



COMMONWEALTH of the  
NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

- Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas)
- Maug
- Asuncion

Agrihan

Pagan

Alamagan

Guguan

Sarigan

Anatahan

Farallon de Medinilla

Saipan

Tinian

Aguiguan

Rota

\* Distribution in the CNMI



PHOTOS BY TIM SUTTERFIELD

THREATENED · ENDEMIC

## TINIAN MONARCH

Chichurikan Tinian Liteighi'par

Chamorro

Carolinian

### IDENTIFICATION

The Tinian monarch is a small songbird that grows to about six inches (15cm). It has light underparts, olive-brown upper parts and dark brown wings and tail. Its undertail coverts are white.

### HABITAT and FEEDING

The Tinian monarch is endemic to the CNMI and only occurs on the island of Tinian. It is found in native forests, secondary vegetation and in pure stands of introduced tangantangan. It feeds on insects and forages in the mid to low canopy of the forest.

### REPRODUCTION

The Tinian monarch prefers to build its nest in native forest trees. It constructs a small cup-shaped nest in the understory. The nest is made out of woven leaves, grasses and feathers. The monarch appears to nest year round and both parents usually tend the nest.

### THREATS and CONSERVATION

After WWII, the Tinian monarch population was severely depleted due to deforestation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

listed the Tinian monarch as an Endangered Species in 1970. In 1987, the USFWS downlisted the Tinian monarch from endangered to threatened status because its population had recovered to pre-WWII numbers. However, this species is still very vulnerable and continues to be monitored.

Predators of the Tinian monarch include rats, cats, monitor lizards and birds such as the Collared kingfisher and Micronesian starling. This species is susceptible to extinction by the introduction of predators and catastrophes such as typhoons because it is only found on the island of Tinian.

The Tinian monarch remains on the CNMI endangered species list and is protected by Public Law 2-51. It is illegal to kill, capture, harass or possess this bird or its eggs without a permit from the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife. This bird exists only on one island and is therefore at high risk from the introduction of the Brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*). The building of containment barriers to protect the island from importing the snake from Guam in civilian or military cargo will be an important step in the protection of this bird.



ARTIST  
DOUGLAS  
PRATT

Monarcha takatsukasae

### PEST CONTROL

How many insects can 55,000 birds eat each day? The Tinian monarch plays an important role in controlling the island's insect populations.

### FACTOID!



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