Threatened Birds of Asia: The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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**BIAK MONARCH**  
*Monarcha brehmii*

Critical —  
Endangered □ B1 + 2b,c,e  
Vulnerable □ C1; C2a

*This species appears to be rare and restricted to unlogged lowland forest, which appears to be severely fragmented and rapidly declining through logging and clearance for agriculture. However this classification is based on few data.*

**DISTRICTION AND POPULATION** The Biak Monarch is endemic to the twin islands of Biak-Supiori in Geelvink Bay, Papua (formerly Irian Jaya), Indonesia (Beehler et al. 1986). It was clearly scarce historically (Mayr and Meyer de Schauensee 1939), and there are only four recent records, of up to three individuals (Bishop 1982, Gibbs 1993, P. Gregory, I. Burrows and R. Burrows in litt. 1994, S. van Balen in litt. 2000). It took three days to find during one of these visits (P. Gregory, I. Burrows and R. Burrows in litt. 1994), and was not seen during another recent four-day visit (Eastwood 1996). However, there has been no recent ornithological exploration of the forests of interior Biak-Supiori where it may prove to be more common and widespread (K. D. Bishop in litt. 2000).

**ECOLOGY** The recent observations are from lowland forest, one bird in a lichen-covered limestone riverbed in thick lowland rainforest at c.60 m (Bishop 1982), another in logged lowland forest with a mixture of highly degraded and pristine areas (Gibbs 1993), and a third from a tiny patch of tall forest within secondary growth and plantations (S. van Balen in litt. 2000).

**THREATS** Large areas of forest on Biak have been destroyed or damaged by logging and subsistence farming, particularly the southern plains, and the remainder is under pressure (Bishop 1982, K. D. Bishop in litt. 1996, D. A. Holmes in litt. 2000). However, Supiori possesses much virtually impenetrable forest on steep limestone which is likely to be safe from clearance (Bishop 1982).

**MEASURES TAKEN** There are two protected areas on the islands, Biak-Utara (110 km²) and Pulau Supiori (420 km²) nature reserves (Sujatnika et al. 1995).

**MEASURES PROPOSED** • Conduct surveys on both islands to establish its current distribution, population status and habitat requirements. • Afford formal protection to further key sites where appropriate.