Threatened Birds of Asia:
The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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LOMPOBATANG FLYCATCHER
Ficedula bonthaina

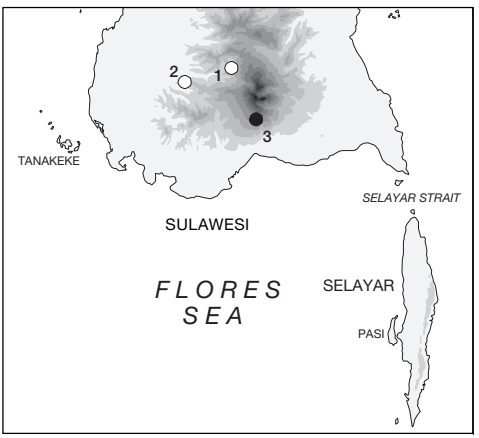
Critical □ —
Endangered ■ A1c; A2c; B1+2b,c,e
Vulnerable □ C1; D2

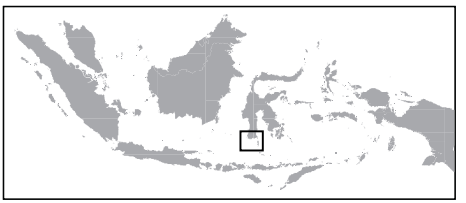
This diminutive flycatcher has a very small range and population, which are continuing to decline rapidly and suffer severe fragmentation as a direct result of extensive habitat loss. With just one recent record from one locality, all remaining individuals are thought to be confined to one population. These factors allow its classification as Endangered.

DISTRIBUTION The Lompobatang Flycatcher (see Remarks 1) is only known from a single mountain complex in South Sulawesi (on the tip of the southern peninsula), Indonesia. Records (which refer to Gunung Bonthain and Gunung Lompobatang, although these are both general and specific names) are from:

■ ***INDONESIA*** *Sulawesi* ■ ***South Sulawesi*** near **Malino** at 1,100 m, west slope of Gunung Lompobatang, Gowa county, September 1931 (Stresemann and Heinrich 1939–1941); **Tasoso**, 1,800 m (see Remarks 2), north-east slopes of Gunung Lompobatang, Bantaeng/Bulukumba counties, October 1895 (Hartert 1896a, 1920, Meyer and Wiglesworth 1898); above **Lanying**, 1,770 m, Gowa county, August/September 1995 (Fraser and Henson 1996).

POPULATION Numbers may have been locally high at the time of discovery and into the twentieth century: as many as 22 specimens were collected in a single month (Stresemann and Heinrich 1939–1941). However, the paucity of observations during a recent survey suggested that the species may now occur at very low density, chiefly because forest at the lower elevations where the type series was collected is largely gone and only higher, suboptimal habitat remains (Fraser and Henson 1996; see also Threats). Although observations of a subadult, a single adult male and a pair along a 1–2 km trail on Lompobatang in September 1999 gave the impression that the species might not be uncommon, but is unobtrusive (U. Olsson *per* P. Alström *in litt*. 2000), considering the severe loss of habitat (see Threats), numbers must have dropped dramatically, and the extent of occurrence would appear now to be as small as <200 km^2 (SvB).





The distribution of Lompobatang Flycatcher *Ficedula bonthaina*: (1) Malino; (2) Tasoso; (3) Lanying.
○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Recent (1980–present)

ECOLOGY ***Habitat*** The species is restricted to tropical montane rainforest on Gunung Lompobatang, including the lowest-lying forested areas of the mountain (Stresemann and Heinrich 1939–1941), in dense forest undergrowth from about 1,100 m (White and Bruce 1986). In 1995 it was found in dense, heavily shaded understorey in disturbed forest with discontinuous canopy caused by treefalls, dominated by saplings and *Pandanus* palms, from ground level to c.4.5 m, and avoiding an adjacent, more open understorey area (Fraser and Henson 1996).

Food Birds feed very low, making short sorties to the ground and amongst vegetation to glean insects from leaves and woody vegetation (Fraser and Henson 1996); in general they sally much less frequently than other flycatchers, and glean more like a warbler (S. Henson and B. Fraser verbally 1995).

Breeding Of 22 specimens (in AMNH, BMNH, MCZ, ZMB, ZRCNUS) taken over the period August–October 1931 one (August) was immature and one (September) was juvenile, probably around four weeks old.

Migration Whether this species is subject to any kind of vertical migration is unknown; however, given the threats it faces (see below), it is important to find out.

THREATS The Lompobatang Flycatcher is one of (at least) five threatened members of the suite of 42 bird species that are entirely restricted to the "Sulawesi Endemic Bird Area", threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al*. (1998). It is at considerable risk from habitat loss in the most highly populated area of Sulawesi (Collar *et al*. 1994). All forest below 1,000–1,500 m, and locally up to 1,700 m, has disappeared within its known range; and remaining forest continues to be threatened by human activities (Whitten *et al*. 1987c, Fraser and Henson 1996, D. A. Holmes *in litt*. 1999).

MEASURES TAKEN A survey to confirm the survival of the species on the Lompobatang massif (Fraser and Henson 1996) has established the basis for further recommendations (below).

MEASURES PROPOSED There is 200 km^2 of protection forest on Lompobatang, heavily disturbed below 1,000–1,700 m, and this has been proposed as a nature reserve (FAO 1981–1982). In the light of recent evidence, the conservation of the site now requires (1) immediate protection of all remaining forest on the mountain and hence (2) avoidance of alternative land-use development, (3) control of forest exploitation by local people and (4) initiation of local directives for forest protection (Fraser and Henson 1996). The mountain is a very important water catchment area for the large cities of Ujung Pandang and Maros, and absolute protection and rehabilitation of the area would serve many peoples's interests.

REMARKS (1) This bird has been judged to form a superspecies with Cryptic Flycatcher *Ficedula crypta* (Mindanao), Furtive Flycatcher *F. disposita* (Luzon; Near Threatened), Palawan Flycatcher *F. platenae* (Palawan; see relevant account) and Sumba Flycatcher *F. harterti* (Sumba) (White and Bruce 1986). (2) Hartert (1896a) gave 6,000 feet as the elevation of the type material, then (Hartert 1920) 4,000 feet. The latter, as 1,300 m, was used by Stresemann and Heinrich (1939–1941) but the former appears correct, as A. Everett, who sent the types to Tring, reported that on Bonthain Peak his collectors were active "for the most part between 6000 and 7000 feet, and not at all below 5600 feet" (Hartert 1896a).