

Passerines are the largest group of birds. They are small to medium sized land birds found worldwide, except on Antarctica. All species have four toes, three pointing forward and one back, well-adapted for perching. Most species are song-birds, with complex musical calls, but there are exceptions (e.g. crows). They show great diversity of form, behaviour and breeding biology.

**SATIN FLYCATCHER** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Rare Australian vagrant

16 cm. Small slim bird with a rather long tail; a small crest gives a *peaked back of head*. Male dark glossy blue-black, except lower chest and belly white. Female slate grey with bluish gloss on upperparts; throat and upperbreast reddish buff, *contrasts sharply* with white lower breast and belly. Feeds on insects by darting out from a perch to snatch them in mid-air. On realighting, quivers tail. **Habitat:** Of 3 NZ records, 2 seen in gardens. [Sp 303]



**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS**

Monarchidae

About 170 species from Africa through southern Asia and Australasia to the South Pacific islands; 1 native species and 1 vagrant in New Zealand.

A varied group of insectivorous forest birds with proportionately large heads and short, broad bills with abundant bristles at the base. Most hawk insects in the air with short flights, but some glean insects from the foliage.

**303. SATIN FLYCATCHER** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Plate 65

**Size:** 16 cm  
**Distribution:** Breeds in eastern Australia from Cape York to Tasmania. They migrate from the southern part of their range to northern Queensland and New Guinea, leaving in late February and March and returning in September.

ber. Three New Zealand records: a female seen in Gisborne (June 1963), a male found dead at Motueka Sandspit (December 1988) and one at Okarito (March 1992).

**Reading:** Blackburn, A. 1963. *Notornis* 10: 262–265.