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## Red-whiskered Bulbul

## *Pycnonotus jocosus*

Native to India, the Red-whiskered Bulbul appears to be well established in the Kendall area of Dade County. Originally the birds were kept in captivity at a tourist attraction on U.S. Highway 1 and apparently escaped during Hurricane Donna in September 1960. They remained in the vicinity and first bred the following spring (Carleton and Owre 1975). The species has extended its range northeast into South Miami, but remains limited to a small geographic area.

Exotic plantings throughout the area supply an ample variety of food for the Red-whiskered Bulbuls. Many trees and shrubs are the same as those found in the bird's native lands. Although they eat insects and other animal matter, their principal diet is made up of drupes, berries, and other small fruits such as Brazilian pepper, various figs and the pulp of the loquat. Large fruit is eaten only after being punctured by other species, such as *Blue Jays*, woodpeckers, or squirrels (Carleton and Owre 1975).

Nesting takes place from mid-February through May. The nests, built in shrubs, small trees, or hanging planters, are constructed of rootlets, grasses, and the "needles" of the Australian pine, and are usually embellished with bits of dried leaves, paper, plastic, snakeskin, or the bark of the cajeput tree [editor *Melaleuca quinquenervia*] (Carleton and Owre 1975). The 2 or 3 whitish eggs are incubated for 12 or 13 days, and the young fledge at 14 days of age.



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