



Bonin White-eye (*Apalopteron familiare*)

Size: Head and body length, approx. 14 cm **Weight:** 13 - 15 g **Habitat:** Low secondary forests and forest edges on three of the Ogasawara (also known as Bonin) Islands **Surviving number:** Estimated at 10,000 - 15,000



Photographed by Akira Ozono

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

And then there was one. The only endemic bird remaining on the Ogasawara Islands, the Bonin white-eye has seen the teeming subtropical forests it once made its home largely cleared. It continues to build its cup-shaped, double-layered nests in secondary forests and spend its days foraging for insects and fruits. As there are relatively few birds around, its role as a seed disperser has taken on an oversized importance in the health of the

ecosystem. With the recent naming of the islands as a World Heritage Site, the bird's future is looking brighter. But limited as it is to three islands, populations remain vulnerable.

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