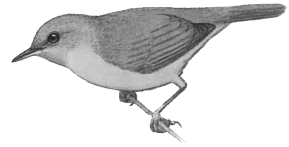


## RUFOUS-THROATED WHITE-EYE

### *Madanga ruficollis*



Critical  —

Endangered  B1+2b,c,e

Vulnerable  C2b

*This montane passerine is known from just two or three localities, and it qualifies for Endangered on account of its very small population and range, both of which are declining as a result of forest loss.*

**DISTRIBUTION** The Rufous-throated White-eye is endemic to the island of Buru in the Moluccan archipelago, Indonesia. Records are from:

■ **INDONESIA** *Buru* **Gunung Kapalatmada** inland from Waikeka, 1,460 m, December 1995 (MKP; also Poulsen 1998); **Wa Fehat**, 820 m, April 1922 (Hartert 1924a), and “Mada range” (Wa Fehat is within this area: MKP), 1,500 m, April 1922 (Hartert 1924a).

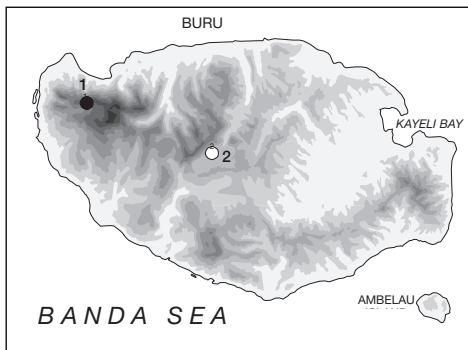
**POPULATION** Numbers are entirely unknown. The area of habitat at the top of Buru is fairly extensive (e.g. 872 km<sup>2</sup> of the island lies above 1,200 m, and 382 km<sup>2</sup> lies above 1,500 m: Poulsen and Lambert submitted), and at least several hundred birds, and very possibly several thousands, would be expected to survive there. Nevertheless, the species appears to exist at very low population densities (MKP).

**ECOLOGY** *Habitat* All records are from forested montane areas above 820 m (see Distribution). Two birds seen in 1995 were following a mixed-species feeding flock in montane forest, and climbing up and down mossy tree-trunks in the manner of nuthatches *Sitta* (MKP).

*Food* The species presumably eats small invertebrates gleaned from bark and lichen.

*Breeding* There is no information.

**THREATS** It is believed that montane habitats are likely to remain secure (Collar *et al.* 1994), but in 1995 some habitat changes were noted at Wa Fehat and at many other sites at the same elevation; this and its apparent very low overall population are regarded as causes of concern (MKP). The Rufous-throated White-eye is one of (now) three threatened members of the suite of 10 bird species that are entirely restricted to the “Buru Endemic Bird Area”, threats and conservation measures in which are profiled by Sujatnika *et al.* (1995) and Stattersfield *et al.* (1998).



**The distribution of Rufous-throated White-eye**  
*Madanga ruficollis*: (1) Gunung Kapalatmada;  
(2) Wa Fehat.

○ Historical (pre-1950) ● Recent (1980–present)

**MEASURES TAKEN** None is known.

**MEASURES PROPOSED** Details of a proposed reserve on Buru are given in Measures Proposed under Blue-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna toxopei*.

**REMARKS** “This peculiarly coloured bird appears to be a member of the ‘*Zosteropidae*’, but generically different from *Zosterops*” (Hartert 1924a). Among the differences are the lack of a white eye-ring, a greater length of wing and tail, rectrices not square but pointed, and distinctive coloration; moreover, the toes are rather long and strong (Rothschild and Hartert 1923). Listed immediately after the Bicoloured White-eye *Tephrozosterops stalker* from Seram, it is considered “another colour genus of large white-eye” and “another monotypic genus with no close relatives” by White and Bruce (1986).