuratus* populations on Nonsuch Island , Bermuda are controlled by shooting (Varnham, 2006), however the effectiveness of this is uncertain with Griffith *et al.* (unpublished data) stating that reforestation has allowed *P. Sulphuratus* to persist on the island in spite of control efforts. Physical control methods for *P. sulphuratus* and other bird pests on vineyards in Uruguay include use of firearms, visual repellants (flags and scarecrows), and acoustic repellents (fireworks, propane cannons and distress calls) (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004).

Chemical control: Chemical control methods for *P. sulphuratus* and other bird pests on vineyards in Uruguay include use of toxic baits (Carbofuran) and repellents (methiocarb) (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2004).

Other: *Pitangus sulphuratus* has a natural aversion to patterns resembling those of coral snake species (*Micrurus spp.* and *Micruroides spp.*) (Brodie III & Janzen, 1995).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review: Under expert review

Pubblication date: 2010-06-02

ALIEN RANGE

[2] BERMUDA

Red List assessed species 6: CR = 1; LC = 5;

Dumetella carolinensis bermudianus **LC**
Eumeces longirostris **CR**
Phyllomedusa distincta **LC**
Physalaemus albonotatus **LC**
Scinax nasicus **LC**
Sialia sialis **LC**

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49 references found for **Pitangus sulphuratus**

Managment information

IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)., 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.
Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

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