

Threatened Birds of Asia:

The BirdLife International Red Data Book

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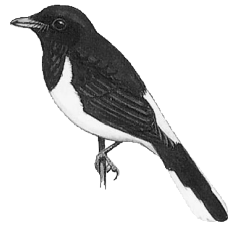
WHITE-TIPPED MONARCH

Monarcha everetti

Critical —

Endangered B1+2b,c,d,e; C2b

Vulnerable C1; D2



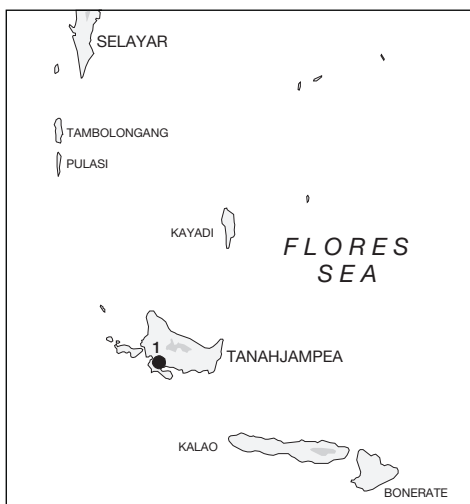
This species occupies a very small range on one island, and therefore has a small total population. As it appears to be most abundant in forest, the continuing degradation of this habitat within its range, and the inferred concomitant decline in population, qualifies it as Endangered.

DISTRIBUTION The White-tipped Monarch (see Remarks 1) is endemic to the island of Tanahjampea in the Flores Sea north of Nusa Tenggara and south of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

■ **INDONESIA** *Tanahjampea* “A good series of adult males” and a single abraded female were first collected on the island in December 1895 (Hartert 1896a), and eleven specimens were collected in under a two-week period in July–August 1927 (Meise 1929–1930). In September 1993 two days were spent in and around **Labuhanmarege** (including along the road up to the microwave station at the highest point of the island), and the species was evidently recorded at many sites in this general area (see Dutson 1995).

POPULATION In a two-day survey in late September 1993, the White-tipped Monarch was found to be “quite common in forest and less common in scrub and mangroves with scattered big trees”; often two, rarely up to four, birds were found together, and a total of 43 was seen (Dutson 1995; see Remarks 2). This squares with the fact that four birds were taken over two days in July 1927 (specimens in AMNH) and at least nine were collected on a visit in December 1895 (material in AMNH, BMNH and MNHN).

ECOLOGY *Habitat* In 1927 birds were found in thick undergrowth (Meise 1929–1930). In 1993 birds were found in logged evergreen forest and, less commonly, scrub and mangroves (Dutson 1995).



The distribution of White-tipped Monarch
Monarcha everetti: (1) Labuhanmarege.

● Recent (1980–present)

Food The species commonly joins mixed-species feeding flocks (Dutson 1995).

Breeding A female collected in late July was juvenile (Meise 1929–1930).

THREATS In 1927 parts of the interior of Tanahjampea had been turned into grassland (von Plessen 1929). Up to half (i.e. around 75 km²) of the island (150 km²) remained forested in September 1993, but all that seen had been extensively logged, house- and boat-building were continuing to consume “relatively large volumes of timber” (the island was reported to hold some 100,000 inhabitants), and “any large-scale increase in logging” was predicted to have serious consequences (Dutson 1995).

MEASURES TAKEN None is known.

MEASURES PROPOSED Fieldwork is needed to identify the best areas for the species and to determine and implement appropriate conservation measures (including ensuring that any use of forest by local people is sustainable).

REMARKS (1) This bird “is considered an allospecies with several pied Wallacean congeners”, being similar to Flores Monarch *M. sacerdotum* (see relevant account) but differing in plumage pattern, absence of grey in its plumage and a habit of frequently cocking its half-fanned tail, recalling a *Rhipidura* fantail (Dutson 1995). (2) Coates and Bishop (1997) slightly exaggerated the status of this species by omitting the word “quite” before “common in forest” when citing Dutson (1995).